



Village of Cuyahoga Heights

November 2019

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

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

November 28

Happy Thanksgiving
Village Hall/Service Dept.
Closed on Nov. 28 & Nov. 29

December 2

Christmas Stocking
Registration Deadline

December 15

Santa Claus is Coming to Town
from 11:00am-2:00pm

December 15

Holiday Food Drive at 11:00am
*Please leave your non-
perishable food items on your
front porch/steps

December 15 - Christmas
Lighting Contest at 5:00pm



At the Village Hall

Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month
Caucus 6pm, Meeting 7pm

Economic Development Committee

2nd Wednesday of the Month
4:30pm

Public Works Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the Month
5pm

Finance Committee Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the Month
5:30pm

Zoning Board Meetings

3rd Wednesday of the Month
at 6pm

Work Sessions of Council

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

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

Agenda/Minutes of our council meetings are posted every month under the government tab and under Village Council on our website. www.cuyahogaheights.com

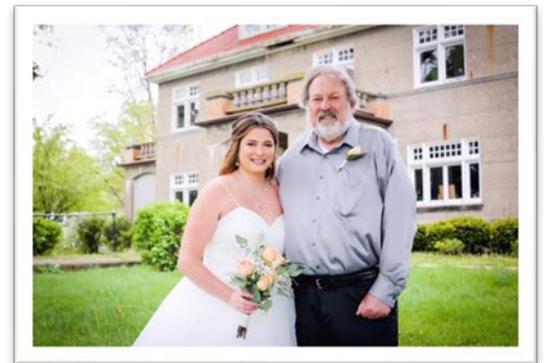
From the Mayor's Desk

As you may know, it is with great sadness that I inform our residents that we lost two, long-time members of our community. Don Duszynski suddenly passed away at his home on October 27th; he was 69 years old. "Dino" Don lived on Willowbrook Drive for over 56 years, and grew up with my oldest brother GiGi, later becoming close with brother Johnny. Because of these relationships, Don thought of me as the "kid" brother growing up, throughout my career as a police officer, and again as mayor, he was never lacking in letting me know what I was doing wrong. But if you knew him as I did...you could have some fun. Our talks were usually lengthy and full of criticism (of me and everyone else), but he'd always start out like a lion and end up like a lamb. The conversations always went from, again, what I was doing wrong, to our common interests such as boating, fishing and how much we both enjoyed the lake, cars, racing and the like...you know, guy stuff. But all that pales in comparison when it came to his baby girl, April. He was a tough guy, but nothing softened him up more than talking about April...what she was doing and how blessed he was to have had her grow into such a fine young lady.

We also lost Mrs. Lori Borowy on October 29th after battling ALS for some time; she was 77 years old. Growing up with her three sons Jeff, Brad, Bryon and being coached (baseball and softball) for a lifetime by her husband Tom is what growing up in Cuyahoga Heights, and small-town stories are made of. To all of us kids, she was a great mom with a very intimidating nickname. To Shireen and Alice (Tom's sisters) she was the best sister-in-law they could have ever asked for. And to many others, she was the best aunt, friend, classmate and co-worker as well. She loved the game of golf, those who shared time with her on the course, and as we all do, the 19th hole. But there's one thing that I know she was GREAT at, and that was being a grandmother... "Nanny B" is what her grandchildren called her, and it was proudly displayed on her SUV's license plate. Whether it be at our Memorial Day parade, the Easter egg hunt or any other gathering in/or about the villages, Nanny B had a smile, like no other, when her grandchildren were by her side.

Both Don and Mrs. Borowy will truly be missed, so please continue to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers, especially throughout the holiday season.

Also, keep our former Law Director Jon Greenberg in your thoughts and prayers as he recently lost his mother, and to village resident Nichole Tritsarolis who lost her father, Nicholas Albondante on October 30th.



April & Don Duszynski



Lori, Bryon & Kacy Borowy

From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

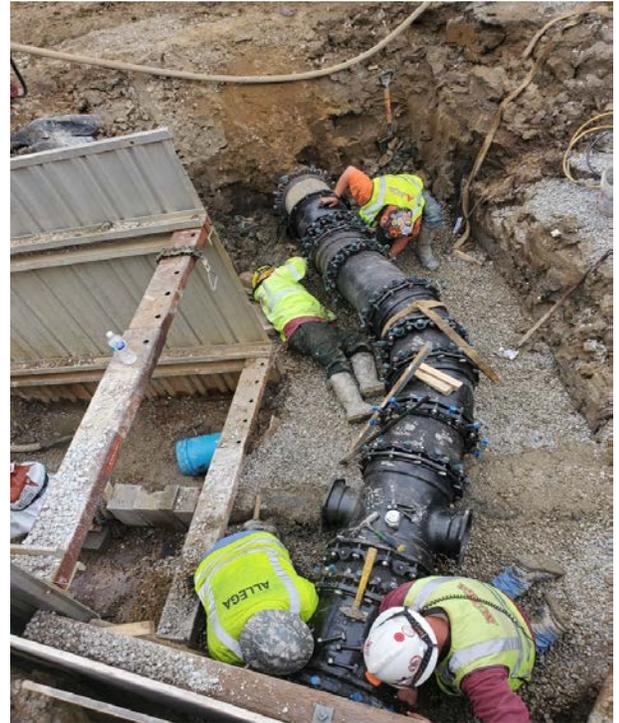
Canal Road Improvement Update

First off, in short, I want to thank all of you for your continued patience during this project, especially due to the setbacks that we have encountered with the watermain repairs and now ultimately its replacement. To that, while the project has been met with multiple challenges, the funding our village secured for portions of the improvements allowed us to incorporate long, overdue maintenance and capital improvements that would have been needed in the future.

The *Canal Road Reconstruction Project* from East 49th Street to East 71st Street had a long-standing slope stability issue, along with drainage problems associated to the existing slope that was adjacent to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. In addition, the current sidewalk terminated along East 49th Street at the top of the hill by Nook Industries. Finally, the guardrail that was painted green by previous administrations to soften the visual impact adjacent to the Cleveland Metroparks was in need of repair/replacement. With the assistance of project funding for the concrete replacement along this portion of the improvements, our village was able to allocate some of the money to incorporate these improvements into the project thus capturing a value by having a contractor mobilized and able to provide these upgrades in conjunction with the project improvements.

The balance of the concrete pavement is scheduled to be installed the week of Thanksgiving, with the sidewalk and guardrail improvements to follow afterwards, weather permitting. The project is scheduled to be temporarily stabilized this winter, and final seeding and restoration to be completed in the spring of 2020. While the contractor has taken longer than planned to install the concrete, our village will implement a **SALT BAN** on this area to allow the concrete to cure to maturity through the duration of the early part of 2020. We anticipate the pavement being reopened to two-way traffic early in 2020.

The *Canal Road Improvement Project* from East 71st Street to Granger Road was a pavement repair and resurfacing project with our community neighbors — the village of Valley View and the city of Garfield Heights. With the assistance of these neighboring communities and value engineering, our village was able to come up with an alternate plan to incorporate a full reconstruction of the pavement in our town including a conversion form,



From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

a composite pavement section including asphalt overlay and concrete base to a reconstruction including a full removal and replacement with similar pavement section matching the *Canal Road Reconstruction Project* of all concrete pavement. This was completed at a net zero add to our village and the final product will have a life cycle that exceeds the maintenance cycle for the pavement repair and resurfacing project.

Additionally, during construction, our village experienced multiple watermain issues at or near the East 71st Street and Canal Road intersection. This area had previously experienced a watermain break in December of 2018 that impacted the lower East 71st Street Corridor and global slope stability. With the large investment our village was pouring into the pavement after multiple valve and watermain breaks, we were able to work closely with the administrative staff at the Cleveland Water Department (CWD) to have the executives at CWD authorize the replacement of the 8" watermain at the intersection of East 71st Street and Canal Road and heading south along Canal Road to Mill Creek. The failing watermain would have been replaced in the future; however, the timing of the pavement being removed provided a cost savings opportunity to both the Cleveland Water Department and our village.

While the delay in the waterline repairs have impacted the completion of the concrete paving, the improvements being completed are at a zero cost to our village, while the Canal Road pavement was removed would have been a cost that more than doubled the repair in the future, if it needed to be replaced in conjunction with the concrete pavement removal and replacement.

We anticipate wrapping up the concrete over the newly repaired waterline by Christmas and hope to have the Canal Road intersection with East 71st back open to two-way traffic in early 2020. While the contractor has taken longer than planned to install the concrete due to the waterline replacement, our village will implement a **SALT BAN** on this area to allow the concrete to cure to maturity through the duration of the early part of 2020. We anticipate the pavement being reopened to two-way traffic early in 2020. Again, thank you for your patience.



From the Mayor's Desk (continued)

Events

Santa, Mrs. Claus and their helpers will be visiting resident children on Sunday, December 15th. Please make sure to fill out the attached registration form which is included with this newsletter; **deadline to register is December 2nd**. When Santa arrives at your home, bundle up and come outside to meet him in his sleigh so we can take a picture.

For the past eight years, our office has been assisting in a holiday gift/food drive that helps some of our folks here in town during Christmas. Anyone wishing to donate non-perishable food items can do so by leaving your items on your front steps/porch by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 15th; Santa's helpers will pick up the items. Please contact our office if you would like to donate to our cause.

Don't forget to turn your lights on the evening of Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas lighting contest. The judges will be going around town and awarding cash prizes to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place homes. Happy decorating!

Congratulations

Councilman Rick Centa was in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on October 28th for his daughter Kristin's destination wedding. She married Matt Dugas from Valley View. Best wishes to the happy couple.

United States Marine Corps Veteran Hunter Krenisky was sworn in as a full-time firefighter for the City of Middleburgh Heights. Tim and Cindy Krenisky, as well as Councilman Todd Bloam attended the ceremony this past Monday. Congratulations Hunter and stay safe!

Birthday Wishes

Happy 80th birthday to Mrs. Bea Duber, otherwise known as Aunt Bea, who turned 80 on November 3rd. Her family had a very special party for her at her home on November 1st with family and friends.

November birthday wishes to employees: (1) Pat Koran, Tom Nova; (8) Matt Lader; (10) Tom Kekelis; (27) Clerk Bob Unger, and (28) Mark Hine.

Thoughts and Prayers

Please continue to keep several residents in your thoughts and prayers: Mrs. Barbara Combs, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Marti Malek, John Traffis, Dennis Tritsarolis, and Joe Vitanza.

"Wishing you and those dear to you a wonderful Thanksgiving Day! May your heart be filled with gladness and your home be filled with joy!"



From the Chief Financial Officer

****REMINDER****

Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) Individual Income Tax Returns Tax years 2018 and Prior

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 Heights, 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 billings will reflect the waived fees.

Tax Filing for Year 2019

Given the rise in electronic filing and use of tax preparation software, beginning tax year 2020, RITA will no longer supply tax packets to the member municipalities, for tax year 2019, consider the following options available to taxpayers:

- Tax returns can be filed electronically on RITA's website at www.ritaohio.com.
- Tax forms can be printed or downloaded by visiting RITA's website at www.ritaohio.com.



If you need assistance, please stop by my office and I will be happy to print the forms for you.

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 (RITA) at 1-800-860-7482

Questions about your **Property Tax**? Contact Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office at 216-443-7010

From the Police Department

From the desk of Chief Sturgill...

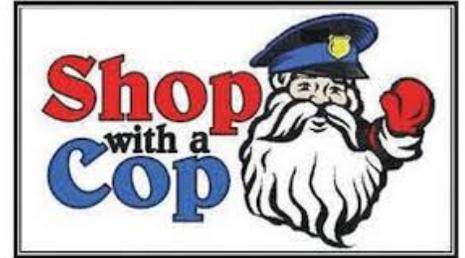
Season's Greetings! With the holiday season fast approaching, we need your help. Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department are selling raffle tickets and seeking monetary donations for the "Shop with a Cop" program. We are working in conjunction with the Fraternal Order of Police George Murray Lodge 67 to make this holiday season more joyous for those who may be in need.

The FOP George Murray Lodge 67 and CHPD have been participating in "Shop with a Cop" since 1996. The program is designed to pair up local officers and civilian volunteers with children who may need a little extra holiday cheer. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Donations are also accepted and greatly appreciated. All money raised goes directly to the children's shopping spree. This program is funded solely from the sale of raffle tickets and donations.

If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, please contact any Cuyahoga Heights Police Officer and they will be more than happy to help you out. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your check or stop by the police station no later than December 1, 2019. This way we have ample time to notify the children before the December 14th shopping day.

Please make checks out to FOP George Murray Lodge #67 and mail to:

CHPD - Shop with a Cop
5480 Grant Avenue
Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125



From the Police Department

Holiday Season ID Theft

The day after Thanksgiving ("Black Friday") is the official start of the holiday shopping season. Unfortunately, identity thieves start shopping, too, only they are shopping for ways to steal!

Please practice the following tips to help you avoid identity theft this holiday season.

At the mall:

- Only bring your driver's license and the credit card you intend to use. Leave other credit cards and forms of ID at home.
- Watch for "shoulder surfers". Thieves will try to obtain information by taking a picture of your credit card or writing down the information as you make your transaction. Cover your information from prying eyes.
- Only use ATM's in secure locations with video surveillance and always shield your PIN number from others

Online:

- Make sure the website URL begins with **https**. The "s" indicates that you are on a secure web site.
- Be cautious of e-mails about the status of package deliveries to your home. Never open attachments from unknown sources.
- Don't shop or conduct personal business on un-secure networks, such as coffee shops, stores, restaurants, or public facilities.
- Use only known and reputable on-line merchants.
- Be sure your passwords and PINs are strong, unique, and difficult to detect. Always combine upper and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols.

General Shopping Tips:

- Use credit cards instead of debit cards. Thieves can drain your bank account if they obtain your information. Also, credit cards typically allow for a longer period for reporting fraud.
- Look for signs of ID theft by reviewing accounts for inaccuracies, receiving cards you did not apply for, and for being denied credit when you have had good credit.
- If you call tech support, be certain you have reached the actual company. Identity thieves will use false support sites to obtain personal information.

Respectfully,

Chief Sturgill



From the Fire Department

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



From the Building Department

Winter weather brings with it challenges for homeowners, preparedness is key to staying safe and comfortable during the cold months. These are some of the areas that may require your attention:

- Battery operated smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector should be checked beginning of every month to ensure they are in full operation.
- Keep all firewood away from your house and stacked above ground level.
- Verify that tree limbs and shrubs do not touch side of dwelling.
- Review that all windows and exterior doors caulking is not split or deteriorated add caulking where required.
- Check weather-stripping at all exterior doors.
- Make sure that all gutters and downspouts are clean.

Prepare for Winter Storms

- Winter brings freezing rain, sleet, and blizzards. Get prepared ahead of time so that the next big storm doesn't leave you in trouble.
- If you have a generator, you want to make sure that it's working. Also, keep a stash of batteries for lanterns and flashlights in case of power outages and blackouts. Another good tip is to keep a solar-powered or battery-operated radio in your home. This means that if cellphone reception goes out, you can keep up to date with the news and weather.
- Check the condition of your snow shovels, gloves, and window scrapers. Store any heavy snow supplies near the door when you can get quick access to them.



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.

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.

From the Sports Commissioner

With November in full swing, our last fall sport, youth basketball, is officially underway. By this point all the parents of children participating should have been contacted by coaches regarding team placement and practice times. If for some reason you still have not heard from a coach yet, please let me know and I will be happy to assist in the process. And thank you to those parents who recently did reach out with questions ... I appreciate your patience and understanding with this process and look forward to a stellar hoops season for the kids in all three villages.



As 2019 comes to close, the first two sports registration deadlines for 2020 are now available.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring Soccer	February 15, 2020
Youth Baseball & Softball	March 15, 2020

Registration forms for these sports 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.

GOOD LUCK to the Redskins football team as they continue their quest through the OSHAA state football playoffs and a Division VII championship. **GO REDSKINS !!!**

And lastly, I would like to wish all of you and your families a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

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

Good

Luck

Redskins!

CONTACT AMANDA AT
A.DOMZALSKI@CUYAHOGAHEIGHTS.COM TO JOIN
OUR NEWSLETTER EMAIL LIST!

Don't forget to check out our web site at 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.