

From the Mayor's Desk

As I begin my second term as your mayor, I am humbled by the support I have received from my hometown community the past four years. We have not had an easy time, and I am proud of the contributions and sacrifices of all of the people living and working in Garfield Heights.

To celebrate the beginning of the next elected mayoral and city council terms, there will be an official swearing-in session at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 1 at the Civic Center. The oaths of office will be administered in the main dining room and the entire community is welcome to attend.

Immediately following the swearing-in ceremony, I invite everyone to participate in the city's annual Holiday Lighting celebration. It includes music, the lighting of our outdoor holiday displays, refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus. Children also will have the opportunity to get their pictures taken with Santa at the annual Holiday Skate with Santa for Garfield Heights residents from 6-8 p.m. at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center ice rink.

Garfield Heights continues to attract businesses and I am happy to report that a new Save A Lot store is now open at Garfield Boulevard and Turney Road. The new owner invested a lot of money in renovating what many will remember as the old Medic Drug or Silverman's store. We encourage this type of rehabilitation project as well as new construction such as the Dunkin' Donuts opening soon on Turney near McCracken Road.

I have received some phone calls from people wanting to honor their loved ones, so we are creating a walkway of engraved bricks behind our new Welcome Wall at the Turney Road fire station. Information about the Walkway of Recognition Project will be available on our website, www.garfieldhts.org, and at the Civic Center where orders can be placed.

Ours is a giving community, and so I am joining with the members of AFSCME Local #2729 to provide hats and gloves for the needy children in our community. Residents can drop off warm winter gear at the Civic Center, Recreation Center, Fire or Police station through Dec. 20.

Also, the annual Shop with a Cop fundraiser is underway. This program started at the Garfield Heights police station and thousands of children have been treated to holiday shopping sprees since its inception. Our department and officers from neighboring communities really go all out to make kids in need feel special each year. Tickets are \$1 each and six for \$5 and can be purchased at our Civic Center or from some of our police officers.

We are approaching the holiday season and I hope we can be a little kinder to one another and to support those in need. We look forward to a new year here in Garfield Heights as we remain a strong and caring community.

