



CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS

DON WALTERS, MAYOR

SAFETY IS ON THE RISE AGAIN

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY REPORT
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



March 2017



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DON WALTERS

Neighborhood safety is on the rise, with serious crime down again over the previous year.

While this steady progress is heartening, we must continue to work together to tackle the safety challenges ahead in order to make our streets even safer. Combating the opioid epidemic that is devastating communities throughout the nation remains a top priority, and we are fighting this battle on all fronts.

Cuyahoga Falls recently became the first community in Summit County to utilize a Quick Response Team model that dispatches trained experts with resources to the doors of recent overdoses, an innovative approach that has demonstrated gains elsewhere.

Meanwhile, another exciting year of redevelopment and revitalization lies ahead.

Momentum continues to swell for the project that will transform our struggling downtown mall into a hub of commercial activity and community events. Portage Crossing is thriving, with expansion already underway. Renewal in the South Front Street District is likewise flourishing.

I am thrilled with the growing recreational opportunities on the Cuyahoga River.

I invite you to join me on Saturday, April 22nd for the Second Annual Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Race. The whitewater race down the rapids begins at 1 pm and can be viewed from the Sheraton Suites. I offer my best wishes for a safe ride down the falls to all competitors!

Sincerely,

Mayor Don Walters

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, CONTINUED

MAY

- 1** • Natatorium Summer Deal Pass Sales Begin
- Spring Cleanup Week Begins
- 2** • Mayor's First Tuesday @City Hall
- 4** • Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 1 pm
- 5** • Book Sale @CF Library, 10 am
- Senior Adult Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
- 6** • Electronics Recycle Collection @Service Complex, 9 am - 1 pm
- Girls Slo-Pitch Softball Registration @Quirk, 10 am
- Book Sale @CF Library, 10 am
- Mom Prom @Quirk, 6:30 pm
- Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 7** • Sunday Funday Dance @Quirk, 5 pm
- 8** • Spring Cleanup Week Continues
- 10** • Girls Slo-pitch Softball Registration @Quirk, 6 pm
- 11** • Essential Oils @Quirk, 6:30 pm
- 17** • Senior Financial Safety @Quirk, 10 am
- Peace Officer's Memorial Ceremony @City Hall, 10 am
- 20** • Dance & Tumbling @Quirk
- Great American River Day Cleanup, 10 am
- Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 24** • Last Day of School Cuyahoga Falls CSD & Woodridge LSD
- 25** • CF Library Summer Reading Program Begins
- 26** • Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 21-27** • Public Works Week
- 27** • Wading Pools Open
- Water Works Family Aquatic Center Season Begins
- 29** • City Offices Closed for Holiday
- Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
- Sanitation Collection Delayed One Day

Watch for details about the *Riverfront Cruise In* and its new location for the summer of 2017 at riverfrontcruisein.com and cityofcf.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY REPORT

CRIME DECLINING IN CUYAHOGA FALLS

Neighborhood safety continues to improve throughout our community. After dropping by 3% in 2015, the Police Department reports that serious crime was down another 5% citywide last year. Reports of assault and burglary were down in 2016 by 13% and 15%, respectively, compared to the previous year.

Cuyahoga Falls families are fortunate to be protected by outstanding public safety professionals who readily put themselves at risk to keep us safe from harm. Thank you to the fine women and men who serve us daily as our first responders.



QUICK RESPONSE TEAMS COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Cuyahoga Falls recently became the first community in Summit County to utilize innovative Quick Response Teams that actively combat drug-related overdoses in our neighborhoods. Based on successful programs elsewhere, this collaboration between the city, Oriana House, and the county Alcohol, Drug, & Mental Health Services Board (ADM) is already making a positive impact.

Teams include a treatment counselor, police officer, and paramedic who visit recent overdose survivors. The team offers recovery and support services information, as well as a ride to treatment. This program works to reduce overdose incidents by engaging the federal opioid task force, our local narcotics officers, and the city's award-winning early education program, "Not Me, I'm Drug Free."

Immediate help is available to those in need 24/7 through the ADM Crisis Center. Call (330) 996-7730 or text 4hope to 741741. The Addiction Help Line is available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at (330) 940-1133. Please visit ADMboard.org or SummitCountyOpiateTaskForce.org for more information.



CITY OF CUYAHOGA FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY INITIATIVES

- **CRIME FIGHTERS ANONYMOUS TIP LINE**
- **CROSSING GUARD PROGRAM**
- **DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATIONS PROPERLY (D.U.M.P) LOCATION**
- **DRIVE SLOW SAFE DRIVING PROMOTION**
- **ENVELOPE OF LIFE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**
- **INTERNET PURCHASE EXCHANGE LOCATION**
- **"NOT ME, I'M DRUG FREE" PLEDGE PROGRAM**
- **SAFETY TOWN**
- **SENIOR WATCH ELDERLY CHECKUP**
- **SMOKE DETECTOR INSTALLATION PROGRAM**

To learn more about city safety programs, visit cityofcf.com or call (330) 971-8000.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Hundreds attend a recent public forum to outline progress on the Front Street redevelopment. Below, artist renderings illustrate the concept.

DOWNTOWN TRANSFORMATION GAINS MOMENTUM

PLANS FOR FRONT STREET REVITALIZATION ROLL FORWARD

The initial engineering phase is complete on this historic redevelopment opportunity on our riverfront. Residents demonstrated interest as over 200 attended a panel discussion that outlined progress and solicited feedback.

In January, Mayor Walters led a group of community and business leaders on a fact-finding tour of several comparable cities. Participants visited similar cities in Illinois and Indiana with revitalized downtown areas. This trip outlined best practices and showcased possibilities for our own city center.

Upon completion, the project is expected to generate over \$60 million in annual sales activity, while spurring job growth and furthering economic development opportunities in and around our rejuvenated downtown area. Pending city council approval, groundbreaking could begin this spring.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE REDEVELOPMENT:

- Opening up the aging Front Street mall to vehicular traffic is the critical next step to making this project a reality.
- On-street parking, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and accommodations for bicycles will help make this safe and modern public space an enjoyable environment for all.
- The planning phase of the proposed boutique hotel remains underway as property owners work to finalize operator and financing agreements.
- Efforts to redevelop the historic Falls Theater also remain underway as part of the project.
- Upgraded accommodations for festivals, concerts, and special events are included.
- Upon completion, residents can look forward to expanded housing, dining, shopping, and entertainment options.



PORTAGE CROSSING EXPANSION UNDERWAY

Since its grand opening in 2014, the Portage Crossing development at the corner of State Road and Portage Trail has become a thriving hub of commercial activity.

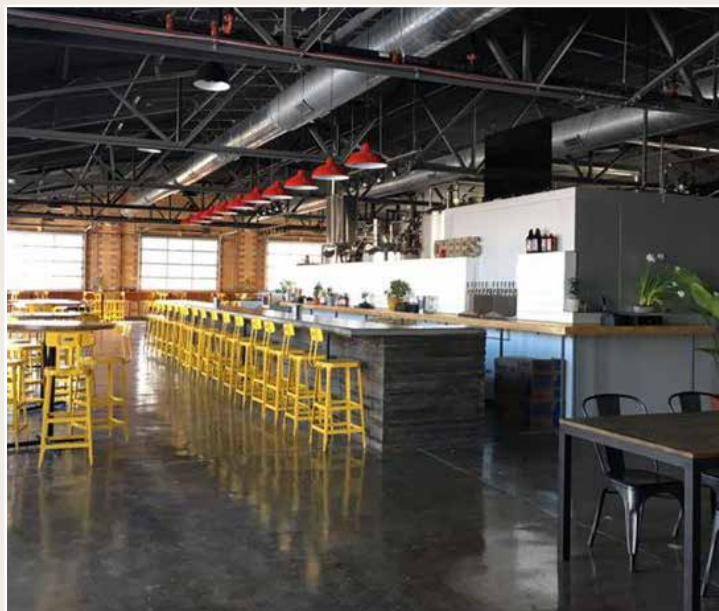
Expansion plans are underway. The project will add 10,000 square feet of retail space and is scheduled to open later this year. The tenant lineup is expected to include Dental Works, Mattress Firm, and Piada Italian Street Food, a casual eatery that will feature a patio for outdoor dining. Collectively, these businesses have added a \$915,000 investment into the popular development.



SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH CONTINUES AT RAPID PACE

New small businesses continue to open their doors in Cuyahoga Falls at an accelerated pace. Last year, the Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce held 20 ribbon-cuttings throughout the city, continuing a record-breaking trend.

Many businesses have also made upgrades or expansions to existing facilities throughout the city. Meanwhile, renewal flourishes in the increasingly vibrant South Front Street District.



MENARDS CONSTRUCTION SLATED TO BEGIN THIS YEAR

According to Menards Inc., construction on the Graham Road home improvement and building material supply retail center is scheduled to begin this year. Ground clearing preparations are currently underway on the site, with project completion planned for 2018. The city is pleased to welcome this new employer and retail opportunity into our community.

More online at cityofcf.com.



CUYAHOGA FALLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 1** • Fun, Fit & Float Summer Camp Registration Continues @ Natatorium
- 2** • Ballroom Dance & Adult Ballet @Quirk
• Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 1 pm
- 3** • Senior Adult Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
- 4** • CFABA Baseball Registration @Quirk, 10 am
• Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 6** • Bellydancing @Quirk, 6 pm
- 7** • Mayor's First Tuesday @City Hall
• Ceramics - Adult @Quirk, 7 pm
- 8** • CFABA Baseball Registration @Quirk, 6 pm
• Woodshop Special Projects @Quirk, 7 pm
- 9** • Adult Slo-Pitch Returning Team Registration Deadline
• Essential Oils @Quirk, 6:30 pm
- 10** • Adult Slo-Pitch New Team Registration Deadline
• ANTIC Community Theatre *Snow White Variety Show* @Quirk, 8 pm
- 11** • ANTIC Community Theatre *Snow White Variety Show* @Quirk, 8 pm
- 12** • Daylight Savings Time Begins - Check Your Smoke Detector Batteries
• ANTIC Community Theatre *Snow White Variety Show* @Quirk, 3 pm
• Sunday Funday Dance @Quirk, 5 pm
- 14** • Senior Financial Safety @Quirk, 10 am
• Suicide Prevention Training @Natatorium, 6:30 pm
- 17** • Senior Adult Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
• ANTIC Community Theatre *Snow White Variety Show* @Quirk, 8 pm
- 18** • ANTIC Community Theatre *Snow White Variety Show* @Quirk, 8 pm
- 19** • ANTIC Community Theatre *Snow White Variety Show* @Quirk, 3 pm
- 23** • Akron Pops Orchestra Concert @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 24** • ANTIC Late Spring Show Auditions @Quirk, 7 pm
- 25** • Free Community Shred Day @Natatorium, 9 am - 12 pm
• Kids Cast-A-Ways Garage Sale @Quirk, 9 am - 2 pm
• Community EXPO @Natatorium, 9 am - 3 pm
• ANTIC Late Spring Show Auditions @Quirk, 2 pm
- 24** • Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 27-31** • Spring Break This Week for Cuyahoga Falls CSD & Woodridge LSD
• Extra Open-Swim This Week @Natatorium, 1 - 5 pm

APRIL

- 1** • Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 3** • Bellydancing @Quirk, 6 pm
- 4** • Mayor's First Tuesday @City Hall
• Strollers @Quirk, 9:15 am
• Creative Writing @Quirk, 6:30 pm
- 6** • Falls Travel Club @Quirk, 1 pm
- 7** • Senior Adult Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm
- 8** • Dance & Tumbling @Quirk
• Bunny Hop @Quirk, 11 am
- 9** • Sunday Funday Dance @Quirk, 5 pm
- 12** • Woodshop Special Projects @Quirk, 7 pm
- 13** • Essential Oils @Quirk, 6:30 pm
- 14** • City Offices Closed for Holiday
- 15** • Easter Egg Hunt @Water Works, 2 pm
• Improv @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 16** • Natatorium Closed for Holiday
- 17-21** • Earth Day Week Display
- 18** • Cuyahoga Falls Income Tax Due
• Ceramics - Adult @Quirk, 7 pm
- 21** • Senior Adult Bingo @Quirk, 1 pm

APRIL 22: CF KAYAK RACE

Onlookers are welcome to watch whitewater kayakers brave the rapids at The Sheraton Suites starting at 1 pm. More at cfkayakrace.com.



- 24** • Card Making @Quirk, 7 pm
- 28** • Arbor Day Ceremony @Kennedy Park, 3:30 pm
• Ballroom Nights @Quirk, 7:30 pm
- 29** • Girls Slo-Pitch Softball Registration @Quirk, 10 am
- 30** • Last Day of Preseason Water Works Pass Sales

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