

Village Of Cuyahoga Heights



March 2017

www.cuyahogaheights.com

Future Important Dates:

March 29 – Cooking Class at Village Hall, see enclosed flyer for details

Friday, March 31 – Pre-K registration
Call 216-429-5880 for appointment

Friday, April 14 - Village Hall/Service Department Closed, Easter Observance

Saturday, April 15 – Easter Egg Hunt at Klima Gardens

Monday, April 17 – Village Hall/Service Department Closed, Easter Observance

Friday, April 28 - Arbor Day celebration at 5:30 p.m. at Bacci Park

May 1 - Scholarship Applications Due

Sunday, May 21 – Memorial Day Trip to Calvary Cemetery



Meeting Reminders:

Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Work Sessions of Council

4th Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.
only in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Oct

Zoning Board Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Economic Development Committee

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.
Only in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Oct

Finance Committee

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
Only in Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May & Oct

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

Minutes of our Council Meetings are posted every month under the Government tab and under Village Council – Agenda/Minutes on our website at www.cuyahogaheights.com

Village Hall

Phone: 216-641-7020

Fax: 216-641-8485

Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ March 2017



From the Mayor:

I would like to convey our deepest sympathies to Ed Pritchard and his family for the loss of his mother. Margaret Pritchard passed away last month; she was 84 years old. Also, to the Suchocki family for the loss of their youngest sibling Marybeth, much too early. Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers.

Grants

The Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant Awards were announced earlier this month and our Village was awarded \$50,000 for acquisition and demolition of properties in the community. A total of 46 local communities applied for funding through the grant and only 22 were awarded funds. As always, our administration continues to leverage every dollar outside of our Village to lessen the cost of each project.

Events

We held our second Village event last weekend at Quicken Loans Arena and watched the Lake Erie Monsters beat the Texas Stars 6-3. The feedback I received from several residents was that the game was phenomenal and everyone had a great time. Pictured below are photos of the group that evening. Our Village Hall staff continues to plan additional bus trips and events for the year *stay tuned.*



We had 54 third graders from the elementary school take a field trip to our Village Hall this past Wednesday. The children are learning about local government, and what better way to learn than spend time with the Mayor and our department heads. The field trip also occurred during the tornado warning and drill, and the students received first-hand information from Dispatch Supervisor Barb Cash about safety during bad weather. The best part of the event is when the children asked questions – some of their questions were quite interesting.

We received notification from Canalway Partners that they will be holding their annual half marathon on Sunday, April 9 at the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation off East 49th Street beginning at 8:00 a.m. Just wanted everyone to know in case you saw a lot of activity at the park that morning. Running enthusiasts who would like to participate, you can sign up at www.towpathtrilogy.com.



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From the Mayor (*continued*):

Representatives from Heritage Home will be hosting an information session free for our residents on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of our Village Hall. Our community has numerous older homes that are worthy of preserving and improving, and in order to help homeowners do this, our administration has continued its participation in the Heritage Home Program. The services they offer are for homes over 50 years old. Additional information on the event is included with this newsletter.

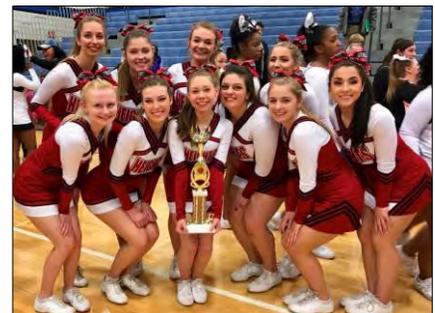
Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. It was originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska and proposed by J. Sterling Morton in 1872. Our Village will be celebrating this special day on Friday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Bacci Park and planting fourteen trees in honor of departed family members throughout the Village. I hope many of our residents will join us during the celebration.



Congratulations

Trey Combs placed third in the District Wrestling Tournament which qualified him to continue in the next round at the State Wrestling Tournament on March 9. This was Trey's third time that he competed at States. Even though he didn't place, we are all very proud of his outstanding performance as a wrestler. We're pretty excited to see what happens in the next chapter of this young man's life upon graduation in May. Great job and best of luck Trey!

Kudos to the CHHS Cheerleaders! The State Championship was held at Worthington Kilbourne High School in Columbus earlier this month, and our cheerleaders competed in their very first State Championship. Pictured right is the squad which includes Village resident Paige Meriwether. Nice job ladies!



Student and Village resident, Megan Vitanza recently participated in the HOSA Future Health Professionals Regional Competition representing her CVCC Health Careers Program and earning third place in her event, Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking. Megan advanced to the State Competition which will be held at the University of Toledo on April 19 and 20. On behalf of our community, we wish you the best of luck!

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From the Mayor *(continued)*:

Birthday wishes

Very special birthday wishes to Mrs. Bernice Suhy who will turn 92 years old on March 28! Happy birthday and God Bless to a very sweet and special lady!

March birthday wishes to employees: (1) Joe Wallace; (12) Angel Meriwether; (15) Jeremy Grabowski; (18) Jeff Baciak; (24) Cathy Zmija and (25) Barb Cash.



Thoughts and prayers

Please continue to keep several of our residents in your thoughts and prayers: Theresa Bentlejewski, Mrs. Ernestine Deliberato, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Mike Krusinski, Mrs. Helen Leciejewski, Mr. Curtis McLaughlin, Diane Nieves, Mrs. Donna Pellini, Mr. Micky Sajetowski, and Mrs. Patty Smosarski.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter ... share this time to reflect on life, love, family and all of your blessings.





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From the Clerk:

Our RITA revenue accounts for 90% of our total revenue for the year in the General Fund. This is the money we use to pay all of our general bills, salaries, and medical costs.

Over the last seven years, we have controlled our spending, while continuing to make our Village a better place to live. In 2016, we voted to increase our taxes from 2% to 2.5% in order to have enough money to invest in projects, replace outdated equipment, update our infrastructure, pay off our debt, and still have a healthy bank account to fall back on in case of emergencies.

We are financially solvent moving into 2017. At the beginning of this year, we had 1.2 million dollars in the bank after we paid all of our bills, and closed the year. We recently passed the budget for this year, and if our estimates are correct, we should end the year with approximately 1.0 to 1.1 million dollars in the bank after all our bills are paid.

Looking at the RITA revenue chart, we are still behind from last year's revenue for the first three months. This is because the tax increase did not go into effect until January 15th, and with the timing of the posting of taxes, we won't begin to see an increase in our revenue until April or May.

If we want to continue to be the best we must continue to invest in our Village. We cannot become complacent. If we do, the blight and crime is soon to follow. We can only become better if we have the resources to invest in updating our infrastructure, buildings, and parks. The increase in tax revenue this year will help us achieve this goal.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, my office is always open.

Month Distributed	2014	2015	2016	2017	Difference from 2016	% change from 2016
JANUARY	701,203.65	806,899.10	742,767.00	615,702.19	(127,064.81)	-17.11%
FEBRUARY	542,645.46	626,184.73	838,249.20	770,824.69	(67,424.51)	-8.04%
MARCH	929,321.38	838,149.44	1,156,108.74	834,117.05	(321,991.69)	-27.85%
APRIL	711,647.56	623,337.78	557,419.65	-		
MAY	617,963.16	783,999.52	707,171.63	-		
JUNE	643,339.71	578,703.87	706,933.54	-		
JULY	744,253.53	630,699.68	634,398.50	-		
AUGUST	616,110.30	851,514.14	634,653.04	-		
SEPTEMBER	607,652.11	422,410.26	593,840.10	-		
OCTOBER	676,923.26	772,784.21	671,155.91	-		
NOVEMBER	638,874.48	557,624.59	746,467.49	-		
DECEMBER	666,050.52	617,179.24	583,611.25	-		
TOTAL	8,095,985.12	8,109,486.56	8,572,776.05	2,220,643.93	(516,481.01)	-17.67%



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Police Department:



On Friday, March 10, 2017 the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department held a retirement luncheon for Lt. Michael Stack. At 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 2017 Mike called out of service for the final time with the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department after 34 years of service.



Mike was hired on February 14, 1983. Mike served under 5 different police chiefs and 4 different mayors during his time in the Police Department while holding the ranks of patrolman (11 years) and Lieutenant (23 years). Mike was a hostage negotiator with S.W.A.T., a trained accident reconstruction officer, an active member of PAPA (Polish American Police Association), and an active member in the F.O.P. (Fraternal Order of Police). He was an F.O.P. representative for the CHPD and was part of the first "Shop with a Cop" event in 1996. Mike also served as a contract negotiator on several collective bargaining contracts including the first one.

Mike's leadership and guidance will be missed by the community and department. We wish Mike the best as he plans to cruise around the country in his R.V. with his wife Sandy.



Fishing: As always, fishing in the front pond at Bacci Park will only be allowed during park hours and by permit obtained from the Village. Permits shall only be issued to Village residents holding a valid State of Ohio Fishing License (if required). The fee for the Village permit shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) and shall be valid for 2017. A permit can be obtained from Chief Sturgill's office at the Cuyahoga Heights Police Station (M-F 0800am -0400pm). No boats, kayaks, and/or canoes are permitted.

A complete list of rules for Bacci Park can be found in section 1076 of the village's codified ordinances.

432.205: DRIVING WHILE APPROACHING STATIONARY PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE WITH FLASHING LIGHTS.

The driver of a motor vehicle, upon approaching a stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with R.C. §§ 4923.04 and 4923.06, or a highway maintenance vehicle that is displaying the appropriate visual signals by means of flashing, oscillating, or rotating lights, as prescribed in R.C. § 4513.17, shall do either of the following:

- (1) If the driver of the motor vehicle is traveling on a highway that consists of at least two lanes that carry traffic in the same direction of travel as that of the driver's motor vehicle, the driver shall proceed with due caution and, if possible and with due regard to the road, weather, and traffic conditions, shall change lanes into a lane this is not adjacent to that of the stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with R.C. §§ 4923.04 and 4923.06, or a highway maintenance vehicle.
- (2) If the driver is not traveling on a highway of a type described in division (a)(1) of this section, or if the driver is traveling on a highway of that type but it is not possible to change lanes or if to do so would be unsafe, the driver shall proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle, and maintain a safe speed for the road, weather, and traffic conditions.



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Police Department *(continued)*:

April 3 - 7, 2017 is National Work Zone Awareness Week

In order to minimize the risk of traffic accidents, motorists should consider the following safety tips when driving through road construction zones:

- Slow down when approaching the road construction work zone.
- Follow posted speed limits. In some situations, you may need to drive slower than the work zone speed limit if weather conditions and traffic patterns dictate. It is important to follow posted work zone speed limits even if there are no construction workers as most construction zone fatalities and injuries involve drivers and/or passengers.
- Allow plenty of room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. You should also keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- Don't pass on the median. Doing so can put construction workers and other motorists in danger, and result in a hefty fine.
- Avoid cell phone use and other forms of distracted driving. Texting and driving under any circumstances is incredibly dangerous. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), five seconds is the average time that a driver takes his or her eyes are off the road while texting, which is enough time to cover the length of a football field when traveling at 55mph. Even the simple act of reaching for the phone can be dangerous. In fact, the NHTSA says that reaching for a phone, dialing, texting and other uses of portable devices increases the risk of getting into a crash by three times. The dangers of distracted driving are exacerbated in construction zones due to the increased traffic, smaller lanes, and additional obstacles.
- Merge in a timely manner. Construction zones often involve lane closures and late lane merging can result in traffic accidents.
- Avoid unnecessary lane changes.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Ohio Revised Code: 4511.204

Village of Cuyahoga Heights Codified Ordinance: 432.45

If you're under age 18:

It is illegal to use any electronic wireless communications device while driving in Ohio.

This means:

- No texting
- No e-mailing
- No talking on your cell phone, Bluetooth, Bluetooth speakers, On-Star or any similar device
- No computers, laptops or tablets
- No playing video games
- No using your GPS (unless it's a voice-operated or hands-free device)
Even when you are sitting at a light or stuck in traffic

It's a Primary Offense: Law enforcement can stop you for any of the above reasons.

- *First violation:* \$150 fine, driver license suspended for 60 days
- *Second and/or subsequent violations:* \$300 fine, driver license suspended for one year

Exceptions: Pre-programmed GPS, vehicles in a stationary position and outside a lane of travel, emergency calls to law enforcement, hospital, fire department, etc.



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Police Department *(continued)*:

Adult drivers (18 years or older):

It is illegal to use a handheld electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read a text while driving in Ohio.

Minor misdemeanor, could face a fine of up to \$150

As always, please feel free to stop and talk to any officer, whether it's just to say hello or inform us of any problems or suspicious behavior. We may not know of all problems within our community. Let's be partners in keeping our community a safe place to live, work, and play.



FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 911. All other calls please use 216-883-6800

Dispatch:

Just a reminder to all of our residents, if you are going on vacation you can call dispatch at 883-6800 to put a special attention on your home. We are going to ask you when you will be leaving and when you will be coming home, if you have stopped your mail and paper, if you are going to leave any lights on in your home, if anyone will be stopping at your home during your absence and an emergency telephone number in case there is a problem. Dispatch will then forward that information to the Police Officers so they can check your residence throughout the day and night.



SWIFTRREACH NETWORKS

Residents:

We have sent out SwiftReach notifications over the last couple of weeks, if you did not receive one and would like to be in our system you can either use the SwiftReach portal on the Cuyahoga Heights Village Website on the Police page or contact Dispatch Supervisor Barb Cash at the Police Department directly at 216-883-6800. The SwiftReach system is used to notify our residents and businesses, by telephone, of any emergency situations that may occur in Cuyahoga Heights. The telephone numbers you supply the Police Department are kept strictly confidential and are not given out to the public.



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Fire Department:

The Village will be participating in a statewide tornado drill on **March 22 at 9:50 am**. We will be sounding our warning sirens throughout the Village. Below are some safety tips to follow shall we ever have a tornado in our area.

1,200 TORNADOES
HIT THE U.S. EACH YEAR

Make sure you **DUCK** during a tornado!

- D**own - Get down to the lowest level
- U**nder - Get under something
- C**over your head
- K**eep in the shelter until the storm has passed

On March 4th firefighter Pete Panizzutti and Lieutenant Steve Harris took part in the Fight for Air Climb to benefit the American Lung Association. Each firefighter climbed 42 floors (802 stairs) of Cleveland's Terminal Tower in full turnout gear and air tanks. Congratulations to both men for completing this fundraising event.



Memorial Day Trip to Calvary Cemetery

The Historical Committee will be visiting Calvary Cemetery on Sunday, May 21 in honor of Memorial Day (*weather permitting*). Hopefully the weather will be cooperative. Since most folks are busy on the holiday weekend we have chosen the week before to offer this annual opportunity to those who can't always get there or don't want to go alone. Anyone interested in joining can call or email Mark Chase to sign up at 216-409-1179 or jfkmarkchase@gmail.com.

Clinic:

The Village operates a well visit clinic with a registered nurse. Residents (60 years and older) are eligible for certain blood work at no charge once a year. The Clinic is located in the Village Hall and is open by appointment year-round. Please call JoAnn Socausky, R.N. at (216) 401-1039.





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Service Department:

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 on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up.** Your assistance is appreciated.

Senior Grass Cutting

"Spring Time" is right around the corner and once again the Cuyahoga Heights Service Department will be cutting grass free of charge for our Senior Citizens and disabled persons who qualify according to the Ordinance:

- Registrant must be sixty (60) years of age or older and must reside alone or with a spouse of like age or older, or the registrant must be disabled and not have an able-bodied person living with him or her who is under sixty (60) years of age.
 - "Disabled" means physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, including, but not limited to, the functions of caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, breathing, learning, and working.
- The property registered must be a single-family dwelling, a two-family dwelling, or a multiple family dwelling **and the owner of the property must reside at the registered property.**
- Registrant must execute a consent and release, in a form approved by the Solicitor, granting permission to the Village to provide the grass cutting service and releasing the Village, its servants, agents and employees from any liability arising out of the cutting of grass on the registrant's property.

Please note that our Village is not responsible for grass length, the grass cutters are set at a standard height and will not be changed. **If you have a dog, please clean the area of dog waste so we can cut the yard properly.** **If you have already registered in the past, then you need not re-register.** We ask that applicants be patient with this service, as the program will start up at the end of April.

Hazardous Waste Round-Up

This is a year round program – please call the Village Hall if you have hazardous waste that needs to be picked up.

Pest Control Program

Pest control services are available to our residents free for the inside and outside of your home. However, this service does not cover termites and bed bugs.

If you are in need of pest control, please contact Rich or Jeremy Kozlovich of Pest Management Inc. If you are having a pest problem, please leave a message with your name, address and the nature of the problem with the Kozlovich's. You may reach them at (216) 661-3553, 1-800-794-2035, or Rich's cell phone (440) 343-1316.

Pet Waste

Please remember to pick up after your furry friends when walking them in the Village, especially on sidewalks and tree lawns.

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Sports Registrations:

Please note that there is a \$25 late fee for sports registrations that occur after the published deadline. The fee was established because late registrations create administrative and organizational difficulties when trying to plan leagues and schedules. In addition, late sign ups cause teams to grow beyond an appropriate size, which has an adverse effect on the ability of the participants to learn and develop. All registration dates are published in our newsletters, on our website, as well as promoted on our Village outdoor marquees.

Listed below are the dates of our annual deadlines for specific sports offered through our Sports Commissioner. Sports registration forms can be downloaded from www.cuyahogaheights.com under the "Sports Department" and are also available at the Village Hall. If you have any questions relative to our sports programs, please contact Sports Commissioner Stacey Vitanza at (440) 227-3801, or you can email her at stacey_vitanza@yahoo.com.

ACTIVITY

DEADLINE DATE

Youth Baseball & Softball	April 1
Adult Men's & Women's Softball	July 15
Cheerleading	August 1
Youth Flag Football	August 1
Fall Soccer	August 1
Youth Basketball	October 15

Sports Commissioner:

Spring is upon us and with that means the start of the sports seasons. With the help of Valley View and Brooklyn Heights, we were able to place 10 kids on spring soccer teams! A special thank you to both villages for working to find the right homes for our kids so that they can enjoy the upcoming season.

Just a quick reminder that softball/baseball registrations are due by April 1st. Late fees will be enforced, so please be sure to get your kids registered on time. Registering your kids on time helps to ensure that they are able to be placed on teams. The more time that passes, the more difficult it is because our kids are typically being added to existing rosters in Valley View and Brooklyn Heights. Since there are strict roster restrictions, the earlier we can supply those villages with information, the better chance we have of getting our kids on teams.

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out to me at Stacey_Vitanza@yahoo.com or on my cell phone at 440-227-3801.





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Building Department:

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS - REMINDER

Owners of rental property are required to submit an application form with an annual fee of \$50.00.

Application and fees are due prior to April 1, 2017. After April 1, 2017 there is a \$25.00 late fee. This may be accomplished by completing an Application for Rental Renewal Certification which is available online at www.cuyahogaheights.com, under Departments, then under Building Department. You may also pick up an application form at the Building Department at 4863 East 71st Street. Submit the completed application, along with a check in the amount of \$50.00 to the Building Department before April 1, 2017. This registration and fee is required annually.

If you have any questions, please call the Building Department at (216) 641-7020.



Easter Egg Hunt:

Our annual Easter egg hunt will take place on Saturday, April 15 at Klima Gardens - 1:00 p.m.; rain-or-shine! The egg hunt is open to all Cuyahoga Heights' children and grandchildren; 0-12 years of age.

Anyone wishing to donate Easter baskets, stuffed animals, toys, etc., for the egg hunt can do so by dropping off their item at the Village Hall during regular business hours prior to Tuesday, April 11. All items being raffled will benefit Cuyahoga Heights Boy Scout Troop 28. Several of the Boy Scouts will be on hand during the event selling raffle tickets.



"Hippity hoppin', Easter's on its way."

Pre-Kindergarten Registration/Screening

Registration for students enrolling in pre-kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year will take place on Friday, March 31. If you have a child, or know of a child in our school district that is eligible to attend next year, please call the elementary school office at 216-429-5880 to make an appointment for registration. Children who will be four years old on or before September 30, 2017, are eligible for the pre-kindergarten program.