A Message from Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

Happy New Year! I am excited about 2018 in the City of Maple Heights. I can look back only two years ago and say honestly, “we are moving forward.” It is very important for the residents of this city to know what that means. Economic Development, new businesses, expanded businesses and newly remodeled businesses are a big part of the progress that we are so excited about!

I am pleased to share that Save-A-Lot in the Mapletown Shopping Center renovation is moving along very well and they are planning to open their doors in early April. McDonald’s on Northfield Road new facility reopening is sometime in February; Mr. Chicken’s reopening in a new facility on Warrensville Road is in May; and a new Family Dollar Store is opening at Rockside & Dunham Roads in early February. There are some large manufacturing developments as well, but the details are not yet final.

HOWEVER, I AM THE MOST PROUD OF OUR FISCAL RECOVERY. OUR DEFICIT IS LESS THAN -$800,000 improving from -$2.5 million in 2016!

In the area of real estate, we sold more than 300 homes in 2017 and anticipate seeing our increasing housing values reflected on the County’s 2018 Property Reappraisal.

In an important effort to increase homeownership in our city, the City of Maple Heights has partnered with Slavic Village Development to rehabilitate vacant homes.

The Maple Heights Homeownership (MIHOP) Program is an initiative that will make vacant and distressed homes in Maple Heights available for purchase by both owner-occupants and developers, bringing investment to the city, stabilizing the local housing market and providing an affordable DIY home purchase option. The innovative new project is made possible through a partnership between the City of Maple Heights, Slavic Village Development and the Cuyahoga County Land Bank.

It is the first collaboration of its kind between a Cleveland community development corporation and a local suburb. But on a more disturbing note, the City of Maple Heights has close to 600 Single Family Homes that are certified tax delinquent for more than $2,000 per home, which is a little over $6 million dollars in uncollected taxes.

The city’s administration is very focused on keeping Maple Heights a good place to live and is always working towards improving and maintaining a desirable quality of life. So we will again host our Annual Easter Fest, Clambake and Shred Day as well as continue our Music-in-the Park Concert Series this Summer. Additionally, we are planning summer recreation for our youth which includes exploring a mobile recreation program. The summer youth programs returning are soccer, MyCom, youth mentoring programs which include summer employment, Hope Alliance Bible Church Summer Programs, youth basketball and Safety Town, at Stafford Park.

Lastly it is a BIG DEAL, our 99-Year Lease with the Metroparks. The City is leasing 49.9 acres to the park system which will add Dunham Park to the Bedford Reservation. This partnership will bring safety services, a Park Ranger, education, recreation, conservation and employment to our area park.

I hope to meet many of you this year at one of our city’s many events or programs, a new business, City Council Meeting or just out and about. Be Proud, Maple Heights, we are WINNING again!

‘Best Day of the Month’ for Maple Heights’ Children

If you have a child or know a child under the age of 5 years living in Maple Heights, please help them get signed up for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

The Imagination Library is a unique early years book gifting program that mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to children every month from birth until five years of age. There is no cost to the family. Parents agree that “it is the best day of the month for my child!”

The single most important factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school. Studies confirm that access to books is crucial for developing reading skills and that the number of books in the home directly predicts reading achievement.

The Literacy Cooperative of Greater Cleveland along with generous funders are working to get every child under the age of 5 years that lives in Maple Heights receiving these books.

How to sign up: Enrollment forms are available at the Children’s Desk of the Maple Heights Library, the Maple Heights Board of Education office, or for online enrollment, go to www.literacycooperative.org.

Please help spread the word about this program so every child (under 5 years old) in Maple Heights gets a book in their mailbox each month. Questions, please contact The Literacy Cooperative, 216-776-6180 or visit www.literacycooperative.org
Mayor Blackwell is NAACP Speaker

Mayor’s Featured Department - Finance-

The Finance Department has a number of functions within the City, which include budgeting, payroll, accounts payable, receivable and reporting. Those constitute the absolute minimum work that the finance office is responsible for over the course of a year.

The finance office also monitors the budget on a monthly basis, forecasts cash flow, monitors cash flow daily, manages lease agreements, oversees debt management, establishes policies and procedures for the finance office, oversees income tax collections, establishes relationships with our vendors, reviews agreements and contracts for compliance and possible overages, answers residents’ questions related to property taxes, special assessments and income taxes, oversees the yearly financial audits, provides information to the state and federal entities per requests, provides monthly reports on revenues, expenses, outstanding purchase orders, and a reconciliation to the city leaders and many other requests as received.

Finance works closely with the city engineer to ensure that projects within the city are progressing as planned and payments have been approved prior to being submitted to our department. Finance is the hub that keeps the city moving by paying vendors and employees.

In the wonderful world of finance at a city, there are other important responsibilities that include working with all the departments to assist in providing services to the residents of the City of Maple Heights.

Working together the Mayor, finance and other city departments have accomplished great things in 2017, which include lowering the General Fund deficit by over $900,000 while still delivering services which include: Police, Fire, Building inspections, information and assistance to homeowners on building codes, vacant lot clean-ups, street sweeping, snow and ice removal, tree trimming, street patching, street repairs, bringing new businesses to the city, providing transportation for the elderly and disabled, providing meals to seniors and so much more.

The City of Maple Heights provides a great number of services to the citizens and does so with a limited number of personnel.

Maple Heights Recommended for $487,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission Funding

Submitted by Ed Hren, City Engineer

The District One Public Works Integrating Committee is recommending the award of $487,000 in Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Funding to the City of Maple Heights for the repair of various storm and sanitary sewers located in the southwest corner of the city.

This project will address the separation of combined sewer manholes with over/under installations of sanitary and storm sewers, the repair or replacement of storm and sanitary sewer house laterals and the repair or replacement of the storm and sanitary mains.

The proposed work will help to reduce the volume of inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system which can result in basement flooding during heavy rainfall. The project will also replace a failed sanitary sewer located off of Schreiber Road which is causing a manhole lid on Schreiber Road to pop off during heavy rainfall events resulting in the release of sewage into the environment.

The project will be coordinated with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and will also provide their crews with easier access to storm and sanitary sewers for routine cleaning, televising, and maintenance.

The targeted area is located on various streets in the southwest corner in the Dunham Road vicinity from Steinway Boulevard to Schreiber Road. The funding will be provided in the form of a $393,000 grant and a $104,000 2 percent loan payable over 30 years. The funds will become available on July 1, 2018 and the balance of funds for the estimated $700,000 project will come from a combination of County Public Works and Maple Heights Sewer funds. Construction is expected to take place in 2019.

The project scope and the funding resources secured for this project are similar to that which was previously provided for the repair of various storm and sanitary sewers located in the northeast corner of the city near Warrensville Center Road. Construction on the Various Northeast Sewer Repair Project is expected to start in Fall 2018.
Maple Heights High Marketing Students Operate Gold Level Bookstore

The Maple Heights High School Bookstore is an entrepreneurial operation managed by the students enrolled in the junior and senior level marketing program.

The business gives students a hands-on learning laboratory that integrates National Curriculum Standards in Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Management. Providing realistic and practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction, the store also offers customers the opportunity to purchase snacks, school supplies and beverages. Community members are encouraged to visit the business and purchase Maple Heights spirit wear, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, lanyards, hats and more.

One of the stores hottest sellers are the freshly baked Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, which are available in three flavors. Students arrive at 7 am to begin baking and the cookies sell out daily since many customers enjoy starting their day with a tasty treat.

The business is open before school five days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 7:40 a.m. and after school from 2:50 p.m. until 3:10 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. Customers can place orders by phone, mail, emailing the Marketing Teacher Dr. Griffin at thomas.griffin@mapleschools.com or calling 216-438-6400 x 1166. Forms of payment include cash and credit, with shipping and local delivery available. The bookstore is located next to the main entrance of Maple Heights High School.

All marketing students are members of DECA, the co-curricular part of marketing programs offered in approximately 60% of high schools nationwide. Formerly known as Distributive Education Clubs of America, DECA now uses the tagline “An Association of Marketing Students.”

Members participate in local, state and national competitions and are eligible to win scholarships. National DECA has awarded the bookstore Gold Level Certification, the highest level obtainable, the past four years. The student run business has been the model for many others throughout the State of Ohio.

Mayor Blackwell Appointed To NOACA Board

Mayor Annette Blackwell has been appointed to the Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to serve as a member of the Policy Committee.

NOACA is a transportation and environmental planning agency serving Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties.

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for northeast Ohio, NOACA is charged with determining which proposed highway, bikeway, and transit projects will receive federal funding.

Board members work with the Ohio Department of Transportation, project sponsors and other organizations to help address northeast Ohio’s transportation, air quality, and water quality needs.

Mayor Blackwell is honored to be appointed to serve on the Policy Committee of the NOACA Board and commented that, “In this role I believe that I will be able to be an advocate for our city’s needs in these areas.”
Grand Opening & 50th Anniversary!

Please join us April 2 for the grand opening of our new Maple Heights location, 5515 Warrensville-Center Rd., Maple Heights!

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration will be June 9! Stay tuned to our Facebook page for details.