



CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS

DON WALTERS, MAYOR

PAVING A SMOOTH ROAD FORWARD

COMMUNITY REPORT & CITIZEN UPDATE



November 2016



CONTACT INFORMATION

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DON WALTERS

I am pleased to report that the city is paving a smooth road forward for Cuyahoga Falls motorists having implemented another aggressive road repair program throughout the 2016 construction season.

Despite extensive state-level cuts to our local government funding, my administration and City Council continue to make street repairs a top priority by maintaining an increased budget for these important infrastructure improvements. The \$2 million spent this year on street resurfacing and road repairs represents an ongoing investment in our city. Those dollars enable us to perform more paving upgrades to major thoroughfares and neighborhood streets.

Throughout the 2016 paving season our road crews worked incredibly hard to complete the projects promptly and with as little disruption as possible to our daily traffic routines. We plan to continue this aggressive road repair program next year and I want to thank you for your patience throughout the construction season.

The 2017 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council applications are underway and I am seeking eight energetic and engaged students who reside in the city of Cuyahoga Falls. Students in grades 9 through 12 may participate in this unique collaboration between my office and future leaders of Cuyahoga Falls. Applications are due by December 23, 2016 and may be found in my office or online at cityofcf.com/activity/mayors-youth-advisory-council.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about our services or activities, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at (330) 971-8200 or mayor@cityofcf.com.

Sincerely,

Mayor Don Walters

2016 ROAD REPAIRS BY THE NUMBERS

The below statistics provide an interesting overview of the accomplishments made through this year's street repair program.

174,266 - SQUARE YARDS OF ROAD SURFACE repaired this year.

2,700 - TONS OF ASPHALT used to repair city roadways.

OVER 1,200 - NUMBER OF POTHOLES patched by city crews.

16,000 - POUNDS OF CRACK SEALANT used on street repair work.

345 - LINEAR FEET OF CULVERT PIPE used to replace fifteen culverts.

195 - SIDEWALK LOCATIONS REPAIRED, which is roughly an entire mile.

34 - CITY ROADS REPAIRED this season as part of our annual paving program.

13.1 - MILES OF ROADWAY RESURFACED and upgraded thanks to this year's repaving efforts.



CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT: CUYAHOGA FALLS & WOODRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HELP PRODUCE NEW CITY LOGO

Art and graphic design students from Cuyahoga Falls and Woodridge High Schools recently collaborated with the city and local advertising agency TRIAD to create a new city logo. A panel of experts provided advice to the students throughout the design process and helped pick three finalists for a public vote.

Residents were invited to vote for their favorite logo throughout the month of June, and the majority chose Woodridge student Clare Willet's design. Ms. Willet's logo incorporates Cuyahoga Falls icons including the clock tower, a waterfall, and Blossom Music Center. The chosen logo serves as a symbol of our heritage and community involvement.

Mayor Don Walters stated, "While our city seal still represents our city government, we now have a logo that represents who we are: a tight-knit community – one that exemplifies that *Life is Better Here* in Cuyahoga Falls!"

Thank you to the sponsors and collaborators on this project including Western Reserve Hospital, Cuyahoga Falls and Woodridge High Schools, TRIAD, the panel of community leaders, and all the residents who voted on our new city logo.



RIVERFRONT RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

As a complement to the evolving riverfront district along Front Street, two new exciting developments have been installed for residents and visitors to enjoy - the River Front and Portage Trail water access points.

The grant, mainly funding the project in River Front Park, allowed the city to create a safe and accessible location for Cuyahoga lovers to pull their kayaks and canoes from the river.

The additional water access point at Portage Trail is a built-in security measure and the final place to pull a boat from the river before hitting dangerous whitewater including Class V waterfalls.

Experts may also utilize this area as a launch site to run the rapids. Additionally, it caters to events like this year's first Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race.

Cuyahoga Falls now boasts three river access points which include Water Works Park. This expansion helps draw visitors to our region and adds to the quality of recreational opportunities for residents.

ACCEPTING MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS

The Cuyahoga Falls Mayor's Youth Advisory Council is back and now accepting applications for the 2017 cycle. This council is a unique collaboration between the Mayor's Office and our future leaders of Cuyahoga Falls. The panel will sit with the mayor and various city department personnel to have open discussions about what matters most to them, have an opportunity to gain personal insight into how local government works, and learn what role they can play to affect change. Eight energetic and engaged students who reside in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and are in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to apply. The program will begin on Monday, February 6 and the group will serve for approximately four months. Students must submit their applications no later than December 23. They may be found online at cityofcf.com/activity/mayors-youth-advisory-council or in person at the Mayor's office located on the second floor of City Hall at 2310 Second Street. For more information, please call (330) 971-8200.

OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM INFORMATION FOR EMERGENCIES

When the alarm sounds on the City of Cuyahoga Falls Outdoor Warning System, do you know how to respond? Immediately tune into 96.1 WCFI-FM on information for the nature of the activation. In the event of activation, the siren will sound for three minutes. DO NOT call 9-1-1 as the operators need to keep the phone lines open for emergencies.

The warning signal will be activated for any of the following events: severe weather, tornados, damaging thunderstorms, chemical spills, Amber Alerts, or any other extreme emergencies. Once the emergency situation has ended, the radio station will broadcast the “all-clear” signal. Please be advised that the sirens are regularly tested at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. The sirens will be sounded for 30 seconds for this regular testing period.

To connect with the City of Cuyahoga Falls and receive text and email notifications in the event of an emergency, please sign up for CFO Alerts. In addition to emergency information, you can tailor alerts to your personal preferences to include updates on Parks & Recreation activities, committee meetings, Falls River Square events, and weather announcements. To sign up CFO Alerts, please visit cityofcf.com/cfoalerts.



THANK YOU SUMMER BEAUTIFICATION CREW!

The city partnered with Summit County Jobs and Family Services to provide valuable learning experiences for youths who worked tirelessly to beautify our city parks, streets, and facilities. These students were able to build their resumes while making a positive impact for their community.

SIGN-UP TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative inspires citizen engagement and connects residents and businesses with services and activities designed to reinforce strong, safe, and vibrant neighborhoods. The three keys to neighborhood excellence are citizen engagement, neighborhood empowerment, and strategic investment. The city prioritizes resources for neighborhoods, informs residents about activities and services improving our neighborhoods, and engages residents as Neighborhood Ambassadors.

Neighborhood Ambassadors serve as local point-persons for excellence in their respective corner of the city. As the eyes and ears for their individual neighborhood, Ambassadors will keep their finger on the pulse of pressing issues and concerns – promoting improvements, identifying problems, and informing neighbors about beneficial services and programs. Ambassadors may volunteer just a little bit of free time or choose to devote significant efforts toward neighborhood projects that connect neighbors.



OVER 3,000 ATTEND EVENT TO HELP RESHAPE DOWNTOWN

More than 3,000 friendly faces flocked to Downtown Cuyahoga Falls at the end of the 2016 summer season for an event that complemented the city's vision for community revitalization and economic development on the Riverfront. Falls Better Block was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from Torchbearers and the Knight Foundation. It was organized by Cuyahoga Falls natives Getta Kutuchief and Samantha Coldwell to help explore the tremendous potential within the heart of our downtown.



A wide variety of local vendors and businesses participated and featured a bevy of unique wares such as beeswax candles, exotic plants, apparel, and cuisines from around the world. Performers representing different backgrounds and cultures took the stage in front of a beach plaza lining the fountain at the North end.

Currently, established businesses like Metropolis Popcorn played an integral part in Better Block's success. Its owner, Brent VanFossen, stated, "I don't know that I've ever seen the business community, city administration and citizens come together to support an event like this." He continued, "Not coincidentally, Metropolis had one of its busiest weekends ever."

Attendees enjoyed kids' games, theatrical and musical entertainment, yoga, and Balloflex, while the growing market for river-specific activities was showcased with kayak rides down the Cuyahoga. "This event educated the community about the opportunity to do kayaking and canoeing on the Cuyahoga River, and our business is able to grow by offering these recreational opportunities to area residents and incoming tourists," said Moneen McBride of Burning River Adventures.

Other community investors like Aaron Hervey of Crave Cantina provided a sampling of their cuisine including "global tacos." They plan to make a permanent home in downtown Cuyahoga Falls when Front Street opens to traffic.

Area entrepreneurs Cristina González Alcalá and Richelle Wardell brought their authentic Mexican flavors to the Night Market. "Falls Better Block was an enthusiastic event that allowed our company to introduce Not Yo' Daddy's Mexican Hot Sauce to new customers and, as small business owners, we are thankful for opportunities like these," stated Gonzalez.

"Falls Better Block was a massive collaborative effort that brought government, local businesses, and community leaders together to showcase the opportunity for redevelopment and revitalization on our riverfront," stated Mayor Don Walters. "Residents and visitors were able to enjoy local food, art, and music while buying gifts and goods that are produced by our local entrepreneurs."

To view photos from Falls Better Block, visit the "Cuyahoga Falls Better Block" Facebook page and the "@CFallsBlock" Twitter page. Event attendees and Cuyahoga Falls community members may take the Falls Better Block survey at www.fallsbetterblock.com/survey.

WELLNESS 411

By Johanna Tanno, PTA, CWC, INHC, Wellness Coordinator, Western Reserve Hospital
Find Help Here to Quit Smoking

Did you know Western Reserve Hospital offers a FREE Lung Health Program for smokers who want to quit? Led by certified tobacco treatment specialists, the program offers group counseling sessions with flexible scheduling, individualized cessation plans and more, all with a proven track record of helping members of the community quit and remain smoke-free. If you're ready to begin your journey to quitting smoking for good, call the Western Reserve Hospital Lung Health Program at (330) 929-LUNG.





CUYAHOGA FALLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 4** • Book Sale @CF Library, 10 am
• Social BINGO @Quirk, 1 pm
- 5** • Book Sale @CF Library, 10 am
• Improv Performance @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 6** • Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 7** • Leaf Pickup Program Continues This Week
- 8** • General Election Day
- 11** • Veterans' Day, City Offices Closed
• Boardgaming @Quirk, 5 pm
• Antic Theatre Holiday Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 12** • Holiday Treasures Craft Show @Quirk, 9 am
• Antic Theatre Holiday Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 13** • Antic Theatre Holiday Show @Quirk, 3 pm
- 14** • Leaf Pickup Program Continues This Week
- 18** • Social BINGO @Quirk, 1 pm
• Antic Theatre Holiday Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 19** • Antic Theatre Holiday Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 20** • Antic Theatre Holiday Show @Quirk, 3 pm
- 24** • Thanksgiving Day, City Offices & Natatorium Closed
• Refuse & Recycle Collection Delayed One Day This Week
- 25** • Thanksgiving Holiday, City Offices Closed
• Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 26** • Ice Rink Season Opens @FRS
• Boardgaming @Quirk, 12 pm

DECEMBER

- 1** • Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 12 pm
- 2** • Social BINGO @Quirk, 1 pm
- 3** • Lunch with Santa @Quirk, 11 am
• Improv Performance @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 5** • Band & Chorus Holiday Concert @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 6** • Mayor's First Tuesday
- 9** • Boardgaming @Quirk, 5 pm
• Swim with Santa @Natatorium, 5:30 pm
- 15** • Akron Pops Orchestra Concert @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 16** • Social BINGO @Quirk, 1 pm
- 17** • Improv Performance @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 23** • Winter Holiday, City Offices Closed
• Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Application Deadline
- 25** • Winter Holiday, Ice Rink & Natatorium Closed
- 26** • Winter Holiday, City Offices Closed
• Residential Sanitation Customer Cleanup & Live Tree Pickup Week Begins
- 31** • Ice Rink Season Ends @FRS

Learn details about these and other events at cityofcf.com/calendar.

GRANT SECURED FOR SECOND ROUND OF KELSEY CREEK RESTORATION



Kelsey Creek sits on a three square mile watershed and is a headwater stream of the Cuyahoga River. The tributary cuts across 2,000 feet of Kennedy and Water Works Parks and lies adjacent to 18 wells which supply drinking water to the City of Cuyahoga Falls and neighboring communities. Building upon the success of the initial 2012 Kelsey Creek Stream Restoration Project, the city is implementing a second and final restorative phase. Current conditions along the unfinished creek banks are hazardous to park goers, aesthetically unappealing, and limit biological and ecological potential.

Phase Two of restoration will eliminate unsafe streambank conditions adjacent to existing ballfields and pedestrian pathways, provide valuable floodplain storage, and establish a healthy aquatic habitat. In addition to creating biologically successful waters, area students will have land lab learning opportunities, drinking water sources will be fortified, and floodwaters slowed.

The city secured \$133,299 in funding through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Implementation. This grant will cover over half of the cost of the project, and the restoration will conclude no later than the summer of 2019.