A Message from Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

On May 30, 2017, Channel 19 News ran a story under the headline “Maple Heights On Underwater Mortgage List”. This station ran this news story without seeking any input from the City of Maple Heights. I have since learned that the story was based on an article that appeared on a website named “credit.com”, which website attracts hits by offering free monthly credit score reviews. I have also discovered that the housing inventory graphic used by Channel 19 came from a website called “homefacts.com”.

In short, none of the information presented by Channel 19 was noted by source or verified as to accuracy. Neither the City of Maple Heights nor the County of Cuyahoga were contacted prior to this story being run to offer comment, insight, or analysis.

The fact of the matter is that Maple Heights, like most communities within Cuyahoga County and throughout the nation, are still combating the effects of the 2008 recession. However, as noted in an article by Rich Exner for Cleveland.com on January 10, 2017, “home prices are increasing across most of Cuyahoga County with some of the strongest gains posted in areas hit hardest by the recession nearly a decade ago”. As noted in that story, the median price for single family homes in Maple Heights rose over 50% from 2009 to 2016. This is a remarkable increase and confirms that Maple Heights is “winning” the battle.

Since my term in office began in January 2016 the City has seen a gradually improving housing market. In order to sustain and to continue this growth in 2016 and 2017 the City waived its escrow requirement for new owner-occupied home owners buying within the City. This has spurred many young families to seek out and purchase homes within Maple Heights. In addition, the City just recently held a housing fair which allowed residents who are struggling with their mortgages to talk with professionals and work on strategies to ease their burdens.

The City has started “winning” under my administration. We have been successful recipients of numerous grants to improve the City’s infrastructure and services. In addition, we have been chosen by the Cuyahoga County Economic Development Department to implement a brand new vision for the Broadway Corridor partnering with the County to revitalize Broadway and attract retail businesses to the Corridor. Coupled with that, the City recently was awarded a grant from Cuyahoga County to prepare a master plan to study how best to position the City for continued growth and economic success for the future. And just yesterday I learned that we along with four other inner ring suburbs were granted nearly $200,000 from the Cleveland Foundation to work with Western Reserve Land Conservancy for implementation of a property survey initiative.

I am proud to continue fighting for, and winning, on behalf of Maple Heights.

For the period of July 1st until December 31st, Maple Heights will be participating in the Heritage Home Program℠ of the Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS). This program is designed for the owners of older homes and provides guidance on home improvement and maintenance projects.

The most important feature of the Heritage Home Program℠ is that it offers free Technical Assistance and advice to the owners of houses that are over 50 years old. An employee of Cleveland Restoration Society will come out and visit your house to discuss the types of repairs that are necessary and appropriate for the house. The CRS employee will help identify the proper materials to be used for repairs and replacements that will be consistent with the architecture and style of the home.

The free Technical Assistance offered by the Heritage Home Program℠ is completely impartial and independent. CRS does not have any products or services that it sells to the homeowners and does not charge the homeowner for the advice. CRS can also provide a homeowner with a list of contractors that do the type of work that the homeowner needs. CRS will even review contractor bids and advise the homeowner on the estimates.

Since the inception of the program 25 years ago, CRS has provided technical advice and assistance to over 12,000 homeowners in Northeast Ohio on projects having a value of over $269 Million.

Another feature of the Heritage Home Program℠ is its low-interest equity loan program. These loans are made by KeyBank and Third Federal Savings and Loan have a fixed rate as low as 1.99%. The loans have a repayment term of up to 15 years. Most projects, both interior and exterior, qualify. Roofing, waterproofing, and kitchen and bath remodeling are popular uses of the Heritage Home Program℠ loan. For more information, homeowners can contact CRS or call 216-426-3116.
Team Effort Makes Maple Heights Neighborhood Safer

Volunteers from The Mission Continues, Team Rubicon, and Team Red White and Blue went door-to-door in a neighborhood near Maple Heights High School to check existing smoke alarms, replace batteries, and install new smoke alarms where needed. They also shared valuable fire safety information.

The Mission Continues to empower veterans who are adjusting to life at home to find purpose through community impact. They deploy veterans on new missions in their communities, so that their actions will inspire future generations to serve. The Cleveland 1st Service Platoon was launched this April 2017.

Volunteers from another service group joined the Fire Safety Walk as well. Three members of ‘We’re Not Famous, But We Made It’ also installed smoke alarms where needed.

Volunteer James Davenport said, “Our members have hit bumps in the road along the way. We want to make sure we give back to the community. It’s a perfect time to give back. This is National Volunteer Week (April 23-29), and the Red Cross offers many volunteer opportunities. Visit us at redcross.org to begin the application process.

Link to full story: https://neoredcross.org/2017/04/24/team-effort-makes-maple-heights-neighborhood-safer/

Linda Vopat Awarded for Excellence

On Thursday April 20, 2017 Linda M. Vopat, Director of Human Services at the Maple Heights Senior Center in Cuyahoga County attended the WRAAA Annual Luncheon & Conference to receive the 2017 Independent Living Award for Excellence in Service Provision. The theme for 2017 is “Aging Well... Mind, Body, & Spirit.” More than 400 professionals, including WRAAA staff, providers, advocates, and volunteers representing organizations in the aging and disability networks were present, along with Mayor Annette M. Blackwell from the City of Maple Heights.

Excellence in Service Provision recognizes an individual or agency (non-profit or public) who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and dedication to helping individuals achieve independence through services and supports.

Created in 2008, the Independent Living Awards were designed to honor individuals and organizations who are exceptional in helping older adults and persons with disabilities maintain their independence within the community. The Nominees’ work must impact older adults and/or individuals with disabilities in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and/or Medina Counties. Nominees will be evaluated on the impact of their past and/or present accomplishments promoting independent living. Congratulations, Linda! Thank you for all you do for your community!

Fire Department Donates Equipment

The Maple Heights Fire Department has donated items to the Africa Fire Mission (AFM) The AFM is an organization committed to building and increasing the sustainable capacity of fire departments across Africa; specifically Kenya, Ethiopia, and Zambia. By donating our old equipment, we are helping fellow firefighters in Africa stay safe while fighting fires.

Dream Comes True

A little boy’s biggest dream came true thanks to Maple Heights Police officers. Fox8 Cleveland aired the story on May 31, 2017 – To see story search Fox8.com
Quality of Life and How to be a Good Neighbor

Everyone wants to live in a safe, secure, clean and friendly community. This means that neighbors do not abuse their property rights and do not behave in ways that interfere with their neighbor’s quality of life. Issues such as dogs barking or running loose, loud music, children violating curfew, yards with overgrown bushes, weeds and grass; cars parking on grass, yards with trash and debris, trespassing, loitering, damage of property, trash cans not taken in on time are all examples of behaviors which lead to neighborhood decline. Below are a few of the City Ordinances that effect our quality of life:

- Be a responsible pet owner and pick up after your animal. Dogs must be on a leash or gated in your backyard. Dogs should not bark or howl to disturb the quiet of any neighbor.
- Cut your grass on a regular basis so it does not exceed 6 inches in height. Front yard bushes should be maintained as well as the flower beds.
- Garbage cannot be put out earlier than 6PM the day before pickup and should be taken in after the pickup and not left on the curb for days.
- Loud noise ordinance is in effect from 11pm to 6am. Music cannot be played at a volume to disturb the quiet or comfort of others.
- Parking is prohibited on the front lawn or on any grass areas of the rear yard. Abandoned or unlicensed vehicles must be stored in the garage. Parking is prohibited on all City streets between 4am and 6am every night and at all times when snow exceeds 2 inches.
- Curfew hours for children under 14 are 9pm to 6am. Juveniles over 14 but under 18 is 11pm to 6am. Parents and guardians are responsible for this enforcement.
- No person shall congregate with others on the sidewalk, street, parks, etc. with the intent to provoke or breach the peace of other persons.
- No one has the right to cut across someone’s yard, sit on their porch or congregate on someone’s lawn or driveway without their permission, this is trespassing.

The City of Maple Heights has a Quality of Life brochure available through your Councilperson. It addresses these nuisances and the consequences. Recently City Council passed an ordinance to strengthen the nuisance laws of the City which now has stricter guidelines for those who continuously violate the City Ordinances and allows the City to declare a property a nuisance if there are repeated criminal or nuisance activities. The property owner will be notified and may be billed for the cost incurred by the City to abate the nuisance.

Maple Heights Housing Committee: Toni Jones District 2 Chairperson, Members: Tanglyn Madden District 5 and Shari Thomas District 6

Our great customer base has helped keep us at our 14151 Granger Road location and has provided us with the opportunity to be creative and grow. We are centrally located to the surrounding communities and our customers have become our friends. We look forward to staying in Maple Heights for many years to come.

We have everything you need to bake a beautiful and tasty creation. Our friendly staff will help you pick out the perfect supplies for cake baking, candy making and more. Our great fillings, chocolate, icings and more are the best you will find. Many of our products are made from scratch by Nadine. We would like to thank the residents of Maple Heights for the years of support and Mayor Annette M. Blackwell for choosing us as her featured business of the month. You can find us at nadinescakes.com or on Facebook.
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