featuring news and information in our community **THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO**

Winter 2013-14

Mayor's Report



Winter season has arrived in Highland Hills and we are doing our very best to keep our community safe and free of snow—both on the main thoroughfares, and the very important residential areas.

The Village is always delighted to embrace the companies in our area, and we were pleased to be invited to take part in a Flag

Raising Ceremony at Nationwide Insurance on November 11 for Veteran's Day. Police Chief Antonio Stitt and Fire Chief Arthur Timmons joined Mayor Nash in what will hopefully become a yearly practice at the Titan Group division of Nationwide Insurance, located in the Metropolitan Building at the corner of Green and Harvard Roads. We owe our veterans much and we're happy to honor them!

Good news for 2014—we are happy to report that a very important addition to the Village will take place in 2014. Springstone Hospital, a private healthcare facility which provides both inpatient and outpatient services, will be located on Mill Pond Drive. Stay tuned for further details as the project progresses and nears completion.

Our community continues to work toward developing potential business activity in our prime location.

As another year comes to a close, we hope you will have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with great memories and good health. Thanks for being part of our community. We look forward to providing great service to you—the great residents of Highland Hills—as we continue to stay on the cutting edge.

Mayor Robert L. Nash

Raht L most



Mr. Nelson Mandela



GREETINGS HIGHLAND HILLS RESIDENTS.

From my family to yours, we are wishing you a happy, healthy, holiday and prosperous New Year. As this year comes to a close, I

would like to reflect on one of the world's greatest humanitarians the world has grown to know and love, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

Mandela was born July 18, 1918 in Mvezo, South Africa, and was one of 13 children from his extended family, including four wives. His father was a nobleman, and chief of a small Thembu tribe in the Eastern Cape, who was a stern and stubborn man with a strong sense of justice.

At the age of 9, and shortly after his father's death, the Thembu tribal regent became his guardian, teaching him the fundamentals of a ruler and strong leadership skills. He was taught to be like a shepherd, one who stays behind the flock, learning to direct from behind. Mandela was sent to a local English missionary school and the University College of Fort Hare to be groomed as counsel. While at Fort Hare, he staged one of his first protest to a minor school policy and refused to back down on his principle and was soon expelled.

Shortly thereafter, in the city Johannesburg, he was introduced to a local black leader and businessman, Walter Sisulu. This meeting changed his life, his future and the future South Africa. Sisulu helped Mandela move forward and channel his anger toward the liberation struggle in a positive way.



The following are several quotes from various leaders:

"Mandela is not only the father of democracy in South Africa, but is also a symbol of democracy."

Haitian President Michel Martell.

"He devoted his life to building a more just, equal and compassionate world, and we are all better for it."

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

"Nelson Mandela's Life Was a Gift to Us All."

Oprah Winfrey

"A man who took history in his hands and bent the arc of the moral universe towards justice."

President Barack Obama

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Jennifer Lopez

"If people can learn to hate, they can be taught to love."

Katie Couric

"Rest in Peace Madiba, you will be missed, but your impact on this world will live forever."

Charlize Theron

Councilwoman Lillian R. Moore

SENIOR DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES—WHERE FUN HAPPENS!

The Senior Department continues to strive and provide excellent services to our residents. The latest addition in our department is new bus driver, Stanley "Butch" Sellers. By now some of you have already met him and greeted by his great personality! Butch, as he prefers to be called, joins our veteran driver, Henry "Red" Payne in keeping those buses rolling.

We also continue to offer various activities, such as the water exercise program and the senior balance program. We also offer a variety of outings on Fridays. Some of the places we've traveled to are the Valley View movie theatre, Southpark Mall, Horseshoe Casino, Thistledown Racino, Northfield Rocksino, Super K-mart, Aldi, Walmart, Big Lots, and a whole lot more.

Don't forget, if you need transportation to the doctor, or other such appointments, please make sure to call 216.283.3000, ext 235 and schedule your appointment at least one day in advance, and every effort will be made to accommodate your needs.





The Senior department is in the process of coordinating a trip to Atlantic City for all residents in Highland Hills. The trip is scheduled for three days and two nights, May 13-15, 2014. The

cost is \$249 for double occupancy and \$348 for single occupancy. **DON'T DELAY, MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**

The package includes two nights lodging at the beautiful Resorts Casino Hotel, \$30 slot bonus, two buffet dinners, visit to the famous Atlantic City Boardway, possible casino revue, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation. If time allows, there will be a departure bonus, with a four hour stay at the Taj Mahal Casino and includes a \$5 slot bonus and \$15 food voucher (subject to substitution).

For your convenience a payment schedule has been set up as follows:

Deposit of \$25 is due by January 10, 2014; 2nd payment of \$56.25 is due by January 24, 2014; 3rd payment of \$56.25 is due by February 7, 2014; 4th payment of \$56.25 is due by February 21, 2014; Final payment of \$56.25 due before March 7, 2014.

Please keep in mind that these breakdowns are based on a minimum of 40 occupants. If the number of participants only range from 33-39 occupants, the price will increase by \$20 per person.

To make your reservations call Doris Nelson in the Senior Department at 216.283.3000, ext. 235.

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas

Since, 2009, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Foreclosure Mediation Program (www. cp.cuyahogacounty.us/saveourhome) has successfully served nearly 6,000 homeowners by addressing issues related to foreclosure. There has been an overwhelming response to the program from the community and individual homeowners as parties explore options to reach mutually beneficial agreements and avoid the consequences of vacant and abandoned homes.

Their outreach services include knowledgeable speakers who, at no charge, will appear at community meetings to explain the program, its benefits and process and answer any questions. Written materails with a brief description of the program and contact numbers are also available.

You can contact the **Foreclosure Mediation Program** by phone or in writing to make this important and successful resource available to you. The Court of Common Pleas, with your collaboration, will ensure that every person who qualifies for Foreclosure Mediation receives information and assistance.

Contact Andrea Kinast, Foreclosure Mediation Program Director, at 216.698.7138, or the ADR Department, 1200 Ontario Street, Justice Center, 10th Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. You can also email cpark@cuyahogacounty.us.

They look forward to hearing from you!



Greetings from Our Newest Council Member



DEAR FRIENDS.

Thank you for voting to retain me on the Village of Highland Hills Council. I am thrilled and honored to serve you. Please know that I am a servant-leader and am here to serve you and the greater good of our community.

Here are the statistics for Highland Hills from the November 5th election according to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections:

Registered voters: 597
Total ballots cast: 160
Voter turnout: 26.80%

It is my hope that in the days ahead we, as a municipality, become more galvanized politically. While far more people vote in presidential elections, it is important to note that local elections in non-presidential election years actually have a greater impact on our lives. Local government establishes the laws and administers the "fiscal" (financial) decisions that impact us right where we live.

To stay abreast of news relative to Highland Hills and U.S. government and politics, visit me on Facebook at **Councilwoman** Leah Lewis of the Village of Highland Hills.

If you have any questions or concerns you may:

- 1) Email me at llewis@vvhohio.org; or
- 2) Leave a message for me with our new Clerk of Council, Ms. Lynn Ruffner, at 216.283.3000, Ext. 237.

I welcome your calls and concerns. Additionally, I hope that over the course of my term, which ends in 2015, that we have an opportunity to meet face-to-face.

Happy Holidays! May all your good-natured hopes and dreams manifest in 2014.

All the best,

Councilwoman Rev. Leah Lewis

Tri-C Accreditation Program

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C*) has reached an agreement with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) regarding the status of its Associate Degree Nursing Program accreditation.

According to ACEN attorney Patrick McKee, "after a thorough review of the materials submitted by the College, ACEN has determined that the College has established good cause for the College to be continued in accreditation for 12 months and placed on warning, with a visit to review its compliance with all of the Standard in Spring 2014 and final Board action in July 2014."

This accreditation status will provide students with the opportunity to continue to graduate from an accredited program. As has always been the case, graduating students will be eligible to sit for the State Nursing Board exam, the NCLEX. Currently, Tri-C's nursing graduates have a 93 percent passage rate on this licensing exam, which is higher than both the state and national average rate of passage.

Tri-C is confident that when ACEN visits in Spring 2014, the visit will affirm what the students, faculty, community supporters and health care employers already know: that Tri-C's Nursing Program provides a high-quality, affordable and accessible education preparing students to excel in high-demand careers in our region.

Cuyahoga Community College is committed to sharing information on this matter as it develops with students, faculty and the community. Answers to commonly asked questions are available on Tri-C's Nursing Program website: www.tri-c.edu/programs/nursing/accreditationinformation.

Please feel free to contact Claire Rosacco, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Outreach, with any questions you may have at 216.406.8821.

Fire Department Kitchen Update

The Highland Hills fire department recently underwent a major overhaul of their kitchen area coutesy of Home Depot at Steelyard Commons.



Members of the Highland Hills Fire Department, with a few friends.

HIGHLAND HILLS FIRE DEPT

wants to thank

District Manager John Lerch

& Store Manager Scott Sypniewski

for our newly remodeled kitchen



STEELYARD





Scott Sypniewski and John Lerch (with inset photo of Scott dressed as Highland Hills firefighter.)

Council Changes and Highlights



DEAR HIGHLAND HILLS RESIDENTS.

There is an old saying that "Change is Good." Well I hope that is true because we have really had some changes within Council in the last few months. I am sure that most of you are aware of the changes, but I just want to share my thoughts and put Jean's spin on them.

First, let me start with Councilwoman Patricia DeBerry's retirement that took effect July 31st. This was a real loss to the Village Council and Administration because she is a walking history book. I say this because Ms. DeBerry was one of the first six Council members elected to Council when we became a Village in 1990, and had held her elected position longer than anyone. After making the decision to return to council, Ms. DeBerry ran for a vacant seat and was re-elected. This is a real plus for Council and the community because she is returning with her wealth of experience and knowledge, which will definitely be needed. I must thank Councilwoman DeBerry for her dedication, and for being a tremendous help to me and others on Council. I welcome her back and wish her the best.

Upon Ms. DeBerry's departure a vacancy on Council was created. Rev. Leah Lewis, who applied for the position, was appointed. I was in strong support of Rev. Lewis because of her outstanding credentials. She is also well known throughout the greater Cleveland area, and the State of Ohio. Rev. Lewis is very talented and holds a law degree from Howard School of Law, and is also a divinity school graduate of Yale Divinity School. Ms. Lewis is an excellent writer, an event producer, and a strong community organizer. I have observed her on a personal level, as she chaired many successful community events as an Associate Minister at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. After her appointment to Council on August 1st, she settled in very quickly to her new role. It has become quite evident that she has the communities best interest at heart and will be a real asset to Council. Rev. Lewis also has been received with a great deal of respect from other elected officials and civic/community leaders. I congratulate Councilwoman Lewis and wish her well as she starts this new journey.

Continuing on with the changes, it was very unfortunate for Council and the community that Councilman David Scott, the only male on Council, decided not to run for re-election. His decision to retire will be effective January 1, 2014. This is truly a great loss to Council because Councilman Scott brought a presence and balance to Council that was truly needed. One could always count on him to keep it real, honest and fair. His strength, his dedication, and his commitment will be greatly missed. Councilman Scott was also a great help to me, as I could always count on him for support when needed. I wish him well as he takes a deserving rest.

This is not a change, but I do want to congratulate Councilwoman Barbara Spearman, who retained her seat on Council in our recent November election. Her dedication and commitment to this community was expressed loud and clear at the polls. Congratulations and welcome back Councilwoman Spearman. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed. Best of luck as she continues her service the next four years.

The change that came as a big surprise, and left us all speechless, was our Council President Danita Love, who resigned from Council effective January 1, 2014. For me it was more than a surprise, I was truly shocked. Council President Love has been my friend and neighbor for many years. I know that Ms. Love is a very talented professional, so wherever life's journey takes her, she will land on her feet and be successful. Not only has she given so much of her time and energy to Council over the years, but she has also shared her talent on the regional and national levels for elected officials. I thank Council President Love for all that she has done for me, this Council, and the community over the years. I wish her nothing but the best that life has to offer.

In the midst of all the changes, our very own Clerk of Council, Jeune Drayton, left Council and took a full time position in the Mayor's office. Ms. Drayton will be a great loss to Council, but truly will be a benefit and a blessing to the Mayor and his administration. A great big thank you, and a sincere best of luck, goes out to Ms. Drayton.

The last change that I will share reminds me of the old saying: "when one door closes, another one will open." The good news is that Council was fortunate to be able to bring on board a new Clerk of Council, Ms. Lynn Ruffner. This talented lady comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowledge for the Clerk of Council position. She is a former Councilwoman and Vice Mayor of Shaker Heights. Upon her arrival, she was able to hit the ground running and it has been a pleasure to work with her. We all wish her much continued success.

Now that I have put my personal spin on all the changes which have taken place in the last few months, there is also some truth in the old saying: "change is good." As you see, we have had our share of changes, and we know that changes will always occur. I hope you enjoy reading my thoughts about the Council changes in Highland Hills.

With the holidays approaching, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy and blessed New Year!

Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith

FROM THE PEN OF COUNCILWOAMAN BARBARA SPEARMAN



DEAR NEIGHBORS.

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your vote of confidence in reelecting me to serve as Councilwoman in the Village of Highland Hills. To continue to serve as an

elected official is both an honor and a privilege that I will continue to take seriously.

I pledge again to be a dedicated servant who cares about the interests of the community in which we live and can be proud.

As the year comes to a close, Council has worked together in studying, discussing and making decisions on legislation that has come before us from administration. Council has also developed legislation dealing with our own Council rules of operation, and other local and state current issues as they impact our community. We have stressed the importance of overseeing the finances of the Village and we are receiving reports that provide greater clarity of information from the finance department.

The Properties & Buildings department, which I served as Committee Chairwoman, had a new director and assistant come on board recently. They are working hard to ensure that our properties stay in good condition.

I also had the opportunity this year to serve as Council representative to the Human Resource committee. This committee works diligently on such issues as supervisors training, cell phone usage, developing an ethics policy, work place harassment policy and an employee assistance program, to name just a few responsibilities.

As we prepare to usher in a New Year, I wish you the best that the season brings, and offer this poem:

HAPPY NEW YEAR WISH

My Happy New Year wish for you Is for your best year yet, A year where life is peaceful, And what you want, you get.

A year in which you cherish
The past year's memories
And live your life each new day,
Full of bright expectancies.

I wish for you a holiday
With happiness galore;
And when it's done, I wish you
Happy New Year and many more.

Author Unknown

Barbara O Speakman Councilwoman Barbara Spearman





Christmas Tree & Holiday Lights Recycling

Let's help the environment sparkle a little brighter this holiday season! The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will be collecting strings of holiday lights, power strips and power cords at their facility in Garfield Heights from December 2 – January 10. Place your broken, burnedout lights in the collection box in their lobby (4750 East 131st Street, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44105) Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For your convenience, unwanted holiday lights can also be taken to Highland Hills Building Department, Room 21, weekdays during normal business hours.

Additionally, live Christmas tree disposal will be handled by the Highland Hills Public Works Department if you call 216.662.5012 for pick up. **Happy Holidays!**

Mill Creek Cleanup Day 2013



Direct public involvement in creek and beach cleanup events is an increasingly common way municipalities like Highland Hills, and environmental groups, link local natural resources and residents. A stream cleanup was held Saturday, July 13 at a portion of Mill Creek that flows through a residential neighborhood of Highland Hills near South Pointe Hospital.

Tri-C students, including those pursuing degrees and certificates in the Environmental, Health and Safety Technology program, have been active in watershed stewardship over the years. The most recent Mill Creek Cleanup is the second time students have visited Mill Creek to walk its banks and bottom removing trash.

This year EHST students were joined by students of Mr. Zachary Bixler, Safety Officer at the Cleveland Job Corps and EHST program alumnus. The Cleveland Job Corps provides education and vocational training for economically disadvantaged youth from the Greater Cleveland area. Tri-C faculty and staff also joined the cleanup effort.

Cleanup commenced on the morning of the 13th as participants gathered on the bank of Mill Creek in the Village of Highland Hills. The site and the section of stream cleaned were determined in consultation with Susan Hamilton, Engineer for the village and Vice President of Stephen Hovancsek & Associates, Inc. Ms. Hamilton is responsible for the village's stormwater management and compliance.

Participants were briefed on working safely and the purpose of their volunteer effort. The team then slid down into the creek and began pulling blue plastic bags, bottles, cans, and other materials from open areas of the creek and almosthidden crevices where the power of flowing water had forced them. The trash was bagged and eventually transported to the starting point for separation and weighing.

They waded through shallow areas and climbed the banks to avoid deep pools until they reached the point where the creek passes under Northfield Road, approximately a quarter mile from the starting point at Warrensville Road.

Mill Creek in the village consists of alternating riffles and pools that can support a diversity of plant and animal life. However, evidence of extensive erosion, not unusual for creeks in urbanized areas, was observed along the length of the cleanup site and may be impacting water quality. Participants also found many wastes that were blow into the stream or washed in during storm events. Some wastes appear to have been dumped there, perhaps many years before, as evidenced by several large metal pieces once belonging to a piano.

Wastes were separated into aluminum, other metals, recyclable plastic, general trash, and, yes, golf balls. Given the location of the Highland Park Golf Course, about a half mile upstream of the cleanup site, golf balls are a common occurrence in the creek. Separated wastes were weighed and bagged for later removal by Highland Hills. The team removed 121 pounds of metal, 4.5 pounds of aluminum, 2 pounds of golf balls, 31 pounds of unrecyclable trash, and 1 pound of recyclable plastic, for a total of almost 160 pounds of waste removed.

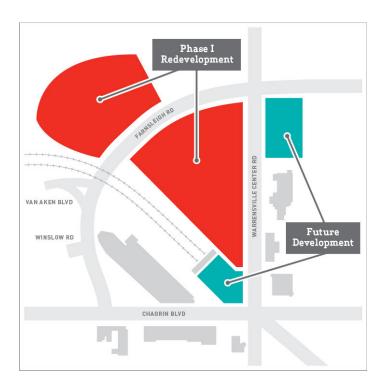
All-in-all, the level of participation, amount of waste removed, and the weather were very satisfying. Participants celebrated with drinks and snacks and talk about the erosion, the prickers, and the unexpected 'bath' taken by two of the students.

The EHST program and the EHST student club hope to continue planning and participating in local community stream cleanups.

Lou Rifici, Assistant Professor Biology/Environmental Health & Safety Technology Program



Van Aken on Track / Northfiled Road Redevelopment



With the redevelopment of Northfield Road coming in 2014, other phases of the project are moving forward as well. RMS, the owner of Van Aken Center (where Fresh Market is located), has engaged in an effort to make the first phase of the district redevelopment a reality.

A successful plan will include the Van Aken Center, the Farnsleigh parking lot and westbound Van Aken Boulevard. The Shaker Heights-RMS team hopes to create a gathering place with high quality apartments, unique retail shops and restaurants, and second floor office space—a walkable mixed use district in which to shop, live and play!

Cuyahoga County will award the bid for the road reconfiguration in February with construction to begin in April. Shaker Heights has purchased the former Qua Buick property, 3393 Warrensville Center Road, which sits directly across from the Van Aken district's phase one redevelopment project area.

Effective December 27—prepare to say a temporary "goodbye" to Starbucks.

Starbucks is located on a section of Van Aken Boulevard (between Warrensville and Farnsleigh) that will be closed by the redevelopment plans. Even though the closure of that part of Van Aken does not begin until 2015, the Ohio Department of Transportation nevertheless requires that the property be empty before any of the planned roadwork begins. And since roadwork to relocate Northfield and to re-align Farnsleigh at Chagrin begins in early 2014, Starbucks has to go.

But they'll be back! The company is discussing several locations—all within the Van Aken district—and hopes to return in 2015.

RTA may consider adding a bus/rapid transit line on Northfield Road from Shaker Heights to North Randall

RTA is exploring an idea that supporters say could spur residential and commercial development in southeastern Cuyahoga County: establish an RTA bus/rapid transit line from Shaker Heights to North Randall. The line would use articulated buses similar to the those used on the Euclid Avenue HealthLine.

It's an intriguing idea that supporters say could spur residential and commercial development in southeastern Cuyahoga County.

The three-mile public-transit line would run south on existing lanes of Northfield Road to Interstate 480. The line, which would connect to the Blue Line rapid in Shaker Heights, would use articulated buses and coordinated traffic signals. Passengers in both directions would travel to work, school and home.

Businesses along Northfield Road that have deteriorated over the years, especially with the closing of Randall Park Mall in 2008, could get a boost.



Council Posting

Applications for unexpired term as Councilperson

are now being accepted.

The deadline for submission is:

January 17, 2014

ATTENTION * ATTENTION * ATTENTION

THENTION * ATTENTION * ATTENTION * ATTENTION

Heritage Home Program

The Cleveland Restoration Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the maintenance and improvement of the housing stock of Cuyahoga County. CRS is supported by Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, Cuyahoga County, the Cleveland Foundation, many other foundations, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a number of cities in Cuyahoga County.

CRS sponsors the Heritage Home Program which is aimed at the repair, maintenance and improvement of houses over 50 years old throughout Cuyahoga County. The program involves free technical advice to homeowners about any issue involving their home. This can be questions about actual repairs and materials or about contractors to do maintenance work. Homeowners appreciate their unbiased and impartial advice. They do not sell any product or service so their advice is always well received by homeowners.

The program also includes a low interest loan program administeredd by KeyBank and supported by the Treasurer of Cuyahoga County. The KeyBank loans are 2.0% fixed rate mortgage loans for up to 10 years. KeyBank makes all the credit decisions and it utilizes its normal lending procedures when it considers loans under the program.

The program has also recently added First Federal as a participating lending bank. First Federal is offering a 1.85% fixed rate loan to owners of owner-occupied residences for loans up to 10 years. Please contact First Federal to determine its rate on non-owner occupied residences.

The interest rate on Heritage Home Loans have been lowered to 1.85% per year (down from 3.5% per year). This is a fixed rate for loans up to 10 years. It is the best financing for Highland Hills residents to finance improvements to older homes. They have also lowered the fees to homeowners. A lower contract fee is now being offered for loans under \$10,000 at 0% and 1% for loans from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The escrow fee is now \$200, down from \$500, for loans that need to be escrowed and they have opened the program to all houses which are 50 years old or older and it does not have to be historic or in a historic district.

There are a few more changes, as well as a list of all the requirements to use the program, which can be found on their website at www.heritagehomeprogram.org, or you can call 216.426.3116 for more information.

2014 CRAG Application



The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is offering its **Community Recycling Awareness Grant** program once again in 2014. Any city, village and township in Cuyahoga County may apply for a grant up to \$5,000 to support community recycling programs. Grant applications are due by February 14, 2014. A total of \$150,000 will be awarded county-wide on a competitive basis.

For more information about the grant, or to download the application, visit http://cuyahogaswd.org/en-US/district-grants.aspx.



So Long, But Not Farewell ...



DEAR HIGHLAND HILLS COMMUNITY.

It is with profound regret that I must inform you of my decision to resign from my position on the Highland Hills Council, effective January 1, 2014.

One very important reason is that many of my other commitments have become too great for me to fulfill the requirements of my position on Council. I feel it is best for me to make room for someone with the time, energy and devotion to fully comply with the requirements of the job.

I truly appreciate the opportunities I have been given on Council, and the professional guidance and support I've received during my fourteen years on Council. I wish nothing but success in the future.

If I can be of assistance at any time, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Humbly submitted,

Council President Danita Love



Council Retirement



As I move into full retirement, my four year term as a Highland Hills Councilman will come to an end on December 31, 2013. It has been an honor and a privilege to support the residents of Highland Hills. I am

appreciative of the opportunity to serve as your Councilman, and I will be forever grateful for the confidence you placed in me.

The Village Administration and Council have consistently proven their dedication to the growth and needs of our community, and will continue to have my full support as they push the vision for our future.

Thank you for your support, and may God continue to bless the Village of Highland Hills.

Councilman David Scott

