

Village Of Cuyahoga Heights



February 2015

www.cuyahogaheights.com

Activities:

Easter Egg Hunt

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights will be holding their annual Easter egg hunt at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 4 at Klima Gardens; rain-or-shine! The egg hunt is open to all Cuyahoga Heights' children and grandchildren; 0-12 years of age.

Anyone wishing to donate Easter baskets, stuffed animals, toys, etc., for the egg hunt can do so by dropping off your item at the Village Hall during regular business hours prior to Monday, March 30. All items being raffled will benefit Cuyahoga Heights Boy Scout Troop 28. Several of our Boy Scouts will be on hand during the egg hunt selling raffle tickets. "Hippity hoppity Easter's on it's way..."



Spring Soccer Deadline

Don't forget to sign up for spring soccer - the deadline is March 1. Any registrations received after that date will require a \$25.00 late fee. Forms for registration can be downloaded at www.cuyahogaheights.com. Go to the Recreation tab and click on Sports.



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.

Economic Development Committee

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.
Only in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Oct

**Please note that the meetings have changed from the 1st Tuesday to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.*

Finance Committee

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
Only in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Oct

**Please note that the meetings have changed from the 1st Tuesday to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.*

Future Important Dates:

Saturday, February 28

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Village Sledding Party – Bacci Park
Weather permitting (snow required).

Friday, March 20

Arbor Day application deadline

Village Hall

Phone: 216-641-7020 Fax: 216-641-8485

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From the Mayor:

Once again, I just want to take a minute to say that I have an incredible job, with incredible people working hard to accomplish a common goal. I am so very blessed by our administration and the people that surround me.

For being the shortest month – February has been quite busy. We had numerous budget meetings and were able to place the appropriations on the agenda at this month's council meeting. I attended a Republican leadership breakfast in Independence on February 6. Guest speaker was County Councilman Jack Schron; it was a good and informative meeting with businesses and government alike. I, along with our Police and Fire Chiefs, and Dispatch Supervisor attended the annual SCOG meeting in Strongsville on February 4. A review of the 2014 annual report was given, as well as the budget for 2015 as it relates to the Southwest Enforcement Bureau. Our Village, along with seventeen other communities make up the Bureau. I also had several business meetings this month regarding economic development in our Village. If everything comes to fruition, it will have a positive impact to our community. I'll keep you posted as things progress.

I had the honor of marrying residents George Todorovich and Amanda Williams at the Village Hall the morning of January 27. Pictured to the right are the newlyweds – Mr. & Mrs. Todorovich. Congratulations to you both and may your life be filled with fun, love, joy and laughter.



I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Vitanza family. Joe Vitanza's brother John passed away last month; he was 41 years old. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

On January 30, CHHS Teacher Doug Amari and his students used our council chambers to conduct their final mock trial practice before competing in the Ohio Mock Trial Competition. This course is designed for students who have an interest in a law or law-related career. The competition is sponsored by the Ohio Bar Association. We wish our fellow Redskin students best of luck!

You'll notice there is a postcard from the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership included with this month's newsletter. Councilman Renato Contipelli, who is a member on the Mill Creek committee, was asked to distribute the postcard to our residents. Please take a few minutes to fill out the postcard and drop it in the mail.

February birthday wishes to employees: (4) Tiffany Contipelli, (8) Mike Stack, (18) Don Pallini, (24) Todd Sciano and (28) Lee Ann Schoeffler.





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2015 CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS VILLAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Again this year, Council has passed legislation for a Village Scholarship to assist Cuyahoga Heights graduating seniors with their future college tuition. Recipients will be awarded a \$500.00 scholarship in the form of a tuition reimbursement.

To be eligible, the recipient must:

- 1) Be a resident of Cuyahoga Heights
- 2) Be a graduating High School senior in the Spring or Summer of 2015
- 3) Be enrolled either full or part time at an accredited college, university, community college, vocational or technical school for the fall of 2015
- 4) Complete the Fall 2015 term with a grade point average sufficient to be in good standing

Applications are available at the High School Guidance Office or at the Village Hall, and must be submitted to Clerk Unger's office by May 1, 2015. This Administration encourages and promotes higher education for all of our students and is proud to continue the Village Scholarship tradition to help our graduating seniors.

Senior Corner:

Well, we didn't "*Weather the Weather*" so well and cancelled our social meeting on January 27 due to the cold weather. We always want to keep all of our seniors safe and decided that due to the extreme cold, we would not ask anyone to go out. We don't do this very often but when the weather gets down to 10 degrees, we need to consider everyone's health and safety first. We were able to go to our luncheon at Polaris on Thursday, January 28 as the temperature rose just a bit -- so we ventured out. The roads were good and our wonderful bus driver, Betty, kept the bus nice and warm as she got us to our destination. The food was very good and the desserts were wonderful; some of us even purchased the delicious bakery to take home.

Unfortunately, February brings more cold and I am sure we are all looking forward to Spring. We still plan our events in spite of the cold and hope for the best. We have our regular meetings scheduled and always meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The second Tuesday is our business meeting. At this meeting, we hear reports from our officers, discuss any old business, new business and upcoming events. We ask if anyone has any issues they need to talk about, and once adjourned, we play bingo and have bakery. The fourth Tuesday is strictly a social and we just enjoy each other's company, and of course, indulge in our baker's wonderful treats.

I hope you received our information about our Washington DC trip, if not, we have provided another copy with this newsletter. We will be going to DC during "Cherry Blossom" time; the dates of the trip are April 8-10. We will keep you informed as we go along.

I hope all of you, 55 and older, will consider joining our group and participating in all of the upcoming events. Just give us a try. Come to one of our meetings and see how nice it is to socialize with your neighbors.

*Noel Centa, President
Cuyahoga Heights Seniors
(216) 509-5278*

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From the Clerk:



Moving into 2015, we are financially stable and will continue to monitor expenses and budgets accordingly to maintain a healthy General Fund. We started 2015 with 1.44 million in the General Fund, and we are very confident this will carry us through the year and still be financially stable moving into 2016.

Currently the Mayor is setting the budget for 2015 so Council can appropriate the money to cover the expenses. We are doing an analysis of our expenses and revenue for the year, and then we will bring it to Council for their approval. Council approves all expenditures. Budgeting the expenses and revenue for the New Year is not an exact science. Markets change constantly, interest rates change due to the Federal Reserve throughout the year, and emergency expenses occur all the time. But we adjust and do the best we can. None of us has a crystal ball, but for the past five years, we have kept the Village financially healthy. This is a huge responsibility, but we do it because we love the Village, and we try to protect all the residents who have put their trust in us. I will have more information for you when we pass the budget for 2015.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at the Village Hall. My door is always open.

Month Distributed	2012	2013	2014	2015	Difference from 2014	% change from 2014
JANUARY	531,947.49	644,593.83	701,203.65	806,899.10	105,695.45	13.10%
FEBRUARY	645,702.65	638,258.93	542,645.46	550,900.07		
MARCH	818,935.60	817,199.06	929,321.38			
APRIL	532,060.38	636,179.02	711,647.56			
MAY	685,629.54	633,944.39	617,963.16			
JUNE	619,557.23	646,774.82	643,339.71			
JULY	637,580.56	590,649.46	744,253.53			
AUGUST	602,701.42	591,619.13	616,110.30			
SEPTEMBER	593,358.57	641,230.39	607,652.11			
OCTOBER	733,896.34	598,372.95	676,923.26			
NOVEMBER	597,551.17	628,902.62	638,874.48			
DECEMBER	528,832.16	605,547.68	666,050.52			
TOTAL	7,527,753.11	7,673,272.28	8,095,985.12	1,357,799.17	105,695.45	13.10%

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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.

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.

Sports Registrations

Please note that there is a \$25 late fee for sports registrations that occur after the published deadline. The fee was established because late registrations create administrative and organizational difficulties when trying to plan leagues and schedules. In addition, late sign ups cause teams to grow beyond an appropriate size, which has an adverse effect on the ability of the participants to learn and develop. All registration dates are published in our newsletters, on our website, as well as promoted on our Village outdoor marquees.

Listed below are the dates of our annual deadlines for specific sports offered through our Sports Commissioner. Sports registration forms can be downloaded from www.cuyahogaheights.com under the "Sports Department" and are also available at the Village Hall. If you have any questions relative to our sports programs, please contact Sports Commissioner Joe Vitanza at (216) 883-8288, or you can email him at joseph_vitanza@yahoo.com.

ACTIVIY

DEADLINE DATE

Youth Baseball & Softball	April 1
Adult Men's & Women's Softball	July 15
Cheerleading	August 1
Youth Flag Football	August 1
Fall Soccer	August 1
Youth Basketball	October 15

Medical Equipment Exchange

In the interest of neighbor helping neighbor, the Village is glad to assist its residents who want to donate over-the-counter medical equipment (*such as walkers, canes and bedside toilets*) that are gently used and in good condition to other residents in need of such equipment. If you are in need of this equipment, or have some you wish to donate, feel free to contact Councilwoman Marilyn Duszynski at (216) 341-3025 for assistance.



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Service Department:

Just a Friendly Reminder:

All trash must be placed in garbage bags prior to disposing of in the Village issued trash cans. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Snow Removal Program

Residential Snow Removal Program for our 2015 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 for cleaning 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.

Hazardous Waste Round-Up

This is a year round program – please call the Village Hall if you have hazardous waste that needs to be picked up.

Dog Days of Winter

During cold weather months, pet owners need to pay more attention to the time spent outside. Pet owners should limit their dogs' time outside to reduce exposure. In extreme cold weather, your dog can get frostbite on their paw pads. Prolonged contact with frozen ground surfaces such as concrete and asphalt can be dangerous for dogs. Be aware of harmful substances such as road salt and other ice melting anti-freeze products that can get lodged in between paws causing an irritation or chemical burn.



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Police Department:



WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Vehicle Maintenance

Start winter off right by ensuring your vehicle is in good condition. Check the battery, tire tread and windshield wipers. Keep windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check the antifreeze.

Know Your Car

If possible, practice driving in icy or snowy conditions in an empty parking lot in full daylight. On the road:

- Slow down and allow plenty of distance to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- Know what your brakes will do. In general, if you have antilock brakes, apply firm, continuous pressure. If you don't have antilock brakes, pump the brakes gently.
- In a skid, ease your foot off the gas while steering in the direction you want to go. Stay off the pedals (gas and brake) until you are able to maintain control of your vehicle. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front.

Plan Ahead

- Check the weather, road and traffic conditions. Leave early if necessary.
- Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go, even if you use a GPS system. Let others know your route and expected arrival time.
- Keep gas tank close to full. If you get stuck in traffic or snow, you might need more fuel to get home or keep warm.
- If possible, avoid driving in hazardous conditions or wait until conditions improve before venturing out.

Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items for common winter driving tasks and supplies you might need in an emergency:

- Snow shovel, broom and ice scraper;
- Abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow;
- Jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices such as flares and markers;
- Blankets;
- Cell phone with charger, water, food and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or in lightly populated areas).

Stopped or Stalled

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.
- To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, clear the exhaust pipe and run your vehicle only long enough to stay warm.



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Police Department *(continued)*:



Training



Chief Sturgill, Deputy Chief Davis, and Ptl. Stack feeling the effects of the TASER during



Ptl. J.E. Lukas clears a path to the street in order to assist the CHFD squad with a transport.

The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department is continuing to make sure that our police officers continue to grow through training. Chief Brian Sturgill, Deputy Chief Mark Davis, and Patrolmen Kevin Stack and Jamie E. Lukas were trained and qualified for use of the TASER. Lieutenants Ken Schoeffler and Joe Wallace attended First Line Supervision at OPOTA in Richfield. Patrolmen David Lukas, Ted Mackiewicz, John Foran, Kevin Stack, and Jamie E. Lukas all attended a certification training on the Intoxilyzer 8000 (OVI breath test machine). In addition, all officers are mandated by the state to complete an online course for domestic violence along with 3 hours of approved police training.

Patrolmen Kevin Stack and Jamie E. Lukas will be completing their field training program and will be on the road beginning March 2, 2015.

With St. Patrick's Day right around the corner, please play it safe and **Don't Drink and Drive!**

As always, please feel free to stop and talk to any officer, whether it's just to say hello or inform us of any problems or suspicious behavior; we may not know of all problems within our community. Let's be partners in keeping our community a safe place to live, work, and play.



FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 911 - All other calls please use 216-883-6800

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Fire Department:

Annual Statewide Tornado Drill

As part of National Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, the State of Ohio will conduct a state-wide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 9:50 a.m.

Ohio communities will test their outdoor warning sirens during the drills.

Village Severe Weather Sirens

Cuyahoga Heights currently has three severe weather sirens. They are located at the end of Chapek Drive, on top of the fire station, and at the NEORS facility. Our policy is to test them the first Saturday of every month at noon. They are activated by the Police Dispatchers and run for approximately one minute. They will be activated by dispatch in severe weather situations but you must remember that they are intended as an outdoor warning system and cannot always be heard indoors.

All residents in the SwiftReach automatic call system will receive a call when a Tornado Warning has been issued for Cuyahoga County. A Tornado Warning is when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.



Dispatch:

We have sent out a couple of SwiftReach notifications over the last few weeks, if you did not receive one and would like to be in our system you can either use the SwiftReach portal on the Cuyahoga Heights Village Website on the Police page or contact the Police Department directly at 216-883-6800. The SwiftReach system is used to notify our residents and businesses, by telephone, of any emergency situations that may occur in Cuyahoga Heights. The telephone numbers you supply the Police Department are kept strictly confidential and are not given out to the public.

SWIFTRREACH
NETWORKS

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Building Department:



I would like to advise each homeowner that the Village of Cuyahoga Heights' Codified Ordinance Section requires the Building Department to review all exterior properties as herewith noted for property maintenance for the year 2015. All exterior properties/buildings for non-residential dwellings shall also be inspected as well during the months of April and May.

The object of the inspection is to indicate the code violations on properties in order to enhance our Village's image, as well as increasing and maintaining or current value on our homes.

The items that need to be repaired for each dwelling will be listed on each homeowner's report, if any, and are the observations made by our Building Department. We hope that each homeowner will rectify all items within a specific timeframe which also will be included on the report. Please be advised that if a homeowner fails to correct the problem in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Building Department, a citation and/or penalty may be issued in compliance with the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights.

Please remember that grant dollars are available through the Cuyahoga Heights Community Housing Maintenance Grant Program. The application, ordinance and instructions for the grant can be found on our web site at www.cuyahogaheights.com under the Building Department, in addition, our Ordinances can be found under the Legal Department on our web site.

In addition, **any homeowner who owns rental property in the Village of Cuyahoga Heights** is required to have a Certificate of Occupancy each year prior to April 1. All out-of-county homeowners are also required to have a Certificate of Occupancy. Renters, please advise property owners of this requirement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach me Monday through Friday at the Village Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at (216) 641-7020.

Norm Casini
Building Commissioner



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Rentals

4953 East 71st Street

First floor apartment, three bedrooms, central air, no pets. \$800 per month, first/last month's rent plus deposit. (216) 271-4532

For Sale

5024-5026

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.
\$199,900
Realtor: Remax
Call (216) 524-0424

Flower Fund

Our Village operates a flower fund which is funded by contributions from Village residents. The fund was established many years ago in order to maintain our spirit of neighborliness by sending flowers or a monetary gift of \$40.00 to the family in memory of the Village resident who passed on. Anyone wishing to donate can do so by dropping off their donation at the Village Hall to Lee Ann during normal business hours Monday through Friday. I hope that everyone will help in keeping this tradition alive – *thank you!*

Arbor Day

Come join us as we celebrate our seventh Arbor Day celebration at Bacci Park on Friday, April 24, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. This special day has been set aside for the planting of trees and is observed throughout the nation!

In 2008, the Village of Cuyahoga Heights put a program into place for its residents to honor departed family members through the planting of a memorial tree in Bacci Park. The memorial trees are planted every other year, and only on or about Arbor Day. Village residents may purchase a tree through the Village for \$200 which includes your choice of tree (*Pin Oak, Red Oak, Norway Maple, Green Mountain, Sugar Maple or Red Maple*), its planting and initial maintenance, and a memorial plaque.



For residents that are interested in purchasing a tree -- the application along with payment must be turned into the Village Hall c/o Lee Ann Schoeffler by Friday, March 20. If you misplaced your application that was provided in the last newsletter, please contact the Village Hall and we will provide you with another form.

Water Aerobics

Classes are being offered by the Cuyahoga Heights School District every Wednesday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Classes are held when school is in session. They are free to seniors 55 years and older and are open to all residents of the school district.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8 Spring Forward

