A Message from Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

In the month of October, I had the opportunity to engage in two very highly recognized continuing education programs, The National League of Cities Leadership Summit, in San Diego, CA for Mayors, City Commissioners and Councilmembers from all over the country, as far away as Alaska, and the Cleveland Leadership Center’s Civic Leadership Institute, a local leadership program that educates, connects, inspires and engages leaders to drive positive community change where they are positioned to make the most significant impact.

A lot of hard, good and successful work has gone into this year as we move towards the year-end. More specifically, we can celebrate that The City of Maple Heights has been awarded a $150,000 Municipal County Small Business Initiative Grant from Cuyahoga County in partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA). The grant will be used to help fund the city’s Small Business Partnership Program which provides assistance to small business startups and expansions in the city. Out of the 22 inner-ring cities that were asked to submit an application, only 4 cities were granted the award.

We have also received a very important grant for a Community Master Plan from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to help the city take the steps needed to plan for the city’s future, and I am most excited about our partnership with Slavic Village Development Corporation to make low-value, lightly distressed homes in Maple Heights available for affordable homeownership. Our key areas of focus are, of course, our fiscal recovery, ensuing the deficit which had been ~$2.5 million in 2016 and now is less than ~$1 million as well as aggressive economic development.

October was Manufacturing Month and inSITE Advisory Group, LLC, the City’s Economic Development Consultants, hosted an event that brought the community, school district, and local manufacturing companies together to discuss workforce and talent development. Clifton Steel sponsored the event that was held on October 10, 2017 at the Senior Center, serving a continental breakfast, featuring a Keynote Speaker and Roundtable discussion, followed by a tour of their plant afterwards. More than 10 Maple Heights High School juniors and seniors wore hard hats and safety glasses as they met executives and employees of the company, got up close to view machinery and walked the plant.

In this edition of the Maple Heights Headlines, I want to make sure that I give you a real estate update, sharing market data from the Akron Cleveland Realtors Association, which says the Median Listing Price for single-family homes as of September 2017 in our city is $61,900, a 14.8% increase over September 2016.

I sincerely believe that we are on our way back and I look forward to November 2017

Maple Heights honors Citizen and Business of the Year

At the September 6th Maple Heights City Council Meeting, Mayor Annette M. Blackwell honored the 2017 Citizen of the Year Alex Adams and, for the first time in the City’s history, the 2017 Business of the Year, Mr. Chicken with CEO Michael Simens.

Alex and his wife Patrice have been residents of Maple Heights for nearly 40 years. As a resident of District 1, Alex served on several committees and as Councilman from 2007 until retiring in 2015. This well loved resident selflessly and tirelessly dedicated his time, talents and treasure to serve the Seniors at the Maple Heights Senior Center, the children of the community at the Easter Fest, the Santa Delivery Program, Pumpkin Hunt and all residents in need with countless acts of kindness. Alex approached his Council position with never-ending availability, treated his constituents as family, and proudly displayed his love for the City of Maple Heights and its residents in all that he did. Thank you, Alex, and congratulations.

Senator Kenny Yuko, at left, congratulates Alex Adams on receiving the 2017 City of Maple Heights Citizen of the Year award.

In 1968 in Maple Heights. After his father’s death in 1989, Mike completely took over the running of the eight stores in the Mr. Chicken chain. Mike Simens is wholeheartedly and sincerely committed to helping the communities in which his stores are located. “Mike exemplifies kindness and generosity,” said Mayor Blackwell, Mayor Blackwell continued by saying, “Over the years he has personally provided support to the community by sponsoring fund raisers where the delicious food from Mr. Chicken was donated to raise money through ticket purchases. He has touched so many organizations by being there with both food and finances. With Mike, it is more than a business in Maple Heights, his heart is here too.”

“When you come to Mr. Chicken, you are family, and that means not only serving the highest quality, freshest food, but a true caring commitment to the residents of the City we call home,” said Simens. “Our sincere congratulations, Mike.”

Rekindle a Memory Brighten a Life

Mayor Annette M. Blackwell presents Rekindle a Memory Brighten a Life

You are cordially invited to attend the Holiday Lighting Ceremony at Maple Heights City Hall on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM

The lights will shine in honor of your loved ones from December 2nd through January 5th

As we celebrate restoring hope for a brighter future for Maple Heights, we invite you to donate $5.00, for a light to decorate City Hall. The light will remain a tribute to a family member or friend and will honor the memory of a loved one. Your donation will go directly to the Maple Heights Food Pantry to continue to provide food security to our residents. Enjoy a variety of Christmas Carols sung by local church choirs and hot chocolate and cookies donated by The Delicious Food Truck.
On Saturday July 22, 2017, the Maple Heights Fire Department and Maple Heights Firefighters Local 1184 posthumously honored Retired Firefighter H. James Walkos.

His family was presented with the Martin E. Pierce Commemorative Line-of-Duty Death medal for his supreme sacrifice to the residents and City of Maple Heights. Firefighter Walkos served the City of Maple Heights from April of 1970 to March of 2006.

Firefighter Walkos passed away on July 19, 2008 from an illness directly related to inhalation of toxic substances in the course of being a firefighter.

Many family members, friends and former members of the Maple Heights Fire Department attended the event. Maple Heights Mayor Annette M. Blackwell thanked Firefighter Walkos' family for their dedicated service to the City of Maple Heights and his ultimate sacrifice.

Comments by Chief Vito Kavaliunas, retired Chief Jim Castelucci, retired Captain Bill Wheeler, and Firefighter and Union President Jim Ferris followed highlighting Firefighter Walkos' career with the Maple Heights Fire Department. Firefighter Walkos' son, Joseph, spoke on behalf of the family and expressed their sincere gratitude to Local 1184, the Maple Heights Fire Department and the City of Maple Heights.

On September 16, 2017 Firefighter Walkos' name was added to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) fallen firefighters memorial wall in Colorado Springs, CO.

Hundreds of US mayors endorse switch to 100% renewable energy by 2035

Mayor Annette M. Blackwell is joining Mayors For 100% Clean Energy and demonstrating widespread bipartisan support for 100% clean and renewable energy in cities and communities across the nation!

This resolution represents one of the most ambitious energy policies ever supported by the US Conference of Mayors (USCM), and could pave the way for cities throughout the United States to commit to a just and equitable transition to 100% clean, renewable energy.

This could not have been done without the support of the 125+ mayors who have now joined Mayors For 100% Clean Energy, and the 37 (and counting) cities that have now committed to 100% clean, renewable energy.

LEAF COLLECTION RETURNS TO MAPLE HEIGHTS

After an absence of three years, Mayor Annette M. Blackwell, with support of City Council, is pleased to announce the return of the leaf collection program. On Monday, October 16, 2017, Three-Z Supply Inc. began leaf collection in the northeast quadrant of the City working westward.

Leaf collecting is being done differently than in the past. Because it is impossible to predict when and how fast leaves will fall, setting a schedule hinders the efficiency of the program. Therefore, we are asking that no matter where you live in the City, you get your leaves out to the tree lawn as soon as possible.

Each street will receive a minimum of three passes from the beginning of the program until mid- December. Again, it is most important for the residents to get their leaves out as soon as possible. Collection days are generally Monday through Friday, but they may be picked up on Saturdays if necessary to keep up with high leaf volumes.

We know that giving our residents the most accurate and up to date information is an important part of making the leaf collection program efficient. Maple Heights residents with questions should contact the Three-Z leaf collection line directly at 216 – 524 – 6688.
**THE BELDENs GO TO......Maple Heights!**

The Maple Heights Food Pantry operates almost completely on donations. “It would be impossible to serve the nearly 10,000 residents of Maple Heights providing three days of food every month for each family member without the generosity of our donors,” states Human Services Director Linda Vopat. “That is why when the news came that George and Helena Belden and Bob Geiser were donating the royalties from their book to the Maple Heights Food Pantry and the Windham Red Shield Food Pantry, we were overwhelmed by their generosity. Mr. Belden spent 30 years teaching and coaching in the Maple Heights School District. Mrs. Belden taught her entire career in the Windham School District.

The Beldens indicated that writing the book was a joyful adventure and they never thought about any monetary gain. However, they did think about how they could give back to the communities where they spent their teaching careers and made a positive impact, but their generosity did not stop there. Mr. Belden dropped off a case of books to sell at the Maple Heights Food Pantry. “We can assure the Beldens that their donation and all donations go directly to assisting our food-insecure residents and truly make a difference in their lives,” Vopat said. Mr. Belden states “Maple Heights is like a second home to me.”

Farmer Jones Market

Farmer Jones Market opened in Maple Heights 67 years ago in 1950. John worked for the former owner for 6 years before taking over the business. On September 1, 2017 he celebrated 15 years as owner of this great establishment.

It is not an accident that the produce he sells is of the highest quality. John works tirelessly to ensure the best possible product for his customers.

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Farmer Jones Market employs six friendly, helpful people. It is not unusual to hear them call customers by name and treat them like family.

So, if you want to serve the best, highest quality, freshest fruits and vegetables, check out John Anselmo and Farmer Jones Market.

The Cuyahoga County Public Library System is one of the nation’s best and busiest library systems. Our 28 branches serve 47 communities across Northeast Ohio. As a member of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Maple Heights Branch Friends Group, we actively support the Library’s mission of being at the center of community life, where reading, lifelong learning and civic engagement thrive.

Cuyahoga County Public Library’s three focus areas impact the quality of life for all in Cuyahoga County.

•Reading: Support a Highly Literate Community
•Lifelong Learning: Transform Branches into Centers of Community-Based Education
•Civic Engagement

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, The Friends group is a fun place to volunteer. You can volunteer any time during the Library hours that fits into your schedule.

What do the Friends Members do for the Community?

•A used magazine and paperback sale and service •A used hardback book, video and cassette/CD sale service •Yearly newsletters •Awards and recognition for library staff and employees •Educational and recreational programs •Exhibits and visual enhancement to the Library •Funding for major works of art

Friends of the Maple Heights Library

October is the yearly membership drive. A leaf with your name will be displayed at the library to show our community pride when you join. Membership forms can be picked up at the library. For more information, please call/email Ruthann Ishihara, President of the Friends of the Maple Heights Library, at 216-215-5084. Mamaish89@gmail.com

Pictured from Left to Right: Ruthann Ishihara - President, Steven Haynie - Branch Manager, Gloria Vah - Book Sale Volunteer, Winifred Henderson - Vice President (seated), Janice Boggan - Book Sale Volunteer, Margaret Hill - Book Sale Volunteer, Phyllis Leanza - Treasurer

**Saint Barnabas Villa**

- Supportive Senior Living

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- 24-hour emergency-call staff
- Respite Services
- Private bedrooms at an affordable cost
- Daily housekeeping and laundry services
- Home-cooked family style meals
- Personal care assistance
- Companionship and more!

Saint Barnabas Villa is a lifestyle for seniors who, with a little help can still enjoy the hobbies, friendships and activities they have pursued for a lifetime.

Saint Barnabas Villa

9234 Old Eighth Road, Northfield, Ohio 44067

To schedule a tour, call: 330-467-3758

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Mr. Chicken

FRESH-LOCAL-FAMILY OWNED
Serving Maple Hts. Community for 49 years

Wednesday Special

3 Pc. Chicken Dinner $6.59

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3 Pcs. of Chicken
Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy
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