

Mayor's Column for Neighborhood News
January 2013

As we begin another year, I am happy to report that we are emerging from our financial crises and, on Feb. 3, we will ask the Ohio Financial Planning and Supervision Commission to release us from fiscal emergency. We worked hard to get out of the financial bind our city was in and I appreciate the sacrifices made by all Garfield Heights residents and employees. Better days certainly are ahead, something I am very proud to be able to say at the start of 2013.

Workers at OverDrive have moved into the company's new global headquarters off of Granger Road. We welcome this company, which distributes e-books and audio books. Naturally we are thrilled that the company selected Garfield Heights as the place to invest more than \$10 million in a new 95,000-square-foot building where about 200 or so employees are working with room to grow. This is big for our city. The company calls their facility The Blue Sky Campus and it is truly state-of-the-art and unique.

Area residents also can look forward to visiting our brand new library scheduled to open later this year. It is being built at the Civic Center complex and can be seen from Turney Road. It is going to be beautiful and a real asset to our community. The old library was outdated and frankly, old and cramped. Residents should be proud that the Cuyahoga County Regional Library system felt it was important to invest in the Garfield Heights community.

The renovation of Garfield Mall into Garfield Commons continues. The new owner and management company have spruced up the shopping center and fixed the parking lot, which have made a huge difference. We are looking to welcome new tenants there including the Planet Fitness and an environmentally friendly McDonald's.

Work continues on the expansion of Transportation Boulevard to Rockside Road. Truckloads of fill are being dumped there daily and I am committed to the eventual revitalization of the City View shopping center. We believe in the potential of the retail site and it is a priority of my administration.

And finally, while we still have some confidentiality constraints regarding sharing information about the Bridgeview Crossing property on the north side of Interstate 480 at Transportation Boulevard, we are hopeful that the Outlets at Cleveland will be constructed there in the near future by the Craig Realty Group, an experienced and nationally known outlet center developer from Newport Beach, Ca.

Happy New Year to all and I look forward to reporting additional good news about Garfield Heights in the months ahead.