



# Village of Cuyahoga Heights

August 2019

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

## Upcoming Dates and Reminders

September 2 - Labor Day  
*Village Hall/Service  
Department Closed*

September 3 - Rubbish  
Collection

September 4 - Special Pick  
Up

September 5 - Charity Pick  
Up

September 6 - Flu Shot  
Deadline

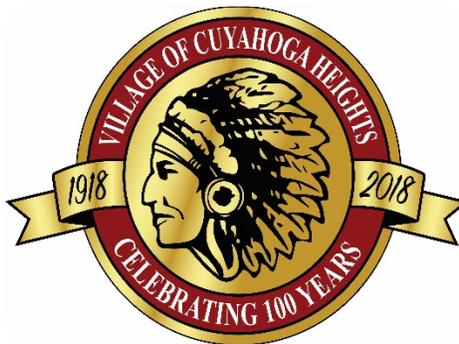
September 11 - Patriot Day

September 20 - Flu Shots for  
Seniors

October 1 - Basketball  
Registration  
Deadline

October 12 - Community  
Corn Roast

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 6pm, Meeting 7pm

### Economic Development Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
4:30pm

### Public Works Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
5pm

### Finance Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
5:30pm

### Zoning Board Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 6pm

### Work Sessions of Council

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
at 6pm (Only in January,  
February, March, April, May,  
Oct.)

**Village Hall office hours are  
Monday through Friday from  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm &  
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm**

## From the Mayor's Desk

School is back in session, summer is coming to an end, and our staff is gearing up for our annual corn roast which takes place Saturday, October 12. This has become such a successful community event, and everyone looks forward to it. Hope to see you there!

### Around Town

Thank you to Recreation Director Jason Deal and his staff for a job well done at the pool's annual Christmas in July party. Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up and took pictures with the kids. There were crafts, games, and food – a good time was had by all. Attached with this newsletter is an insert of pictures from the party.

I would like to also express my gratitude to Jason and his team for organizing, yet another POWWOW Youth Group outing. This time, they went to Sky Zone in Boston Heights and the kids had a blast! After the event and a good work out, they came back to Bacci Park to eat at the concession stand which is managed by Kelly Hartman and her staff who continue to do a great job serving our residents, businesses and neighbors visiting Bacci Park.

### Events

On Sunday, August 11 the village sponsored a trip to see *"The Lion King"* at Playhouse Square. What an amazing show and the performers were phenomenal. It was great to see our little ones so attentive and mesmerized during the show. Pictured are my girls with their Aunt Laura prior to the start of the show. Thank you to my office staff for coordinating this event. Next month, the village is sponsoring a trip to see the Cleveland Indians. Go Tribe!

Literally, thousands of guests show up every year to learn more about where their water goes and what they can do to keep our Great Lake great. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's southerly facility will be holding their annual open house and Clean Water Fest on **Saturday, September 21** from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Guests can visit more than 60 exhibitor booths, meet NEORS D employees and local partners, tour their award-winning wastewater treatment plant and lab, sit in NEORS D trucks and operate equipment, see live entertainment and much, much more. This year's theme celebrates not only our lake's greatness, but the rebirth of our once-burning Cuyahoga River as well. I hope that many of our residents will attend the event.



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

Don't forget that the General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 5. The polls will be open at the village hall in the basement level from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. If you are a new resident and haven't yet changed your address with the Board of Elections, forms are available at the village hall during normal business hours. In addition, we also have "Vote by Mail" ballot applications. If you have any questions as it relates to voting, please don't hesitate to contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at (216) 443-8683.

Once again, we will be starting the West Side Market trips on the first Saturday of the month beginning with Saturday, November 2. The bus will pick up residents at their home beginning at 7:00 a.m., and shoppers will have a couple of hours to enjoy the market. The bus will depart back to the village at 9:45 a.m. Further information will be forthcoming.

### **Senior Citizens**

***Last call!*** In cooperation with Independence Discount Drug Mart and my office, we again will be offering flu shots to our village senior residents (60 years of age and older.) If you are 65 years of age or older, please bring your Medicare Card as we will seek Medicare payment for qualifying seniors. Just like we have done in the past, our village will pay for flu shots for our village senior residents and employees. In addition, we will offer flu shots to our village residents who are under 60 years of age; however, those individuals are required to pay for their flu shot at a cost of \$28.00; payment of "exact" cash or check is due the day of the shot.

Flu shots will be administered on Friday, September 20 in the village hall auditorium between the hours of 9:00-10:00 a.m. As in past practice, flu shots will be offered by reservation only. Please call Lee Ann at the village hall at 641-7020, Monday through Friday during normal business hours to make your reservation. Also, please advise her if you need a ride to and from the event. Deadline to register is Friday, September 6.

Our well visit clinic will also be open that morning for our senior citizens beginning at 8:30 a.m. with our Village Nurse, Joanne Socausky - no reservation is required. If you plan on getting blood work, please do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before. We will have a light breakfast, as well as refreshments for our senior resident participants.



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

### **Congratulations**

We recently learned that our playground instructor and village resident, Paige Meriwether had been named to the College of Science and Mathematics Dean List for the spring 2019 term with honors at Wright State University. The dean's list represents a long-standing academic tradition, honoring the best college students across the nation. Congratulations and continued success as you move through the rest of your undergraduate education and beyond.



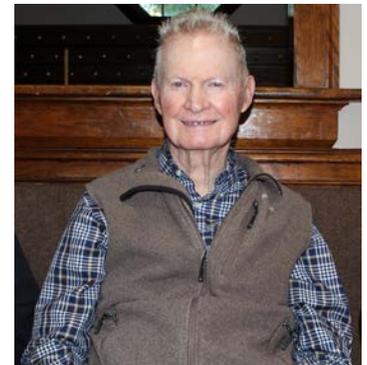
### **Birthday wishes**

We had two milestone birthdays in town this month and I wanted to wish both residents a very happy and healthy birthday.



On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Rich Wallace turned 80. Pictured is Mr. Wallace from our flu shot event that was held at the village hall last September.

Mr. Howard Combs turned 80 on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Pictured are Mr. & Mrs. Combs during our Swimming Pool's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration back in July 2007.



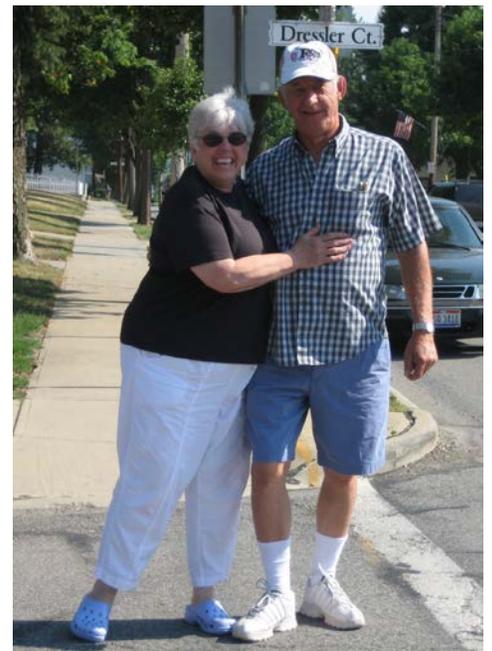
August birthday wishes to employees: (4) Randy Eliason & Brian Baciak, (11) Ted Mackiewicz, (15) Jamie Lukas, (16) Wes Unger, (21) Dan Bauccho, and (30) Craig Morrow.

### **Thoughts and prayers**

Please continue to keep several of our residents in your thoughts and prayers: Mrs. Lori Borowy, Mrs. Helen Krusinski and Joe Vitanza.

### **Condolences**

Please keep Diane Simmons, one of our service department employees, and her family in your thoughts and prayers. She recently lost her son, Shaun; he was 34 years old.



Wishing everyone a very safe and happy Labor Day holiday.

*"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."*

*~ Harry S. Truman*



# From the Police Department

*From the desk of Chief Sturgill...*



## Back to School Safety Checklist

As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, family life can get pretty hectic. It's important to remember - and share with your children - some key tips that will help keep them safe and healthy throughout the school year.

### Getting to School

Whether children walk or take the bus to school, it is vitally important that they - and the motorists around them - take proper safety precautions.



### Walkers »

- Walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- Never dart out in front of a parked car
- Parents: Practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets at crosswalks when available
- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone
- Do not walk while using headphones

### Drivers, Share the Road »

- Don't block crosswalks
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and take extra care in school zones
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus



Respectfully,

*Chief Sturgill*

# From the Chief Financial Officer

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE-PLEASE READ\*\***

## Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) Individual Income Tax Returns

Dear Residents,

At the end of July RITA mailed out approximately 198 non-filer letters to residential taxpayers that neglected to file a municipal income tax return for our Village. This notice will state what tax years the residents failed to file and provide instructions for filing or optional check boxes for reasons they didn't file (examples: I didn't live in Cuyahoga Hts., I was under 18, I filed a joint return with my spouse).

The Village worked with RITA to waive late fees and penalties from late filers if they are compliant and paid in full as of 12/31/19. The third quarter (September) billings will reflect the waived fees. If anyone receives a bill this quarter the fees will still be showing, however if they call to pay the tax balance the person on the phone will waive the fees due and only accept payments for the actual tax balance due to the village.



### Contact Information for the Finance Department

p: 216-641-7020 f: 216-641-8485

Chief Fiscal Officer: Angel Meriwether -a.meriwether@cuyahogaheights.com

Payroll: Amanda Domzalski -a.domzalski@cuyahogaheights.com

Accounts Payable: Christina Caporuscio -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

## Garfield Heights Municipal Court

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court is extending its Fresh Start program another three months to help people clear their outstanding court cases and get back their driver's licenses. This is for people who have not appeared in court and warrants were issued for their arrest and their licenses were suspended.

Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah Nicastro said many people have already taken advantage of the Fresh Start program that began in February. "More than 200 people have cleared up warrants. They've set up a payment plan and got their driver's licenses back," she added.

The process begins with the person paying \$200 to the Clerk of Courts. The person gets an immediate release for their driver's license and a court date is scheduled to set up a payment plan for any balance due. "If the offender has multiple cases, the release is issued for all cases with the payment of \$200 being applied to the oldest case first," Judge Nicastro said.

If the person sticks to the payment plan, they will be considered in compliance and their driver's license will remain valid. There are no additional court proceedings. "Fresh Start has been working well, but we know this program can help many more people and now is the time to do it," Judge Nicastro added.

Because of its success, the program is being expanded to all cases where the person did not appear for sentencing. The person can pay the \$200 which will be held as a bond and the person will be given a sentencing date. But they will receive an immediate release of their driver's licenses.

The extended Fresh Start program runs until October 31st. It pertains to both outstanding criminal and traffic cases in the eight communities served by The Garfield Heights Municipal Court: Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

# From the Fire Department

As summer draws to a close, back-to-school season is in full effect. Remember to safely share the roads with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists, and provide children with the necessary knowledge to stay safe at school.

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they - and the motorists around them - take proper safety precautions.



## Traveling to and from School:

### Walking to School

- Parents should walk or bike the route prior to school starting and look for any possible hazards the child may encounter and identify a safe place to go if the child needs help.
- Stop, look and listen before crossing the street. Always cross at the crosswalk and obey traffic signals.
- Walk or bike with a friend. It is safer and more fun with a buddy.
- Go directly to school and directly home afterward.
- Do not play in vacant fields or lots.
- Stay on the sidewalk or bike path and do not take short cuts.
- If someone approaches you or makes you feel uncomfortable, don't talk to them and keep walking or riding.
- If a vehicle is following you, turn around and go the other direction.
- Don't put your name on clothing, backpacks, books or lunch boxes that are visible to others.
- If approached by a dog, do not run. Do not touch the dog. Stand still and tell the dog to go home. If the dog will not leave, slowly back away from the dog putting distance between him and you; then continue walking.

### Biking to School

- Bright colored clothing will make you more visible to drivers.
- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Backpacks should be tight on the upper back and not dragging on the rear tire.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Ride on the right, going the same direction as traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.

# From the Fire Department (cont'd)



## Bus Stops

- Know your bus number.
- Stay in a group while waiting for the bus.
- Do not play in the street. Stay on the sidewalk or grass.
- Wait for the bus to completely stop before approaching it.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to get on the bus. Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.
- Stay seated while on the bus and keep hands and head inside the windows.
- If someone offers you a ride, say NO.
- A parent could be at the bus stop before and after school for extra safety.

## For Parents Vehicle Traffic

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
  - Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving
  - Give children right-of-way in crosswalks and school zones.
  - Avoid backing your vehicle at schools.
  - Children should exit to the right side of the vehicle.
  - Do not leave until your child is completely on school property.

## Reminder for your kids:

- They should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them



# *From the Building Department*

## Guidelines for George M. Suhy Grant

1. In order to qualify for the George M. Suhy Grant Program, please view Chapter 1495 (George M. Suhy Grant Program) in our codified ordinances. You will be able to determine if your interior or exterior improvement qualifies for the grant program.
2. If your improvement qualifies for the grant program, you will need to fill out Part One of the George M. Suhy Grant Program prior to work being done and submit to the building department. Once the building department reviews your application (Part One) they will contact you to set up a pre-inspection of your interior or exterior improvement.
3. Once the building department performs the pre-inspection of your project, they will determine your permit fee. If the homeowner is using a contractor, they must be registered with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. Both of the above steps must be completed prior to work being started; a permit will then be issued. At this time, the building department will inform you what inspections will be needed.
4. When your improvement is complete, you will be required to come into the building department and receive Part Two of the George M. Suhy Grant Program. Part Two must be completed with all forms attached (contractor invoice and proof of ownership). Once the building department receives Part Two, they will set up a final inspection of your interior or exterior improvement. When final inspection is performed, all paperwork will be submitted to the finance department for approval disbursement of grant funds.
5. If the following guidelines are not met, your application for the George M. Suhy Grant Program may be declined.

**The above procedures are a bit different from past practices to obtain a grant. Please note that if the above procedures are not followed, your grant application could be rejected.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Building Department at (216) 641-7020 during normal business hours.



## *From the Village Hall*

Please remember when walking your pets, it is your responsibility to pick up after them. The Village Hall pavilion and playground areas are provided as a spot to take the children and maybe have an impromptu picnic. It's unpleasant to enjoy these activities when dog droppings are littering the area. We ask that you remember to keep the area clean for all to enjoy. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### Pest Control Program

Pest control services are available by calling Rich or 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. In addition, they will also spray the outside of your home in the spring to hinder any unwanted pests from entering your home.

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### General Election

Exercise your right to vote in the upcoming General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. The polls will be open at the Village Hall in the basement level from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. on November 5.

If you are a new resident and haven't yet changed your address with the Board of Elections, forms are available at the Village Hall during normal business hours. In addition, we also have "Vote by Mail" ballot applications.

### Voter Identification Requirements:

Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include:

- A current and valid photo identification card (e.g., driver's license or state ID)
- A military identification
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address.

**Note:** You cannot use as proof of identification a notice that the board of elections mailed to you or a passport.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Board of Elections at (216) 443-VOTE (8683).



# From the Service Department

## Meals on Wheels (meals now 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).



## Table & Chair Rental

This service is available to our residents, as long as you are able to pick up and drop off the tables and chairs at the service garage. The maximum number of tables and chairs you can rent are: (3) tables; (30) chairs. In addition, the tables and chairs must be used at the resident's home and are not to be taken out of the Village. Please contact the Service Department at (216) 641-3505 to make arrangements to reserve tables/chairs. Please leave a message on their answering machine if no one is able to take the call.

## 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 are available on our website and at the village hall during normal business hours.



## 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 Sports Commissioner

It never fails ... just as the kids get ready to head back to school, the temperatures begin to heat up. So, for the remaining two weekends of August, the pool will be staying open. Starting on August 24-25 and August 31-September 1 the pool will be running an abbreviated schedule from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. The official closing date is Sunday, September 1 at 6:00 pm so please come and join us before the remaining days of summer fade.

Falls sports registrations have been collected (thank you again) and submitted so for all the resident children anxiously awaiting to start cheerleading, soccer, or football, you should be hearing from the various coaches or moderators soon, if you haven't already.

Please note the upcoming registration deadlines for the remaining recreational sport for 2019.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Youth Basketball	October 1, 2019

Preparations are slowly beginning to come together for our annual Corn Roast on October 12, 2019. Please keep an eye out for future announcements regarding events, volunteer opportunities and sign-ups for the various team competitions.

As always, if you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to me at [chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com) or give me a call at 330.703.9175.

Jason Deal



## HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER:

Bi-level on Willowbrook Drive  
Three bedrooms  
Two and a half baths  
Huge kitchen  
Large living room  
Finished basement  
Den  
Three season room  
Fenced yard  
All appliances stay

\$189,900 Call (216) 406-7695 for more details  
or appointment for showing

CONTACT AMANDA AT  
[A.DOMZALSKI@CUYAHOGAHEIGHTS.COM](mailto:A.DOMZALSKI@CUYAHOGAHEIGHTS.COM) TO JOIN  
OUR NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST!

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.