

Village Council and Clerk



Village Hall Council Chambers

Officials of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights During the Years
1918 through 1977

MAYORS

Louis J. Bacci
George J. Gallitz

William R. Gerdon
Isaac G. Kennedy

Stanley Klima
Joseph F. Schmidt

CLERKS

Norbert B. Chase
Samuel E. Clapp
W. J. Clark
Henry J. Domzalski

George J. Gallitz
Harry M. Schuman, Jr.
Edward Weidner

Carl Columbi
Donald B. Doskey
Patricia M. Ezzo
Louis S. Farrar

TREASURERS

George J. Gallitz
Frances C. Gerdon
John L. Hanousek
Lawrence Jones
Robert B. Kerr
Edwin O. Klaas
John P. Pallini

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Samuel Amari
Joseph Andrews
Louis J. Bacci
Stanley Baracz
Albert Bletch
John C. Bloam
Mary Jean Bloam
John J. Bohdan
Thomas J. Borowy
Carl Casavecchia
Samuel E. Clapp
Carl Columbi
Charles Conners

J. H. Conners
Ralph E. Contipelli
John Crooks
Ralph DeSantis
Donald B. Doskey
Vic Duber
Allen Earl
Joseph F. Evan
Charles G. Fait
Edward Flowers
George J. Gallitz
Jacob C. Gallitz

George Gase
William R. Gerdon
Clinton M. Gerdon
Vincent Guidotti
J. W. Hammersley
John L. Hanousek
George Hecker
Franklin Hess, Sr.
John F. Jackson
E. James
Isaac G. Kennedy
Edwin O. Klaas

George Klaas
Stanley Klima
Charles Major
Daniel Marek
James J. Masek
G. W. McWherter
H. F. Meyer
Thomas H. Morrill
Florence J. Pierce
Carl Radway
William Randle
Charles Reali

E. Rickard
A. T. Schmitt
Harry M. Schuman, Sr.
Albert W. Shatto
Stanley Smith
T. J. Vamos
Norman Vincenti
Edward Weidner
E. D. Weitz
Tony Wencke
Walter Whitelaw
Raymond Wlotzko

Village Council and Clerk

by Laura Bacci Merhaut

Village Council. The Legislative Branch

Cuyahoga Heights Village Charter - ARTICLE II — SECTION 1. ELECTIVE OFFICIALS.

The elective officials of the Village shall be the Mayor, the Clerk and six (6) Council Members elected at large. Said officials shall be elected at the time and in the manner provided by law for the election of Village officials commencing on January 1, following their election as follows:

- a. (noted under Mayor's section) b. (noted under Clerk's section)
- c. Commencing at the regular municipal election in 2017, Council Members shall be elected in a manner creating staggered terms of four (4) years. The terms of Council Members shall be staggered such that the three (3) individuals who receive the highest vote totals at the regular municipal election in 2017 shall be elected for a four (4) year term and every four years thereafter. The three (3) individuals who achieve the next three (3) highest vote totals (i.e., members receiving the fourth, fifth and sixth highest vote totals) in the regular municipal election in 2017 shall serve a two (2) year term. At the regular municipal election in 2019, the three (3) individuals who receive the three (3) highest vote totals in that election shall be elected to four (4) year terms and every fourth year thereafter. (Amended 11-5-68; 11-4-08; 5-5-09; 11-8-16)

(The Charter was adopted by the electors of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights on August 2, 1919, to become effective January 1, 1920.)

As mandated by law, including a system of check and balances, the Cuyahoga Heights Village Charter provides for a six member village council as the legislative branch of local government. Council's duties are to handle the purse strings of the Village's finances and be true watchdogs of the taxpayers' monies. Other duties include committee work and creating, amending, enacting or repealing laws known as the *Codified Ordinances of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights*. Originally, Council's terms of office were two years.

Recently, the Village Charter was amended to make terms of office four years with Council's terms broken down to three members elected to commence a four year term, then the other three members will serve two year terms until 2019 when the top three elected in an opposite time frame will begin their four year term. This staggering allows for stability within the ranks of Council so that there would never be a completely new and less experienced body serving the village.

Over the years, our village councils in tandem with our mayors and clerks, have done their work and today we see the fruits of their efforts. Although there may have been some points in our history where issues were hotly contested and cooperation with the Mayor was intermittent, for the most part there has been a united effort. Stories have been told about an angry former Mayor Gerdon knocking council member Bill Randle out of his council chair—literally! Recent councils have learned that teamwork is of the utmost importance for those seeking to truly represent the community.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Village Clerk. Finance and Record Keeping.

Cuyahoga Heights Village Charter - Article II — SECTION 1. ELECTIVE OFFICIALS.

b. Commencing at the regular municipal election in 2009, the Clerk shall be elected for a term of four (4) years and every fourth year thereafter commencing on the first day of January next following such election, and shall serve until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.”

The historically elected position of Village Clerk is yet another area where checks and balances in government is key. Although this job is called “clerk,” it has meant many things. In the past, for many years, it meant Clerk of Council but also the finance person as well, charged with creating budgets, allocating monies to an assortment of funds and keeping things in good order. Per law, this position was balanced and checked by the elected job of the Village Treasurer. As treasurer, one would write checks to pay the bills and keep ledgers, handwritten, of those expenses as well as incoming funds. These two people were challenged with making certain the books balanced—revenues and expenditures!

The Auditor of State is charged with biennial reviews, audits if you will, of the books of all municipalities within the state. Villages are audited every other year. The purpose of these review and recommendations are to make certain no laws are being broken and that best financial practices are being used within the community. As time passed, the village which has its own Charter, called upon its voters to eliminate the Treasurer’s job and worked toward separating the Clerk of Council’s job into one area and carving out the Chief Fiscal Officer’s position as an appointed, not elected, job. This became a reality in January, 2018.

Norbert Chase, who is now 91 years of age, was the longtime clerk of the village.

Norbert married Gloria Pallini in 1949. They had eight children: Jeff, Marilyn, Lorraine, Mark, Sandra, Connie, Michelle and Michael. The family lived at 4941 East 71st Street for many years. Norbert moved to Medina to live with their daughter, Michelle, on a property close to another daughter, Lorraine Hlavin. Mark still resides in the village. Norbert was elected and served from 1953 to 1963. He was defeated for a two-year term, but came back in 1965 and served through 1989, a total of 34 years. Norbert, with a razor sharp memory, has contributed a great deal of information to this publication.



Mayor and Council in 1960 or 1961

On podium Engineer William Sweeney, Solicitor Loyal V. Buescher, Mayor William Gerdon, and a young Clerk Norbert Chase. Council members John Bohdan, Louis Bacci, Samuel Amari (*front to back on the left*) and Stanley "Jack" Klima, Donald Doskey and Ralph DeSantis (*front to back on the right*).



Longtime Clerk Norbert Chase

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



2018 Cuyahoga Heights Officials

Standing Left to Right

Norm Casini, Building Department Commissioner | Renato Contipelli, Councilman

Angel Meriwether, Chief Financial Officer | Rick Centa, Councilman

Barb Biro, Councilwoman | Matthew Schoeffler, Councilman | Cheryl Harris, Council President

Todd Bloam, Councilman | Todd Sciano, Village Engineer

Seated Left to Right

Robert Unger, Village Clerk | Mayor Jack Bacci | Bill Mason, Law Director



Lois Henley, Councilwoman

Barb Biro resigned in October 2018 and Lois Henley filled her position.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Our Elder Statesmen and Stateswoman

A Simple Story. Officials “Cooperating in the Best Interest of All.”



Renato Contipelli | Current Member of Council

The times required a new kind of thinking and leadership to pull the Village out of the economic collapse and housing crisis we faced in 2010. Jack and I, along with the Clerk and Council, at the time agreed to be true leaders, putting all political bias and agendas aside, to be the generation that had to take a business approach and make decisions as a team if this Village was to survive.

No idea was a bad idea and all decisions, both easy and extremely difficult, would be decided on together and we would stand as one after we all debated, offered compromises and would suffer the consequences of those decisions together—there would be no finger pointing at past mayors or councils for their decisions that may have put us in the situation we were in.

Resulting from that teamwork, our generation can safely say we survived what I call the “crisis of our generation.” For those born 1960 or later—no more Hatfields and McCoys! We all are doing our best to perform our duty of taking care of our residents and protecting the future of Cuyahoga Heights Village.

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Marilyn C. LaBella Duszynski | Former Longtime Member of Council

Thirty-eight years ago, I entered politics when then Mayor Louis J. Bacci asked me to be campaign manager for his re-election committee. After twelve years as his campaign manager, I decided to enter the elected political scene, where I could make a greater and more direct contribution to our community. This decision has led to a career spanning twenty-six years of uninterrupted political service as elected councilperson, president of council and as interim mayor when Mayor Louis J. Bacci passed away. These years of public service have been satisfying, as was raising three children as a single parent during this same period.

During these years of service, I have had the blessed friendship and assistance of many fine people for which I am forever grateful. As you might imagine during my period of service, there have been substantial changes to our nation and community. The connectivity provided by cell phones and computers has made instantaneous personal communication available. Computers avail financial information at one's fingertips. However, it has always been my personal preference, that a face-to-face conversation and exchange of information and ideas is best.

Change is sometimes difficult, but there is no choice but to adapt. Some decisions while in office are exceedingly difficult and may effect some personally; but, I have always attempted to be fair to all. Most of my career was during the leadership of then Mayor Louis J. Bacci. Now his son, Jack Bacci, is our present mayor. He is doing a remarkable job of management and improving the appearance of our village. His progressive vision will serve the Village of Cuyahoga Heights well into the future.

I wish to thank the members of our community for the opportunity to have served these many years.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



Bob Unger | Current Village Clerk

I have been an elected official in the Village of Cuyahoga Heights for 13 years, four as councilman, eight as finance director, and one as clerk of council.

I grew up in Cuyahoga Heights, and always felt a need to be involved in making sure our community and its residents were safe and well cared for. We are a village of inter-generational families, we all had friends and families that have been here for up to a hundred years.

In the 1960s, I hung around with Kevin Pellini, Mike Pallini, Kevin (Watts) Domzalski, Debbie Domzalski, Carol Hanousek, and sisters, Kathy and Karen Kaminski. We were all friends, and hung out at the pool all summer. These are all legacy families, and many of those kids' family members are still in the village. We were one big family, and nothing has changed since then.

I was taught that friends and family cared for each other and looked out for each other, which is why I went into public service. I wanted to make sure that everyone in the village was well cared for, and to help anyone in the village if they had any problems. We were a tight knit community then, and almost sixty years later we still are. I consider the village our home, and its residents our family.

I have been blessed to have been an elected official for our village, and hope to have many years left in serving the community and its residents that I love.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial

Elected Officials | 1978 to Present

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1978 to 1979

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer John P. Pallini
Council: John Bohdan, Thomas Borowy, Ralph Contipelli,
John Hanousek, Timothy Harris, James Masek

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1980 to 1981

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer Irma Schab
Council: John Bohdan, Ralph Contipelli, Eleanor Koran,
James Masek, John P. Pallini, Frank Trusso

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1982 to 1983

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer Irma Schab
Council: John Bohdan, Ralph Contipelli, Eleanor Koran,
James Masek, John P. Pallini, Frank Trusso

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1984

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer Irma Schab
Council: Jean Bloam, John Bohdan, Thomas Borowy,
Ralph Contipelli, Eleanor Koran, James Masek

1985

Mayor Ralph Contipelli | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer Irma Schab
Council: John Bohdan, Thomas Borowy, Robert Chase,
Eleanor Koran, James Masek, Frank Trusso

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1986 to 1987

Mayor Ralph Contipelli | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer Irma Schab
Council: John Bohdan, Robert Chase, Lois Henley,
Eleanor Koran, Anthony Morino, Shireen Patterson

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1988 to 1989

Mayor Ralph Contipelli | Clerk Norbert Chase | Treasurer Irma Schab
Council: John Bohdan, Lois Henley, Stanley Jakosh,
Eleanor Koran, Anthony Morino, George M. Suhy

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1990

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Victor Duber | Treasurer Anthony Morino

Council: John Bohdan, Lois Henley, Stanley Jaksoh,
Eleanor Koran, Gary Pallini, George M. Suhy

Vic Duber resigns during the year. Barbara Nichols takes his place and then resigns.

We believe this is how Anthony Morino became Clerk.

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1991

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Anthony Morino | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone

Council: John Bohdan, Lois Henley, Stanley Jaksoh,
Eleanor Koran, Gary Pallini, George M. Suhy

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1992 to 1993

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Ralph Contipelli | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone

Council: John Bohdan, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Eleanor Koran, Lawrence E. Mack, George M. Suhy

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1994 to 1995

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Ralph Contipelli | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone

Council: John Bohdan, Frank Domzalski, Marilyn Duszynski,
Lois Henley, Lawrence E. Mack, George M. Suhy

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1996

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Ralph Contipelli | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone

Council: John Bohdan, Renato Contipelli, Frank Domzalski,
Marilyn Duszynski, Lois Henley, George M. Suhy

•

1997

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Ralph Contipelli | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone

Council: John Bohdan, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Lois Henley, Lawrence E. Mack, George M. Suhy

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1998 to 1999

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Ralph Contipelli | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone

Council: John Bohdan, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Lois Henley, Irma Schab, George M. Suhy

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2000 to 2001

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Ralph Contipelli | Treasurer Kathleen Faragone
Council: John Bohdan, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Lois Henley, Irma Schab, George M. Suhy

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2002 to 2003

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Barbara Biro | Treasurer John Traffis
Council: Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski, Lois Henley,
Irma Schab, George M. Suhy, Oliver Vaccher

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2004 to 2005

Mayor Louis Bacci | Clerk Barbara Biro | Treasurer John Traffis
Council: Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski, Irma Schab,
George M. Suhy, Robert Unger, Oliver Vaccher

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2006 to 2007

Mayor Ralph Contipelli | Clerk Barb Biro | Treasurer John Traffis
Council: Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski, Ralph Faragone, Lois Henley,
Frank Schoeffler II, Robert Unger

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2008 to 2009

Mayor Jack Bacci | Clerk Barb Biro | Treasurer John Traffis
Council: Marilyn Duszynski, Ralph Faragone, Lois Henley, Irma Schab,
Frank Schoeffler II, George Suhy

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2010 to 2011

Mayor Jack Bacci | Clerk Robert Unger
Council: Todd Bloam, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Ralph Faragone, Cheryl Harris, Lois Henley
The elected position of Treasurer is eliminated.
Lois Henley resigns in May 2011 and Frank Schoeffler II fills that position.

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2012 to 2013

Mayor Jack Bacci | Clerk Robert Unger
Council: Barb Biro, Todd Bloam, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Ralph Faragone, Cheryl Harris

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2014 to 2015

Mayor Jack Bacci | Clerk Robert Unger

Council: Barb Biro, Todd Bloam, Renato Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski,
Cheryl Harris, Lois Henley

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2016 to 2017

Mayor Jack Bacci | Clerk Robert Unger | Chief Financial Officer Angel Meriwether

Council: Barb Biro, Todd Bloam, Marilyn Duszynski, Cheryl Harris,
Lois Henley, Matthew Schoeffler

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2018 to Present

Mayor Jack Bacci | Clerk Robert Unger | Chief Financial Officer Angel Meriwether

Council: Barb Biro, Todd Bloam, Rick Centa, Renato Contipelli,
Cheryl Harris, Matthew Schoeffler

Barb Biro resigns in October 2018 and Lois Henley fills that position.

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial