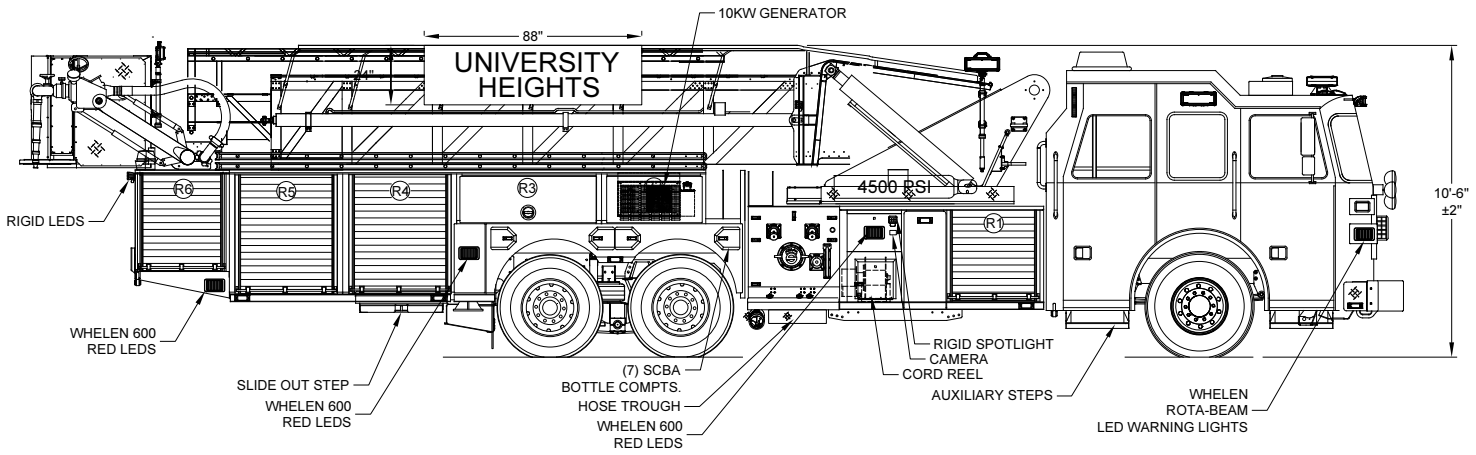
At Your Service

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

January, 2019



New ladder truck will help UHFD save lives

A recent house fire on Tullamore Road in University Heights could have ended tragically, due to an unreliable and obsolete fire truck. City officials recently approved the order of a new ladder truck, to invest in safety and to lower risk to residents.

"We've been living on borrowed time, and the increasing risk was unacceptable," Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan said. "The new truck will help our fire department with their life-saving mission."

At a City Council meeting on December 3rd, Fire Chief Robert Perko explained how a tragedy was narrowly averted at the Tullamore Road fire.

Chief Perko

In that fire, a resident was on the third floor of her home, when fire broke out on the second floor. "When the woman started down the stairs to escape, she initially decided to go back to the third floor and await the Fire Department to rescue her because the fire blocked her path," Perko said.

Her decision to wait could have led to disaster.

Perko said the City's 26-year-old ladder truck was again out of service for repairs during the Tullamore fire. "Without that truck, our fire engine's ladder couldn't reach to the third floor," Perko said.

Perko said that if the woman hadn't ultimately decided to escape on her own, she would have had to perilously await the arrival of a ladder truck from a neighboring city. Firefighters from Cleveland Heights arrived with its ladder truck 18 minutes later.

"It was a good thing the woman was brave and decided to run past the fire to escape." Perko told City Council.

"Furthermore, if the victim being rescued were to be unconscious, it is likely that multiple ladders of the proper length would be needed," Perko continued. "Mutual aid ladder trucks were unavailable due to manpower being used on concurrent calls in their respective cities."

The 2019 Sutphen Heavy Duty 100 Mid-Mount Aerial Ladder Truck (SPH100) will be custom-built by an Ohio company, and is set to be delivered by the end of 2019.

State of the City

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan reports to the people of University Heights

2.13.2019 | 7 p.m. | Jardine Room | John Carroll University

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Join Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan at his first State of the City address. The event will take place at the Jardine Room on the campus of John Carroll University on Wednesday, February 13th at 7 p.m.

In his speech, Brennan will review our achievements from 2018, and look ahead to what we all can accomplish together in 2019.

LETTER *from the* MAYOR

I have had the pleasure of serving as your Mayor for just over one year now.

Together, we accomplished much in 2018.

University Heights is now a Community Reinvestment Area. Residents now can invest in their homes, and receive tax abatement on the increased value.

We established a Housing and Community Development Department, to bolster our housing stock. Our Finance Department has been overhauled, as part of my commitment to ensuring our books are now kept in an orderly way.

Our new city logo and branding is the first step in renewing civic pride.

These are just a few examples of how your mayor and city council are working together. I will outline our agenda for 2019 at my first State of the City address. I hope to see you there.

Michael Dylan Brennan
Mayor, University Heights

City magazine to debut next month

The first ever issue of your city magazine, ***University Heights Mosaic***, will hit mailboxes in late February.

This magazine will showcase the people and places that make University Heights such a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Each issue will highlight the distinct advantages of University Heights, including our connectivity, diversity, neighborly culture, and strong institutions.

Our community's mosaic is replete with educational and religious institutions, walkable neighborhoods, local eateries, shopping, and nearby amenities, offering residents the opportunity to build a life by design, find their forever homes and plant roots.

We have a great story to tell in University Heights. The new city magazine is another way to get the word out that University Heights is So Much More Than Home.

Advisors sought for Finance Committee

As the City of University Heights plans its budget for 2019, Vice-Mayor Susan Pardee is looking for a few good residents to serve on the Finance Advisory Committee.

The Finance Advisory Committee is a committee of residents with specific financial expertise to "advise" and generally be knowledgeable of the financial workings of the city.

We are looking for residents with finance, accounting, or business experience.

Finance meets most often during the budget period of September/ October through December. Finance Advisory Committee members are not asked to attend all Council Finance Committee meetings.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please apply by email to Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas. Please include a resume and cover letter. Kelly's e-mail is kthomas@universityheights.com.

New members will be selected by the end of January.

Holiday trash pickup

University Heights City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 21st in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day,

There will be no trash pickup on 1/21. All trash pickup this week will be on a one-day delay.

We will observe a similar schedule for Presidents Day, February 18.

Parks Committee to meet on January 22nd

The Parks and Recreation Citizens committee will meet at City Hall on Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items will include improvements to the community park, and the potential installation of a seasonal ice rink.

Say "I do" at City Hall on Valentine's Day

Are you looking to get married? How about at City Hall? Perhaps on Valentine's Day?

If you answered "yes" to all three of these questions, give Rachel at City Hall a call at (216) 932-7800 to schedule your ceremony.

Weddings are always a big deal at City Hall, but we'll make it extra special on Valentine's Day.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

University Heights City Hall
2300 Warrensville Center Road
University Heights, Ohio 44118

University Heights police armed with stuffed animals

Police officers in University Heights are now armed with teddy bears and other stuffed animals.

The toys will ride along with police officers every day. The plan is for UHPD officers to give them to children experiencing a traumatic event.

“It is our hope that when a child is put in a distressing situation, we can offer just a little extra comfort to them to help them cope,” University Heights Police Chief Dustin Rogers said.

Ben Feltoon became a police officer to help others and he has a soft spot for children. “I think it’s important to be prepared to comfort kids,” Feltoon said.

"We’re now carrying stuffed animals in cars for times when there’s a kid involved, whether it's a car accident or we get called to a domestic situation,” Feltoon said.

“We want them to know that we're here to help. We want them to feel like they're protected, and what better way to do that than to give them a stuffed animal?"