



# Village of Cuyahoga Heights

January 2022

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

## Upcoming Dates and Reminders

January 26 - Council  
Workshop *Cancelled*

February 2 - Charity Pick Up

February 9 - Public Works  
Meeting 5:00 p.m.

February 14 - Happy  
Valentine's Day



February 15 - Spring Soccer  
Registration Deadline

February 21 - Presidents'  
Day - Village Hall/Service  
Department Closed

February 22 - Rubbish  
Collection

February 23 - Special 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 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Economic Development Committee  
Public Works Meeting

Finance Committee Meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month,  
if needed

### Zoning Board Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 5:00 p.m.

### Work Sessions of Council

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 5:00 p.m.

\*Only in January, February,  
March, April, May, October

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

# *From the Mayor's Desk*

I hope everyone had a great holiday—and all are healthy. I'm happy to have our newsletter back and hope that many of you find them informative.

## **Christmas Blessings**

I wanted to thank those who generously gave and helped out families in our community this past Christmas. To the employees of Charter Steel & MilliporeSigma for adopting several families in town and providing them with a special Christmas. To our residents who graciously donated food during Santa's visit. We were able to help several families, as well as assisting the Food Bank at Holy Name. To CHPD for participating in the "Shop with a Cop Program;" they were able to help several families in town. And lastly to John Deliberato, Norman & Laura Merhaut, and Bryon & Deanna Borowy for donating gift cards which also helped families in town.

Congratulations to the 2021 winners of our annual Christmas Decorating Contest: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ron & Beverly Trzeciak; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Donald & Danielle Williams and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Brian & Candy Derbin. I also wanted to thank everyone that decorated their home—they all looked great! With so many entries this past holiday, we will be recognizing all homes with a new program in 2022.

## **2022-2025 Elected Officials**

Early Tuesday morning January 4, I swore in council members: Todd Bloam, Bob Unger and David Volek. CFO Meriwether swore me in as well that morning. Then on the evening of January 12 prior to our council meeting— CFO Meriwether formally swore me in. I then did the same for Councilmen Bloam and Volek. Unfortunately Councilman Unger wasn't able to attend that evening as he was ill.



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

### Promotion

In addition to elected officials being sworn in the evening of January 12, I swore in Lt. Kenneth Schoeffler to the position of Deputy Chief of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department. He has been on the department since January 2000 and was promoted to Lieutenant in October 2014. We are very excited and proud to have him in this position. Congratulations!



### Meetings

Please note that during the January council meeting, council members approved changing the time of several meetings:

<u>Meetings</u>	<u>New Starting Time</u>
Caucus	5:00 p.m.
Council	6:00 p.m.
Workshop	5:00 p.m.
Zoning Board	5:00 p.m.

This information will be posted in our monthly newsletter, village marquees, and our web site.

### Volunteers Needed

Don't forget village resident Cheryl Harris is in need of volunteers to help make sleeping mats for the homeless. She and her volunteers will be meeting twice a month at the village hall. The first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m.-noon and the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Please contact Cheryl at (216) 849-7075 for additional information.

### Grants

We received some great news last month! Our village was approved for funding through NOACA's Section 5310 Program which is a mobility grant. This will assist our village in getting a new van for our seniors. Currently, we are waiting to receive the award letter before we can move forward with the grant.





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

### **Birthdays**

January birthday wishes to employees: (9) Councilman Renato Contipelli; (12) Councilwoman Lois Henley; (13) Kelli Jachym & Reno Contipelli; (16) Jimmy Henley; and (19) Brian Fragua.

### **Condolences**

Village resident Jason Cowling passed away suddenly on the evening of Thursday, January 6. He leaves behind his wife Vanessa, daughter Ariel and son Jared. Several other family members in town are his mom Mary Ann Ulmschneider, brother Matt, grandma Adeline Lipiec, and Uncle Danny Lipiec.

Karen Smosarski lost her mom Patricia Privett on January 14; she was 78 years old.

Mary Ann Cockrell lost her mom Mary Frizek on New Year's Eve; she was 88 years old.

Jim Nobili lost his older brother David on December 16<sup>th</sup>; he was 77 years old. For those of you that didn't know, David was a long-time advocate for education and was the founder of the Cuyahoga Heights Alumni Association Scholarship fund.

Please keep all the families in your thoughts and prayers.

*"The only man who makes no mistakes is the man who never does anything."*

*~ President Theodore Roosevelt*



# From the Chief Financial Officer

## January Finance Update

### R.I.T.A. Revenue

(Regional Income Tax Agency, Local Income and Net Profit Tax)

Total 2019: \$ 12,020,418

Total 2020: \$ 10,284,325

Total 2021: \$ 11,625,531

As you can see the R.I.T.A. revenue in 2021 increased from 2020; however, we still have not seen a full recovery of our pre-pandemic revenues as shown above in our 2019 amount. We are working with R.I.T.A. and reaching out to our major employers in town to get a good feel for those working from home and how that will impact the income tax revenue in 2022. Looks for more updates in the future.

## Friendly Reminders

Cuyahoga County Property Tax due date is February 10 for those who do not have the payment included in a mortgage loan. Please see the following helpful information below from the County:

- Pay by mail: Send a check by Feb. 10 with the parcel number to the Cuyahoga County Treasurer's Office at PO Box 94957, Cleveland, OH 44101.
- Pay online: Use a credit or e-check
- Pay by phone: Call 1-800-2PAYTAX (County Code is 4501)
- Pay in person at one of the following locations:
  - Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters. The cashier station (all forms of payment accepted) Self-Pay Kiosk (all forms of payment accepted EXCEPT credit cards) 2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Hours are Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm. Extended hours Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:00am - 6:00pm.
  - All Key Bank locations in Cuyahoga County (service ending on Feb. 3)
  - Auto Title Branches in Cuyahoga County

Cuyahoga County residents who are unable to make full payment of their property taxes should call (216) 443-7420 or email the treasury department at [treascomment@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:treascomment@cuyahogacounty.us) to make an appointment to discuss payment arrangements.



RITA is proud to announce the following:

MyAccount & Fast File are available to file Tax Year 2021 Individual Returns and Exemptions

RITA's MeF will be available Monday January 24, 2022, the same day IRS opens their filing season

Filing deadline for 2021 municipal income tax returns is Monday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Contact Information for the Finance Department

Office: 216-641-7020 — Fax: 216-641-8485

Chief Fiscal Officer: Angel Meriwether ~[a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com)

Payroll: Amanda Domzalski ~[a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com)

Accounts Payable: Christina Caporuscio ~[c.caporuscio@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto: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 Residents and Valued Business Partners:

It has been some time since this office has contacted you. I believe the last correspondence sent was June 2020. It seems like 2020 and 2021 were eons ago and somewhat of a blur. These were years like no other.

Just a few of these events (and results) that stand out to me personally are:

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** (1.6 million deaths, lock downs, product shortages, mask mandates, closed schools & workplaces, public & private gatherings canceled, largest ever stock market crash - March 9, 2020, highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression, etc.)
- **Racial/Social Justice Movements:** (the death of George Floyd, mass protests and BLM/Antifa destructive riots, anti-law enforcement sentiment, calls to defund police departments, etc.)
- **Presidential Impeachment Hearings:** impeachment, acquittal and "quid pro quo."
- **Death of SCOTUS Justice Ginsberg:** which resulted in the appointment of Justice Amy C. Barrett as her replacement.
- **2020 Presidential Election:** (most divisive & contested election in American history, protests, riots and confrontations and protests between right-wing and left-wing political groups.)
- **The Capitol Hill Protests:** by right-wing activists who protested and called for the reversal of the 2020 Presidential election results.

Amid the massive losses inflicted by the global pandemic, the bitter political divisions and racial unrest that exploded into violence, all of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights departments remained on task and continued to provide the service and safety that the residents and businesses deserve.

It is my hope that this country and citizens will eventually find that middle ground, heal wounds and become stronger than ever.

Please know that until then, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department will always be at the ready to provide a safe place to visit, learn, work and live.

STAY SAFE!

Respectfully,

*Chief Sturgill*

Brian D. Sturgill

# *From the Police Department (continued)*

## Winter Travel Suggestions

- Check the weather, road and traffic conditions. Leave early if necessary. Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go (even if you use a GPS system). Let others know your route and expected arrival time.
- Keep gas tank close to full. If you get stuck in traffic or snow, you might need more fuel to get home or keep warm.
- Cell phone with charger, jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices such as flares/markers.
- Stock, blankets, water, food and any necessary medications (for longer trips).
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning - nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight (8) to ten (10) seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed to stop.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. It is more difficult to start from a dead stop than while rolling slowly.
- Don't power up hills. Accelerating on snow-covered roads makes your wheels spin. If possible, safely get a "running-go" before you reach the bottom of a hill and inertia will help get you to the top.
- Avoid stopping while going up a hill. There's nothing more difficult than trying to get moving up a hill on a slick road and you may become stuck. If safe, keep moving up.



Stay home. *If you don't have somewhere you have to be, enjoy the snow from home.*

## *From the Police Department (continued)*

### **Snow Emergency Parking Ban -Codified Ordinance #452.13**

Please remember that whenever the snow exceeds two (2) inches, **the snow emergency & parking ban will be placed into effect**. Village Codified Ordinance #452.13 states, *"During the period of the emergency, the parking of all vehicles upon any or all of the streets of the village shall be prohibited."*



To assist us, we ask that you refrain from parking on the streets if the weather forecast predicts snow that will accumulate two (2) inches or more. We also ask that residents advise guests and visitors that may arrive or be present during any active ban.

The CHPD will attempt to notify all residents when a snow emergency parking ban has been placed in effect. Once the snow ban is in effect, CHPD officers will also attempt to notify the owners of any vehicles found still on the streets. **Please note that as a last resort, vehicles may be cited and/or towed.**





# *From the Building Department*

*Happy New year to all—hope everyone had a great holiday season!*

Just a couple of notes from the Building Department. We have one year remaining on the George M. Suhy Grant Program, the five-year program started in 2018 and expires December 31, 2022, so if you have a home improvement project, be sure to take advantage of this great program. Property owners did a great job utilizing the grant program in 2021.

Also, the Building Department will be performing property exterior inspections this spring. All inspections will be done from the right of way. Every homeowner will get an inspection report mailed out to them.

## **Guidelines for using the George M. Suhy grant program:**

1. Submit a building permit application to the Building Department.
2. Schedule an appointment with the Building Department for a pre-inspection and to receive *Part One* of the grant program application, return permit application and *Part One* of the grant application with proof of ownership of property (tax bill, mortgage receipt or copy of deed) to the Building Department.
3. The Building Department will determine the permit fee and notify you.
4. When using a contractor, the contractor must be registered with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights.
5. Once project has started, make sure all inspections are met.
6. When project is complete, notify the Building Department for a final inspection, at that time we will give you *Part Two* of the grant program application.
7. Return *Part Two* of the grant application to the Building Department with a final invoice and proof of payment.
8. The completed grant application will be submitted to the Finance Department for approval and final payment.

*\*If guidelines for the grant program are not followed, your grant may be declined.*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

All floor levels of a home, including all bedrooms, must have a smoke detector.  
(R314.3.1 Location) International Residential Code



## *From the Fire Department*

We hope everyone had a healthy and happy holiday season. Our department rung in the season and celebrated with several of our retirees. It was great to come together and reminisce with so many, including Assistant Chief Marty Malek, Lt. Dennis Suhy, FF Randy Eliason, FF Rick Bacci, and FF Mike Chase.



Santa visited our families at the station's annual Christmas party. Each year, Local 702 and the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department join to host this special gathering.



## *From the Fire Department (continued)*

This winter we visited the middle school for their Safety Day and spoke to the seventh and eighth graders about fire safety and fire extinguisher use, Stroke 101 which included education on stroke signs, symptoms and awareness, and Stop the Bleed which included first aid for trauma and tourniquet use. The students also got hands on experience in all these incidents.





# From the Village Hall

## Health Watch Program

Cuyahoga Heights sponsors a Health Watch Program through the Fire Department for senior citizens who are 60 years of age or older. The program co-pays for an alarm that is worn around the neck of the resident to activate in case of an emergency.

## Parks and Playgrounds

The village owns, operates, and maintains Bacci Park with a pond for fishing in the summer and ice-skating in the winter. Bacci Park also has its own playground, two ball fields, three pavilions, and a soccer field. *\*Please note that fishing in the pond at Bacci Park is for residents only, and by permit which can be obtained from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.*



## 2022 Village Scholarship Program

The scholarship program assists village resident graduates. Recipients will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship in the form of a tuition reimbursement. In order to be eligible for the award the recipients must meet several requirements: (1) *be* a resident of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, (2) *be* a graduating high school senior in the spring or summer of 2022, (3) *be* enrolled either full-time or part-time at an accredited college, university, community college, vocational or technical school for the fall of 2022, (4) *complete* the fall 2022 school term with a grade point average sufficient to be in good standing with the academic institution, (5) *must* submit proof of grades to the CFO's office by March 1, 2023. Applications are available at the High School Guidance Office or at the village hall and must be submitted to the CFO at the village hall by May 1, 2022. Any questions please email [cfo@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:cfo@cuyahogaheights.com).

## Pest and Insect Control

Pest Control services are available by calling 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. The village also sprays the outside of your home in the spring to hinder any unwanted pests from entering into your home.





## *From the Village Hall (continued)*

### Notary Service

Several of our employees at the village hall are Notaries for the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County and would be happy to notarize items for village residents, free of charge during regular business hours.



### Seven Hills Recreation Center

Trying to get healthy for the New Year...join the Seven Hills Recreation Center. The village has continued their agreement with Seven Hills for our village residents to use their facility. Our village will pay 100% of the rate for bona-fide village residents that are 62-years of age and older, U.S. Veterans, and disabled residents. We will also pay 50% of the rate for all other bona-fide village residents desiring to secure a membership as outlined in our price sheet. In order to purchase a membership, please contact the village hall during normal business hours. Each resident/family must show proof that he/she is a bona-fide resident of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. At that time, you will also need to pay your 50% of the membership (**cash or check only**) for those not covered under the 100% rate. A copy of the approved application, along with rules and regulations will then be given to the resident. It is then up to the resident to take the approved application to the Seven Hills Recreation Center so that you can receive your official pass. We hope our residents will take advantage of this special offer, as well as keeping fit.



### Transports

Just a friendly reminder that our transportation program continues to be one of the most utilized services our village provides. This service is available for our **senior citizens (60+)** who are otherwise unable to get to their doctor appointments. If any senior citizen has a doctor's visit and are in need of transportation, please contact the village hall during normal business hours one week prior to the scheduled doctor's visit



# *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 p.m. on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up.**

## **Charity Pick Up**

Our Service Department will pick up any small usable item at your residence that you would like to donate to charity on the first Wednesday of each month. Small household items, clothes, etc., are collected and donated. 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

### *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.



# Sports and Recreation Department

## Sports Registrations

With the new year upon us, please note the registration deadlines for the first two youth recreational sports in 2022, starting with the Spring Soccer. Registration forms for these activities (as well as all youth and adult sports and 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. In addition to the registration form, a Recreation Public Health Waiver must be completed for all participants. Forms received after the noted deadlines will incur a late registration fee of \$25.00, and while we do our best to place all children on teams, rosters do fill up quickly and late registrations can impact placement on a team.

### Sport

### Deadline

Spring Soccer

February 15, 2022

Youth Baseball & Softball

March 15, 2022

## Village Youth Bowling Trip

On Friday, February 11 the Cuyahoga Heights Schools will be closed for a teacher in service day. We will be taking the village youth on a trip to Seven Hills Lanes for a morning of bowling fun and lunch. Please see the insert with trip and registration details.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to send me an email at [chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com) or contact me at 216-641-3505.

Mindy Armbrust

*As of January 19, 2022, you can order free at-home COVID-19 tests online at [COVIDTests.gov](https://COVIDTests.gov). Four tests per family will be mailed to you.*

Contact Amanda to join our newsletter email list at [a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com)

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.