

# The Neighborhood News

**THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS TRIBUNE**

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## *From the Mayor's Desk*

By Maple Hts. Mayor Annette M. Blackwell

### **What to expect in the year ahead**

Happy New Year! It is 2017 and I, the mayor of Maple Heights, have officially been in office for one year. What can one expect for this New Year from me and this administration?

You can expect our firemen and emergency personnel to rush to every call with a sense of urgency on a healing and lifesaving mission. And that a compassionate, highly-trained, effective and brave group of policemen and women will continue to make us proud and very safe every day.

You can expect my staff, this administration and my fellow elected officials, your councilpersons, to keep moving forward in spite of our significant challenge of a budget deficit. We will continue to embrace the very important job of making a difference in the quality of life for our 20,000+ residents.

I am your mayor and safety director, therefore it is my job to make the painful choices; to address the fears of city staff and residents; to collaborate with city school officials; to empower and support our children for success and the ability to make better choices; to create public relations and marketing campaigns; to promote this city to prospective residents and businesses; to tell our city's truth and not leave it to the press or sensational newsmen; to solicit the county and lobby state representatives for economic and social support; to overcome the hardships and make a big deal in celebrating our occasional victories!

So in conclusion, what I have learned as a new mayor in year one is that this job really is not about politics at all. It is about the people in the place where you have been chosen to lead. It is very important that during your time in office you leave a better future for the people who believed and trusted in you when they cast their votes. This job is one of the most important things that I will ever do in my life. It changes the lives of people. It inspires or fails them.

I did not accept the mission of this purposeful life to fail my God or any of those that he has blessed me to serve.