

Celebrations & Gatherings



August 11, 2018 Centennial Parade

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



Annual Corn Roast Flyers

Celebrations & Gatherings

by Laura Bacci Merhaut

We might be small, but our little village has a very long history of community gatherings and celebrations—the type of activities that knit together friends, relatives and neighbors into this place called home. As has been noted elsewhere in the book, many of these events have been going on for decades and are embedded as local traditions in the memory of our older citizens. These initial events have a new spin such as the Easter Bunny visiting the egg hunt each year. In the 1970s, Mrs. Claus joined Santa, and now a few high school volunteers, fulfilling community service hours as elves. As Cuyahoga Heights moves on, new events have been planned resulting from the creativity of dedicated committees. These celebrations have grown into annual traditions in their own rite. It is with pride that we present our scrapbook of these gatherings and celebrations from Cuyahoga Heights' history.

A Parade for History

The highly anticipated **Cuyahoga Heights 100th Anniversary Celebration** was held on August 10 and August 11, 2018. All festivities on Friday were at Klima Gardens while Saturday's events were kicked off with a splendid parade after which activities straddled Bacci Park (for the kids) and music, food, dancing and beverages could be found all day at our Klima Gardens venue.

Residents, present and former, lined East 71st Street to watch as Senior Citizens and members of the Historical Committee kicked off the parade. The Historical Committee was transporting the Time Capsule to Kennedy House for eventual opening and cataloguing all contents. Grand Marshal, Miss Delia Trevisani, our most senior lifelong resident, was accompanied by her nephews children: David Amari's sons, Bradley, Jonathan and grandson Owynn as well as Douglas' daughters, Kaitlyn and Madeline. All rode in a lovely white horse drawn carriage.

The Cleveland Mounted Police Unit Officers pranced along followed by Brooklyn Heights VFW Post 3483 carrying our beloved colors. Chief Sturgill and Deputy Chief Davis showed off our police cruiser leading Mayor Bacci's tractor and bubble-blowing hay wagon full of over 20 Bacci family members. Dear friend and former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero joined the family showering the crowd with candy.

John Bacci drove Councilmembers Rick Centa and Matt Schoeffler in former Mayor Lou Bacci's Lincoln Continental. Assistant Building Commissioner Ken LaBella drove elected officials Barb Biro, Renato Contipelli and Cheryl Harris in Jimmy Palladino's 1960 Pontiac Catalina convertible. Former Mayor Contipelli and former Council member Frank Schoeffler rode along in a golf cart (but left their clubs at home). Renee Duszynski, in a jaunty little convertible chauffeured her mom, former long-time member of Council, Marilyn LaBella Duszynski and Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah Nicastro.

Next came Service Director Dave Sammons, Fire Chief Suhy—our squad, pumper and the aerial unit followed by the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department bicycle units. Residents Jim Fonte and Debbie Namy

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showed off their bright yellow replica 1932 Coupe golf cart followed by Mary Rakauskas and Tony Anfuso in a Mercedes style golf cart. Clarence Knapik and wife, Barbara showed off his souped up historical 1949 Ford.

Law Director Ben Chojnacki was revving up former Law Director Jon Greenberg's Mustang convertible. Along came retired Village Clerk, Norbert Chase and his family in military vehicles. Ohio State Highway Patrol delivered Attorney General Mike and Frances Dewine, flanked by a team of supporters. Mike was campaigning to become Ohio's next Governor. Mayors Mike Procuk (Brooklyn Heights), Jerry Piasecki (Valley View), Anthony Togliatti (Independence), Richard Dell'Aquila (Seven Hills) joined in the parade. Brecksville's Mayor Jerry Hruby was the engineer of a really cool Safety Town train packed with neighborhood kids.

Boy Scouts Troop #28 created a float with a tent and all the trimmings. They were followed by Peter Corrigan, a candidate for County Executive. The staff of our local newspaper, *The Neighborhood News*, joined in as the most elegant Stix Stilt Walker in her colorful diaphanous costume literally floated up East 71st Street. School Superintendent Tom Evans and School Board members Gary Suchocki, Mark Dobbins, Joe Nejman and Maria Eder were next in line enjoying being transported in the Euclid Beach Rocket Ride. Our cheerleaders flanked the rocket while a red wave of Cuyahoga Heights School majorettes, our flag team members, the marching band including the Alumni band, football and soccer teams swarmed the area.

Batman made an appearance including his bat mobile! Slider, the Cleveland Indians' mascot, caused a stir as did Chomps, the Cleveland Browns' mascot. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Metroparks representatives made their presence known, as did Ohio Bulk Transfer, Newburgh Heights police, an armored Lenco BearCat tactical vehicle and other fire vehicles. The parade lasted over forty minutes—probably a record for our village.

Village of Cuyahoga Heights Centennial Celebration



Friday, August 10 - Klima Gardens

6:00-11:00 p.m.

- 6:00-10:00 p.m. Kid's Tent Activities
 Inflatables
 DJ Jim Rio
 Video Game Truck
- Food Trucks • Barrio, Rock N' Roll, SWAT
 CHS Class of 2020 Fundraiser – Pizza, Chips, Beverages (*Kitchen Area*)
- 6:00-11:00 p.m. CHS Alumni Association Fundraiser – Beer & Wine (*Bar Area*)
- 7:00-11:00 p.m. **Custard Pie**

Saturday, August 11

- 1:00 p.m. Parade
 **Starting at the F.O.P. Hall and continuing north on East 71st Street –
 ending at Klima Gardens*
- 2:00-7:00 p.m. Historical Committee's Kennedy House will be open for visitors and
 serving ice cream
 4661 East 71st Street

Saturday, August 11 - Klima Gardens

12:00-11:00 p.m.

- 12:00-4:00 p.m. Car Show – Klima Gardens
- 12:00-10:00 p.m. Food Trucks • Barrio, Rock N'Roll, SWAT
- 2:00-9:00 p.m. Welcome Center
 **Sign in and register to be eligible for drawings*
- 2:00-10:00 p.m. CHS Class of 2019 Fundraiser – Pizza, Chips, Beverages (*Kitchen Area*)
- 2:00-11:00 p.m. CHS Alumni Association Fundraiser – Beer & Wine (*Bar Area*)

Saturday, August 11 - Klima Gardens (Continued)

2:00-3:30 p.m.	Tom Katrenich Polka Band
2:30-4:00 p.m.	Corn Hole Tournament
3:00-10:00 p.m.	DJ Jim Rio (<i>Kids Area</i>) Video Game Truck
4:00-5:30 p.m.	Logan Wells Duo
4:00-5:30 p.m.	Bocce Ball Tournament
6:00-7:45 p.m.	Michael Webber Show
6:00-10:00 p.m.	Kids Inflatable (<i>Kids Area</i>)
8:15-9:15 p.m.	Rick Smith Jr. – Strolling Magic Show
8:30-11:00 p.m.	Disco Inferno
10:00 p.m.	Fireworks

Saturday, August 11 – Bacci Park

2:00-7:00 p.m.

2:00-7:00 p.m.	CHS Class of 2019 Fundraiser – Pizza, Chips, Beverages (<i>Concession Stand</i>)
2:00-7:00 p.m.	Cotton Candy & Snow Cone Truck
2:00-5:00 p.m.	Magic Party Train Rides
2:00-7:00 p.m.	Touch-A-Truck
2:00-7:00 p.m.	Cleveland Metroparks
2:00-7:00 p.m.	Face Painting – Kid's Tent DJ Jim Rio
2:00-7:00 p.m.	Inflatables
2:00-7:00 p.m.	Video Game Truck
4:30-5:15 p.m.	Magician Rick Smith – Strolling Magic
5:00-7:00 p.m.	Pony Rides
5:30-6:15 p.m.	Magician Rick Smith (Live Show) – Kid's Tent
8:00 p.m.	Parking Lot & Park Closes All Shuttles End

**“No Dogs Allowed – Service Pets Only”
“No Coolers or Outside Alcohol Permitted”
at Klima Gardens or Bacci Park
... by Police Order**

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1976 Bicentennial Parade

(A) Some of the Bacci Clan in the Bicentennial Parade; (background)Kathy Bacci Unger and Sandy and Ricky Bacci (middle) and (foreground) cousin, Courtney Anne.

(B) Members of the Cuyahoga Heights baseball teams.

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1976 Bicentennial Activities

(A/B) Cuyahoga Heights Senior Citizens singers on the village hall steps in the Bicentennial year.

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July 3, 1993

C



Cuyahoga Heights 75th Anniversary

(A) Kathy Unger and Unknown.

(B) Mayor Lou and Lillian Bacci with retired firefighter Bruno Guidotti.

(C) The 75th Anniversary Cake float created by the Cuyahoga Heights Citizens Committee.

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Cuyahoga Heights 75th Anniversary

(A) Villagers, Pat Crooks, Frank Crooks and numerous children.

(B) Cuyahoga Heights Citizens Committee's patriotic float. (C) Cuyahoga Heights police cruiser.

(D) Cuyahoga Heights police and fire personnel.

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Cuyahoga Heights 75th Anniversary

- (A) Elected officials. (B) Unknown, Kathy Bacci Unger, Brandi Bacci, baby Erika Bacci and Lillian Bacci.
(C) Marilyn Duszynski dancing the twist with Mayor Lou Bacci, the only dance he ever did!

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2018 Inauguration

(A) Mayor Jack Bacci and daughter Lily Bacci.

(B) Mayor Jack Bacci and Chief Financial Officer Angel Hunter Meriwether.

(C) Council Members Rick Centa, Barb Biro and Renato Contipelli.

(D) Mayor Jack Bacci and Clerk Robert Unger.

(E) Council Members Todd Bloam, Cheryl Harris and Matthew Schoeffler.

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Easter Egg Hunt

(A) Mayor Jack Bacci and Easter Bunny, Lee Ann Schoeffler in 2008.

(B) Lori Borowy and two of her grandchildren in 2015. (C) Barb and Neal Cash and family in 2015.

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Easter Egg Hunt

(A) Kathy and Marty Malek with Marti Malek, Ari and Jimmy Whoolery in 2015.

(B) Stacey and Joe Vitanza in 2015.

(C) Beth and Becky Lepkowski with Mary Casavecchia in 2013. (D) Debbie and Karissa Tritsarolis.

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Arbor Day Memorial Tree Planting

(A) Kathie Hunter, Mavis Snoddy, Joanne Socausky, Donna Hunter, Glenn Snoddy in 2010.

(B) Mayor Jack Bacci, taking a plunge into the fishing pond after losing a wager to Councilwoman Lois Henley that 100 people wouldn't show up for our first Arbor Day event in 2008.

(C) Jim and Robyn Nobili in 2015.

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Arbor Day Memorial Tree Planting

(A) Andy Barath, Karen and Ray Smosarski, Patricia Smosarski, Debby Smosarski Barath and Christopher Smosarski in 2015. (B) Tyler Hughes, Jennifer, Dan and Marissa Ulery with Jeff, Brian, Candy and Mike Derbin in 2019.

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Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

(A) Madison, Brenna and Lily Bacci with their dad, Mayor Jack Bacci and Tricia and Colin Pavlus.

(B) Linda and Rich Grabowski with Aunt Clara Pallini in 2011.

(C) John Bacci, Charlotte Bacci Waskielis with Mom, Lillian Bacci in 2012.

(D) Stanley Schab, Michael Cimperman and Ken Schoeffler in 2007.

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2018 Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

(A) Rich and Mary Ann Cockrell, Vanessa Cockrell Heller, Chad, Natalie and Elizabeth Heller.

(B) Tracy and Jason Deal. (C) Jean Dell'Anno with daughter, Gina Trusso.

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The Pool

(A) Kendall Meriwether, Blaine, Nia and Jayden Hunter, and Evan Wojtyszyn in 2013.

(B) Lou Franko painting the playground equipment at the village hall in 2012.

(C) Veronica Bacci, Amanda Hartman, Michael Cimperman and Amber Dzik in 2011.

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2012 Annual Seniors Trip to Kelleys Island

A) Felicia Piasecki and Nancy McAleer. (B) Debbie Namy, Jim Fonte, Tony Anfuso and Mary Rakauskas.
(C) Mary Casavecchia, Sue Eliason and Sue Revak.

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C



2018 Annual Seniors Trip to Kelleys Island

(A) John Klein, Kathy Unger, Ed and Bonnie Weber. (B) Norman and Laura Bacci Merhaut.

(C) Dolores Len and Pat Miller in 2018.

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Seniors Flu Shot Breakfast

(A) Barb and Cleri Knapik in 2016. (B) Bernice Suhy and Donna Derbin in 2016.
(C) Mary Ann Ulmschneider and Adeline Lipiec in 2017.

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B



Seniors Flu Shot Breakfast

(A) Joan Unger, Dianne Suhy, Bernice Suhy and Sue Tucholski in 2014.

(B) Noel Centa, Helen Kosicki, Mavis Snoddy and Barbara Combs in 2013.

(C) Rich Wallace and Mayor Jack Bacci in 2010.

(D) Harriett Koren, Clara Pallini and Lois Henley in 2010.

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Annual Corn Roast at Bacci Park

- (A) Irma Schab, Pete Panizzutti, Bernice and Mary Jane Blue, Marge Woodrick in 2011.
(B) Cheryl Harris, Marilyn Duszynski, Denis Vanek, Renato Contipelli and Ralph Faragone in 2012.
(C) Tony Casavecchia, Jr.

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B



D



Halloween Party

- (A) Lee Ann Schoeffler, Gail Baciak, Diane Nieves and Barbara Ann Biro in 2006.
(B) Val, Olivia and Wendy Santiago in 2013. (C) Cheryl Harris and Debbie Bloam in 2013.
(D) Hannah and Alex Trusso in 2007.

A



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B



2007 Fishing Derby at Bacci Park

(A) Cindy, Josh, Todd, Michaela and Cassie Bloam.

(B) Howard, Jr. and Howard Combs, Sr. (C) Hunter and Tim Krenisky.

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2007 Fishing Derby at Bacci Park

(A) Bryanne Skerl, Brooke Kurfist and Angel Motz.

(B) John, Maria and Christina Traffis and Mia Spicer.

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Christmas Tree Lighting

(A) Bea Duber, Matt Schoeffler and Irma Schab in 2012. (B) Noel and Rick Centa in 2013.

(C) Traci, Julia, Grace and Charlie Nichols in 2014.

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Santa Visits

(A) Frank, Matt, Mary, Lee Ann, Kim, Jameson and Henry Schoeffler in 2018.

(B) Kari, Jacob, Jonathan and Ken Bozikis in 2018.

(C) Tom, Kathy and Gianna Grattino, Frank Schoeffler, Jordan Sturgill and Tori Santiago in 2017.

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C

Santa Visits

(A) Lee Ann Schoeffler, Adrienne and John Reiger, Matt Schoeffler, Jayden and Hailey Lamont, Jordan Sturgill and Tori Santiago in 2016. (B) Adam Gharib, Frank Schoeffler, Sohir Soliman in 2013.

(C) Frank Schoeffler and Marilyn Duszynski with Christy, Joe Jr., Max, MarySarah, Gabriella, Joe Sr., Johnny, Bernadette, Nathan and Monica Menkhaus in 2012.

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Santa Visits

(A) Max and Jimmy Tritsarolis, Frank Schoeffler in 2011.

(B) Lee Ann Schoeffler, Paige, Kendall, Zander and Angel Meriwether, Frank Schoeffler in 2011.

(D) Marilyn Duszynski, Megan and Matt Vitanza, Frank Schoeffler in 2010.

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Centennial Celebration

(A) Ken and Lee Ann Schoeffler with Cleveland Browns Dawg Pound mascot Chomps.

(B) Dave Volek, Dave Sammons, Stephanie and Samantha Volek.

(C) Debbie, Gary and Nichole Tritsarolis.

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C

Centennial Celebration

(A) Bill Nichols and Pack 28 Cub Scouts.

(B) Bea Duber, Dolores Len, Noel Centa, Sandy Fouts, Lois Henley, Debbie Bloam.

(C) Grand Marshal Delia Trevisani.

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Centennial Celebration

(A) Kelly Hartman. (B) Karen and John Lipnick.

(C) Kathy Unger, John Klein, Ed Weber, Sue Pellini, Bonnie Weber and Bill the mailman.

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Centennial Celebration

(A) Overlooking Klima Gardens on Saturday evening, August 11th.

(B) David and Laura Unger and Beverly and Ron Trzeciak.

(C) Historical Committee: Laura Hine, Barb Bartczak, Kathy Grattino, Sandy Waldemarson and Cleveland Indians mascot Slider.

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Centennial Celebration

(A) Disco Inferno. (B) Kristine and Matt Kovelan.

(C) 1960 Pontiac Catalina convertible.

(C) Debbie Namy and Jim Fonte in their replica 1932 Coupe golf cart.

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In 1993, a time capsule was buried under a rock that Louis “Gigi” Bacci had once placed in his yard to keep drivers from going into his lawn—well, many folks hit the rock or drove over it damaging vehicles and the lawn. After his death, wife Katherine, decided to get rid of the obstacle and had it pushed over the hill behind her home. Resident, Frank Domzalski, felt differently about Gigi’s rock and made the effort to not only retrieve the rock, but also find it a new home. It became the monument that covered the buried time capsule and was inscribed as this:

**Cuyahoga Heights Citizen’s Committee Time Capsule, sealed July 3, 1993,
in memory of Louis “Gigi” Bacci, son of Mayor and Lillian Bacci**

So, 25 years later, in 2018, the village’s 100th anniversary year, the time capsule was retrieved, opened, audited and its contents catalogued and every personal letter was given to the recipient, or if he/she were deceased, a descendant of that family.

Opening of the Time Capsule

September 11, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the civic center at the Village Hall.

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BEFORE OPENING

9/11/18

- ① ENVELOPE FROM MARILYN DUS. TO MARILYN DUSZYNSKI
- ② LAMINATED PIC OF FLOAT
- ③ " " FLOAT
- ④ PILAMINATED PIC OF PARADE
- ⑤ LAMINATED NEON SIGN ABOUT COBBLESTONE
- ⑥ Group PHOTO OF COMMITTEE
- ⑦ FLOAT PHOTO W/ ARMY JEEP
- ⑧ PINK COBBLESTONE PAPER
- ⑨ FLOAT ON STREET ARMY JEEP (JOHNNY PALADINO)
- ⑩ CH 1918-1993 MAGAZINE
- ⑪ County Auditor McCormick - COMMENDATION LETTER
- ⑫ PLAIN DEALER July 3rd 1993
- ⑬ "HELLO CUYAHOGA 2018" DOTMATRIX PRINTER
- ⑭ RED TSHIRT FROM WAUKS SPORTS
- ⑮ COOKBOOK (Anniversary 75th)
- ⑯ The Sun Courier July 1st 1993
- ⑰ Small PICTURE (POSTCARD SIZE) OF COMMITTEE @ PARADE
- ⑱ POLAROID OF PACCI & 20 OTHERS
- ⑲ POLAROID OF Michelle Selig, Michelle Anley, Frank Russo,
2 more (Johnson?) Renaee Rosanteek?
- ⑳ Janice Tuhoiski Kelly Hartman polaroid
- ㉑ Telephone Directory
- ㉒ TX for 75th Anniversary
- ㉓ " " w/out Tag
- ㉔ Dime Dime penny penny
- ㉕ Business CARD

Opening of the Time Capsule

There were 78 sealed envelopes to individuals in the capsule.

The inventory of its other contents is listed above.

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Opening of the Time Capsule

- (A) Karen Smosarski, Angel Meriwether, Lois Henley, Police Chief Brian Sturgill and Stephanie Volek.
(B) Mayor Jack Bacci and the 1993-time capsule (C) Erika Bacci, Kathy Unger, Brian Derbin.
(D) Kathy Grattino, Barb Bartczak, Laura Hine, Christina Caporuscio and Sandy Waldemarson.
(E) Councilwoman Eleanor Koran and Frank Domzalski with the time capsule in 1993.

