

“At Your Service”



Message from the Mayor

State of the City of University Heights, Ohio – January 19, 2016

Dear Residents,

Happy New Year! I hope that 2016 is a good year for you and your family. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and will report on the state of our city. My goal as your mayor is to make University Heights a place where people want to live and raise a family. I am happy to report that University Heights is financially stable. Our home values are holding steady, there is continuing reinvestment in our commercial areas and our infrastructure. This year we also look forward to the opening of our new community park. I am pleased to announce that we have carried over a surplus of nearly \$2.5 million dollars from 2015, continuing our careful management of your tax dollars.

The city administration continues to look for grant funds to supplement your tax dollars and return them to you as capital improvements and better services. In 2015 we received grant funds for various city projects. These grant funds have been used for the development of a new Master Plan for the city; for the development of a pedestrian safety and bicycle improvement plan for Warrensville and Cedar Roads; for exercise equipment, wellness programs and safety equipment for the Fire Department; and for safety equipment and training for the Police Department. Additional grant funds will pay for four new tennis courts at Purvis Park and more playground equipment at the new community park.

The \$1 million dollar road program budgeted for 2016 will allow us to improve more streets than the city has ever done before. Our focus is to pave and replace curbs street-wide on heavily travelled streets and to beautify those streets with flowering trees. We believe these actions will improve the appearance of University Heights for residents, visitors, and potential new residents.

Last year, the city administration introduced new programs at the pool that were well-received by families. We offered swim lessons for children during single-sex swim nights and Saturday-only swim lessons. This year we plan to expand our senior citizen offerings with a pilot program that will allow University Heights senior citizens to use the Cleveland Heights senior center.

We believe that the housing inspection programs of the city have helped to maintain our housing stock. We are pleased that home values in University Heights are recovering from the housing recession of the last decade, and continue to work with outside agencies to ensure that our high standards for housing maintenance are upheld. The city administration has been actively engaged in efforts to bring new businesses into our city and helping business owners with grant opportunities as they become available.

We have many long-standing businesses in University Heights that add to the fabric of our community and we are grateful for their commitment, including the 2015 Citizen of the Year, the Geraci Family.

In recent years University Heights has seen tremendous investment by property owners in our commercial areas at Cedar-Green, Fairmount Circle and Cedar Center. Property improvements at these locations have improved the appearance and accessibility of these shopping areas for drivers and pedestrians alike. The ownership of University Square has changed recently and is now owned by the bondholders who originally invested in the property. The bondholders have a redevelopment plan for the property that includes the possible conversion of the empty retail buildings into apartments and senior housing. This is an exciting prospect for redevelopment. The bondholders are seeking investment partners for this new vision of the buildings and the city is hopeful for a future productive use of this valuable property.

Moving forward, the city administration is monitoring the potential transfer of waterlines on city streets in the northwest portion of the city from the Cleveland Heights Water Department to the Cleveland Water Department. I will work to protect the interests of our affected residents regarding any future developments. Our community projects will continue in 2016 with the Beautiful Home Awards event in February, our 50th Memorial Day parade in May, ten weeks of summertime band concerts on the quad at John Carroll University, and our assistance with block parties throughout the summer and fall months. Your city administration pledges to continue looking for ways to enhance the charming character of our city. These efforts are accomplished through the work of the city employees who deliver services to you under the management of Police Chief Steven Hammett, Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny, Building Commissioner Eric Tuck-Macalla, Fire Chief Douglas Zook, Finance Director Larry Heiser and Community Development Coordinator Patrick Grogan. I would like to thank them for their dedication as they carry out the work of the city. I would also like to thank the City Council, with special thanks to recently retired Councilwomen Nancy English and Adele Zucker, for sharing my vision to keep University Heights as a great place to live. Special thanks to our building department employees and the safety forces for facilitating the smooth transition of the former Wiley Middle School to the temporary Heights High School. I would also like to acknowledge and thank John Carroll University. We really appreciate their partnership with the city, especially with important city events that are hosted at the university including town hall meetings, the parade program, and the summer band concerts. 2015 was a good year for University Heights and I look forward to great things to come in 2016!

Sincerely,



Susan Infeld
Mayor

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



Twitter: @UH_cityhall



Facebook: University Heights City Hall

City Newsletter by Email

For residents who want to get the City newsletter and important messages via e-mail, sign-up is available on the website under the Administration Department and the Resident Section.