A Message from
Mayor Annette Blackwell

I am confirming who we are, the City of Maple Heights. We are a residential suburb 12 miles southeast of downtown Cleveland, only 20 minutes away from the prominent work places and events of downtown Cleveland, world-renowned healthcare and educational institutions. Maple Heights is also close to the Cleveland Metroparks and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and the City offers six local parks, which is more than 55 acres of natural woods and green space. The City’s largest park, Stafford, offers pavilion rentals and sport amenities.

Our City is rich in culture and religious traditions and is an ideal community where residents enjoy affordability, friendliness and small-town living with the conveniences usually found in larger metropolitan cities. Demographically, we have a household median income of more than $46k, a diverse population, Blacks, Whites, Asian, Hispanic or Latino; 73% of homes are owner-occupied; more than 80% of residents have a high school diploma, while 13% have college degrees and 3% have advanced degrees.

Please know that this administration is dedicated to providing services that improve the quality of lives for these residents and businesses of this City, and we remain very optimistic about the future of the greater Cleveland area and our City. One of those services is safety and it is a priority, therefore, we currently have 26 full-time Police Officers and the Fire Department operates two full-time fire stations with two rescue squads staffed by trained firefighters and paramedics.

The City is facing many challenges; the most significant are our fiscal emergency, our declining economic base, closed businesses and foreclosed homes. However, the 2016 deficit of $2.7 million has been reduced to $1.2 million and we continue to celebrate the opening of new businesses, Forman Mills, Budner Manufacturing, a new grocery store, renovated bowling alley with state-of-the-art bowling lanes and culinary food choices and many other small businesses are scheduled to open year-end 2017. Most significant to our economic development efforts is the county’s engagement of Bookman Associates, Inc., a Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) consulting firm, nationally known for their development of commercial corridors and stimulating economic growth in smaller communities. These consultants are currently working on the Broadway Avenue Retail Corridor in the cities of Maple and Garfield Heights and have recently submitted their draft of a Market Analysis for the Broadway Trade Area.

Probably the most exciting news to residents is that home values are up and recent home sale data just in reports that “the median sold price is up more than 30%.” Also important to many residents, we have a new trash program with recycling; are renovating city parks; repairing our main roadways and exploring the possibility of contracting with a private leaf collection provider.

As your Mayor, I understand the important work of this office and the purposeful work of the position. Thanks for choosing me to lead.

God bless.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!!!

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE LINE UP AT STAFFORD PARK!!

This event is being sponsored by the American Legion (Al Glass) and Community Life and Education

WHERE: STAFFORD PARK, 5400 Mayville Ave., Maple Hts. OH 44137
WHEN: Monday, May 29, 2017
TIME: 10:15 A.M. kick-off time

Parade will end at the Maple Heights City Hall “Memorial” area. There will be a presentation by the Grand Marshall, Veterans, Maple Heights Police Department, and the Mayor of Maple Heights, Annette Blackwell. Please plan to attend this wholesome family event.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

2017
CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS
Tuesdays
June 13th  July 11th  August 8th
from 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Remember Your Lawn Chairs!
All Performances at Stafford Park
5400 Mayville Avenue
Maple Heights, OH 44137
216-587-5481

MUSIC IN THE PARK BANDS

June 13th  Old Skool Players Band
July 11th  Brian Papesh Band
           House Band at the Hofbrauhaus
August 8th  Hubb’s Groove

FOOD AND BEVERAGES
Available to Purchase from
THE DELICIOUS FOOD TRUCK
Going Above and Beyond

The Police Department continues to stay busy and our officers continue to go above and beyond in providing service to our residents. Police Chief John Poplawczyk had the honor of presenting these officers with the Chief’s Award of Merit at the April 19th meeting of City Council for actions they took to save the life of a young gunshot victim. The incident occurred on Lee Road on January 5th, 2017. Police Officers Daniel Augsby, Aaron Carmine and Nicholas Sidor were first on scene after a reported shooting. They found the victim bleeding heavily from a gunshot wound to the upper arm and determined he was in danger of bleeding to death. The officers applied multiple tourniquets to the wound while waiting for the rescue squad to arrive. Hospital staff stated that their actions that day saved the victim’s life. We are extremely fortunate to have officers like these working for our department and are proud of their service to our community.

Summer is a great time of year and members of the Police Department once again look forward to working with members of the Maple Heights City Council in sponsoring this year’s Hoop It Up Basketball Tournament at Stafford Park. This will be the second year for this event. Officers from our department will coach participants as they play in a three on three basketball tournament. Look for additional information in the City Council portion of this newsletter and on the City Heights website.

The Police Department would also like to take this opportunity to remind residents to lock or otherwise secure their bicycles and be respectful of their neighbors when enjoying music in their yards. This is the time of year when we experience dramatic increases in these types of complaints. Just a little extra attention to these matters will help immensely in curtailing these calls.

Finally, we encourage all residents to become involved in the community by participating in the Block Watch programs run by members of City Council. Our officers regularly attend these meetings and we would welcome the opportunity to meet you there in person.

A culminating experience of the “Guppy Tank,” a six-week series for young entrepreneurs. Participants presented their final pitches for a product or service before an esteemed panel of judges, family members, and friends.

The Maple Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) System recently had a very successful initiative called “Guppy Tank.” This initiative was supported by an internal innovation grant from CCPL and consisted of a six-week youth entrepreneur series designed to tap into the creative energy and business potential of 4th through 8th grade students selected by teachers from within the Maple Heights School District. Guppy Tank was the brain-child of five branch staff members who were looking for new creative ways to engage with the youth in the Maple Heights community. The five employees that made up the team are Youth Services Supervisor Bonnie Demarchi, Teen Librarian Darlene Davis, Children’s Librarian Kya Noy, Job & Career Services Center Supervisor Kristie Williams and Branch Manager Steven Haynie.

The Tank ran on successive Saturdays from 10:30am-12:30pm starting on March 4th. The main goal of this initiative was to equip the participants with the basic knowledge to potentially create a successful business endeavor and then have the opportunity to pitch that endeavor to a group of panelists along with over seventy community members, family and friends at the culminating event that was held on Saturday April 8, 2017 at 10:30am. Those five panelists included Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell, Maple Heights School District Special Education Coordinator Mary McDermott, CCPL Literacy & Learning Division Director Pam Jankowski, Lake Erie Ink Co-Founder & Executive Director Amy Rosenbluth and finally Holmes Mouthwatering Applesauce Founder & Chief Executive Officer Ethan Holmes.

Although we have listed the winners below, we consider all of our children winners and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Grand Prize Winner — Amani Spencer, 6th Grader at Milkovich Middle School. Idea: “Outside with Amani - The Cure for your Honey-Do List!” Prize: Lemonade Start-Up Kit, 19” Flat Screen TV w/DVD Player and two entrepreneurial kid DVDs.

1st Runner Up — Kamryn Dowdell, 6th Grader at Milkovich Middle School. Idea: “Dr. Kam’s Earbuds - Customizable earbuds!” Prize: Barnes & Noble 7” Nook Tablet with two cover options.


Other than personnel, the most important assets to any fire department are trucks and equipment. The Maple Heights Fire Department recently received a new pumper truck and rescue squad. This directly resulted in better response and a substantial savings for the city in downtime and repairs.

The Maple Heights Fire Department began an aggressive policy of equipment maintenance not only for the new trucks but our existing fleet. The next truck chosen was Engine 2 from the Durham Road station. The Department completed all needed mechanical repairs and the members of the department worked to repaint, restore and repurpose the truck and equipment onboard. Many hours were spent by the members in between running calls and completing daily tasks.

The end result is a truck that we can be proud of and is better prepared to serve the residents. I am very proud of all the members of the department and the dedication that they exhibit on a daily basis!
From the Law/Human Resources Department

On March 1, 2017, upon the recommendation of the Mayor and the HR Department, Council passed Resolution 2017-17 establishing an Employee Assistance Program for all City employees.

To ensure continued high levels of service to our residents, the EAP will provide our employees help with mental and emotional problems, conflict resolution, anger and stress management and substance abuse counseling.

The HR Department was also instrumental in maintaining employee wellness programs and safety measures resulting in the City’s health insurance premiums increasing less than 4% and resulting in a 66% cost savings in workers’ compensation for the 2018 calendar year.

Also on March 1, 2017, upon the recommendation of the Mayor and the Law Department, Council passed Ordinance 2018-103 enacting a new Chapter 680 - Nuisance Abatement to our codified ordinances. Chapter 680 gives the Mayor greater and quicker enforcement powers to remedy nuisance properties throughout the City ranging from weed and trash filled properties to properties with constant criminal activity.

The Mayor and Council under the new law can even revoke the right of landlords to continue to rent property to tenants who fail to maintain the condition of the property, abuse their neighbors and engage in criminal activity. Please report any nuisance properties to your Councilperson.

On June 10, 2017 Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah Nicastro and the Law Department will present a Driver's License Reinstatement Clinic hosted in the Maple Heights Senior Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

The session is a collaboration between the Garfield Heights Municipal Court and the City to offer residents information and guidance on driver's license reinstatement. For some, it is truly overwhelming to figure out how to go about addressing driver's license problems or developing a plan to do so. Please save the date to learn more about reinstating your driver's license.

CARE

It’s no secret that our aging population is “booming”. Baby Boomers are entering older adulthood each and every day; and their needs are changing just as quickly. Recognizing this, the Division of Senior and Adult Services of Cuyahoga County made a call for innovation. They charged senior service providers to collaborate in order to come up with new ideas that would better serve the aging populations in our communities. Collaboratives were evaluated, and four collaboratives were chosen to win a $25,000 grant towards funding the development phase of their innovative idea. The CARE Program was one such collaborative. CARE then went on to be one of two collaboratives chosen to receive a $50,000 grant to help implement their idea. This initiative is funded in part through the Senior Center Innovation Grant awarded by the Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services through the Health and Human Services Levy.

The CARE Program is a collaborative among four senior service providers: Maple Heights Senior Center, Cleveland Heights Senior Center, Community Partnership on Aging and Solon Senior Services with a goal to better assist older homeowners in the eight communities served by these senior service providers. Those cities include: Cleveland Heights, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Solon and South Euclid. CARE will coordinate and complete service tasks and minor home repairs in and around the homes of those enrolled in the program to help maintain their safety and independence within the home.

CARE will bring together volunteers from the local communities to help complete the needed service tasks. By handling the coordination of necessary work, CARE hopes to alleviate some of the stress that comes with maintaining a home. The program is slated to launch in April of 2017.

Interested in enrolling as a CARE Member? Interested in volunteering with the CARE Program? Email us at CARE4eight@gmail.com and include your name, city of residence, and a short message stating your interest; we will respond with more information as soon as possible! Questions? Call the senior center for more information!

Maple Heights’ Community Life & Education Committee Presents

The 2017 Hoop it Up Bridge the Gap Campaign

The Hoop It Up/Build Them Up Campaign’s mission is to “bridge the gap” between our Youth, City Officials, and the Maple Heights Police Department. The goal is to create a wholesome fellowship to help build harmony and togetherness in the inner communities of Maple Heights, Ohio.

WHERE: Stafford Park, 5400 Mayville Ave., Maple Hts., OH 44137

WHEN: Saturday, August 5, 2017

TIME: 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

AGE: Boys/Men & Girls/Women ages 12-25

If you would like to be a sponsor, volunteer, or get sign up information for this event, please contact the council persons listed below.

Committee Chairperson: Councilwoman Edwina Agee (216) 323-8829
Committee Member: Councilwoman Tanglin Madden (216) 346-5098
Event point person: Councilman Stafford L. Shenett (216) 256-3182

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Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
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