

Village of Cuyahoga Heights

January 2024 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates and Reminders

January 1 - Happy New Year!

Village Hall/Service Department Closed

January 2 - Rubbish Collection

January 3 - Special Pick Up

January 4 - Charity Pick Up

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

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

From Mayor Bacci's Desk



This past Sunday we had our second annual event at Bacci Park with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Once again, the weather didn't cooperate and it rained the entire time, but that did not stop the children from attending to see Santa! Everyone had a wonderful time and I can't believe all the little grandbabies and great grandbabies! Our gingerbread station was a big hit for all—where you could grab a cup of hot cocoa and add all the fun toppings to it. I want to thank council and all the employees who put forth their time and energy in making this a truly wonderful and fun event. And special recognition to Santa and Mrs. Claus for spending time with us away from the North Pole.



Christmas Blessings

I wanted to take a moment and thank those who generously gave and helped out several families in our community this Christmas season. To the employees of Charter Steel & MilliporeSigma for adopting several families in town and providing them with a special Christmas. To our residents who graciously donated food during our food drive. To CHPD for participating in the "Shop with a Cop Program." They were able to help out numerous families in town by taking them Christmas shopping. And lastly to the following individuals: John Deliberato, Renato & Michelle Contipelli, Marilyn Duszynski & Denis Vanek, Laura & Norman Merhaut, Julie Ferrara and an anonymous resident for donating gift cards to our cause with helping out families in town. Again, thank you and God Bless!



Christmas Decorating Contest

Congratulations to the 2023 winners of our annual decorating contest: 1st Place: - Ron & Beverly Trzeciak; 2nd Place: Rich Grabowski; and 3rd Place: Mark Chase. I know I say this every year, but it was hard to judge the homes—they all looked great! Thank you to all those who took the time and effort to decorate your home.



Offices Closed for the Holidays

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 addition, the village hall and service department will be closed on Monday, January 1. Rubbish collection will take place on Tuesday, January 2, special pick up on Wednesday, January 3 and charity pick up on Thursday, January 4.



From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

Congratulations

I wanted to let our residents know that our CFO Angel Meriwether was awarded the Ohio Auditor of State Award which was presented to our Cuyahoga Heights Community Improvement Corporation. The award is for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2022. The award from Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber further states that “the citizens you represent are well-served by your effective and accountable financial practices.” This is truly an accomplishment for our village to receive such honors and once again, congratulations CFO Meriwether.

Congratulations

Programs

Trying to get healthy for the New Year—join the Seven Hills Recreation Center. The village has continued their agreement with Seven Hills for our village residents to use their facility. Our village will pay 100% of the rate for bona fide village residents that are 62-years of age and older, U.S. Veterans, and disabled residents. In addition, we will pay 50% of the rate for all other bona fide village residents desiring to secure a membership as outlined in our price sheet. In order to purchase a membership, please contact the village hall during normal business hours. Each resident/family must show proof that he/she is a bona fide resident of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. At that time, you will also need to pay your 50% of the membership (cash or check only) for those not covered under the 100% rate. A copy of the approved application, along with rules and regulations will then be given to the resident. It is then up to the resident to take the approved application to the Seven Hills Recreation Center so that you can receive your official pass. We hope our residents will take advantage of this special offer, as well as keeping fit.



Our administration is pleased to announce that we have renewed our contract with the Heritage Home program for 2024. This program offers free technical assistance advice for home repair and maintenance projects on homes that are over 50 years old. In addition, the program offers low-interest equity loans for home improvement projects. For additional information, please contact a Heritage staff member at 216-426-3116 or visit their website at www.heritagehomeprogram.org.



Senior Citizens

For those residents that might not know, our senior citizens organization is open to village residents who are 55 years of age and older. Their meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, and in addition to meetings they have holiday parties, dinners, bus trips and much, much more. For additional information on becoming a member, please reach out to Noel Centa, President of the Cuyahoga Heights Senior Citizens Organization at 216-509-5278.



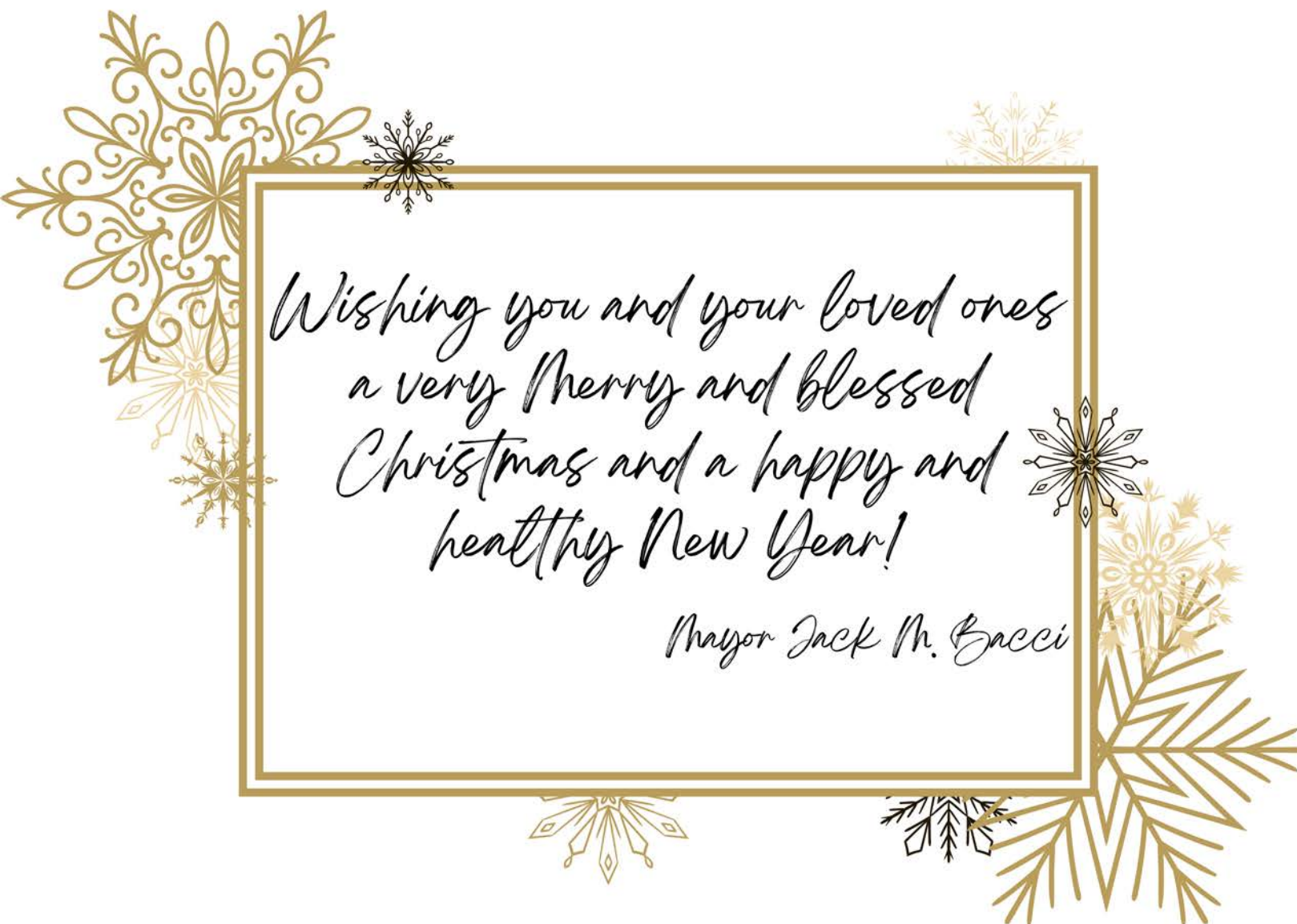
From Mayor Bacci's Desk (continued)

Memory Books

We still have memory books available for purchase. The book contains 687 pages of information about our village. Residents can purchase a book for \$10 (cash or check only); however, only (1) book to each residence. In addition, books are available to non-residents at \$50 per book + shipping and handling, if it needs to be shipped. Please contact Lee Ann in my office during normal business hours to purchase a book.

Birthdays

January birthday wishes to employees: (9) Councilman Renato Contipelli and William Mandich; (16) Jimmy Henley; and (19) Brian Fragua.



From the desk of your CFO,
Angel Meriwether



WINTER ELECTRIC RATES

**Standard
Program**

6.6

cents per kWh

**12-Month
Fixed Term**

6.7

cents per kWh

**24-Month
Fixed Term**

6.5

cents per kWh



Standard Program rate is valid from December 2023 meter read through May 2024 meter read.
12-Month and 24-Month Fixed Term Rates are valid for the length of the term selected.

2024
H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

A Message from Your Police Department

Winter Driving

The Basics

Slow down! It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. In fact, in 2022, there were an estimated 121,156 police-reported crashes that occurred when there were snow/sleet conditions at the time of the crash. On the road, increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.

Don't crowd a snowplow or travel beside the truck. Snowplows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay far enough behind it and use caution if you pass the plow.

What to Do



in an Emergency



If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, stay focused on yourself and your passengers, your car, and your surroundings.

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.
- Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm. Don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.



A Message from Your Police Department

Winter Driving continued...

Winter Changes to Equipment



Tires

As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is in your owner's manual and on a label located on the driver's side door frame. Do not inflate your tires to the pressure listed on the tire itself. That number is the maximum pressure the tire can hold, not the recommended pressure for your vehicle.

Some other tips:

Inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips.

- It's best to check the tires when they're cold, meaning that they have not been driven on for at least three hours. Check each tire's age. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend replacing tires every six years regardless of use.

An inspection is not just about checking tire pressure and age. Remember to check:

- for any damage or conditions that may need attention;
- the tread and sidewalls for any cuts, punctures, bulges, scrapes, cracks, or bumps. The tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires; and your spare tire.

If you find tire damage, take your vehicle to a tire service professional.



Battery

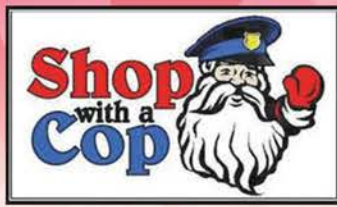
When the temperature drops, so does battery power. In cold weather, gasoline and diesel engines take more battery power to start, and electric and hybrid-electric vehicles' driving range can be reduced. Have a mechanic check your battery, charging system, belts, and for any other needed repairs or replacements.



Car Seats

In colder weather, parents typically dress their children in winter coats. But it's important to know that heavy coats can interfere with the proper harness fit on a child in a car seat. When your child is secured in a car seat, pick thin warm layers, and place blankets or coats around your child after the harness is snug and secure for extra warmth. Also, make sure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and that any children riding with you are in the right seat for their ages and sizes. See NHTSA's child passenger safety recommendations to find the right seat for your child's age and size.





On Saturday, December 16, members of Cuyahoga Heights Police Department participated in the "Shop-With-A-Cop" program. The "Shop-With-A-Cop" program is organized and sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) - George Murray Lodge #67. Every year members of the FOP raise funds in order to take local children on a holiday shopping spree. The children were transported via a large police procession to a department store for the shopping chaos.



After the shopping was completed, the procession then returned to the Independence Middle School for pizza and treats. This year Cuyahoga Heights police officers raised over \$3,000 and as a result were able to take twenty village resident children shopping. Over 100 police officers and volunteers from 16 local departments were on hand to make the event a success. In total, over \$37,000 were raised! This was the 28th year of the FOP "Shop-With-A-Cop" program.



The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would like to thank the following donors who went "above and beyond"!

**Mr. Steve Rizzo
Ohio Bulk**

**Mr. John Pappas
49th Street Tavern**

**Mrs. Tonya Stewart
R & T Towing**

Tensile Testing Laboratory

Herbst Electric Company

Mr. Don Giancursio

I would also like to thank the following officers and volunteers who took the time to participate in the shopping spree:

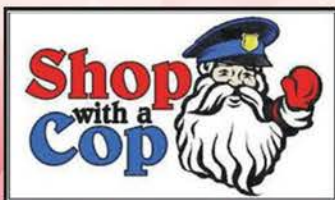
**Dep. Chief Schoeffler & wife Lee Ann
Ptl. Berdysz & wife Hailey**

**Lt. Mackiewicz & friend Heidi
Ptl. Mischak & sister Natalie**

Mrs. Sandi Sturgill



**Respectfully,
Chief Sturgill**
Brian D. Sturgill
Chief of Police





From the desk of your Fire Chief, Mike Suhy



Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



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

Your Logo

FROM YOUR BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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

Hope everyone had a blessed and safe Holiday Season and Happy New Year to All!



The building department is working with GovPilot on new software for 2024. This program will have some great features for our residents, the new program should be completely implemented by mid-January. Residents will be able to submit all construction permit applications and grant applications through GovPilot. All contractors can also register online and pay through GovPilot. The GovPilot program can be accessed through the village's website www.cuyahogaheights.com in the online services tab. As always, if you have any questions regarding building department info, please call the building department at 216-641-7020.

The George M. Suhy Grant Program

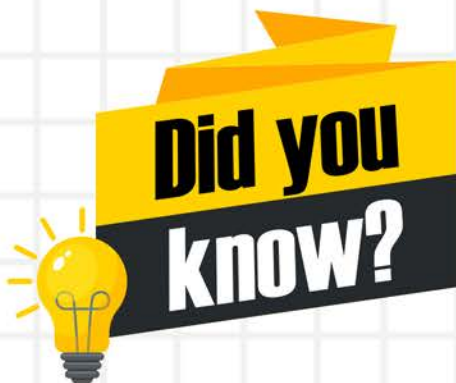
Don't forget about the George M. Suhy grant program! This program is good through December 31, 2027. If you have a home improvement project, please fill out your construction permit application and submit it to the building department for review. This is the first step for qualifying for the grant program.

Here are some upcoming items for 2024:

- **All contractors should be registered for 2024 if they are performing work in the Village. To be properly registered they would need the following:**
 1. Application completed in full
 2. Certificate of Insurance with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights listed as additionally insured
 3. Proof of Worker's Compensation Insurance
 4. State License
 5. Proof of Registration with local City tax agency, R.I.T.A.
 6. Registration Fee in the amount of \$100- check made payable to The Village of Cuyahoga Heights

You may contact the Building Department to verify if a contractor is currently registered with the Village of Cuyahoga Heights at 216-641-7020.

- **Rental Renewals, Out of County Rental Owners and Vacant Dwelling applications will be due April 1, 2024.**
- **Exterior maintenance inspections for all residential properties in 2024.**



Emergency Escape and rescue openings

Minimum opening area.

Emergency and escape rescue openings shall have a net clear opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft.

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 at the top select 'Online Services' &

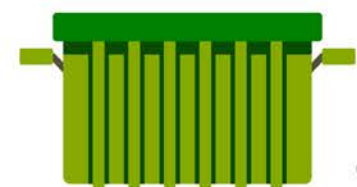
select the red 'Special Pick Up' tab. Please fill out your name, address, and all information regarding the items you would like to be picked up and where they are located. You will then get an email response when the request has been successfully submitted. **If you have any questions, please contact 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 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 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

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. Please visit online at 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 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. Please visit online at 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 off to a great start! If you would like to follow along with schedules, game results or standings, please visit the league website at

<https://villageofbrooklynheights.sportngin.com>

SPORTS REGISTRATIONS

With the new year upon us, that means it's time to register for the first two youth recreational sports in 2024!

SPORT

DEADLINE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Spring Soccer | February 15, 2024 |
| • Youth Basketball & Softball | March 15, 2024 |



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 with any questions.

January's Youth Trip information will be posted soon on our social medias, so keep an eye out!

