

# Community News & Views

The Village of Highland Hills, Ohio  
[www.vhhohio.org](http://www.vhhohio.org)

Spring 2014



## Mayor's Report



Welcome Spring! We know that our residents are excited as we finally see sunshine. Now that the snow is gone, we are in the process of spring clean-up. The spring weather often brings surprises that were covered during the winter. Our crews will spruce up the Village to greet the long-awaited new season. Listed below are newsworthy items since our last newsletter: 1) a wellness program has been instituted here at Village hall to provide exercise training for employees. Our seniors are also benefiting twice a week from the expert training by fitness guru/personal trainer, Reggie Lewis, of "30 Minutes for Fitness", a subsidiary of Muscle Management. Mr. Lewis has been a trainer for over three decades. His training focuses on flexibility, strength and overall functional movement. We are glad to have him aboard to assist us with healthy habits; 2) the Cleveland House of Correction is scheduled to move during the summer, and the vacancy will provide development opportunities for the Village; 3) work will soon be completed on the Green and Harvard road areas to eliminate the infamous orange barrels and restore the area to normalcy; 4) the Warrensville/Van Aken road reconfiguration project has begun. Changeable message signs will be used to alert residents of traffic changes during the construction. The county will have monthly updates online and weekly messages can be obtained by calling 216.491.1356; 5) we welcome the corporate offices of MCM Industries, an extremely diverse manufacturing company, to the Village on Millcreek Boulevard; and 6) as previously reported, Springstone Hospital, a private mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment facility, will open later this year in the Harvard/Millcreek area.

We will keep you posted as further developments arise in our thriving community—located in a premier location—as we continue to stay on the cutting edge. We welcome all comments and suggestions. Please be sure to check out our website: [www.vhhohio.org](http://www.vhhohio.org) to view such informational articles as: Virtual Rain Garden Simulator, What is Storm Water?, Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District "video", So if You've Ever Wondered? Greater Cleveland Water Cycle, and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District "YouTube" channel. These are just a few articles that keep us informed about our environment!

All the best,

Mayor Robert L. Nash

*A collaborative publication from Administration and Council featuring community news, events and information.*

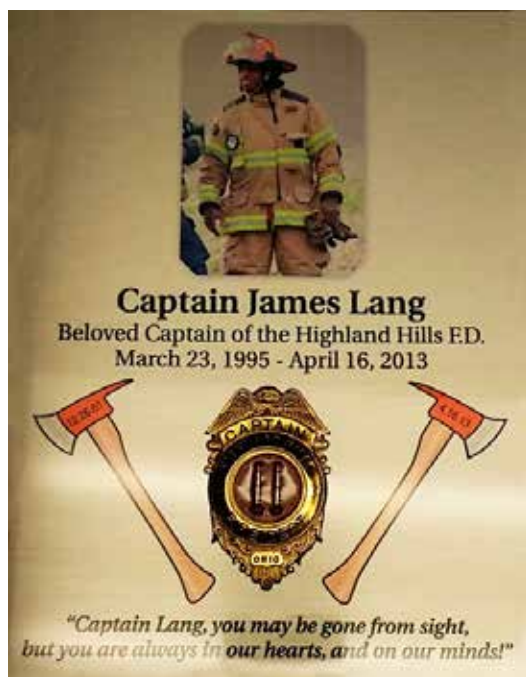


## Fire Up!

*Arthur Timmons, Fire Chief*

### Honoring Our Falling Hero

During the month of April, the fire department honored Captain James Lang, whom passed away April 16, 2013. We will wear t-shirts throughout the month of April, and on his anniversary a plaque was unveiled in his honor.



### Summer is Finally Here !!!!!!!

Nice weather is upon us, and if you are anything like me, you can't wait to "**LITE THAT GRILL.**"

**BUT**, before you light the grill, **PLEASE**, put **SAFETY FIRST**.

Make sure that you are careful, and remember:

- Not to grill too close to, in, or under, a building.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from a building.
- **NEVER** use gasoline to light your charcoal.
- Make sure not to barbeque under trees, or any plants that hang low.
- When cooking do not leave grills unattended.

**REMEMBER:** You must have enough water on hand to extinguish flames if something goes wrong!



## Building & Housing

*Louis A. Hovancsek, Building Commissioner*

### Controlling Mosquitoes in Your Yard and Neighborhood

Mosquitoes can breed in many places around your yard, including areas of standing water, unused tires, kiddie pools, and clogged gutters. Eliminating standing water will help reduce the population of biting adult mosquitoes, and allow you to better enjoy the outdoors this summer.

Here are a few tips to help in the process:

- Clean your gutters often to keep them flowing.
- Remove, or properly store, children's toys that collect water.
- Place lids on your garbage cans to keep rain out.
- Maintain your ornamental pond or bird bath.
- Cover your rain barrel openings with screening.
- Store wheel barrows upside down or on end.
- Fill in low spots in your yard.
- Maintain your pool and keep stagnant water off the cover when not in use.
- Remove containers that may hold water (buckets, tires, etc.) from behind garages or sheds.

Following these tips will help prevent mosquitoes from living in your yard, and also reduce the chances of your family becoming infected with a mosquito-borne disease.

Our staff will respond to mosquito complaints and apply mosquito control products from early spring into the fall.

You can help us to protect your community from mosquito-borne disease by routinely following the steps listed above. Additional information can also be found at [www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net).

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## Of Interest?



We urge you and everyone you know to attend the 12th Annual Cleveland Clinic Minority Men's Health Fair on April 24, 2014 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm at the Glickman Tower at Cleveland Clinic's main campus. Free screenings and information will be made available to all attendees. The fair offers a unique opportunity to identify nascent medical issues before they become life threatening. Dr. Modlin and the Clinic are doing their part to ensure a healthier Greater Cleveland; let's do ours by spreading the word.



Youth Opportunities Unlimited (**Y.O.U.**) helps match thousands of teenagers from Cuyahoga County, ages 14-18, to meaningful summer work experiences through their Summer Youth Employment Program. The 2014 registration for Cuyahoga County youth summer employment **CLOSES at 5:00 pm on Friday, May 9, 2014.**



## What's New with Police

*Antonia Stitt, Police Chief*

### Hello Highland Hills Residents

We've come to the end of another year of growth in the Village of Highland Hills and I'm excited about the future of our community in reference to safety and security.



Early 2014, your Highland Hills police department changed over to a Regional Dispatch Center. We will join roughly ten other police agencies in this area. The name of the new dispatch system is "Chagrin Valley Regional Dispatch" and it is located in Bedford, Ohio.

This dispatch center will handle all of our calls for service, as well as 911 calls, and offers cutting edge technology and state of the art equipment. You will be receiving more information about our new system very soon.

We are also adding Karbon Arms Taser weapons as another tool to promote suspect compliance with less risk of injury to the officer. These less-lethal electronic devices have been around for a decade, and have been proven to be essential in keeping officers safe when dealing with physically violent offenders.

In our community we've responded just short of 1,000 incidents, or calls for service, in the year 2013. This exhibits our resolve and determination to prevent crime and keep our community safe. In order to maintain this high standard of service, we need your help! The Highland Hills police department and the Highland Hills residents are a team and a force.

During recent years, residents have been instrumental in assisting the Highland Hills police department in a number of arrests—by your vigilance and calling to report suspicious behavior—which ultimately reduce crime in our community. I'm sure I speak for all members of the police department when I say it is an absolute honor and privilege to protect and serve the residents and patrons who reside, work and travel through our community.

As always, **ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY!**





## Properties Department Update

*Dale Carter, Properties Director*

We are happy to report that the Shaker House apartments are filled to capacity and there are people on a waiting list.

The ballroom calendar is being booked and phone calls are starting to increase for rental dates for the spring and summer seasons.

We are spring cleaning the entire facility and have already restored floors in the Shaker House apartments, and the ballroom, to combat the damage done during this the brutal winter.

The Properties and Police departments are working together to rid our lots of all abandoned cars.

We look forward to a great spring and summer season as we continue to spruce up our surroundings.

## What is a Watershed?

### Highland Hills is an Important Part of the Mill Creek Watershed.



A watershed is simply the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake. Our landscape is made up of many interconnected basins or watersheds. Within each watershed, all water runs to the lowest point—a stream, river, or lake. On its way, water travels over the surface and across farm fields, forest land, suburban lawns, and city streets, or it seeps into the soil and travels as ground water.

In spite of more than a century of hard use, Mill Creek is, in fact, a jewel waiting to be restored. Mill Creek Falls, the largest waterfall in Cuyahoga County, is located in the Cleveland Metroparks' Garfield Reservation. Although the area is rapidly being developed, the section where headwater streams join the main watercourse in Highland Hills still contains large areas of natural marsh and grass meadows. Highland Hills will use grants to purchase wetlands that will become a nature preserve.

The Village has received \$411,345 in federal money to help buy 10 acres of wetlands that will become a public nature preserve. The grant is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is part of an effort to improve water quality in the Lake Erie watershed.

The wetlands area, near Ohio 8 and Harvard Road, is in the Mill Creek and Cuyahoga River watersheds. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy will give the Village \$458,720 to complete the purchase and will hold a conservation easement on the site.

### Listed below are a half dozen things Village residents can do to help our watershed:

1. Properly dispose of expired or unused medicine. Do not flush medicine in the toilet or it will end up in our creeks/streams. Securely place in trash or take to a local medicine drop off. The Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office offers a free, ongoing disposal option.

Visit [www.rxdrugdropbox.org](http://www.rxdrugdropbox.org) or call 2-1-1. Needles and liquids are not accepted.

2. Recycle used motor oil.
3. Check your vehicles regularly for leaks. Clean up spilled fluids with kitty litter or sand and dispose of properly.
4. Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Use natural fertilizers, such as compost for gardens.
5. Try planting native plants which generally require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
6. Properly dispose of pet waste—a source of bacteria and nutrients is found in our streams. Bag in garbage or bury it.



## What We Recycle!

### Please Keep This Page Handy

First, there is absolutely **NO SORTING NEEDED**. You simply place all your recyclables in your blue recycle bin (or any see through bags are also acceptable) and place on tree lawn, or appropriate collecting area, on scheduled Thursday trash pick up days.

Second, we also collect many of your plastic, fiber and non-fiber items as well.

### Yes, Accepted Recyclables:

All newspaper, cardboard, plastics #1 – #7 (check the bottom of your container for the number, which will be listed inside the triangular recycling symbol) or see below for more details. All colors of glass, aluminum cans, and other bi-metal products.

### No, Non-Recyclables:

Paint cans, anti-freeze or motor oil containers, wax cartons, batteries, light bulbs, wire hangers, plastic bags, styrofoam, toys, plastic utensils.

Dates for all Village round-ups will be publicized.

If you don't see the recycle symbol, but think it might be recyclable, listed below are acceptable fiber and non-fiber recyclable items:

#### Fiber:

Newspapers  
Magazines  
Corrugated cardboard  
Telephone books  
Mail  
Printer/copier paper  
Chipped board (*e.g.* cereal boxes)

#### Non-Fiber:

Aluminum cans  
Aluminum trays/aluminum foil  
Cat food cans  
Bi-metal cans  
Empty aerosol cans  
Clear brown or green glass bottles  
Plastic containers marked #1 – #7

### Examples of Recyclable Plastics, that we collect with #1 - #7 on the container:

#1: Soft drink bottles, water bottles, peanut butter jars, window cleaner bottles, mouthwash bottles.

#2: Laundry detergent bottles, windshield washer fluid bottles, coffee containers, milk jugs, butter tubs, medicine bottles.

#3: Shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, hand soap bottles, gladware container lids, and juice bottles.

#4: Mustard bottles, margarine and ice cream tub tops, squeezable bottles.

#5: Cool whip containers, gladware tubs, plastic flower pot containers, apple sauce cups, plastic cups.

#6: Plastic cookie tray dishes, vegetable tub containers, take-away containers.

#7: Orange juice plastic bottles, kids snack containers, some ketchup bottles.



## Spring Has Finally Sprung!

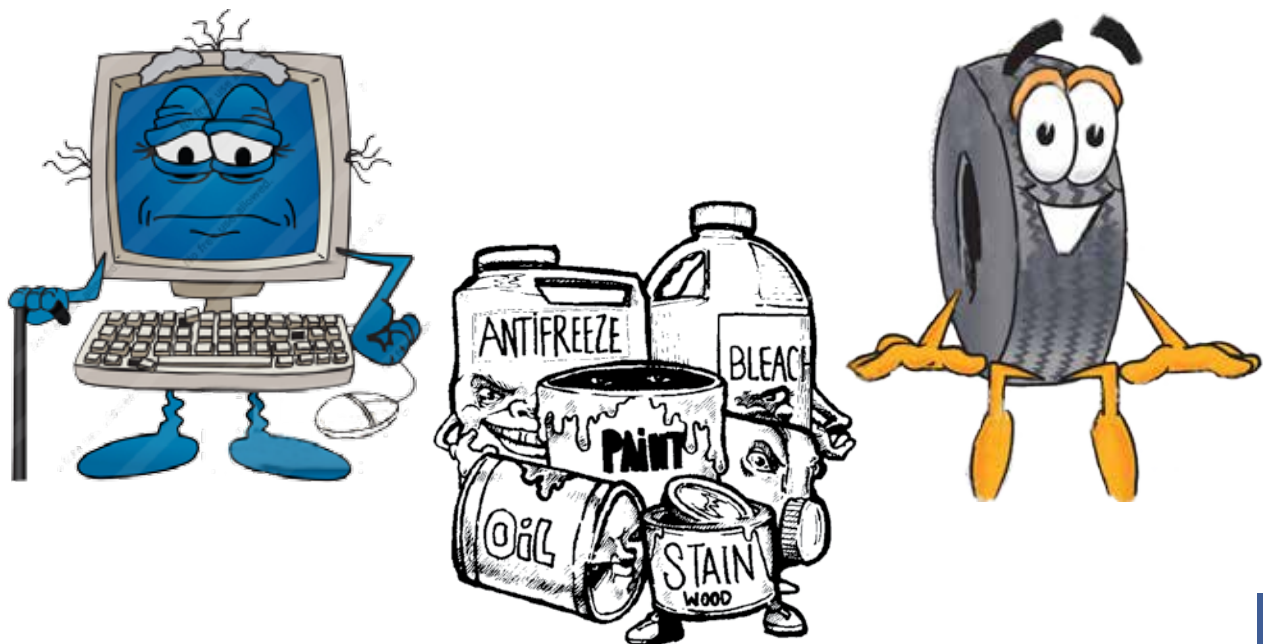
*Steve Clymer, Public Works Director*

As the weather improves and you find yourself with branches or other items requiring special pickup, please remember to schedule your pickup with the Service Department at 216.662.5012. The department is busy changing from snow removal equipment to grass cutting and landscaping equipment to continue to keep our Village well manicured.

Two staff members have recently graduated from a “Household Hazardous Waste” training program sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. The training will be very beneficial as we continue our efforts with roundup programs which enable residents to dispose of their “hard-to-get-rid-of” items. Below is a list of “roundups” the Village plans to schedule. All of the roundups will be advertised with fliers delivered and portable signs posted on all residential streets.

- **Recycle Your Old Computers:** computers will be collected and delivered to RET3 Corp. for salvage and possible donation to schools.
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** qualifying items will be picked up and properly stored for delivery to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.
- **Scrap Tires:** tires will be collected and stored for pickup and recycling by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

Please feel free to either call, or talk to one of our friendly staff members when you see them around the neighborhood, with any questions or concerns. Get outside to enjoy the fresh air and changing weather, which seems like we waited much too long for this year!





## Free Workplace Recycling and Waste Reduction Seminars For Businesses, Schools, and Organizations

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District will host free instructional seminars to assist Cuyahoga County businesses and organizations with their workplace recycling programs.

The “Waste & Recycling \$ense for Your Workplace” seminar is comprised of two sessions. Attendees may choose to attend one or both sessions. The first session, Successful Recycling in your Workplace, will cover how to start a workplace recycling program or improve the one you currently have. The second session, Contracting for Waste & Recycling Services, covers how to contract for waste and recycling services, provides information on contract terms and conditions of contracts, and ways to construct contracts to best suit your business.

To register for this event, visit [www.cuyahogaswd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswd.org) or call 216.443.3732. Registration is required. Seating is limited.

**When:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014  
Tuesday, September 23, 2014

**Where:** 4750 East 131 Street, Garfield Heights, 44105

**Sessions:** Attendees may attend one or both of the sessions listed below:  
\*Session 1: Successful Recycling in Your Workplace; 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
\*Session 2: Contracting for Waste & Recycling Services; 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Free

The seminar will be led by the District’s Business Recycling Specialist Doreen Schreiber, a waste management professional with years of industry experience who has been helping businesses implement cost-effective and environmentally-friendly waste management programs since 2006.

Over 100 large and small businesses and organizations have benefitted from the “Waste & Recycling \$ense for Your Workplace” seminar. Attendees include hotels, manufacturers, universities, schools, places of worship, non-profits, city and local governments, property managers, and hospitals.

The Solid Waste Management District is a public agency that works to promote environmentally-sustainable and economical solid waste management practices within the communities, institutions and businesses of Cuyahoga County. The District offers a wide variety of services designed to increase recycling opportunities, divert waste from landfills, promote environmental awareness, and support local recycling-based businesses.

To learn about other workplace recycling programs offered by the Solid Waste Management District, contact Doreen Schreiber at 216.443.3732 or [dschreiber@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:dschreiber@cuyahogacounty.us).



JEUNE DRAYTON  
DORIS NELSON  
HENRY PAYNE  
STAN SELLERS

## Senior Department News

*3700 Northfield Road • 216.283.3000, Ext. 235*

### Hello, Spring!

We have been busy with the new wellness program twice a week that the Village has initiated. The “Silver Fitness” sessions are held in Room 20 at Village hall, which has been converted to a real workout studio! The trainer, Reggie Lewis, is teaching us all to keep it moving to foster good health. See more about our trainer in the Mayor’s Report.

Activities flourish daily, and we attempt to accommodate all. Our team of Doris Nelson, Henry Payne and Stan Sellers provide excellent service to our seniors. Watch out for the monthly calendar and come on in and participate—we would love to have you. Please remember to call at least one day in advance for appointment requests.

The Atlantic City trip has been cancelled because there was not quite enough participation. Not to worry though, something else will develop down the road. Stay tuned!

As we have done in the past, and still continue, toiletries for the homeless are being collected. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Let’s all celebrate spring, enjoy the weather, and the fine services afforded us here in the Village.





## “Watch Your Pennies and the Dollars Will Take Care of Themselves”

*Councilwoman Patricia DeBerry*

Village Council has made the commitment to become more knowledgeable and involved in the finances of the Village and provide more aggressive oversight. To this end, Council has done several things.

One of the first steps implemented by Council was the creation of an Audit Committee under the leadership of our former Council President, Danita Love. This committee was instituted last year based on the recommendations of our Village audit done by the State Auditor’s office.

The audit committee has met quarterly to review the findings and recommendations of the audit. We are in the process of instituting guidelines for the committee, their role and responsibility, and the overall makeup of the committee. It is one of our goals to have these things firmly in place this year so that the audit committee can be another set of eyes to look at the financial operations of the Village budget, and to act as a watchdog to ensure that Council is doing what the auditors recommend. One particular area of concern is being transparent. Therefore, Council will reach out to a member of the community to serve on the audit committee. If you have any experience with book-keeping, records, business, or other financial skills, and would like to serve on the audit committee, please contact our President Lillian Moore or the Clerk of Council.

As evidence of our goal to become more effective Council members in the area of finance, all six Council members attended a 2-day workshop in March sponsored by David Yost, Auditor of the State of Ohio. The conference was for elected officials and provided a wealth of information about many things, such as:

- How to read and more fully understand financial reports.
- Which financial documents/reports should Council members request.
- Updates on the Ohio Employees Retirement System requirements for Villages and Cities.
- The Ohio Ethics Law.
- Legal Updates for Villages.
- Update on Audit Reports.
- Impact and requirements of the Affordable Care Act. Its impact on your budget decisions. What will it cost for Villages to implement or not fully implement.
- Village Handbook requirements.

Council plans to meet as a group and share with one another the highlights of the sessions attended, as the choices were many so not everyone could attend every session. Our next step will be to outline what steps, if any, we need to take as a result of the information gleaned.

The most important action Council performs is to review and make suggestions about annual appropriations in the form of the budget. As part of Council’s financial oversight, we have become more involved in what is included in the budget. We continue to learn what questions to ask.

*continued on page 11*

Council has also made the commitment to strive for the following four things relative to the budget:

1. Gradually increase the salary in our police department over the next 2-3 years so that we can maintain and attract quality officers.
2. Increase the salary of the fire department on a graduate scale based on certification, provide an educational component that will allow firemen to recoup some of the expense of maintaining certification, and add a clothing allowance. As with the police department, we want to attract and maintain quality individuals.
3. Give an overall 2% increase to all employees this year, with additional increases over the next several years. Our Village staff has not had an across the board increase in almost four years because of the economy and financial situation of the Village.
4. Monthly reviews with our Finance Director on every line item in the budget to determine whether the amount allotted is reflective of the goals Council hopes to achieve. This has been very carefully done. We have requested that budget information for 2015 be given to Council no later than February 15, 2015 for the 2015 budget, which then has to be passed before April 1, 2015.

Once a month the Finance Director meets with Council to review expenditures and revenues. As a result of our training at the auditor's conference, we are more aware of what specific reports to request and the kinds of questions Council needs to ask our Finance Director and Mayor, relative to the financial health of the Village. Council carefully scrutinizes the reports and makes decisions relative to changes needed budget-wise. This information also drives whether Council approves or rejects certain requests made by the Administration.

It is our goal to become more involved and share with Administration the financial decisions which will continue to keep the Village on a sound financial path. It is my personal opinion that the Administration and Council overall has done a good job and been prudent with our financial decisions. As I look around at some of our neighboring communities, who have had to raise taxes, cut services, and eliminate employees, it has only been with our careful planning that we have been able to avoid such measures. Many hard decisions were made which weren't always easy to make, but were prudent and necessary. As a resident and a Council member, I am particularly grateful to the Mayor, Administration, and Finance Director for the excellent job they have done. As with anything, there is always room for improvement.

As more and more cities embrace different aspects of how to share services and resources, and ultimately save dollars, the Administration and Council need to determine how we will or will not participate in these efforts. Recently we became part of the Chagrin Valley dispatching system which now does our dispatching for police and fire. This new system will save us thousands of dollars while maintaining quality response time. These are the kinds of decisions Council has made, and will continue to make. Only an informed Council can make the best decisions for our residents. We commit to you that we will do the best job we can in helping to manage the finances of the Village.



## Dear Highland Hills Residents

*Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith*

My first thoughts are of you, and hoping that you were able to manage and maintain during one of the most serious winters we have had in a very long time. Council was blessed to experience a mild few days, which allowed Council to travel to Columbus, Ohio for an educational conference for local government officials presented by the Auditor of State's office. While at the two day conference, I attended many valuable classes, the "Ohio Ethics Law" and "Ohio Ethics Commission" class, which I found very interesting and would like to share some highlights with you.

The first thing I learned was about the "Ohio Ethics Law." This law was created by the Ohio General Assembly and became effective January 1, 1974. The "Ohio Ethics Law" was created to oversee and prohibit those in the private sector from giving improper compensation, or substantial things of value, to public officials and employees to whom they serve. The ethics laws are designed to promote general public interest and support confidence by prohibiting biased public expenditures and decision-making conflicts of interest with public officials.

Listed below are a few other restrictions which the ethics law generally prohibits every public official and employee from doing:

- \* Participating in a public role in any action that involves the direct interests of the official, or those of a family member or business associate;
- \* Authorizing, or using a public position to secure a public contract, or the investment of public funds in any security that benefits the official, a family member, or business associate;
- \* Improperly profiting from a public contract;
- \* Soliciting, or accepting substantial and improper things of value; including, outside employment or consultation fees, gifts, travel, meals, and lodging from those dealing with the public service.

**Now let's take a look at the Ohio Ethics Commission.** They are citizens from throughout the state with significant private and public sector experience, who are appointed by the Governor, to six year staggered terms and subject to Senate confirmation. It was furthered shared in the class about the Commission:

- \* The Commission is a bipartisan state panel required to have three democratic and three republican members;
- \* Commission members elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman;
- \* The Commission hires an Executive Director who administers a staff of 21; including attorneys, investigators, disclosure and education staff, to carry out five distinct statewide statutory duties;
- \* The Commission was created in 1974.

Ohio is one of more than 40 states with a State Ethics Commission. As you see, the Ohio Ethics Commission members have very important responsibilities in making sure the Ohio ethics laws are followed. I found this class to be very interesting and the presenters from the state auditors office did a great job on educating and informing the attendees. In closing, be safe and hopefully some warmer weather will soon be coming our way.

Be Blessed,

216.921.6658



**Dear Friend,**

*Councilwoman Leah Lewis*

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*“If the people cannot trust their government to do the job for which it exists—to protect them and to promote their common welfare—all else is lost.”*

*-Barack Obama*

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While it is our pleasure to serve you as members of the Village of Highland Hills Council, we serve at your pleasure. Democracy, as we know, is simply government by the people for the people. As we attend to the legislative affairs of the Village we are ever mindful of the impact our decisions make on you and the thousands of people who come through our hamlet on a daily basis.

To represent the people requires that we hear from you—“the people.” How may we serve you better? This is the essential question. What type of community outreach initiative(s) do you think will be beneficial? How may we promote our common welfare through outreach?

Through a small budgetary action the current Council is committed to community engagement. But, let us not be presumptuous in determining your needs and wishes. Please contact me at [llewis@vhhohio.org](mailto:llewis@vhhohio.org) or our Council President Lillian Moore at [lmoore@vhhohio.org](mailto:lmoore@vhhohio.org) with your ideas. You may also leave a message for us with Lynn Ruffner, our Clerk of Council at 216.283.3003. Thank you in advance for your attention to this correspondence. Visit me on Facebook @Councilwoman Leah Lewis.

Sincerely,





## From the Pen Of

*Council Pro Tem Barbara Spearman*

Let's make our number of voters in 2015 be the best in this critical election year. Thanks go out to all Village residents who took the time to vote in the November 2013 general election, and a special thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you—my community—four more years. This year I was elected to serve as Council Pro Tem. My duties are to serve in the absence of the Council President and be of assistance when needed.

All Council members had the opportunity this year to attend the local Government Officials' Conference in Columbus, Ohio. It provided us with up-to-date information on auditing, legal and budgeting standards. A number of seminar topics were offered. This professional development experience was very informative and I learned more about budgeting and ethics laws. I am pleased to share some information that relates to long term financial planning. The purpose of this plan is to identify steps the Village can take to avoid, and/or eliminate, fiscal emergency. Council wants to make certain that we stay abreast of the Village finances. This seminar covered several major steps that should be followed when developing a plan. Listed here are a few:

- \* Maintain a reserve policy to prevent use for recurring expenditures;
- \* Fund balances are the Key for strong reserves;
- \* Community engagement can help assure continuity of planning;
- \* Engage each department/directors in identifying issues, analyzing them, developing strategies, and managing their costs and revenue structures;
- \* Promote transparency in the goals, and objectives;
- \* Council to collaborate and have a role in the planning process and stay informed;
- \* Consistently monitor the environment and financial condition to see if financial strategies are working.

A resilient long-term financial planning process for the Village is essential in order to maintain trust and confidence of our Village constituents and provide a consistent program of public services.

This year, as Chair of the Safety Committee, I will work with the police and fire departments. The Safety Committee reviews, investigates and recommends to Council, action in matters of traffic control, street lighting, auxiliary police, equipment, health and welfare, police protection, fire protection, and any other special assignments.

The Village currently uses a new dispatching system which serves ten communities. Joining with the other communities enables the Village to cut costs, which is a good thing. Currently our department has 14 full time, 10 part time and 14 auxiliary policemen. Coming soon as possible, signs letting drivers know that using your cell phone while driving is against the law in Highland Hills. Thanks were given to Home Depot for providing materials to put the fire station kitchen in order. Thanks also go to the firefighters who did all the remodeling in the kitchen. Good work guys!

I also serve as the representative to the Planning Commission. The Commission's general purposes are promoting the public health, safety, comfort, and welfare of Village residents; to protect the property rights of all individuals, by assuring the compatibility of uses and practices within districts; to facilitate the provision of public utilities and public services; and to lessen congestion on public streets, roads, and highways. Currently the Planning Commission is working on the Comprehensive Plan which deals with land uses in our Village. Coming sometime this year will be the building of the Highland Hills Spring Hospital, that will be



## New Council Person, New Perspective

*Councilwoman Nicole Young*

My name is Nicole Young, and I am the newest appointee to Council following the resignation of former Council President Danita Love. I applied to the open Council seat because I care about this Village and want to bring back the perspective from a townhouse resident. I have lived on what is now Township Parkway for nearly seven years with my husband Franklin. It's possible you have seen me walking with my two boxers. The next time you do, please say hello!

I have a BA in Psychology from Ohio University and my M.Ed in Adult Learning and Development. Professionally, I have worked in corporate training and higher education as an Instructional Designer. Instructional Design is the practice of converting information into learnable chunks. More specifically, I have specialized in creating web-based training and learning for the last eight years. My current position is at Progressive Insurance in Leadership Development.

Politically, I want to see the people of our small Village be more engaged and want every eligible voter to be a registered voter. I also want to increase voter turnout for **ALL ELECTIONS**, not just the presidential election! Save the date of May 6th, and please turn out the **VOTE!**

I look forward to serving you, and hope you will consider getting more involved in the operation of Highland Hills Village.

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located on the south side of Harvard and the east side of Mill Pond Drive. The hospital will provide care for adults and their family members who are experiencing significant emotional stress, depression anxiety, thought and substance use disorders. Inpatient and outpatient services will be provided and the hospital programs are designed to meet the needs of senior citizens, military veterans and young adults.

### **Did You Know?**

You can request an Energy Conservation Kit, either on line or over the telephone, from your energy provider? This kit is designed to help residential, commercial and industrial customers save energy and money. You will not be charged and will receive various sized CFL light bulbs, a smart power strip, and a furnace whistle. The light bulbs use less energy and can last longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs. I received the kit and was very pleased with it. For more information go to [www.energysaveOhio.com](http://www.energysaveOhio.com) or call your local electric company.



**HAPPY SPRING HIGHLAND HILLS!**



## Greetings to All Highland Hills Residents and Families

*Council President Lillian Moore*

### **I Wish You a Healthy, Safe and Prosperous Spring.**

In March of this year, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to attend the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. The conference was held March 7th-12th at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. The conference gives an opportunity to connect local governments promoting the exchange of ideas with local leaders and Capitol Hill insuring Congress is informed and well aware of issues that matter the most to our constituents.

This year's agenda brought forth several priorities: strengthening the education pipeline, community resiliency, investments in local transportation priorities, protection of municipal bonds, repairing the immigration system, and the support of marketplace fairness. As local leaders, it is our duty to advocate for local control on issues that impact our city, and we must be active in shaping policies that affect our cities, schools, roads, and communities.

While at the conference, I participated in a seminar that dealt with securing and managing federal grants for small and mid-sized cities. I wanted to learn how to consider and research federal grants that would impact our Village. Advanced priority based budgeting, mortgage reform and several other strategic classes that provide value-added solutions for cost saving programs that can impact Highland Hills. In our delegates luncheon and general session the guest speaker was Gwen Ifill, a television newscaster, co-anchor and managing editor of Washington Week. She is the political analyst who moderated the 2004 and 2008 presidential debates. Ms. Ifill was very informative and an interesting speaker. I truly enjoyed her insights on Capitol Hill, along with her humorous delivery. I truly appreciate the opportunity to attend and participate in these governmental conferences.

