

# “At Your Service”



## Message from the Mayor

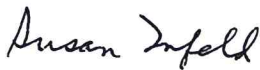
Dear Residents:

Hello and happy spring! I hope that you are enjoying the beautiful weather. I am happy to report that our construction season is underway. If you drive by the new park site on Fenwick Road, you will see the ongoing installation of equipment which will soon be followed by earth movement and plantings. The set of four tennis courts at Purvis Park are also in process of being replaced. The contractor for this year's road paving and curb replacement projects has been chosen. The street paving will begin first in the northwest section of the city in May and continue south and east during the summer months. The waterline replacement projects are out to bid and we should know the selected contractor and the timeframe for the work in about a month. The replacement of the gas lines on selected streets between Cedar and Silsby, near Warrensville, is a Dominion East Ohio Gas project that will last throughout the summer. Please contact us at City Hall if you have questions or concerns about any of these projects.

Thank you to everyone who answered the recent survey sent to you by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. The results of the survey will be incorporated into the city's new Master Plan and the County Planning Commission reports that the survey response has been very good. About 25% of the mailed surveys included stamped return envelopes, making this group a statistically significant sample size for our city. I will share more information about the survey results as we learn more. Again, thank you for your participation.

The establishment of a regional dispatch communications center for the dispatch of police, fire and EMS services is being proposed for Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights. Please read further in this newsletter for more details. If you have questions about this or any other topic, please feel free to contact me at [mayor@universityheights.com](mailto:mayor@universityheights.com) or (216)932-7800 x222. Thank you.

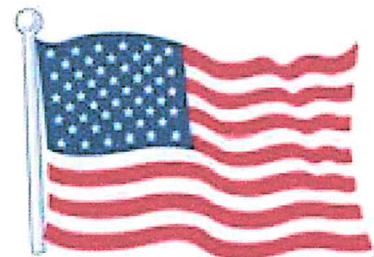
Sincerely,



Susan Infeld  
Mayor

### Parade Planning Continues

The 50<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day parade will be held on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate in the parade as a unit – such as a team, a scout troop, a classic car, a block club, a preschool, etc. – please contact us at City Hall. The more the merrier!





## Joint Dispatch Center

After 3-4 years of planning with neighboring cities for a joint police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS) dispatch center, I have presented to the City Council the legislation that will make this regional effort a reality. The proposed center, named the Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center, would operate the joint communications system for the dispatch of police, fire and EMS services in and for the cities of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights. Currently, the University Heights Police Department operates a dispatch center with dispatchers answering 911 emergency calls. Our fire emergency calls are handled by dispatchers at the joint fire dispatch center, located in Cleveland Heights, serving Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and University Heights. The proposed regional communications center will employ dispatchers in one location to dispatch for both 911 police calls and 911 fire calls.

State legislation (ORC 128.571) will limit the number of dispatch centers per county that are eligible to receive State of Ohio 911 local government funds for operations. In 2013, Cuyahoga County began an initiative encouraging communities to consolidate their 911 dispatch centers by providing funding to communities engaging in 911 consolidation efforts. As a result, many cities in our county have been closing their stand-alone dispatch operations and moving them to regional centers.

Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid and University Heights applied to Cuyahoga County for the 911 Grant funds necessary to establish the proposed Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center and also submitted a grant to the State of Ohio Local Government Safety Capital Grant program to pay for the equipment necessary for the center's operations. Each city will also contribute an equal share for start-up costs as a matching contribution to the county start-up funds. We believe these monies will sufficiently cover the capital costs for the establishment of the regional dispatch center. If the City Councils in all four cities approve the Council of Governments agreement to form a regional dispatch communications center, all four cities will share the center's operating costs based on a formula that weights our cost share according to our respective size and other factors such as run volume. In future years we expect this formula to be weighted by call volume. A capital fund will be established to pay future capital equipment costs at a set annual dollar cost per city. Any additional funds needed for capital items will be shared on a proportionate basis with costs weighted by call volume per city. We expect to see operational efficiencies through a regional dispatch communications center and assure you that there would be no change in the delivery of the same high quality 911 response services you receive now. Public hearings on this topic will be held at the City Council meetings at 7:30 p.m. on April 18 and May 2.

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## Birding at the Cleveland Metroparks

If you are someone who likes to watch birds and keeps a list of your sightings, please consider contributing to the data managed by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology in collaboration with the National Audobon Society. Log your sightings via [www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org) so that your observations can be added to the dataset that aids in the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems.

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