

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS 2005 HOME DAYS



DELICIOUS VARIETY OF FOOD IN THE BIG TENT



**GREAT ENTERTAINMENT
KARAOKE**



FUN FOR THE KIDS



PARADE BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M.



FROM MILLRIDGE SCHOOL



**FIREWORKS AT DUSK ON SATURDAY SPONSORED BY
THE FLOOR SHOW**

MAYOR SCOTT COLEMAN

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

MYRON WILLIS, MAYOR 1922-1923, 1927-1928 and 1940 - 1947

Myron Willis was the second mayor of Highland Heights and also served longer than any other mayor in the history of our city, a total of 12 years. Former Mayor Willis was appointed to the first council of Highland Heights as President Pro-temp. Mayor Willis inaugurated a paving program and worked to establish a Planning Committee on a county-wide scale. Mayor Willis served his first term as Mayor in 1926 and 1927. Before being elected Mayor, he also served as the village treasurer and was a member of the planning commission.

Many improvements were made in Highland Heights during his term in office including the establishment of a traffic code, installation of the first street lights, formation of a volunteer fire department, establishment of a rubbish collection program and a house numbering program. One of the most vital reforms during Mayor Willis tenure was to put into operation the proper electric, building, sanitary and plumbing codes.

FRANK KRAINZ, MAYOR 1974 - 1975

Former Mayor Frank Krainz served in the Navy in World War II as a radar man and retired from Gould, Inc. at the age of 55. Before being elected Mayor in 1974, he had been a councilman for two years.

Mayor Krainz was well known for his colorful dialogue on the council floor. He was never afraid to speak his mind which was both his trademark and part of the reason for his many successes. Former Mayor Roy Mayes once referred to Mayor Krainz as one of the most honest people he ever met.

During his term as Mayor, the new Police Headquarters was built and a fire engine was purchased. Mayor Krainz also initiated a street resurfacing program and street lights were put on Miner and Bishop Road during his time as Mayor.

RESIDENT FEATURE - EVA STONE

Mrs. Eva Stone is known for her charitable work which began when she started devoting her free time to crippled children at Rainbow Hospital. Later, she turned her energies to helping handicapped children as chairman of the Child Care Group. Mrs. Stone served as the Hillcrest area Chairman for the Red Cross representing Highland Heights and was the first in the Hillcrest Area to organize a consolidated health drive.

This fund raising drive enabled Highland Heights residents to make their charitable donations once a year and to indicate the charity of their choice. Mrs. Stone was chosen woman of the year by Child Care in May 1968 and has been honored by the National Red Cross in Washington.

A proud moment in the life of Eva Stone was in 1973 when she was presented with a beautiful plaque from Mayor Brennan which read: "To Eva Stone, President, Highland Heights, Consolidated Health Fund in Recognition for 11 years of untiring service and devotion to the Community."

Last year I received a call from Mrs. Stone. She wanted to tell me that she was no longer involved in her beloved Highland Heights Consolidated Health Fund. I would like to personally acknowledge and thank Mrs. Stone for her more than 40 years of community involvement in so many civic and charitable endeavors. God Bless you Eva!

BUSINESS/RESIDENT HIGHLIGHT COLONY PRINTING/VINCE VARANESE

In September, 1961, Vincent Varanese followed his dream and opened his own print shop at 5555 Wilson Mills Road. The shop began as a franchise, Pip Printing, a national chain. In February 2001, Vince's Pip Printing franchise became Colony Printing. Vince and his staff provide printing services to many of the businesses in the Highland Heights area. His shop has become somewhat of an institution in Highland Heights. Many long-time Highland Heights' residents know him by name either through Colony Printing, or for the many other hats Vince has worn through the years.

Vince has been a member of the Highland Heights Lions Club since 1969. As a member of the Lions, he became involved in numerous local activities and fund raisers. Each year, you can find him selling roses on Sweetest Day, helping with the Lions Annual Hole in One Contest in August, and he always has Lions Trash Bags available in his print shop.

Vince, a WWII veteran himself, along with Weert Ley, is the Co-founder of the Veteran's Peace Memorial located in front of the Municipal complex. Each year, Vince helps organize the Memorial Day Ceremony which last year celebrated its tenth anniversary. Vince has been a long time sponsor of baseball teams and has donated countless hours to home days and other community functions. The City of Highland Heights will be forever in his debt.

MAYOR SCOTT COLEMAN

KUDOS TO BROWN/FLYNN

In a recent newsletter, I highlighted Brown/Flynn which is co-owned by Margie Flynn of Highland Heights. We are very pleased to report the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) recently named Brown/Flynn one of the top 10 Northeast Ohio companies with fewer than 10 employees in its "Ten Under 10" competition. The award criteria focuses on best practices in innovation, growth/success, value to the community and the environment, diversity promotion, and customer service excellence.

And, in February, Margie was named a 2005 Distinguished Sales and Marketing Executive by the Sales and Marketing Executives of Cleveland. Congratulations to all at Brown/Flynn!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The competition among Northeast Ohio communities to attract new and retain existing businesses has become, and is expected to remain, very fierce. As the economy continues its slow recovery, it is imperative for municipalities to offer incentives to businesses when they make their relocation and expansion decisions. I am very pleased to announce three significant events in the city's economic endeavors.

SWAGELOCK CORPORATION

You may recall back in the fourth quarter of 2003, a local newspaper reported that Swagelock Corporation would be consolidating their operations in Solon. The article mentioned the possible relocation of their entire workforce from Highland Heights to Solon. I am very pleased to announce that we have recently entered into an agreement with the Swagelock Corporation that allows them to maintain their facilities in Highland Heights. Negotiations between the Highland Heights and Swagelock allowed the City to offer an economic development grant to them which effectively offers Swagelock economic incentives over the next ten years.

Swagelock maintains several facilities throughout northeast Ohio. The best use of their facilities is a primary concern to them. While some of the current jobs in Highland Heights will be relocated to their main corporate facility in Solon, the consolidation of other locations, into their Highland Heights campus, will keep them as one of our largest employers.

Swagelock has been located on Bishop Road in Highland Heights for over 25 years. We're happy to continue our partnership with this great corporate citizen and thank them for keeping their strong presence in Highland Heights.

LEGEND FINANCIAL GROUP TO COME TO ABERDEEN BUSINESS PARK

I'm very pleased to announce our first tenant in the Aberdeen Business Park. Legend Development Group, LLC, which is owned by residents Paul Rodak, Lochlainn Ohaimhirgin and Mike Miozzi, recently purchased the first lot in the business park adjacent to StoneWater Golf Course. I approached Paul Rodak about nine months ago hoping to entice him to relocate his business to Highland Heights. The plans include the construction of a beautiful 20,000 square foot brick office building that will be the new headquarters for The Legand Financial Group.

This new corporate citizen offers a variety of financial planning and insurance related services to individuals and businesses. Needless to say, I am very excited about this project and the group intends to break ground sometime this summer.

FINANCE DIRECTOR TONY IANIRO

Our Finance Director/Economic Development Coordinator, Tony Ianiro, recently received a scholarship to attend the National Development Council's Economic Development Finance Professional Certification Program.

The program consists of four one week classes, one each in April (completed), July, October and next January. The four-course training series covers economic development finance, business credit analysis, real estate financing, and negotiating, problem solving and deal structuring techniques. Upon the successful completion of the four courses, Mr. Ianiro will become a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional. The scholarship was in the amount of \$3,500 which means the cost of the tuition to the City of Highland Heights was only \$200. Congratulations Tony!!

MAYOR SCOTT COLEMAN STATE OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS

Dear Residents:

The following information is intended to be an overview of the operations of the city as well as an analysis of our financial condition and current budget projections. The information contained in this State of The City Report is intended to give you the background necessary for you to better understand what happens at City Hall. In my eyes, you are all shareholders of this community and I feel it is imperative that you have this information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The mission statement of our Police Department is to create an atmosphere to preserve the safety and security of the community by providing quality police service in a fair and impartial manner. Their goal is to accomplish this by a pro-active police agency with the ability to interact and respond to community needs, emphasizing integrity and professionalism. The Police Department is headed by Chief Jim Cook and is composed of the Operations Bureau and the Support Services Bureau.

The Operations Bureau is the core of the department and has the greatest contact with the community on a daily basis. There are currently 29 employees in the Operations Bureau. The Operations Bureau is responsible for the protection of life and property, the prevention of crime and the apprehension of offenders. To facilitate these responsibilities, the Operations Bureau is divided into a Patrol Unit, Investigation Unit, Traffic Unit and a Court Liaison Unit.

The Support Services Bureau, currently staffed with 17 professionals, is responsible for the supplementary police services of the department. To carry out the necessary functions of this group, the bureau is divided into five units, the Communications Unit, Jail Facility, Records Unit, Training Unit, Data Systems Unit and Auxiliary Police Officers.

In 2004, the Highland Heights police department received 11,630 requests for service which is an increase of nearly 1,400 calls in 2000. Examples of types of service requests include traffic law violations, criminal offenses and various community services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Ed Bencin's mission statement for his department is to "Protect the lives and property of all residents, businesses and general public within the city limits. The department will also deliver assistance to all cities and villages to which our city relies on for like assistance. The delivery of all services will be consistent with the highest quality at the lowest cost to residents." The fire department operates on a 24/48 hour basis with a minimum manning of four people per shift. This is accomplished by a 53 hour work week. There are three shifts each having four fire fighters and one lieutenant per shift.

In 2004 the fire department responded to 163 fire calls, 679 ambulance calls and 819 miscellaneous incident calls. Of the 163 fire calls, the estimated fire loss to residential and commercial structures and property was under \$36,000. In addition, through our mutual aid agreement, the department responded to 67 calls and received assistance from surrounding communities on 57 occasions. Some of the other duties the department is responsible for include routine station maintenance and repairs, hydrant maintenance and repair and all preventative maintenance and repairs of department emergency vehicles. The department conducted 126 Public Education /Service activities during the year. These include CPR assistance, Child Safety Seat installation, fire prevention presentations, blood pressure monitoring for senior citizens and presentations to civic groups.

In 2004, the department received grants which assisted in the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) as well as other medical equipment. The department also did some much needed upgrading to the fire station living quarters and office area. Some goals that were not achieved due to funding constraints include the purchase of a thermal imaging camera, building renovations and the installation of an air evacuation system in the garage bay area.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Highland Heights Service Department is run by Service Director, Thom Evans, and is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of public works and facilities which include roadways, drainage systems, streams and watercourses and public lands. Department personnel are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to respond to emergency needs of the community. Our goal is to have a response time for emergency services in less than one hour. The Department, comprised of a staff of 10 full time laborers, seasonal employees, a part time secretary, and the director, serves a growing community of more than 8,000 residents, 3,100 homes and 200 businesses. The department's delivery of services continues to be challenged by a 30% growth in population and roadway lanes miles in recent years.

In 2004, in addition to programmed activities such as road patching, crack sealing, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, leaf collection, snow plowing etc., the department responded to hundreds of miscellaneous requests for service in many areas. Resident service programs include Curbside Rubbish & Recycling Collection, Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Drop-off Collection, Brush Collection, and Curbside Leaf Collection.

2004 PROJECTS

RUBBISH - In 2004, the city awarded a new residential rubbish collection program to J & J Refuse Company of Dover Ohio. The current program serves an estimated 3,177 homes at a monthly per unit cost of \$7.76 for solid waste and \$1.93 for recyclables, for an estimated annual cost of approximately \$369,400. This represents a savings of approximately \$36,000 annually over the previous contract.

BRUSH COLLECTION - Service department personnel conducted the spring brush collection program from mid April through the end of May. Program participation continues to grow each year. In 2004, the department responded to 235 calls for brush collection, up 32% from the previous year. To date in 2005 more than 425 calls brush collections were made.

ROADS - The service department is responsible for the maintenance and repair of approximately 91 lane miles of roadway. In the past fifteen years the city's roads have grown by some 29 lane miles, which is an increase of more than 30%. Duties of department personnel include street-by-street patching, crack sealing, catch basin cleaning and repair, installation and maintenance of traffic signs, street trees, street sweeping, and snow and ice control.

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. Operations are prioritized by need and conditions. Main and secondary roadways are addressed first, followed by side streets, and then the clearing of walks around schools and assisting seniors with apron clearing. 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. In the winter of 2004-2005, the department applied approximately 4500 tons of road salt for de-icing. The cost of material alone exceeded \$140,000.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASED:

- JDSO trailer mounted, mini jetter water trailer used for watering and cleaning out small sewer pipes
- 200 Ford F350, 4x4 1-Ton Dump with plow/spreader
- 25 Yard self contained vacuum leaf trailer

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department, headed by Building Commissioner, Tom Jamieson, has the responsibility of issuing building permits for new homes and businesses as well as additions or changes to existing structures. Most importantly, this department is responsible for the community's adherence to our current codes and regulations. This is all done with a very limited staff. In addition to the building commissioner, we have one full time building inspector and one administrative assistant. In 2004, the building department issued 776 permits for residential and non-residential improvements. In addition, there were 53 new single family home permits issued with an estimated valuation of \$17,257,000 or an average of \$325,000 per home.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We began the year with a General Fund Balance of \$2.93m and ended with a balance of \$2.56m. While we still maintain a healthy General Fund Balance as compared to other cities our size, this balance as a trend seems to be decreasing. As a point of reference, the balance for 2003 was \$3.11m. Total General Fund revenues in 2004 were \$7.58m which is compared to \$7.77m in 2003. This is mainly attributable to a slight decrease in municipal income tax withholding and Net Profits tax collected from our corporate citizens. Expenditures were held in check. The city spent about the same amount in both 2004 and 2003, roughly \$7.95m. Personnel expenditures continue to be our largest expense. Wages and benefits account for nearly three quarters of our entire budget. This should be no surprise since Highland Heights, like all municipalities are a service oriented organization.

2005 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Due to the anticipated further decline of revenues from our income tax, the State of Ohio's slashing of funds to municipalities and the rising cost of health insurance and other employee benefits and insurance, we have budgeted a General Fund deficit of just under \$700k. The budgeting process included a conservative estimate of revenues coupled with a worst case scenario of expenses. As a result of projected budget shortfall, we have included no capital improvements for the 2005 calendar year. This projected shortfall did not, however, include revenue estimates for some of the recent economic developments mentioned previously.

Sincerely,

Mayor Scott Coleman

CITY COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY COUNCILMAN ED HARGATE COUNCIL PERSON AT LARGE

Over the past year, City Council's Safety Service Committee has worked with the administration to develop the Highland Heights Emergency Operations Plan so that we can effectively respond to any civil disorder or natural disaster. Our safety forces will have the necessary equipment and resources to protect our community. I want to thank the Police and Fire Departments for their efforts in developing this emergency plan. We have also worked to provide superior city services by supporting the purchase of the following:

1. American Road Leaf Collector to supplement our leaf collection program.
2. Three 2004 and one 2005 Ford Crown Victoria police cruisers.
3. One Ton Dump Truck with plow and tailgate spreader to be used for snow removal and road repairs.
4. Panasonic 8 channel hard drive recorder for the communications center at the Police and Fire Station.
5. Electrical work for our emergency generator at the Police and Fire Station.
6. Mower (72") for the Parks Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF JAMES COOK

OHIO'S SEXUAL PREDATOR LAW H.B. 180 & SORN LAW

(Sex Offender Registration and Notification)
Recently we have had many inquires regarding Ohio's sexual predator law and the requirements for notification of residents regarding sex offenders. Since 1997 Ohio House Bill 180, the Sexual Offender Registration and Notification has been in effect. Sheriff's Officers throughout the State of Ohio were required to develop and implement a registration system for convicted sexual offenders. By logging onto Cuyahoga County Sheriff Gerald T. McFaul's web site at www.cuyahoga.oh.us/sheriff or the Ohio Attorney General's web site at www.esorn.ag.oh.us anyone can access information, pictures, addresses and descriptions of every registered sexual offender, in a searchable database. On the Attorney General's web site you are provided with the law's current updates and a map of every registered sexual offender who lives or works within a zip code.

The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Sex Crimes Unit is responsible for registering and notifying citizens of serious sexual offenders. The Unit is required to notify residents of any Sexual Predator or Habitual Sexual Offender living within 1,000 feet radius of their residence. Notifications are not required for Sexual Oriented Offenders. Schools, daycare centers, the school board and Chief of Police are notified of any Sexual Predator or Habitual Sexual Offender living within a one-mile radius of their property. Currently, there are 2,126 registered Sex Offenders in Cuyahoga County. Of these, 256 are Sexual Predators, 25 Habitual Offenders (With Notification), 62 Habitual Offenders (No Notification) and 1,783 Sexually Oriented Offenders. (All offenders are on the web sites) You have the ability to make your family aware of sexual offenders with past offenses living or working in Highland Heights by accessing the above information. We believe that awareness is still the most valuable tool in protecting your families. Listed below are the classifications of sexual offenders.

1. **Sexual Predator** is defined as a person who has been convicted of or pleads guilty to, committing a sexually oriented offense that is likely in the future to commit additional sexually oriented offenses. Offenders can be classified as a Sexual Predator in one of the following ways.

- The offender is convicted of a sexually violent offense with a sexually violent predator specification, or the sentencing court, after holding a sexual predator hearing pursuant to O.R.C. 2950.09, determines that the offender is a sexual predator.

Reporting Requirements: Offenders designated as Sexual Predators are subject to registration/verification requirements for life unless a Judge modifies or terminates the Sexual Predator designation. Sexual Predators are subject to neighbor/community notification provisions and the reporting requirements at 90-day intervals.

2. **Habitual Sex Offender (With Notification)** is defined as a person who has been convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, committing a sexually oriented offense, and who previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more sexually oriented offenses. The court will determine if the person is subject to community notification.

Reporting Requirements: Offenders designated as Habitual Sex Offenders (With Notification) are subject to registration/verification requirements annually for a period of 20 years after release. A sentencing Judge may determine that a Habitual Sex Offender is subject to neighborhood/community notification.

3. **Sexually Oriented Offender** is a person who has been convicted of, or pleads guilty to, committing a sexually oriented offense, but who has not been designated as a Sexual Predator, or Habitual Sex Offender. *Reporting Requirements:* Sexually Oriented Offenders are subject to the registration/verification requirements annually for a period of 10 years after release. These offenders are not subject to neighborhood notification.

IDENTITY THEFT

We have had many inquiries regarding Identity Theft and how you can take safety precautions to protect yourself. In this age of information technology, criminals can acquire personal information much easier than before. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes. It is relatively easy to commit and can cause serious problems for victims who may spend an enormous amount of time cleaning up the mess caused to their credit record. Now more than ever, you need to be proactive about protecting your personal information.

Identity theft occurs when a criminal obtains and uses your personal information such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, insurance information and Social Security numbers to purchase goods or services fraudulently. Identity theft is a crime at both federal and state levels. The Ohio law that went into effect in 1999 makes it unlawful for someone to use another person's identifying information with the intent to fraudulently obtain credit, property or services. It also takes into account computer and Internet technology, and makes it a crime to aid or abet another person in securing this personal identifying information.

HOW YOUR IDENTITY CAN BE STOLEN

- Identity theft criminals may steal your wallet or purse to obtain your driver's license, credit cards or social security card.
- Be suspicious of anyone calling to "Confirm" personal or financial information. Known as Pretext Calling: this is a common ploy used by identity theft criminals. Never give personal information over the phone unless you initiate the call.
- An increasingly common method for obtaining identification is through the Internet. Account numbers are stolen from unsecured web sites or obtained in Identity Fraud schemes.
- Ponzi/Pyramid Schemes: Investors are promised abnormally high profits on their investments. No investment is actually made; early investors are paid returns with money from later investors. The system collapses and later investors do not receive dividends and lose their investment.

How You Can Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

- Order a copy of your credit report once a year from each of the three national credit-reporting agencies (TransUnion 800-680-7293, Experian 888-397-3742, Equifax 800-685-1111) to check for inaccuracies and fraudulent use of your accounts.
- Monitoring your credit card statements and your credit report are the most important steps you can take to safeguard your credit identity.
- Shred or destroy all documents, credit card statements, bills, insurance papers or bank statements you are discarding, and other financial information.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of credit cards you carry. Cancel all unused credit card accounts. Even though you do not use them, account numbers are recorded on your credit report.
- Never give out personal or financial information over the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you know who you are dealing with.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FILE A REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. An officer will assist you and provide information on filing an Identity Theft Verification Passport, a program provided by the Attorney General's office. This program provides victims of identity theft with a method of demonstrating that their identity has been stolen. For more information about identity theft and this program visit the Attorney General's web site at www.ag.state.oh.us.

OPPORTUNITY THEFT - Everyone should be aware that during the warm weather months when you are outside working on your lawn, gardening, enjoying your patio or deck, playing with your children, or just relaxing in the yard, you need to still lock your doors and keep your garage doors closed. If you're in your yard and preoccupied with yard work or your children, and doors or garages that you cannot see are open, this is a perfect opportunity for thieves to enter your home, remove valuables and leave undetected. Likewise if someone comes to your door that you are not expecting, the stranger may have an accomplice at another unattended entrance to your home.

Each year we have burglaries that occur when the resident is home, but outside in their yard, leaving doors or garages open for thieves to enter unnoticed. Always call the police department right away if you see suspicious vehicles or persons in your neighborhood or if someone comes to your door seemingly to divert your attention.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT
TOM JAMIESON**

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE
1327.02(B) AMENDMENT**

This new legislation specifically prohibits the outside storage of snow plow blades, automotive parts and equipment, tires, construction materials, extension ladders, power washers, and other similar items. The goal is to enhance our ability to ensure that our residential properties continue to be maintained in a high quality condition. **The new Property Maintenance Code will go into effect on June 10, 2005.** Copies are available in the Building Department. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Tom Jamieson at 440-442-7403.

2005 SIDEWALK PROGRAM

The 2005 Sidewalk Repair Program includes the following streets:

Barkston Drive	Millridge Road
Belwood Drive	Oakview Drive
Brainard Road	Ridgebury Blvd.
Colony Drive	Romford Road
Cranbrook Drive	Rose Blvd.
Eastlawn Drive	Stanwell Drive
Ford Road.	West Mill Drive
Lander Road	

The Sidewalk Program designates 1/3 of the city annually and then skips a year. We are in the third year of the present cycle. The following is a synopsis of how the program will be implemented.

1. An evaluation and inspection will be performed.
2. Letters will be sent out identifying the necessary sidewalk and apron repairs as well as the estimated cost.
3. Residents can elect to do the work themselves or allow the city contractor to include the work in the project.
4. If you choose to do the work yourself, it must be completed by the required deadline or the city contractor will go forward with the repairs.
5. Upon completion of the project, you will receive an invoice for the work performed.

The city contractor is selected through bids for the entire citywide project. The lowest and best bid is accepted.

For any questions or more information on the 2005 Sidewalk Program, please feel free to contact the City Engineer, Andy Blackley at 216-731-6255 or the Building Commissioner, Tom Jamieson at 440-442-7403.

**SERVICE DEPARTMENT
THOM EVANS**

STORM WATER POLLUTION

This article is part of a series on storm water pollution prevention provided by Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. This time of year, thoughts of greening up your lawn may lead you down the path of treating your lawn with a chemical cocktail. Studies have shown that over 70% of all lawns are regularly fertilized whether they need it or not. If you are applying fertilizer yourself, a good rule of thumb is to essentially halve the fertilizer application rate suggested on the bag. However, the safest route is to actually test your soil. Soil testing is an inexpensive way to reduce the amount of fertilizer you or your lawn care company apply.

The Ohio State University Extension recommends sending soil samples to be tested at The University of Massachusetts Soil Testing Laboratory. You can contact them at 413-545-2311, soiltest@umext.umass.edu or by checking out <http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/> for more information.

Here are several ecologically-minded as well as money and labor saving tips that will help you along in your quest for a beautiful, healthy yard:

- Leave those clippings on your lawn! They are a free and natural source of nutrients. Clippings are 85 percent water and will decompose within a week. Mulching mowers also cut clippings in smaller pieces to further reduce the risk of smothering your lawn.
- Do you have a water body on your property? Leave a “buffer zone” around it landscaped with native plants. These “buffers” can trap pollutants and keep them out of waterways. Contact Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District for a list of conservation plants that don’t mind wet “feet”.
- Spot treat problem areas with pesticides rather than doing a mass application. No sense doing more work than you have to! Minimizing use also reduces risks of exposure to chemicals.
- If you are planning on applying fertilizer or pesticides, watch the weather! Apply when downpours aren’t predicted to keep those chemicals on your lawn and out of local waterways!
- Try natural or more environmentally friendly alternatives. You probably have the solution to most of your lawn problems in your house. Materials such as soap, ashes, oils, salt, sawdust, and garlic have been used to thwart pests successfully for ages.

For more information, call Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District at 216-524-6580 x12.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV) 2004/2005

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) mosquito surveillance and control program experienced an active year in 2004 in response to West Nile Virus (WNV). The CCBH spends 90% of its time in the mosquito program by taking preventative measures to suppress and monitor the mosquito population and counts on residents to participate in the efforts to reduce their exposure to mosquito-borne disease.

It is important for the public to be aware of the symptoms of WNV, which are: sudden onset of a fever, muscle weakness, body ache, and possible skin rash with swollen lymph glands. The majority of the documented human cases observed in Cuyahoga County were people over the age of 50 and/or in poor health. It is, however, important to keep in mind that people of all ages can become infected. Extreme case symptoms are high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and rarely, death. It is important to note that approximately fifty percent of the people diagnosed with an extreme case of WNV still suffer symptoms up to one year later.

The CCBH is again asking residents to eliminate mosquito breeding on their property by eliminating artificial containers which hold water (tires, buckets, flower pots, etc.) and any other structures that may breed mosquitoes from spring to fall.

Residents also need to take steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites by mosquito proofing their home, limiting outdoor activity during dawn and dusk, and using insect repellent according to label directions. Insect repellent containing DEET has been proven to be effective in repelling mosquitoes.

Please notify the CCBH at 216-201-2030 about any sightings of dead blue jays and crows observed in the summer as this could be a signal that WNV is in the area. Cuyahoga County residents can expect to observe dead birds, infected mosquitoes, and human cases again this year. The CCBH and experts throughout the country can not predict what level of WNV activity will occur in our area. The weather appears to play a strong role in the level of mosquito activity that occurs from year to year. A hot dry summer is actually the type of weather that can cause an increase in WNV activity.

To inquire about locations for mosquito adulticiding, call 216-201-2030. For more information on WNV log on to our website at WWW.CCBH.NET

RACCOONS AND RABIES

Rabies is a viral infection that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans. The disease is almost always fatal to both people and animals. Raccoon strain rabies spreads rapidly and infects large numbers of raccoons. The disease often spreads to other wildlife and pets, making human exposure a real concern. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) is working with local, state and federal authorities to conduct surveillance activities to monitor the movement of raccoon strain rabies. A rabid raccoon was detected in the late summer of 2004 in the extreme eastern portion of Cuyahoga County.

Approximately 44 rabid raccoons and a skunk were detected in Lake and Geauga Counties in 2004. In 2005, one rabid raccoon has been detected in Lake County. In spring 2005, the CCBH along with some city personnel will be baiting the eastern half of Cuyahoga County with an oral rabies vaccine. This vaccine will be placed in raccoon habitat to inoculate raccoons from rabies. The antibodies that are developed in the vaccinated raccoon will protect the raccoon if it is exposed to another infected raccoon. If enough raccoons are vaccinated, the disease will be stopped.

Avoid - Do not feed or approach wildlife while at a park or walking in the woods. Do not take any animal home as a pet. Do not place food outside to feed wild animals. Animals that could damage your property and possibly carry the virus will be encouraged to remain in the area. Inspect your property to deter wildlife from finding harborage or food sources.

Vaccinate - Your companion animal(s) from the rabies virus. Check with your veterinarian to ensure that your companion animal(s) has a current vaccination. Indoor cats require rabies vaccinations because they often frequent the outdoors or they can be exposed to a rabid bat inside of your home.

Educate - Your children to stay away from wildlife and to not attempt to help any injured animals. It is important to teach children to notify their parents if they were scratched or bitten by wildlife or a companion animal. The wildlife or companion animal should be collected/identified by an adult or animal control officer for rabies testing or verification of rabies vaccination.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES WILL DISPOSE OF EMPTY PROPANE TANKS FOR A FEE.

Amerigas Propane - 440-946-2000
37401 Stevens Blvd., Willoughby, Ohio

Linde Gas - 440-974-0013
7201 Center Street, Mentor, Ohio

Ruff's RV Center - 440-944-9224
28920 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills, Ohio

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF ED BENCIN**

HOME SAFETY

The onset of warmer weather brings with it the opportunity to take some steps to improve the safety of your home and family. Here are some suggestions from the Fire Department.

1. Take a little extra time to check your house address. Be sure that it is correct and that the numbers are large enough (Highland Heights Building Code requires 3-1/2" high numbers) and that the address is readily visible from the street, from both directions of travel, especially at night.
2. Practice your home escape plan. Be sure that everyone, especially the children are aware of two ways to exit their room and the house, where the family is going to assemble after the exit the house, what the fire alarm or smoke detector sounds like and what it means what it alarms.

Most importantly, in case of fire, leave the house immediately and do not go back in. Call the Fire Department from a neighbor's phone. If someone is unaccounted for, inform the Fire Department immediately along with their suspected location.
3. Be sure all flammable liquids are stored in an approved container, in a well ventilated area away from your living space. Never use gasoline as a cleaner or solvent.
4. Refuel your gas powered equipment outdoors after the equipment has cooled down.
5. Do not transport Liquefield Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in the trunk of your car. They should be placed in an upright position on the floor of a vehicle with all the windows open. Remove the cylinder as soon as possible. Be sure that all connections are tight. Remember that the cylinder connection has left-handed threads.
6. Never use or store an LPG for a barbecue inside any part of your house or garage.

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



NEW

**MOVIE IN THE PARK NIGHT
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005**

**STARTS AT 6:30
D. J., MUSIC AND TRIVIA**

MOVIE AT DUSK

BRING YOUR CHAIR OR BLANKET

POOL CONCESSIONAIRE WILL BE OPEN.

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
JUDY DICK, COORDINATOR**

A variety of exercise classes are available at the Community Center. Please call the instructor at the phone number listed below for more information on a class.

Fitness and Exercise, Roberta Brofman - 216-513-9622
Mondays & Wednesdays 8:30 a.m.

Jazzercise, Debbie Fekeshazy - 440-473-6759
Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 9:30 a.m.

Body Sculpting - 216-313-3539
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30 p.m.

Tai Chi, Sue Cady - 216-932-7717
Mondays 2:00 p.m.

Kul Sul Do, Barbara Schrover - 440-289-0389
Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

This a new class at the center. This training offers a positive change for people not only physically, but also psychologically and emotionally. You can increase your flexibility and strength while aiding in the loss of body fat. Ages 5 and up.

COMMUNITY CENTER ROOMS

Along with a variety of other activities and meetings, the Center has rooms available to rent if you are planning a party. For more information, call Judy Dick at 461-2440, extension 149, Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 3:30 or leave a message on Judy's voice mail.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS HOME DAYS
July 29, 30 and 31, 2005



Last year's Home Days event was a success due in part to the new layout that was used which included all the food being under one large tent. The Committee received many compliments on the new layout and format for last year's Home Days.

There will be a large tent again this year with a variety of delicious food, vendors to visit, and different types of music to enjoy including Carmelina on Saturday afternoon and Festivus on Saturday evening.



There will be rides and games for all ages, and lots of special activities including Sparkles the Clown, Jungle Terry, a magician and

Karaoke



**Fireworks sponsored by
The Floor Show**

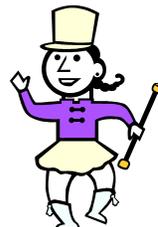


Sponsors are needed this year to help with fireworks and entertainment expenses. If you would like to sponsor a specific activity, please call Michael Hirsch at 440-449-1995 or Jim Austin at 440-446-9779. Home Days contributions should be mailed to City of Highland Heights, 5827 Highland Road, Highland Heights, Ohio 44143.

HOME DAYS PARADE 2005
"HATS OFF TO HEROES"

Sunday July 31 at 1:30 p.m. from Millridge School

The Home Days Parade Committee is looking for local heroes to serve as grand marshals this year. Nominate a family member, friend, or anyone from our community, whose good deeds, acts, or attitude has made a difference! Send all nominations to:



Home Days Parade Chairperson
C/O City of Highland Heights
5827 Highland Road,
Highland Hts., OH 44143

SUNDAY BAND CONCERTS
HIGHLAND HTS. COMMUNITY CENTER
SUNDAYS, JULY 10 & AUGUST 14
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.



Bring your chairs or blankets and enjoy a lovely evening of music and dancing. These are musical evenings for all ages. We have plenty of picnic tables for your use. If it rains, we'll enjoy the music indoors in the air-conditioned community center.

VETERANS MEMORIAL CEREMONY



The residents of Highland Heights, City Council and Mayor Coleman thank Weert Ley, Vince Varanese and all the other volunteers who planned and coordinated our Memorial Day observance this year.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

LYNDHURST MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE MARY KAYE BOZZA



The Lyndhurst Municipal court extends its congratulations to the Honor students from Richmond Heights, Brush and Mayfield High Schools that were the recipients of recognition by the Hillcrest Rotary Club. Judge Mary Kaye Bozza attended the dinner celebration on May 10, 2005 and was given an opportunity to address the students regarding current educational opportunities provided by the Lyndhurst Court.

For additional information about the Lyndhurst Municipal Court, its community outreach programs or to invite Judge Bozza to be a guest speaker at your favorite group or organization, please call Patti Anderson at 440-461-6500, extension 205 or visit the website at www.lyndhurstmunicipalcourt.org.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS SENIOR PICNIC HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2005

Picnic style lunch
Games
Door prizes

Call Mary Velotta at 440-461-2440 for more information

GARAGE SALES

If you are planning to have a garage sale, please remember you need to obtain a \$5.00 permit. The permits are available at City Hall between 8:00 and 5:00 on Mondays through Fridays. Garage sales are not permitted on Sundays or Holidays.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB



The Highland Heights Garden Club was named Garden Club of the Year at the 2005 Garden Club of Ohio State Convention held in Independence, Ohio.

The award is given to the club whose work has been outstanding in the greatest number of award classifications. Highland Heights Garden Club co-presidents, Judy Joseph and Helen Vladic, accepted the award.

The Garden Club won many awards including First Place for a newsletter edited by Debi Sigetic and First Place for furthering its goals and objectives.

The Garden Club is developing a Memorial Garden next to the Highland Heights Community Center which is becoming a favorite place to spend some restful moments.

Anyone interested in the Highland Heights Garden Club should contact Judy Joseph at 216-360-8305 or Sharon Daviso at 440-446-9395.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

ORDINANCES

Ordinance #1 - An ordinance enacting new Chapter 1523 of the codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, establishing recovery of costs for the provision of emergency medical and ambulance transportation services.

Ordinance #2 - An ordinance establishing compensation for employees of the Recreation Department of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio for 2005.

Ordinance #3 - An ordinance appropriating funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio for the period commencing January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2005.

Ordinance #5 - An ordinance amending Ordinance 1-2004 establishing compensation for certain employees of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, commencing January 1, 2005.

Ordinance #6 - An ordinance establishing compensation for the Recreation Director of the City of Highland Heights for 2005.

Ordinance #7 - An Ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of Highland Heights, Ohio.

Ordinance #8 - An ordinance authorizing an Economic Development Grant Agreement with The Swagelok Company.

Ordinance #9 - An Ordinance amending Ordinance 43-2004 and Section No. 351.22 of the Highland Heights Codified Ordinances, titled Parking Facilities for Residences to regulate the parking of Recreation Vehicles on Residential Property.

Ordinance #10 - An Ordinance amending Sections 1327.02 et seq. and 1327.99 et seq. of Chapter 1327 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights pertaining to property maintenance and penalties.

Ordinance #11 - An Ordinance amending Ordinance 3-2005 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, 2005 and ending December 31, 2005.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #5 - A resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Tri-City Consortium on Aging and authorizing the payment of the cash match portion for the City of Highland Heights.

Resolution #6 - A resolution declaring Cuyahoga Landmark, Inc. to be the lowest and best bidder for the purchase and supply of gasoline and diesel fuel for use by the municipality.

Resolution #7 - A resolution establishing the terms, conditions and compensation for the Law Director's services.

Resolution #8 - A resolution establishing compensation and other terms of employment for the Police Prosecutor.

Resolution #9 - A resolution providing for the employment of an engineer for the City of Highland Heights and establishing the compensation of the City Engineer for 2005.

Resolution #10 - A resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network (SPAN) and authorizing the payment of dues for the City of Highland Heights for the Year 2005.

Resolution #11 - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Great Lakes Billing Associates, Inc. for billing for EMS Services.

Resolution #12 - A resolution urging the retention of employees of the NASA Glenn Research Center.

Resolution #13 - A resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to make application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Funds for the purchase of a diesel emission evacuation system and 800 MGZ Radios in an amount not to exceed Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three Dollars.

Resolution #14 - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Snacks and Stuff, Inc. to provide food and beverage concession services at the Municipal Pool and Park for the summer of 2005.

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

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

City's Address Data Base

*Please help us keep our resident data base accurate.
If your name or address needs changed, call Diana at 440-461-2440, extension 146.*



Dogs



Remember to pick up after your dogs and dispose of waste in the appropriate manner. Please do not throw waste down the sewer.

Trash - Pick-up will be delayed one day during the week of July 3, 2005.



Concerts - Please remember to plan to attend the concerts at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 10 and August 14, 2005.



Home Days Celebration is July 29, 30 and 31.
Fireworks sponsored by The Floor Show.
Parking at Mayfield High School on Saturday
Shuttle Service Provided

BIKE HELMETS



Whether you are an adult or child, wearing a bike helmet when riding can help prevent injuries if you fall off your bike.

If you do not have a helmet, call Judy Dick at 440-461-2440, extension 149, to schedule an appointment to purchase a Bell Helmet for \$8.00. Judy has been trained by Greater Cleveland Safe Kids to fit a helmet for optimum protection.

If you already own a helmet and would like to make sure it fits properly, and that you are wearing it correctly, you may also call Judy for an appointment.