

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough – 6/13/2024

### “2024 Safety City”

The 2024 Sylvania Safety City took place the week of June 10<sup>th</sup> and has returned to Maplewood Elementary. This was the Sylvania Safety City's 38<sup>th</sup> year and over 6350 kids have attended. This year any child going into kindergarten in August, in Sylvania, was eligible to participate. Graduation ceremonies took place on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. I offer the following information about the 2024 Sylvania Safety City.

Sylvania children are our most important asset, and Sylvania's version of Safety City helps to get them off to a safe start as they venture out of their homes and enter school. The children attended either a morning or afternoon class for five days at Maplewood Elementary School. Important topics covered include:

- Memorization of Name, Address and Telephone Number
- Classroom Skills
- Safely Crossing the Street
- Traffic Signs and Signals
- Seat Belt Safety
- Fire Prevention
- Stop, Drop, Cover, and Roll
- Stranger Danger
- School Bus Safety and going for a short school bus ride
- Bicycle Safety including always wearing a helmet
- Railroad Crossing Safety
- Safety around animals
- Water Safety
- Medical Emergency and Ambulances

A neighborhood of streets, sidewalks, signs, crosswalks, lights, etc. was set up outside to help practice safety. The children got to meet police officers, firefighters and other emergency personnel. The children learned those people are their friends and want to help them.

Safety City is a memorable experience for the children who attend. When I ask groups of students at D.A.R.E. Graduation years later, when they are in 5<sup>th</sup> graders, if they remember attending and what they remember, the memories and reactions are always prompt and positive. The D.A.R.E. program is also about the safety of our children and giving them the tools they need to resist peer pressure and bullying, as well as, the courage to say “No!” to drugs and alcohol.

Thank you to all who help make Safety City a great experience for our children, including all the teachers, police officers, firefighters and other personnel and volunteers who help out. Also, our thanks to: the Sylvania Township Fire Department, the Sylvania Schools Transportation Division, City Street Department, Norfolk Southern Railroad, the Lucas County Canine Care & Control, Republic Services, Garbage Gus, Toledo Edison, Mercy Health-St. Vincent Medical Center, Goldfish Swim School and the Sylvania Schools for their assistance. Sylvania Safety City 2024 was a great success because of all of you. And thank you to all the parents for entrusting your children to us and for supporting the program and attending the graduation ceremony!

