

From the Mayor's Desk

As we near the end of Spring and beginning of the Summer months, I hope people living and working in Garfield Heights have noticed some of the positive things happening in our community.

We recently celebrated the opening of the world headquarters of OverDrive, now located off Granger Road where the Nestaway plant once operated. And we look forward to the opening of our new library branch, one of OverDrive's important E-book customers. Branch Manager Melanie Rapp-Weiss expects a September opening for the state-of-the-art library.

The orange barrels and construction crews delaying you a bit on Rockside and Granger Roads mean drivers soon will have smooth rides along these important main routes through town. The Transportation Boulevard extension project continues to move ahead. Trucks have unloaded about half of the needed fill material, according to our development partners.

The city recently supported and participated in the Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce International Day Festival, an event that supports learning, diversity and the arts. Other partners included the Garfield Heights City Schools and Marymount Hospital. The community event included a 5k Run/Walk, parade, dance, demonstrations, food and exhibits.

Residents with green thumbs and an interest in nature have begun planting their community garden plots and the city's volunteer Green Up Garfield Heights group continues to put in hours of their own time to make our city look prettier. Their effort is a noticeable, positive change.

I encourage residents to recycle more of their household waste. There is a public paper recycling bin at the Civic Center, and in July, a new automated collection service for residential trash and recyclable materials will be introduced. A town hall meeting about the change is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 12 at the Civic Center.

Four playground areas are getting new equipment this summer thanks to a Community Development Block Grant we applied for and received. I encourage residents to take advantage of the various active living opportunities available throughout Garfield Heights. Our free summer concert schedule soon will be announced and published in this newspaper, city website, cable scroll, etc.

Finally, I hope to soon hear from the state regarding our request to be released from fiscal emergency status. As soon as we are notified, I will announce it.

Enjoy the summer months ahead.