



# “At Your Service”



## Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

Yoga Tuesdays at the Community Park have arrived and, by popular demand, we are extending Yoga Tuesdays into August! The one-hour sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. and the exercise is guided by a professional yoga instructor. Meet at the gazebo and bring a mat, a water bottle, and enjoy this healthy exercise! Namaste.

University Heights has received the *Ohio Auditor of State Award*, presented for exemplary financial reporting with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), for the year 2016. My thanks to Larry Heiser, our former Finance Director who is now the Finance Director for the City of Beachwood, for his hard work that resulted in this award.

The pedestrian improvement project at the Cedar – Taylor intersection will soon be underway. The sidewalks will be replaced and become ADA accessible. The wide angle of the intersection will be reduced slightly for safer street crossing. Landscape improvements in the public green space area will commence at the conclusion of the construction project.

Several of our road construction and paving projects are already complete. However, a few large projects remain:

- The Silsby Road improvement project, which will repave and install curbs on Silsby between Taylor and Edgerton Roads, is scheduled to begin later this month.
- Three Warrensville Center Road pedestrian improvement projects will offer increased street-crossing opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists. They will also introduce median islands to provide safe haven for pedestrians caught half-way across the street.
  - The first project is funded by the city and is part of the 2017 road improvement program. This project will realign the traffic lanes on the north side of the Fairmount Circle intersection and introduce a pedestrian island on the north side of Fairmount Circle.
  - The second project is a NOACA funded project with input and approval from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). It will create a mid-block island on Warrensville between Fairmount Circle and Meadowbrook.
  - The third project will create three curb “bump-outs” on each side of Warrensville between Meadowbrook and Hillbrook. This project is also a NOACA funded project with input and approval from ODOT.

Thank you for your patience during the construction!

Sincerely,

Susan Infeld  
Mayor

## Swenson's is Coming to University Heights!

If you are a Galley Boy aficionado, you will soon be able to get your favorite burger right here in University Heights! Akron's classic drive-in will be open for business on Cedar Road, next to Jack's Deli, by year-end.

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## Nominate a Beautiful Home

The City Beautiful Commission is accepting nominations for the Beautiful Home awards until August 1. Send in your suggestions to [info@universityheights.com](mailto:info@universityheights.com) or call 932-7800 x205. There are six award categories: *Curb Appeal* (for overall property appearance); *Best Front Door*; *Sit a Spell* (for welcoming front yards that could include seating); *Best-Kept Secret* (for beautiful backyards); *Two in a Row* (for two adjacent beautiful homes); and *Three in a Row* (for three adjacent beautiful homes).

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## Events and Walking Tours of Historical Lake View Cemetery

The historic Lake View Cemetery offers year-round events that highlight this storied site. Events include outdoor lawn concerts, Lolly the Trolley tours, architectural and photographic tours, a 5K run, and a Bat Night walking tour. Learn more at [www.lakeviewcemetery.com/visit/tours-events](http://www.lakeviewcemetery.com/visit/tours-events).

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## Senior Lectures

The senior lecture series will recess during the month of August. However you still have time to participate in the remaining July lectures held on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in City Hall.

- July 20, Ms. Maggie Mondello, lead educator with the Western Reserve Historical society, will present "*Carl and Louis Stokes: from Projects to Politics*". This presentation is part of a yearlong community celebration in honor of the Stokes brothers' legacy and service to Cleveland.
  - July 27, William Sheehan, the University Heights Finance Director, will speak about his role in city government. He will also speak about his background as the senior financial reporting administrator with the Cuyahoga County Office of Budget and Management, and his role as the interim county treasurer.
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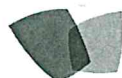
## Summer band concerts at JCU Hamlin Quad

Join us on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8:30 p.m. for an evening of musical entertainment on the Hamlin Quad near the JCU Library. The concerts are held outdoors. In the case of inclement weather, concerts are held indoors at the O'Malley Center building.

- July 20, *The Sloppy Joe Band*
  - July 27, *University Heights' Symphonic Band Children's Concert*
  - August 3, *Blue Lunch*
  - August 10, *Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band*
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@UH\_cityhall



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Produced by the Mayor and staff at City Hall



University Heights City Hall

**AN OPEN LETTER REGARDING THE FIRE SAFETY SITUATION IN UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**  
**From Mayor Susan Infeld, July 17, 2017**

Dear Residents,

Last month the fire union attended City Council meetings and aired a list of issues and negotiated items in their union contract which expired June 30<sup>th</sup>. Because of laws protecting the rights of employees, I cannot discuss negotiations with the fire union although many of the issues mentioned are inaccurate.

Some statistics regarding service delivery and operations of the fire department are below. If you are interested in knowing more about working conditions and benefits, the last negotiated contract (2014 – 2017) is on the city website.

- Minimum staffing is a management right that has been carefully reviewed for years. **Significantly, the number of firemen working per shift, a minimum of six, has remained the same since Mayor Rothschild left office in 2009.**
- **A review of workload and three years of commercial fire inspection reports (2009-2011) showed there was not enough work to keep a fireman occupied full-time as a fire safety inspector.** The Fire Department, however, employs multiple officers and firefighters who are certified fire safety inspectors and who perform inspections while on shift thereby promoting efficiency.
- We have studied and consulted with neighboring communities on how we staff our ambulances. **We staff our ambulances to correspond with the medical emergency.**
- **An ambulance has gone to East Cleveland twice a month this year and our firemen have expressed concerns over their safety in East Cleveland. Our firemen will no longer go to East Cleveland for EMS assistance.**
- **The fire union has voted no confidence in the Fire Chief.** This is a matter that I take very seriously and am investigating.
- **The firemen have personal protective gear to use when responding to a fire call or when handling patient fluids on an ambulance. This equipment is not “expired” or “past effective date”.** The city replaces such protective gear in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications.
- **The city has plans to order a new ambulance in 2018 and a new ladder truck in 2019.**

I am concerned that the fire union has chosen a pattern of negotiating its contract in public, especially since the employment laws limit my ability to fully comment on their claims. Our fire union members are appropriately compensated and have a generous benefits package. Although the fire station was built in 1941, the city works hard to maintain the building in good condition. Renovations of the living quarters are ongoing.

Please feel free to contact me with questions at [mayor@universityheights.com](mailto:mayor@universityheights.com) or 932-7800 x222.

Sincerely,



Susan Infeld  
Mayor