

the friendly

city magazine

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS

Spring 2019

CAUTION: POLICE WORK DOG



INSIDE:
*Black History
Month Event*

*Nyla Edwards
Basketball
STANDOUT*

NEW K-9 KICKS CRIME

Patrolman Dave Ward and Jaq



Message from the Mayor

When we think about Warrensville reaching new heights, the evidence to support that notion lies in many corners around this city. We say that this is the place to live, work and play, and we continue to extend the reach of that statement.

The agenda here at City Hall is to align Warrensville Heights with 21st century principles that affect both the residential and business communities. And when we look at commercial possibilities, we think about how those businesses can serve and employ our residents.

One of the thrusts of our recent efforts has been new housing that will address a multitude of needs and desires. We want to provide accommodations for all life situations:

- senior housing
- affordable housing
- young families
- workforce housing
- affordable & quality rental units

We are working with developers to create workforce townhouse-style housing, most immediately in a location behind our library. In the first phase, it will feature 70 rental units with 1-2 bedrooms.

As part of our transformation, we also are looking at ways to unify city services in a single building which will enhance ease of use and allow for access to services that citizens need on a daily basis. To execute on this concept, we are currently exploring the modification of the former South University building which is presently empty. We

believe that it could offer an ideal, central space for a unified municipal headquarters.

In this building, we hope to provide services including:

- administration
- city council
- building department
- economic and community development
- tax
- finance
- personnel
- police
- social service outreach

Our outstanding Civic & Senior Center will remain delivering programs as it stands, and the City Hall on Warrensville Center Road could become a public safety building, allowing the fire department to have more space.

Another way that we are improving and upgrading our infrastructure is by replacing old gas lines this summer in sections of the city where it's sorely needed. Dominion Energy is providing complete restoration of gas lines at no cost to residents.

As you are aware, because you graciously passed the school levy in the fall, our school system also is receiving a major boost with the construction of new facilities. Most recently, the city approved a site plan and architectural rendering of the building that replaces Randallwood and the old library. It is slated to open in January 2021.

As a measure to continue building on our momentum over the

past seven years, we are working extensively with the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) to explore all that being designated an Opportunity Zone has to offer. This new means of tax savings for businesses is a very attractive negotiating tool. As a byproduct, it can foster increased employment and real commercial opportunity.

One of the thrusts of our recent efforts has been new housing that will address a multitude of needs and desires. We want to provide accommodations for all life situations.

So, to the residents and business owners and operators in Warrensville Heights, I promise you that we are moving forward, full steam ahead.

Mayor Bradley D. Sellers
City of Warrensville Heights



Patrolman Dave Ward and Jaq, the police department's new K9.

K9 Added to Police Force for Protection and Drug Detection

When Patrolman Dave Ward comes to work for our police department, he brings his new partner, Jaq, and together they fight crime, with some added advantages. As the city's new K9, Jaq will be involved in narcotic detection, along with police protection and criminal apprehension. But to reach this point of employability, both he and Ptl. Ward have engaged in months of training.

Jaq, who is 14 months old as of press time, is a long-haired German Shepherd. His bloodline goes back to Germany, and he arrived in the Ward household in February 2018 when he was two months old.

The typical cost for a K9 like Jaq, plus the required training, runs between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Jaq and his training were graciously donated by Schmidt's of Macedonia (owned and operated by Tom and Kathy Schmidt). Soon Jaq will be fitted for a bullet/stab proof vest which will be covered by a donation from Nationwide Insurance, with a value of \$2,000.

Police Chief Wesley Haynes says, "This wonderful addition to the force has been a long-time goal."

He sees particular utility in Jaq's ability to locate cocaine, heroin, marijuana, crack cocaine and methamphetamines. His services could be utilized for a traffic stop or a building search.

"Jaq is a real asset to the community and a solid member of our police force," Chief Haynes adds.

Other neighboring communities with K9s are Cleveland Heights, Garfield Heights, Shaker Heights (which has four K9s) and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

To accommodate Jaq, the city modified Ptl. Ward's patrol vehicle with a special rear cabin to meet a K9s particular needs. Water is always present, and it has a heating and cooling system that continuously monitors the temperature inside the vehicle. It's also equipped with a remote door which Ptl. Ward can activate,

enabling Jaq to exit.

Ward says he appreciates having this opportunity to share his life with Jaq. He thanks Chief Haynes and Mayor Sellers for allowing him to have this experience.

Rounding out his duties, Jaq trains once a week with Buckeye Area Regional K9 (BARK). This is a group consisting of local police officers with K9s. They all believe in socializing K9s to better assist with school and community visits. Training is a huge part of the pair's career, for which Jaq is expected to serve about eight years, after which he may retire.

"Jaq is a real asset to the community and a solid member of our police force,"
Chief Haynes
says.

In September, Jaq was certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, which is when he came on active duty. Since then, he's become very good at his job. As evidence, he has been involved in several successful narcotics busts.

Jaq spends his time off work living with Ptl. Ward and his family. He enjoys running around their large yard and playing with his sibling Suzy, a miniature Pinscher. **WH**

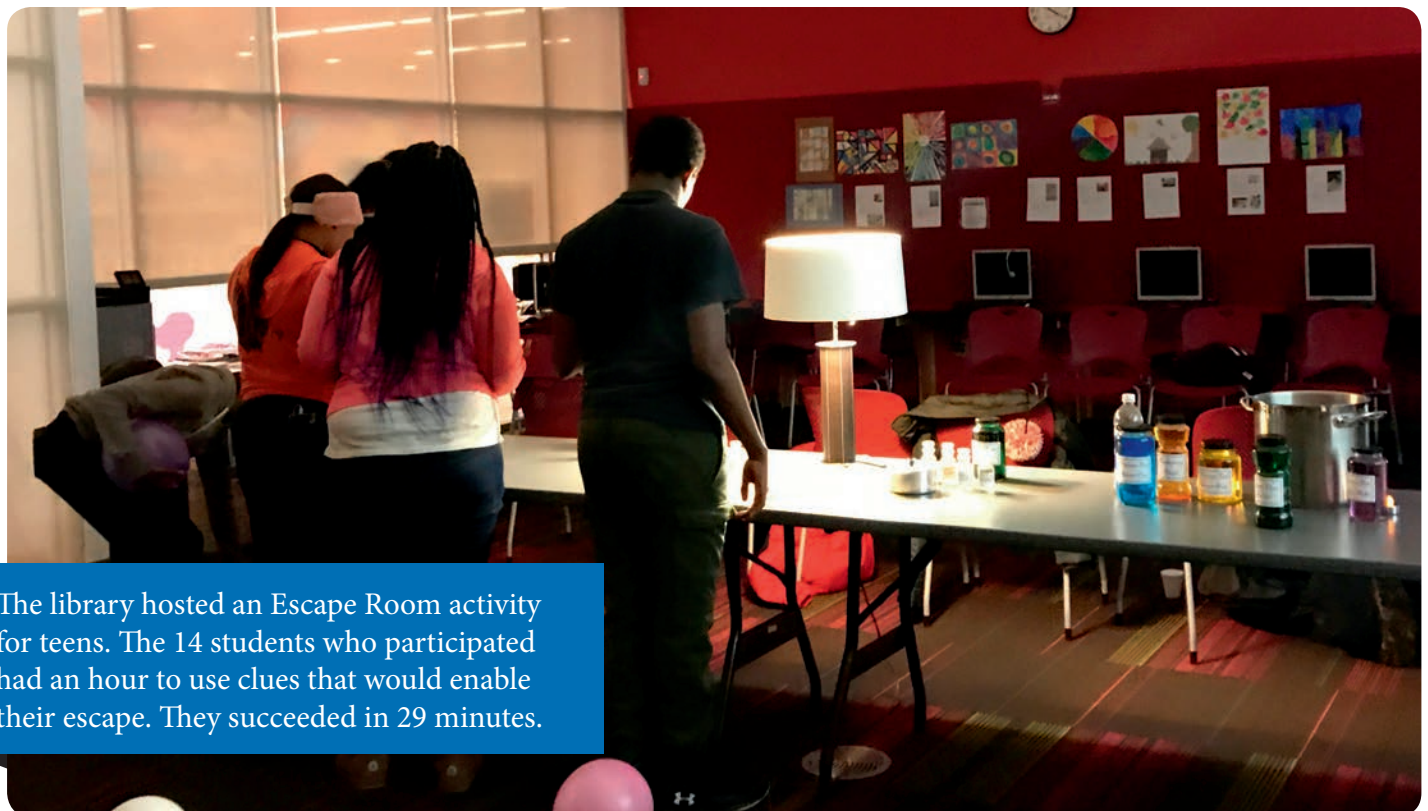
faces in the Community



Mayor Michael L. Booker,
Village of Highland Hills



Jerome A. DuVal, Economic Development Director, hosts a Warrensville Heights Area Chamber of Commerce event focusing on the city as an Opportunity Zone which involves tax advantages for property developers.



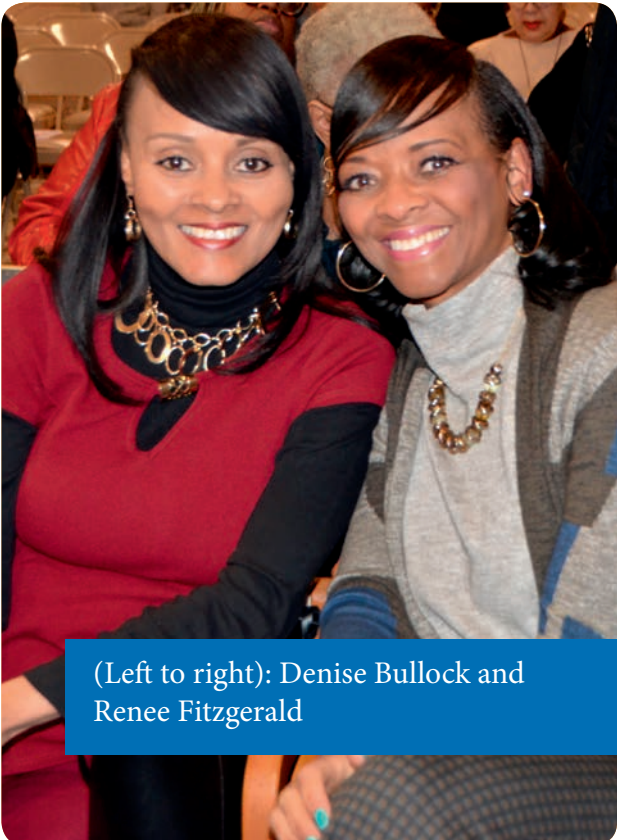
The library hosted an Escape Room activity for teens. The 14 students who participated had an hour to use clues that would enable their escape. They succeeded in 29 minutes.



Mayor Bradley Sellers visits with Eastwood Elementary School students who celebrated him during Black History Month



Lucretia Bolden



(Left to right): Denise Bullock and Renee Fitzgerald



(Left to right): Deborah Hill, Jackie Avery and Jonnie Cooper



Members of the Cuyahoga County Choir

Black History Month Celebrated with Gospel Music Performances

In terms of a celebration, this one warmed the hearts and souls of so many present at the city's annual Black History Month program, which occurred on a cold and rainy night. It was a celebration of gospel music and featured moving renditions of many standards. Plenty of people danced in the aisles and happily sang along.

Numerous local vocalists performed before the packed Civic & Senior Center on February 20. The 90-minute program was highlighted with performances by Elder Timothy James, the Women of Wisdom, Nawassa Brown Williams, a mass choir combining the Voices of Sanctuary (composed of members of the Sanctuary Missionary Baptist Church and the Virgil Brown Gospel Choir of Cuyahoga County) and Lucretia Bolden. The invocation and benediction were delivered by Pastor Ray Harris, along with DJ

“Dawny D” Dawn Hodge and the Family Band.

A thread woven throughout our African American history is music, from the time that our feet were dragged onto this land until today.

Mayor Bradley Sellers delivered remarks during which he expressed his gratitude for the event organizers, Director Jennifer Lastery and Program Coordinator Sandra Noble, as well as for all of the talented performers. He also drew on some memories, relevant to the occasion, one of which was a lynching here. “We need to pay back for that lost life,” he stated. He continued to draw on history.

“Going back, way back, I will

tell you that, in 1970, my family moved here from Mount Pleasant. The landmark in this town, the point of intersection, the boundary, was here, at the corner of Green and Emery. I can tell you that the elementary school around the corner, walking two blocks from my parents’ house, to the playground in the back, at 10 years old, there were some words. It has never ever left my mind, it’s burned in my memory like no one’s business.

There was a thought at the time that black people couldn’t govern themselves, they couldn’t own property and take care of it, they couldn’t be law-abiding. I raise this because we want to remember the group that paved the way for folks to live east of Green Road, west of Green Road, anywhere in this entire town.

That’s a part of black history. I am fortunate enough and old

enough to remember what it was like. Some don't believe that this occurred. You only see what you see.

The point of the story is this. When you have a chance to lift your brother or sister up, make sure you do your work. Sometimes we forget that it's the little things in life. It's not about money. What did you do with the dash between the dates? We're going to make sure we continue to do our part."

Another elected official, Councilwoman Dorise Hagwood, spoke briefly, recalling how "God planted me here in Warrensville Heights 43 years ago. I came from the red hills of Alabama. My dad was a Baptist pastor and, in the church basements, that's where the civil rights movement started."

Midway through the program, Ms. Noble offered a deep dive into the history of gospel music, as reported here:

A thread that is woven throughout our African American history is music, from the time that our feet were dragged onto this land until today. We performed music in different genres: jazz, R&B and rap, but gospel music - Christian music - remains constant and important to the African American culture.

Traditional black gospel was written to express personal or a communal belief in Christian life. It means good news, impassioned rhythmic spiritual music rooted in the solo and responsive church singing of rural blacks in the South. Gospel music actually emanated from slaves singing

spirituals and work songs in the cotton fields.

Gospel music, as we know it today, began in the 1920s with the music of composers Thomas Doresy, Willie Mae Ford Smith, Sallie Martin and others. The long history of gospel music was influenced by everything from the ensemble performances of the Fisk jubilee singers during the late 1800s and early 1900s, to the predominantly male gospel quartets and choirs of the 1930s and 1940s. Records were being made that combined traditional religious music with the blues and boogie-woogie. Drums and horns joined pianos and organs in churches to deliver God's message.

There was resistance in conservative churches to gospel music, this "new sinful form of music."

The golden age was in the '40s and '50s, and the gospel music of Dorsey was taken in new directions by the Soul Stirrers, the Dixie Hummingbirds, the Five Blind Boys of Mississippi and others. The music stirred the emotions and spirit to the listener. The music made people want to jump up, clap, wave their hands and shout. By then, gospel music became full-time careers, Sister Rosetta Thorpe sold millions of records, and Mahalia Jackson and James Cleveland performed in concerts around the country.

Gospel music moved out of the church and its influence is found in disco, R&B and rock and roll. Many of the performers in these genres started singing in church.



Nawassa Brown Williams



Elder Timothy James



Women of Wisdom



Jennifer Lastery

The a cappella of the church quartets became a basis for the Flamingos, the Ravens and the Orioles. On the radio, DJs have included gospel music on their playlists, and they spread the good news of Kirk Franklin and the Winan's.

By the evening's end, attendees headed back out into the chilly, wet night, emotionally and spiritually fulfilled. [WH](#)



Andrea Mitchell,
City Council President

Mitchell Re-Elected to City Council for Second Term

This year marks Andrea Mitchell's eighth year on council, and her second term as President. She presently lives in the neighborhood where she was raised. The mother of a 19-year-old daughter, she has an older brother Lon and is the daughter of Hannah. The Councilwoman also works as an adjunct professor at John Carroll University where she has been teaching courses in public speaking, interpersonal communication and intercultural communication for 20 years. In January, the Council President responded to a few questions regarding her past, present and future in Warrensville Heights.

Q. HOW HAS THE CITY GROWN AND IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS?

A. I look at it as an arc. My parents moved here in 1965, years before I was even a thought. I grew up listening to my mother and father talking about things that make a community home. That's hardwired into who I am. We had coffee klatches

at the house and candidates would come over to discuss issues with my parents and the neighbors. My mom and dad served as officers for the Eastwood Homeowners Association.

Brentwood Hospital (now Cleveland Clinic South Pointe) was always a part of our community. Actually, as I grew so did the hospital, hence our community. In old pictures, you could see it in the background. When I was learning to walk, the hospital was barely visible behind the garage in pictures. When I learned to drive and graduated high school, the hospital is in the background, slightly above the garage. After I returned from graduate school, the hospital was prominently in the background of pictures at nine floors. Thus, if you view some pictures from my life, the community is growing in the background right along with me.

The (Eastwood) Mini Park was always a place to play or sit. Now one of the benches is gone and the Mini Park needs some love. In the last year, we discussed how to get some dollars to improve the park. These aspects are personal for me... because this is our community.

As one who does many things for the city, Ms. Mitchell wears many hats. But she extends the metaphor to her actual daily material life...

I am a busy person and literally wear a lot of hats, I have at least 125. I've donated some. However, as I let them go, I buy more. I suppose it's a metaphor for who I am. I just wear a lot of hats. I've always worn them. My aunt wore hats. I just upped her game.

Q. GOALS?

A. I want Warrensville Heights to be a destination. I want this to be where people want to live, not just a temporary "pit stop." I want Warrensville Heights to be a place that families and individuals call home. Everything I do is for that person who sees Warrensville Heights as a place that can help nurture them and help them grow.

For me, community is every individual, every household and

every neighbor. Great neighbors make great neighborhoods. Great neighborhoods build great communities. Great communities build a great city.

Saying "hey" to your neighbors helps to build bridges. Some people live in a fabulous house and know no one on their street. Knowing your neighbors and building community, that's the intangible piece I seek. And that's what brought me back to the place where I was raised. Other places where I lived? I didn't get that. You know the patterns of the people you live near. That's what makes people want to live here. This is real.

Do you grow where you're planted, or do you plant where you want to grow? Warrensville Heights is that kind of city where you can foster both.

Q. BIGGEST CHALLENGE LAST YEAR?

A. Our biggest challenge became our greatest success...finding a new Clerk of Council, Amber Joyner. She is awesome!


Q. WORK OF THE COUNCIL AS A WHOLE?

A. Every one of the seven of us is passionate about serving the community. That is the glue that motivates us. Teamwork, working together, makes us effective.

Q. HOW HAVE YOU GROWN IN THIS ROLE?

A. As my tenure has increased, my growth has been more about focus and accountability. I make sure I'm listening twice as much as I speak, then I focus on understanding and advocating.

Q. WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND YOUR PREFERENCE FOR THE COLOR RED, SINCE YOUR CLOTHING ALWAYS FEATURES THAT SHADE?

A. It's not even a thing, it's just that I'm drawn to it. It works with my complexion. I also am a member of a public service Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, and one of our colors is crimson, too. 

shoutOuts!



NICOLE R. MCKINNEY-JOHNSON, MBA, is the city's new personnel director, a role she assumed in December. She says this position holds special meaning because she was raised in this community and matriculated through the entire district from Eastwood Elementary, Randallwood, Warrensville Jr. High to the High School. She has several family members and dear friends that still reside here, and for her, she says this will always be home.

She has more than 15 years of human resources experience, including recruiting, training, performance management, career development, diversity program development, employee relations, benefits and compensation, payroll, safety and compliance issues.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources/Organizational Management from Wilberforce University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Ursuline College. Ms. McKinney-Johnson has been a facilitator and program director for the past five years with J.O.B.S. Opportunities Breakthrough Services, a faith based re-entry 10-week employment placement program. She also is an Adjunct Professor in the Business Department at Ursuline College.

Ms. McKinney-Johnson is married to her W.H.H.S. sweetheart, Duane D. Johnson, MBA, and they have one beautiful daughter, Adrienne.

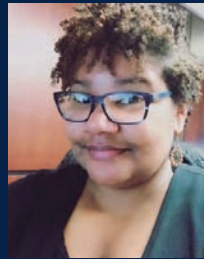
"I am truly looking forward to working with and for the great employees of Warrenville Heights. Thank you to Mayor Sellers and Kelli Wilson for this wonderful opportunity!"



TERESA METCALF BEASLEY, the city's law director, has joined the Cleveland law office of McDonald Hopkins LLC as a member and will serve as chair of the firm's Public Law Practice Group. She brings more than 25 years of experience and has an established reputation as a real estate development and public finance attorney in the city's public and private sectors.

Ms. Beasley is a graduate of the University of Alabama and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. The former director of law for the City of Cleveland was recognized among Savoy Magazine's Most Influential Black Leaders for 2018. Last year, she also was inducted into the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Hall of Fame and recognized by the National Diversity Counsel as one of Ohio's Top 15 in Business.

On Feb. 25, Ms. Beasley was a panelist at Engage! Cleveland's 'Be Heard' dialogue with city leaders who are challenging the status quo. On May 23, the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association will honor Beasley as one of its 2019 Alumni of the Year.



AMBER JOYNER

Ms. Joyner comes to the City of Warrensville Heights from a position at Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court. She was a Magistrate's Assistant in the Domestic Violence Department where people come to file Civil Protection Orders. Prior to that, she was an Advocate at Domestic Violence and

Child Advocacy Center, facilitating educational groups at different social service agencies in the community. Also, she held positions at Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services as a Support Officer in Child Support Enforcement and at Notre Dame College as an Adjunct Psychology Instructor.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Ursuline College and a Master of Science in counseling psychology from Chatham University. She enjoys reading, visiting museums/theatre, long walks in the neighborhood or Metroparks and spending time with family, friends and her cat, Pressley. "I am excited to be the new Clerk of Council with the City of Warrenville Heights!" she says.



WILLIAM "BUD" NEATH,

an evidence technician for the Police Department and retired commander for the Cleveland Clinic Police Department, took 1st place in the 2019 Ohio's Cup, sponsored by the World Powerlifting Conference in Columbus, Ohio. He placed in the masters division, ages 55-59, in the 220-242 pound weight class. He benched 420 pounds, which

also is a personal best. He has been competing in power lifting for the last four years, mostly doing the bench press. He currently holds the Ohio Ultra Masters division title in the 220-242 weight class, with a bench of 385 lbs.

He has competed in the Ohio Police and Fire games in Canton, Ohio, too, over the past two years and placed first both years in the bench press and second in the squat.

In 2017, he took first in the World Powerlifting Congress with a bench press of 385 pounds, but he tore a bicep tendon which required surgery. With a great surgeon and physical therapist, he made a major comeback, being stronger than before.

Earlier, in 2014, he competed in the Police Fire Canadian/American "Can-Am" games held in York, Pa. He took second with a bench of 355 pounds and second in the squat with 585 pounds.

He has a tune-up meet in Pa. in May and says he's looking forward in representing the City of Warrensville Heights in the United States Police and Fire Championship this June in San Diego, California. He has served in law enforcement for 28 years.

city council Spotlight

STANLEY ANDERSON



WARD 6
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WHY COMPLETE THE 2020 US CENSUS FORM

The topic I'd like to address for all Warrensville Heights constituents concerns the 2020 U.S. Census Form.

First and foremost, I'd like to share that I completed the census form to be counted. There are many very important reasons to participate, several of which I have listed below:

The federal government uses census numbers to allocate more than \$400 billion in federal funds annually for community programs and services, such as education programs, housing and community development, health care services for the elderly and job training.

State, local and tribal governments use census information for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, libraries, public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire stations and many other projects.

Businesses use the numbers to decide where to locate factories, shopping centers, banks and offices - activities that often lead to new jobs.

Members of the US House of Representatives are allocated by Census results.

Please stand up and be counted.

KIM EDWARDS



WARD 7
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216.570.5978

Spring is near! I love the changing seasons. I can never quite pick my favorite. Long, carefree summer afternoons, crisp fall days, or bright cold winter mornings, it's just hard

to choose. But there is something about the fresh start of spring that starts sounding pretty good this time of year! As a community, let's prepare our minds, hearts and homes for the upcoming spring season. Make time to try a new yoga or exercise class, meet your new neighbors, buy a new welcome mat, find a new hobby, visit your family, give to people in need and get moving outside!

DORISE HAGWOOD



WARD 1
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216.244.4664

Good Day!

What an exciting time to call this city home. I'm inspired when I encounter courageous people who exhibit strong beliefs and passion. It is encouraging to serve people who choose hope

over despair, engagement over apathy, kindness over indifference, and love over hate. Thank you Ward 1 residents for making it possible for me to represent you - "you will always have a seat at the table."

I am blessed as a leader in this community, to have a leader that I can work with and support. Mayor Brad Sellers is a young man on a mission with a vision. I believe he is anointed for public service. May I challenge you to take a backwards glance forward? WE ARE CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS. We have great leaders on our City Council team, with a heart for people, and time for people, serving with a passion and a purpose.

Please continue to contact me with any questions/concerns you may have.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
WARD 1 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING - THURSDAY,
APRIL 18, 2019 - @ 6:30PM -
CIVIC & SENIOR CENTER.
Light refreshments will be served.

MATTHEW HOWARD



WARD 5
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440.561.7990

Greetings community. I would just like to take the time to say thank you to our Council, the Mayor, and the entire staff for the hard work and dedication that

is given day in and day out to keep this city running year after year.

A special acknowledgement to brother Ed Chambers for his history lesson that he gave to the Tri City Democratic Club on February 12th. Great job sir! You hold a lot of knowledge and I enjoy hearing our history and the struggles that African Americans have endured and overcome in this great city. I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming State of the City event, senior luncheon, and Memorial Day parade.

ANDREA MITCHELL



COUNCIL PRESIDENT
WARD 2
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216.339.1279

Greetings Neighbors,
I hope all is well with you. Thus far, 2019 has been like a visit to Cedar Point— a lot of twists and turns. We have experienced both record-breaking weather highs and LOWS and in the national government.

In regard to our local community, there is a lot happening in the Friendly City. Let's talk Ward 2, I want to hear from you. Make plans to attend the annual Spring Ward 2 Community Meeting on Saturday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Eastwood Elementary School. All are welcome.

“ We must reject not only the stereotypes that others have of us, but also those that we have of ourselves. ”

—Shirley Chisholm

WALTER STEWART



WARD 4
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216.868.5695

Greetings Everyone!
Spring is approaching and the Ward 4 Youth Program is planning our Community Garden Project for 2019. The Garden Project for 2018 was an overwhelming success and we are looking forward to an even greater success in 2019.

WARD 4 RESIDENTS SAFETY CONCERNS

Recently, I have been receiving many phone calls and I have been involved in conversations with many residents, in some cases including their relatives, regarding safety concerns about various crimes that recently took place in Ward 4. Some of the crimes are extremely severe. We will be discussing crime and safety tips at our upcoming Granada Gardens Tenants Association Meetings.

I advise all of our residents that if you see anything that looks suspicious or any type of criminal activity, please call the Warrensville Police Department at 216-587-1234 or for emergencies, do not hesitate to call 911. A Safe and Secure Community is a must for all of our residents.

ELONA C. WHITE



WARD 3
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216.581.3899

Greetings to the caring and concerned neighbors of Warrensville Heights!

Ward 1 and Ward 3 will be holding our annual spring meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center, 4567 Green Road. Our guest speaker will be representatives from the police department, the service department and the mayor's office. Please plan to attend for all of your community updates.

Need repairs on exterior of your home? Remember to contact the Economic Development Department, 216-587-6500. Mr. Raymon Turner or Mr. Jerome DuVal can help you with an exterior maintenance grant to help with cost. The program will resume in April 2019 and end October 2019.

We have a number of classes for you to participate in at the Civic and Senior Center. Call 216-587-1250 for a list of dates and times.

If you have any issues or concerns, please email me. For more information on the city's ordinances please go to www.conwaygreene.com or you may pick up a list of common ordinances from the City Council office.

ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY MEETING

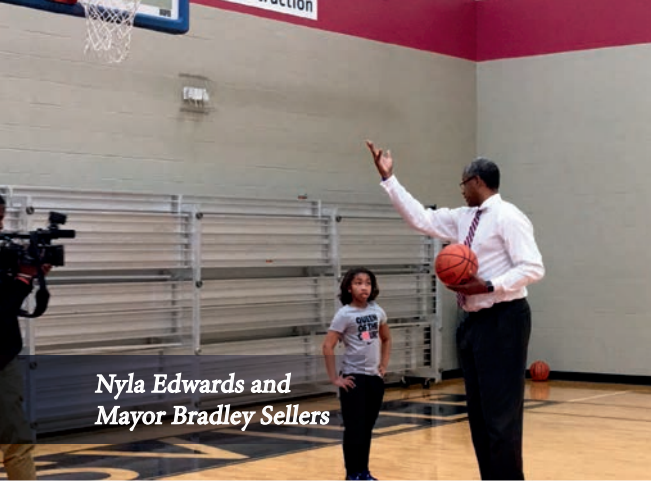
APRIL 17

Refreshments 6:00 p.m.

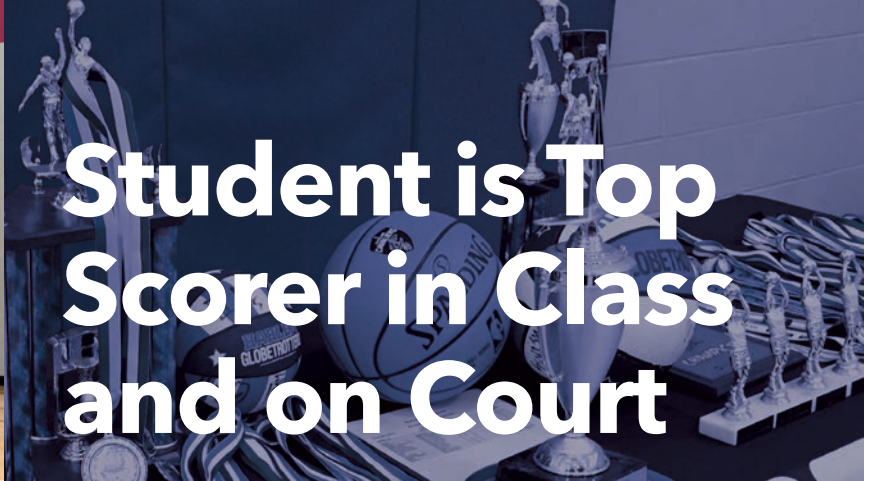
Presentation 6:30 p.m.

• FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC •

Corporate College
4400 Richmond Road



Nyla Edwards and Mayor Bradley Sellers



Student is Top Scorer in Class and on Court

Nyla Edwards is a little girl who's getting noticed big time, not just because she's a straight A student at St. Dominic School in Shaker Heights, but because she's a real stand out on the basketball court, too.

At 10 years old, the Warrensville Heights resident has been leading to victory the various teams she plays on and revealing some serious ball handling skills and savviness well beyond her years. She can shoot right- and left-handed lay-ups, she's strategic in her use of the backboard and she's a very talented dribbler. She also plays every position.

Some have said that she "plays like a boy," to which her father, Nolan Edwards, says, "No, she plays like a basketball player."

Nyla started playing at roughly three years old and as she grew up, she would play with older kids, often at the Warrensville YMCA. She also started out playing AAU basketball with the Marshall Warriors out of East Cleveland and Reality Sports. Presently, she plays at school on the 5th grade team, and with the SMAC Nation baby ballers 5th grade elite team where she often plays against 6th grade competition.

At 4' 8", she says her role models are her dad and mom, Trena. As one of her trainers, her father has been able to draw on his own experience as a basketball player who ranked at the top in AAU and within Ohio when he played while growing up.

Some have said that she "plays like a boy," to which her father, Nolan Edwards says, "No, she plays like a basketball player."

As Nyla describes it, her primary source of inspiration and drive is the goal she has set for herself: to make it to the WNBA. But if she doesn't, she'd like to be the President of the United States or a scientist.

How does she explain how she excels at everything she does? Is it focus? Work ethic? Ambition? A strong competitive spirit? It's likely a combination of all of these elements. "I have been blessed," she says.

But none of these accomplishments have come easily, she reports. She is always working to "get better and better. I can never be satisfied," she explains.

How does she stay calm on the court, in the face of strong challengers? "I try to breathe, focus and relax."

A distinct precociousness becomes apparent when she talks about playing with the boys and those older than her. "People want me to be on their team because I am a good teammate. Once they see me play, we are all equal."

As an only child, Nyla has a special relationship with her best friend and housemate, Ziggy, a Yorkshire terrier. Some of the hobbies she enjoys include playing the keyboard, trumpet and acoustic guitar, along with swimming, horseback riding and playing video games. [WH](#)



Nyla Edwards

Kids in the neighborhood



Fox 8, "I Am Dr. King's Dream" Speech Writing

(From right to left) Junior David E. Hughley III, Fox News 8 Anchor Stefani Schaefer and Sophomore Cameron D. Ray

Personal and powerful messages were written by each WHHS scholar. David Hughley III's message was aired on February 6th and Cameron Ray's aired on February 26th.



National Signing Day Scholars

(From left to right) Devyn Byers – Mount Union, Kaylin Heard – Lake Erie College and Jayvion Williams – Walsh University



STEAM Fair, Glovers Winners

(From left to right) Nyeema Jones, Dezmin Todd, Mrs. Glover, Demarionna Branch, and Mohamed Thiane

A "scale factor project" was given to the 6th grade advanced math class at WHMS. This project gave scholars the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of scale factor and scale models. Scholars were able to pick a real-life object to either enlarge (scale up) or shrink (scale down).

With this object, they had to create a two dimensional scale drawing. They then used this scale drawing to either enlarge or shrink their object by making a three dimensional scale model.

This project required scholars to take measurements of real objects, decide a scale factor, gather materials for construction, and build a 3D model of their original object. The STEAM fair winners constructed 3D models of: 1) a scaled down chair (Demarionna Branch), 2) a scaled up Chromebook (Mohammed Thiane), 3) a scaled down water cooler (Dezmin Todd) and 4) a scaled up iPhone (Nyeema Jones).



MLK Essay Contest Winners

(From left to right) Darion Harris, 1st place winner, Jennifer Ervin, 3rd/4th ELA and Social Studies teacher at Eastwood Elementary School and Braylen Middleton, 3rd place winner, not pictured, Demari Hinton, 2nd place

Aldersgate United Methodist Church invited 4th grade students to participate in a contest for their Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. service in January. The theme of the service was "Stand Up! Stand Out! Be A Leader!"

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JEROME A. DUVAL, DIRECTOR

RAYMON TURNER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The program is a partial reimbursement grant starting April 1 and running through November 1 or until all funding (\$30,000) has been exhausted. Utilizing grant dollars has proven to be a wonderful tool in assisting homeowners handle issues in which they have received violations from the city's Building Department. For further assistance, please contact us at (216) 587-1144 or the Building Department at (216) 587-1230.

MAYOR'S EDUCATION AWARD

We continue to manage the Mayor's Educational Award which presents \$2,000 scholarship(s) to high school seniors who have exemplified outstanding scholastics, leadership and service within the Warrensville Heights City School District. The scholarships are designed to help with college tuition, books, supplies and other college related expenses for those attending a four year college or university.

RESIDENTIAL SHRED DAYS:

Saturday, June 22, Green Road Park, 4501 Green Rd.

Saturday, September 28, Warrensville Heights Middle School, 4285 Warrensville Center Road

CHATEAUX OF EMERY WOODS

A few remaining homes and lots are for sale in this prime development. To learn more, please visit emerywoods.net.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

BEN BROWN, BUILDING COMMISSIONER

BUILDING PERMIT REMINDER

With the warmer weather, homeowners will start to do repairs on their properties and often, they have questions about what requires a permit and how to find a contractor.

WHAT IS A BUILDING PERMIT?

A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. Building Permits are very beneficial to you and the community. By working with expert code officials, you will benefit from their knowledge of the building codes to ensure your construction project is built right, will be safe and will last. Safe construction practices help protect you, your family, your friends and your investment. Be sure to get your local code official involved with your project because the Building Department is on your side.

HOW DO I DETERMINE WHETHER I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

The best way to find out if you need a permit is to call your

local Building Department at 216.587.1230. Be sure to discuss your plans with the code official before you begin construction to determine whether you need a permit. Permits are usually required for the following: new buildings, additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc.), Residential work (decks, garages, fences, fireplaces, pools, water heaters, etc.), renovations (garage conversions, basement remodeling, kitchen expansions, re-roofing, etc.), electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.

HOW TO I FIND A LICENSED CONTRACTOR?

The city maintains a list of licensed and bonded contractors who have registered with the city.

CAN I PULL A HOMEOWNERS PERMIT?

Homeowners Permits can be pulled for general construction only (roofs, concrete, fences, siding, etc.)

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The City of Warrensville Heights codified ordinances require that all exterior property areas be maintained in good repair and free from unsafe, unhealthy, blighting and deteriorating conditions. This includes the home exterior, grass, shrubs, fences and accessory structures. The city conducts a tri-annual Exterior Property Maintenance Inspection Program and will inspect the following streets:

- Parkton
- Garden
- Cherrywood
- Butternut
- Marvin
- Aurora
- Sunset-East and West
- Ridgewood-East and West
- Halifax
- Harvard
- Mayfair
- Hathaway
- Richmond
- Annette
- Green
- Miles
- Vera
- Berrimore
- Joyce
- Longleaf
- Merrygold
- Springvale
- Timberlane

Homeowners will receive an inspection letter in the mail two weeks prior to the inspection.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

TED SIMS, DIRECTOR

RUBBISH COLLECTION & RECYCLING

The following remaining holidays will have delayed trash pickup: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day.

REMINDERS

Please report street light outages to the Service Department. Also, please report any basement sewer backups. 216-587-6570.

CHIPPER SERVICE

This service begins April 1. Stack all branches with the cut ends toward the street on tree lawns.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

HERBERT WAUGH, FIRE CHIEF

Firefighter Richard Fiktus joined our Fire Department in April 1990. With 29 years of service, his experience makes him our most senior firefighter. He is someone that our younger guys can go to with questions and he's always willing to help out.



Fiktus' career did not initially go down the path of being a firefighter. Rich joined the United States Army in September 1984 and became a Military Police Officer (MP), serving six years.

His father, a Maple Heights firefighter, suggested he take a few fire tests. Although Rich was thinking of becoming a police officer, he did well on the fire exams and was hired by the city. Next, he was directed to get his fire and EMS training. He has not looked back since then.

Rich says the hardest thing for him to adjust to in the first few years was waking all hours of the night to respond to calls and get enough sleep. He loves being part of the team and associated with something that is bigger than himself. He draws great satisfaction from helping others.

He says one of the most memorable calls for him involved a motor vehicle accident where somebody he went to high school with was a victim. The person was lucky to not be injured badly and they were able to connect with each other outside of work, getting caught up on what they had been doing since graduation. He initially did not see himself staying long term when he took

the job but now he knows it was the best choice he ever made. He continues to love the work and is a valuable asset to the city. Rich lives in Garfield Heights and has two daughters, ages 20 and 22.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

WESLEY HAYNES, CHIEF OF POLICE

I would like to thank our residents and business owners for all of their support of our Police Department. I also would like to thank the police officers who wear their uniform with pride and are dedicated and committed to keeping this city safe. They deserve a heartfelt thank you for their service. Also, as you read in the cover article, the police department added a new member to the force, K9 Jaq. This addition has been one of my long-term goals since assuming the role of chief of police. I am also in the process of increasing manpower by recruiting men and women to serve and protect this community. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming city events.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

CARLETTA FELLOWS, DIRECTOR

- Warrensville Heights as a Smart City – We will research the Smart City platforms that allow electronic data collection sensors to supply information which is used to manage assets and resources efficiently. This includes data from citizens, devices and assets that process and analyze information to monitor and manage service systems.
- Business Growth Collaborative (BGC) – We will be reviewing the BGC model for the City of Warrensville Heights's emerging entrepreneurs and business owners considering scaling up. The BGC is a partnership between 11 organizations that provide technical assistance services to enterprises.

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HAVE YOU LISTENED TO OUR PODCAST?

VISIT CITYOFWARRENSVILLE.COM, NAVIGATE TO BOTTOM OF HOMEPAGE, CLICK ON PODCAST IMAGE

“Warrensville REACHING NEW heights”

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS...

Tom Heinen

Co-President
Heinen's Grocery Stores



Austin Carr

Commentator
Fox Sports Ohio



Denise Carkhuff

Owner
Adrenaline Monkey



Dr. R.A. Vernon

Founder & Senior Pastor
The Word Church



Dr. Dale Kates, D.D.S.

Owner
Premiere Smiles Orthodontics



Dr. Evan Morse

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Ed Chambers

Local Historian



Dr. Margaret McKenzie

President
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