Mayor’s Report

Greetings Residents:

Well, March came in like a lion – and hopefully, it will go out like a lamb! Nevertheless, we at the Village are optimistic and look forward to spring. We are devising a system to plow sidewalks on residential streets in order to provide safer walkways for all. While we are over the worse for this season, this new program should be in place next year. This winter has been more than a challenge, and thankfully, we have been able to keep our roads as clean as possible, our driveways plowed, and our public lots as clear as we can.

The Village is pleased to announce that as reported in the past, new businesses are continuing to join us. The University Hospitals’ customer service facility located in the old Intuit building on Harvard near Northfield, will soon be on board. This facility will house over 900 employees and is a welcome addition to the community. The building and grounds are being updated nicely, and the targeted date for occupancy is this spring.

You have also probably noticed the building progression from the ground up on Harvard Road, east of Northfield. This is the site of Highland Springs Hospital (also referred to as Springstone), a residential treatment facility. This facility will open later in the year. Stay tuned!

With reference to the Northfield-Warrensville Road-Chagrin construction, the Village has been advised that the Northfield/Chagrin/Warrensville intersection has closed permanently. This means that no traffic will be possible on Northfield Road, going north or southbound through that intersection. Construction will begin on the area for a planned four-way intersection. The Village is supporting an effort through the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission which includes the Village of North Randall, the City of Warrensville Heights, the Van Aken district of Shaker Heights and the Chagrin Highlands area in the City of Cleveland, to apply for a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative funding (TLCI) Grant. This project is aimed at continuing to enhance planning efforts for the community to ensure a positive impact on the business growth for all affected communities in this corridor.

continued on page 2
Participation in our local and surrounding neighborhood business entities is important to foster relationships. We are fortunate to have such jewels in our community - too many to list here. Because we strive to be all inclusive, we have participated in such events as celebrating Veteran's Day with local companies and extending a “Key to the Village” to an educational organization at the eastern campus of Cuyahoga Community College. Department directors join me in these efforts.

We want to remind you of the fitness program being held here in the Village Hall which is open to all. For registration information, please call 216.283.3000, extension 235 or 229.

From time to time, more informational items will be added to our website (www.vhhohio.org). Be sure to check it out for items of general interest, including job opportunities and various community news.

Note that my door is always open to all residents and suggestions and ideas are always welcome. Let’s keep our community a wholesome and thriving environment. 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

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**Good To Know . . .**

**Northfield Road at Chagrin Boulevard – PERMANENT CLOSURE**

**Began Monday, February 23**

**Improvement Project: Reconfiguration of Warrensville/Chagrin Intersection**

Northfield Road, at the intersection of Chagrin and Warrensville, will close permanently as construction begins on that quadrant of the planned four-way intersection.

Traffic will no longer be able to travel on Northfield going north or southbound through the intersection at Chagrin and Warrensville. South of the intersection, Northfield will dead end into a new cul-de-sac set for construction this spring.

This closure creates a new traffic pattern: Local access to buildings between the intersection and the roundabout will be from the south only (or from Warrensville). Drivers who wish to travel south on Northfield will turn left onto new Northfield from Warrensville.

South of the roundabout, Northfield remains open in both directions.

The Good News – within a few weeks (by approximately March 16) traffic lights in the district will be re-timed and there should be an improvement at the light located at Farnsleigh and Chagrin.

The Not-So-Good News – until the reconfiguration of the intersection is completed (fall 2015), there will be no left turn from Chagrin (westbound) onto Warrensville.

We are preparing a map to help identify new patterns and access to businesses in the district.

For questions or comments contact the Cuyahoga County construction office at 216.752.9047.

Updated: March 4, 2015
University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center Donates to the Highland Hills Fire Department a LIFE SAVING Device!

On March 4, 2015 Susan V. Juris, President, University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center, presented Chief Arthur Timmons and the Highland Hills fire department with a life-saving device called Lucas Chest Compression System. The device administers chest compressions to a patient having “cardiac arrest” symptoms.

Anyone who has ever had to perform “CPR” knows how important this device is because you can become exhausted very quickly performing CPR manually. Once the Lucas Chest Compression equipment is set up it continues the chest compressions, even as the patient is being transported to the hospital, thereby allowing the caretaker to do other necessary tasks. There is no doubt in my mind that this unit will save a lot of lives in the future.

Also on that evening, Highland Hills fire department congratulated one of our longest serving members, who retired after 19 years with the department. Captain Jerry Fioretti was presented with two plaques, one from University Hospitals, and another from the Highland Hills fire department. A proclamation from Highland Hills Mayor and Council was also presented. Thanks to Jerry for dedicated service to the Highland Hills fire department!

Our Highland Hills fire department continues to improve as we strive to safely serve and protect YOU better! We now have two “newer” vehicles to provide excellent service to our residents and employees! The Village has acquired a Grumman 50 foot ladder truck, as well as a “newer” Ford rescue squad vehicle, replacing our old tiring fleet.

Let’s All Look Forward To Spring!
Building & Housing

Louis A. Hovancsek, Building Commissioner

The Village is happy to welcome University Hospitals’ (UH) office staff to the corner of Harvard and Northfield Road. As the second largest private sector employer in NE Ohio, that puts them within the top five largest private sector employers in the State of Ohio. University Hospital has done a lot of work in a short period of time and will be occupying their building this spring! Bravo!!

Springstone Hospital on Harvard Road has many different ongoing facets. We have been working with engineers and architects to finalize details, and in the future will be sharing the ribbon cutting date for their occupancy. Harvard Road is earning a respectful Medical Corridor status. Welcome to our community!

As the weather gets warmer—it will get warmer—it just has too! Spring clean-up around our community will be in full force. Thank you for all your efforts in keeping the Village of Highland Hills an eye-appealing place to live. Efforts will begin to bring a more uniform look to our townhouse area, a facelift so to speak. We are looking into a balanced shutter look and will be sharing more on that as details become available.

Jim Maciaszek, after two years in our building department, has moved on, and we say thank you and best of luck in your new endeavor with the community of Brooklyn. Thank you for your time here at the Village of Highland Hills.

The Weekly Fix

Resolve to Keep Nearby Grates, Hydrants Clear

Consider “adopting” a nearby street grate and fire hydrant. In many communities, budget cuts mean that the street drains and hydrants are no longer cleared regularly by city employees. When grates over street basins become covered with leaves, twigs and debris, nearby roadways and yards can experience severe flooding during heavy rainstorms.

In colder weather, blocked drains often result in ice build-up along the curb, catching drivers unaware. If you have a street basin near your property, check it on a regular basis and keep the grate clear of blockages. If the basin itself is filled with debris, or if it’s not draining at all, call your city’s service department. Pay attention to fire hydrants, too. Snow packed around a hydrant by plows clearing the street can freeze over, leaving a rock-hard barrier that firefighters must chop through before connecting to a water source. A fire hydrant that has been cleared of snow can save precious minutes that firefighters can use to save homes.

So, resolve in 2015 to care for the sewer grates and hydrants near your home. Not only will you be a good neighbor—the property you save from damage may be your own!

Reporting by Becky Stager, Special to Sun News
Policing Our Community
Antonia Stitt, Police Chief

Hello Highland Hills Residents

I first want to thank you all for assisting your police agency in minimizing crime and keeping our community safe. You did this by consistently calling and/or advising our officers of suspicious activity. In the recent past, I requested your assistance and you have continuously done so. For this I thank you and say Bravo to you!

As you all know, there is a great deal of negative media towards law enforcement. A considerable portion of what is being said has some validity. To acknowledge this brings me sadness when I consider the amount of power, authority and responsibility we have as law enforcement professionals. Having said this, I have a responsibility to do my utmost to ensure that the police officers under my command are kept up-to-date on communicative, and law enforcement skills—all geared towards ensuring their safety and improving their ability to protect and serve you and the patrons in our community.

As you may have already heard, the Highland Hills Police Department implemented “body cameras” almost five years ago. This was one of the best things we could have done to ensure the credibility and integrity of statements, crime reports, and accounts of incidents. We’ve also implemented a new program to further improve officer and community relations, called “Community Engagement”! Officers are required to make a certain number of contacts with the residents during their shift. This is in effort to improve communication between the community and businesses within the Highland Hills community. This is yet another effort we have taken to better enhance positive community and police relations.

Always, “ONE TEAM, ONE FAMILY”! See Something, Say Something!

Special Announcement: Townhouse Residents Public Meeting!

The Village of Highland Hills Council invites all residents to attend a townhouse resident’s public meeting on Monday, March 30, 2015 at Village Hall in Room 14.

The purpose of the meeting is to encourage the participation of all residents in the betterment of our community, identify common concerns, and begin a dialog conducive to collective solutions.

Light refreshments will be served. Hope to see you all there!
Properties Update

Dale Carter, Properties Director

The Shaker House occupancy continues to be steady and full.

The Properties department is in the process of winter cleanup on both the interior and exterior of the building. Now that much of the snow is melting, we will be better able to complete the outside tasks of disposing all trash left behind in the parking lots.

Preventive maintenance in all suites is ongoing.

We look forward to a great spring and summer season!

Recycle Grant

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District announced the Village of Highland Hills as one of the recipients of its 2015 Community Recycling Awareness Grant. Yay!! The grant will be used to establish a recycling video for the Village website, recycling brochures, and magnets for residents showing them what to recycle. Grants totaling $161,311 were awarded to 33 communities and 13 schools and non-profit organizations in Cuyahoga County.

Kudos to our own Jane Pierce who works as an administrative assistant to the Mayor. Jane is finishing up her volunteer hours to earn the Master Recycler status with Cuyahoga County. The Solid Waste District launched its 2014 Master Recycler course, designed to develop professional recycling advocates within Cuyahoga County. To become a Master Recycler, up to 20 adults spend eight intense weeks completing 20 hours of lectures, coursework, and tours to learn in-depth topics about recycling, including composting, reuse, and waste reduction. Each participant of the committed group is also required to complete twenty hours of recycling related volunteer work. Master Recyclers serve as advocates for recycling within their workplace and communities to help the Solid Waste District with its outreach efforts. Jane has been a welcomed asset to the recycling efforts in Highland Hills. Between grants and followup, the Village of Highland Hills community has consistently improved recycling, even earning the “Best New Feature Program” in the 2008 Trash Oscars. Let’s keep growing in our recycling efforts.

A RECYCLING NOTE: How can you help in 2015? STOP bagging your grass clippings for pickup and allow your lawn mower to refeed your lawn through “grasscycle”, which is a normal process of lawn clippings nourishing your lawn. This organic natural composting allows the Village to count all actively cut lawns that do not bag their clippings, and submit yardage for the year-end recycling report. In 2014, out of approximately 27+ acres of natural mulching available, Village residents grasscycled 12+ acres. We have room to grow here! Thank you!
Financially Speaking
Andrea Morris, Finance Director

Taxpayer Assistance
As the federal tax filing deadline of April 15, 2015, quickly approaches, there are several local resources that can aid you in your tax preparation and filing.

Federal Taxes
Per the Internal Revenue Service – IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs) are your source for personal tax help when you believe your tax issue can only be handled face-to-face. No appointment is necessary.

Cleveland Office
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199
216.522.4048
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who make $53,000 or less, who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age or older.

To find VITA or TCE sites near you call 800.906.9887 or visit http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/.

A majority of the TCE sites are operated by AARP. To locate the nearest AARP TCE tax-aide site call 888.227.7669 or visit http://www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action.

State Taxes
The State of Ohio has the same April 15, 2015 tax filing deadline as the federal government. For assistance in filing your State of Ohio taxes, please use their telephone assistance program.

For telephone assistance call 800.282.1780 or visit http://www.tax.ohio.gov/Individual.aspx.

Local/City Taxes
City taxes are due for the Village of Highland Hills on April 15, 2015 as well. For assistance, please call the Central Collection Agency at 800.223.6317 or visit http://www.ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us.

2015 CCA Community Taxpayer Assistance Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/18/15</td>
<td>Cleveland West Park Library</td>
<td>2:00 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>3805 West 157th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/28/15</td>
<td>Cleveland Housing Network</td>
<td>9:00 – 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2999 Payne (inside Asia Plaza, Suite 134)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/31/15</td>
<td>S. Brooklyn Cleve Public Library</td>
<td>2:30 – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>4303 Pearl Road (corner of Pearl &amp; State)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/07/15</td>
<td>Cleveland West Park Library</td>
<td>1:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>3805 West 157th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/07/15</td>
<td>Warrensville Heights Civic Center</td>
<td>3:00 – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>4567 Green Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring Cleaning!

Steve Clymer, Public Works Director

Now that winter is showing signs of leaving us, I would like to take a moment to refresh our minds on some of the services the Public Works (Service) department handles.

Yard Debris

- Branches, sticks, brush and bushes must be tied in bundles of no more than 50 pounds and placed at the curb for pickup;
- Building materials of any kind will not be picked up by the service department;
- Residents need to call the Service Department @ 216.662.5012 to have your yard debris scheduled for a special pick-up.

Special pick-ups can be scheduled any day Monday through Friday, excluding Thursday because that is our scheduled trash day, and the same employees handle both tasks. A sample list of items which can be scheduled for special pick-up is listed below. Should you have items you are not sure of, please call the service department at 216.662.5012 to inquire about removal. We are here to help you if possible.

Household Items

- Refrigerators and household appliances;
- Furniture;
- Mattress and box springs *MUST BE COMPLETELY ENCLOSED IN PLASTIC*;
- Carpeting;
- Water heaters;
- Air conditioners.

Now that Spring has sprung we can all get outside in the fresh air and work together as much as possible to continue to keep Highland Hills a safe, clean, beautiful community that we all can take pride in.

The service department employees wish all residents a wonderful spring and summer season!

Of Interest!

Building permits are required when interior or exterior alterations are being made. If you are planning on adding a deck, changing walls, or mechanical systems such as wiring or plumbing, a permit is necessary. The permit and inspection process is designed to aid residents in the building process. Proper planning and inspection can help assure homeowners that any work being done meets quality building standards.

Point of Sale (POS) – Residential

Point of Sale inspection is required before property can be transferred. Occupancy application is required for a new home owner, rental properties for a new tenant, or change of tenant.

Applications for permits, and an explanation of the process, may be acquired at Village Hall, Suite 21, Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information call 216.283.3000.
Trees Planted to Reforest Mill Creek Riparian Buffer

We love our wet and wonderful volunteers!

A group of incredibly dedicated volunteers planted 100 trees along Mill Creek in the Village of Highland Hills. It rained, drizzled and sometimes poured, but the planters were not deterred. Special thanks extended to Lou Rifici and his Tri-C students, Leila Jackson and the Watershed Stewardship Volunteer Corps. The other tree-loving volunteers who came to help: Highland Hills Councilwoman Patricia DeBerry; Jane Pierce, Highland Hills Administrative Assistant; Jamie DeRose and Jen Braman, City of Cleveland; Chris Vild, City of Beachwood; and the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership.

We thank our funders, Alliance for Community Trees, and CSX; and the donors, Kurtz Brothers for the beautiful compost and mulch, and Highland Hills for the gloves. The utmost appreciation to Mayor Robert L. Nash, Village Engineer Susan Hamilton, and Public Works Director Steve Clymer.

Photos courtesy of Jane Pierce
Ahh – Spring Has Sprung – Greetings!

The senior department continues to provide timely services to our residents, including pick-up for such necessities as doctor, medical appointments, water exercise, etc. Please remember to call us at least a day in advance, and also remember currently the senior office is not fully staffed on Monday. Messages can be left at either 216.283.3000, extension 235 or 229.

Many thanks to all who participated in our ongoing collection of toiletries for the homeless. Your efforts are very much appreciated as we continue to accept donations for this worthy cause.

The “Silver Fitness” exercise program is alive and well.

Remember we now have multiple sessions: 30-minute Fit-Camp; Strong & Lean; and Silver Fitness.

We are working on other activities for spring and summer.

Be sure to read our monthly calendar!

As always, feel free to call with suggestions and/or comments.

We are pleased to continue to serve you to help you “Be and Stay Fit”!

13th Annual Minority Men’s Health Fair

Thursday, April 30, 2015
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Glickman Tower/Miller Pavilion
Cleveland Clinic Main Campus
President Obama Launches TechHire

Speaking to nearly 2,000 local leaders at the National League of Cities annual meeting, President Obama announced his TechHire initiative, a new campaign to work with communities to get more Americans rapidly trained for well-paying technology jobs.

The United States has about 5 million open jobs today, more than at any point since 2001. Over half a million of those job openings are in information technology (IT) fields like software development, network administration, user-interface design and cybersecurity – many of which did not even exist just a decade ago. The average salary in a job that requires IT skills – whether in manufacturing, advertising, retail, or banking – is 50 percent higher than the average private-sector American job.

In his remarks, the President emphasized that these open jobs are an economic development issue. When those jobs go unfilled, it’s a loss for American workers, for employers eager to hire, for our regional economies and for American competitiveness. Helping U.S. companies fill these critical jobs and empowering more Americans to train for and get these jobs is a key element of the President’s middle-class economics agenda.

TechHire is a multi-sector effort and call to action for local communities to collaborate in helping employers fill critical local IT job gaps by empowering a diverse array of Americans to rapidly gain the necessary technology skills, including using nontraditional training options like “coding bootcamps” and high-quality online courses.

Report by Megan Smith and Jeff Zients
March 10, 2015

2015 Charter Review Commission
Legal Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(F) and HHCO 103.04, notice is hereby given that the Charter Review Commission of the Village of Highland Hills will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. local time, on the following date: Thursday, April 9, 2015.

The meeting will be held in the Municipal Building, Room 14, 3700 Northfield Rd., Highland Hills, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct the regular business of the Charter Review Commission.

Any person desiring to be heard on the subject(s) or issues that come before the Charter Review Commission should appear at the time and place set forth above and may be heard then and there or at such later time as the Commission determines pursuant to its rules of operation.

Future meeting notices will be posted on the website (www.vhhohio.org), displayed on the marquee at Village Hall, and at all of the regular posting places in the Village. For questions, please contact the Clerk of Council at clerkofcouncil@vhhohio.org or call 216.283.3000, ext. 237.

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND HILLS, OHIO
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
I would like to thank you all for your continuous support! We, the members of Council, invite you to explore our website and learn more about our community, its government, and your officials. I am excited to report that 2015 is an exciting and important processing year for Council. Last year in December, Council participated in a much-needed Council retreat. The retreat was a stirring and productive engagement for us all. With the new members of Council on board, we spent an entire day enhancing our communication and collaboration skills, while heightening our understanding of the Village charter, Council rules, the budget and more importantly, our desire to implement and create new and improved strategic plans over the next four years. Council has also embarked on fine-tuning and working with our educational resources to assist us in our commitment of being a promising and productive Council.

We hired Ken Kovach, a Board Certified Coach from the Center for Credentialing & Education, to come in and assess the working relationships, collaborative needs and innovative ideas of Council, to ensure that we are on track in staying abreast with Council’s response to community needs and engagements. Council is committed to improving and bridging relationships in our community. We are always open to suggestions and ideas to engage our residents.

In mid March we also met with Lisa Thomas, PhD, Director of the Center for Experiential Learning at Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, regarding municipal finance. We requested that Dr. Thomas conduct a refresher course in municipal finance with Council, to ensure that we, as fiduciary agents of this Village, understand and explore the inner workings of the budget and our finances. It was time well spent!

On behalf of Council, I would like to officially welcome our new clerk, Margaret “Peg” Sikon, who started with the Village the first of the year. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, having worked for the City of Garfield Heights as their Clerk of Council and Assistant to the Mayor. Peg took a short hiatus to become a full-time care-giver for her 91-year old mother and was looking to get back into municipal government on a part-time basis. Highland Hills seemed like a perfect fit and we are happy that she has joined us, adding a degree of organization and professionalism to the clerk’s office. She has two adult daughters and a five-year old grandson, Michael, who is the apple of her eye. Peg is a “people person” and feels truly blessed by the warm welcome she has received by everyone at Village Hall.

I invite each resident to take some time and come visit a Council meeting, to increase and bridge our relationships, and to see your Council at work.

With warm regards!

Standing in back row from left to right: Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith, Councilwoman Nicole Young and Councilwoman Leah Lewis; front row left to right: Council Pro Tem Patricia DeBerry, Council President Lillian Moore, Council Clerk Peg Sikon, and Councilwoman Barbara Spearman.
Dear Residents

Councilwoman Jean Abernathy-Smith

Once upon a time, many years ago I joined an organization called International Toastmistress. The purpose of this organization was to rid women of their fear of public speaking. They also had an organization called International Toastmasters for the men. This huge organization was comprised of many local clubs and I was a proud member of The Monday Mandators.

After a couple of years I was asked to demonstrate my growth in public speaking by becoming a contestant in their annual speech contest. I accepted the challenge and decided to step out on faith and represent my club in this historical event.

The speech contest had guidelines, a theme, and subject. The theme was “A Temporary Inconvenience for a Permanent Improvement.” We were asked to write on the subject matter “Disruptions.” I went through many pieces of paper, but I finally finished my speech. At the end of my speech I decided to write a poem for my closing. I found the poem and want to share it with you.

“Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained”

Disruptions, disruptions go hide behind a tree.
I get so tired of you bothering me.
Every time I think life is getting a little bit sweeter,
You come around again with another repeater.
Life has enough troubles without your interference.
Dropping by disrupting me with your unwanted appearance.
You are always unexpected, you never plan in advance,
You never check my schedule, or my calendar at a glance.
Maybe I should stop feeling so negatively about you.
For life with some disruptions could have a positive side too.
This unwanted inconvenience could mean improvement instead of pain.
For it’s been said over and over, “Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained.
So let’s stop getting discouraged and sitting around looking fretful.
Weeping with tears of frustrations and feeling so regretful.
It’s not always in our best interest to question why.
For disruptions in our lives could lead to rainbows in the sky.

Hope you enjoyed my poem and further hope that you survived our extremely snowy cold winter and are looking forward to a warm pleasant spring. I truly wish for you some sunshine.

Please feel free to call me at 216.921.6658 if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. BE BLESSED!
HIGHLAND HILLS COUNCIL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Name: Village of Highland Hills Council Scholarship

Address: Village of Highland Hills Council
Attn: Scholarship
3700 Northfield Road, Ste. 12
Highland Hills, OH 44122

Telephone: 216.283.3000, ext. 237

Email: clerkofcouncil@vhhohio.org – Ms. Margaret (Peggy) Sikon, Clerk of Council

Website: www.vhhohio.org/scholarship

Purpose: To support the educational endeavors and advancement of Highland Hills residents.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a resident of Highland Hills for at least the previous two years. Documented proof of residency must accompany the application.

Target Applicant(s): K-12; Post-Secondary Vocational, Undergraduate, and Graduate Students (must attend an accredited institution).

Amount: $500.00 (two scholarships of $500 each)

Number of Awards: Two (2): One (1) for K-12; and One (1) for a Post-Secondary student.

Deadline: May 1. The application will be available March 1 of every year in the office of the Clerk of Council (call the number above for hours of operation) and online at the website address listed above.

How to Apply: Applicants must submit a 1-page (typed) essay explaining: (1) your academic pursuit and (2) vision for your future, including how you envision making a contribution to the community of the Village of Highland Hills; plus a questionnaire from one (1) reference to be completed by an educator or administrator familiar with the applicant’s work and character. Submit to the address listed above. Deadline for submitting essay: May 15th.

Questions: You may direct questions to:

Councilwoman Leah Lewis
Chair of Scholarship Committee
llewis@vhhohio.org
415.596.6717
Community Spotlight: Martin Kelly, Sr.
Councilwoman Leah Lewis

... has lived in the Village of Highland Hills at the Shaker House apartments for 18 years. This 1963 graduate of Glenville High School currently serves on the Planning Commission and in the past has served on the Charter Review Commission.

A former air traffic controller and psychiatric social worker, Martin has a degree in sociology from Baldwin Wallace University (formerly Baldwin Wallace College).

In 1979, Martin opted for apartment living, after owning a home which he shared with his wife and children. He enjoys the freedom afforded by not having to cut grass or shovel snow. This season certainly brings that blessing into view! Apartment living fits his lifestyle as a single guy who is frequently on the go.

You might ask why someone would choose the Shaker House and Highland Hills over another apartment building in another municipality. Martin cited many attributes about the Village; including safety, peacefulness, a sense of community, and the large population of senior citizens; to name a few. Add these to the virtues of the Shaker House—the security of having our police department within the building, furnished units, all utilities included—and you have your answer.

When pressed about improvements he would like to see in our Village, Martin answered: “More involvement of the residents; higher voter turnout; improved services at the Shaker House; and greater opportunities for businesses to come to the Village.”

Thank you, Martin Kelly, for your commitment and service to the Village of Highland Hills. Councilwoman Leah Lewis, resident of the Shaker House, reporting.

Attention—Shaker House Apartment Residents—Public Meeting!

The Council of the Village of Highland Hills invites all Shaker House apartment residents to attend a public meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 in the Highland Hills Ballroom at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss: Building, Health, and Safety Issues.

Pursuant to prevailing laws, issues regarding RENT and PERSONAL MATTERS WITH MANAGEMENT must be presented SEPARATELY and IN WRITING.

All residents are encouraged to participate for the betterment of our building, our community, and to identify common concerns. Let us begin a dialog to improve your experience within the Shaker House Apartments.

All residents are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Come Let Your Voice Be Heard!

For additional information please call the Clerk of Council at 216.283.3000, ext. 237.
Hello Community,

Council continues to represent the interest of our community to be responsible for delivering services necessary to meet the needs of our community. We’re making sure that the Village finances are able to provide services to maintain and increase the level of efficiency.

Our most recent Council members; Rev. Leah Lewis, is in her second year; and Nicole Young, has been on board for one year. Both members have shown enthusiasm, ideas, skills, and have top priority for the betterment of our Village, along with the teamwork principle.

The 2015 Charter Review Commission

The purpose of the Charter Review Commission (“CRC”) is to review the Village Charter to determine if any rules in the Charter should be added, changed or eliminated. The CRC of seven (7) members meets every five (5) years and this is the year! The Mayor appoints four (4) members and Council appoints three (3) members. Council appointed Geavona Greene, Robert Wright, and Franklin Young. The Mayor appointed Marvin Brown, Danita Love, David Mill, and Willie Strong. Mr. Strong has recently resigned and the Mayor selected Kenneth Troutman as his replacement. The members’ first responsibility is to organize and select a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair is Danita Love, and the Vice Chair is Franklin Young. The Law Director, Thomas O’Donnell, attends the meetings, reviews the Charter with members, and provides legal guidance.

The meetings are open to the community. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. If any person in the community wants to read the Charter call to request a copy and pick it up. If you would like to propose or change an amendment to the Charter, call the Village (216.283.3000) to confirm the time of the meeting that you wish to attend, so that you can speak on your request, your concern, and/or offer a suggestion.

Council Retreat

With new and seasoned Council members, we all agreed that a need for training to further our strengths and knowledge enables us to be and do the best that we can for our community. In recognizing Council’s continuous growing to be effective in carrying out our legislation functions, along with vision and mission clarity for the Village, Council participated in a retreat with leading consultant Kenneth Kovach, in December 2014. “Webster’s dictionary defines retreat as an act or process of withdrawing from what is difficult, dangerous or disagreeable.” Also “it’s an act of changing one’s decisions, plans, or attitude”. Mr. Kovach facilitated in assisting Council to focus on a shared vision of who and what we are as a Village Council and what we agree to do together.

The outline for the retreat included work sessions on: the State of the Village, the State of Council, Developing a Working Plan for 2015 and Beyond, and the Next Steps for Council. We established “ground rules” for our work sessions, and agreed to have an interactive experience to open with positive energy and to focus our attention on the work for the day—and that we did.

Mr. Kovach has agreed to further assist Council in developing a work plan. He states, and Council agrees, that the retreat was an opportunity for Council to appreciate “what was”, acknowledge “what is”, and explore and affirm “what can or should be.” Council thanks him for all the service he has given to and for us.

continued bottom of page 17
Community Spotlight: Dawn Davis

Councilwoman Nicole Young

The Village of Highland Hills has many interesting, talented and successful residents. Dawn Davis is one of them. She has been a Highland Hills townhouse homeowner for nine years and is a seasoned Human Resources (“HR”) professional. Dawn loves music, traveling and animals, but is passionate about holding employers accountable for their treatment of employees. She is a graduate of Shaker Heights High School and Clark-Atlanta University. Dawn is in the middle of a Ph.D program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Dawn started in HR after having a life changing work experience in 2001. She was fresh out of college and considering an opportunity for advancement with a large local company. The new position would have required her to relocate to New York City. She visited the city in early September and felt good about making the change when she returned home. She was given a couple of days to give her final answer to her boss. The day she planned to accept the new job was 9/11/2001. After she saw the World Trade Center attacks on television she decided she would feel safer in Cleveland. Dawn told her employer that she decided not to take the promotion. In response, they treated her poorly and threatened to force her into the next open assignment. This was a defining moment for Dawn, and she decided then that she wanted to work on the human resources side of corporate America. She quit that job, went back to school, and started a career in HR. Her dream is to work for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or EEOC.

As a longtime Village resident, Dawn has particularly enjoyed the community picnics and Christmas parties. She would like the Village to increase communication about things that affect the community; consider adding late hours, just one day per week for those who work; continue the good police service, and bring back the Christmas parties. She also suggests stepping up police presence, given the recent violence in Warrensville Heights.

As a young professional, Dawn is a representative of some of the driven, upwardly mobile women and men in our community. If you see her around, be sure to say hello!

The Safety Committee—Police and Fire

As Chairperson of this committee, and along with my fellow Councilpersons, we are pleased to receive from the police department a monthly statistical report on what is going on in our community as it relates to crime, traffic citations, arrests, and other incidents occurring in our community. I want to thank Sergeant David Koran for providing the reports and responding to all my questions. Let us not forget that our Chief Antonio Stitt has a passion to run a good police department and also that he implemented, first in region, the use of a body camera, right here in Highland Hills.

Another thank you goes out to Fire Chief Arthur Timmons for a monthly report of activity in the fire department. The fire department reports on false alarms, medical transports, public service, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and a few other services. Our community is “in good hands.”

When you see one of our policemen, and/or firemen, shot out a “Thank You” for the work they do to keep our community safe and secure!
Recently the Village joined forty-three other communities by becoming a member in the Heritage Home Program. This program focuses specifically on homes that are 50 years old and offers free technical assistance on home improvement projects and access to low interest financing to cover cost. The program is administered by the Cleveland Restoration Society. One of the features of the Heritage Home Program is its low interest home equity loan program. These loans are made through two area banks to homeowners who want to improve their homes. The loans are a fixed rate of either 1.85% or 2% depending on which of the two lending institutions used. The term of the loan is up to ten years. Loans can be for interior or exterior repairs, maintenance, additions and modernizations. Kitchen and bath remodels are two popular uses of the Heritage Home Loan Programs. Later this spring, Heritage Homes will be mailing information to every homeowner in the Village that has a home 50 years old. Council is also planning to have a program that will provide detailed information about the program. If you would like more information prior to these events, you may contact Heritage Homes Programs or the Cleveland Restoration Society at 216.426.3108. This is definitely a program worth investigating if you are considering improving the exterior or interior of your home.

Sometimes age, medical conditions and financial problems prohibit area residents from living in homes that are comfortable. Volunteers can help correct those situations. Rebuilding Together Greater Cuyahoga Valley is another program that can be of help to homeowners. Rebuilding Together is a non-profit, year round organization that helps “repair” and “rehabilitate” the homes of low-income, elders, disabled and veteran homeowners. This group is part of a national organization with more than 200 affiliates across the country and which sponsors the largest home repair and renovation program of its kind in the United States. At the beginning of 2014, Rebuilding Together Greater Cuyahoga Valley was able to greatly expand into Cuyahoga County, and it is also experiencing growth in Medina and Portage counties. More than 2,200 homeowners in Cleveland and Summit county have been served by the organization at this point. In addition to repairs, the organization installs safety modifications, including grab bars, shower seats, raised toilets, smoke and fire detectors and transition ramps. Rebuilding Together is able to provide services to low-income homeowners because of free volunteer labor and the financial support of corporations, local governments, civic and religious groups and foundations. Those interested in volunteering can visit www.rebuildingtogether-sc.org or call 216.800.8556.

If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about the Village’s Recycling Program feel free to contact the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, Jane Pierce, at 216.283.3000, ext 217. Jane is our resident recycling guru. Her motto is: Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse. Thank you Jane for all your hard work. If you have questions about our newest recycling project, Simple Recycling, you can call 440.591.3879. The same number can also be used to get additional green bags for your soft recyclables.

Be sure to stop by Council’s office to meet our new Clerk of Council, Peg Sikon. Peg comes to us with a wealth of experience, having several for many years as the Clerk of Council for Garfield Heights. We welcome Peg to our Village.

While at Council’s office be sure to notice the paintings created and donated to the Village by Highland Hills artist, Mr. Bullock. We also want to thank resident, Sandra Vodanoff, for bringing Mr. Bullock’s talents to our attention. Thank you Mr. Bullock and Mrs. Vodanoff!