

# Village Of Cuyahoga Heights



**December 2016**

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

## Future Important Dates:

**December 23** – Service Department and Village Hall closed

**December 26** – Service Department and Village Hall closed

**January 2** – Service Department and Village Hall closed

**January 6** – Reservation deadline for Kalahari trip



## Meeting Reminders:

### Council Meetings

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

### Finance Committee

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

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*Village Hall office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.*

Minutes of our Council Meetings are posted every month under the Government tab and under Village Council – Agenda/Minutes on our website at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com)

Village Hall

Phone: 216-641-7020

Fax: 216-641-8485

## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2016



### From the Mayor:

#### Redskin pride

Even though our Cuyahoga Heights Redskins' varsity football team lost to the Marion Local Flyers in the Division VI state championship on Friday, December 2, we are so very proud of this team. I want to *thank* the players and coaches for the incredible ride. They did more than just play football, they helped in the healing process of a school district. *Thank you* – from everyone that ever donned a Cuyahoga Heights football helmet before them, we are all envious of the amazing job this group did. *Thank you* for the fight, this team never gave up. Again, *thank you* players and staff for giving all of us the opportunity to be part of this historic accomplishment in our school district.





## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2016

### From the Mayor (continued):

#### Our business community

On November 10, I had the opportunity to visit with Northern Stamping which is located on Chapek Parkway. They have been in the process of expanding their business which will help bring many positive changes and growth for their company. Next month they will be adding a second shift staffed with skilled manufacturing jobs. We have enjoyed a long and successful relationship with Northern Stamping and are very excited for them in the New Year.



#### NOPEC

We recently received information from Chuck Keiper, Executive Director of NOPEC and wanted to share the information with our residents.

“NOPEC recently changed its electric supplier to NextEra Energy Services Ohio (NextEra) and they will begin serving NOPEC customers in January 2017. We emphasize that there will be no disruption in electric service for any of your residents as a result of NOPEC transitioning to NextEra. There are three (3) possible scenarios for your residents that we want to explain:

(1) For any of your residents who are currently NOPEC customers and did not return any post card or opt-out in response to a mailer they recently received from NextEra/NOPEC, they will be automatically enrolled in our aggregation program. Customer bills in January or February, depending on meter read cycle, will reflect the change to NextEra/NOPEC. *The majority of all NOPEC customers are in this category.*

(2) For your residents who are not currently NOPEC customers because they are taking their electric generation service from the utility (Standard Service) and did not opt-out, they will also be automatically enrolled in our aggregation program in January or February (depending on meter read cycle). These customers will receive a notice from the utility explaining their right to cancel the enrollment with NOPEC/NextEra within seven (7) days. If a resident wishes to be enrolled with NOPEC/NextEra, they should do nothing. *This only applies to customers new to the aggregation or community and is a small number of residents.*

(3) A small number of your residents who are currently NOPEC customers may have been inadvertently omitted from the initial opt-out mailing and thus not received the NOPEC/NextEra mailer. We are mailing opt-out notices to these residents in late December. Residents do not need to respond to this notice from NOPEC/NextEra and they will be automatically enrolled in the aggregation on an upcoming meter read cycle in early 2017. Due to PUCO rules, these customers will receive a notice from their utility that their electric service account is being returned to utility Standard Service.

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### From the Mayor (continued):

These customers do not need to respond to this notice from the utility; as they will return to Standard Service with the utility for at least one month. This utility notice will be sent from the utility in the coming days will likely arrive before the NOPEC/NextEra opt-out notice arrives in late December. If the customers do not opt-out, these customers will receive the same additional notice from their utility as new customers do which will explain the rights rescind the enrollment with NOPEC/NextEra within 7 days. Again, if the resident wants to enroll with NOPEC/NextEra, they should do nothing. They will then be enrolled with NOPEC/NextEra on their next meter read cycle. While this is a small number of the total NOPEC aggregation customers, we want to make sure you are aware of this.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call us at 855.667.3201.”

### Baby news

Congratulations to Clerk Unger and his wife Janine who became grandparents for the eighth time. They welcomed their newest granddaughter on December 6, a baby girl – Austin Jaymes who weighed in at 6-lbs., 3-oz. and 19.5-inches. Parents Dustin and Michelle are doing well.

Belated congratulations to residents Randy and Jackie Wood who welcomed their son, Austin into the world on August 3. Pictured to the right is the little fella.



### Birthday wishes

Milestone birthday wishes to Mary Schoeffler who turned 40 on December 3.

December birthday wishes to employees: (4) Brenda Poole, (8) Jesse James, (12) Vince Trusso, (14) Wendy Heinzman, (15) Diane Simmons, (16) Lou Franko & Damon Schreiber, (21) Howard Selig, and Frank Trusso (30).

### Thoughts and prayers

Please continue to keep several residents in your thoughts and prayers: Theresa Bentlejewski, Mrs. Ernestine Deliberato, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Mrs. Helen Leciejewski, Mr. Curtis McLaughlin, Mrs. Donna Pellini, and Mr. Micky Sajetowski.



### Holiday Fun

Pictured to the left is the *Elf on the Shelf* visiting 7-time NASCAR winner Jimmie Johnson's car. Special thanks to our resident elf, John Reiger (*pictured to the right*) for being so festive this year when Santa made his rounds around the Village visiting the children this past Sunday. You rocked that outfit!



As the year comes to a close, we should try and slow down and think about all the things we are grateful for. We should appreciate the things in life that we take for granted – our health, our family, our community. Faith makes all things possible, hope makes all things work and love makes all things beautiful. Wishing you and your family a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2016

### From the Clerk:

We are coming to the end of another year, and once again, I can report that we are financially sound, and will head into 2017 with a reserve of approximately 1.2 million dollars in the bank to start the New Year.

After the financial crisis of 2008, we had to make some very hard choices to keep our Village solvent. The Mayor, Council, and I have all worked very hard to make the right choices regarding our finances. After seven years as Clerk, we are well positioned financially, and our Village looks beautiful. We are doing everything we can to make our town a safe, beautiful, and wonderful place to live and raise our children.

I will be going into my eighth year as Clerk of our Village, and I appreciate and cherish every moment you have put your trust in me. I love our Village and the residents, and I will continue to do the best job I can to help make our Village successful.

My family and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and hope to see everyone during the Holiday season.

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

Month Distributed	2013	2014	2015	2016	Difference from 2015	% change from 2015
JANUARY	644,593.83	701,203.65	806,899.10	742,767.00	(64,132.10)	-7.95%
FEBRUARY	638,258.93	542,645.46	626,184.73	838,249.20	212,064.47	33.87%
MARCH	817,199.06	929,321.38	838,149.44	1,156,108.74	317,959.30	37.94%
APRIL	636,179.02	711,647.56	623,337.78	557,419.65	(65,918.13)	-10.58%
MAY	633,944.39	617,963.16	783,999.52	707,171.63	(76,827.89)	-9.80%
JUNE	646,774.82	643,339.71	578,703.87	706,933.54	128,229.67	22.16%
JULY	590,649.46	744,253.53	630,699.68	634,398.50	3,698.82	0.59%
AUGUST	591,619.13	616,110.30	851,514.14	634,653.04	(216,861.10)	-25.47%
SEPTEMBER	641,230.39	607,652.11	422,410.26	593,840.10	171,429.84	40.58%
OCTOBER	598,372.95	676,923.26	772,784.21	671,155.91	(101,628.30)	-13.15%
NOVEMBER	628,902.62	638,874.48	557,624.59	746,467.49	188,842.90	33.87%
DECEMBER	605,547.68	666,050.52	617,179.24	419,701.24		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,673,272.28</b>	<b>8,095,985.12</b>	<b>8,109,486.56</b>	<b>8,408,866.04</b>	<b>496,857.48</b>	<b>9.28%</b>



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2016

### Police Department:

#### SHOP WITH A COP

Did you hear the sirens and see all the police cars on E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street? On Saturday, December 10, 2016, members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department participated in the “Shop-With-A-Cop” program. The program is organized and sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) - George Murray Lodge #67. Every year members of the FOP raise funds in order to take local children on a holiday shopping spree.

This year the children were picked up at their homes by escorting police officers and then transported to Cuyahoga Heights Elementary School for donuts and juice. Then once everyone arrived the children and the officers jumped in their sleighs (police cars) and in large police procession to a department store for the shopping extravaganza. After the shopping was completed, the procession then returned to the Garfield Heights High School for a pizza party and treats. This year approximately \$50,000 was raised, (through donations and selling raffle tickets) which allowed for the sponsorship of 322 children, each received a \$150 gift card to shop with! Over 100 police officers and FOP volunteers from 19 surrounding departments were on hand to make the event a success. The FOP “Shop With-A-Cop” program is now more than 20 years old and is better every year.





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### Police Department (continued):

#### 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 to place your vacation house watch.

Remember to use 911 for emergencies and (216) 883 – 6800 for all other calls



*The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!*



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ November 2016

### Dispatch:



We have sent out two SwiftReach notifications the last couple of 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 Dispatch Supervisor Barb Cash at 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.



*Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from your  
Cuyahoga Heights Police and Fire Dispatchers!!*

### Building Department:

Wood-burning and gas fireplaces are designed to safely provide years of comfort, warmth and relaxation. To ensure they can do their job, fireplaces require maintenance and proper operation. Before lighting the first fire of the season, there are a few simple safety tips to remember.

#### USING COMMON SENSE

- Never burn garbage, rolled newspapers, charcoal or plastic in the fireplace.
- Never use gasoline or any liquid accelerant to help start a fire.
- Keep small children and pets away from the fireplace.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Don't close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- When cleaning the fireplace, store ashes in a non-combustible container with a tightly fitting lid and place the container away from the house.
- Never burn a Christmas tree in the fireplace.

*Have a Happy and safe holiday – Merry Christmas from the Building Department*



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### Holiday Lighting Contest:

This year's contest winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Rick & Noel Centa; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Clarence & Barb Knapik and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mrs. Bea Duber. Congratulations to all other residents who decorated their homes this holiday season; you are all “honorable mentions.” It was very difficult to choose the winners because there were so many cute and festive houses. Great job by all!



**First Place**



**Second Place**



**Third Place**



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2016

### Fire Department:

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you to Mayor Bacci for bringing our department a turkey for Thanksgiving. It is always nice to have a little home cooking when you are working for the holidays.

Our department celebrated the season with a number of our retirees. It was great to come together and reminisce with so many, including Chief Ken Nichols, Assistant Chief Marty Malek, Captain Ed Rudd, and Firefighter Rick Bacci.

Santa will be visiting our families this month during the station's annual Christmas party. Each year, Local 702 and the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department, join together to host this special gathering.





Fire Department (continued):

# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



### PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



### PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



### LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ! One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Cuyahoga Heights

Fire Department



## Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ December 2016

### Service Department:

#### Snow Removal Program

**Residential Snow Removal Program** for our 2016/2017 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, Dave Sammons 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.

### West Side Market:

On Saturday, January 7 we will have a transportation run to the West Side Market. The bus/van will pick up residents beginning at 7:00 a.m. and shoppers will have several hours to enjoy the market. Village residents must register by calling the Village Hall no later than Friday, January 6 by 4:00 p.m. Please note that children 16 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

