

# Village of Cuyahoga Heights

December 2019

*Continuing to move our legacy community forward...*



## Upcoming Dates and Reminders

December 24 - Christmas Eve  
*Village Hall/Service Dept.*  
*Closed*

December 25 - Merry Christmas!  
*Village Hall/Service Dept.*  
*Closed*

December 26 - Special Pick Up

January 1 - Happy New Year!  
*Village Hall/Service Dept.*  
*Closed*

January 2 - Charity Pick Up



Agenda/Minutes of our council meetings are posted every month under the government tab



## At the Village Hall

### Council Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
Caucus 6pm, Meeting 7pm

### Economic Development Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
4:30pm

### Public Works Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
5pm

### Finance Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
5:30pm

### Zoning Board Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 6pm

### Work Sessions of Council

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 6pm (Only in January,  
February, March, April, May,  
Oct.)

**Village Hall office hours are  
Monday through Friday from  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm &  
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

## From the Mayor's Desk

Last Sunday Santa, Mrs. Claus and their helpers went around town dropping off stockings to the children in town. The weather was frigid but what a fun time mingling with our residents and seeing the joy on the faces of our littles ones. Thank you to all the residents who donated non-perishable food items for our holiday drive. Also, thank you to Clerk Unger, Councilmen Bloam, Centa, Contipelli and Schoeffler, Police Chief Sturgill and Service Director Sammons for helping us out that day.

Later that evening our judges went around town and chose the following winners for this year's Christmas decorating lighting contest. Congratulations to: **1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Mrs. Bea Duber, **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Rich & Linda Grabowski, and **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - Ron & Beverly Trzeciak. Thank you to everyone who took the time and decorated their homes—you all deserve "honorable mention!"

Our senior citizens had their annual Christmas dinner party last Saturday evening in the auditorium of the village hall. Each guest was asked to bring a gift-wrapped toy which was donated to children who are less fortunate. The food was delicious and catered by Creekside in Brecksville; the tables and room were beautifully decorated, and it was so nice to socialize with our seniors. Several of the guests...Jean Dell'Anno, Sandy Fouts, Lois Henley, Irene Kloss, Delia Trevisani and Gina Trusso got into the spirit of the holidays and danced to music by *The Good Knights*. What an enjoyable evening and a great time was had by all.

Please note that we have included our village calendar with all important dates of meetings and events for 2020 with this newsletter. Hope to see you at some of our events around town in the New Year!



*1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mrs. Bea Duber*



*2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Rich & Linda Grabowski*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ron & Beverly Trzeciak*

## *From the Mayor's Desk (continued)*

Earlier this month I held my annual Christmas party for our employees at the East 49<sup>th</sup> Street Tavern, located right here in town. I must say, what a great place! The food, the atmosphere, the staff and prices were incredible. I highly recommend our residents to stop by and grab a bite to eat; you won't be disappointed. Owners, John and Andrea Pappas are accommodating, hands-on and made our event memorable. The food is so good, I've been back several times—their burgers and gyros by far are the best! Pictured to the right are the Pappas'.



### **Birthday wishes**

December birthday wishes to employees: (6) Jason Deal; (8) Jesse James; (14) Wendy Heinzman; (15) Diane Simmons; (16) Damon Schreiber; (19) Michael Petti; (21) Howard Selig; (28) Hank Lemiec; and (30) Frank Trusso.

### **Thoughts and prayers**

I would like to convey our deepest sympathies to the Chase family. Former resident and clerk, Norbert B. Chase passed away on December 9; he was 92. Norbert served as our Clerk from 1953 to 1963 and then from 1965 to 1989 when he retired for a total of 34 years of service. He also served our country and was an army veteran during World War II. Norbert and his wife Gloria lived at 4941 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street from 1949 until 2006 when they moved to Medina to live with one of their daughters. Of their eight children, son Mark still resides in town today. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.



Please continue to keep several residents in your thoughts and prayers: Ms. Mary Jane Blue, Mrs. Barbara Combs, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Ms. Marti Malek, John Traffis, Dennis Tritsarolis and Joe Vitanza.

As the year comes to an end, 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 & Blessed Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

God Bless,

*Mayor Jack M. Bacci*



# *From the Chief Financial Officer*

*The Finance Department wishes everyone a  
Very Merry Christmas and  
a Happy & Healthy New Year!*



## **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE-PLEASE READ\*\***

**Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) Individual Income Tax Returns**

Dear Residents,

At the end of July, RITA mailed out approximately 198 non-filer letters to residential taxpayers that neglected to file a municipal income tax return for our Village. This notice will state what tax years the residents failed to file and provide instructions for filing or optional check boxes for reasons they didn't file (examples: I didn't live in Cuyahoga Hts., I was under 18, I filed a joint return with my spouse).

The Village worked with RITA to waive late fees and penalties from late filers if they are compliant and paid in full as of 12/31/19. The current billings will reflect the waived fees. If anyone receives a bill this quarter without the fees waived, please call RITA to have them assist you to waive the fees due and make payments for the actual tax balance due to the village.



### **Contact Information for the Finance Department**

p: 216-641-7020 f: 216-641-8485

**Chief Fiscal Officer: Angel Meriwether ~a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com**

**Payroll: Amanda Domzalski ~a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com**

**Accounts Payable: Christina Caporuscio ~c.caporuscio@cuyahogaheights.com**

Questions about your individual **Income Tax** returns? Contact Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A) 1-800-860-7482

Questions about your **Property Tax**? Contact Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office 216-443-7010

# From the Police Department



*From the desk of Chief Sturgill...*

*Dear Resident and Business Community,*

I just wanted to thank all those who made donations and bought raffle tickets in supporting this year's "Shop-With-A-Cop" program. I would also like to send a special thank you to the officers of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department and volunteers that took the time out of their busy schedules to participate in the shopping spree.

The "Shop-With-A-Cop" 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 over \$60,000 was raised, which allowed for the sponsorship of 404 children! Over 100 police officers and FOP volunteers from approximately 20 surrounding departments and agencies were on hand to spread the cheer!

The children are picked up at their homes by escorting police officers and they are then transported via a large police procession to a department store for the shopping extravaganza. After the shopping was completed, the procession then returned to the Village Hall for a pizza party and treats.



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

*Respectfully,*

*Chief Sturgill*

# *From the Building Department*

With the upcoming winter months and holidays, here are a few safety practices to help keep your family safe.

When using your gas or wood-burning fireplace:

- Always make sure the damper is open
- Never leave your fireplace unattended, put out when leaving home and going to bed
- Do not burn green wood or trash in your fireplace, this will create heavy creosote buildup
- Always use a metal mesh screen with your fireplace if you do not have a glass door

Electrical:

- Many avoidable electrical fires can be traced to misuse of electrical cords, such as overloading circuits, poor maintenance and running electrical cords under rugs
- Exposed wires can cause a fire, if cords are frayed replace with new
- Replace all electrical items if they cause an electrical shock, overheat, short out or give off smoke or sparks

Candles:

- Never leave burning candle unattended
- Make sure your candle is in a stable holder
- Never put candles on or near your Christmas tree
- Make sure your children do not play with matches, lighters or candles

Live Christmas Trees:

- Make sure your tree has fresh green needles
- Always make sure you have a fresh cut 1-2" at base of trunk
- Make sure your tree is placed three feet away from any heat source
- Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit
- Add water daily to your tree stand
- Always turn lights off when leaving home or going to bed
- Never burn tree branches in your fireplace

Have a safe and happy holiday from the Building Department!



# From the 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.



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.



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- 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.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



## Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



# *From the Village Hall*

## Bus Trips

Our Village bus operates one to two times per week for our Village residents, free of charge; schedules are distributed with the Village newsletter. Reservations are required and obtained by call the Village Hall at (216) 641-7020 before 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the trip. For a Saturday, trip, please call the Village Hall before 3:30 p.m. on Friday. All trips leave approximately at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. In addition, pick-ups and drop offs are made at the resident's home. Please note that there is a \$5.00 non-resident fee.

## 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).

## Newsletter

If you wish to submit information for our newsletters, please make sure that it is turned in to Wendy Heinzman by the 15th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Please email the information to [w.heinzman@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:w.heinzman@cuyahogaheights.com).

## West Side Market

The bus will pick up residents at their home beginning at 7:00 a.m., and shoppers will have a couple of hours to enjoy all the market has to offer. The bus will depart the market at 9:45 a.m. to bring you back to your residence. Residents must register by calling the Village Hall no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, the day before the trip. Please also note that children 15 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Our next trip is scheduled for January 4, 2020.

## Pest Control Program

Pest control services are available by calling Rich or Jeremy Kozlovich at Pest Management, Inc., at (216) 661-3553. Please leave a message with your name, address and nature of problem. This service is free except for termites, bed bugs, and wildlife. In addition, they will also spray the outside of your home in the spring to hinder any unwanted pests from entering your home.

## Pet Clean-Up Etiquette

Please remember when walking your pets, it is your responsibility to pick up after them. The Village Hall pavilion and playground areas are provided as a spot to take the children and maybe have an impromptu picnic. It's unpleasant to enjoy these activities when dog droppings are littering the area. We ask that you remember to keep the area clean for all to enjoy. Your cooperation is appreciated.





# *From the Village Hall (continued)*

## **The Three S's of Winter Prep: Season, Storm, Supplies.**

### **Seasonal Maintenance is Critical**

Have snow-removal equipment and the heating system serviced on an annual basis, which includes testing to make sure the heat is working throughout the home.

Insulate any pipes that are susceptible to freezing and unhook hoses from outdoor faucets. Plus, it's a good idea to locate your water shut-off valve and ensure it is in working order.

### **Storm Preparation is Important**

Pay attention to local TV and radio stations for important weather updates.

Become familiar with how to trip the manual release on overhead garage door openers and have shovels ready ahead of the storm.

Make a family communication plan in case you're not together when the storm hits.

When a storm is imminent, move vehicles off the street.

### **Supplies are Crucial**

Have bottled water and non-perishable foods, clothing and blankets, batteries and flashlights, snow shovels and other snow-removal equipment on-hand in the event of an extended power outage.

Keep a supply of rock salt, other ice melt or sand, in case the stores run out during a particular storm.

Don't forget your pets - bring them inside during bad weather.



# *From the Service Department*

## Garbage Pick Up - Recycling - Yard Waste

The Village Service Department collects garbage every Monday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. at no charge to its residents. Our Service Department will come into your yard and take your garbage tote and recycling container to the curb; afterwards they will carry it back into your yard. Please note that if a holiday falls on a Monday; the service will commence on Tuesday.



## Special Pick Up

If you need a special pick up for trash that is oversized, large amounts, or hazardous waste, don't forget to call the Village Hall to be put on the special pick up list. Special pick up day is on Tuesday mornings, unless there is a holiday on Monday, at which time, the special pick up will be taken care of on Wednesday. **You must call the Village Hall by 4:00 on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up.**

## Charity Pick Up

Our Service Department will pick up any usable item at your residence that you would like to donate to charity on the first Wednesday of each month. Household items, furniture, clothes, etc., are collected and donated to the West Side Catholic Center. No tax receipts are given for this service, and you must call the Village Hall prior to the first Wednesday of the month for this service.

## Newspaper/Cardboard Recycling

Do your part in helping the environment; recycle cardboard and newspaper. Our Village has a recycling container which is located in Bacci Park in the rear of the back parking lot. The container is strictly for cardboard and newspaper. Stop on down and do your part in recycling. If you have a large amount and are unable to take it to the container, please call the Village Hall during normal business hours prior to Tuesday mornings; we will put it on our "special pick up" list.



## Dumpsters

Residents may rent a village dumpster for personal use at their home by paying \$30.00 to the village for each dumpster load. Use of the dumpster is for demolition only. Examples of demolition are lumber, railroad ties, windows, doors, roofing material, flooring (*not carpeting*), drywall or plaster, stones, rocks, bricks, concrete, cement blocks, etc.

## *From the Service Department (continued)*

### Meals on Wheels (meals now prepared by Lori's Custom Catering)

This service is available to any village resident that is 60 years of age or older. A lunch time meal will be delivered to your home daily, Monday through Friday, by our Service Department. This is an affordable option, the cost is \$25.00 per week, which is only \$5.00 per day (must sign-up up for a full week). To receive meals for a given week payment must be made by the Thursday prior.

If you have any questions regarding this service please contact Mindy Armbrust at the Service Department at 216/641-3505 or [m.armbrust@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:m.armbrust@cuyahogaheights.com).



### Snow Removal Program \* Residential Snow Removal Program

- 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.



## From the Sports Commissioner

Well folks, here we are once again ... counting down the remaining days of one year while eagerly anticipating the excitement of what the next may hold. As we reflect upon what 2019 has meant to each of us, please allow me to offer a sincere **THANK YOU** for all the support and insight you have provided during my first year as your Village Recreation Director. My family and I are very proud to be a part of this wonderful community and truly appreciate the efforts of all who have helped and serve to make it the best kept secret in Northeast Ohio. **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy and Healthy New Year** to you all.

In preparation of 2020 sports seasons prepare, please keep in mind the following sports registration deadlines for the youth sports programs and teams in 2020.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring Soccer	February 15, 2020
Youth Baseball & Softball	March 15, 2020
Men's & Women's Softball	July 1, 2020
Fall Soccer	July 15, 2020
Youth Flag Football	July 15, 2020
Cheerleading	July 15, 2020
Youth Basketball	October 1, 2020

Registration forms for these activities can be found on the Village website by clicking the Recreation tab in the ribbon at the top of the home page. You will then find the registration forms in the drop-down menu under Sports tab.

### **\*ATTENTION ALL KIDS AND POW WOW YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS !!!\***

The pool staff will be hosting a Christmas tree ornament design and decorating session on Monday, December 23 at Village Hall from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Also, a trip to see a matinee showing of *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* is being planned. Please keep an eye on the Village Facebook page for updates and details on the exact date and time.

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to me at [chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com) or give me a call at 330.703.9175.

Jason Deal



CONTACT AMANDA AT  
[A.DOMZALSKI@CUYAHOGAHEIGHTS.COM](mailto:A.DOMZALSKI@CUYAHOGAHEIGHTS.COM) TO JOIN  
OUR NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST!

Don't forget to check out our web site at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) for updated pictures. Click on the "photo" tab on the top of the home page to find all photos from around town.