

HIGHLAND HIGHLIGHTS

From the City of Highland Heights

www.highlandhts.com

December 2004

Holiday Greetings

FROM:

***Mayor Scott E. Coleman
Council President Virginia K. Swanson
Council Representative Ann M. D'Amico
Council Representative Gary S. Fatica
Council Representative Edwin V. Hargate
Council Representative Scott A. Mills
Council Representative Cathy S. Murphy
Council Representative John Nawarskas***

City of Highland Heights
 5827 Highland Road
 Highland Heights, Ohio 44143
 Phone: 440-461-2440 Fax: 440-461-9062

2004 CITY ROSTER

MAYOR SCOTT E. COLEMAN 461-2440

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

VIRGINIA K. SWANSON Ward 4 442-9359

CITY COUNCIL

CATHY S. MURPHY Ward 1 442-3809
GARY S. FATICA Ward 2 442-6734
JOHN NAWARSKAS Ward 3 442-8117
ANN D'AMICO At Large 461-4224
EDWIN V. HARGATE At Large 473-5476
SCOTT A. MILLS At Large 461-5437

CITY OFFICIALS

Building Commissioner	Tom Jamieson	440-442-7403
City Engineer	Andy Blackley	216-731-6255
Community Center Coordinator	Judy Dick	440-461-2440
Finance Director	Anthony Ianiro	440-442-7404
Fire Chief	Ed Bencin	440-442-7406
Law Director	Tim Paluf	216-696-9555
Park and Recreation Director	David Ianiro	440-461-2440
Police Chief	James Cook	440-442-8825
Prosecutor	Dan Taylor	216-241-1400
Service Director	Thom Evans	440-461-2440

**MAYFIELD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1819
 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

Board of Education	440-995-7200
Switchboard	440-995-6800
Mayfield High School	440-995-6900
Mayfield Middle School	440-995-7800
Center School	440-995-7400
Millridge School	440-995-7250
Transportation	440-995-7890

COMMUNITY NUMBERS:

Lyndhurst Municipal Court	440-461-6500
Mayfield Library	440-473-0350
Tri City Consortium on Aging	216-291-3902

For information on utility rates, please call PUCO at 1-800-686-7826
 For more information on NOPEC, please call 1-866-579-9487

**MEETING SCHEDULE
 (Subject to Change)**

Regular Meetings of Council
 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.

Council Committee of the Whole
 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board
 2nd & 4th Monday at 1:30 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Commission
 2nd & 4th Monday at 8:00 p.m.

Park & Recreation Commission
 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

City Council Committees:

Legislative and Finance
 John Nawarskas, Chairperson
 Ann D'Amico
 Cathy Murphy

Safety and Service
 Ed Hargate, Chairperson
 Scott Mills
 John Nawarskas

Drainage
 Ann D'Amico, Chairperson
 Cathy Murphy
 Virginia Swanson

Miscellaneous Phone Numbers:

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
 216-201-2000

Cuyahoga County Board of
 Elections - 216-443-3200

Cuyahoga County Sanitary
 Engineering (plugged sewers,
 and dye tests) - 216-443-8201

Illuminating Co. (Power Outage)
 1-888-544-4877

MAYOR SCOTT COLEMAN

LONG LINES AT THE POLLS

This past November 2nd was an historic day for the Country when an unprecedented number of people came out to the polls to vote for candidates for many offices. The eyes of the nation were on Ohio and in particular on Cuyahoga County since it was expected our county would have a large influence on the outcome of the presidential election. As expected, lines at the polls were long and the lines in Highland Heights were no exception. Highland Heights experienced a 67% voter turnout which was pretty typical across the county.

The city is made up of nine precincts in four wards. Of the 6,449 registered voters in the city, 22% of them live in Ward 2, Precinct B. This is predominantly the Aberdeen and Highland Woods area. If you live in this part of the city, you most likely experienced a wait that was longer than in previous years. Residents commented that their wait was, in many cases, in excess of an hour.

I proposed some changes to City Council which addressed this issue and with their help, we have agreed on new Ward boundaries that will distribute the population of voters more evenly throughout the city. We hope these changes will be in effect should there be a need for a special or primary election in the spring of 2005.

Thank you for your patience and consideration as we work to address this problem. I would like to thank the many poll workers and volunteers who helped make this day a success. I would like to especially thank the Highland Heights Garden Club who held the bake sale that day.

ELECTION RESULTS

I am one of those people who sit on the edge of my chair on election night, watching the results come in. My wife, like most sane people, is perfectly comfortable going to bed at a reasonable hour and reading the results in the paper. I, on the other hand, can't sleep until I know who wins the races that affect our community. I guess I just want to get a head start on lobbying them for state or federal funds for projects in Highland Heights.

I am particularly interested with not only who wins a race but also the margin of victory. The November 2, 2004 CANVASS REPORT is a very comprehensive report of the election results including results by city, ward and precinct. This report is available online at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Website (www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us) under Election Results. If you would like to know the results in our community and don't have access to the internet, feel free to call my office and ask Diana Lydic for any information you may need.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS POLITICAL SIGN ORDINANCE CHALLENGED

This past October, Highland Heights and two other communities were the subject of some controversy, about rules governing the display of political signs. Our current ordinance requires a permit fee and other specifications that some believe may be too restrictive.

The ordinance was challenged and as a result of that challenge, we felt it necessary to stop the enforcement of this ordinance during the last few weeks of the campaign season. Council will soon be discussing whether or not the ordinance should be repealed and what changes, if any, should be made.

NEWSLETTERS

With this newsletter, I will again highlight a former mayor, William Cozens. Information we have on Mayor Cozens is limited to what was published in the 1976 "The History of Highland Heights".

In future issues, I would like to write about the other mayors who served our city. If anyone has any information they can share with me about Mayors Ralph Williams, Myron Willis, George Rau, Michael Schneider, Bob Barris, S.J. Sheahan or Roy Mayes, please call or write my office. In addition, if anyone knows of a family, individual or business that should be highlighted, please let us know.

MAYOR FEATURE

MAYOR WILLIAM COZENS 1928-1929

Mayor William Cozens lived on Bishop Road. He was a carpenter by trade and had a small fruit farm.

Not much is known about Mayor Cozens' tenure in office, however, the following was taken from excerpts of The History of Highland Heights, a book that was published as a result of our community being declared a "Bicentennial City" in 1976:

- People of Highland Heights were authorized to call the Lyndhurst Fire Department in case of fire.
- The city engineer created a planning map of Highland Road from the west end to the east end widening it to an 80 foot road.
- A safe file for the village books and papers was obtained.
- A Ford touring car was purchased for the Village Police Department
- Mayor Cozens appointed two councilmen, Fisher & Straight to start investigating land sites for a town hall.

All these events may seem trivial to us now, but for a small city with minimal funding, these were all significant accomplishments.

Not much more is known about Mayor Cozens' tenure in office. In fact, most of this information was taken from excerpts of The History of Highland Heights, a book that was published as a result of our community being declared a "Bicentennial City" in 1976.

All the information published in these newsletters about our former mayors can be viewed on our website at www.highlandhts.com.

RESIDENT FEATURE

JEAN A. BUCHAK

Jean Buchak has served the City of Highland Heights for more than 40 years. Jean's dedication and commitment to excellence has been apparent in all of the positions she has held. Her professionalism is appreciated by all who have worked with her.

Jean started working for Highland Heights on November 18, 1964 as a part time employee in the Police Department and began full time work in the Police Department on June 19, 1974. Jean retired from the Police Department on March 31, 2001. Jean also worked as the Recording Clerk for the Planning and Zoning Commission in 1966.

After retiring from the Police Department, Jean continued to work for the City as the Clerk of Council and also as a part time clerk for the Finance Department.

Jean Buchak has worked with City Council since June 9, 1981 and still holds that position, along with being a part time clerk for the Finance Department.

Jean has been an exceptional employee, taking advantage of many educational opportunities to ensure the quality of excellence that is required by today's public officials and administrators. In 1997, Jean earned a First Sustaining Membership in the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Jean has worked for seven different Mayors over the years. She has some wonderful stories to tell if you can catch her when she has a free moment.

As a member of council for eight years, five as council president, I know first hand how valuable it was having Jean sit next to me making sure the council meetings went smoothly. I will always treasure the guidance and friendship she gave me, especially in my early years on council.

Thank you, Jean, for always being available for everyone who needs help.

BUSINESS FEATURES

CATALANO'S STOP-N-SHOP

A four generation, locally owned business, Catalano's Supermarket has been serving Highland Heights since 1988. Catalano's is well known for its homemade sausage, crusty breads, fabulous cakes, fresh picked daily produce and the finest meat around. With more than 100 employees, Catalano's is one of the largest employers in our city.

Richard Catalano, Jr. says they have enjoyed the sixteen years they have been serving Highland Heights and that it's their pleasure to provide the kinds of products their customers have come to expect from them. Catalano's is the sole remaining Stop-n-Shop store in Cleveland.

Richard Catalano told us they are really glad to be able to offer the residents of Highland Heights the opportunity to do their daily shopping in the best supermarket they can create. They hope they can maintain their relationship with the community and continue to offer their customers the finest supermarket shopping experience available for another four generations.

DISTEFANO'S AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FOODS

In 1954, Michelino DiStefano came to Cleveland and lived in Collinwood. He then met his wife, Carmela, and they were married in 1956. They live in Highland Heights and have two children.

In 1972, they purchased the Highland Delicatessen from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hughes. Committed to hard work and good customer service, Mike and Carmela invested in the city. In 1984, the Highland Deli expanded, doubling in size, adding a bakery and an extensive line of hot and cold foods to go. They also offered a full line of catering services.

In 1996, the family purchased property adjacent to the deli to provide more parking and easier access to the store. This major upgrade included a new parking lot and renovations of the existing building

Soon after the expansion, DiStefano's Authentic Italian Foods became known city-wide. It was featured by the Plain Dealer, Northern Ohio Live Magazine, Fox 8 and the News Herald, mostly

for the large variety of imported foods, homemade breads and specialty pizzas.

Most recently, DiStefano's Focaccia Pizza was named Best of the Best in the Plain Dealer on March 5, 2004.

DiStefano's home made traditions are carried on today by the second generation of the DiStefano family. They offer a fuller line of cold meats, cheeses and olive oils as well as a variety of Italian cookies and pastries.

The DiStefano's family takes pride in drawing customers from a far to the Highland Heights area. Customers come from Akron, Canton, Youngstown, Toledo, Dayton and as far away as New York state.

The DiStefano family thanks all who patronize their business.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT TOM JAMIESON, BUILDING COMMISSIONER

FURNACE MAINTENANCE

All homeowners are encouraged to have their furnace serviced by a qualified Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning technician.

This annual maintenance should include cleaning and adjusting the burners, adjusting belts, and checking limit switches. This annual inspection would assure that the unit is performing at its highest level possible and would identify any safety concerns including the quality of the heat exchanger, venting, flue design and the degree of combustion and the make up of air.

Lists of registered technicians are available in the Building Department.

ADDRESSES

Each resident should display a clearly identifiable address located on the front of the main structure which can be seen from either direction.

Readily visible address numbers are important for all city services and especially in emergency response situations.

**SERVICE DEPARTMENT
THOM EVANS, SERVICE DIRECTOR**

HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION

With the Christmas and New Years Day Holidays being on Saturday this year, Thanksgiving will be the only day observed by the city's rubbish collection contractor.

Residents on the Thursday route only will have their rubbish and recycling collected on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving.

LEAF COLLECTION



Our curbside collection program is conducted house by house and street by street. Once a cycle of all streets has been completed, we begin a new cycle.

Weather permitting, during the heaviest parts of the season, completed cycles are expected to take 14 days or more.

The program currently under way is anticipated to conclude on or around December 10, 2004. The program end date is necessary to allow the service department time for equipment change over in preparation for de-icing and snow removal operations.

Residents wishing to dispose of leaves beyond the end of the program may do so by composting their leaves or by bagging them for pick up by our rubbish contractor on their regular rubbish day.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION PROGRAM

The service department will conduct a curbside Christmas tree collection program, as time and weather permits beginning on January 3rd.



ALL DECORATIONS MUST BE REMOVED as the trees will be chipped for recycling. Trees will also be collected by the city's rubbish contractor.

SNOW & ICE CONTROL

Snow plowing and de-icing operations are two of the Service Department's most vital winter functions. The department maintains an on-call staff available around the clock to handle plowing and de-icing and any other storm related emergencies which may arise.

During non business hours the department relies on the Police Department to inform us of the need for service.

In general, we are able to clear all city streets after a single moderate snow fall in about five hours. However, that time can vary depending on a variety of conditions including the amount of snow falling, temperature and traffic.

Operations are prioritized by need and conditions. Main and secondary roadways are addressed first, followed by side streets, and then the clearing of sidewalks around schools.

De-icing on most side streets is usually limited to intersections, curves and hills at night and during extended storm periods. Once a storm has passed, the side streets are salted more thoroughly as needed.

MAILBOXES

It is recommended that mailboxes be placed no closer than 18" to the roadway and that, for safety reasons, posts be constructed of a yielding design.

The State of Ohio Department of Transportation specifications call for mailbox posts to be made of treated wood no greater than 4" x 4" square.

In the winter, heavy snow coming off the end of the snow plows can cause damage to mailboxes, especially, if they are located too close to the road or as the post in the ground begins to rot. Even new boxes in good condition and properly installed, can be damaged by a heavy, wet snow.

Be sure to install a **snow shield** to protect your mailbox from damage when streets and driveways are being plowed.

To prevent the interruption of mail service, keep the area in front of your mailbox clear of snow. Remind your snow plow contractor not to push snow up against your mailbox. If your mailbox does get damaged, the service department can assist you with a temporary repair.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF BENCIN

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Fire prevention in the home is an important issue that only you can address. If you are unsure of the fire safety of your home, contact your Fire Department and request a Home Fire Safety Inspection. Here are a few tips to help you in your fire prevention efforts.

If you forgot to change your batteries in your smoke detectors, please do so now. The number of times that detectors fail to warn occupants of a fire because of dead batteries is far too high. Don't be part of that statistic.

The winter and holiday seasons are fast approaching. Here are a few suggestions that may help you through the winter heating and holiday seasons without an unexpected emergency visit from the Fire Department.

DETECTORS

Make sure that you have an operational Smoke Detector on each level of your house.

Make sure that you have an operational Carbon Monoxide Detector in your house. Recent tragedies in the area have heightened awareness of the need for these devices.

If you require assistance with locations or mounting detectors, the fire department will be glad to help.

HEATING

Have your furnace serviced annually; this should include checking the carbon monoxide levels. If you use a wood burning appliance, have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually, more often if you use it every day.

If you use an un-vented natural gas appliance such as decorative gas logs or a space heater, be aware that these appliances can produce carbon monoxide, even when they are working properly. Only use them for short periods of time and provide ventilation by slightly opening a window.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Candles should never be left lit and unattended.



Be sure that candles are a safe distance from other decorations, curtains and children.

If you use a 'real' tree, choose a fresh one. Be sure that the branches are not brittle.



Use a tree stand that holds plenty of water and fill it daily.

Make a fresh cut at the base of the tree to allow it to absorb water.

Make sure that the tree is not blocking an exit and that it is a safe distance away from heat sources such as forced air registers, fireplaces or space heaters.

Use lights that are in perfect condition and have been tested and labeled by an approved testing lab such as UL.

Always unplug decorations and extinguish candles before going to bed or leaving the house.

POLICE DEPARTMENT - CHIEF COOK

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Holiday Shopping - While out in your cars shopping for the holidays:

- Always drive with your car doors locked. Doors should be locked immediately.
- Purses should be placed on the floor in the rear.
- Secure all packages out of sight in the trunk.
- Park in well lit areas at all times.
- Be aware of your surroundings and look for any suspicious cars or people next to or near your parked vehicle.
- Always check the interior of your car as you approach and before entering. If you see anything or anyone that looks suspicious or makes you feel uneasy, return to the store and ask for assistance. Don't become a statistic. Always approach with caution and report any suspicious activity.
- If possible, shop with another person. When shopping by yourself, or with young children who can take your attention away from your surroundings, be extra alert.

Protecting Your Vehicle

- Always lock all doors even when the car is parked in your driveway.
- Never leave your keys hidden in the auto as they can be found.
- Roll windows up tight.
- Don't leave valuables in your car.
- Park in well lit areas and avoid parking in public lots for long periods of time.
- If properly installed and used, an alarm system may prove to be an effective auto theft deterrent. It may be worth purchasing a steering column or steering wheel locking device.
- Keep your garage locked and your car locked when it is parked at home.
- Don't leave the vehicle title, credit cards, gas cards or check books in the glove box.
- If you observe suspicious activity or person(s) around a vehicle, call the police immediately to report the location, description of vehicle, activity and person(s), and any other pertinent information for the police to investigate.

Preventing Break-Ins

- Residential burglaries (break-ins) are a crime of opportunity, committed mostly by young amateurs looking for an easy target, like unlocked or poorly secured homes that look unoccupied.
- Keep all doors and windows in your residence secured and locked. Make sure every external door has a sturdy, well-installed dead bolt lock. Sliding glass doors can be secured by installing commercially available locks or putting a stick in the inside track to jam the door.
- Keep the exterior of your home well lit. Install outside lights and keep them on at night. Create the illusion that you are home by getting some timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice a vehicle in a neighbor's driveway that you know is not home, even if the vehicle has commercial lettering, or if you notice anyone walking through a yard or around that home, call the police to report the activity.
- The Police Department needs residents to report any suspicious activity, persons, or vehicles. Don't jeopardize your own safety. Call the Police if you feel something or someone should be investigated.
- Take advantage of the Police Department's Residential Security Program. Call 442-8825 to request an officer to conduct a safety and security survey at your home. This is a free service.

Motorized Scooters and Mini-Motorcycles

The Police Department previously wrote a short article regarding motorized scooters in the **Highland Highlights**. Since then the Police Department has received phone calls from residents with questions concerning the legality of the motor scooters as well as mini-motorcycles. Apparently there is a great deal of pressure being placed on parents by their children to purchase these items for personal use.

Most motorized scooters and mini-motorcycles that are being sold are not street legal. Therefore they cannot be legally driven on city streets or on city sidewalks. The only location the motorized scooters and mini-motorcycles can be driven legally is on private property with the property owner's permission. Remember that as parents, you are legally and civilly responsible for the actions of your children under the age of eighteen.

For those motor scooters and mini-motorcycles sold that may be legally driven on the street, they must meet the following requirements. They must contain a proper brake light, turn signals, horn, rearview mirrors and headlights. You, as the owner, must go to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and obtain a title for the motor scooter or mini-motorcycle. The cost of the title is \$5.00. After the title is obtained, you must then register the motor scooter or mini-motorcycle. The annual registration fee is \$28.50, plus a permissive tax, if required, and any new license plate fees. The scooter or mini-motorcycle will be issued a motorcycle plate, which will have to be affixed to the vehicle.

To operate the scooter or mini-motorcycle on the street, the driver must be at least 16 years of age, have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement. Then prior to riding the licensed motor scooter or mini-motorcycle on the street, you must have proper insurance coverage and the driver will be subject to financial responsibility suspensions if the proper insurance is not maintained.

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

It is important to remember that dialing 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. Keep handy the Police Department non-emergency number of 440-442-8825. Our 24 hour Dispatchers can answer questions or direct your call safely and efficiently, but the 9-1-1 line needs to be open for true emergencies.

Cell phone users need to know their cell phone number. Police departments do not have the equipment to trace a cell number, and cell phone signals can be lost during an emergency call. For that reason, the dispatcher will ask for your cell phone number.

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL 9-1-1?

- You witness or are the victim of a serious crime
- You see smoke or an uncontrolled fire
- You witness or are involved in a serious accident
- There is an emergency illness, injury or suspected poisoning
- A child, senior citizen or handicapped person is lost, confused, frightened or in need of assistance
- There is a situation that is potentially dangerous and you are not sure whom to call

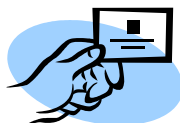
DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 to:

- Ask for a phone number you can't find in the phone book
- Inquire whether a particular business or park is open
- Ask about a community event
- Complain about a barking dog
- Request a copy of an incident report
- Ask for general information on any subject

**PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
DAVID IANIRO, RECREATION DIRECTOR**

We are planning our "Summer Sizzler" brochure for the upcoming 2005 season. The excitement to make our Baseball, Day Camp, Pool, Softball, Swim Team and Tennis programs, along with our summer concerts and children' holiday parties even better this year is growing strong. Our goal is to make our programs safe and enjoyable for everyone. The Park and Recreation staff appreciates the support you give to all of our recreational activities.

This year, we would like to offer area businesses the opportunity to advertise their business in our "Summer Sizzler". For more information on advertising, please contact City Hall at 440-461-2440, extension 158.



COED T-BALL BOYS BASEBAL GIRLS SOFTBALL

Registration forms for the 2005 campaign will be sent to our local community schools in January and will also be available to be picked up at City Hall Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PLAYER OBSERVATIONS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 11, 2005
AT MAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOUSE
TIMES TO BE DETERMINED**

**DIVISION SEASON PLAY MAY BEGIN ON MAY 16, 2005
ALL DIVISION PLAY WILL END ON JULY 15, 2005**



For additional information, please call:

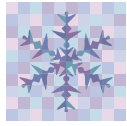
Boys Baseball Commissioner	D. J. Rapposelli	440-461-2440, extension 238
T/Ball or Girls Softball Commissioner	Jim Austin	440-461-2440, extension 235

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/T-BALL
WALK IN REGISTRATIONS
HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
5827 HIGHLAND ROAD**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005 FROM 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO NOON**

Avoid standing in lines - mail your registration form and check to Baseball Registrations, at City Hall, 5827 Highland Road, Highland Heights, Ohio 44143 or drop your form off at city hall along with your check payable to the City of Highland Heights.

Childrens' Christmas party



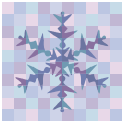
Special Guest

SANTA CLAUS

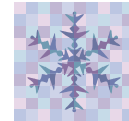


ENTERTAINMENT * ACTIVITIES * GAMES

December 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



\$5.00



**Tickets Available at City Hall
5827 Highland Road
Limited space available**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR DAY CAMP AND SUMMER POOL PASSES

Take advantage of early registration fees for Day Camp and Summer Pool Passes by registering early.

Early Bird Walk-In Registrations
Highland Heights Community Center
Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Wednesday, May 4, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

You may also take advantage of our Early Bird Fees by mailing your registration to City Hall.

MORE PARK AND RECREATION NOTES....

- Summer seasonal employment applications are available at City Hall starting on November 24, 2005.
- High school students looking for community service opportunities should contact the Recreation Department for available service hours.
- Children's Easter party will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2005.

SENIOR NEWS

Snowplow Contractors - A list of snowplow contractors who have registered with the Police Department is available at City Hall.

Tri City Consortium Friday Luncheons

Please note that the Friday luncheons at the Highland Heights Community Center will not be held on Friday, December 24 and Friday December 31.

Blood Pressure Testing Program is the 3rd Friday of the month from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. after lunch at the Community Center. The next two programs are December 17, 2004 and January 21, 2005.

AARP SENIOR TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Please call Mary beginning Tuesday, January 28th to make an appointment for assistance. Appointments are from February 3rd through April 14, 2005 on Thursdays only. Please be sure to schedule your time when you have all your paperwork collected.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

EUCLID CREEK WATERSHED

A public meeting was held on October 27 at South Euclid Community Center to provide the community an update of the plan, its preliminary findings and draft goals and recommended actions. The top three priorities identified by the public meeting were Education, Stream and Riparian Protection and Restore Habitat.

In January of 2005, a series of work sessions focusing on the priority issues will be held. Your involvement and input is important to the planning process. The Plan will lay out a blueprint for the future of the watershed. Be part of its future through participation. Save the dates: January 13, 19 and 26, 2005 to participate in Euclid Creek Priority Workshop Sessions. These sessions will provide an opportunity to brainstorm solutions and implementation strategies for each prioritized issue. For more information on the Euclid Creek Watershed, visit the following website: lgarrity@cuyahogawcd.org.

FROM THE LYNDBURST MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE MARY KAYE BOZZA

Since January of 2000, the Lyndhurst Municipal Court has provided many educational opportunities to our local schools. Most recently college students enrolled in legal studies programs as well as criminal justice programs have participated in internship opportunities shadowing Judge Mary Kaye Bozza both in the Courtroom and behind the scenes. We encourage students from our local high schools that are interested in their Senior Projects for May of 2005 to inquire as early as January 2005 by contacting Patti Anderson at (440) 461-6500 ext. 205.

St. Paschal Baylon has extended our educational opportunities to their 3rd graders for field trips to Court, and recently Julie Billiard School has brought 4th graders. We are pleased with how well behaved these students are and how well they grasp the importance of traffic laws.

The Court has revised its local rules of court. For public notification, they have been on the web site of the Cleveland Bar Association and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association. These local rules of court became effective November 15, 2004.

The Lyndhurst Municipal Court's Food Program is rounding its first full year. Defendants selected for our first offender theft program are permitted to donate a food box in lieu of actual community service hours. We are proud to report since January of 2004 almost 100 food boxes have been distributed to needy families in our jurisdiction through local civic groups and churches.

The Court has been designing a web site, which is now in its final preparation stage. We anticipate its accessibility to the public in December 2004.

The next presentation of the community outreach program "Make the Right Choice" is scheduled for Friday February 18, 2005 at 9:15 a.m. in the Lyndhurst Community Center. We encourage students from local schools to attend for alcohol prevention education.

If anyone is interested in attending this program or having Judge Bozza as a guest speaker for their group or organization please call Patti Anderson at (440) 461-6500 ext 205 for details.

Judge Bozza has been asked by the Ohio Department of Safety and the Ohio Supreme Court to participate in a pilot program to create a specialized driving under the influence docket.

The pilot program is intended to provide intensive treatment and intensive probational supervision to those with long standing alcohol addiction problems relating to their driving histories.

COMMUNITY CENTER - JUDY DICK

If you have never rented the Community Center for an event, please consider doing so. You will be pleased. The Center is located in the city complex on Highland Road.

The Center has two rooms. They are:

The Buckeye Room
Highland Room

The Buckeye Room accommodates a maximum of 72 guests and the Highland Room accommodates 200 guests.

There is a stage in the Highland Room that can remain open for use or closed to allow more people at your event.

A \$75 security deposit is required when you come to City Hall to sign your application. Your security deposit will be returned to you within about two weeks after your event as long as the Center's rules and regulations are followed.

The Center is rented in blocks of time, 4 hours, 6 hours, 8 hours or 10 hours. You begin your block of time when you bring in food and necessities for the party. Your event and the clean up must be done during the time block you rented.

For more information on the Center or to see if a specific date is available, please call Judy Dick at 440-461-2440, extension 149 between 12:30 and 3:30. Please leave a message on my voice mail if I am away from my desk.

The staff of the Center wishes you and your family a very joyous holiday season and the best in 2005. Judy Dick, Bill Amato, Sam Belfiore, Paul Earley and Debbie DiSantis

Your Holiday Events

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
COMMISSION ON AGING
HOLIDAY PARTY
December 6, 2004
12:00 Noon to 2:30 p.m.**

**Mayfield Jazz Ensemble at 12:30
Community Center**



**For reservations or more information, call
Mary Velotta at 440-461-2440**

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
LIONS CLUB
ANNUAL LIGHTING CONTEST
Friday, December 17, 2004**



Please have your lights on from dusk until 10:00 p.m. so the Club can view the displays. One family per ward will be the lucky winners who receive a plaque from the Club and will be recognized in the Highland Heights Newsletter. Sorry, last year's winners are not eligible this year.

**TRI-CITY CONSORTIUM ON AGING
HOLIDAY PARTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 12:30 P.M.
LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTER**

**For more information,
please call 216-291-3902**

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

#30- amending Section 1305.01 of Chapter 1305 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights pertaining to the one, two and three family dwelling code.

#31 - amending Section 1323.02(b) of Chapter 1323 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights pertaining to driveways.

#32 - amending Ordinance 8-2004 so as to change the appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio for the period commencing January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2004.

#33 - amending Section 727.01 of Chapter 727 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights pertaining to Gasoline and Oil Filling stations.

#34 - amending Section 115.06 (a)(6)(C) of Chapter 115 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights pertaining to the Drainage Committee and repealing all such other ordinances as are inconsistent herewith.

Resolutions adopted:

#66 through #72 - appreciation to the 2004 Home Days Committee:

Michael Hirsch, Co-Chairman
Jim Austin - Co-Chairman
Ann D'Amico
Kathy Gould
Joan McFaul
Scott Mills
Cathy Murphy

#73 - designating the Mayor of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio as the certifying representative to submit an application for, and to certify compliance with, the Issue II Financial Assistance Program for a Capital Improvement (Colony Relief Sewer) for the City of Highland Heights, Ohio

#74 - providing for the observance of Halloween on October 31, 2004.

#76 - granting a drainage easement (forebays) to the Legends Building Co., Ltd. for the purpose of drainage over and across said easement.

#77 - requesting the Cuyahoga County Auditor to advance taxes from the proceeds of tax levies.

#79 - appreciation to Lawrence J. DeMaria for his years of service as a volunteer on the Commission on Aging from 1987 to 2004; and for being one of the founding fathers of the Highland Heights 50 Plus Club; and for being an active volunteer for the Tri-City Consortium on Aging, assisting with its Blood Pressure Program and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

#80 - accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies to be placed on the 2004 tax duplicate of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio and certifying the same to the County Auditor.

Highland Heights Consolidated Health Fund

This organization was established in 1963 by Mayor Robert Barris and became a Charter organization in 1965. Eva Stone was the 1st President and continues to be the President today.

Due to the diminishing committee size, this year will be the last year of the Health Drive.

Anyone who wishes to donate to their favorite charity or health organization may still mail their checks to Highland Heights City Hall, 5827 Highland Road, Highland Heights, Ohio 44143, to the attention of the Consolidated Health Fund.

The Health Fund Committee wishes to thank the residents of Highland Heights for 41 years of loyal service to this worthwhile organization.

For more information, call Bernice Barris at 440-440-4480.

CITY SERVICES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief James Cook
Non-emergency 440-442-8825

Residential/Business Security Survey - Officers trained in crime prevention will complete a comprehensive inspection and provide you with a copy of their findings and suggestions to make your home or business more secure.

Care Call - Members of our department make phone calls to our senior citizens or other qualifying residents to check on their welfare and provide information on Social Service agencies.

Bike Patrol - This program provides a more detailed patrol of our residential neighborhoods and City Park and offers residents greater accessibility to our officers.

Alarm Board - Your fire and/or intrusion security system alarm can be directly connected into the Police Department, which is monitored 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Juvenile Diversion Program A joint effort with Mayfield High School, Mayfield Village and Mayfield Heights to provide an alternative to route first time youth offenders away from formal adjudication by addressing problems that led to the behavior.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Bencin
Non-emergency 440-442-7406

Fire Response - Structure and outdoor fire response are obviously two of our primary concerns.

EMS - Paramedic Emergency Services

Technical Rescue - High angle, water, collapse and trench rescue

Smoke Detectors - Assistance can be provided to help you in their placement. For those of you that are physically unable, we will install them and change your batteries.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

If your detector alarms, we can determine if there are dangerous levels of CO and attempt to isolate the problem. We will also contact an outside agency if needed.

Downed wires - The department will determine the type of wire, evaluate the hazard, secure the area and contact the appropriate utility.

Odor Investigations - Any unusual odors (gasoline, natural gas, smoke, etc.) can be investigated by the department.

Fire Safety - Information about how to make your home and family safe is always available.

Educational Tours and Presentations - Group tours are offered to businesses, educational facilities and residents by appointment.

Fire extinguisher and fire safety training for local businesses. During the fire extinguisher training, people will actually use an extinguisher to put out a fire, something that most people don't experience.

Child Safety Seat Inspections - Seat technicians can assure that your safety car seat is the proper type and size, install it, adjust it and teach you how to do it correctly.

Blood Pressure Checks are provided on the third Friday of each month during the Tri-City Consortium on Aging meeting at the Community Center. Residents that need additional blood pressure monitoring can stop at the fire station to have theirs checked.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Service Director Thom Evans
440-461-2440

Household Hazardous Waste Collection / Computer Roundup

In addition to the curbside solid waste and recycling programs, residents can take part in programs offered in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to remove household

hazardous waste and computer components from the solid waste stream. These programs are conducted separately at various times throughout the year. The Solid Waste District can be reached by phone at 216-443-3749 on the web at <http://www.cuyahogawd.org/>

Brush Collection - In addition to brush disposal with their regular rubbish collection, residents may also choose to take part in the spring Brush Collection Program offered for about six weeks in the spring. This program offers residents the opportunity to dispose of small brush without having to tie and bundle items for disposal by the city's rubbish collection contractor.

Snow & Ice Control - Snow plowing and de-icing operations are two of the Service Department's most vital winter functions. The department maintains an on-call staff available around the clock to handle plowing and de-icing and any other storm related emergencies which may arise.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Commissioner
Tom Jamieson
440-442-7403

Permits - Permits are required for all residential improvements including additions, renovations and associated mechanical installations. Permits are also required for fences, accessory structures and swimming pools. Permits are not required for minor repairs and maintenance.

Permits are issued to registered contractors or home owners. Lists of registered contractors are available in the building department.

New structures including accessory buildings, fences and swimming pools have specific zoning requirements and have to be approved before a permit can be issued.

City of Highland Heights
5827 Highland Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143

PRSR STD.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 1193
ECR-WSS

**Residential Customer
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143**

EMERGENCY WARNING SIREN TEST

**A test of the warning siren will be conducted on December 7, 2004
between the hours of 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m.**

This test is being done as part of the review of the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

*City Hall will be closed on December 24 and December 27 in observance of the Christmas Holiday
and January 3, 2005 in observance of the New Years Holiday.*