

## From the Mayor's Desk

Work on the city's 2013 Recreation Renovation Project is nearly complete. This rehabilitation and replacement project was done with \$150,000 in funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. Each year, we are eligible to apply for federal grant money that is dispersed by the Cuyahoga County Department of Development. This summer, we renovated the playgrounds at Crudele, Forestdale and Debelak parks and the tot area at the recreation center swimming pool.

In 2012, we received \$150,000 in CDBG funding to create a multi-purpose trail along McCracken Road. Communities throughout our country are promoting healthy living activities and Garfield Heights officials hope residents and people working here will enjoy our updated outdoor recreation amenities. It is important for communities to have free and open places for individuals and families to go within the city.

And, speaking of services that the public can use for free, the Garfield Heights Branch Library will celebrate a grand opening of its new facility at the Civic Center complex on Saturday, Sept. 7. This library is an important community asset. It is a modern, state-of-the-art facility that will provide learning opportunities for decades ahead. We are grateful to the Cuyahoga County Regional Library System for building this beautiful new branch for the people of Garfield Heights.

For many years we have had a daytime monthly Food Bank at the Civic Center. Because we have learned there is a great need in our community, we are going to expand the program and offer a monthly evening session beginning Sept. 19. Unfortunately, more and more people are seeking assistance. The daytime food bank is the third Wednesday. The evening food bank will be the third Thursday. This program is for Garfield Heights residents only and pre-registration is a requirement to receive assistance. To sign up for the program, bring your proof of residency and income and the birthdates of all household members to the senior center. The registration hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. You can not register the same day as the Food Bank, so be sure to bring your information to the senior center in advance. If you have any questions, call (216) 475-1100.

Our new automated trash collection system is working well and I appreciate the support of most community members. I know that change can be difficult for people, but this new system is important for reducing our costs for trash collection and encouraging more recycling. We continue to fine tune the new program to achieve the best results.

The free Summer Concert Series was a huge success this year. Nearly 700 people enjoyed the weekly concerts throughout the summer months. We owe much gratitude to this year's sponsors, Marymount Hospital, Minutemen Staffing Services, Giant Eagle and Playmakers. Please support these local businesses and thank them for their contributions to our community.

Just a reminder, school has started and our police officers are out every day enforcing the 20 mph speed limit. If you don't want a ticket, don't speed.

