A Message from Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

It has come so fast, the winter holidays and the end of the year, 2018! But, it has been quite amazing.

We declared early on that Maple Heights was not going to be a suburb that was going to vanish, even though we were one of the suburbs that had suffered the worst during the housing bust. We went to work to secure more economic development opportunities for new and expanding businesses, city clean ups, park improvements, enhancements to our senior care programs, more activities and amenities; programs to increase homeownership, Slavic Village, creating green spaces, pocket parks, adding more police officers and city professionals to increase responsiveness to residents and introduce initiatives for more efficiency and successful outcomes and better processes.

It has been a commitment of this administration to repair, maintain and update our infrastructure. So we have paved main roads with available grant dollars and completed roadway maintenance, sewer and water projects. Grants are essential to maintaining our budget and we rely on them to acquire new and safer equipment, add more personnel and complete special projects. More specifically, we received a firefighters’ grant in the amount of $58,293 for equipment and a $68,356 energy community grant from Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) for city energy projects which included a new boiler for City Hall and adding LED façade lighting to City Hall and the Police Station.

The properties in Maple Heights just went through a County Property Value Reappraisal and some residential values increased 7.1 and commercial values went up about 19%. Overall, real estate in the city has some excellent results to share. There have been 446 home sales this year so far and the Average Listing Price is $71,027 while just a few years ago the average listing price was less than $40,000.

The schools’ sports teams are winning and the city is utilizing much needed grant money. It certainly feels like we are a WINNING CITY! What an excellent way to head into 2019!

At the October 17, 2018 Maple Heights City Council Meeting, Mayor Annette M. Blackwell honored Bob Dober as the 2018 Citizen of the Year and Maple Heights Hardware, owner John Hegrat, as the 2018 Business of the Year. Many of their family and friends joined us to congratulate them on this prestigious recognition.

Bob graduated from Maple Heights High School and has spent most of his 88 years as a resident of Maple Heights living in a house built by his father. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Gerry, for 58 years and together they raised their 5 (five) children.

In the 1970’s, Bob represented District 5 as a Councilperson in his beloved City of Maple Heights for 3 terms. Because of his love and concern for the children of our City, Bob ran and was elected to the Maple Heights Board of Education for 3 (three) consecutive terms serving a total of 12 years.

Bob is not only generous with his time and talents but also with his treasure. He has funded the Easter Fest for our children and the Volunteer Recognition Dinner for our seniors.

Bob’s continuing service and generosity to the City of Maple Heights in his public and private life is and will always be marked by love, honesty, responsibility, forgiveness and respect for the rights of others.

Maple Heights Hardware first opened its doors in Maple Heights in 1948 near the Mapletown Shopping Center. By 1976, it had outgrown its location and the owner built a new store at 16460 Broadway Avenue. He hired a young man from Maple Heights High School to work in the store.

That began John Hegrat’s career in the hardware business that is still going strong today. John purchased Maple Heights Hardware in 1996 and currently employs seven full time and one part time employee.

Maple Heights Hardware is a full service, old school hardware store. John believes the foundation and key to a successful business is competitive pricing, keeping an extensive inventory and friendly, competent staff.

John believes in giving back to the community and to those in need of assistance. Some of the beneficiaries of his generosity are local veteran’s groups, Providence House and Coats for Kids.

As a Maple Heights business owner and a mainstay in the community, John’s generosity extends to the City of Maple Heights. John has supported the Music in the Park Program, the Maple Heights Food Pantry, the Envision Stafford Park renovation, the Maple Heights Senior Center and many other projects and programs sponsored by the City of Maple Heights.

Congratulations to you both!
The Maple Heights Civil Service Commission was established in 1955 pursuant to Article XV of the City Charter. The term “civil service” means all offices and positions of trust or employment in the service of the City. Pursuant to the Ohio Constitution, appointments and promotions in the civil service of the City shall be made according to merit and fitness.

The Commission is comprised of three individuals who are registered voters of the City. Each individual is appointed to the Commission by the Mayor for a period not to exceed six years. The officers of the Commission consist of a Chairperson and a Secretary. All other members of the Commission are known as “members at large.” The current members of the Commission are Linda Smith-Peterson, Chairperson, Walter Bizzell Jr., Secretary, and Richard Trojanski, Member-At-Large. The Commission meets on an as-needed basis and all meetings are open to the public.

The City’s civil service system divides employment positions into either the classified or unclassified service. Positions in the classified service are those for which merit and fitness can be determined by examination. Employees in the classified service can only be removed for good cause and only after the procedures enumerated by the Commission and the rules and regulations established by the Commission have been followed, unless covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

The Commission prescribes, amends, and enforces Rules for the City’s classified service positions. The classified service positions in Maple Heights are the following police and fire department personnel: Police Cadet (all classes); Patrol Officer; Police Sergeant; Police Lieutenant; Police Captain; and Police Chief; Fire Cadet (all classes); Firefighter; Fire Lieutenant; Fire Captain; and Fire Chief.

All other City positions, such as department heads and directors, service department workers, clerical, secretarial and administrative support employees, and fiduciary employees are in the unclassified service and not governed by the Commission’s Rules. Positions in the unclassified service have qualities that generally are not determinable by examination. Employees in the unclassified service do not receive the protections afforded employees in the classified service.

The Commission’s Rules are important for the advancement of City safety services and the development of competent personnel to perform those services. These Rules express the Commission’s commitment to increasing the quality and efficiency of City safety services based on the principles of merit and fitness, free of personal and political considerations.

The Commission, with the assistance of the Police and Fire Departments and the Law/HR Department, conducts entrance examinations and promotional examinations in accordance with the Rules. In addition, the City residents last November passed an amendment to Charter Article XV to allow the Commission to establish a lateral transfer selection process, an alternative method for the ascertainment of merit and fitness as the basis for hiring of police patrol officers and firefighters who have already been trained by other jurisdictions. This process will foster Mayor Blackwell’s goal of increasing diversity in the safety forces.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Already?

It is almost that time again! The Maple Heights Service Department is getting ready to make the roads safe for our residents to travel when the snow gets here.

We want you to know our snow removal priority schedule. Primary roads, hills and school zones are the first focus. Secondary roads such as Maple Heights Blvd. Raymond, Lee Road South and East 141st are next. Police and Fire lots are critical areas that are completed next once the main roads are drivable. At that point, we will start removing snow from roads followed by dead ends and cul-de-sacs.

Road salt is used on all main and secondary roads. Side streets are salted at hills, stop signs and sharp bends. Service Department workers, clerical, secretarial and administrative support employees, and fiduciary employees are in the unclassified service and not governed by the Commission’s Rules. Positions in the unclassified service have qualities that generally are not determinable by examination. Employees in the unclassified service do not receive the protections afforded employees in the classified service.

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Senior Center Awarded New Vans

The City of Maple Heights Department of Human Services has been awarded two Light Transit Vehicles through a grant from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) 2018 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program. The award is for a total of $84,665. The total cost of the project is $105,831. The remaining 20% will be paid from Senior Center Levy monies.

The NOACA Board of Directors unanimously voted to award the vehicles to the City. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell is a member of the Board.

These vehicles will allow the Department of Human Services to retire two vehicles that have long reached their maximum useful life. It will allow for the safe and efficient transport of our older adults and persons with disabilities.

Our Transportation Service allows our most vulnerable residents to remain in their homes living independently with dignity.

Senior Center Awarded New Vans

The City of Maple Heights has a parking ban on all streets from 4:00 AM to 4:00 AM during extreme weather conditions, a parking ban may be issued. Check our City website, Facebook or television and radio stations for announcements. At that time, parking on all roadways is prohibited. We ask that you adhere to such bans. It makes it much easier and safer for the Service Department to clear the streets. Please remember that Maple Heights has a parking ban on all streets from 4:00 AM to 6:00 AM all year long.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Maple Heights Lights Up!

The City of Maple Heights will soon begin work to install new LED perimeter lighting at the City Hall and Police Station located on S353 Lee Road. Earlier this year, Mayor Blackwell entered into an agreement with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) to accept a NOPEC Energized Community (NEC) grant in the amount of $26,263.75.

The NOPEC funding allowed the City Engineer to prepare plans and to seek price proposals for various options to install both security lighting and aesthetic lighting for both the City Hall and the Police Station. The construction costs for both security lighting and aesthetic lighting enhancement were compared to the grant budget and the Mayor and Council accepted the Engineer’s recommendation to move forward with the installation of the security lighting at a cost not to exceed $24,763.00. The state of the art LED lighting system will be installed by RJW Wiring, a certified Minority Business Enterprise and Veteran owned and operated electrical firm.

The work is expected to commence in early to mid-November and is expected to be completed by December 1. The City intends to seek additional funding from NOPEC in 2019 in order to complete the installation of an aesthetic lighting package. The aesthetic LED lighting package will light the façade of both City Hall and the Police Station.
Trina Mims, owner of Good Beginnings, believes that everyone has been blessed with a gift. Her gift, her talent, is educating children. She states “Their unconditional love, eagerness to learn, forgiving hearts and zest for life inspire me daily and cement my idea that this is the BEST job ever.”

Ms. Mims opened Good Beginnings in October of 1999. She chose Maple Heights because she purchased her first home here. Living around the corner from her business was not only convenient but made her solidly invested in the community. Ms. Mims says,”I started with a dream and 20 credit cards.”

Her first location was a small space, where she could only care for 45 children. She struggled with enrollment, space and finding qualified dedicated staff. By 2007, Ms. Mims started to see things come together. She says she “found her rhythm”. Qualified staff was hired, she was providing a more quality program, her reputation started taking form, enrollment increased and she expanded the location to license for 95 children.

In 2015, Good Beginnings began a collaborative partnership with the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland for a Head Start program. With much hard work, they have earned a 4 STAR ranking, which further displays their level of dedication to education and their children.

Then in 2017, Ms. Mims said they were blessed to move to their new 16,000 square foot school at 5468 Warrensville Center Road. They are able to care for 200 children from the ages of 6 weeks through 11 years of age. Good Beginnings is opened from 6:00 AM until 10:30 PM Monday through Friday. Children are provided breakfast, lunch, a snack and dinner daily.

Good Beginnings has 10 classrooms with bathrooms in each class, 2 physical fitness rooms, a theater, a cafeteria, a full kitchen, a new playground, and cameras in every class. The well qualified staff includes 23 teachers, 1 education manager, 1 administrative assistant, 1 cook and 1 kitchen aid.

Ms. Mims’ goal is to create a positive, safe learning environment for all of her children and for parents to feel like Good Beginnings is an intrinsic part of their extended family. For more information or to take a tour, please call Good Beginnings at 216-587-6577. Their philosophy is “Every child deserves a Good Beginning.”

Mustang Magic is alive and well in the City of Maple Heights! Our congratulations go to the Maple Heights High School Varsity Football Team, who finished the season with a 10 - 0 record and are the Lake Erie League Champions. They clinched home field advantage in the first playoff game by defeating Cleveland Heights in the last regular season game. All the best in the playoffs!

But, the winning does not stop there. Our Lady Mustang Volleyball team are also Lake Erie League Champions. Finishing the season with an overall record of 16 - 8 and a League record of 12 - 0, the girls brought more winning ways to the Maple Heights City Schools.

Not to be outdone, the Boys Cross Country team took first place in the Lake Erie League and the Girls Cross Country team took second place. Our own sophomore, Vernon Nevels Jr. won the prestigious 1st place runner award in the Lake Erie League.

We are so proud of all of you and appreciate your hard work and commitment to excellence.
50% BIGGER

CHICKEN TENDERS!

PURCHASE THE WEDNESDAY DINNER SPECIAL & GET A FREE CHICKEN TENDER!*  

You asked and we listened! Our hand-breaded, famous FARM FRESH CHICKEN TENDERS are not only Juicier and Crisper... now they are 50% BIGGER! Stop in today and try one! Get a FREE CHICKEN TENDER with the purchase of our Wednesday Dinner Special.*

NEW!
Maple Hts. Location:
5515 Warrensville Center Road

* OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/2019

Mr. Chicken
FRESH. LOCAL. FAMILY-OWNED.