

Village Of Cuyahoga Heights



March 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



Baseball

Don't forget to sign up for Youth Baseball and Softball by April 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:

April 3: Good Friday – Village Hall and Service Department closed

April 6: Easter Monday – Village Hall and Service Department closed

April 24: Arbor Day Celebration at 6:30 p.m. - Bacci Park

Village Hall

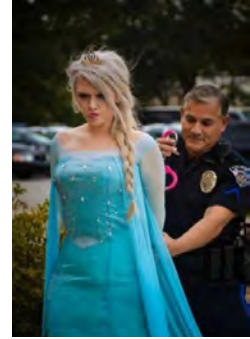
Phone: 216-641-7020 Fax: 216-641-8485

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From the Mayor:

Elsa from *Frozen* has been apprehended...so we think winter is over. Although, Miss Lily wants her released immediately...*"let her go!"* All kidding aside, everything in our little community has taken a beating this winter and we are accessing the damage, and looking forward to spring.



With that being said, Easter is right around the corner and I would like to remind our residents that we will be holding our annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4 -- hope to see you there.

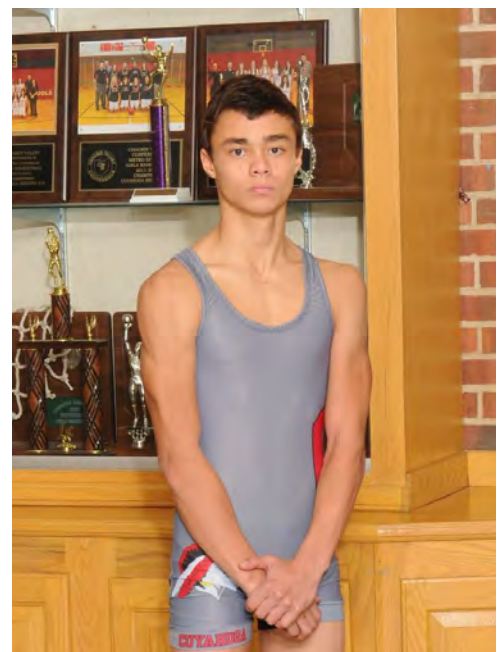
We received notification from ODOT about I-77 bridge work and detours for 2015. The I-480 eastbound ramp to I-77 northbound will be closed and remain closed until early November. I-480 eastbound motorists will be detoured via SR 176 northbound to I-490 eastbound to I-77. All work is weather permitting.

Canalway Partners will be holding their annual half-marathon on Sunday, April 12 at 8:00 a.m. at the Metroparks Canal Reservation off East 49th Street. For our running enthusiasts, you can sign up for the event at www.towpathtrilogy.net.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the McManus family. Their Aunt Barbara Mack recently passed away, she was 66. Barbara Mack was very active in her hometown, the City of Independence, and served as a police officer, probation officer, clerk of courts and member of the school board and city council. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to Village resident and 10th grade student Trey Combs for making it to the OHSAA State Wrestling tournament in Columbus last weekend. Though he didn't place, we are still very proud of this remarkable and talented young man, and know that we will see many great things to come for him in the future. Great job Trey, keep up the good work!

Grandparents again! Congratulations to Clerk Unger and his wife Janine, they became grandparents for the seventh time. Their daughter Alyson and husband Colin welcomed their second child, Lucas on February 19. Congratulations also to Mrs. Mary Casavecchia; she became a great-grandma for the first time. Her granddaughter, Kierstyn (*her Mom is Carla Casavecchia*) gave birth to a baby girl on Friday, February 27. They named her Charlieana in memory of her great-grandfather Charlie Casavecchia.





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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. Our 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 fellow seniors, the weather is finally turning towards spring. It is so nice to look outside and see a bit of green instead of the huge mountains of snow. Keep it up Mother Nature. We are definitely looking forward to the green grass, beautiful flowers and sunshine. I read in the Readers Digest that our bodies are lower in Vitamin D during the winter months more than any other time of the year. We don't get our Vitamin D because of the lack of sunlight and therefore we feel tired and worn out. So come on out Mr. Sun...we all need you!

Our schedule for the upcoming months is looking great with the weather being in our favor. On Saturday, March 21 we are going to the Grand River Ice Festival and will be visiting two wineries. We always find several good wines on these trips and they always have some munchies for us to enjoy while tasting their wines. After our trip to the wineries, we are going to Pickle Bills for dinner. Pickle Bills is a fantastic place to eat. The food is always good and the atmosphere is so unique. We will be leaving the Town Hall at 11:00 a.m. and returning around 7:00 p.m. What a nice way to spend the day with good friends.

On Tuesday, March 24 we are having our St. Patrick's Party with corned beef and ham sandwiches along with potato salad and some good breads and bakery. This would be a nice evening for you to join us and see how much fun we are. And finally, coming up is our exciting trip to Washington D.C. We are leaving on April 8 and returning on April 10. We are all looking forward to this trip and always have so much fun on the bus. Our "Entertainment Lady", Lois Henley, always has fun things for us to do to pass the time on our trips.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on our upcoming events and hope anyone in our Village - **55 and older** - will think about joining our group for good fun, food and friends.

Noel Centa, President
Cuyahoga Heights Senior Citizens
(216) 509-5278



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From the Clerk:



When we closed the books on 2014 and reconciled our bank accounts, it gave us the money that is actually in each fund to begin 2015. We then add our estimated revenue for 2015 and it gives us a total for each fund that we can spend for 2015.

When we started to develop the budget for 2015, we estimated that our RITA revenue would be up approximately \$150,000.00 from 2014. We are certainly on track to hit that number, but remain watchful in case of any sharp change.

Looking at the RITA chart below you can see that we have collected almost \$100,000.00 more in the first three months than we did during the first three months of last year. We are off to a great start in tax collections but we need to remain cautious in case we see a downturn in the business section of the economy towards the last half of 2015.

In Cuyahoga Heights, our revenue is dictated by the amount of jobs in our community. We don't have a large property tax base and we are getting less and less help at the State and Federal level. We adjusted to the downturn of 2008 and made it through with over a million dollars in the bank for emergencies. We watch our budget diligently and make sure we are secure.

Today, our finances are stable and as of the end of March, we had over \$1.5 million in our General Fund. We are good stewards of our money and continue to make Cuyahoga Heights a great place to live.

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	626,184.73	83,539.27	13.34%
MARCH	818,935.60	817,199.06	929,321.38	838,149.44	(91,171.94)	-10.88%
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	2,271,233.27	98,062.78	5.19%

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Village Hall:

Newsletter

If you wish to submit information for our newsletters, please make sure that it is turned into Angel Meriwether by the 20th of the month so that it is included in the following month's 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

Service Department:

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.

Friendly Reminder:

All trash must be placed in garbage bags prior to disposing of in the Village issued trash cans. In addition, dog litter must be bagged before placing in the trash can. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Recycle Your Computer Month: The Cuyahoga Heights Service Department will pick up your unwanted equipment on Tuesdays in April. All you need to do is call the Village Hall at 641-7020 by Monday to be put on the special pick up list for Tuesday. Acceptable home computer equipment includes CPU's, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, terminals, modems, cables, software, and ink printer cartridges. Cell phones and their accessories are also accepted.

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Service Department (*continued*):

Yard Waste: Yard waste (i.e., grass clippings, tree branches, leaves, etc.) must be put in bags or separate trash cans, **not in the 95 gallon Village issued grey trash cans or blue recycling cans.**

Senior Grass Cutting

"Spring Time" is right around the corner and once again the Cuyahoga Heights Service Department will be cutting grass free of charge for our Senior Citizens and disabled persons who qualify according to the Ordinance:

- (a) Registrant must be sixty (60) years of age or older and must reside alone or with a spouse of like age or older, or the registrant must be disabled and not have an able-bodied person living with him or her who is under sixty (60) years of age. **"Disabled"** means physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including, but not limited to, the functions of caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, breathing, learning, and working.
- (b) The property registered must be a single-family dwelling, a two-family dwelling, or a multiple family dwelling **and the owner of the property must reside at the registered property.**
- (c) Registrant must execute a consent and release, in a form approved by the Solicitor, granting permission to the Village to provide the grass cutting service and releasing the Village, its servants, agents and employees from any liability arising out of the cutting of grass on the registrant's property.

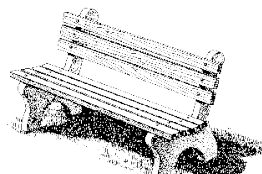
Please note that our Village is not responsible for grass length, the grass cutters are set at a standard height and will not be changed. If you have a dog, please clean the area of dog waste so we can cut the yard properly. ***If you have already registered in the past, then you need not re-register.*** We ask that applicants be patient with this service, as the program will start up at the end of April.

Tree Trimming: Each residential property is able to receive one (1) tree removal and up to two (2) trims per calendar year. Each property owner must sign a **"Waiver of Liability & Right of Entry"** form before having this service. Applications for this program are available at the Village Hall during normal business hours, or you may download the application from our web site under the "Service Department."

Tree Lawns: Tree lawns in the Village will **not** be cut by our Service Department personnel, except for those tree lawns for the seniors/disabled residents that qualify with the grass cutting program. As always, we thank you for your continued cooperation.

Rototilling: The Service Department will begin rototilling residential gardens during May (*weather permitting.*) Garden areas must be marked clearly. Please call the Village Hall during normal business hours to schedule this service.

Park Patrol: Park Patrol will begin at the end of April.



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Police Department:



With the thawing ground, melting snow, and spring showers it is also prime time for flooding. Remember that it is better to ***Turn Around – Don't Drown.***

- Do not walk or drive through a flooded area.
- Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet and two feet of moving water can move a car.
- Do not drive around road barriers as the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current can travel through water and can cause electrocution.
- If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.



April is National Distracted Drivers Month

Distracted driving consistently ranks as one of the traffic safety issues at forefront of many drivers' thinking. Each year, more than 80% of drivers in the annual AAA Foundation Traffic Safety Culture Index cite distraction as a serious problem and a behavior that makes them feel less safe on the road. Nearly half of all people who say they feel less safe than they did five years ago say distracted driving by other drivers fuels their concerns. Distracted driving is a deadly behavior. Federal estimates suggest that distraction contributes to 16% of all fatal crashes, leading to around 5,000 deaths every year.

The AAA Foundation believes that by improving our understanding of how mental and physical distractions impair drivers and by educating the public about avoiding distractions, we can eliminate these needless deaths.

Our work in this area also focuses on how distraction affects specific groups. Teens are among the drivers most impaired by distraction. A recent AAA Foundation in-car study showed that teen drivers were distracted almost a quarter of the time they were behind the wheel. Electronic devices, such as texting, emails, and downloading music were among the biggest distractions, accounting for 7% of the distractions identified on the study video.

TAKE THE PLEDGE to drive distraction-free!

Key Facts: Distraction

- *Drivers spend more than half their time focused on things other than driving.*
- *Distraction contributes to more than 5,000 traffic fatalities each year. Know the facts.*
- *Texting and phone calls aren't the only distractions. Passengers, eating, and in-car technologies can also cause distractions.*



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Dispatch:

TIPS FOR CALLING 911

1. Know the location of the emergency
2. When calling 911 do your best to stay calm and answer all questions
3. Is a person hurt or in danger? Do you need the Police, Fire or Ambulance?
4. Help the 911 call taker help you
5. Know the phone number you are calling from
6. Teach your children how and when to call 911
7. Prank calls to 911 are illegal in most states
8. If you do call 911 by mistake - do not hang up



Just a reminder to all of our residents when going on vacation, please make sure to have the post office hold your mail and have the paper carrier stop the paper. It is also a good idea to leave a light on in your living room or kitchen. You can also call the Police Department for a house watch; the dispatcher will take the information and the police officers will check on your house throughout the day and night.

Fire Department:

We honored our most recent retiree, Richard Bacci with a party that was attended by many current and retired members of the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department along with Richard's family and friends. Congratulations on 23 years of service. We wish you the best in your retirement.



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Police Department (*continued*):

As we all get outside to enjoy the nice weather, please remember that when walking your dogs they must be kept on a leash. Also, please clean up all feces when walking your pets. Bags and garbage cans are readily available at Bacci Park and the Metroparks.

618.01(m) Dog running at large (leash law)

618.01 DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE; NUISANCE, DANGEROUS AND VICIOUS DOGS; HEARINGS.

No owner or keeper of a dog or any other domestic animal shall permit such animal to go upon the public parks, playfields, recreation areas, lands or roadways within the Village, unless such animal is securely leashed or otherwise tied and under the control of the owner or keeper thereof.

With the days growing longer and the temperatures start to rise, please keep an eye out for all the children playing, bikers, runners, walkers, and our furry four legged friends out and about. Remember to follow all traffic laws and be mindful of your surroundings. If you have any safety concerns, please feel free to contact the police department.

Cuyahoga Heights Schools' spring break is April 3 – April 10, 2015. During that time, the area police departments will be conducting training in the school. If you see a number of police vehicles and personnel, please do not be alarmed.

We would like to wish you a happy and safe spring holiday season! Please feel free to stop and talk to any officer, whether it is to just 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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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

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.

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



Arbor Day

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





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From the Mayor *(continued)*:



Here's a picture we haven't seen in a while - the Reiger family...LOL! Samantha Reiger attended our council meeting earlier this month to observe how local governments operate. She is currently enrolled at Tri-C and studying to become a paralegal. Sam brought along her Mom, Debbie (*CHPD Police Secretary*) and Dad, John (*retired CHPD Police Lt.*).

Special birthday wishes to Mr. Denis Vanek who will be celebrating a milestone birthday on March 25. A very happy and blessed 90th birthday to Mrs. Bernice Suhy who will be celebrating her special day on Saturday, March 28. Best wishes on your birthday and always!

March birthday wishes to employees: (8) Police Chief Brian Sturgill, (11) Joe Wallace, (12) Angel Meriwether, (15) Jeremy Grabowski, (24) Cathy Zmija, and (25) Barb Cash.

Please continue to keep several of our residents in your thoughts and prayers: Linda Attewell, Theresa Bentlejewski, Mrs. Bernice Blue, Mrs. Ernestine Deliberato, Mr. Casey Geca, and Mrs. Kitty Wey. And very special prayers for David Suhy, the son of retired CHFD Firefighter Dennis Suhy and CHPD Dispatcher Christine Suhy.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Easter holiday.



Happy Easter