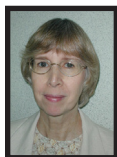


Community Profile: University Heights: Diverse Residents, Beautiful Homes



By Terry Lenahan, MBA, GISP
Policy & Planning Associate

Formerly known as Idlewood Village, University Heights adopted its present name in 1935 during the construction of the John Carroll University campus. The university was founded as St. Ignatius College on the west side of Cleveland in 1886. The all-male college was renamed John Carroll University in 1923, after the first archbishop of the Catholic Church in the United States and founder of fellow Jesuit institution Georgetown University. The university, with mostly Gothic architecture, began admitting women in 1968.

University Heights is diverse; besides a strong Catholic presence, it is home to sizable African-American and Jewish populations. The Jewish Orphan Asylum, established in 1868 to care for Jewish Civil War orphans from 15 states, moved to University Heights in 1929. Known as Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau since 1942, this residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed adolescents is the oldest Jewish social service agency in Cleveland. It provides services without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. Three Jewish synagogues and one Jewish-affiliated school are also found in University Heights.

This city borders Beachwood to the east, Cleveland Heights to the west, South Euclid to the north, and Shaker Heights to the south. University Heights' population peaked at 17,100 people in 1970. By 2008, the numbers had declined to an estimated 12,600. Between 1980 and 2008, the population decreased 18 percent. Residents are three-fourths White and 21 percent African American.

University Heights' 2008 high school graduation rate of 93.2 percent was 1.3 percentage points higher than the transitional suburbs' average; however, their 2009 Ohio Graduation Test score of 57.3 percent was 3.6 percentage points below the average.¹ Of residents 25 and over, 60 percent had an Associate's degree or more in 2000, nearly double the transitional suburban average. This is most likely due to John Carroll University students that live on campus.

University Heights is nicknamed the "City of Beautiful Homes." The 2008 median home value was \$157,500, nearly \$39,000 above the transitional suburbs' average. Residential tax delinquency and vacant parcels were both below the transitional suburban average.

Notes:

1. The school district is comprised of University Heights and Cleveland Heights. Students must demonstrate performance at the proficient level or above in all five subject areas (social studies, mathematics, science, reading, and writing) to meet graduation requirements.

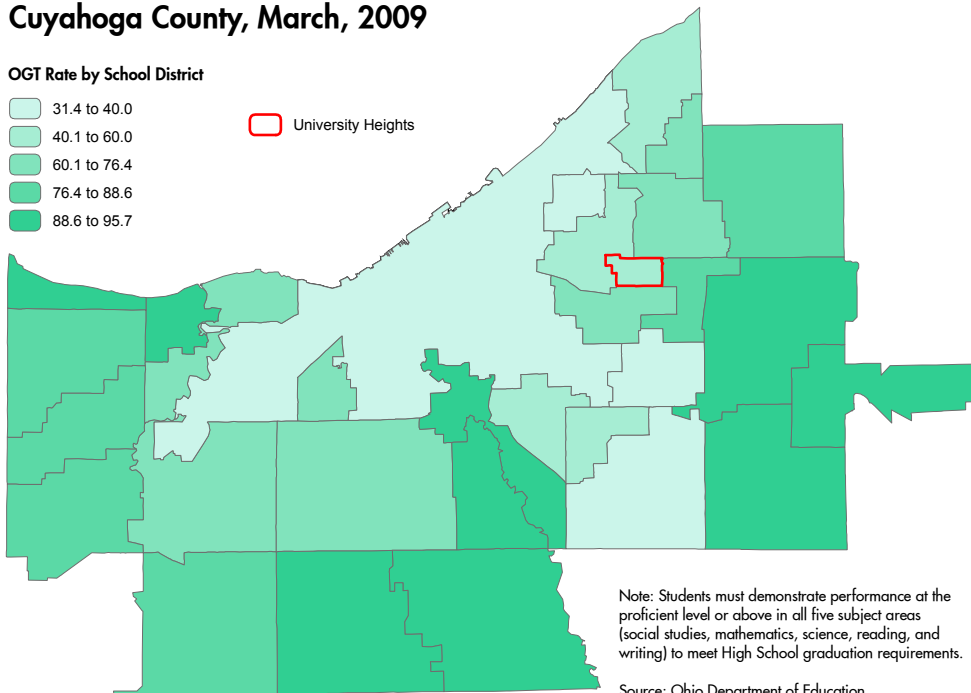
Terry Lenahan may be reached at
tlenahan@CommunitySolutions.com.

Ohio Graduation Test Proficiency Rate Cuyahoga County, March, 2009

OGT Rate by School District

- 31.4 to 40.0
- 40.1 to 60.0
- 60.1 to 76.4
- 76.4 to 88.6
- 88.6 to 95.7

 University Heights



Median Value of Single-Family Homes Cuyahoga County, 2008

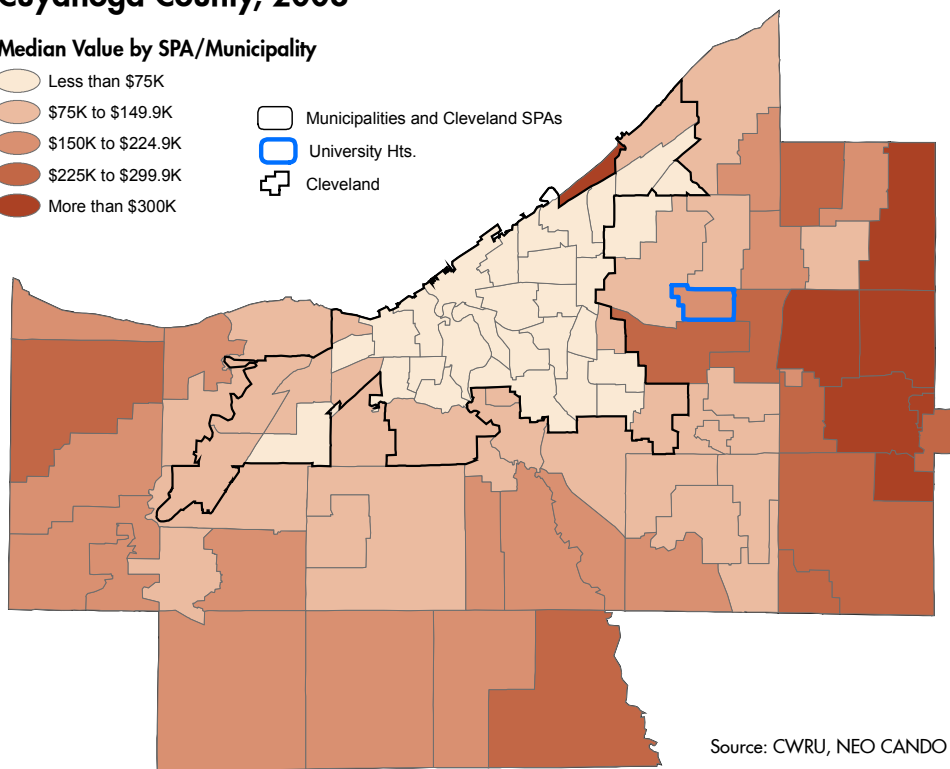
Median Value by SPA/Municipality

- Less than \$75K
- \$75K to \$149.9K
- \$150K to \$224.9K
- \$225K to \$299.9K
- More than \$300K

 Municipalities and Cleveland SPAs

 University Hts.

 Cleveland



A map of community resources and a data table for this suburb with comparisons to Cleveland, transitional suburbs, remaining suburbs, and Cuyahoga County can be found on our Website: www.CommunitySolutions.com. More information is available in our 2003-2005 *Social Indicators* series and the 2005-2008 *Social Indicators Updates*. The reports are available for free from our Website, as are previous *Planning & Action* Cleveland neighborhood and transitional suburban profiles. For more information, contact Terry Lenahan at (216) 687-3719, or e-mail at tlenahan@CommunitySolutions.com. History includes information gathered from *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, sponsored jointly by Case Western Reserve University and the Western Reserve Historical Society (<http://ech.cwru.edu>).