

# Village of Cuyahoga Heights December 2022

Continuing to move our legacy community forward...



# **Upcoming Dates and Reminders**

December 5 - Christmas Stocking Registration Deadline

December 18 - Holiday Food Drive

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

December 18 - Santa at Bacci Park

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\*Must be registered

#### December 18

Christmas Lighting Contest 5:00 p.m.

#### December 23

Village Hall/Service Dept. Closed

December 25 – Merry Christmas

#### December 26

Village Hall/Service Dept. Closed

#### December 27

**Rubbish Collection** 

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

# 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 Meeting**

Finance Committee Meeting
2nd Wednesday of the Month,
if needed

#### **Zoning Board Meetings**

3rd Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

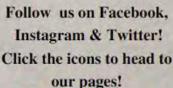
#### **Work Sessions of Council**

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









#### From Mayor Bacci's Desk

#### **Deepest Sympathies**

For those that didn't know, Rena Billi Doskey, a former village resident and employee passed away on October 31 at the age of 101. She was the last of the 13 graduates of the very first graduation class of Cuyahoga Heights. Rena was also the clerical backbone to the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department from 1973-1987. After retiring, she and her husband Don moved to Florida. Our condolences to village residents Cheryl Harris and John Traffis—Rena was their aunt. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

#### **Happy Retirement**

Last Tuesday about 50 residents gathered together for a small retirement party at the village hall for our mailman Bill Finkle, who retired from the US Postal Service on October 28 after 30 years of service. We have such a unique community—individuals who care about others, and you could see that by those that attended the party. Everyone had a wonderful time chatting it up with Bill and his wife Elizabeth. We sure are going to miss Bill…but very happy for him as he begins the next chapter in his life.

#### Congratulations

Village resident and CHHS sophomore Nick Armbrust who played cornerback and receiver for the Cuyahoga Heights High School football team this season had an outstanding game on November 4. During their playoff game against Youngstown Valley Christian, Nick had a team—high 10 tackles with an interception and forced fumble. Cuyahoga Heights won that game but unfortunately, they didn't make it to the Division VI football regional final, as they lost to Mogadore. Great job Nick, as well as to the rest of the team for an amazing season!

Village resident Kathy Unger recently became a great grandma! Her granddaughter Veronica recently gave birth to a baby girl, Callie Noemberg on November 16 and weighed in at 6-lbs., 3-oz. Congratulations also to Grampa Ricky Bacci, Gramma Brandi Wadsworth (Scott) and the rest of the family. Best wishes to Veronica and Zach.

#### Our Appreciation

I wanted to recognize and thank village resident Randy Wood. Randy is a painter by trade and works for Local 707 Painters and Allied Trades. He and his union helped out one of our residents by painting her home. The apprentices painted the home as a community service project and we can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication—the house looks great! If ever your looking for a painter, please contact Randy at (216) 570-5263 for a quote. Several other residents in town have hired Randy and were very pleased—he does inside and outside painting.











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

#### **Birthdays**

December birthday wishes to employees: (8) Jesse James, (15) Diane Simmons, (16) Damon Schreiber, (19) Michael Petti, (21) Asst. Fire Chief Howard Selig, and (30) Frank Trusso.

#### West Side Market

There has been some interest to start up the bus trips to the West Side Market on the first Saturday of each month. With that being said, we would like to begin with Saturday, December 3. The bus will pick up residents at their home beginning at 7:00 a.m. Shoppers will have a couple of hours to enjoy all the market has to offer. The bus will depart the market at 9:45 a.m. to bring you back to your residence. Residents must register by calling the Village Hall no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, the day before the trip. Please also note that children 15 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. If we have enough participants interested, we will schedule trips through May. Please note that we must have at least five residents to take advantage of this trip

#### **Keeping Fit**

If there are residents that normally do their exercises outside during the warmer months and now unable to do so because of the weather, you can use the basement in the village hall to do your exercises. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. You must be 18 years of age and older, as well as signing a waiver and release of liability form. Please note that you must contact the village hall at 216-641-7020 prior to using it to make sure it is not being used.

Also, please be advised that yoga will be back in person on Saturday mornings beginning January for our residents. Further information will be forthcoming.

#### Santa Claus is Coming to Cuyahoga Heights

Santa Claus will be visiting Bacci Park on Sunday, December 18 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This event is for our resident children and grandchildren between the ages of 0-12.

Once you arrive at Bacci Park, please park your vehicle at the parking lot across from the old salt bin, or by the lot next to the softball field. From there, walk on over to the boardwalk at the pond—and follow it to the pond pavilion where Santa's helpers will have hot cocoa and cookies for the kids while they wait to have their picture taken with Santa. We'll also have a nice fire going to keep you warm. If it's snowing, kids should bring their sleds, saucers, etc., so they can sled ride down the hill behind the pond pavilion after visiting Santa, or if the pond is frozen, kids can enjoy skating on the pond.



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

Dress appropriately for the weather. If it looks like there will be inclement weather that day (raining, wind, extreme cold temperatures) we will have an alternate plan and contact each participant.

Please note that you must sign up for this event by contacting our staff at the village hall during regular business hours at 216-641-7020, or you can email Lee Ann at l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com. We will need to know the name(s) of your children/grandchildren, their ages, your address, and most importantly your cell number.

Lastly, we were advised of some genuine, heartfelt concerns from one of our young, invested residents who had some thoughts and/or sadness about us not going back to our traditional events (i.e., Easter egg hunt, Halloween party, tree lighting ceremony, Santa going around town). So, if anyone else has any thoughts or concerns as well, please either call or email Recreation Coordinator Vera Heinzman so we can make any adjustments in 2023.

#### **Christmas Food Drive**

Our village once again will be assisting in a food drive that will help out some of our residents in town during the holiday. Please place your bag of non-perishable food items on your front doorstep by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 18. Several of our employees will pick up the bags from your doorstep before noon that day. As always, thank you in advance for those that donate—we truly appreciate your kindness and generosity during the Christmas season.

#### **Christmas Decorating Contest**

Don't forget to turn on your lights at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18 for our annual Christmas decorating contest. To participate, just turn your holiday lights on by 5:00 p.m. There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place homes. Happy decorating and good luck!

#### **Christmas Holiday Reminders**

The village hall and service department will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26. Please note that rubbish collection will take place on Tuesday, December 27 and special pick up on Wednesday, December 28.

Wishing you and yours a very happy and blessed Christmas.











#### Tips to Avoid Holiday Scams

Source: www.fbi.gov

When shopping online during the holiday season—or any time of year—always be wary of deals that seem too good to be true. Do your part to avoid becoming a scammer's next victim.

Practice good cybersecurity hygiene.

- Don't click any suspicious links or attachments in emails, on websites, or on social
  media. Phishing scams and similar crimes get you to click on links and give up personal
  information like your name, password, and bank account number. In some cases, you
  may unknowingly download malware to your device.
- Be especially wary if a company asks you to update your password or account information. Look up the company's phone number on your own and call the company.

#### Be careful how you pay.

- Never wire money directly to a seller.
- Avoid paying for items with pre-paid gift cards. In these scams, a seller will ask you to send them a gift card number and PIN. Instead of using that gift card for your payment, the scammer will steal the funds, and you'll never receive your item.
- Use a credit card when shopping online and check your statement regularly. If you see a suspicious transaction, contact your credit card company to dispute the charge.



Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

from the

Village Finance Department

Angel, Christina & Mindy

# A Message from Your Police Department

The CHPD would like to share the following information to help you and your family enjoy a safe Thanksgiving Holiday. Please take time to review and share.

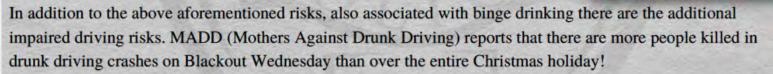
#### "BLACK-OUT WEDNESDAY"



It's called "Blackout Wednesday" but it is also sometimes referred to as "Drinks-giving". Unlike "Black Friday" or "Cyber Monday", Blackout Wednesday isn't a day for shopping. Blackout Wednesday falls on the day before Thanksgiving Thursday and is commonly associated with binge drinking. While Blackout Wednesday might be popular, this day of "celebration" can be more dangerous than fun. Mainly a popular trend among young adults or college age students, "Blackout Wednesday," highlights — and even encourages — the heavy consumption of alcohol.

"Blackout Wednesday" has become one of the most popular drinking days of the year, out-ranking Christmas, New Year's Eve, and St. Patrick's Day. Bars will often post drink specials and discounted prices for the holiday which encourages people to do more drinking. Also, for college students and young adults Thanksgiving is a low stress holiday during which many return home. They are able to use this holiday as a time to reconnect and catch-up with old friends and as we all know binge drinking is common within the college culture. This type of drinking brings with it numerous risks including:

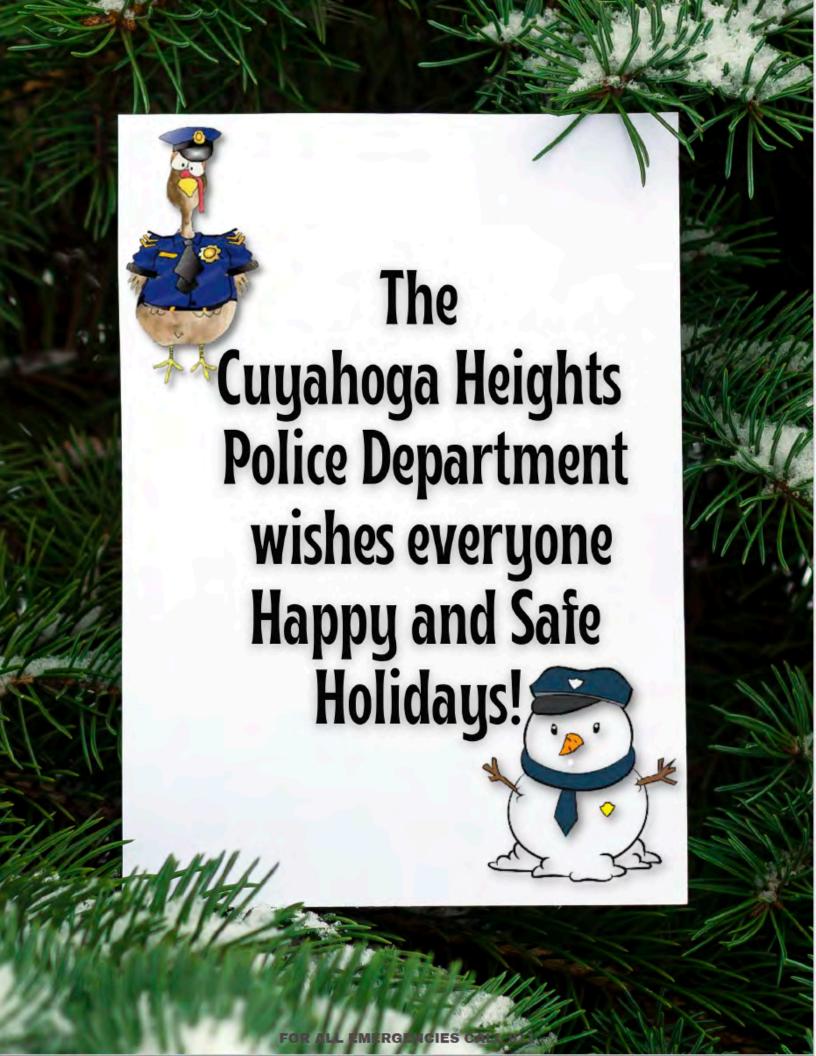
- · Alcohol poisoning
- · Unintentional and accidental physical injuries
- · Violence from fights, abuse or homicide
- · Sexual assault
- · Risky sexual behavior



#### Please remember...

- · That it is never okay to drink and drive!
- · Always have a plan before celebrating and share that plan with others
- · Pre-program important numbers into your cell phone and allow for locating apps
- · Never accept an unopened drink from a stranger or leave a drink unattended
- Always eat before and during celebrations (food slows effects of alcohol)
- Always designate a sober driver or plan to use a ride service (Uber, Lyft, taxi) to get home safely
- Celebrate in groups and do not walk home alone (especially after drinking)
- And...EN.JOY!!!!



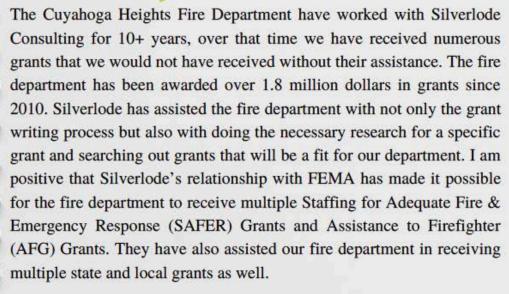


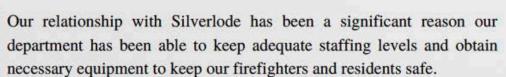


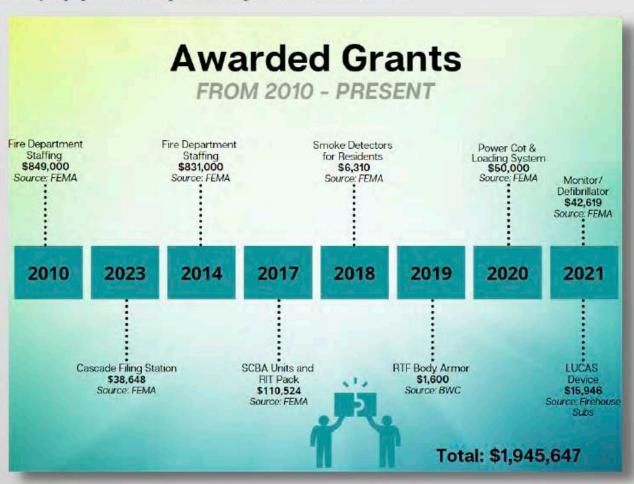
# FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF

#### MIKE SUHY













# FIRE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Michael Petti, Part-time Firefighter/Paramedic

- Hired in 2016
- Lieutenant for Warrensville Heights & Willowick
   Fire Department
- Associates degree in Fire Science
- Blue Card certified
- Fire Inspector
- Two sons, Logan & Tyler



What Michael enjoys about working for CHFD: "is serving a tight knit community like Cuyahoga Heights."



Sean Coubrough,
Part-time Firefighter/Paramedic

- Hired in 2018
- Cleveland Heights & Willowick Fire Department
- Active softball player for firefighter tournaments

What Sean enjoys about working for CHFD: "that he is a 2009 graduate of Cuyahoga Heights Schools and he can give back to the community."



## FIRE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS

Josh Elenniss, Part-time Firefighter/Paramedic

- Hired in 2018
- Shaker Heights Fire Department
- Currently working on Associates degree in Fire Science
- Married to Jillian Eleniss

What Josh enjoys about working for CHFD: "is the family atmosphere and the opportunity to help the community in anyway possible."



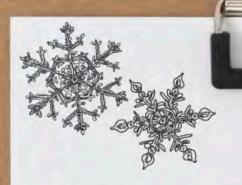


Nick Mancini, Part-time Firefighter/Paramedic

Warrensville Heights Fire Department

What Nick enjoys about working for CHFD: "is serving a close knit and family oriented community like Cuyahoga Heights."





# From your Building Department

Building Commissioner, Norm Casini Assistant Building Commissioner, Ken LaBella

The holidays are fast approaching, and the temperatures are dropping, with that being said please be aware of safety issues when cooking, heating (fires), electrical (heaters and Christmas lights), candles and live Christmas trees.

The holidays are especially family oriented and reminds us of family, friends and possessions for which we can be thankful for. They can also pose a preventable risk that may or may not directly present itself. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential fires followed by heating. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), space heaters account for about one third of the home heating fires and approximately 80% of the home heating fire deaths, 53% of residential electrical fires involve electrical wiring.

Here are some guidelines and practices to keep your family safe and prevent the unfortunate incident of a fire or other related accidents.

# -Heating

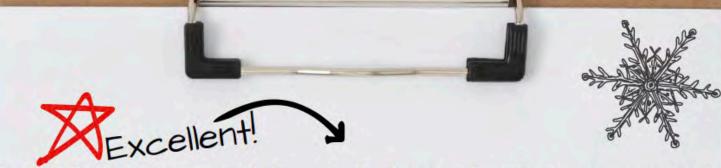
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended.
   Always put fire out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Do not burn green wood, paper or trash in your fireplace because they create heavy creosote buildup and hard to control.
- Always use a metal mesh screen at your fireplaces opening.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Make sure your fireplace damper is always in the open position when using.
- When using an electric space heater, keep combustibles at least three feet away.
- Make sure the wiring cord is not damaged when using.
- Do not use your space heater for drying clothes.

# Cooking

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or baking food.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, potholders, oven mitts and paper products away from your stovetop.
- Keep your children and pets at 3 feet away from any hot surfaces. Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.
- Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. They can cause a fire.

# Electrical

- Frayed wire can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords.
- Electrical fires can be caused from misuse of electrical cords, such as overloading circuits, poor maintenance and running cords under rugs.
- Replace any electrical appliance if it causes electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.
- If an appliance has a three- prong plug, use it in a three- slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two- slot outlet or extension cord.



The Building Department would like to thank all our residents for doing a great job on taking pride and maintaining their properties throughout this year. There has been a lot of improvements done on many properties and it shows. The George M. Suhy Grant program has assisted in over 70 Grants this year, great job by our Village Officials on approving this program. Keep up the great job in making the Village of Cuyahoga Heights a unique place to live!



Happy Holidays from our family to yours, Norm & Ken

# 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

If you need a special pick up for trash that is oversized, large amounts, or hazardous waste, don't forget to call the service department 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 service department at 216-641-3505 by 4:00 p.m. on Monday to get on the list for Tuesday's pick up.

#### Charity Pick Up

Our service department will pick up any small usable item at your residence that you would like to donate to charity on the first Wednesday of each month. Small household items, clothes, etc., are collected and donated. No tax receipts are given for this service, and you must call the service department at 216-641-3505 prior to the first Wednesday of the month for this service.

#### Newspaper/Cardboard Recycling

Do your part in helping the environment; recycle cardboard and newspaper. Our village has a recycling container 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.

#### Dumpsters

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.



# From your Service Department (continued)

#### **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.

#### **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 into your home.

#### Meals on Wheels (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 (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.

#### Leaf Pick Up

Fall is upon us, and the beautiful colored leaves will soon be crunching under our feet. We would like to remind our residents to rake their leaves to the tree lawn; our service department will then dispose of them for you.

#### 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.



# From your Service Department (continued)

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. If you are unsure if you have one on file, please contact Vera Heinzman at 216-641-3505 or sd@cuyahogaheights.com.



# Service Employee Spotlight

### Tracy Deal, Rental Facility Staff Member

"My name is Tracy Deal, and I have enjoyed getting to know our village residents for the past few years by working part time for the village of Cuyahoga Heights as a Rental Facility Staff Member. If you have rented one of our village venues, I have more than likely opened and closed for you. I am employed full time as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent at Cuyahoga Heights Schools, where I have worked for nine years. I have lived in the village with my husband Jason and 12-year old daughter Harper for six years. Additionally, I have two adult children; a son, Nicolas, age 30, who is in the U.S. Air Force in Abilene, Texas and a daughter, Taylor, 28, who lives in LaGrange, Georgia.

Although I have been grafted into this great community, I am proud to say that I was raised in Rochester, Pennsylvania (GO STEELERS!), a very similar, small, tight-knit community with one K-12 school. I am a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and made my way to Cleveland in 1985 when I was employed as an artist for American Greetings Corporation. As a stay at home mom with my first two children, I continued as a freelance greeting card artist for many years and then went on to teach art in the private sector for 13 years.

In my spare time, I usually never sit down (just ask my husband)! I make it a point a few times a year to go visit my BIG kids in Texas and Georgia. One of my most favorite things to do is to go bass fishing at Bacci Pond. I also enjoy bike riding, going for walks, doing yard work, home remodeling or doing anything remotely creative that I can get my hands on."







#### **SPORTS**

Basketball season is in full swing! Good luck to the boys and girls that are participating this season! Registration dates for 2023 sports are to be determined. Please keep an eye out for future announcements on when we will be accepting applications for sports next year.

# Cacar

#### **Cedar Point Season Pass Reimbursement**

We are still accepting Cedar Point Season Pass Reimbursement requests. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Vera Heinzman at chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com.

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.

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Vera Heinzman Recreation Coordinator

# Youth Trips

Thank you to those that participated in our Thanksgiving break trip this month! We are currently finalizing a date and time for an end of the year event for December. If you would like the Recreation Department to email you when youth events are scheduled, please email

chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com.

