



# VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS

## DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Dates and Reminders

**December 4** – Christmas Stocking Registration Deadline

**December 6** – Charity Pick Up

**December 17** – Santa at Bacci Park

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \*Must be registered to attend

**December 17** - Christmas Lighting Contest

Turn your lights on at 5:00 p.m.

**December 22** – Village Hall/ Service Department Closed

**December 25** – Merry Christmas!

Village Hall/Service Department Closed

**December 26** – Rubbish Collection

**December 27** – Special Pick Up

**December 31** – New Year's Eve

### At the Village Hall

#### Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of the Month

Caucus 5:00 p.m.

Meeting 6:00 p.m.

#### Economic Development Committee

##### /Public Works/ Finance Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the Month, if needed

#### Zoning Board Meetings

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

#### Work Sessions of Council

4th Wednesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

*\*Only in January, February, March, April,  
May, October*

Village Hall office hours are  
Monday through Friday from

8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. &

1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

[www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com)



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter!

Click the icons to head to our pages



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



# FROM MAYOR BACCI'S DESK



## Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting Bacci Park on Sunday, December 17 from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This event is for our resident children and grandchildren between the ages of 0-12. You must sign up for this event by Monday, December 4 by contacting our staff at the village hall during regular business hours at 216-641-7020, or you can email Lee Ann in my office at [l.schoeffler@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto: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.

Please note that this event is not a drive-thru and we ask that you 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 check-in with Miss Vera—she will then direct you 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. Dress appropriately for the weather and we hope to see you there!



## Holiday Gift/Food Drive

For well over 12 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 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 17. Several of our employees will pick up the bag from your doorstep before noon that day. Please contact our office if you would like to donate to our cause. And 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 your lights on the evening of Sunday, December 17 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 and good luck!



## Congratulations

Village residents, Matt and Vicki Sokolich had much to celebrate on Saturday, October 21 as their youngest son, Matthew, married his fiancée Sara Schoonmaker on Saturday, October 21 at the Aurora Country Club. Best wishes to the newlyweds!





# FROM MAYOR BACCI'S DESK (CONTINUED)

Also, best wishes to village residents Frank and Kim Schoeffler as they celebrated their 50th anniversary on Friday, November 10 in Largo, Florida. Since Frank and Kim retired, they have become snowbirds. Unbeknown to them, their four sons along with their families, flew down to Florida to surprise them for their milestone anniversary. From what I'm told, Kim was so overjoyed with happiness, she couldn't stop crying when she saw everyone as she entered the restaurant. May peace, health, and happiness be with you both in every walk of your life. Congratulations Frank and Kim!



## Birthdays

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



## Deepest Sympathies

For those that didn't know, Mrs. Bernice Suhy, a former village resident passed away on November 2 at the age of 98. Since 2018, Mrs. Suhy has been living at O'Neill's Healthcare in North Olmsted. For as far back as I can remember, Grandma Suhy was a kind person and always had a smile when you talked with her. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers—especially her grandchildren, our Fire Chief Michael Suhy and resident Kelly Hartman. Pictured is Mrs. Suhy during our 2018 senior citizens flu shot event.



## Offices Closed

The village hall and service department will be closed on Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25. Please note that rubbish collection will take place on Tuesday, December 26 and special pick up on Wednesday, December 27.

*In closing, as 2023 comes to an end, we should try and slow down and think about all the things we are grateful for. We should appreciate the things in life that we take for granted—our health, our family, our community. Faith makes all things possible; hope makes all things work and love makes all things beautiful.*

WISHING YOU AND YOURS A  
VERY MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS.  
GOD BLESS!



# FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CFO, ANGEL MERIWETHER



## Scams to avoid during this Holiday Shopping season:

### Fake Shipping/Delivery Notification Emails

Were you expecting a delivery? Fake notification emails are often phishing scams designed to trick you into sharing personal or financial information by asking you to verify a purchase. Stop before calling the phone number or responding to the email.

**Tip: Keep a list of your online purchases; check off each item as it arrives. Use the vendor's official website to check the status of your purchases. Do not send additional payment to receive your package; payment is typically made at the time of your purchase.**

### Too-Good-To-Be-True Pop-Up Ads

Be wary of pop-up windows or banner ads that promise unrealistic prices, special coupons or additional discounts before you complete an online transaction. The pop-up may not be associated with the vendor whose website you are visiting.

**Tip: Contact the retailer to verify the too-good-to-be-true offer before proceeding.**

**Misleading social media ads:** As you scroll through your social media feed, you often see products advertised. Always research before you buy. BBB Scam Tracker receives daily reports of people paying for items that they never receive, getting charged monthly for a free trial they never signed up for, or receiving an item that is counterfeit or much different from the one advertised. The 2022 BBB Online Scams Report found that online purchase scams were the most common cons reported to Scam Tracker. Before ordering, check out the business profile on BBB.org and read the reviews.

Site: information provided by better business bureau and PNC Bank







# *A Message from Your Police Department*

## **Safety Tips for Holiday Shopping**

The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department wants everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season. With that in mind, we would like to share these important tips for "playing it safe" while shopping in person and online during the holidays.



### **In Store Shopping**

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead having a friend come with you or request a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.

### **While Walking to and from your Car**

- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.

### **When Shopping with Children**

- If you are shopping with children, "make-a-plan" in case you are separated from each other.
- Pre-select a central meeting place, in case you become separated.
- Make sure your child has a contact number for you. If the child is too small to remember the contact number, pin a copy of the number (or write it) on their arm or the inside of their clothing.
- Teach children to know they can ask police officers, store security or identifiable store employees if they need help.



### **When Shopping On-Line**

- Before surfing the internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. Everyone's computer should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed.
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as one-time or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders for online stores and auction sites.





*The Cuyahoga  
Heights Police  
Department  
would like to wish  
all a very Merry  
Christmas and a  
Safe and Happy  
New Year!!*







# From the desk of your Fire Chief, Mike Suhy



## Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.







**Congratulations to Firefighter Bryan Rini who will be our next shift Lieutenant starting this month and Firefighter Frank Marcelli as the next full-time firefighter at CHFD.**

**Frank has been a part-time firefighter for the village since 2022. We look forward to Frank joining our team and community.**

**Bryan Rini pictured  
with Mayor Bacci and family.**

**Frank Marcelli pictured  
with Mayor Bacci and family.**



*The Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department  
would like to wish Lieutenant Reno Contipelli  
all the best in his retirement.*





# FROM YOUR BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Commissioner, Norm Casini ● Assistant Building Commissioner, Ken LaBella

With the end of 2023 approaching fast, if you have grants still open, please get your applications submitted to the building department by Dec. 31, 2023. If you are unaware of the George M. Suhy grant program and how the program works, please contact the building department at 216-641-7020, Monday through Friday 8:00am – 4:30 pm.

**With the Christmas holiday approaching fast, safety is always a concern.  
Here are a few safety tips for the holidays:**



## Live Christmas Trees

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing your tree in a stand, cut 2-3" off from base of trunk.
- Make sure your tree is positioned at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure your tree is not blocking egress or an exit.
- Be sure to add water to your tree as needed.
- Always turn your Christmas lights off when going to bed or when you leave your house.
- Be sure to remove the tree when it begins dropping needles.
- Never put tree branches or needles in the fireplace.
- Dried out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage.

## Candles

- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- When using candles, make sure they are placed in a sturdy holder.
- Be sure to extinguish candles after each use.
- Keep children away from matches, lighters and candles.
- Never put candles on or near a Christmas tree.
- Be sure to always put your candles out before leaving or bedtime.



Finally, as in every season, have smoke alarms installed on every level and all bedrooms of your home. Make sure you test your detectors monthly and keep them clean and always equipped with fresh batteries. Know when and how to call for help and remember to know your home's escape plan. Smoke detectors save lives!

With that said, the building department wishes you a blessed and safe holiday season!

## DID YOU KNOW:

**You can now fill out your construction permit application and pay for your permit online using our GovPilot online services tab through the village's website @ [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com)**



# FROM YOUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT

## GARBAGE PICK UP – RECYCLING – YARD WASTE



Our service department collects garbage every Monday morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. at no charge to its residents. They will come into your yard and take your garbage tote and recycling container to the curb; afterwards they will carry it back into your yard. Please note that if a holiday falls on a Monday, the service will commence on Tuesday.

## SPECIAL PICK UP – NOW ONLINE!



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

## CHARITY PICK UP – NOW ONLINE!



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

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

## DUMPSTERS – NOW ONLINE!



Residents may rent a village dumpster for personal use at their home by paying \$30.00 to the village for each dumpster load. Dumpsters can be used for yard waste, construction debris or miscellaneous household items NOT including carpet, tires, or hazardous waste. Please do not

mix materials. Please visit [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) at the top select 'Online Services' & select the red 'Dumpster Rental' tab. Select your address from the drop down. Fill in your name, phone number & email address. Select a requested date for dumpster to be delivered & where you would like the dumpster to be placed. There is now the option to pay the fee online via a link sent to your email. You also can drop off cash or check payments to village hall. 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)

## PEST AND INSECT CONTROL



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

This service is free except for termites, bed bugs, and wildlife. The village also sprays the outside of your home in the spring to hinder any unwanted pests from entering your home.

## MEALS ON WHEELS (BY LORI'S CUSTOM CATERING) – NOW ONLINE!



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 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](mailto:sd@cuyahogaheights.com). Please visit online at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) under 'Online Services' & select the red 'Meals on Wheels' tab.

## TREE TRIMMING/REMOVAL SERVICE – NOW ONLINE!



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. Please visit online at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) under 'Online Services' & select the red 'Tree Trimming' tab.



## RESIDENTIAL SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM – NOW ONLINE!

- 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. If you are unsure if you have one on file, please contact Vera Heinzman at 216-641-3505 or [sd@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:sd@cuyahogaheights.com). Please visit online at [www.cuyahogaheights.com](http://www.cuyahogaheights.com) under 'Online Services' & select the red 'Residential Snow Removal' tab.



# FROM YOUR REC DEPT

## RECREATION COORDINATOR, VERA HEINZMAN

### SPORTS

Basketball season is in full swing! Fun fact: for the first time in a long time, Cuyahoga Heights has a recreation basketball team! Good luck to ALL the boys and girls that are participating this season!

Registration dates for 2024 sports are to be determined. Please keep an eye out for future announcements on when we will be accepting applications for sports next year.



### CEDAR POINT 2024 SEASON PASS REIMBURSEMENT

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights will reimburse \$75 to any resident who purchases or has already purchased a Cedar Point Season Pass for the 2024 season. Residents must show a valid 2024 season pass or receipt of payment (with pass holder name listed) and proof of residency for reimbursement. Reimbursement will NOT be given for anyone not currently residing in Cuyahoga Heights. Please email or bring your valid 2024 season pass or receipt of payment (must show passholder name) and proof of residency to Village Hall for verification. Reimbursement will be issued within three weeks of submission acceptance. Reimbursement is \$75 regardless of pass type purchased. Contact Vera at 216-641-2702 or [chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:chvrec@cuyahogaheights.com) with any questions.

### YOUTH TRIPS

Upcoming trip during Christmas Break – Stay Tuned! We are currently in the process of finalizing the date and time for our end-of-year event in December.

Stay tuned to our Social Media channels and the Neighborhood News insert for more information.

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







**FROM ALL OF US AT THE VILLAGE HALL,  
WE WISH PEACE AND LOVE TO ALL OUR  
RESIDENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS THIS  
HOLIDAY SEASON!**

*Mayor Bacci Angel LeeAnn Norm Barb  
Ken Christina Mindy Michael*