



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2012

### December Activities:

#### Sunday, December 23

Santa visits Village Children  
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Christmas Decoration Lighting Contest  
Turn your lights on at dusk

#### Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve, Village Hall and Service Department  
Closed

#### Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day, Village Hall and Service  
Department Closed

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



**Village Hall**  
4863 E.71st Street  
Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125

216-641-7020 phone  
216-641-8485 fax

[www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com)

### Meeting Reminders:

#### Council Meetings (regular)

2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

#### Work Sessions of Council

4th Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.  
only in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Oct

#### Zoning Board Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

#### Beautification/Go Green Meetings

No Meetings December or January

### Future Important Dates:

#### Tuesday, January 1

New Year's Day, Village Hall and Service  
Department Closed

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### From the Mayor:



Dear friends,

This is one of my favorite times of the year, if we would just get some snow! Christmas truly means different things to different people. For me, it is the reason with family, and reflect on all the good things that have happened in our lives; to remember close friends and family who have passed on; and also to think about what I would like to achieve in the coming year.

My thoughts are always on our men and women in the armed forces, who are unable to be with their loved ones this Christmas. I pray they enjoy continued, safe success and return home soon. And, of course, our elderly and sick who may find the holiday season difficult.

Our Village will do all its best to alleviate their needs; as will local charities and individuals who give, not just at Christmas time, but selflessly throughout the year and whom we commend for these continuous charitable acts. Unfortunately, fundraising is more difficult in these uncertain economic times as funds are tight and families are pressed to do more with less—making charity, even when we yearn to help, a hardship. One thing I do know is that the people of Northeast Ohio, young and old alike have a tremendous record in volunteering and giving. I truly hope they continue doing so! We must never undervalue the impact they and their assistance have on our region.

The holidays tend to get a bit busy—the hustle and bustle can sometimes turn us into Scrooges so remember to have fun! Revel in the innocence of our little ones, lose yourself in their world and bring back the happy memories you may have forgotten. I know Ms. Lily Anne has Lea and I remembering all the little things we enjoyed with Madison and Brenna. And, of course, take time to recharge your own batteries and ready yourselves for whatever challenges lie ahead in your new year!

My appeal to you is to take some time to reflect on what the Christmas holiday means to you and your family—your own personal Christmas message—and try to emulate that message toward making our Village a better place.

Join my family and I in wishing everyone in our Village everything you would wish for yourselves, especially health and happiness, in the coming year.

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*Around town...*



- ❖ Several of our council members and administrative staff joined me at the annual Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce's State of the Communities luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Independence on Wednesday, November 14. Each Mayor, from the surrounding six communities, gave a brief synopsis of economic conditions within their community.
- ❖ Our Fire Department will be using the former Electric Welder building for training purposes; after which the building will be razed.
- ❖ Over the next several weeks survey crew members from our Village Engineer's office will be taking measurements and completing topographical surveys so that a comprehensive design can be completed for the East 71<sup>st</sup> Street Pavement Rehabilitation.
- ❖ Thank you to everyone that braved the frigid weather on Friday evening, November 23 to attend our third annual Tree Lighting ceremony. Mrs. Bacci gave a warm welcome to those in attendance and emphasized the importance of keeping the spirit of Christmas alive all year long. After a resounding countdown, the switches were thrown and the Village Hall was lit; it looked spectacular! Everyone warmed up afterward in the Village Hall while enjoying hot cocoa, cookies and carols with Mr. Bertolone. Residents and friends enjoyed conversations while little ones visited with Santa. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped put together a great event—especially the delicious cookies which were made by seniors and other residents. We are looking forward to seeing many **more of you** next year—the lighting event will be held on Friday, November 29.
- ❖ Wishing Hunter Krenisky success and a safe journey; he departed for Marine Corp boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina this past Monday, December 10. Hunter graduated from Cuyahoga Heights School in 2012 and has been a member of the Greater Cleveland Young Marines since 2002. In addition, Hunter is the only member of his unit to receive the Young Marines Life Saving Ribbon. Pictured to the left is Hunter with his parents Tim & Cindy. *Semper Fi!*
- ❖ December birthday wishes to employees: Brenda Poole & Robert Santiago - December 4; Jesse James - December 8; Vince Trusso - December 12; Diane Simmons - December 15; Joe Vitanza - December 20; Howard Selig - December 21; and Christine Suhy & Frank Trusso - December 30.
- ❖ A very special thank you to employees at Charter Steel, NEORS, and Stanek Windows who generously reached out to our community this holiday season by helping some of our very own. We are truly a very special and fortunate Village.



*Merry Christmas!*



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### From the Village Clerk/Treasurer:

We are reaching the end of another year, and as always, our goal is to balance the General Fund, where we pay bills and salaries. We started the year with \$2,259,156.00 in our General Fund, and after closing the books on November, we currently have \$2,608,441.00, an increase of \$349,285.00. We need the end of the year number to be larger or equal to the beginning number in order to balance our General Fund, which it is, but we have one more month in 2012.

Our RITA revenue has increased. Through the end of November, we have seen a 7.69% increase in revenue compared to last year, but our first payment in December was considerably less than expected, and we will probably show a decrease in revenue for December. We are seeing a slow improvement, yet we need to be very cautious, because many outside influences in industry can impact this number.

This Administration and Council have tried very hard to continue the projects and programs that will make our Village a better place to live, to improve the infrastructure within our boundaries, and maintain the Village buildings, while keeping a balanced General Fund. Like our households, emergencies continue to pop up which makes every month a struggle financially, but we have adjusted and continue to be sustainable financially.

Again this year, we have paid down the debt on our Police Station by \$500,000.00. Currently, we owe \$1,500,000.00, and our plan is to have it paid off by 2015.

In early January, we will close the books on 2012, and I will be able to give everyone a better picture of where we are financially, but I believe at this time our finances are stable and secure.

If you have any questions or concerns, my door is always open.

**Monthly RITA Report  
2012**

Month Distributed	2009	2010	2011	2012	Difference from 2011	% change from 2011
JANUARY	839,756.92	464,817.62	584,669.79	531,947.49	(52,722.30)	-9.90%
FEBRUARY	633,667.41	502,634.63	537,785.87	645,702.65	107,916.78	16.80%
MARCH	617,599.33	705,699.36	824,604.94	818,935.60	(5,669.34)	-0.70%
APRIL	575,241.04	504,911.06	520,849.63	532,060.38	11,210.75	2.10%
MAY	523,152.87	606,055.61	557,801.31	685,629.54	127,828.23	18.70%
JUNE	555,157.80	579,983.55	639,614.36	619,557.23	(20,057.13)	-3.23%
JULY	594,458.48	538,533.45	545,762.77	637,580.56	91,817.79	14.50%
AUGUST	349,297.01	403,205.45	498,636.91	602,701.42	104,064.51	17.30%
SEPTEMBER	483,393.62	607,779.83	589,364.22	593,358.57	3,994.35	0.00%
OCTOBER	533,833.33	632,278.31	654,241.55	733,896.34	79,654.79	12.17%
NOVEMBER	497,619.96	519,145.39	511,005.62	597,551.17	86,545.55	16.90%
DECEMBER	711,206.69	680,167.66	657,839.82	515,188.15		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,914,384.46</b>	<b>6,745,211.92</b>	<b>7,122,176.79</b>	<b>7,514,109.10</b>	<b>534,583.98</b>	<b>7.69%</b>

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### Village Hall:

#### New Residents

If you recently moved into our Village, we need your help! Please contact the Village Hall during normal business hours with your name, address and phone number so we can update our records. You may also email the information to Lee Ann at [l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com). Welcome to our neighborhood!

#### Newsletter

If you wish to submit information for our newsletters, please make sure that it is turned in to Angel Meriwether by the 20th of the month, to be included in the following month newsletter. Please email the information to [a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com).

#### Village Bus

The Village bus operates on a weekly basis for our senior citizens; a schedule of the monthly bus run is published with the Village Newsletter. For your convenience, attached with this newsletter is the calendar for January. Reservations are required and obtained by calling the Village Hall at 641-7020 prior to 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the trip. For a Saturday trip, please call the Village Hall before 4:00 p.m. on Friday. All trips leave approximately at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Picks ups and drop offs are made at the resident's home.

#### Dog Owners

Please be advised that there have been numerous complaints about dogs not being on leashes, in addition to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs while walking them throughout the Village. **We ask that all residents be responsible for cleaning up after their dog.** We also ask dog owners who get their grass cut by the Village to do the same as well; it makes it easier to cut your grass. As always, thank you in advance for your cooperation.

#### Annual Home Decorating Contest

On Sunday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m. the Village will be holding their Annual Home Decorating Contest. Please have your lights on if you wish to participate. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded.

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### Service Department:

#### Snow Removal Program

**Residential Snow Removal Program** for our 2012/2013 season.

- All Village roadways will be plowed first and maintained prior to any driveways being plowed.
- Once the Service Director feels that the roadways and municipal buildings have been maintained, the driveways of our **senior citizens** will be plowed (*using the same criteria that applies to our grass cutting service*).
- Afterwards, taking into consideration manpower, time and safety issues the Village will **help** residents with their driveways in the event of a storm that produces more than 2-4 inches of snow at the resident's request.
- All residents must have driveway markers in place in order to allow the Service Department to plow their driveway. The Village will provide markers and place them for all seniors who qualify for the "grass cutting program." Residents with shorter driveways need 4 markers in place, and long driveways must have 6 markers. They need to be placed at the beginning, middle(if long drive), and at the end of your drive. If you wish to purchase markers from the Village for \$1 each, please stop at the Service Department. Should you have any questions please contact Service Director, Scott Waldemarson at 216-641-3505.

Please note that residents are responsible to clean their driveway aprons, as it is difficult to plow them over again after the streets are plowed. Each homeowner and/or resident must have a waiver of liability on file at our Service Department. If you already have filled out a waiver of liability and there have been no changes to it, there will be no need to fill out a new one.

#### Recycling Program

We have relocated the Cardboard Recycling container to the back of Bacci Park in the parking area near the playground!

#### Bacci Park Entrance

To enter Bacci Park you must now enter using the new Rails to Trails entrance, which is located on the west of the Service Garage. The original entrance on the east side of the Service Garage will only access the MetroParks parking area.

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### Police Department:

#### Holiday Home Safety & Crime Prevention

The holiday season is a busy and exciting time for all. Unfortunately, it is also a time when people can become careless in protecting their homes from holiday crime and nothing can ruin your holiday faster than becoming a victim of crime.

The following tips can help you enjoy the holiday without incident.

- Be extra careful about locking doors and windows when leaving your home, even for a few minutes.
- Don't openly display gifts in view of the front window, tempting a thief to "smash and grab".
- Leave a radio or TV on so the home appears to be occupied.
- When leaving for an extended period of time, don't advertise! Have a neighbor or family pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Use auto-timers on indoor and outdoor lights.
- Don't leave messages on your answering machine or posts on social media (i.e. Facebook or Twitter) that you are out of town.
- Don't leave keys near the door (i.e. under rocks, flower pots, or above door ledges). Instead, leave the key with a trusted neighbor or family member.
- It is also not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of the holiday spirit by soliciting donations from door to door for a non-existent charity. Donate only to a recognized charitable organization of your choosing.
- "Help us, help you!" Contact the police with any suspicious activity.

The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department offers vacation checks and special attention details on your home if you are leaving town for an extended period of time. Please call 216-883-6800 to place your vacation check.

**Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department!**



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### **Fire Department:**

#### **Holiday and Christmas Tree Fire Safety**

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy.

- Don't put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Place trees away from heat sources, including fireplaces or heat vents. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Keep the live tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.
- Don't link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it's safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Avoid using lit candles; consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- Ensure that Christmas trees and other holiday decorations don't block an exit way.

For more tips on how to prevent a holiday fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

**The Cuyahoga Heights Firefighters would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season.**



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2012

### Go Green/Beutification Committee:



#### Suggestions for Slowing Global Warming

You can personally save money and help slow global warming and climate change by implementing the following actions:

Change your incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

Adjust your thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer.

Wash clothes in warm water instead of hot, or cold instead of warm.

Make sure you turn off the lights and other appliances when you're not in the room.

Set the sleep function on you're computer to kick in sooner.

Walk or bike instead of driving when you're only going a couple of blocks.

Recycle.

Reuse both sides of writing and computer printer paper.

Reuse grocery bags, or better yet, bag your groceries in your own cloth bags.

Don't buy bottled water, or if you do, reuse the plastic bottles.

When you replace your car or major appliances, buy energy efficient models.

Source: Heat Stroke, by Anthony D. Barnowsky

## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2012



### Building Department:

#### ATTENTION ALL DWELLING OWNERS AND DWELLING OCCUPANTS:

1. Beginning in March/April of next year (2013) all exterior dwelling units, dwelling structures, and residential premises shall be inspected relative to compliance with our Village Building & Housing Code Chapter 1490.14. Violations shall be processed to dwelling owners and dwelling occupants identifying items of violation and a fixed time to correct these items that will be listed. Civil action and/or penalties shall apply for non-compliance.
2. Rental property owners shall require interior and exterior inspection whenever:
  - a. An ownership change occurs.
  - b. A tenant change occurs.

An occupancy certificate must be issued to the home owner prior to occupancy. Chapter 1492.25. Please be advised that it is the homeowners responsibility to obtain an "application for a rental certificate" for the home he or she owns located in the Village of Cuyahoga Heights.

3. Out of county dwelling owners shall register annually with the Building Department pursuant to Chapter 1492.26. Application forms are available online at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) or at the Building Department.

Your cooperation for the betterment and stability of our community is appreciated.

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### **Flower Fund Committee:**

With your generosity and concern we've been able to maintain our spirit of neighborliness by sending flowers or a monetary gift of \$40 to the family in memory of those residents who have passed on. As all of you know, this is so very important for Cuyahoga Heights residents to know that we care during their time of loss. Please bring your donation to the Village Hall, or contact Marilyn Duszynski at 341-3024 if you need your donation picked up. Senior Citizens can bring their donation to any meeting.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE VILLAGE HALL IF ONE OF OUR RESIDENTS PASSES AWAY. They should notify the Flower Committee and the Police Department, they provide escort during the funeral.

### **For Sale:**

5026 Willowbrook Drive

Double side by side

Unit #1: 4 bedroom, 2.5-bath

Unit #2: 2 bedroom, 1.5-bath

Excellent condition and updates throughout including A/C.

\$229,000

Call (216) 856-1050 for more information

# Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2012

## Community Directory:



### OFFICIALS

#### **JACK BACCI**

Mayor, 641-7020

#### **ROBERT UNGER**

Clerk, 641-7020

#### **DOUGLAS PALLINI**

Police Chief, 883-6800

#### **NEAL CASH**

Fire Chief, 641-6799

#### **SCOTT WALDEMARSON**

Service Director, 641-3505

#### **JONATHAN GREENBERG**

Law Director, Prosecutor  
781-1212

#### **TODD SCIANO**

Engineer, 642-1130

#### **NORM CASINI**

Building Commissioner  
641-7020

#### **MIKE HLAD**

Assistant Building Commissioner  
641-7020

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### **TODD BLOAM**

4897 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
341-3015

#### **BARBARA BIRO**

4562 E.49<sup>th</sup> Street  
271-4577

#### **RENATO CONTIPELLI**

7143 Marcelline Court  
441-6368

#### **MARILYN DUSZYNSKI**

5011 Willowbrook Drive  
341-3024

#### **RALPH FARAGONE**

4586 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
441-1245

#### **CHERYL HARRIS**

4823 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
849-7075

### VILLAGE HALL STAFF

#### **TREVOR ELKINS**

Assistant to the Clerk  
641-7020  
t.elkins@cuyahogaheights.com

#### **ANGEL MERIWETHER**

Admin. Asst. to the Village Hall  
641-7020  
a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com

#### **LEE ANN SCHOEFFLER**

Administrative Asst. to the Mayor  
641-7020  
l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com

### Village Hall Hours:

#### **Monday-Friday**

**8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and  
1:00-4:30 p.m.**

#### **JOE VITANZA**

Sports Commissioner, 883-8288

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

#### **Emergency**

Animal Control	641-3505
Bus Reservations	641-7020
CHS Elementary	429-5880
CHS Middle School	429-5757
Fire Department	641-6799
Police Department	883-6800

#### **911**

Building Dept.	641-7020
Service Department	641-3505
Village Hall	641-7020
Village Pool	341-7684
CHS High School	429-5707
Senior Clinic	520-0927

### NEWSLETTER CARRIERS:

East 71 <sup>st</sup> St./South & Willowbrook:	Bryanne Skerl	341-1368
East 49 <sup>th</sup> St./Grant Avenue:	Matthew Vitanza	883-8288
East 71 <sup>st</sup> St./North & Courts:	Veronica Bacci	341-9420

