

Community News & Views

Fall 2015

The Village of Highland Hills, Ohio

www.vhhohio.org



Dear Residents,

The season of autumn is upon us and like everyone in the Village, we are wondering where the summer has gone! Council has been very busy over the past year meeting with constituents in smaller groups to hear what you have to say. We cannot stress enough that we are **YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**. We have collectively strived to engage the community, but we know we have to continue to work at it.

Council has also been pro-active in attending workshops and in professional development, so that we have a better understanding of how to serve responsibly. We have much to be thankful for with the continued economic development and growth in and around our community. Council has done its best to keep a watchful eye on Village finances and will continue to do so as our fiduciary responsibility.

Many of you have attended the resident meetings over the last several months. What follows are summaries of those meetings, along with articles we hope you will find both useful and informative.

With sincere best wishes –

Lillian Moore, President of Council

Leah Lewis, Member of Council

Barbara Spearman, Member of Council

Nicole Young, Member of Council





**From the Desk of Council President
Lillian R. Moore**

Greetings to the residents of Highland Hills!!!

As a councilmember for this Village, I attended the National League of Cities 2015 NBC-LEO summer conference which was held in Miramar, Florida. The conference provided several sessions of interest, one of which I felt was important to our Village residents. The session of most importance was the "The Need to Develop & Implement Equitable Energy Policies," presented by Representative Joe Gibbons of Florida, who now is the Chairman of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators Committee on Energy, Transportation, and Environment. Mr. Gibbons went into detail explaining the need to be educated on affordable and reliable access to basic energy, with clear understanding on the installation of solar panels.

The idea of solar panels for the Shaker House was introduced by Councilwoman Leah Lewis, who had done extensive research to show the impact and benefits of solar panels.

The Business Section of *The Plain Dealer* dated Sunday, August 9th 2015, featured an article entitled "New deep-discount program looks to solarize Cleveland." The article gives information and history on companies in the greater Cleveland area who are now installing solar panels on homes, along with the cost of installation, benefits and use on how to it make affordable when considering a solar panel array for the roof of your home.

This article explains advantages of installing solar arrays on rooftops. The benefits of solar arrays are estimated to reduce your monthly utility bill by 50%, while generating extra solar energy that can be stored and/or sold back to the supplier. The cost of solar panels and installation is expensive. Some contractors are promoting hefty contracts for a 20-year unbreakable term in the amount of \$15,000 or more. With today's technology, these solar panels will be outdated within five (5) years.

In summary, should you decide to install solar panels, it is very important to know the terms of your contract, and the non-transferrable fees which apply if you decide to sell your home. Please research the solar panel installation contract thoroughly and beware that the solar panels are not free, nor is the installation and/or their removal.



From the Desk of Councilwoman Barbara Spearman

Hello Community!

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Outsourcing our shredding is more secure and less expensive than shredding it ourselves. So, Council decided to encourage our community to come out with their paper materials to be shredded. On Saturday June 20, 2015 Council sponsored the **Community Shredding Event** that was located at the Fire Station. It was a free event to provide our residents peace of mind knowing that their confidential documents are securely 100% properly destroyed and recycled. As residents and others brought their paper items each person could watch the process and know that their paper products destruction was completed. This first time event was successful. Thirty (30) residents came out and shredded 3,179 pounds of paper products. Thanks was given to Fire Chief Timmons, and some firemen for helping to direct traffic and thanks to our Public Works Director, Steve Clymer for providing enter and exit signs. Let your Council members know if you would like another shredding day next year.

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

As the Chairperson of the Safety Committee, I want our community to know that Council is receiving monthly total Fire Department and Police Department information. **Fire Chief Timmons** provides medical and fire calls such as: fire alarms, medical transports, called off en route or upon arrival, structure fire (mutual aid given), public service and smoke order. In the Police Department, **Sergeant Koran** provides statistics such as: traffic citations, traffic arrests, misc. traffic, criminal arrests, officer activity and officer/community engagement. At the end of year 2015 Council will have information on the services that these two departments provide and we will have a good assessment of numbers of activities taking place in Highland Hills. Council thanks both departments for providing security for the people of Highland Hills.



From the Desk of Councilwoman Nicole Young

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT ON TAMARA BENFORD

Tamara aka Tammy Benford is a four-year resident of the townhomes. She has been employed by Cleveland Clinic as a Nurse for 15 years. She grew up in South Euclid, graduated from Brush High School and then attended The Ohio State University, where she received her BSN in Nursing. Tammy took a job at Mount Sinai Hospital and then completed her Master's Degree in Science and Nursing. She has worked in specialty areas like Physical Therapy and Breast Cancer. Breast Cancer was her favorite because of the developments in breast cancer surgery and treatment.

Tammy enjoys spending time with her fiancé and friends at wineries in Geneva and Canton. During the summer, she loves going to *Wade Oval Wednesday* and listening to local bands. She also enjoys bowling and walking on the Towpath.

Of living in Highland Hills, Tammy says she loves the makeup of the community, with a good mix of young people and seniors, and everyone is neighborly. She would like to see more programs for home repairs and beautification, as well as fun events for everyone in the community. It would also be great to have programs for young people in the area to do community service, with a focus on beautifying the Village. Overall, Tammy thoroughly enjoys living in the Village and plans to stick around for a while.



From the Desk of Councilwoman Leah Lewis

For the first time, the Village of Highland Hills Council conducted a series of meetings with residents in the various segments of our COMMUNITY. After receiving numerous complaints from tenants seeking assistance, we purposed the first meeting to hear from residents so as to present their concerns to the Mayor, who is responsible for administration of the building and its management. I was fortunate to chair two meetings of the tenants of the Shaker House on March 25,

2015 and April 28, 2015. Over 30 residents of the Shaker House attended the first meeting.

Council President Lillian Moore and I met with the Mayor's office twice to stimulate positive changes for the Shaker House residents regarding their quality of life and maintenance and upkeep of the building, particularly the residential portion. Our second meeting with residents offered a follow-up from our initial meeting with the Mayor's office. Additionally, we presented Angela Shuckahosee, Director of the Cleveland Tenants' Association, who spoke on Tenant's Rights and Management Responsibility.

As members of Council, Council President Moore, Councilwoman Barbara Spearman, Councilwoman Nicole Young and I live on purpose. Our purpose is to SERVE you – our constituents – for together, we comprise the Village of Highland Hills. For us, nothing – not petty politics, not personal conflicts, nor unfortunate acts of misdirection and misinformation intended to mislead you or hinder our effectiveness – stands in the way of putting our constituents first! Without you, we have no advocacy, legislative or governmental purpose. On this, we are clear.

To this end, we fully expect to continue to meet with residents from time-to-time throughout the calendar year. Consequently, we will continue to initiate meetings with the Mayor's office as necessary to insure that residents receive suitable and professional care and attention. Acting in the best interest of the Village and the needs of our neighbors is priority number one for us.

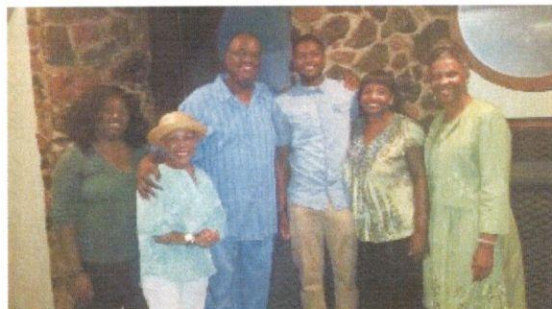
HIGHLAND HILLS COUNCIL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Members of the Council of the Village of Highland Hills were thrilled to award its inaugural Academic Scholarship to Montell Goodwin, son of Michael Goodwin and Norma McClain, on July 30, 2015. In an intimate ceremony at Village Hall, we presented Montell with a \$1,000.00 check for his studies at Mineral Area College in Missouri.

Upon my suggestion, Council established an Academic Scholarship in 2015 to support the educational endeavors and advancement of our Highland Hills residents. Montell completed all of the requirements. Council members expect this to be the first of many scholarships to come for deserving residents—young and seasoned.

The Goodwin family has resided in the Village for over 24 years. Montell Goodwin, a well-rounded young man is a 2014 graduate of Warrensville Heights High School where he was a scholar-athlete. In addition to his academic qualifications, Council members were extremely impressed with Montell's leadership, high character, diligence, and determination.

We salute Michael and Norma Goodwin for raising such an outstanding young man and we wish Montell much success throughout the years. Additionally, Council looks forward to receiving your applications for the 2016 Village of Highland Hills Council Scholarship next year.



Montell Goodwin and his parents with Council's Scholarship Committee. From left to right: Councilwoman Nicole Young, Councilwoman Barbara Spearman, Michael Goodwin (Father), Scholarship Recipient Montell Goodwin, Norma McClain (Mother) and Councilwoman Leah Lewis, Chair of the Scholarship Committee

NOVEMBER 3, 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

On **Tuesday, November 3, 2015**, Highland Hills residents will have an opportunity to cast their votes for Mayor and four Members of Council, in addition to a number of issues. For your information, below are the issues you can expect to see on the ballot:

Issue 57 - Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Village of Highland Hills for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 6 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 60 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016.

Issue 58 - Proposed Ordinance (Electric Aggregation) – Shall the Village of Highland Hills have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the Village of Highland Hills, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

Issue 59 - Proposed Charter Amendment – Shall Article II, Section 1 and Article III, Section 4 of the Charter of the Village of Highland Hills be amended to reduce the number of councilpersons from six (6) to five (5), and remove the Mayor's power to break a tie vote of council?

Issue 60 - Proposed Charter Amendment – Shall Article III, Section 6, the Mayor's Estimate, be repealed and those duties added to amend Article VII, Section 3, Finance Director Duties, requiring the Finance Director to produce specific financial reports?

Issue 61 - Proposed Charter Amendment – Shall Article VI, Section 3 of the Charter of the Village of Highland Hills regarding recall elections be amended to remove the paragraph and reference regarding the Clerk-Treasurer, which position was previously repealed?

Issue 62 - Proposed Charter Amendment – Shall Article IX of the Charter of the Village of Highland Hills be amended to add Section 10 to create a Strategic Plan Commission to require the creation of and approval of a strategic plan every five (5) years?

Issue 63 - Proposed Charter Amendment – Shall the Charter of the Village of Highland Hills be amended to provide for the repeal of Article X, Section 3 Abolition of Offices, to remove reference to the Clerk-Treasurer which position was previously repealed?

Voter Deadlines:

- 9/19/2015 UOCAVA absentee ballots to be mailed
- 10/5/2015 Close of Registration
- 10/6/2015 Opening of Vote by Mail (Absentee) voting
- 10/31/2015 12:00 noon - Deadline for applications by mail for an absentee ballot to be mailed
- 11/2/2015 Voting in person at the Board of Elections ends
- 11/2/2015 All Vote by Mail / Absentee ballots mailed anywhere in the U.S. must be postmarked on or before this date and received at the Board of Elections on or before 11/13/2015 in order to be counted.
- 11/3/2015 All overseas Vote by Mail ballots must be signed and submitted for mailing by 12:01 AM EDT on or before this date and received on or before 11/13/2015 in order to be counted.
- 11/3/2015 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Election Day - Provisional voting at the Board of Elections
11/3/2015 All Vote by Mail / Absentee ballots returned in person must be received at the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. in order to be counted.

RECYCLING IN THE VILLAGE



Council is happy to report that through the efforts of our "Master Recycler" Jane Pierce, the Village of Highland Hills has made great strides towards recycling and saving our environment. The latest report from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District indicates that our Village is one of the top recyclers in the county – *Thank you to all for recycling!!!*

To that end, most residents have recycling bins at their place of residence. However, if you do not have a bin and would like to request one, please call Jane Pierce at 283-3000, Ext. 263. An ID with proof of residence is required. The Village has also begun collecting batteries (regular batteries - no car batteries), so feel free to bring those used batteries up to Village Hall to be recycled.

Also of note, we came across an article about "NatureVation" which features information about hassle-free outdoor adventures in "really cool places."

"NatureVation Adventures (tours) are fully contained, guided tours into the unique and often hidden natural places of northeast Ohio. NatureVation finds the places, maps the route, secures any permits, researches the history and provides elegant food and beverages.

You could tour alone, yet it's much more enjoyable with others. Enjoy new experiences with family. Make new friends. Have fun together along the way."

For further information and costs, please call NatureVation Adventure Tours at 216-393-7716. They can also be found on the web at <http://www.naturevation.com>.

NOISE ORDINANCE GUIDELINES

With the warmer weather still upon us, it is good to be reminded of the Highland Hills Noise Ordinances, which address disorderly conduct, intoxication, horns and signaling devices, musical instruments, yelling and shouting, construction or repairing of buildings, noisy animals or children and playing of radios, boom boxes or other sound devices. They can be found on line at www.walterdrane.com, under our Codified Ordinances, Sections 509.03 and 509.08. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the Highland Hills Police Department through our main number at 283-3000.



WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER

Did you know that the Warrensville Heights Recreation Center is available to all Highland Hills residents? The indoor pool is open from 5:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with guided "walking in the pool" classes weekday mornings at \$2 a session or \$20 for unlimited sessions. What a great way to take advantage of "low impact" exercise! Fall swimming lessons began September 14th and continue to run Monday through Thursday. For further information on swimming and other activities offered at the Recreation Center, please call 295-7842.



VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS THROUGH THE YEARS



With the Village of Highland Hills celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, it's a good time to look back and reflect on the many things we have accomplished, thanks in no small part to the Council Members who have served so well. Below is an alphabetical list ... how many do you know??????

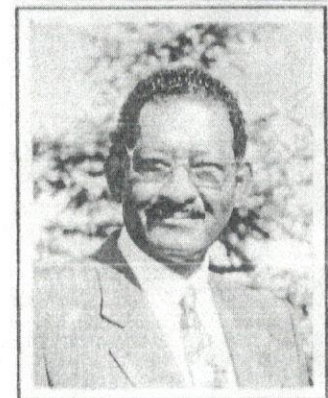
Jean Abernathy-Smith
Charles Adams
Patricia DeBerry
Arthur Fitch
Shirley Fort
Arthur Harrell
Carol Henderson
William Lett
Leah Lewis
Danita Love

Lillian Moore
Kenneth Roberts
Delores Safford
Noah Schamberg
David Scott
Lynn Seawright
Samuel Smith
Barbara Spearman
Earl Williams
Nicole Young

SPOTLIGHT ON RESIDENT H. DA VINCI BULLOCK, SR.

Born in Granville County, North Carolina, H. DaVinci Bullock, Sr. was given the name "DaVinci" by his college art professors to replace the middle initial "D." He received both B.S. and Master's Degrees from North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mr. Bullock has been a serious painter since graduation from college in 1948. His works depict scenes from a variety of subject matter ranging from sea and landscapes to portraits and historical compositions. He has exhibited watercolors, acrylics, oils and ink drawings with much success all over the country. He worked as an art instructor at Elizabeth City State University, Shaw High School and the public schools of North Carolina and Virginia, in addition to the Cleveland Job Corps Center for Women.



Presently retired, H. DaVinci Bullock, Sr. has been a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Art Program and two of his paintings have been exhibited in the Commandant's Office Coast Guard Station in Washington, D.C. A pen and ink drawing of the 54th Regiment also hangs in the Black Museum, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Bullock has been proud to call Highland Hills home . . . and we in the Village are proud that one of our own has accomplished so much. A sampling of Mr. Bullock's works are hanging in the Council Office in Village Hall. Please feel free to stop in during office hours and take a look!

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

This year, Council Members initiated a "Good Neighbor Award" to recognize members of our community who have exemplified extraordinary kindness and concern for others. We are blessed with a caring community, and oftentimes our residents go above and beyond in assisting others, without the expectation of a "reward." Some extraordinary deeds were brought to our attention, and Council selected four recipients for 2015: Larry Harris, Sam Head and Dale Kormos, who took it upon themselves to clean up a significant amount of concrete and debris left over from a contractor, along with Marvin Brown, who has tended to a neighbor's vacant house for quite a long time.

The "Good Neighbor Awards" were presented by Council at the Village's 25th Anniversary Celebration on August 22nd and below are photos. Edith Head accepted on behalf of her husband and Dale Kormos was unable to attend the event, so his award was forwarded onto him. If you know of a neighbor or friend in the Village who should be considered for 2016, please contact the Council Office at 283-3000 and offer a nomination.



"Good Neighbor" Larry Harris with Councilwoman Barbara Spearman, Council President Lillian Moore, Councilwoman Nicole Young and Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith

Edith Head accepts on behalf of her husband, "Good Neighbor" Same Head, with Councilwoman Barbara Spearman, Council President Lillian Moore, Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith and Councilwoman Nicole Young

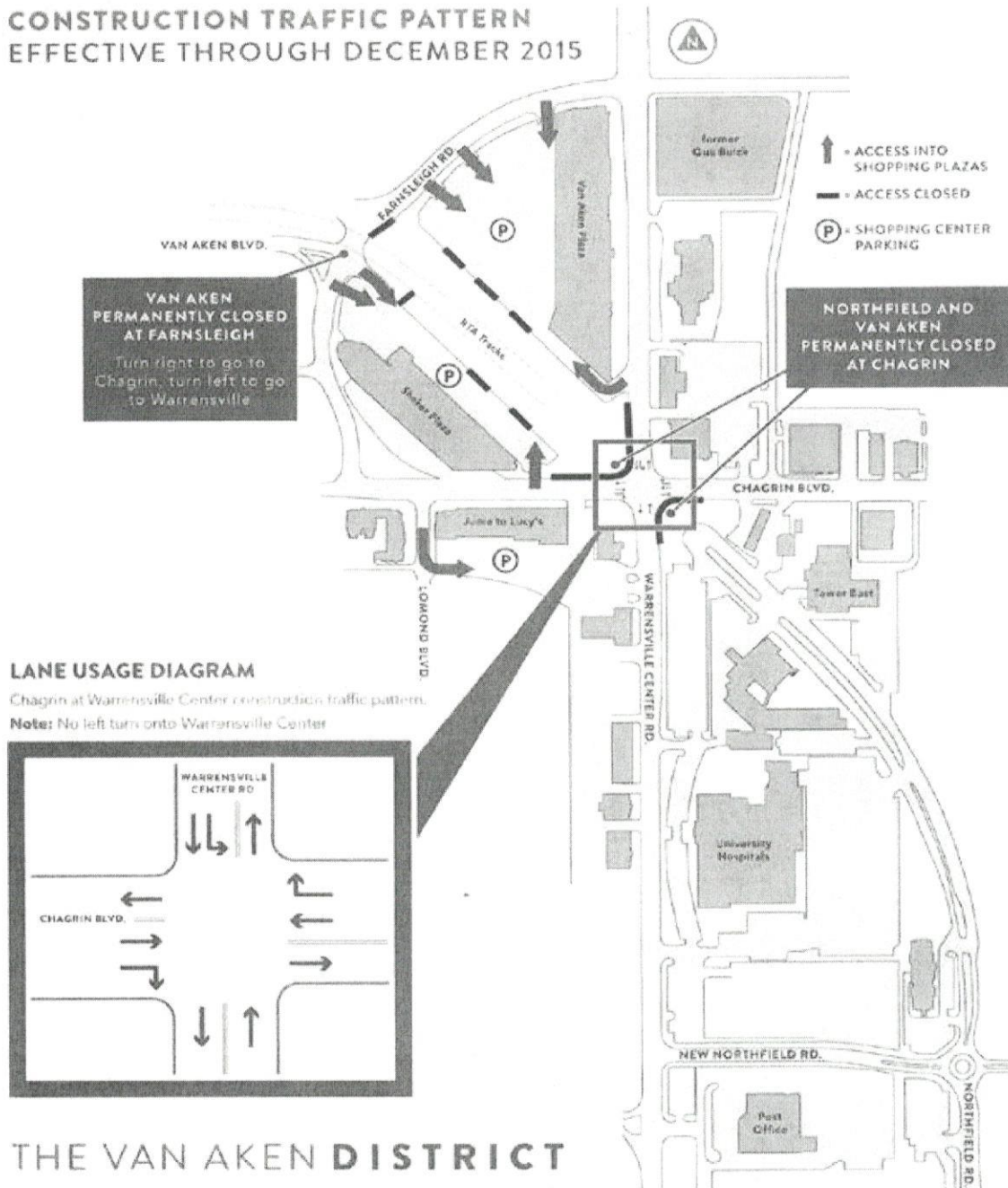


"Good Neighbor" Marvin Brown with Council President Lillian Moore, Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith, Councilwoman Nicole Young and Councilwoman Barbara Spearman

ROAD CONSTRUCTION MAP

For your information, below is a map depicting the traffic patterns with the ongoing construction on Northfield and Warrensville Roads. As you know, Northfield Road has been permanently closed at Chagrin. Traffic is not able to travel north or southbound through the intersection of Warrensville and Chagrin Boulevard. South of the intersection, Northfield now dead ends into a new cul-de-sac. Local access to buildings between the intersection and the Northfield Road roundabout is from the south only (or from Warrensville).

CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC PATTERN EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 2015



QUESTIONS:

County Construction Office: (216) 752-9047
Cuyahoga County Public Works: (216) 348-3838

CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION:

www.shakeronline.com/news-and-events/construction-zone
Sign up for email updates: bit.ly/VanAken
Van Aken Website: www.thevanakendistrict.com

FACE PAINTING BY ALESSIA WORDLAW

Lastly, to leave us all with a smile, here are a sampling of photos taken at the Village's 25th Anniversary Celebration. They feature Alessia Wordlaw, granddaughter of resident David Scott, expressing her artistic side in "painting" the faces of delighted children at the event.

