



Village of Cuyahoga Heights

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

August 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

- August 2 – Charity pick up**
- August 5 – Kennedy House open for visitors from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**
- August 8 – Special Election
Polls are open at the village hall from 6:30 am-7:30 pm**
- August 12 – End of the summer pool party**
- August 13 – Last day swimming pool is open**
- August 17 – First day of school for middle/high school students**
- August 18 – First day of school for elementary school students
Grades 1-5**

At the Village Hall

- Council Meetings
2nd Wednesday of the Month
Caucus 5:00 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Economic Development Committee /Public Works/ Finance Meeting
2nd Wednesday of the Month, if needed
- Zoning Board Meetings
3rd Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
- Work Sessions of Council
4th 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.
www.cuyahogaheights.com

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

From Mayor Bacci's Desk

I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday—as well as enjoying your summer. Before you know it, the kids will be back in school. Middle and high school student's first day is Thursday, August 17 and elementary students start on Friday, August 18! I'm looking forward to the end of the month when I take our seniors to Kelleys Island. In preparing for the trip, I am making sure to have rain ponchos for everyone because it always seems to rain! It doesn't matter though—because we still have fun!



Future I-77 & Grant Avenue Projects

We want to make sure that everyone is aware of these projects that will be taking place in the immediate future, and **I cannot stress enough on how these projects will impact our village and the traffic flow throughout!** We need to be prepared—so mark your calendars and pack a suitcase full of patience. As always, we will keep our residents and businesses informed with information when it becomes available, as well as sharing any links regarding the projects on our website.

Grant Avenue Resurfacing Project

We recently received a letter from the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works (CCDPW) that they have proposed a project to resurface the pavement on Grant Avenue from East 49th Street to East 71st Street. The project is scheduled to begin Spring 2024. In addition, for a period of time, traffic will be restricted to one direction with detours. CCDPW will notify the village prior to the start of construction and before any temporary alterations to traffic patterns are made.



Cuyahoga County Timeline

- Winter 2023 – Project out for bid
- Early 2024 – Award bid
- Spring 2024 – Construction starts
- November 2024 – Construction ends

I-77 Project

Recently, I along with other village staff members, as well as members from the City of Cleveland and Village of Newburgh Heights, had a virtual meeting with ODOT about their upcoming project which is slated for 2025. The project will replace the pavement and widen shoulders on I-77 from the Canal Road overpass to I-490 and will cost \$86 million. This is a 5-year project which includes the following improvements:

- Reconstructing the I-77 and ramp pavements, drainage system, lighting, and signing
- Widening the I-77 median shoulders
- Building retaining walls
- Replacing the right-of-way fencing along the entire corridor



From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

Demo of Houses

As you know, the village purchased the homes at 7133 and 7137 Marcelline Court. After the purchase, we were able to secure grants from the Cuyahoga County Land Bank in an effort to demo the homes. The abatement on both homes was completed and bids were taken. The next step is for the County to issue a Notice to Proceed to the winning bidder which gives the contractor six weeks to complete the work. We are hoping that the homes will be down early fall.

Recreation Department

On Saturday, July 8, Recreation Coordinator Vera Heinzman planned a trip to Progressive Field with a group of our residents to see the Cleveland Guardians defeat the Kansas City Royals (10-6). Even though it rained and there was a 2-hour delay, our residents still had fun and enjoyed themselves.



Cuyahoga Heights Minitails

A HUGE congratulations goes out to the 2023 Cuyahoga Heights Minitail Softball Team! They swept the competition to become the South Suburban League Minitail Champions with a record of 12-0-1!



Rain Barrels

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (CSWCD) held a rain barrel workshop last month at Klima Gardens for our residents. It went really well, and much to our surprise, 15 residents were in attendance and purchased 23 barrels. We're very happy that our residents took part in the workshop and we will coordinate with CSWCD to do it again next year. **Fun Fact:** Did you know that CSWCD has been hosting rain barrel events since 2008 and has now sold over 6,100 rain barrels! Using a rain barrel may save the average homeowner up to 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months. That's an average of 7,930,000 gallons of water saved during summer months in Cuyahoga County—if all those barrels are in operation.

Flu Shots

LAST CALL. Deadline to register is Thursday, August 31. In cooperation with Independence Discount Drug Mart, Nurse Socausky, and my office—we will again be offering flu shots to our village senior residents (60 years of age and older) on Friday, September 15 at Klima Gardens. So that we can safely manage the event, blood work appointments will begin at 8:30 a.m. in 10-minute increments; flu shots will begin at 9:00 a.m. in 3-minute increments. As a reminder, if you plan on getting blood work, **please do not eat or drink anything**, except water, after midnight the night before. Please contact Lee Ann at the village hall during normal business hours. **Flu shots and blood work will strictly be by appointment only.**



From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

Drug Mart will provide us with registration forms which we will drop off at your home prior to your appointment. You will need to fill it out and bring it with you on the day of your appointment. We will again be serving a warm breakfast for our senior citizens (packaged in individual containers)—so you can either eat it at Klima’s or take it home with you. If you are 65 years of age or older, please bring your Medicare Card as we will seek Medicare payment for qualifying seniors. Our village will pay for flu shots for our village senior residents and employees just like we’ve done in the past.

Special Election

On Tuesday, August 8 the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is holding a Special Election: Issue 1 — Proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution. The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the village hall in the civic room (lower level.) Please exercise your right to vote!

Best Wishes

Congratulations to Veronica Bacci and Zach Noernberg who recently tied the knot over the fourth of July holiday. Village residents and proud parents are Rick Bacci and Brandi & Scott Wadsworth.

Birthdays

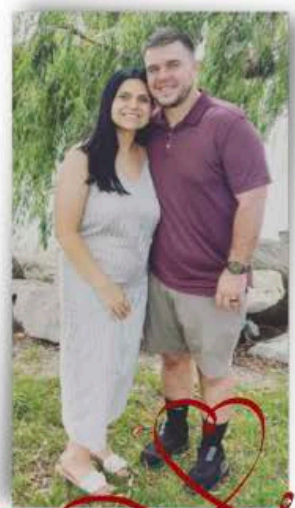
Milestone birthday wishes to Mrs. Mavis Snoddy who turns 90 on August 1. “You’ve gathered 90 years of amazing memories. I hope your birthday is a day full of new fun and surprises. Happy birthday and God Bless.” Pictured is Mrs. Snoddy at our 2013 Memorial Day service and parade.

August birthday wishes to employees: (4) Brian Baciak, (11) Ted Mackiewicz, (16) Keith Meriwether, (18) Richard Sweeney, (20) Matt Kontura, and (21) Daniel Baucio

Condolences

Village resident, Mike Krusinski suddenly passed away on July 11; he was 62 years old. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. We found a picture of Mike from our 2011 senior trip to Kelleys Island; he is seated next to his mother, Mrs. Helen Krusinski who passed away last year.

YOUR VOTE HAS POWER



“
If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and
silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.
—President George Washington”

From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

- Building a pedestrian underpass and extending Morgana Run Trail under I-77
- Building the Slavic Village Downtown Connector Trail from East 48th Street to Pershing Avenue

ODOT Timeline

- August 24, 2023 – 30-day comments period ends
- September 2023 – Respond to public comments
- October 2023 – Property acquisition starts
- January 2024 – Approve environmental document
- July 2024 – Stage 3 plans submitted
- December 2024 – Property acquisition ends
- March 2025 – Project out for bid
- July 2025 – Construction starts
- June 2030 - Construction ends

NEORSD Tunnel Project

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is planning to start their Southerly Tunnel and Consolidation (SOTC) project in February 2024, and to be completed by February 2028. This project is a required component of NEORSD's federal consent decree to reduce combined sewer overflows of sewage and stormwater to the environment. The SOTC consists of a deep, 23-foot internal diameter tunnel along a three-mile alignment with four tunnel shafts and associated near-surface structures. The tunnel will be excavated with a tunnel boring machine northwards through Cuyahoga Heights, Newburgh Heights, and Cleveland. The main construction site will be located in an open lot located at 4700 East 49th Street which is across the street from the Sewer District's Environmental & Maintenance Services Center.

- **Noise:** There will be typical construction noise levels near the construction site.
- **Traffic Impacts:** On occasion, it may be necessary to block traffic, so that large equipment can be delivered to the construction site. This is to ensure the safety of residents.
- **Dust, Dirt, Mud and Debris:** There will be typical construction dust, dirt, mud, and debris near the construction site. The Sewer District's construction contractor will be required to sweep East 49th Street.
- **Extended Work Hours:** There may be periods of time when construction will be required beyond the typical 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. work hours. However, trucking to and from the site will be limited during the extended work hours.

Again, we will continue to keep our residents and businesses informed with information when it becomes available.



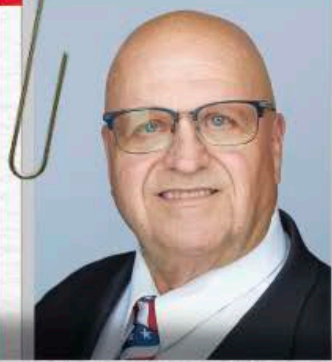
Council Member Spotlight

Councilman: Rick Centa

4795 East 71st Street Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125

Phone: (216) 406-7695

Email: r.centa@cuyahogaheights.com



My name is Rick Centa. I married my wife, Noel, in 1999 and were married in the gazebo by Mayor Lou Bacci. We have lived in Cuyahoga Heights for only 23 years and hopefully many more. I have loved this village and enjoy all of the people and activities this village offers. I love being a councilman for Cuyahoga Heights and love helping us grow and continue to be such a great community. I am a firm believer in paying forward by helping others and doing random acts of kindness every day.

Between Noel and I, we have 5 children:

Kristin (Husband Matt Dugas); Tiffany (graduate of Cuyahoga Heights in 2004); Tom (graduate of Cuyahoga Heights in 2006); Chris Wisniewski (wife Maria, daughter Lisa) and Candy Kapinski (Husband Kris).

We have 3 wonderful grandchildren:

Lisa (25), Matthew (20) a graduate of Cuyahoga Heights and Valedictorian in 2021 currently going to University of Cincinnati and Molly (10) going into the 5th grade at Cuyahoga Heights

Our dogs Charlie and Bella, both rescue dogs.



EDUCATION

- Shaw High School 1970
- Cleveland State Business 1975
- Real Estate School & obtained license

VOLUNTEER

- River Sweep
- All village functions
- Cuyahoga Heights School Liaison
- Cuyahoga Heights "Best" committee
- Corn Roast

HOBBIES

- Golf
- Bowling
- Wine Tasting
- Follow Browns, Guardians and Cavaliers

EMPLOYMENT

- Licensed Realtor 2003-Present
- Cuyahoga Heights Van/Bus driver - 7 years
- Table Games Supervisor for Horseshoe/Jack Casino - 2-1/2 years
- Owner/Manager Ptak's Bowling Lanes - 35 years
- Yard Supervisor - Bridge Terminal Transport - Warner Road - 5 years
- Maintenance and repair for Sisters of St. Joseph - Marguerite Apartments - 2019 to present

CHARITIES

- Allison Rose Foundation
- Toys for Tots
- Shop with a Cop
- St. Jude
- Lots of Cuyahoga Heights school fund raising

From the desk of your Chief Financial Officer

Angel Meriwether



Earlier this spring, Cuyahoga Heights Senior, Jacob Casey, spent a week shadowing CFO Angel Meriwether for his senior project. CFO Meriwether invited him to come back during the summer to intern in our finance department before he heads off to college.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



ABOUT ME:

Name: Jacob Casey

High School: Graduated from Cuyahoga Heights 2023

Eagle Scout from Troop 28

College: Cleveland State University, Finance Major

PROM 2023



MY PARENTS AND I
AT MY GRADUATION

MY FAMILY:

Parents Dawn and Shane Casey and sister, Riley. Family plans to go to all 50 states, been to over 30.



FOR FUN:

Hobbies: Fishing, video games, disc golf, cornhole, eating hot dogs.

Goals: Get my bachelors degree in finance and get a job in the field and have a family.

MY FAMILY PETS:



TILLMAN



TUXEDO

LOLA



A Message from Your Police Department

As many of you are now aware the village has replaced the old playground equipment at Bacci Park with a beautiful new structure for your child's enjoyment. However, just because something is "new", it does not mean that it is completely free of hazards. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency departments with injuries associated with playground equipment. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the risks on playgrounds and how you can prevent injuries.



Check Playgrounds for Hazards

Nearly 80% of playground injuries are caused by falls. Watch out for these potential hazards when taking kids to the playground, and report any hazards observed.

Improper ground surfaces:

Surfaces around playground equipment should have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials. Playgrounds should be free of exposed concrete footings, rocks or tree stumps.

Overcrowded play areas:

The area under and around play equipment should be a minimum of 6 feet in all directions while swing set areas should be twice the height of the suspending bar both in back and front of the swings.

Head entrapment spaces:

Openings between rails, bars, rungs and even ropes of cargo nets should be less than 3 1/2 inches or more than 9 inches.

Sharp points and edges:

Playground equipment should be free of protruding bolt ends, "S" hooks, and other sharp points and edges.

Avoid Strangulation Hazards

The American Academy of Pediatrics cautions that children should not wear or play with anything that could get caught on equipment and become a strangulation hazard.

- Never attach or allow children to attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines or pet leashes to play equipment
- Leave sweatshirts with drawstrings and necklaces at home
- Remove bike helmets when playing on the playground

A Message from Your Police Department



Be Cautious of Sun Exposure

The National Program for Playground Safety reports that only 3% of public playgrounds assessed had full sun protection from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., peak exposure hours, while 30% had partial shade. The remaining 67% of public playgrounds were exposed to full sun during the peak hours.

- Limit playtime at peak sun exposure time and familiarize yourself with the signs of heat related illness
- Avoid burns; if playground equipment is hot to the touch, it is too hot for your child's bare skin

Stinging Insects

- Check for nests in areas where children play. Nests can be found in old tree stumps, around rotting wood, under tables and in holes in the ground.
- Always wear shoes. Avoid wearing sandals or going barefoot.
- Avoid wearing bright colors and floral patterns. These can attract insects. Wear white, green, tan, and khaki. These colors are not as attractive to insects.
- When eating outdoors, avoid foods that attract insects. Some examples are tuna, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and watermelon. Sweetened drinks, frozen sweet treats, and ice cream also attract insects.
- Keep children away from garbage cans and dumpsters.
- If an insect is near, do not swat at it or run. These actions can trigger an attack. Walk slowly away from the area.
- A child who is allergic to insects should always wear a medical alert necklace or bracelet.





FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF MIKE SUHY



EXTREME HEAT

Extreme Heat often results in the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards. In most of the United States, extreme heat is defined as a long period (2 to 3 days) of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees. In extreme heat, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature. This can lead to death by overworking the human body. Remember that:

- Extreme heat can occur quickly and without warning.
- Older adults, children, and sick or overweight individuals are at greater risk from extreme heat.
- Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index.

IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING:

- Find air conditioning
- Avoid strenuous activities
- Watch for heat illness
- Wear light clothing
- Check on family members and neighbors
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke
- Never leave people or pets in a closed car

RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND

Know the signs of heat-related illness and the ways to respond to it:

HEAT CRAMPS

Signs: Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms, or legs.

Actions: Go to a cooler location. Remove excess clothing. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar.

Get medical help if cramps last more than an hour.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Signs: Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, or fainting

Actions: Go to an air-conditioned place and lie down. Loosen or remove clothing. Take a cool bath. Take sips of cool sports drinks with salt and sugar. *Get medical help if symptoms get worse or last more than an hour.*

HEAT STROKE

Signs: Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees) taken orally; red, hot, and dry skin with no sweat; rapid, strong pulse; dizziness; confusion; or unconsciousness.

Actions: *Call 911 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Cool down with whatever methods are available until medical help arrives.*

From your Service Department

Garbage Pick Up – Recycling – Yard Waste

Our service department collects garbage every Monday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. at no charge to its residents. They 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 – Now Online!

If you need a special pick up for trash that is oversized, large amounts, or hazardous waste, you can now go online 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 submit your information by 4:00 p.m. on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up. Please visit www.cuyahogaheights.com at the top select 'Online Services' & select the red 'Special Pick Up' tab. Please fill out your name, address, and all information regarding items you would like to be picked up and where they are located. You will then get an email response when the request has been successfully submitted. **If you have any questions, please contact Vera at 216-641-3505.**

Charity Pick Up – Now Online!

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. Please visit www.cuyahogaheights.com at the top select 'Online Services' & select the red 'Charity Pick Up' tab. Please fill out your name, address, and all information regarding items you would like to donate and where items are located. This must be submitted prior to the first Wednesday of the month for this service. You will then get an email response when the request has been successfully submitted. If you have any questions, please contact Vera at 216-641-3505.

Newspaper/Cardboard Recycling

Do your part in helping the environment; recycle cardboard and newspaper. Our village has a recycling container located at Bacci Park in the rear of the back parking lot. The container is strictly for cardboard and newspaper. Please make sure to break down your cardboard boxes before placing them in the container. 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 service department during normal business hours prior to Tuesday mornings; we will put it on our "special pick up" list.

Table & Chair Rental

A limited number of tables and chairs are available for use by residents having parties at their residence, free of charge. Please contact the service department at 216-641-3505 to reserve your tables and chairs and to arrange a time when you can pick them up.



From your Service Department (continued)

Dumpsters - Now Online!

Residents may rent a village dumpster for personal use at their home by paying \$30.00 to the village for each dumpster load. Dumpsters can be used for yard waste, construction debris or miscellaneous household items NOT including carpet, tires, or hazardous waste. Please do not mix materials. Contact the service director at 216-641-3505 for this service. Use of the dumpster is for a maximum of two (2) weeks. After two (2) weeks, the dumpster will be picked up from the resident's home. If the resident needs to use it again, he/she will go back on the waiting list. Please note that the disposal of debris created from outside the village is prohibited.



Pest and Insect Control

Pest control services are available by contacting our service department at 216-641-3505 with your name, address, phone number, and the nature of your problem. We will then reach out to our pest control vendor. 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 your home.



Meals on Wheels (By Lori's Custom Catering) - Online Coming Soon!

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 (you 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 Vera Heinzman at the service department at 216-641-3505 or sd@cuyahogaheights.com.



Tree Trimming/Removal Service

The village will provide a professional tree trimmer to remove or trim a tree on a resident's property. Please note that tree trimming/removal is limited to two (2) trims per year and one (1) removal. If a crane is needed for tree removal, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for the service. In addition, if a stump needs ground, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for this service, whether the homeowner uses the tree company that the Village has a contract with or another tree company. Forms can be found on the Village website and once completed can be returned to SD@cuyahogaheights.com or dropped off at the Village Hall.



Grass Cutting

The village will cut the grass of each senior citizen's residence that is 60 years of age or older and that qualifies under the program. We must have a signed waiver on file to perform this service. Your form can be returned to the village hall. If you are unsure if you have a waiver on file, please contact the Service Department at 216-641-3505. Please remember remove dog droppings on routine basis.



FROM YOUR REC DEPT

Sports

The 2023 baseball, softball and t-ball seasons have come to an end. Thank you to all those who participated or stopped out to support the teams! A big THANK YOU to the concession stand staff for all of the delicious snacks and meals available to families on busy ball game nights! And thank you to the Cuyahoga Heights Service Department, especially Rick Henley and Cory Pucci, for working hard all summer to prepare the fields for play.

If you have registered for flag football, cheerleading or soccer, we are working with the neighboring communities and coaches will be in contact after placement is complete. Now you can register for youth sports online by visiting www.cuyahogaheights.com & selecting 'Online Services'. Under 'Recreation Department' you will find the registration forms for each sport. Select which sport you would like to register for and enter the information of the child you are registering. Once you have completely filled out the registration form, digitally sign and then click 'Submit' at the bottom of the page. There is no application fee, but there will be a late fee if you submit your registration after the dates below:

<u>Sport:</u>	<u>Deadline:</u>
Youth Basketball	October 1, 2023

Concession Stand/Food Trucks

The summer sports may be winding down, but the Bacci Park Concession Stand remains open. Hours are Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The last day the concession stand will be open will be Sunday, August 13th.

Swimming Pool

Summer is not over yet...there is still time to enjoy a beautiful day at the pool! We invite all pool pass holders to join us on Saturday, August 12th for an end of season pool party. Additional information will be posted at the pool and on social media in August. The last operating day for the 2023 pool season will be Sunday, August 13th.

Cedar Point 2023 Season Pass Reimbursement

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights will reimburse \$50 to any resident who purchases or has already purchased a Cedar Point Season Pass for the 2023 season. Residents must show a valid 2023 season pass or receipt of payment (with pass holder name listed) and proof of residency for reimbursement. Reimbursement will NOT be given for anyone not currently residing in Cuyahoga Heights. Please bring your valid 2023 season pass or receipt of payment (must show passholder name) and proof of residency to Village Hall for verification. Reimbursement will be issued within two weeks of submission acceptance. Reimbursement is \$50 regardless of pass type purchased. Contact at 216-641-2702 with any questions.

Youth Trips/Events

In the end of June, the Recreation Department went on a trip with village children to Urban Air Adventure Park where the kids enjoyed trampoline activities, rock climbing, rope swings, go-karting, and lunch! Fun was had by all. Have no fear, even as the kids prepare to return to school, we will be planning more fun events for throughout the remainder of the year!

Baby it's warm outside! On July 25th the village celebrated Christmas in July with an epic foam & bubble party! The event was put on for all village residents & pool pass holders from the neighboring communities. There was pizza, snow cones, Christmas music & crafts. Most importantly, a special guest made an appearance! Did you know that Santa Claus during the summertime wears Hawaiian style shirts and rides around in a golf cart?!

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to send me an email at chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com or contact me at 216-641-2702.

Vera Heinzman, Recreation Coordinator