

June 2021

Summer is back in University Heights! Make plans to attend our first ever Fourth of July Parade

Summer is back, and with it, our annual parade. But this year, our parade will celebrate Independence Day. The first ever University Heights Fourth of July Parade will take place on Sunday, July 4th at 11 a.m. The parade will follow the same route as our traditional Memorial Day, starting at the intersection of Silsby Rd and Allison Rd, and traveling east on Silsby, before turning right and moving south on South Belvoir and finishing on the campus of John Carroll University. To enter your group in the parade, email info@universityheights.com.

UH Fire Dept. now bringing COVID-19 vax to residents

Homebound residents have struggled to get out to get their COVID-19 shots. So now the vaccine is coming to them, courtesy of the University Heights Fire Department.

Our department is teaming up with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and local health departments to assist in the administration of vaccinations to homebound individuals in University Heights.

“To knock out this pandemic, we need to get the vaccine to every single individual who wants it,” said Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan. “This effort will help us reach our most vulnerable population. Everyone who wants the vaccine should be able to receive it.”

Please see the panel on the right to get started.




COVID-19 Vaccines for Homebound Individuals

The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County are partnering with local entities to vaccinate homebound individuals. The Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging is screening individuals for eligibility.

Referrals can be made by contacting Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging at (216) 621-0303. When making a referral, please be prepared to provide the individual's name, demographic information, DOB, phone number, and address.

Homebound persons include those who need the help of another person or medical equipment such as crutches, a walker, or a wheelchair to leave their home, or their medical provider believes that their health or illness could get worse if they leave their home, therefore they typically do not leave their home.

To check your eligibility or receive more information call or visit us at:

 **(216) 621-0303**

 **www.areaagingsolutions.org**



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BOARD OF HEALTH
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State Auditor praises University Heights finances

Finance Director Dennis Kennedy credited with steering ship and successfully implementing new fiscal policies and procedures

By Chase Mandell, Summer Intern

The reformed Finance Department at University Heights City Hall has excelled at its task, according to a new report from the Ohio Auditor of State.

The State's audit of the City's books was deemed to be a clean and successful audit. Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan praised the work of Finance Director Dennis Kennedy and his team for successfully implementing new policies, practices, and procedures.

Brennan praised Kennedy, and his work not only went noticed by the State Auditor, it will be noticed by the residents of University Heights. "This is the people's money," Brennan said. "By taking care of it, and using it prudently, we can deliver the high-quality services our residents expect and deserve."

With this audit, the auditors have confirmed that the City and this Administration continue to make progress and continue to improve internal controls.

The 2019 audit represents the first full year with the administration's new personnel and best practices. This report represents a complete statement of the current administration's work.

Overall, the State Auditor found the financial position of the City is fairly represented in its financial statements. The State found no issues that would cloud veracity of the information contained in the City's financial statements. Items noted in prior years were corrected in 2019.

The State Auditor and the City even waived the exit conference since there were no material issues to discuss.

The audit report highlights much-needed reforms implemented by Brennan and Kennedy. For example, the City now has a reserve policy, an updated fixed asset policy, and a payroll stabilization fund. In addition, the City has an updated investment policy, a rewrite of the Personnel and Policy Manual, and a facilities improvement fund.

In ongoing months, additional City policies and improvement of practices will be created to ensure good finance.

Brennan said finance is the lifeblood of any organization. "It enables us to do all the good things people expect," he said. "Without good finance, all the good work we otherwise would seek to do would be impeded.

"Good finance is not merely an end to itself, but is a means to the greater end of delivering high quality services to our residents, and building the community we envision."

The full audit is available at universityheights.com.



Kennedy



This summer, help local merchants in University Heights bounce back from the pandemic.

Local businesses are back, too!

"Summer is back" is the official theme of the Summer of 2021 in University Heights. Our parade is back, and so are all of our summer activities.

The small businesses in University Heights are back as well. They've survived the pandemic, they are ready to serve and their doors are open.

You will notice new "Think Local, Shop University Heights" stickers on the front door of many local businesses. When you see the sticker, go on inside and buy a bagel, order a sandwich, get a tan, purchase some jewelry, or finally get your hair styled without wearing a mask (if you're vaccinated).

Let's make sure our friends and neighbors are in business here in University Heights for years to come.



Take another bow, Friends of The Walt

The volunteers are still up to all good

The reigning Volunteers of the Year are back at it.

Last month, the Friends of the Walt planted 404 new plants at the park. As a result, over 23 Ohio native plant species are now growing for the enjoyment and benefit of all park visitors.

Not only do our Super Friends volunteer time and energy, they managed to secure grant funding from FutureHeights for their work.

Their work continues all summer, as they remove invasive plants from the park, and tend to other flowers and trees.

If you wish to join the volunteer team, please email info@universityheights.com.

“Crime” solved just in time for Pride Month 2021

By Maeve Kozak, Summer Intern

What looked at first to be a possible hate crime in University Heights turned out to be nothing more than a home-improvement project.

Last month, University Heights neighbors feared the worst when a gay pride flag disappeared from a house on Edgerton Road. They were concerned the theft was a hate crime, and an attempt to intimidate and silence the LGBTQIA+ community.

Charlie Olivo turned to a Facebook discussion board to ask neighbors if they had any video surveillance of someone stealing the pride flag belonging to him and his husband, Tommy Chesnes. Olivo noted that the neighborhood has many homes that fly pride flags, and expressed concern that others may also have fallen victim to a thief.

Neighbors rallied to the couple's defense, offering encouragement and shared frustration. Residents Elizabeth Wolfson, Melissa Connelly, and Joe Yosef Hochheiser went so far as to offer to purchase new pride flags. Olivo suggested that neighbors instead make donations to the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, or to The Trevor Project.

While neighbors struggled to solve the crime, the caper was no match for the couple's dog, Daisy.

In an interview with Channel 19 News, Olivo said, “Our dog started barking out the window and directly at the tree [in our front yard]. So, I opened the blinds, looked out the window and saw this little red and orange stripe.”

Turns out, the flag was taken by a raccoon for a nest that, apparently, needed a splash of color.

Olivo and Chesnes “love calling University Heights home,” and were happy to find out that the thief was not someone with malicious intent.

For the third year in a row, a pride flag will be displayed in front of University Heights City Hall for the entire month of June, as part of the city's Pride Month celebration.



Charlie Olivo and Tommy Chesnes pose with a gift from a stranger.



**UNIVERSITY
HEIGHTS**

**Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan
University Heights City Hall
2300 Warrensville Center Road
University Heights, Ohio 44118**

Summer Concert Series schedule for July



At John Carroll



At Walter Stinson Community Park



July 1

**University Heights
Symphonic Band
Concert + Movie**

The holiday weekend starts at John Carroll University, with the UHSB playing patriotic favorites. The concert is followed by a showing Steven Spielberg's classic movie, Raiders of the Lost Ark.

July 8

**Diana Chittester
Singer/songwriter**

The series moves to The Walt with local singer-songwriter Diana Chittester. The Fighting Chance Records recording artist has opened for Lyle Lovett, Lisa Loeb, and the Gin Blossoms.

July 15

**Aaron Malik
Rap**

Up and coming local rapper Aaron Malik has been productive during the pandemic, and he's ready to unleash new music in his University Heights debut concert. See him for free before he's famous.

July 22

**Carlos Jones and
the PLUS Band
Roots Reggae**

Get to The Walt early, as Carlos Jones and the PLUS Band always draw a crowd. "The band's soulful rhythms and heartfelt vocals have made it one of Cleveland's top draws," reports Scene Magazine.

July 29

**Old Skool
Rock, Dance Covers**

Voted Best Cover Band of 2019 by Scene, Old Skool has earned the reputation of being one of the tightest, most fun, high energy acts in Northeast Ohio. 80s and 90s hip hop, rock, funk, & a bit of disco.