

HIGHLAND HIGHLIGHTS

From the City of Highland Heights

www.highlandhts.com

March 2005

ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY VETERANS PEACE MEMORIAL



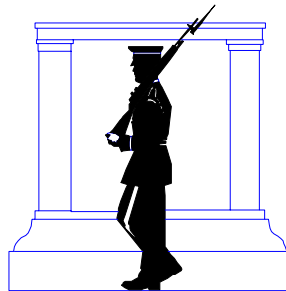
Highland Heights Municipal Complex

Monday, May 30, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Color Guard, Music, Guest Speakers, Wreath Laying, Taps, Piper

**PLEASE JOIN US ON MEMORIAL DAY
TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES WERE SACRIFICED
IN DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY**

Reception at the Community Center immediately following the ceremony will include free refreshments.



**For additional information, please call Vince Varanese at 440-461-0533
or email: Peacememorial@aol.com.**

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

2005 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

Dominion East Ohio Gas
 216-631-2345

2005 BUDGET

City Council and the Administration are in the process of completing the 2005 budget and corresponding Appropriations Ordinance. The Appropriations Ordinance is the legislation that dictates how much money the city can spend and in what areas it can be spent.

Like many cities, this year’s budget is exceptionally tight. This is primarily due to declining revenues and the slight increased cost of providing all city services. As a result, there will be very little money available for capital equipment and projects. This will likely be the case until such time as our revenues start to increase. After the budget is complete, I will prepare the State of the City document which is required by Charter. This will hopefully be done by mid-April.

With revenues down, we need to look for creative ways to get funding for projects. A few months ago, I met with our congressman, Steve LaTourette, to see if any of our projects would qualify for federal funding. Congressman LaTourette is a senior member of the Federal Transportation Committee. Every few years, his committee proposes legislation to fund billions of dollars worth of projects across the country.

This year he has requested that over \$600,000 be allocated to the City of Highland Heights for the construction of a pedestrian path on Highland Road and also to improve the Bishop/Highland intersection. He also agreed to propose in the general appropriations, separate from the Transportation Committee, over \$400,000 to help address some of the needs in our city park, in particular the playground, as well as making certain areas more accessible for handicapped individuals. Although these requests are not assured of being granted, they are at least being considered and our congressman is working hard to get this money for the City of Highland Heights.

I continue to market our city to prospective employers in an attempt to generate new revenue, as well as communicate with our existing employers to make sure we are meeting their needs. We have economic incentives that we offer to potential employers that meet and in many cases exceed those of other communities. In fact, one city used our Economic Development Grant as a blueprint to create an incentive to attract new business to their city.

There has been much talk about the Aberdeen Business Park and I am frequently asked when we will see new businesses there. I am pleased to say we are very close to announcing the first business in Aberdeen. I hope to be able to announce it officially in the next newsletter.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Our city, like most others, is bound by rules adopted in our City Charter. The Charter and any subsequent changes were created by a vote of the people. Certain things, such as zoning rules, terms of elected officials and taxation, can only be changed by the voters of the city. The Mayor and City Council can make other changes by passing ordinances. Our Charter requires that at least every five years, a committee is to be formed to review the Charter and recommend changes to the voters. It has been five years since the last Charter Review Committee met. I have asked nine residents to participate in this very important process. I am thankful the following people have agreed to serve on this committee:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Tom Cannell | James Pilla |
| Raymond Caporale | Mary Ann Richman |
| David Corrado | Tom Rudibaugh |
| Dan Dombeck | Sandy Turner |
| Leon Lombardo | |

These individuals will serve without compensation and I extend my sincere gratitude for their future time commitment and willingness to participate on this committee.

**MAYOR FEATURE
FORMER MAYOR MAYES**

Former Mayor Roy Mayes had heard that I was doing features of past Mayors and that I was looking for information about him. On January 5th, Mr. Mayes called me from his home in Winterhaven, Florida and we spoke for over an hour. Following is some of the information I learned during our conversation.

Roy Mayes served as mayor from 1976 through 1979. Prior to being elected mayor, he served on City Council and was Council President during Mayor Frank Krainz’s administration. Mr. Mayes grew up in Tennessee near the Cumberland Plateau. When he moved to Cleveland, he worked for Fisher Body for 33 years as a Foreman. He has two children and four grand children and retired to Florida a few years after his term as mayor.

Under Mayor Mayes’ leadership, a time capsule was buried in Highland Heights Community Park on July 4, 1976. It is located under a large boulder on the opposite side of the road from the playground. It was placed in observance of the country’s Bicentennial. The time capsule is to be opened upon the celebration of our Nation’s Tricentennial on July 4, 2076. Each year, up to and including the year 2076, the Clerk of Council will read a reminder statement at the council meeting held in the month of June.

During our conversation, Mr. Mayes did most of the talking but I was able to ask him two questions: What are you most proud of? And, how would you like the residents of Highland Heights to remember you? Mr. Mayes is most proud of the two times he and council were able to lower taxes. He also claims to have left a \$300,000 surplus in the general fund which was up from \$40,000 when he took office. His mentor was Frank Krainz whom he described as a “very honest mayor and man.”

Mr. Mayes calls himself a “hands on” guy and once stayed up all night at the city park to try and catch some youths who were vandalizing equipment at the park. He would like to be remembered as a person who “fought for the rights of the people.”

RESIDENT FEATURE

MARY VELOTTA

Mary Velotta will be celebrating her 25th anniversary with the City of Highland Heights on April 28th. Mary began working full time as the city’s Clerk Receptionist in 1980. In addition to her receptionist responsibilities, Mary also assists the Park and Recreation Department with the Easter, Halloween, and Christmas parties for the children of Highland Heights as well as many other volunteer functions in the city.

As Senior Coordinator, Mary works with senior organizations like the Tri-City Consortium on Aging and the Highland Heights Commission on Aging. Each year, among other things, Mary coordinates the tax assistance program, flu shot program, snow removal on aprons program, and compiles a list of registered snow plow drivers to provide to the residents. Mary keeps informed on programs for seniors and is always available to help seniors or provide information so that they may receive the help they need.

We receive many compliments from seniors who are always saying what a great job Mary does and how much they appreciate her help. In fact, when we changed the phone system at City Hall to allow callers to automatically be directed to a particular department, I found it necessary to mention Mary’s name in the message so callers can get to her immediately.

I have known Mary almost my entire life. Mary is a caring, giving person and we are fortunate to have her as one of our employees. Thank you Mary, for your many years of service to the City of Highland Heights.

BUSINESS FEATURES

ANTHONY ROCCO’S HAIR DESIGN

Anthony Rocco’s Hair Design is located at 6123 Highland Road on the corner of Miner Road and Highland Road. It is a family owned salon that is dedicated to providing its clients with a fun and family feeling when they walk through the door. They are a full service salon offering a wide range of services from massages and facials to Nail Techs specializing in manicuring, pedicuring and acrylic nails. Their hair designers can provide you with a new haircut and style or the latest and most current color techniques. Their staff ranges in age and is fully trained in the areas of their work. They use and retail Redken, Aquage and OPI products which they say are the best their industry has to offer. They are open 7 days a week and evening appointments are available. Walk-ins are also welcome.

In addition to their growing salon, they also have Anthony Rocco’s Gifts & More which is located at 548 Miner Road. The gift shop is filled with unique and hand crafted gifts of all kinds. They carry Renaissance, Avanti and Treasurers Pop-Up greeting cards. For more information regarding the salon or the gift shop, please call them at 440-646-1925 or check them out at their website at www.Anthonyroccos.com.

MLF SPEECH THERAPY

Marilee L. Fini, M.A. CCC/SLP is a certified and licensed speech pathologist living in Highland Heights. She has great passion for the work she does and the people she works with because of her own personal experience of dealing with stuttering for most of her life. MLF Speech Therapy provides speech therapy services for children and adults. Therapy is done in a professional office in her home or off-site as requested by the client. Marilee works with all communication disorders but has a special interest in stuttering. She has received additional training in the evaluation and treatment of stuttering in both children and adults and has a vast amount of clinical experience in working with this population.

Marilee also provides consulting services and a variety of presentations and workshops. Some of the presentations that she gives are “How Children Learn to Talk,” “Communication Disorders: What You Need to Know,” and “Growing Up With Stuttering” (an in-service for classrooms). She will be doing her program, “How Children Learn to Talk” for several preschools in the area this spring. Currently, Marilee is working with Cross Country Education (a seminar company) and other agencies in providing workshops on stuttering to speech pathologists and other professionals. Please feel free to contact Marilee by phone at (440) 684-1440 or by e-mail at mlf_speech@yahoo.com.

CITY COUNCIL

CATHY MURPHY, Council Representative Ward 1 Residential Natural Gas Rates/NOPEC Update

Many residents have expressed concern over their natural gas bills this winter and have asked about the status of NOPEC. Highland Heights is a member of NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council). NOPEC has 115 member communities. The role of NOPEC is to negotiate with suppliers for competitive lower rates for both electricity and natural gas on behalf of the residents. In 2002, NOPEC entered into a contract for the supply of natural gas to residents at a fixed cost. At that time, individual residents of Highland Hts were offered the opportunity to join NOPEC to benefit from the reduced gas rate. (If you joined, the term "NOPEC" should have appeared on your Dominion East Ohio Gas Bill).

In 2004, NOPEC began negotiations for a new contract for the supply of natural gas. As of now, NOPEC has entered into an agreement with Dominion East Ohio ENERGY (a subsidiary of Dominion East Ohio) to supply the natural gas for its residential customers. However, the parties have not agreed to a "price". According to NOPEC officials, current wholesale gas rates are two times higher this year than last year. As such, gas rates are too high to secure a beneficial price for NOPEC customers. NOPEC is waiting for lower gas prices before locking into to a new price. Until a price can be secured, Dominion East Ohio will continue to be the supplier of natural gas to former NOPEC customers. According to NOPEC, Dominion East Ohio had the lowest price in the market for much of the winter. However, residents can elect to change gas suppliers. To compare supplier rates, residents may contact the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for a natural gas rate comparison chart at www.puco.ohio.gov/ or call 800- 686-7826.

After NOPEC and Dominion East Ohio Energy have set a price for the supply of gas, all eligible customers in Highland Heights will receive a notice from NOPEC listing the price, terms and conditions, and an opt-out card. If you want to participate in the program after reviewing the contract, you do not need to do anything. However, if you do not want to participate, you will need to return the opt-out card that will be enclosed in the NOPEC notice. Also, if you are in a contract with another supplier during the time of the opt-out period, you will **not** receive a notice from NOPEC. This means that only those customers receiving their gas supply from the utility, Dominion East Ohio, will be included on the NOPEC enrollment list.

If you are in another gas supply contract during that time, you may have another opportunity to sign up with NOPEC at some later time. NOPEC officials are hopeful that market forces will become more favorable over the next months and expect the price of gas to be secured at an advantageous group rate in the near future. For additional questions contact the NOPEC Residential Customer Inquiry Line @ 866-579-9487.

WARD 1 NEWS

CATHY MURPHY, WARD 1 REPRESENTATIVE

WARD 1 - Coffee and Conversation:

Bring your concerns, questions, and ideas

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2005

Walk in Hours: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Place: Mayfield Regional Library Meeting Room on Wilson Mills Rd (in front of the Mayfield High School Building)

ANN D'AMICO, Council Representative at Large Drainage Committee Report

The Drainage Committee worked diligently throughout last year to come up with a policy for handling resident drainage complaints. The committee has developed a formal written policy and an application form. Both are available at City Hall. Residents should obtain a copy of the policy and complete an application when they have a drainage issue that they would like the committee to consider. Generally, the committee meets at least once per month and applications are reviewed as received. The Williamsburg/Pinegate Retention Basin and Outlet Channel clearing project is substantially complete. Council approved funding for this project last year as part of the city's ongoing effort to maintain and manage its watercourses. I am grateful to Service Director Evans, City Engineer Blackley, Mayor Coleman and all members of city council for their assistance with making this project happen.

Throughout much of last year, testing was performed on the sewer system on West Mill, Oakview, Colony and Eastlawn. This was done to examine an ongoing problem in times of heavy rainfall. Smoke testing was done and flow meters were installed to record water flow during rainstorms. The data is still in the process of being evaluated. The city applied for Issue 2 dollars to attempt to fund a project in this part of the city, but was turned down. Alternatives are being discussed, but as city funds are extremely limited this year, it is unlikely this project can be fully pursued at this time. Finally, I urge all residents to be cautious when erecting sheds and other structures on their property. Frequently, these and other types of changes to land can cause drainage problems for you and for your neighbors. When in doubt, please ask.

SCOTT MILLS, Council Representative at Large

Cell Phone 440-477-9289 available 24 hours a day

Communication - I invite you to call me any time you have any issue to discuss. I will always keep an open mind. If you would like me to keep you more informed, it would be best to communicate via email. I would be happy to email you the upcoming agenda, minutes and outcome of any and all of our regular meetings. In order for me to do that I, would like you to send your email address to me at smills@highlandhts.com. You can visit the city's web page at highlandhts.com for news anytime.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

SERVICE DEPARTMENT THOM EVANS

BRUSH COLLECTION

The Service Department will be conducting brush collection from April 11th through June 3rd. Residents are asked to observe the following guidelines: Collections will be made Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Residents must call the Service Department at 461-2440 in advance to schedule a pick up. During this special pick up only, branches can be of any length and need not be bundled, however, because the material will be loaded by hand, and due to equipment limitations, the size of the branches accepted will be limited to a maximum of 4" in diameter. Stumps and branches larger than 4" will need to be disposed of privately. Residents will be responsible for getting materials to the tree lawn prior to collection. Please do not place materials on the tree lawn more than 24 hours prior to the scheduled pick up time. Residents can dispose of brush and limbs year round as a part of our regular rubbish collection service. The city's rubbish contractor will accept brush and limbs that are tied in 4-foot lengths in bundles no heavier than 40 lbs. on your normal trash pick up day.

RACCOON RABIES UPDATE

Government agencies continue the battle to control the outbreak of Raccoon Rabies in the region. Health officials including the Ohio Board of Health (OBH) and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) have announced actions and recommendations to help manage and control the outbreak.

Actions in 2005 will again include the baiting of an oral rabies vaccine (ORV) throughout the city. Baiting is tentatively scheduled to take place in mid to late April. Additionally, the City and the Board of Health will continue to work with partnering agencies on a number of tasks including working with area vets and the collection of road kill and trapped raccoons for testing and immunization.

Basic precautions recommended to the public include:

- Domestic animals should be vaccinated
- Domestic animals that have been vaccinated and are believed to be exposed to the virus should get a booster shot
- Persons who believe they have been exposed should contact their physician and the Board of Health
- All bite cases and any other suspected cases of exposure should be reported to the Board of Health

Questions should be referred to The Cuyahoga County Board of Health at (216) 201-2000. Additional information can be obtained from the CCBH website at www.ccbh.net.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF BENCIN

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - The Mayor and City Council are considering an ordinance to charge for Emergency Medical Services (E.M.S.). The Council considered a similar ordinance in 1994 but decided not to charge for this service. In 1994, only 27 out of approximately 60 communities in Cuyahoga County charged for E.M.S. At that time, it was illegal to accept an insurance payment as payment in full from a resident without billing the resident for any co-payments and the difference between the rate charged and the Usual Customary Rate (U.C.R.) as set by the insurance company.

The Attorney General has since rendered opinions that make it legal for a municipality running a 911 service to cancel co-payment charges and to accept the U.C.R. payments for residents and waive all other charges. The proposed ordinance makes the charging for E.M.S. in Highland Heights a no cost item for our residents. As of February 2005, only 9 communities in Cuyahoga County do not charge for E.M.S. and Highland Heights is one of them.

I have worked closely with the Mayor and City Council and at their direction, developed an ordinance that would accept as payment in full for services rendered the proceeds received from insurance coverage on a resident or a person who works in our community. In these cases, taxes paid to the City in the form of real estate and/or city income tax will be considered full payment of applicable coinsurance payments, deductibles, non-covered expenses or uninsured transports.

The anticipated start-up date for billing would be April 1, 2005 and we estimate an income of approximately \$150,000 per year which would go directly to the general fund. (Highland Heights Fire Department responded to 670 emergency medical calls in 2004).

Under the ordinance proposed, a resident or any employee of a business located in the City of Highland Heights should never see a bill. The City will accept whatever their insurance company pays. If a resident has no insurance, their payment will automatically be waived. If a bill is incorrectly sent, the Fire Department will void the bill.

If you have any questions or concerns about this proposed ordinance, please call Chief Bencin at the Fire Department, your council representative or Mayor Coleman.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT
ANTHONY L. IANIRO**

TAX FILING

With the tax filing deadline quickly approaching, there may be some questions regarding municipal income taxes. We utilize the services of the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to act as our Income Tax Department. RITA provides services to over 100 communities in the area in the collection of municipal income taxes. All residents earning a wage are required to file a return with the Regional Income Tax Agency by March 31 if you use a short form or by April 30th for all other filers. This requirement applies even if you do not owe any tax at year end.

Basically, the City of Highland Heights authorizes a municipal income tax at a rate of 1.50% on all salaries, wages and other compensation earned by residents of the City or non-residents working in the City. Net profits earned by local businesses are also subject to our tax provisions. Residents enjoy a 100% tax credit for taxes paid to another municipality, so employment taxes paid to your work city will be used as a direct offset to your liability in Highland Heights up to 1.50%.

For example, if you work in Mayfield Village, where a tax rate of 1.50% also applies, the taxes withheld from your wages there would be credited to the 1.50% liability in Highland Heights resulting in no tax due. This applies to all localities where the tax rate is 1.50% or greater. If, however, you should work in Mayfield Heights, where the tax rate is 1%, you would owe the City of Highland Heights .50% after credit is given for your workplace wages.

If you do owe tax, you are required to make estimated payments throughout the course of the year. 80% of your estimate must be paid by January 31 of the following year, that is 80% of your 2003 tax liability is to be paid by January 31, 2004. Billing reminders are sent by RITA to those affected taxpayers. You may also remit payments directly to RITA should your individual circumstances change.

Tax forms are available at City Hall or you may contact RITA at 440-526-0900 to have them mailed directly to your home or business. Also, RITA has a website, www.rita.to, where you can download forms and receive additional instructions. Of course, you may always contact the Finance Department at City Hall with any questions you may have.

RITA

The Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) is now offering an accurate, secure and simple way to electronically file your city tax return. If you have income from wages only and have been a resident for the entire year, you can eFile your 2004 tax return.

Simply go to www.rita.to to register and begin the step-by-step process. Just enter data from your W-2's and the RITA e-File will calculate your refund or taxes due within minutes. Filing your city tax return has never been easier.

PROPERTY TAX RATES - The effective tax rates on all residential properties in Cuyahoga County shows that Highland Heights has the 9th LOWEST tax rate out of 80 taxing districts in the entire County. Below are listings of the 15 lowest and 15 highest rates in the County. To compare rates, a quick way to calculate your taxes is to take the market value of your home, multiply by 35%, divide by 1,000 and multiply by the effective tax rate. This will give you a comparison of basic tax rates only, as special assessments and other charges, if applicable, vary by community.

**Cuyahoga County Effective Real Estate Tax Rates
(IN MILLS) Tax Year 2004 - Payable in 2005**

Lowest Locality Lowest Effective Millage

- 1. Independence 45.197
- 2. Brooklyn Hts. 48.010
- 3. Cuyahoga Hts. 48.010
- 4. Valley View 49.050
- 5. Walton Hills 51.451
- 6. Brooklyn 52.191
- 7. Beachwood 53.776
- 8. Oakwood 54.951
- 9. Highland Hts. 55.024
- 10. Lindale 55.213
- 11. Mayfield Village 55.228
- 12. Westlake 55.533
- 13. Glenwillow 56.817
- 14. Brookpark/CLE 57.132
- 15. Parma 57.352

Highest Locality Highest Effective Millage

- 1. Cleveland/SH 97.415
- 2. Shaker Heights 94.615
- 3. South Euclid/CH 91.981
- 4. University Heights 91.942
- 5. Cleveland Heights 91.842
- 6. Lakewood 84.609
- 7. Highland Hills 81.922
- 8. Garfield Heights 81.276
- 9. Warrensville Hts. 78.823
- 10. Orange/WH 78.777
- 11. Bay Village 76.255
- 12. North Randall 75.968
- 13. Fairview Park 75.845
- 14. Beachwood/WH 75.677
- 15. North Olmsted/OF 75.505

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF JAMES COOK**

Residents with Special Needs

Our Communications Center, which dispatches for the police, fire and paramedics, has the capability to immediately access pertinent information from our CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) System about a residence prior to sending safety personnel to your home. This would include information about anyone in your household that may have a movement disability, is ill, has a hearing or speech loss, requires medical equipment, etc. This information would remain confidential and secure for police and paramedic personnel only. Having access to this information can help police officers and paramedics serve you better in an emergency situation when dealing with your special needs. In a major power outage, we can also determine residents that may require assistance, either by phone or in person. Please call the Police Department at 442-8825 with this information, or if you prefer, we can send an officer to your home to assess your special need.

Nuisance Animal Control

The City of Highland Heights currently contracts with Greg Miller Animal Control Service as Animal Warden for the community. This service is presently administered by the Police Department and provides for complaints involving live nuisance animals and domestic animals. It includes trapping, safe capture and removal of common nuisance animals such as rabbits, raccoons and skunks on the exterior of the dwelling as well as animals confined inside a residential dwelling. Also included are emergency services for sick or injured animals and the retrieval and boarding of stray dogs and cats. Effective April 1, 2005, after discussions concerning the budget, the City has decided not to renew its Animal Services contract and will no longer provide an Animal Warden. Residents requiring trapping or removal of animals from their property or home should check their Yellow Pages under "Animal Removal Services" or "Pest Control Services" and make arrangements with the company directly. In an emergency life-threatening situation involving an animal, the police and fire department will still respond to assist the resident until an animal control service can respond to the residence.

For lost dogs or cats, you can still contact the Police Department at 440-442-8825. Let us know if you see a dog or cat loose because owners usually call us when a pet is missing. Owners should call the Highland Heights Police and neighboring Police Departments if their pet gets loose.

Traffic Reminder

When approaching an intersection, vehicles crossing the double yellow line or traveling left of center into on-coming traffic in order to get into the left turning lane are committing a traffic offense subject to a ticket and fine.

Drivers must wait until the traffic in front of them clears to enter the marked turning lane. This is very dangerous, especially if a vehicle in front of you is waiting to clear their entry into the turning lane in which they have the right-of-way.

Alarm Monitoring

Our 24-hour Police Communications Center has the ability to monitor residential and business security systems. If you have a fire and/or intrusion security system, we can monitor burglary, panic and fire alarms directly without having the alarms go through a third party Alarm Company. This service saves valuable time in emergencies, when time is critical. Cost is minimal at \$180.00 per year plus a one-time \$120.00 connection fee.

New Recreational Vehicle Ordinance

On February 9, 2005, City Council passed Ordinance # 43-2004 regulating the parking of recreational vehicles on residential property. This ordinance will become effective March 10, 2005, and will be jointly enforced by the Police and Building Departments. The ordinance defines recreational vehicles, including but not limited to, motor homes, pick-up and truck campers, trailers, boats and snowmobiles. Any residents that may be affected and are interested in the specific details pertaining to the ordinance can pick up a copy at the Building Department.

We realize that this will be an adjustment for residents accustomed to parking recreational vehicles on their property. It is our goal to work with residents to understand and clarify the ordinance as well as the expected changes that will have to occur in certain situations. As potential violations are identified, notification will be made to the residents by the Building Department and efforts will be made to assist you in gaining compliance. If efforts to gain compliance are unsuccessful, enforcement procedures will be implemented. Any questions or concerns regarding this ordinance can be directed to Building Commissioner Tom Jamieson at 440-461-2440 ext. 157.

Care Call Program

We conduct scheduled health and welfare checks on residents who request this service, either due to illness, age disability or any other medical need. At a predetermined day and time, our Police Dispatcher calls any resident who signs up for this service to ensure that they are all right. If they cannot be reached by phone, for whatever reason, one of our Police Officers will personally check on the welfare of the resident.

Vacation House Watch

Residents away from their home for a period of time can notify the Police Department prior to leaving, and we will conduct security checks of the premises at intermittent intervals. If you prefer that an officer not check your property, we can also take information on a phone number to reach you or someone else in case of an emergency.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR DAVID IANIRO

Everyone should have received their 2005 Sizzler that contains the details for all the summer programs. For more information on T-Ball, Softball and Baseball, contact **T-Ball & Girls Softball Commissioner Jim Austin** at 461-2440, X235 or **Boys Baseball Commissioner D. J. Rapposelli** at 440-461-2440, X238

SUMMER PROGRAM STAFF - You can leave a message for the summer program staff by calling 440-461-2440 and dialing their voice mail:

Pool Coordinator Scott Jalwan, VM #245
Swim Lesson Coordinator Ginenne Lanese, VM#220
Day Camp Coordinator Tony DiLillo, VM#217

For more information on the Swim Team, call Karen Hostoffer at 440-460-0881 or Kathy Campbell at 440-473-0269. For more information on Tennis, call Tennis Coordinator Brian Smallwood, at 440-942-2700 Ext. 8

SUMMER PROGRAMS REGISTRATION

Walk-In Early Bird Registrations are at the Highland Hts. Community Center on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday, May 4 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Residents can save money on pool and day camp fees. Registration forms are also available at City Hall and on-line at www.highlandhts.com.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS POOL - 5905 Wilson Mills

The pool will be open Sat., June 4, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pool will be closed June 6 through June 10 and open for the regular summer season on Saturday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m.

HIGHLAND HTS. HURRICANES SWIM TEAM

Please register during Walk-In Registrations at the Community Center on Saturday, April 23 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday, May 4 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Resident Swim Team Fee \$75; Non-resident Fee \$90 (Resident includes Mayfield School District residents). All Swim Team Members must purchase a Highland Heights Pool Pass.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS DAY CAMP

Highland Heights Day Camp 2005 is right around the corner and we are very excited about the upcoming summer camp. Our Day Camp will begin on June 13 and continue for eight safe and fun weeks with the program closing on August 5. Please make a note to take advantage of early bird fees by registering your camper before the early bird registration deadline of May 4, 2005.

*Notice - Camp Parent Orientation
Wednesday, June 8th from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Highland Heights Community Center*

PAVILION RENTAL

Park pavilions may be reserved by residents, businesses, and schools located in the City of Highland Heights. Proof of residency is required at the time of completing the contract. The pavilions are not available during the Day Camp Program, Home Days and the Tennis Classic. Please remember that no alcoholic beverages are permitted in the park. A \$100 deposit is required in advance. A \$70 refund will be mailed to you after the pavilion has been inspected and found to be in good condition. An additional \$40 will allow 10 of your pavilion guests to enjoy themselves at our City Pool during our regular pool hours for that day. This fee must be paid along with your deposit for the pavilion. You will not be able to purchase this Pavilion Swim Pass on the day of your reservation.

To reserve a pavilion, call Mary Velotta at City Hall at 440-461-2440.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BIKE HELMETS will be fitted and sold on Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the early bird summer program registration at the Community Center. The recipient of the helmet must be there at the time of purchase so the helmet can be fitted to their head correctly. The helmets cost \$8.00. For more information or to schedule an appointment at another time, please call Judy at 440-461-2440, extension 149.

7th ANNUAL HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMISSION ON AGING FREE HEALTH FAIR (Sponsored by Hillcrest Hospital/Cleveland Clinic) Wednesday, May 4, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Highland Heights Community Center. For more information, please call Mary at 440-461-2440.

TRI CITY CONSORTIUM ON AGING TRIPS

April 13 - Greektown Casino
April 25-29 - Myrtle Beach and Charleston, S. C.
May 15 - House of Blues
May 27 - The Cleveland Botanical Garden Flower Show
For more information and registration, please call 440-473-5138.

SUNDAY BAND CONCERTS

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
Sunday, July 10, 2005 and Sunday, August 14, 2005
from 7:00 p.m. 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.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS HOME DAYS

JULY 29, 30 AND 31

Home Days this year will again include fireworks on Saturday evening and the annual parade on Sunday, July 31. More details will be provided in the June Newsletter.

Home Days Parade 2005 "Hats off to Heroes"

Sunday July 31 at 1:30 p.m.

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

New in the Parade this Year

We are inviting groups and organizations to build floats to participate in our parade. For more information, please call Cathy Murphy at 440-442-3809.

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.

HIGHLAND HTS. GARDEN CLUB NINTH ANNUAL CLEAN YOUR ATTIC SALE HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER

Saturday, April 2, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tables are available at a charge of \$15.00 per table on a first come, first serve basis. Each vendor is asked to donate one item for the Garden Club Raffle which is held each hour of the sale. For more information, please call Corky Mondello at 440-449-3584

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

HILLCREST 100, INC.

The Hillcrest 100, Inc. offers support to our Police, Fire and EMS professions. It was established in 2004 and supports the police officers, fire fighters and EMS professionals who courageously serve the communities of Gates Mills, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village and Richmond Heights. If an officer faces a personal financial crisis or emergency, the Hillcrest 100 can offer assistance. It follows the proud tradition of other 100 Clubs across the country. The Hillcrest 100 is a non-profit corporation managed by volunteer, private citizens, all of whom are residents of the six communities.

For further information or to receive an application for membership, please contact Eric Bergsman, President, at 440-829-9714, or Timothy G. Paluf at 216-696-9555, Trustee from the City of Highland Heights.

LYNDHURST MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE MARY KAYE BOZZA

www.lyndhurstmunicipalcourt.org.

The Lyndhurst Municipal Court launched its website in December 2004. It provides general information about the Court and its departments, waiverable fines schedule, educational opportunities and the Court's Local Rules. There are specific guidelines for driving privilege applications, release of seized vehicles and the procedure for sealing of records. We are currently exploring the option of on-line payments by analyzing a cost/benefit ratio. Please visit our website at www.lyndhurstmunicipalcourt.org.

In July of 2004, Judge Bozza was asked by the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Department of Safety to participate in a pilot program addressing a specialized docket for multiple offenders driving under the influence cases. This program intends to provide intense treatment and supervision of convicted offenders who have long standing alcohol addictions relating to their driving histories. Those selected for the program must make a firm commitment toward rehabilitation. If you are interested in having Judge Bozza as a guest speaker for your group or for more information regarding senior school projects, please call Patti Anderson at 440-461-6500, Extension 205.

EUCLID CREEK AND THE "AREA OF CONCERN" - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The piles of acronyms and activities associated with Euclid Creek are sometimes overwhelming as we begin to get our arms around how to address watershed protection and restoration targets in Euclid Creek. One of these is the Area of Concern. Euclid Creek is part of what is known as the Cuyahoga Area of Concern. The area includes the majority of the Cuyahoga River and the tributaries east of the Cuyahoga that include Doan Brook, Dugway, Nine Mile and Euclid Creek.

The Area of Concern was established by the International Joint Commission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1987 identifying waters within the Great Lakes Basin as impaired and not meeting fourteen objectives for healthy waters. Efforts to understand what conditions exist in Euclid Creek that continue to restrict the Creek from meeting these objectives is part of the Watershed Plan process. The Watershed Coordinator is working closely with Ohio EPA and the Cuyahoga RAP in evaluating the current conditions, progress of meeting the objectives and what areas are still in need of restoration.

Websites for more information are: www.ijc.org, www.cuyahogariverrap.org, and www.epa.state.oh.us.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

Ordinance #36 - An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 8-2004 so as to change the appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Highland Hts., Ohio for the period commencing January 1, 2004, and ending December 31, 2004.

Ordinance #37 - An ordinance amending Sections 105.02, 105.03, 105.04 and 105.05 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio by adjusting the Ward Boundaries of the four wards within the municipality.

Ordinance #38 - An ordinance enacting new chapter 1339 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Hts., Ohio pertaining to Storm Water Management and repealing in its entirety existing Chapter 1339 of the Codified Ordinances.

Ordinance #39 - An ordinance enacting new Chapter 1335 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Hts., OH. pertaining to erosion and sediment control and repealing existing Chapter 1335 of the Codified Ordinances in its entirety.

Ordinance #40 - An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 26-2001 designating certain financial institutions as depositories for active and interim funds of the City of Highland Heights for the five year period commencing August 24, 2001, authorizing depository agreements with said institutions.

Ordinance #41 - An ordinance amending Section 1123.17(a) of Chapter 1123 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights pertaining to yards for accessory buildings and solid walls.

Ordinance #42 - An ordinance appropriating funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Highland Heights, Ohio, for the period commencing Jan. 1, 2005 and ending Mar. 31, 2005.

Resolution #81 - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with statewide Ford Lincoln Mercury, Inc., for the purchase of one 2005 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser, in an amount not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars, including the trade-in allowance for one 2003 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser, pursuant to the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Act.

Resolution #85 - A resolution expressing opposition to House Bill 175 which requires the Board of Building Standards to adopt a statewide uniform residential building code for one, two and three family dwelling houses and accessory buildings incidental to those dwelling houses.

Resolution #86 - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an addendum to the collective bargaining agreement with the Highland Heights Firefighters, IAFF Local 2380.

Resolution #87 - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an addendum to the collective bargaining agreement with the Northern Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association

Resolution #88 - A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an addendum to the collective bargaining agreement with the Northern Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the Dispatchers of the Police Department..

Resolution #89 - A resolution of commendation to the St. Paschal Baylon Eighth Grade Girls Soccer Team consisting of Jamie Austin, Emily Delis, Gabby Fuote, Allison Giomuso, Paige Hay, Kalie Iliano, Christina Gross, Christina LoPresti, Tamara Meeks, Sarah Paul, Jessica Vorobel, Clare Wilson, Heather Wirtanen, Jillian Tighe, Kristen Profeta, Stephanie Tighe and Amy Valenti, as well as coaches Chip Tighe, Ben Wilson, Mike Profeta and Dave Stahler on their first place finish in the 2004 city-wide C.Y.O. Soccer Tournament.

Resolution #90 - A resolution authorizing James G. Zupka, Inc. to assist the City in preparation of its financial statement in accordance with GAAP accounting principles for the calendar year 2004.

Year 2005

Ordinance No. 43-2004 (passed 2/3/05) - An ordinance enacting Section 351.22 of the Highland Heights Codified Ordinances, titled Parking Facilities for Residents to Regulate the Parking of Recreational Vehicles on Residential Property. This ordinance will become effective March 10, 2005.

Resolution #1 - A resolution of appreciation to Mark C. Silbiger for his service as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission from April 2, 1996 through December 31, 2004.

Resolution #2 - A resolution accepting the donation of Two Hundred Dollars from the Highland Heights 50 Plus Club.

Resolution #4 - A resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor to renew the inter-agency contract with the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to continue a community diversion program for first time juvenile offenders.

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

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

City's Address Data Base

You will notice that the city's newsletter came to you personally addressed this month. Please help us to keep our data base accurate. If your address or name needs corrected in our data base, please call Diana Lydic at 440-461-2440, extension 146.

REMINDERS:

April 4 - When you change your clock back, be sure to change your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

Computer Round-Up - The city will participate in a computer round-up program in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste district FROM June 6th through June 17, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Residents may bring their old CPU's, monitors, keyboards, software and cell phones to the service department during that time. The materials will be taken to a central drop off location for recycling by the county.

Drainage Easements and Swales - Remember that drainage easements and swales are to be maintained free of leaves and landscape material to allow for positive drainage. Construction of sheds, fences, landscape designs, and other features are prohibited in dedicated easements.

Spring Cleanup - Please note leaves will not be picked up in the spring. Yard debris should be composted or bagged and placed out with your regular rubbish.

Home Fire Escape Plan - If you don't have a fire escape plan, contact the Fire Department to obtain literature to assist you in making one.

Aluminum Can Recycling - Located at the rear of the Fire Station. Proceeds benefit the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children Organization

Outdoor Grills - Before you use your outdoor grill, check the condition and tightness of all connections and hoses. Place your grill a minimum of 15 feet from any structure including overhangs. Do not store your grill with its cylinder or your spare cylinder in your house, basement or attached garage. It is dangerous and prohibited by the Ohio Fire Code.

Address - Spring is a good time to make sure your address is visible from the street when traveling in either direction. Numbers should be at least 3-1/2" high.

Congratulations

to the following residents who were winners in the
2004 Lions Club
Holiday Home Lighting Contest.

John Paul Family
472 Bishop

David & Marianne Roush Family
409 Lassiter

Samuel Hays Family
5976 Highland

Frank Kuczynski Family
5828 Wilson Mills