

SEPTEMBER
2017



City of

CUYAHOGA FALLS

DON WALTERS, MAYOR



HELPING FALLS SENIORS ENJOY THEIR GOLDEN YEARS

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SENIOR SERVICES REPORT



AWARD-WINNING SUPPORT FOR FALLS SENIORS

The Administration and City Council continually strive to make Cuyahoga Falls a great place for our wide-ranging population of senior citizens to enjoy retirement and spend their golden years. These efforts were recently honored publicly when the city and Mayor Walters won the inaugural “Age-Friendly City Award” from Mature Services, a leading organization providing high-quality programs that empower the economic, social, physical, and mental well-being of adults as they age. The award is presented to a municipality that best addresses the needs of older adults by adapting infrastructure and services according to best practices for seniors. For more information on the programs offered by Mature Services, visit matureservices.org or call (330) 253-4597.

PROTECTION & PEACE OF MIND FROM TOP-RATE SAFETY FORCES

Falls seniors can rest easier knowing that they are safeguarded around-the-clock by an outstanding team of first responders that is simply second to none.

Envelope of Life Preparedness Program

When seconds count, providing paramedics with your medical information can save your life. Designed to be placed on your refrigerator and/or in your vehicle, this special envelope and form is free for all residents.

Senior Watch Elderly Checkup

Older residents with limited mobility who are living on their own can benefit from this free service provided by our Police department. An officer will call or visit the home of participants once a week or more to check on their welfare.

Smoke Detector Installation

Falls homeowners are eligible to receive complementary smoke detectors for their homes, which can also be installed free of charge by a fire safety professional.

FREE SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS MAKE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES EASIER

To help encourage health and wellness, insurance qualifying residents 65 and over may be eligible to receive FREE membership to our world-class Natatorium and Water Works Family Aquatic Center through the “Silver & Fit” and “Silver Sneakers” programs.

RECREATION & ENRICHMENT FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

The Quirk Cultural Center offers an abundance of recreational opportunities for seniors – from card playing, to craft shows, to ballroom dancing, to ceramics, to bocce, to bingo, to financial safety courses. For details on these free and low-cost programs, visit cityofcf.com/play/quirk or call (330) 971-8425.

ANNOUNCING MEDICALERT: REDUCING WANDERING EMERGENCIES

The city is partnering with the MedicAlert Foundation on a new program to help protect community members with dementia and autism who are at-risk for wandering emergencies. Participants receive a medical identification bracelet or pendant and 24/7 emergency support services at no charge. In addition to tracking primary health conditions, the service provides family and caregiver notification to reunite loved ones in the event of a wandering emergency. Contact the Police department at (330) 971-8333 for details or to sign up, or download the application at cityofcf.com/service/medicalert-leap.





SPECIAL SERVICES FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS

Our community strives to be especially mindful of older residents who could use a helping hand now and then, particularly those with more limited financial resources.

Senior Discount on Sanitation Services

Seniors 65 and over can save 25% on their monthly trash bill by choosing the “Limited Sanitation Service” option, which includes one 65-gallon trash cart and one 65-gallon recycle cart for weekly pickup. Unlimited yard waste bag collection is provided in addition to the spring, fall, and holiday cleanups.

Senior Backyard Sanitation Pickup

This service is designed to help Full Sanitation Service customers 65 and over who have limited mobility and no able-bodied person living in their home. Sanitation crewmembers retrieve participants’ carts from the back of their homes and roll them back into place after emptying them each week. Eligibility requires a doctor’s note.



Senior Snow Removal Program

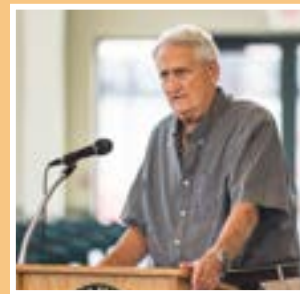
Recognizing that Northeast Ohio winters can prove to be particularly burdensome for low-income seniors, this program helps plow the driveways of elderly residents in need after snow storms. Applications are due to City Hall by Tuesday, October 31.

For more information on any of these services, visit cityofcf.com or call (330) 971-8000.

NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADORS SUPPORTING SENIORS

PROMOTING SENIOR SAFETY & NEIGHBORLY COMMUNICATION

Gus Mercurio is a retired technical engineer from Goodyear who now generously lends his talents and time as a Neighborhood Ambassador. Observing that his neighborhood is largely comprised of fellow adult seniors, he took it upon himself to organize a meeting on senior safety issues with presentations from Mayor Walters, Ward 5 Councilman Mike Brillhart, Police Chief Jack Davis, and Fire Marshal Tim Mier. Gus is now developing a directory to make neighborly communication easier, as well as a newsletter with updates on relevant neighborhood issues. Thank you, Gus!



OLD FASHIONED HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR FALLS SENIORS

Neighborhood Ambassador Zalinia Cole is the Membership Director at the Riverfront YMCA. She wants every Falls senior to have a happier birthday, so she started a Birthday Card Correspondence project to send seniors a card via U.S. mail with a kind note to wish them well on their special day. The Cuyahoga Valley Arts Center and Ambassadors Molly Hartong and Matt Weiss, co-founders of Collide: Cuyahoga Falls, have signed up to help by throwing a card making party. Join them on Friday, October 13th at 7 p.m. at CVAC, 2131 Front Street. To be part of the event or to donate birthday cards and postage, call Zalinia at (330) 923-9622. Thank you, Molly, Matt, and Zalinia!



You too can make an impact in your community by becoming a Neighborhood Ambassador. Visit cityofcf.com/NeighborhoodExcellence or call (330) 971-8227 to learn more.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY TO REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN

FALLS DOWNTOWN FRIDAYS SPARK A NEW BEGINNING

In addition to our traditional summer festivals, attendees from in and out of town joined local businesses, artists, entertainers, and culinarians to help celebrate the dawn of a new entertainment era with the successful launching of Falls Downtown Fridays. These family-friendly events provided exciting new options for a broader cross-section of residents and visitors alike. Thank you to our generous sponsors and please stay tuned for more entertainment offerings next summer!



HARD HATS ARE NOT JUST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION CREW THESE DAYS

Over 200 residents and business leaders from throughout the community recently gathered for a hard hat tour for a first-hand look at the transformation progress. Project experts provided historical facts, construction updates, and details on transformation plans. Due to the popularity of the tour, another has been scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 7th at the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Pavilion, 2085 Front Street. Reservations are required and can be made at (330) 971-8205 or meachamcj@cityofcf.com.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HARD HAT TOUR:



Background Recap – Numerous expert studies demonstrated that the outdated pedestrian mall was not viable for modern commercial activity. Instead of spending millions of dollars on repairs to a deteriorated 40-year-old mall, city leaders unanimously embraced the need to revitalize our downtown with new life and vigor.

A Reenvisioned Front Street – The new road will accommodate vehicles with two-way traffic and on-street parking, as well as pedestrians and bicycles with wide sidewalks.

Parking Deck Improvements will modernize all three decks with new elevators, LED lighting, and car counters to indicate the availability of spaces.

New Fountains / Same Clock Tower – Both the north and south fountains had reached their end of their useful life and posed safety concerns. They will be replaced and the new interactive water fountain will include bubblers, misters, jets, and a safety barrier. The clock tower will remain, with the new road splitting both sides.

A Showcase for Our Namesake River will allow us to capitalize on two invaluable downtown assets – the picturesque Cuyahoga River and the approximated 85,000 cars that drive daily on State Route 8.

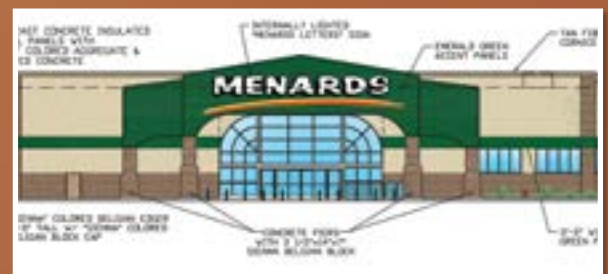
Upgraded Facilities for Festivals, Entertainment, and Special Events are included in the plans.

On-Street Patios, Rooftop Views, and Public Art will be integrated throughout the new downtown area, resulting in a safe and modern hub of thriving commercial activity.



MENARDS CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Menards home improvement store construction continues to move forward on Graham Road. Land has been cleared for the 172,740 square-foot retail building that will include a full-service lumberyard with a covered warehouse, garden center, grocery and pet departments, and appliances. The family-owned company plans to bring an anticipated annual payroll of \$2.25 million to Cuyahoga Falls, and the store projects that it will open its doors to customers in 2018.





CUYAHOGA FALLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 15** • Farmers' Market in the Falls @Quirk, 3 - 6 pm
- 16** • Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 18** • Riverfront Cruise-in @St. Joseph / Weller Court, 4 pm
- 19** • Public Meeting on Formation of Cuyahoga Falls Main Street Organization, 6 pm @Natatorium
- 22** • Farmers' Market in the Falls @Quirk, 3 - 6 pm
• Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 25** • Riverfront Cruise-in @St. Joseph / Weller Court, 4 pm
- 29** • Last Farmers' Market of the Season @Quirk, 3 - 6 pm
- 30** • Public Lands Day River Cleanup @River Front, 9 am & Water Works, 10 am
• CF 3-On-3 Basketball Tournament @Lions Park, 12 pm
• Adult Senior Casino Day @Quirk, 12:30 pm

OCTOBER

- 1** • Public Power Week Begins
- 2** • Riverfront Cruise-in @St. Joseph / Weller Court, 4 pm
- 3** • Mayor's First Tuesday @City Hall
- 5** • Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 1 pm
• Cuyahoga Falls Energy EXPO @CF Library, 10 am - 6 pm
- 6** • Social Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
- 7** • Downtown Transformation Hard Hat Tour, 3 pm @DtCF
• Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 8** • Fire Prevention Week Begins
- 14** • Family Monster Mash Halloween Party @Quirk, 6:30 pm
- 20** • Social Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
- 23** • Leaf Pickup Program Begins This Week
- 24** • Community Blood Drive @Natatorium, 11 am - 7 pm
- 27** • Fall Card Party @Quirk, 12 pm
• Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 28** • Community Halloween Spooktacular @Keyser, 2 pm
• City of CF Trick-or-Treat, 6 - 8 pm
- 30** • Leaf Pickup Program Continues This Week
- 31** • Senior Snow Removal Applications Due

NOVEMBER

- 2** • Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 1 pm
• Friends Book Sale @CF Library, 5:30 - 8 pm
- 3** • Social Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
• Book Sale @CF Library, 10 am - 5:45 pm
- 4** • Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
• Book Sale @CF Library 10 am - 4 pm
- 5** • Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 6** • Leaf Pickup Program Continues This Week
- 7** • General Election Day
- 10** • City Offices Closed for Holiday
• Antic Theatre Show @Quirk, 8 pm
• Veteran's Day Ceremony @Broad between Second & Front, 11:11 am
- 11** • Antic Theatre Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 12** • Antic Theatre Show @Quirk, 3 pm
- 13** • Leaf Pickup Program Continues This Week
- 14** • Mayor's First Tuesday @City Hall
• AARP Smart Driver Class @Quirk, 12 pm
- 15** • Senior Financial Safety Class @Quirk, 10 am
- 17** • Social Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
• Antic Theatre Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 18** • Antic Theatre Show @Quirk, 8 pm
- 19** • Antic Theatre Show @Quirk, 3 pm
- 20** • Leaf Pickup Program Continues This Week
- 23** • City Offices & Natatorium Closed for Holiday
• Sanitation Collection Delayed for One Day This Week
- 24** • City Offices Closed for Holiday
• Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm

DECEMBER

- 1** • Social Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
• Pottery Technique - Adult @Quirk, 7 pm
- 2** • Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 4** • Band & Chorus Holiday Concert @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 5** • Mayor's First Tuesday @City Hall
- 7** • Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 1 pm
- 9** • Lunch with Santa @Quirk, 11 am
- 11** • Christmas Cookie Exchange @Quirk, 11 am
- 14** • Akron Pops Holiday Concert @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 15** • Social Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
- 16** • Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 21** • Community Holiday Blood Drive @Sheraton, 7 am - 7 pm
- 25** • City Offices & Natatorium Closed for Holiday
• Sanitation Collection Delayed One Day This Week
- 26** • City Offices Closed for Holiday
• Holiday Cleanup This Week

KEY:

DtCF = Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Amphitheater & Pavilion

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

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DON WALTERS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our new Falls Downtown Fridays a success.

In addition to the Irish Festival, Festa Italiana, and Oktoberfest, a tremendous collaboration of community partners offered residents a variety of new family-friendly riverfront entertainment options this past summer. A good time was had by all at each of the four new events: Bebop on the Block, Kids Fest, First Responders Appreciation, and Taste of the Falls. I look forward to even more exciting new entertainment events next summer!

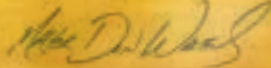
We are proud to offer award-winning support for Falls seniors.

Providing outstanding services for our senior citizens has been an ongoing priority for the city. We strive to provide recreational activities and informational and physical services to make adult senior lives a bit easier and a lot more fun. I could not be more pleased to have accepted the inaugural "Age-Friendly City Award" on behalf of the city for all the high-quality programs we offer that benefit Cuyahoga Falls seniors.

Construction continues on the Front Street redevelopment to transform downtown.

I was thrilled to join over 200 residents and business leaders on a hard hat tour for a first-hand look at the progression of this transformative project that is well underway. Opening up our underutilized pedestrian mall to vehicular traffic and an influx of commercial growth will spur new jobs and economic activity, creating a safe and modern public space in the heart of our community.

Sincerely,



Mayor Don Walters




CONTACT INFORMATION


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cityofcf.com

 @City of Cuyahoga Falls

 @MayorDonWalters

 @cuyahogafallsoh

CITY COUNCIL

(330) 971-8190

Ward One | Vincent J. Rubino | (330) 618-3141

Ward Two | Mary Ellen Pyke | (330) 922-0987

Ward Three | Victor L. Pallotta | (330) 923-6838

Ward Four | Mary Nichols-Rhodes | (330) 928-5347

Ward Five | Michael Brillhart | (330) 472-3437

Ward Six | Adam Miller | (330) 814-6786

Ward Seven | Jerry L. James | (330) 289-7023

Ward Eight | Russ Iona | (330) 819-9946

At-Large | Paul V. Colavecchio | (330) 310-6040

At-Large | Jeff G. Iula | (330) 926-9855

At-Large | Carol A. Klinger | (330) 929-8429



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, COUNCILMAN VINCE RUBINO

Vince Rubino first joined City Council in 2008 and will have served the residents of Ward One for nearly ten years upon his retirement in January. Rubino was raised in the Falls and married his Falls High sweetheart, Jeanne. After bringing up two sons, the couple is now celebrating their 46th year of marriage as they share in the joy of watching their grandchildren grow.

Rubino stated, "Looking back I always held a deep appreciation for this city, that it is a great place to live, and I felt strongly that I could help." The outgoing councilman is most proud of working with constituents to help solve problems, adding "It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the residents of Ward One alongside the Administration, safety forces, and fellow councilmembers who work every day to ensure our residents continue to live in high quality neighborhoods."