

Community News & Views

The Village of Highland Hills, Ohio
www.vhhohio.org

Fall 2015



Mayor's Report



Greetings Residents:

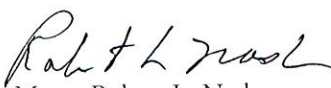
As we welcome fall with the beautiful changing colors of the trees, we also note the positive developments in the Village, and pause to give renewed thanks. The Village continues to grow with new businesses. We alerted you to "stay tuned" for further development of the residential treatment facility, Highland Springs. Well, we are excited to report that the grand opening celebration of the facility is October 26! See the notice included in this newsletter. The facility has been built from the ground up and is a welcomed addition to the Village.

We also mentioned that University Hospitals customer service center would soon move into the Village, occupying the facility formerly housed by Intuit on Harvard and Northfield roads. Well, the good news is the project has come to fruition—it is up and running as planned. Not only are we pleased to have new establishments join us, we cannot forget those who are housed right here in the Village Hall complex: Holy Covenant Church, Illusions Created, Lucy's Place, and Proactive Business and Tax Solutions. We are glad to have them here!

Our departments have worked diligently and cooperatively on these new projects, as well as the day-to-day operations, and I am pleased to have a competent and committed staff. After all, it does take a Village!

Activity has been brisk over the last several months, and I am delighted you joined us for the State of the Village address on August 12, as well as the 25th Anniversary Celebration on August 23. It's hard to believe a quarter of a century has passed since we became a Village. Both events were great opportunities to provide updates on what's going on in the Village, to hear from you, and renew relationships. Your participation is extremely important and I want you all to know that encouragement and interaction are critical elements for the continued progress of our Village. Let's continue to be a community on the cutting edge. My door is always open and I am proud to be your Mayor.

All the best as we continue to be on the cutting edge of community development and spirit!


Mayor Robert L. Nash


A newsworthy publication from Administration featuring community news, events and information.

Please join us on
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
4:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
for our
GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Specializing in Adult Mental Health and Addiction Treatment:
Inpatient, Partial Hospitalization and
Intensive Outpatient Services



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 Highland Springs
4199 Mill Pond Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44122

 **Highland Springs**



SAVE THE DATE!
THE GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION
AND OPEN HOUSE OF A
NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL



October is Fire Prevention Month!!

It's that time of year when the leaves are changing to beautiful colors and the holidays are around the corner. We need to prepare for the colder weather on its way. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe:

- Have your furnace checked by a licensed HVAC professional.
- Check and change batteries in smoke detectors.
- I highly recommend a CO (carbon dioxide) detector.
- If you have a fireplace, have it checked and cleaned if needed.



Chief Lloyd Noles

It saddens me to report that Highland Hills' third Fire Chief, Lloyd Noles, recently passed away. Chief Noles was with the Village from March 12, 1998 through June 16, 2004,

In departmental news, I am proud to announce that Corey Igneci is the new Fire Inspector for the Village. Corey has been a firefighter for Highland Hills and continues to do a great job. For a free fire inspection, call the Fire Inspection Bureau at 216.591.7311 for an appointment. See article below regarding fire escape planning. Please Be Safe!

Chief Timmons

Home Fire Escape Planning

A residential fire occurs every 30 minutes in Ohio. Are you prepared to get out? Follow these tips to ensure you and your family's safety in the case of a fire.

- Know at least two ways out from every room or space in your home.
- Crawl low in smoke. Smoke rises, so the air near the floor will be clearer. It will be easier to breathe near the floor.
- Feel doors before opening them. If the door is hot, do not open it! If the door is cool, stay low as you open it. There still may be heat, smoke or fire on the other side.
- Leave immediately. Don't stop for anything. No possessions are worth your life.
- If you cannot leave a room, make sure the door is closed and go to the window. Open or break it out and exit if you can. If you can't exit the window because it is too high, wave and yell to attract attention.
- Have a family meeting place outside. Count to ensure everyone is out safely.
- Once you are out, stay out! Never go back inside for anyone or anything.
- Call the fire department. Once out safely, call the emergency number 911 from a neighbor's house or a cell phone.

Additional Tips:

- Practice your escape plan at least once a year. Try different ways out. Try it with your eyes closed or in the dark.
- Consider an escape ladder for windows too high to jump from, which are available at local hardware stores.
- Consider a plan for family members with special needs.

The Highland Hills Fire Prevention Bureau and the Highland Hills Fire Department is more than happy to assist in making your home fire escape plan. For any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at the number listed above.

Cory Igneci, Fire Safety Inspector



Hello Residents and Patrons

Antonio Stitt, Police Chief

As I think back over the years, I must acknowledge the fact that we've come a mighty long way. Our police agency has grown in a way that I am very proud of. Yes, we've obtained state-of-the art equipment. Yes, we have new vehicles and new video recording equipment in vehicles. We now have less lethal force (tasers). Yes, we have obtained new firearms. We were the first agency to employ "body cameras". We even have new bullet proof vests. A large portion of this progress was obtained through grant funding—Thank You Again, Mayor Nash and Village administration for making these things happen.

Although I'm very proud and happy we have all of these wonderful tools to assist in keeping our community safe, it's not what I'm most proud of. I'm most proud of how much our police agency has grown in character and credibility. I'm proud to say our officers understand and embrace the idea, the concept, and importance of "Serving the Public"! Your police department is the only department in the area which implements "Foot Patrol" and "Community Engagement". Both foot patrol and community engagement are tools we use to establish and maintain relationships and transparency between your police and the community.

In late 2010 we established our creed, "**One Team, One Family**"! Back then this creed was basically for members of the Highland Hills Police Department. Now, "One Team, One Family", applies to all Highland Hills residents as well!

In closing, I can honestly tell you I have never been more proud to say—I am part of a "Team," a "Family" that works together to keep our community safe!





Building Department Tips & Useful Information

Louis A. Hovancsek, Building Commissioner

As the season progresses into the heating phase, the building department recommends having a licensed heating, ventilating and air conditioning contractor service your gas-fired furnace. Trained technicians will insure the furnace is safe, operating properly, and check the filter.

A list of current registered contractors; including electrical, HVAC, plumbing, and general building contractors can be obtained from the building department.

The change of time also signals it's time to change the batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide alarm. Batteries should be replaced twice a year in your battery-operated smoke detector and carbon monoxide alarm.

It is also recommended by the building department to install a smoke detector on each floor of your home and inside each bedroom. A carbon monoxide alarm is recommended in an area outside each bedroom.

As mentioned previously, the Village is proud to announce the October 26, 2015 grand opening of Highland Springs Hospital, located at 4199 Mill Pond Drive at the intersection of Harvard Road and Mill Pond Drive. The 53,000 square foot facility is a state-of-the art behavioral health hospital owned by Propstone LLC from Louisville Kentucky. It features three separate wings to treat those with behavioral health and addiction issues, as well as those with memory impairment. Each wing provides a specialized approach in assisting juveniles and adults. The facility is currently training staff and will be fully operationak in early 2016.

For additional information, contact the building department at 216.283.3000, extension 240 or via email to bldg@vhhohio.org.

submitted by Robert Rodic CBO, Assistant Building Official

Planning for Trees in our Village! It Takes a Tree...



The Division of Forestry's Ohio Department of Natural Resources makes available a wonderful program in the State of Ohio to help communities with urban forestry, urban soils, tree selections, ordinances, maintenance and more. Basically, many of the things a community would need to help maintain a healthy "Tree Canopy" on our local tree lawns and public properties.

The Village will be benefitting from this training through our own Jane Pierce, who has been attending the academy (50+ hours), taught by our area's Urban Forester Alan Siewert. Alan, who is very familiar with the Village of Highland Hills, was a helpful consult back in the beginnings of the Village.



If you see Jane, Alan or Steve (Public Works Director) in your area looking at trees, they are putting together an "urban site index" to document the trees on our tree lawns and public properties. So far 50+ trees are documented and public street tree lawn areas have been urban site indexed. We are looking forward to a future with a maintenance and planting plan. Removal of necessary dead trees and a future with a five, ten and twenty-year plan for diversity of tree growth.

More will be shared in the upcoming future about trees. There is so much information that we don't know we aren't aware of and the scientific difference trees can make in a community. For example, trees have a positive impact on human health and behavior and reduce crime.

If you would like to be on a volunteer list for hands-on help in 2016 (not yet sure what this will entail), please give us a call and leave your name and number with Jane at 216.283.3000, extension 263.

People Don't See Trees ~ They Feel Them!



Village Requesting Levy Renewal—Taxes Will Not Increase!

Andrea Morris, Finance Director

The Village has placed a property tax renewal on the November 3, 2015 ballot. The general tax levy was originally approved in 1990; has been renewed in 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010. The current tax levy is due to expire on December 31, 2015.

- The general tax levy represents \$52,915.00 of revenue for the Village. These tax dollars are used for the day-to-day operations of the Village.
- The general tax levy is not a new levy.
- The proposed levy is a renewal of an existing levy which is due to expire.
- The 6.0 mill levy will run for a period of five years.
- The general tax levy renewal will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$115.00 per year, identical to your previous tax bill.

Highland Hills Electric Aggregation Option

Highland Hills recently adopted legislation, which will be on the November 3rd ballot, to become a member of The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC).

NOPEC is a non-profit government aggregation composed of over 200 communities in 13 counties. It is the largest public retail energy aggregation in the U.S., representing over 750,000 customers, which equals approximately \$1.2 billion per year. NOPEC was formed as a council of governments. The owners of NOPEC are the communities and their residents, with each community selecting one general assembly member to represent them at annual meetings.

NOPEC has skilled experts to complete negotiations on behalf of the entire group; for better service, better pricing, and consumer protection. No taxpayer dollars are used to fund NOPEC and there is no cost or membership fees to member communities. NOPEC offers safe, reliable, long-term pricing with guaranteed savings to residents. They also offer guaranteed savings to commercial accounts and Village accounts with a \$5,000 grant to the Village with a 5% guaranteed discount (6.9 cents/KWh), which is lower than any of the 59 PUCO apples to apples rates, with a range of 7.1 cents/KWh to 0.75 cents/KWh. NOPEC also offers the Village a fixed pricing option at 6.87 cents/KWh until August 2018.



Properties Update

Dale Carter, Properties Director

Currently, the Shaker House has only two kitchenette units available, and we have a deposit for one of them. I'm proud to report, all other units are occupied.

We continue to do regular maintenance and upkeep on all units such as:

- HVAC units will be cleaned next week and coils in the colonial side building have already been cleaned.
- New carpet has been installed in six units and units have been painted.
- Mattresses have also been purchased and installed.

The safety and comfort of our tenants are important to the properties department.

As the holiday season is approaching, we are securing deposits for November and December events in the ballroom.



Did you know!

Yes! Cartons Are Recyclable!

Great news! Our recycle facility, Kimble (and all others for that matter), now accept cartons for recycling!

The last drop of milk, juice or soup does not mark the end of a carton's useful life. Made mainly from high-quality paper, cartons are easily recyclable and in high demand by manufacturers of recycled products. Residents you can now simply place your empty cartons in the recycling bin; along with plastic, metal and glass containers.

After cartons are collected curbside, they will be taken to a MRF (recycling facility) to be sorted and baled. The bales of recycled cartons are then shipped to paper mills, where cartons are mixed with water in a gigantic blender to extract all the paper fiber. These recycled carton paper fibers are a valuable resource for making products such as recycled paper products and even building materials.

For more information on how cartons are recycled, visit www.RecycleCartons.com!



Public Works

Steve Clymer, Public Works Director

The year of 2015 has already been very successful for our Village. We have highlighted a sample of some of the service department accomplishments.

- We entered into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County sewer department, which has facilitated improvement to our infrastructure tremendously, at NO cost to the Village. Hopefully, you have seen the numerous storm sewer/catch basin repairs around the Village as a result.
- What's not visible is that all storm and sanitary sewers in the residential area of the Village have been cleaned out and camera inspections were completed. Luckily, there were no problems identified with our sewer system, and the best news is there was NO cost to the Village for this extensive task.
- With the help of many residents, our recycling rate has improved to 53.93% from just 25.88% in 2013! A big thanks to all of you recyclers!
- After researching the local market, Mayor Nash and key personnel drove to New York City and purchased an updated trash removal truck at a significant savings (thousands of dollars) from any similar equipment we could find locally. This acquisition is a real plus for the Village.

It is that time of year where warm days and sunshine are getting ready to leave us. I would like to take a moment and review some fall and winter tips to help your service department serve you. We will start picking up leaves in the near future, so please follow a few basic rules listed below:

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

Remember, following leaf pick-up, as happens every year, snow will begin to fall. The service department crews are busy preparing equipment and will be ready to tackle all of the winter wonderland that falls on our streets.

Most of you already know we have a driveway plowing program that is dispatched when we get extremely heavy snowfall. As a reminder, and for the benefit of 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 bad. We will still handle all of our regular duties; i.e. trash pickup, special pickups and all other daily functions of the service department, so please be patient if we are slightly delayed with any of our duties due to a snow storm.

In closing, all members of the service department would like to wish all Highland Hills residents a short and easy winter season.



Senior Department News

Jeune Drayton, Director

I am happy to welcome back Doris Nelson back to the Senior Department as Assistant Director! She is joined by Renotta Fair, who is the Activities Coordinator. The rest of our team is Henry (Red) Payne and Marvin (Doc) Brandon, our loyal drivers.

We continue to move along with our weekly activities and strive to accommodate our residents with their doctor appointments, banking, etc. Please make sure to call at least a day ahead of time to schedule a pickup. Messages can be left at 216.283.3000, extensions 234, 235 or 229. Be sure to review the monthly calendars.

We are still collecting toiletries for homeless shelters and you can drop items off at the office. There will also be a collection box on the bus. Contributions are greatly appreciated!

Our thanks are also extended to our service department for providing staff to assist on extended trips. Thanks, Whitt!

Staffing Update

Since our last newsletter, Rob Rodic joined the building department. Rob has a wealth of experience and we are delighted to have him on our team! Be sure to read his article in the building department section.

Artfully Done!



The next time you are visiting Village Hall, stop in the main lobby to view the newly installed 25th Anniversary framed art by local artist Christopher Deighan. How many locations in Highland Hills can you name in the picture? The art has been duplicated on t-shirts and sweat shirts. If interested in ordering, you can purchase t-shirts for \$11.00 (regular sizes) or \$13.00 (2XL and larger). Sweatshirts are \$15.00 (regular sizes) or \$17.00 (XL and larger). We can also have the art design screen printed on a pullover or hooded sweatshirt. Color choices are grey or black. Contact Jane Pierce at 216.283.3000, extension 263.

For Your Information

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

Registered voters have the option to vote without going to the polls using an absentee ballot. Absentee ballot applications are available online at the Board of Elections ("BOE") website: www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by November 2. You can also vote in person during normal business hours at the BOE. Visit the BOE website or call the BOE at 216.443.3200 for weekend voting hours at the BOE, which is located at 2925 Euclid Avenue.



Public Open House: Highland Park Golf Course Stream Restoration

*Learn how restoring Mill Creek will
improve water quality and enhance
the golf course.*

Thursday 10/29 5-7pm

at Highland Park Golf Course
3550 Green Rd. Highland Hills, Ohio 44122

 **Northeast Ohio
Regional Sewer District**



 **River Reach
Construction**