



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

December 2018



## Seasons Greeting's from The Mayor's Office

This Holiday season has brought many changes to our Village. As I have always stressed to you as your Council President, "Change is Good." Let me first start by saying, "thank you" to all of you who have stopped in or called just to greet me and wish me well as your new Mayor. It is truly appreciated as I embarked upon this new challenge. I would not be sitting in this position he without the tremendous trust and support of our Village Council. As the Council President for the past two years they have supported my leadership and shared my vision of open communication and finances and trust. We must have that from both Administration and Council to move forward; and we will.

The circumstances that brought me into this position have not been easy for anyone. I say this humbly, however with confidence that our community is in good hands. I truly believe I am the right person to lead us at the difficult, yet exciting time in the Village's future. As the communities around us are growing rapidly, we while not be left behind!

Change is difficult for everyone. Let's embrace it as a family and move forward. My first task is having a team that believes in me in the change. I think we have that here with Council and most of the employees. They have seen my work ethics and understand my commitment and passion for doing what is morally right for the Village, it's residents and its employees. I am excited to work with them and for YOU. We have so much talent and opportunity right here in our community. In fact, a Highland Hills resident; Mrs. Miajeunene (Mia) Johnson has joined me as the new Executive Secretary to the Mayor. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience along with a master's Degree in Human Resources. Over the past year Mrs. Johnson has attended almost every Council and committee meeting and even applied for the vacant seat on council.

**I cannot wait to share this and much more with you at the State of the Village address on December 22, 2018 followed by the Holiday Celebration from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will have food, music and great fellowship. I am looking forward to meeting all of you.**

As it has always been, the Mayor's door is open to you!

I wish you all the best during this holiday season,

Mayor Michael L. Booker

### *Featured In this Edition*

- **We Remember** – Reflections in memory of the Honorable Mayor Robert L. Nash
- **Changes in the Village** - Meet our new Mayor and new Councilmembers
- Helpful Hints for Winter

#### **Upcoming dates to remember**

December 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday party  
Village offices will be **Closed** for the Holiday  
December 24,25,31 and January 1 and 21st  
January 7<sup>th</sup> - Council organizational meeting  
**(This is a public meeting)**

\*For more Village information, Visit our website [www.vhhohio.org](http://www.vhhohio.org)



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## Remembering the Honorable Mayor Robert L. Nash

### WE REMEMBER...

Our beloved Mayor of the Village of Highland Hills passed away on October 19, 2018. After serving as our Mayor for 28 years. Services were held at on Saturday October 27, 2018 at Cathedral Church of God In Christ in Cleveland, Ohio. We honor the Mayor's memory and will never forget the all great contributions and sacrifices he made for our Village. Nash was an extraordinary public servant who strived not only for the economic development and safety of the Village, but also demonstrated genuine concern for each resident.

He was never too busy to listen to a story or even a complaint; his compassion was unyielding for all. The Mayor's leadership created so many great things here in the Village, including bringing new businesses to

Highland Hills. Mayor Nash also had a passion for mentoring young public officials or even challenging the other when it came to his beloved community. Going larger cities new they we in for a fight when they faced him one on one or even in a court of law. No one will forget his legendary battles with Cleveland Mayor Mike White.





# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## WE REMEMBER...

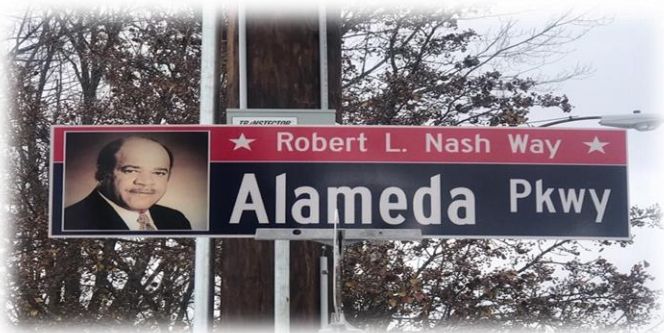
You could also find Mayor Nash out at 3:00 a.m. snowplowing the streets and driveways of the Village.



The Village Hall echoes wonderful memories of Mayor Robert L. Nash -- from the Shaker House to the Council Chambers and the Ballroom.

Mayor Nash touched and embraced all with great dignity, respect and compassion, yet was not afraid to experiment with opportunities to enhance the Village.

He was courageous, strong-willed, yet forgiving. He was a lot of things to a lot of people. Father, Husband, Grandfather, Uncle, Mentor, Friend, Mayor, Trusted advisor.... He is and will continue to be tremendously missed, his legacy lives on and we will always acknowledge his incredible accomplishments.



On November 26, Council passed a resolution to commemoratively add "Robert L. Nash Way" to the street sign for Alameda Parkway. The sign was posted Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> to honor his legacy and ensure his memory lives on in our community.





# THE VILLAGE VOICE



**FROM THE DESK OF LILLIAN R. MOORE  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Hello,

To all our Residents in the Village of Highland Hills! I love to say hello and want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and blessed holiday. We, your Village Council, are working so diligently with our Administration in taking Highland Hills to new heights. We are saluting our new Mayor, Michael L. Booker, and wish him well as he embarks on new adventures in this Village.

We were very excited to welcome Dr. Dawn Davis to our Council in November. She comes to Council with an interest and desire to build our community and with a diverse educational background in Human Resources. We are also very excited that Derrick Williams joined our Council team in early December. Mr. Williams comes to us as a resident of the Village of Highland Hills for more than 25 years. He is the Head Women's Basketball Coach at Cuyahoga County Community College Eastern Campus. He has a BA in Marketing and an Associate degree in Communications.

All of Council, as well as myself as President of Council, are looking forward to recognizing, honoring, and sharing milestones within our community. We are looking for our residents to share birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, marriages, births and any other exciting life milestones. Please call our Council Office Clerk, Peg Sikon at 216.283.3000, Ext. 237 with your information and we will follow up in highlighting you in an upcoming newsletter.

We, your Council members, are here to help, encourage and motivate. We are interested in sharing community needs, wishes and all successes. Please call our office and let us know what you would like to have in our community.

## **Motivational and encouragement, Give your best!**

This day exists so you can give new richness to life. Ingrained deep within you is the desire to matter, to make a difference, and now is when you can.

What gives you fulfillment is what you give yourself to. What brings your life lasting treasure is all the good work you do to create, support, encourage, to offer kindness, to give hope.

The possibilities exist so you can savor the experience of bringing them to life. The challenges exist so you can work your way through them, lifting the world a little higher.

Countless circumstances, distractions, fears will tempt you to give less than your best. Pay no heed to those temptations, for they will only lead you to regret.

Don't leave yourself stuck at the end of this day with bitter thoughts of what could have been. Give your best to every hour, every opportunity, every encounter, every situation.

Give your best and discover each time how much better it makes your life. Give your best, for deep inside you know that is what you are here to do.

— Ralph Marston

Please allow your Council to work with you!!!!

Cordially yours, Lillian



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## **Councilman (Pro-Tem) Michael L. Goodwin says “Fight Hate”**



Hate in America has become commonplace. What can we do to stop the hate? A presidential candidate wins an election after denigrating Muslims, Latinos, women and people with disabilities. A young white man opens fire and kills nine African Americans who welcome him into bible study at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, telling his victims, “I have to do it.”

A Muslim woman is seated on a bench in front of a coffee shop in Washington, D.C., when a woman begins screaming anti-Muslimism epithets. A swastika and other anti-Semitic graffiti appear at an elementary school in Stapleton, Colorado. A lone gunman carrying an assault rifle and a handgun storms a well-known gay club in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and wounding 53 others.

When bias motivates an unlawful act, it is considered a hate crime. Most hate crimes are inspired by race and religion, but today it wears many faces. Bias incidents (eruptions of hate where no crime is committed) also tear communities apart and can escalate into actual crimes. Since 2010, law enforcement agencies have reported an average of about 6,000 hate crime incidents per year to the FBI, but government studies show that real number is far higher – an estimated 260,000 per year.

Reach out to allies from churches, schools, clubs and other civic groups; create a diverse coalition. Include children, police, and the media. Gather ideas from everyone and get everyone involved. Call on groups that are likely to respond to a hate event, including faith alliances, labor unions, teachers and women’s groups. Make a special effort to involve businesses, politicians and members of targeted groups.

If you’re a victim, report every incident in detail and ask for help. If you learn about a hate crime victim in your community, show support. Let victims know you care. Surround them with comfort and protection. Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate group members in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate, toward unity.

## **Senior Services Department** – Doris Nelson/Jean Smith, Senior Director

**Senior Activities – What We Can Do For YOU!** The Senior Department continues to provide rides for our residents to various places, such as doctor’s appointments, hair/nail appointments, cleaners, etc. Our monthly calendar lists choices for residents to choose from a variety of activities, including shopping trips and other events available. Remember that these events are a first come first served basis. We also provide exercise classes on site and limited water exercises off site. Health screenings are available every other month provided by University Hospitals - Ahuja and the Highland Hills Fire Department.

The Senior Department had a wonderful year and were looking to make 2019 even better. We went to the Amish country several times (Hartville, Sugarcreek, and Walnut Creek). We also attended Senior Day Activities provided by the City of Cleveland and the Division of Senior and Adult Services. Remember we are here to service and support you in any way that we can.

# Winter in Highland Hills

December

Happy Holidays

## Helpful Hints

### *Preparing your home for winter*

This time of year is all about spending quality time with family and friends. As we head into the winter season I want to share with you some tips to help you prepare your home. When temperatures drop below freezing it is possible for pipes to freeze. The water department has the following tips to protect your home:

- Disconnect out door hoses
- Insulate pipes
- Seal windows

Other ways to weatherize your home for the winter include:

- Using weather stripping around windows and cracks
- Tighten exterior handrails and fixtures
- To keep from getting bored inside: play cards or games, dance, arts and crafts, or play an instrument to past the time
- Stock your vehicle with emergency kits: jumper cables, blankets, and non-perishable food



I hope these tips help you have a safe and warm winter.

Cassandra Pride  
Councilwoman

City of Cleveland Division of Water (2018), Winter preparedness. Retrieved from <http://www.clevelandwater.com/winter-preparedness>

Home Depot Product Authority, LLC. (2018). How to Weatherize your home for winter. Retrieved from

[https://www.homedepot.com/c/home\\_winter\\_weatherization\\_HT\\_P](https://www.homedepot.com/c/home_winter_weatherization_HT_P)

## Current Openings

*Would you like to be more involved in your community?*

*Take a look at these current Boards & Commissions*

*Senior Advisory Board*

*Tax Incentive Review Board*

*Records Commission*

*Volunteer Firefighters  
Dependent Fund*

*Planning Commission*

*Board of Zoning Appeals*

*Charter Review Commission*

*Human Resource Committee*

*Personnel Review Board*

*Fair Housing Review Board*

*Please contact the Council Office at 216-283-3000, Ext. 237 for more information.*



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## **Service/Public Works - Steve Clymer, Director**

Well I guess it's that time of year where warm days and sunshine have already left us. I would like to take a moment to refresh our minds on some Fall and Winter issues you can help your Service Department with. We have been picking up leaves since October 15, 2018 and will continue till the winter weather stops us.

Please follow a few simple rules outlined below.

- Rake or blow your leaves onto the tree lawn. Never put them in the street as this could cause a slippery/dangerous situation as well as clog storm sewers.
- Leaves must be free of debris such as sticks, grass clippings and trash

Following leaf pick-up, I'm sure as it does every year the snow will begin to fall. The Service Department crews are busy preparing equipment and will be ready to tackle all the winter wonderland that falls upon our streets. Most of you already know that we have a driveway plowing program that is dispatched if we get a heavy enough snowfall. As a reminder or for the benefit of any new residents the Service Department will NOT plow driveways that do not have clearly visible edge markers. Please install your markers before the weather gets too bad. The plowing of driveways will commence after the Fire Station and Governmental Complex have been plowed as well as the streets in our Townhouse Area.

We will still be handling all our regular duties i.e. trash pickup, special pickups and all other daily functions of the Service Department. Please understand if we are slightly delayed with any functions do to a snow storm. With a limited crew the same employee's that handle the everyday business are also the same people doing the plowing.



The year of 2018 has already been very successful for our Village with the addition of new business in town. Moving forward we strive every day to continue doing the right work to keep all our Residents and Businesses happy as well as attract future Businesses to our Community.

In closing, all members of the Service department would like to wish all Highland Hills a Happy Holiday Season and a Short and Easy Winter Season.







# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## Meet our new Councilwoman Dawn S. Davis, Ph.D., PHR, RCC



I would first like to express my sincere gratitude to the current council of the Village of Highland Hills for having unwavering faith in my potential as councilwoman. To the community at-large, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and my vision as your councilwoman. My name is Dawn Davis, and I have resided in this wonderful community for the last eleven years. Being a resident in our quant townhome community, I am honored to work in concert with our existing village council and Mayor Booker to bringing back the same sense of community that inspired the purchase of my first home in 2007. To accomplish this expeditiously, I plan to utilize

my professional knowledge and experience to aid in the dawn of a new era. As a proven change agent with seventeen years of business experience, I offer our community my expertise in bridging communication amongst our ever change generational and economic demographics in our community. Through my professional background in improving the cultural dynamic of the workforce, I would like to utilize this same passion and energy in making this community an even greater place to grow and thrive. My belief is that by working collectively towards a unified mission, and applying evidence-based strategies, we can create a level of community engagement that will empower our residence in the change we may seek. As a results-driven leader with superior analytical, facilitation, project management, and interpersonal skills; I am a natural leader in bridging relationships with all people within various generations and demographics.

As the Director of Culture and Learning for a local health care entity, I have served a pivotal role in leading and deploying learning and cultural strategies that align with operational initiatives; thus, proactively driving operational performance. During this time, I have been able to successfully execute various system-wide, cultural change management initiatives impacting over 57,000 employees and a total of 16 internal processes and external systems. Through implementing various research strategies, I was able to present a business case that spoke to the heart of our stakeholders; presenting a need to change organizational behaviors to focus on our mission of serving the poor and underserved. While this is a humble example of my work, it speaks to my innate ability to reach the hearts of those who can be inspired to orchestrate change. In our community, my personal goal is to serve as the voice of the change that is needed.

In my personal endeavors, I currently serve as the President of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland Young Professionals and an active member of their Executive Board. This allows me to live our mission of empowering young professionals in Cleveland and surrounding communities through community service, professional development, social awareness, political involvement, and engagement of our youth. In addition, I spend time speaking at various conferences regarding my published research on the organic process of leadership development within African-American women in senior leadership roles. In sharing my research, my hope is to provide better insight on how the impact of corporate culture and development opportunities benefit this underserved population of talent. Educationally, I hold a Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology, a master's in Human Resource Management, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration.

While this is my first political endeavor, I wanted to act on my personal desire to engage in meaningful work that will support the future development of the community I love. I look forward to serving you as your newly appointed councilwoman.





# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Antonio Stitt, Police Chief /216-283-3000, Ext. 248**

### **Safety Is the First Law of Nature**



Hello Residents and Patrons,

As is the case every year, the summer seems to fly by and now we're on the brink of another winter season. Again, I urge you to be vigilant and aware of your surroundings when getting in and out of your vehicle. Be mindful when leaving your vehicle running unattended for potential auto thefts.

Moving on to good news, we will have three new black Ford Explorers within the next month or so. These new vehicles will replace three of our (worn out) silver Ford Crown Vic's. Each of them has over two hundred thousand miles on them.

In February, the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy will be conducting a training for our officers right here in our community. The training will be on Building Searches. As Police officers, we receive a significant number of alarms. Commercial alarms, officers respond to insure the integrity of the building and its contents. Residential alarms, which many of you may have experienced, officers respond to ensure "A" You are safe and not in need of emergency service. "B" Your residence is not being illegally intruded or damaged. At times residential alarms are set off accidentally by the home owners. Nonetheless, officers will still respond to ensure all is well.

Our state of the art **Body Worn Cameras (BWC)** have become a role model for several agencies. It's refreshing to know the **BWC** Policies and procedures in other agencies, have the same framework of the original policy created by your Police Chief and the Highland Hills Police Department administrative staff. With the new year approaching, the Police Department welcomes any suggestions of how we may serve you better are truly welcomed. Our residents' concerns are always a priority as we all work together creating a safe environment in community.

As Always, One Team, One Family!

**Susan Hamilton, Village Engineer, 216-383-3800, Ext 240**

### **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Customers Eligible for Free Storm Water Consultations**

Storm water is any rainwater or melting snow or ice that flows over the surface of the land to the nearest storm sewer, stream, or lake. Impervious or hard surfaces like driveways, rooftops, and parking lots all pose several storm water problems. Runoff picks up fertilizer, oil, pesticides, dirt, bacteria and other pollutants as it makes its way over these hard surfaces to storm drains, ditches, and streams. Hard surfaces also make storm water flow faster, and the rush of storm water flowing into storm sewer systems when heavy rain falls can back up and cause street flooding. Excessive storm water runoff entering the regional stream system increases flooding and erosion, reduces water quality, and creates costly problems to communities and their residents. Unlike water from toilets, showers, and sinks that is filtered through a wastewater treatment facility, anything that enters storm sewer systems or roadside ditches goes directly into our local streams and eventually Lake Erie. **(Continued on page 16)**



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## **Councilman David Mills**

Happy Holidays, Highland Hills Family!

I attended an NBC-LEO Summer Conference this year, July 25 – 28, 2018 in Hollywood, Florida. NLC's Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) initiative is dedicated to helping local leaders understand and gain the tools necessary to combat racial disparities in their communities. We've compiled these six steps you can follow to begin improving equity throughout your community and creating better outcomes for everyone in the Village.



Racial Equity – Closing the gaps so race does not predict one's success, while also improving outcome for all.  
Institutional Racism – Police, practices and procedures that work better for white people than for people of color, often unintentionally or inadvertently.  
Structural Racism – A history and current reality of institutional racism across all institutions, combining to create a system that negatively impacts communities of color.  
The REAL mission serves to strengthen local leaders' knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions through training and online resources. REAL helps NLC members build safe places where people from all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds thrive socially, economically, academically and physically. The six things we need to do are:

1. Set an example and strike the right tone. Start a community conversation to engage voices throughout the Village or city.
2. Observe and listen to voices in your community.
3. Make a public declaration. Allow your Village or city to officially announce and publicize local government's position on race-related issues.
4. Dedicate infrastructure to action. Dedicate new or existing resources to support racial equity work across all departments.
5. Commit to policy and system changes. Analyze policy through a racial equity lens through your local leaders.
6. Create a racial equity plan. Racial equity plans provide a blueprint of Village intentions to improve outcomes for people of color by outlining city-wide goals and agency specific strategies for accomplishing those goals.

Local government can begin this process after going through the previous steps to gain a comprehensive understanding of the need and hopes of residents of color. Each Village department or bureau can create action plans targeted to the issue area. By combining those action plans, cities create an institutional road map that continues beyond leadership transition.



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

**Building Department** Robert Rodic, Assistant Chief Building Official

## Winter Will Soon Be Approaching!

As cold weather is upon us, it is important to take a few preventative measures to protect your home through the chilly months. Winterizing is generally a task that can be done relatively inexpensively and can make a difference in how comfortable your home is and could end up saving you money on energy bills, too. There are a couple of effective home weatherproofing tips that homeowners can complete without professional help.

### Easy Home Weatherproofing Tips:

- Insure that gutters and downspouts are clear to promote water flow and prevent ice-dams.
- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Close any vents in your home that may have been opened for the warm weather.
- Disconnect hoses from outside faucets and turn off the water.
- Test your heating system, so that you know it is working properly. Call for service immediately if it is not.
- Replace batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Prepare for the worst by buying a snow shovel and stocking up on canned goods and water.

Happy Holidays to YOU!

## Commemoratively naming Alameda Parkway "Robert L. Nash Way"







# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## Meet our Councilman - Derrick A. Williams

Derrick Williams is the Head Women's Basketball Coach at Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus. He is entering his 35<sup>th</sup> year of coaching, 19 of those years have been at Cuyahoga Community College. His coaching duties require him to get student athletes prepared for a four-year institution of higher learning.



Mr. Williams was formerly the Marketing Director for E.F Boyd & Son Funeral for the past nine years, before moving on to work with his daughter, who is a fashion designer and stylist of Jasmine Renae Studio - her own company and creation.

Derrick is very active in the community, and he received the Community Service Person of the Year Award from the WHCC Chamber of Commerce in 2017. He has been a resident and homeowner in the Village of Highland Hills for over 25 years. Before he was appointed to the Highland Hills Village Council this December, Mr. Williams ran for the office in a 2017 campaign, where he lost by a slim margin of 21 votes. Serving the people of Highland Hills is something that has always been a passion of his, and he looks forward to that challenge.

Councilman Williams is a proud Prince Hall Mason and a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He serves the Lord under the spiritual guides of Reverend Doctor C.J. Mathews of Mt. Sinai Church in Cleveland.

Derrick is a graduate of Ohio University, where he received his undergraduate in Marketing. He also has an Associate degree in communications from Cuyahoga Community College.

Our newest councilman is the proud father of four wonderful adults - three young men and one beautiful young lady. In his spare time, he loves to go camping and traveling. One of his famous quotes is "Get busy living or get busy dying," in which he lives by daily.



**Swear in ceremony for Councilman Williams**



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

**Greetings from the Fire Department:**

**Arthur Timmons, Fire Chief 216-591-1021**

I hope everyone enjoys the holidays and I hope this upcoming year brings great joy. Every year at this time thousands of homes and lives are lost due to "Space Heaters". More and more people are investing in space heaters because of rising fuel cost and the cost of upgrading a furnace. If you decide to use one, please select THE RIGHT ONE for the size of the room and properly place it so that it is at least 3 feet from any combustible items like furniture, curtains, plastic and paper products. **ALWAYS THINK SAFETY FIRST.**

2018 was a busy year for this Department and for Fire Safety. Did you know that in the United States, we lose 2-3 children to fires and hundreds injured every day and over 50% are under the Age of 5? LT. Vanessa Sherriff heads our fire safety program for preschoolers to teach them about the hazards of fire and what to do in case of a fire.



(Right) Lt. Vanessa Sherriff presenting Jaden Teasley with a certificate for having won the top pictures in our "Coloring Fire Safety Program"! We would like to say Thanks to all the children who sent great pictures for the Coloring Fire Safety Program!!



(Left) Firefighters Duvall and Eady taking pictures with Head Start class successfully completing a lesson in Fire Safety.

## Highland Hills Fire Department Receives Grants to Help Prevent Cancer

Research over the years has shown that firefighters are exposed to lots of cancer-causing chemicals that get into the clothing at the fire scene and even when they return to the station, from harmful diesel fumes from the fire trucks. Highland Hills Fire Department received two grants to help eliminate this growing problem. The grants received were from:

- \* United States Homeland Security FEMA: \$69,000.00 – Will be used for installing units to remove harmful exhaust fumes from the trucks in the fire house while running.
- \* Ohio Bureau of Workman's Comp: \$7,252.00 – Used for an Extractor or Heavy Duty washer for removing harmful cancer-causing chemicals from fire fighters' turnout gear.

## HIGHLAND HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT GOES HIGH TECH FOR ARSON

**INVESTIGATION** Highland Hills Fire Department, now one the most advanced departments in the area for arson investigation thanks to a grant and award from FM Global and Highland Hills Fire Investigator Jim Woolf. The grant was for a total of \$2000.00 for investing in the latest equipment for investigating arson fires. Previously, we had to call the Columbus Fire Marshall to send an investigator which required time. In the picture below from left to right are Investigator Jim Woolf; presenting the award from FM Global is Jennifer Anand, Chief Timmons and Councilwoman Cassandra Pride Chairwoman of Safety Committee.





# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## Greetings from the Properties Department

Francesca McGhee, Director / 216-991-6000

Dear Valued Residents and Business Partner(s):

Please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce myself as one of the newest members of the Village of Highland Hills. My name is Francesca McGhee, and I am your new properties director. I feel very fortunate & blessed to have the opportunity to work in an area where my roots were planted. To share a little of my history with you, I am a product of the tri-city community.

I grew up in Warrensville Heights and attended K-12 school right here in this beautiful community. It is a blessing for me to be able to work and give back to my home town. Throughout the years, I have watched the tri-city communities evolve and become a go-to for educational needs, employment, housing, partnerships and a vast amount of other great ventures.

This position offers new and exciting challenges for me, all of which I am looking forward to. Some of the accomplishments of 2018 coming from your properties team are:

1. Increased occupancy from 70% to 100% with the completion of fire restoration of the Colonial building. Keeping delinquency and evictions to a minimum.
2. Increased rental revenue by more than 30%.
3. Completed restoration of 4115 Warrensville Center Road (property owned by the Village).
4. Restored outdoor lighting around the circle & restored parking lot lines and Handicap signage.

The vision I have for our properties team is to follow, what I call the three C's... **Community, Commitment and Communication.** **Community-** always seeking to fulfill the needs of our community. **Commitment -** to the vision and goals, driven by our Mayor, Michael Booker, and **Communication** to our residents and business partners. My goal for the employees of the properties department is to have a committed spirit in developing and maintaining the integrity of the Village, while increasing revenue. The development team is focused on providing the services you deserve! This coupled with, exceptional management, prompt maintenance services, as well as maintaining a safe and attractive environment.

**From our team to you and your families, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, full of prosperity and hope!**





## Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District ... (Continued from page 10)

Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's (Sewer District) Regional Storm Water Management Program takes a regional approach to address storm water pollution, flooding, erosion and water quality problems. The Program provides storm water services throughout the regional stream system and is funded by a fee on customers' Sewer District bills. Your fees are calculated based on the amount of impervious surface area on your property, such as rooftops, driveways, and patios. When property owners make changes or improvements on their properties to reduce the amount of runoff affecting the regional stream system and storm sewers, they may be eligible for a reduction in what they are paying, called a fee credit. Actions like disconnecting downspouts, installing rain barrels, or planting rain gardens are some of the ways you can better control runoff on your property and potentially receive a fee credit.

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District is working with Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP), West Creek Conservancy (WCC), Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP), and the Sewer District to help residential property owners manage storm water and increase participation in the Sewer District's fee credit program. CRWP, WCC, and TCWP can perform free storm water consultations to assist interested Sewer District customers on:

- Recommending best storm water control measures (rain barrels, rain gardens, downspout disconnection, pervious pavement, etc.) for your property
- Assisting you with the storm water fee credit application process
- Addressing other flooding, erosion, or water quality issues on your property

Interested residents can schedule a consultation by contacting Kristen Hebbian, CRWP Project Manager at 440-975-3870 or [khebebrand@crwp.org](mailto:khebebrand@crwp.org).

This collaboration between the Sewer District, and local watershed organizations hopes to assist Sewer District customers with better storm water management on their properties and work towards the Sewer District's goal of fewer flooding and erosion incidents, healthier waterways, and a better quality of life for the Greater Cleveland area!

For more information on the Sewer District Regional Storm water Management Program's Storm water Fee Credit Program, visit <https://www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/stormwater-management-program/>

For general information on residential storm water management, you can visit <https://www.cuyahogaswcd.org/>.





# THE VILLAGE VOICE

## A NOTE OF

### THANKS FROM FORMER COUNCILWOMAN JEAN ABERNATHY-SMITH

I would like to **thank the Residents of this Village** for your love and support that you have given me over the past seven years as your Councilwoman. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you and be a part of the legislative team who worked so hard for the betterment of our community.

I have currently accepted an administrative position in the **Senior Department** as your **new Senior Director**, due to the **retirement of Doris Nelson**. I will still need your love and support as I transition into this new role. I wish Ms. Nelson a well-deserved and much needed rest and I sincerely thank her for her help, assistance and guidance.

My thanks, also, goes out to my Council Colleagues for accepting me as a teammate as we worked together to legislate the business of Highland Hills. I would like to welcome our **2 new Council Members Dawn Davis and Derrick Williams**. I wish them nothing but the best as they embark upon their new roles. I am just a phone call away if you ever need me.

Lastly, **I would like to thank our new Mayor, Michael L. Booker** for giving me the opportunity to join the Administration as the new Senior Director. You have already proven your worthiness to this Village with your strong leadership skills and your sincere concern for this Village. I wish you nothing but the best, and I know **our beloved Mayor Robert Nash** is smiling, knowing that his hard work was not in vain and **our Village is in good hands**.

Happy Holidays to you all.

Sincerely,

Jean Abernathy-Smith  
(216) 283-3000 ext.234 (wk)  
(216) 921-6658 (Hm)

## Don't Forget to Recycle

Jane Pierce, Administrative Assistant/216-383-3000, Ext. 263

Dear Resident:

### **\*\* Cardboard recycling through the Holidays and in the New Year\*\***

With online holiday sales predicted to be higher than ever before and the Amazon effect, well, in full effect, we're all sure to have oodles of packages delivered to our doors over the next few weeks. You would think that means plenty of opportunity for holiday cardboard recycling but according to the experts, that's not always the case.

A USA Today analysis of several industry studies on cardboard use shows Americans are sending more corrugated cardboard to the landfill than to recycling plants compared to past years. Oftentimes the reason is poor cardboard recycling practices at the curb, among other factors. In 2017, 300,000 fewer tons of corrugated containers were recycled in the United States than in the year before, even as domestic consumption increased 3.5 percent, according to the American Forest and Paper Association.

"Part of the reason for the drop in cardboard recycling is that the onus is now on individual consumers to recycle properly. Prior to the rise of online shopping, retailers were responsible for flattening and baling cardboard boxes and making sure they made their way to the recycling plant," says, Diane Bickett, executive director for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

(Continues on next page...)

**Don't Forget to Recycle** – (Continued from page 16)



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

In Cuyahoga County, it's easy to recycle cardboard boxes and containers when you follow a few simple steps.

## **Holiday Cardboard Recycling Tips**

- Don't worry about removing any tape or labels, those will come off during the recycling process.
- Remove all packing materials such as packing peanuts or Styrofoam™ blocks.
- Break down your box or container into a flattened state. Don't worry if it's dented, bent, ripped or damaged.
- Only place cardboard out for collection in dry weather or in a closed recycling receptacle.
- Place the flattened, clean and dry cardboard in your curbside recycling container or drop it off at a Paper Retriever or River Valley paper drop-off location. These large, green and yellow recycling bins can be found in the parking lots of schools and churches.

Cardboard packaging is generally recycled five to seven times and is used to make new products such as cereal boxes, tissues and more cardboard. Cardboard recycling also reduces the number of trees needed for cardboard manufacturing.

## **About the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District**

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is the public agency helping the people of Cuyahoga County reduce, reuse and recycle at home, at work and in our communities. We serve as the leading resource in the County for information, expertise and programs that support sustainable materials management and reduce the environmental impact of waste. Visit [www.CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://www.CuyahogaRecycles.org)

For more detailed information contact Cristie Snyder at 216.443.3707 or [csnyder@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:csnyder@cuyahogacounty.us)