



Village of Cuyahoga Heights

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May 22, 2020



Dear Residents,

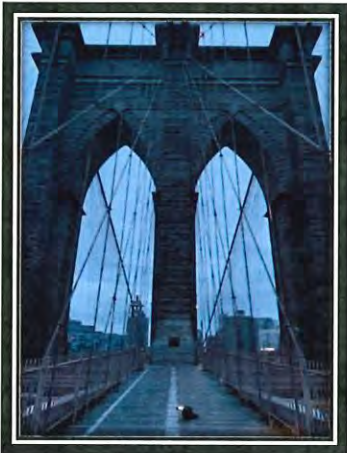
This week, as we prepare to remember our fallen and continue to move towards some form of normalcy in this pandemic, we must all continue to stay vigilant and respect others that may be more susceptible. Just yesterday, the numbers reported higher than usual, 731 coronavirus infections and an additional 55 deaths, boosting Ohio's total confirmed and probable virus cases to 30,167 and raised the COVID-19 death toll to 1,836. The 731 new cases were markedly higher—51%—when compared with the total of 484 on Wednesday. The number also was well above the 21-day average of 578 new daily infections. So, I want each and every one of us to remember that this virus is still here and there is NO clear path going forward, other than to continue safe practices as we have been with masks, hand washing, social distancing etc.

As I had advised our residents earlier on—our very own firefighter/paramedic and resident, Brad Unger headed to New York City to join the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Brad is finally back home, safe and sound, and I asked him to share his story about the pandemic in New York City. And, if you don't believe, or you're having a hard time understanding the magnitude of this crisis, please take a minute to read Brad's story, in his own words, of what he and others have witnessed.

“While sitting in quarantine, I have plenty of time to reflect on the last 6 weeks. I joined a class of 5 other RN's who had traveled to NYC from all over the United States. We would soon meet many more throughout our assignment. We were part of the first wave of relief for the highly stressed and depleted staff. Department heads welcomed us while giving us a crash course in what to expect. By the end of the first day we were in the ER paired up with our preceptors. The second day we were familiarized with the ER and then we were given full assignments. There was no time to feel comfortable and ease into our new roles, this was war. The amount of critical patients coming through the doors was like nothing I had seen or could have prepared for. We wore an N95 with surgical mask over that along with a face shield and gown for each 12-hour shift. Identifying people or even hearing them through the layers was a challenge at first, but we quickly adapted because we had to.

Mount Sinai Queens is a neighborhood hospital and part of a large local system. They were the second hardest affected next to Elmhurst. I won't go into details with the tragedy I saw daily, it was real and overwhelming at times. I would rather focus on the people that I worked alongside that were there from the beginning. The staff was incredibly resilient despite most having connections to people they lost in their community or even their own families. Many were sick or would become sick themselves. The skill level and teamwork observed under such stress was utterly amazing. They welcomed us like family, and it was truly an honor to meet and work with each of them. In the midst of great tragedy is where you will find humanity shine the brightest.

I'm thankful to be home safely and want to thank everyone who reached out or had me in their thoughts. As we slowly return to some familiarity and find our new normal, I do look forward to visiting NYC again someday when it is back to its new normal. While Mount Sinai is returning to a more manageable level, they still have a hard and uncertain road ahead. My thoughts will be with them as we all hope for an end to this tragic pandemic."



Other Information/Updated Services in Cuyahoga Heights

Memorial Day

We are going to perform an abbreviated formal service with the members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police and Fire Departments, and a few of our village veterans. The ceremony will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday at the village hall war memorial. Please note that all social distancing guidelines should be observed if you plan on attending.

Canal Road Reconstruction/Improvement Projects

Although there are few items that remain on the “punch list,” I’m happy to say that you may begin to use the roadway on a regular basis. Thank you again for your continued support and patience throughout the duration of this project...now enjoy it! 😊

Positive Vibes

As noted in last week’s letter, if any of our residents have any good news, positive thoughts, or fun pictures they would like to share with the community, please do so by emailing the information to my office c/o Lee Ann at l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com.

Brenna Angela Bacci graduated from John Carroll University this past Sunday via a virtual commencement. Friends and family drove by her home and wished her well.



Tricia Pavlus celebrated her birthday this past Tuesday—family and friends decorated her front yard for the celebration. Good luck to Tricia in her last year of the 40s.



Henry Schoeffler turned 5 years old this past Thursday, and the family celebrated with cake and ice cream. Pictured with Henry is his Godmother, Lee Ann, and Uncle Kenny.



Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep Vince Trusso’s son, *Jacob Derbin*, who serves our country in the U.S. Army, in your thoughts and prayers as he will be deployed overseas in the upcoming month. In case you didn’t know, Jacob has been working for us over the last several years in a part-time capacity at our service department. We wish him well and pray for his safe return home. Thank you for your service Jacob and again, everyone please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



As always, please continue to keep several of our residents in your thoughts and prayers: Mrs. Barbara Combs, Mr. Howard Combs, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Ms. Marti Malek and Joe Vitanza.

In closing, amidst all that is going on in the world today, we must never forget the men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. So please, enjoy your holiday weekend in whatever capacity you may, but again, take a moment to reflect on the many blessings—so many have sacrificed—for all the freedoms we enjoy!

Stay Safe and God Bless,

Jack M. Bacchi
Mayor/Safety Director

