

March 2011



Save the Date



Highland Heights Community Day
Saturday, August 6, 2011
Highland Heights Community Park

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From the Desk of Mayor Coleman

See my article inside for information on:

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From the Desk of Mayor Coleman

2011 Financial Report and Budget

I'm pleased to report that the City ended 2010 on solid financial ground. The General Fund, which drives most City operations, has a balance of \$5,200,000, an increase of \$983,000. Our Park and Recreation Fund increased its fund balance by \$127,000 to finish the year at \$304,000. Overall, the City's total fund balances grew by \$1,236,000.

We have in the past and continue to keep our expenses in check. Our General Fund expenditures increased less than 1% in 2010 over 2009. We are also fortunate to have had a strong revenue flow in 2010 which helped contribute to our financial stability.

While our 2011 budget will present some challenges, I will present council with a budget that projects our revenues to exceed our expenses. I am dedicated to structuring the budget in a manner that will continue to provide the efficient and effective use of our dollars to provide the uninterrupted, excellent delivery of services we all enjoy.

Charter Review Committee

Every five years, the mayor is to appoint a committee of nine residents to serve on the Charter Review Committee. The purpose of this committee is to review and recommend to Council not less than ninety (90) days prior to the next November election, any alterations, revisions, and amendments to our Charter as in its judgment seem advisable. Any recommendations from this committee must be submitted without alteration, to the voters at the next regular November election. The members of this committee are volunteers and serve without compensation.

Following is a list of my appointments to the Charter Review Committee which were confirmed by City Council on Feb. 2, 2010.

Ray Caporale	Ron Fornaro
John Nawarskas	Carol Ganser
Sherri Tighe	Pam Hawkins
Dan Dombeck	Janet Dannemiller
Linda Citraro	

At the organizational meeting on February 2nd, Dan Dombeck was elected as Chairman and Pam Hawkins was elected as Secretary. To date, the committee has discussed several items including the term length of members of council and qualifications of the mayor and council. The committee will meet roughly every three to four weeks. The meetings are open to the public and I encourage residents to attend to listen to the discussion and possibly add any ideas they may have.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to these individuals for serving on this very important committee.

From the Desk of Mayor Coleman

Highland Heights Voting Locations

After my discussion with Ward Council Representatives and hearing concerns from residents, per my request, the Board of Elections will not be using the Sixth Presbyterian Church as a voting location for Highland Heights this year. Those voting at the Sixth Presbyterian Church last year will return to Millridge where they voted prior to 2010. The Board of Elections has advised me that the voting locations for Highland Heights in 2011 will be as follows:

Millridge Elementary School
Ward 1B
Ward 4A and 4B

Community Center
Ward 1A
Ward 2A and 2B
Ward 3A and 3B

Mayfield Schools

Congratulations to Mayfield Schools for receiving the ranking of Excellent With Distinction on the Ohio Report Card for two consecutive years. Congratulations also to Millridge Elementary School. They are celebrating 50 years of being part of our community.

Mayfield Schools Superintendent Dr. Phillip Price was named the 2011 Superintendent of the Year for Ohio by the Columbus-based Buckeye Association of School Administrators. Dr. Price was chosen from a large pool of candidates. The honor is given to Superintendents based on their work in education and within the community. Dr. Price also recently received the Hillcrest Hospital/Cleveland Community Service Award.

Residents added to 100 Year Flood Zone

Many of our residents were recently surprised to hear that their property has been determined to be in a High Risk Flood Zone. As a result, mortgage companies have required these residents to take out costly flood insurance. This was the result of The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updating their flood maps. City Council and I have been working to see what, if any, assistance we can offer residents. Our Building Commissioner and City Engineer have more information on this topic.

If you are a homeowner that has been notified that you are included in the 100 year flood zone, I encourage you to read the information our building commissioner Dale Grabfelder has later in this newsletter or go to our website at www.highlandhts.com for more information.

City Council Commentary

Cathy Murphy

Ward 1 Council Representative

County Airport Noise Abatement Council Update

This year, the Council has some plans to improve the airport website and continue to reduce noise and improve airport response to noise complaints. To register an airport noise complaint, contact the Cuyahoga County Administrative offices by phone: (216) 289-4111 or via email at ccairport@cuyahogacounty.us. One of the prime objectives of the Joint Noise Abatement Agreement is to create and foster airport awareness and sensitivity to surrounding community concerns.

If you have any issue you would like me to bring to the council's attention, please let me know. Also, consider attending council meetings. In 2011, meetings are slated for March 30, June 29, September 28, and December 14. All meetings are open to the public and held in the Airport Administration Bldg. (off Curtiss Wright Pkwy) beginning at 10:00 a.m.

As always, your comments are welcome. Please contact me with any ideas, questions or concerns you have about our city.

Ward 1: Annual Coffee and Conversation
Wednesday, May 18 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Highland Heights Community Center



Please plan on attending this informal gathering for a city update, and an opportunity to share ideas and meet your neighbors.

Leo Lombardo

Ward 2 Council Representative

Finance Committee, Budget Update

For the third year in a row, the City had a surplus in the completed 2010 budget. On the revenue side, the property tax was approximately 4% above budget and total income was up approximately 9% above budget. Total expenditures were approximately 2% below budget. The total budget surplus for 2010 was approximately \$1.2 million. This may seem like a lot of money but we still have millions of dollars of infrastructure projects that have been deferred.

The Budget Committee is currently preparing the 2011 budget. The revenue estimate is 4% less than last year's and the expenditure estimate is 7% above last year's. This would yield a deficit in the \$600,000 range. To further complicate the issue is the potential of the elimination of Estate Tax and/or the state subsidy to cities. This could cost us another \$500,000. At this time, these are not firm numbers and will be changed by the time the budget is finalized.

City Council Commentary

Lisa Stickan
Ward 4 Council Representative

Ward 4 meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 7:30
in the Community Center Buckeye Room
Please join me at this informal meeting for a city update and discussion.

Bob Mastrangelo
Ward 3 Council Representative

Influx and Infiltration Update

Earlier this year a new County Executive and County Council was sworn into office to govern Cuyahoga County. Goals of improving government efficiency and accountability seemed to be on the lips of all. Now you may be asking, "How does this affect me?" Residents of Jefferson Drive may have thought that they took their new promise to heart and completed the planned sanitary and storm sewer work planned for this winter without any disturbance to yards or service. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

As previously reported, the Jefferson Drive sewer project was sent out to bid late last summer. At the time, the project was estimated to cost around \$750K and would be completed over this past winter. I am sure the Highland Road residents that experience basement flooding were counting the days until this was completed and basement flooding during heavy rain storms would be a thing of the past. When the bids were opened, the county engineers were stunned to find that not only was the project not going to cost the \$750K they estimated, but in fact would cost double that amount. Needless to say, the project was not awarded.

So where does that leave us today? The project is not dead but the engineers have gone back to the drawing board. In the meantime, the county has reapplied for a loan for the project from the EPA to cover the higher costs. The county engineers are also looking at their project options in order to better rein in costs. In conversations with our city engineer, Brian Mader, he does not think that anything will happen for at least a year. So much for speed and efficiency. On a serious note, the project is still high priority and will eventually come to fruition. Stay tuned. As additional information becomes available, you will be kept fully informed.

Save the Date **April 27, 2011 at 7PM - Ward 3 Meeting**

The Ward meeting will be held in the Buckeye Room at the Highland Heights Community Center. A city update will be provided as well as plenty of time for you to voice your questions or concerns. As an added enticement, refreshments will be served. Hope to see you on the 27th. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts and ideas at 440.442.2854 or rmastrangelo@highlandhts.com.

City Council Commentary

Scott Mills

Council Representative at Large, President

Economic Development

As you may have read, council is revamping our Economic Development Committee and because of the overwhelming response, we added 5 new resident members instead of 3. I am pleased to welcome the following new Committee members: Guy Totino, Maurice Helou, Dan Greve, Janet Schiciano and Michael DeStefano. We appreciate their commitment to the community and I look forward to their valuable input and ideas. Our meetings are open to the public and I invite all residents to attend. Watch the Highland Heights website for meeting times and dates.

Business Spotlight!

Purtill Financial is a Highland Heights wealth management and financial advisory firm that recently completed its first anniversary in Alpha Park. In 2009 and 2010, the firm was named to *Financial Advisor Magazine's* Top Registered Investment Advisors ranking. Beginning January 2011 the firm will have an open house policy each Thursday afternoon from 2 pm until 5 pm. Purtill Financial welcomes its neighbors to stop by to learn more about investing, finances and the firm. The main firm office is located at 38 Alpha Park in Highland Heights and can be reached at (440) 484-5340. The firm currently has more than \$28 million in assets under management and serves more than 75 client families. Purtill Financial is one of a limited number of NAPFA (National Association of Personal Financial Advisors) registered advisers in the Cleveland area. Purtill Financial provides investment management, retirement planning and tax planning services and currently has four professionals on its staff. The firm's website is: www.PurtillFinancial.com. Remember always try to support our local businesses.

Green Space

After several years and a lot of community input, we finally have a new large green space adjacent to city hall. We have already heard from many community groups including the Lion's Club, Garden Club and The Green Task Force (www.highlandhtsgreen.com) who want to participate in making this a great place for community events. Several residents have also come forward with ideas. Keep an eye on the website for upcoming meetings regarding this space.

Shred Day!

Yes, it is that time of year again to think about getting rid of ALL the old tax returns, bank statements, etc. We will be having our next shred day on April 2 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the service department. Do's and Don'ts of paper shredding: DON'T need to remove staples, binder clips, and paper clips. DON'T put in plastic bags, they clog the machine. DON'T be shy, bring all you have. DO put in boxes or paper bags. (we will even give you the boxes back). DO come early, note the new time 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. DO remind your friends and neighbors. Next shred day will be October 1, 2011.

One-on-One Meetings - As part of my job as your council President and councilman at large, I really enjoy meeting the city's residents and discussing their concerns and ideas in one-on-one meetings. I welcome any and all opportunities to meet with any city resident to discuss any matter they wish to discuss. If you wish to schedule a meeting with me, please feel free to call me or email me. I look forward to meeting with all of you.

City Council Commentary

E-Newsletter

After spending time with many of our residents, a recurring concern I hear is a lack of information regarding city business being communicated to the constituents. I fully support a transparent city government and in an effort to address this resident concern, I decided to periodically send out an E-Newsletter. Topics that will be covered are upcoming city events, business addressed during council meetings and other important city matters. If you or anyone you know would like to receive these email updates, please send me an email address for future receipt of the newsletter. Of course, you will always have the option to “opt” out at any time. Also, if you have a topic you would like to have addressed in the newsletter, please feel free to send me your thoughts. Please get me your email address ASAP to get the latest information regarding our city. As always, I look forward to your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to call or email me. 440-477-5883 or SMills@highlandhts.com.

Frank Legan Council Representative at Large

Memorial Day Observance



Memorial Day is quickly approaching and with that so is one of the marquee events held in our city each year, the annual Memorial Day Observance.

Many years ago Weert Ley, the late Vincent Varanese and friends had a vision for honoring those special people in our nation’s history that have sacrificed their lives in the name of freedom. Their idea has been realized and improved upon year after year. Since the Memorial Day Observance has become an annual tradition many volunteers have signed on to help, including among others, our local Boy Scout Troop and the Hess and Lawler families.

I would encourage you to consider attending this year. It is held on Memorial Day at the Veteran’s Peace Memorial, another significant contribution of these families to our city, and is followed by a reception in the community center. Signs will be placed throughout the city and a notice posted on our website to provide all of the details.

I have found the observance to be incredibly moving and a very meaningful tribute to those that have sacrificed in service of our country. I find myself reflecting often throughout the course of the year as a result of this special ceremony. We hope to see you there.

Ed Hargate Council Representative at Large

Safety/Service Committee - While other communities are drastically cutting services or charging residents for garbage collection. City Council’s Safety/Service Committee has worked with Administration to provide outstanding city services. This spring, we will be considering:

- A new rescue squad for the fire department
- Replacing and upgrading fire fighting gear
- Three police cruisers and vehicle equipment for the police department
- Agile radios to upgrade communications for the police department
- Computer upgrades for the police department
- Vehicles and equipment for road, drainage and sewer repairs

Department Updates

FINANCE DEPARTMENT ANTHONY IANIRO, FINANCE DIRECTOR

Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA)



With the tax filing deadline quickly approaching, there may be some questions regarding municipal income taxes.

We utilize the services of the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to act as our Income Tax Department. RITA provides services to over 100 communities in the area in the collection of municipal income taxes. All residents earning a wage are required to file a return with the Regional Income Tax Agency. If you use a short form which allows RITA to calculate your liability or refund, the return is due no later than March 31st. All other filers must have their returns in by April 18th. It is important to note that this requirement applies even if you do not owe any tax at year end.

You may also access the RITA website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at www.ritaohio.com to e-file your return online free of charge, download forms, and research frequently asked questions. You can also download the Auto Calculate Form 37 (requires Excel) to complete your return and mail it in. If you use the Auto Calculate form 37, please be sure to review the instructions before starting.

Basically, the City of Highland Heights authorizes a municipal income tax at a rate of 2% on all salaries, wages and other compensation earned by residents of the City or non-residents working in the City. Net profits earned by local businesses are also subject to our tax provisions. Residents enjoy a 100% tax credit for taxes paid to another municipality, so employment taxes paid to your work city will be used as a direct offset to your liability in Highland Heights up to 2%.

For example, if you work in Cleveland, where a tax rate of 2% also applies, the taxes withheld from your wages there would be credited to the 2% liability in Highland Heights resulting in no tax due. This applies to all localities where the tax rate is 2% or greater. If however, you should work in a city where the tax rate is 1.5%, you would owe the City of Highland Heights .50% after credit is given for your workplace wages.

If you do owe tax, you are required to make estimated payments throughout the course of the year. 80% of your estimate must be paid by January 31st of the following year, that is, 80% of your 2010 tax liability should have been paid by January 31, 2011. Billing reminders are sent by RITA to those affected taxpayers. You may also remit payments directly to RITA should your individual circumstances change.

Please feel free to call RITA at 440-526-0900 with any other questions. Of course, you may always contact the Finance Department at City Hall with any questions you might have.

Department Updates

Fire Department

William Turner, Fire Chief

CPR/AED CLASS



The Fire Department will be offering a CPR / AED class for residents in the Mayfield School District and employees of businesses located in Highland Heights.

The Class will be held at the Fire Station at 5827 Highland Road on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Class size is limited to 15 students. Student manuals are available prior to the class if desired. Please contact the Fire Department at 442-7406 to sign up.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS FOR SENIORS



The Fire Department will install free smoke detectors for seniors in their residence while supplies last. The exact number that will be installed will be determined by the current code. For more information, and to verify eligibility, please contact the Fire Prevention Officer at (440) 442-7406. There is no charge to the seniors for either the smoke alarm or the service. Supplies are limited so please call soon.

OPEN BURNING



Every spring, the Fire Department receives calls regarding open burning in the City.

Both the Codified Ordinances of the City of Highland Heights and the State Fire Code address this issue. City Ordinance 1501.16 and Sections 307 and 308 of the Ohio Fire Code define the types of fires allowed and the requirements for these fires.

The City does allow homeowners to burn without prior notification to the Fire Department for recreational fires. Recreational fires are defined as outdoor fires utilized to cook food for human consumption and outdoor fireplaces.

It is important to note that there are several exceptions to this rule. No person, lease holder, tenant, occupant or entity shall kindle or maintain a fire for the preparation of food or for any other purpose in any type of outdoor or portable grill, whether gas, charcoal or electric, upon any balcony, under any balcony/overhang, or within fifteen feet of any multi-family dwelling or business.

The homeowner may be ordered to extinguish the fire if the fire is deemed to be a nuisance by the Fire Department or if the fire is offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions or when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fire hazardous.

Department Updates

Fire Department Hydrant Maintenance



Semi-Annual fire hydrant maintenance will be conducted by the Fire Department during the months of May and June. If your water is discolored, run your cold tap water until it clears. If your laundry becomes stained, please contact the Fire Department. We can provide materials for removing the stain.

Any hydrant found to be non-functional is replaced by Cleveland Water. After a hydrant is replaced, the soil around the hydrant needs to settle for several weeks prior to finish grading. Once settling has occurred, Cleveland Water or a sub-contractor will make the final repairs to the lawn.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

THOM EVANS, SERVICE DIRECTOR

BRUSH COLLECTION April 4th - June 10th



The Service Department will be conducting a spring brush collection from April 4th through June 10th. Collections will be made Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Residents are asked to contact the Service Department at 461-7266 in advance to schedule a pick up. Branches can be of any length and need not be bundled, however, because the material will be loaded by hand, and due to equipment limitations, the size of the branches accepted will be limited to a maximum of 6" in diameter. Residents will be responsible for getting material to the tree lawn prior to collection. Please contact the Service Department for more information.

COMPUTER ROUND UP (April)

The City will once again be partnering with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to recycle computers, monitors, keyboard and cell phones during **Recycle your Computer Month**, which will take place throughout the month of August. Residents wishing to participate in the program can drop off items at the Service Department between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the month of April.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP (SATURDAY APRIL 2ND) (MAY 2ND - MAY 14TH)

The city will once again be conducting a household hazardous waste collection program in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Residents wishing to participate in the program may bring unwanted pesticides, household chemicals, and oil based paints to the Service Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, starting Monday May 2nd and ending on Friday May 13th. We will also have two Saturday drop offs on April 2nd (in conjunction with Shredding Day) and on May 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **Latex paint will not be accepted.**

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. It should be dried and disposed of in a solid state. For information on drying latex paint, please contact the Service Department or visit our web site.

You may also contact the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District at (216) 443-3749 or log on at WWW.cuyahogaswd.org.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT THOM EVANS, SERVICE DIRECTOR

SEWER REPAIRS ON JEFFERSON DRIVE DELAYED

Residents on Jefferson Drive as well as those in effected areas downstream, anticipating the start of a sewer rehabilitation project will be interested in knowing that the project has been put on hold. The Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineers Office, the agency planning the work, has announced that due to higher than expected pricing received, all bids for the proposed project were rejected. The project, as planned, was to include the lining of sanitary and storm sewer laterals, and the storm sewer main.

The county is reviewing the project design and scope in order to evaluate and consider any cost savings for inclusion into a re-designed project. We are hopeful that a modified project will get underway this year.

MULCHING

Why Mulch?

Mulch has gained wide popularity in urban landscapes, both as a protective and ornamental feature. A layer of organic mulch around the trunk of a tree can be extremely beneficial. Mulching urban trees is recommended because it helps retain soil moisture, helps reduce weeds and controls grass, increases soil fertility when mulch decomposes, improves appearance, protects the trunk from injuries caused by mowing equipment and trimmers that often result in serious damage or death to trees and improves soil structure (better aeration, temperature and moisture conditions).

Common Mulching Mistakes

Two common mistakes in mulch distribution are applying material too thick or deep and mounding up mulch on plant stems. Effects of too much mulch in planting areas include excessive moisture, reduced oxygen and fungal growth. Stem girdling roots are also likely to develop. Mulch only needs to be applied and maintained at a two (2) inch depth at the trees' dripline. As the original mulch decomposes, it should be stirred, turned over or broken up to improve aeration and water diffusion capability. Mulch beds may need to be redressed with another inch of mulch every year or two in order to maintain their protective and ornamental functions.

When mulching, remember:

- Do not apply more than 3 inches of mulch
- Do not pile mulch against the trunk of a tree
- Do not let matted and compressed mulch build up year after year



Department Updates

Police Department James Cook, Police Chief

Burglary Prevention Tips

In 2009, there were an estimated two million home burglaries in the United States. Most of these break-ins were preventable. In 2010, there were 12 reported residential and commercial burglaries in Highland Heights. This figure was up from 5 reported burglaries the previous year. The following information is provided to inform residents and business owners how they might prevent a burglary.

Burglaries have taken place in random areas and neighborhoods throughout the City, but most break-ins have taken place during the day while residents are not at home. Due to the slight increase in reported break-ins, our Department is issuing the following tips to residents and business owners to safeguard your home and property.

We are asking that residents immediately report any suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in the community to the Highland Heights Police Department.

Be a good neighbor, watch out for each other. If your neighbor is not home and you notice a vehicle or person walking around their property, call the Police Department.

If you discover your home broken into, DO NOT ENTER - call the Police immediately from a safe location like a neighbor's house or cell phone.

If you discover your home is broken into, provide the Police Department with an itemized list of any stolen property, including any identifying marks. Avoid handling any additional property you find that may have fingerprints on it, including papers.

Additional Tips for Preventing Burglaries

- Residential burglaries (break-ins) are usually a crime of opportunity. Residents must be vigilant in protecting their homes. Do not become complacent. Conduct a check of your home and if you have one, activate your alarm system before retiring for the evening.
- Keep all doors and windows in your residence secured and locked. Make sure external doors have well-installed dead bolt locks. Sliding glass doors can be secured by installing commercially available locks. Activate your alarm system during the daytime hours when not at your residence.
- Keep the exterior of your home well lit. Install outside lights and keep them on at night. Create the illusion that you are home by using timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening.
- Call regarding the Police Department's Residential Security Program. This is a free service provided by a crime prevention officer to assist residents in protecting their homes from intrusion.
- Call regarding the Police Department's Alarm Board Monitoring Program. This service is provided for residents and businesses who wish to have their alarm system directly monitored by the Police Department.

Protecting Your Vehicle

- Always lock your car, even when parked in your driveway.
- Never leave your keys hidden in the auto--they can be found.
- Don't leave your purse or valuables in your car.
- Park in lighted areas and avoid parking in public lots for long periods of time.
- Properly used, an alarm system may prove an effective auto theft deterrent. It may also be worth purchasing a steering column locking device.
- Keep your garage locked and your car locked when it is parked at home.
- Don't leave the vehicle's title, credit cards, or checkbook in the glove box.

If you observe suspicious activity or person(s) around a vehicle, call the police immediately to report the location, description of vehicle, activity and person(s), and any other pertinent information for the police to investigate.

Vehicle Parking

A reminder to residents of some of our parking ordinances.

- No parking within 30 feet of a stop sign or traffic light;
- No parking on the fire hydrant side of any street or roadway within the City;
- No parking in marked Handicapped Parking spaces unless the vehicle is displaying a valid removable windshield placard or special license plates;
- No Overnight Parking of any vehicle on any street within the City between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- No parking of any vehicle on certain designated and posted City streets when snow accumulation is two inches (2") or more.
- No parking or storing out-of-repair, dismantled or unlicensed motor vehicles on any property for more than 24 hours.

Landscaping Contractors' Permits Required

Permits are required for any person, firm or corporation conducting landscaping services in the City. Prior to the issuance of a permit, the applicant must furnish the make, model and serial number of any vehicles to be used, along with the name, address and telephone number of the owner and operator of such vehicles. Each applicant shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each permit which is in effect from January 1 to December 31 of each year. Prior to the issuing of any permit, each applicant is required to furnish proof of insurance. Applications for Landscaping Permits can be obtained, and permits are issued, at the Police Department.

Department Updates

Building Department

Dale Grabfelder, Building Commissioner

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed the Flood Map Modernization Program. There have been several areas of the city that have been placed into the High Risk Flood zone (100 year flood plain). If your property has been placed into this Zone, you likely have received a letter from your lending company requiring you to secure flood insurance.

Flood insurance can be very costly. The City is in the process of gathering information to develop a policy on what can be done to assist our residences with this situation.

FEMA has developed a Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility Extension program. This program, if you qualify, helps property owners receive a two-year lower cost insurance. You may read more on this matter by visiting the FEMA web site at: www.FloodSmart.gov/PRPEExtension. The Building Department will also have copies of this program for you to pick up at our office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Building Commissioner at 440-442-7403 or Assistant City Engineer Brian Mader at 216-731-6255.

Living in northeast Ohio, everyone is very familiar with SNOW. As I drive through the city, it has become apparent that snow plow operators are not adhering to our city ordinance on the placement of snow. It seems the majority are blocking the sidewalks. Please contact your snow plow company and remind them to push the snow away from the sidewalks and mailboxes.

Ordinance Changes - Over the past few months, there have been changes to several city ordinances as explained below.

Sign Ordinance - The ordinance has changed concerning the placement of construction signs. These signs are allowed but must conform to the following regulations. The sign can only be 6 square feet in area. The signs can only be placed in the yard during the construction period. Once construction is completed, the signs must be removed. No sign shall be placed in the city right of way or side yards of corner lots. Only one sign per residence is permitted.

Fence Ordinance - This ordinance has been changed to protect above ground pools and hot tubs. If you install a new pool this year, the following needs to be done. If the ladder is removable, it must be removed when the pool is not in use. If the pool comes with a permanent ladder, the ladder must be capable of being locked in the "up" position when not in use. If your above ground pool has a deck installed, then the ladder needs to be blocked or gated so no one can enter the pool area when the pool is not in use.

Spas and Hot Tubs - If your spa or hot tub is above ground, the cover needs to be secured so the cover cannot be easily removed when not in use.

House Address Display - Please remember to check your house address display. Make sure your address is visible from the street. The numbers should be 3-1/2 to 4 inches in height. This will make it easier for our safety forces to find your house in the case of an emergency.

The new construction season is approaching. When you start thinking of new projects, please call the building department to inquire about any permits that may be required. Permits are our only way of protecting the residents from unsafe construction and buildings. Please feel free to contact me or the building department staff at 442-7403 with any questions or concerns you may have.



Early Bird Savings



Register before April 21
to save on Pool and Day Camp Fees



Walk In Registrations at Community Center
Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 - Noon
Wednesday, April 20 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Or Register by Mail Before April 21, 2011

Mail registration and check to:
City of Highland Heights
Recreation Department
5827 Highland Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143

T-Ball, Softball and Baseball
Photo IDs will be taken
Saturday, May 21 at the Community Center



Day Camp Parent Orientation
Thursday, June 9, 2011, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
at the Community Center

Seniors Scoop

Tri City Consortium on Aging

Stacey O'Brien, Director
216-291-3902

The Tri-City Consortium on Aging is happy to welcome the city of Mayfield Heights as the fourth city the organization serves. This new partnership will ensure residents of Mayfield Heights have access to quality programs and services. We'll be undergoing some exciting organizational changes in the coming months and are currently looking for suggestions for a new name and logo that reflect our mission. Please send any comments or ideas to contactus@tri-cityseniors.org or mail them to 1370 Victory Drive, South Euclid, OH 44121.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Spring Into Wellness Event will be held at the Ross DeJohn Community Center on June 1st. Please check the Tri-City Senior News in coming months for details.

If you or someone you know is living with a chronic health condition, you might be interested in a Chronic Disease Self Management Class that will be held in a six-week session beginning in May. This class will help to educate participants how to better manage stress and fatigue, improve communication, and understand how the right diet and exercise program can help control the symptoms of your illness. If you are interested, contact Therese at 216-650-4029

Upcoming Trips - call 440-473-5138 for information.

- March 30-31 - Seneca Allegany Casino and Hotel. \$140 per person for a double
- April 12 - West Side Market with lunch at the Tri-C Hospitality Management Restaurant - \$31
- April 27 - Katherine Hepburn Exhibit at the Kent State Fashion Museum and a tour of the University - \$46
- May 31-June 2 - West Virginia Train Trip - \$445 per person for a double room
- May 22 - Optimistic Voices : Songs for Tough Times - St. Ignatius High School Breen Center - \$TBA



Tri-City Consortium on Aging continues to offer volunteer services to older adults (60+ years) in the Highland Heights community. Presently, we are offering assistance with computer technology, simple repairs (excluding plumbing and electrical), small errands, garage cleaning, and friendly visits. In addition, community members of all ages are encouraged to form a SPRING YARD CLEANUP TEAM of two or more individuals to assist older residents in April or May. Just a few hours of your time can make a big difference in the life of an older adult! For more information, please call Corinne Dunn, Volunteer Coordinator, at 216-291-3902. Please remember to check our website for the latest information on programs, services and volunteer opportunities at www.tri-cityseniors.org.

AARP Tax Assistance Program at Highland Heights Community Center

Appointments are still available for March and April.

Call Mary Velotta for an appointment at [440-461-2440](tel:440-461-2440).

Highland Heights Commission on Aging Health Fair

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free Health Screening Tests and Much More

Bake sale proceeds for senior services

For information about the Health Fair, contact Mary at [440-461-2440](tel:440-461-2440).

Miscellaneous Information

From the Lyndhurst Municipal Court

At the close of Judge Bozza's 11th year in office, the Probation Department provided its annual food and hygiene donations to residential treatment centers for men and women. This program is generated by the probationers' community service projects in the spirit of "pay it forward".



Drivers turn on your lights! Not only are drivers required to turn on their lights from sunset to sunrise, they are also required to turn on lights whenever the windshield wipers are in use, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 4513.03.

Driving while text messaging! The City of Lyndhurst has recently adopted an ordinance prohibiting text messaging while driving pursuant to Lyndhurst Codified Ordinance 432.43. Drivers can anticipate that other communities will adopt similar ordinances for driver safety.

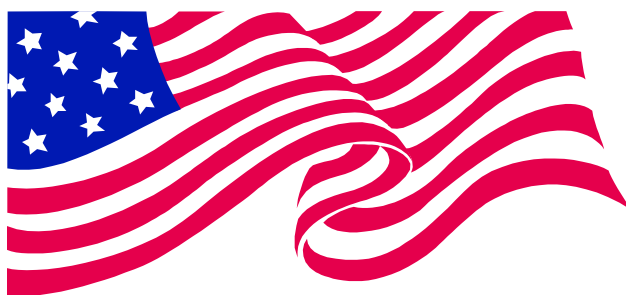
The Court's construction project is nearing its completion. We are now selecting furniture for the probation and clerk's offices. We look forward to opening our new space, which includes a second jury courtroom, very soon.

The next Men's Make the Right Choice program is scheduled for Friday April 15, 2011 at 9:15 a.m. at the Lyndhurst Community Center. These programs are open to the public and include lunch. There is no admission fee. If you are interested in being educated about alcohol and substance abuse, please call Patti Anderson at 440 461-6500 ext 205.

Veterans Peace Memorial Ceremony

Highland Heights Municipal Complex
Monday, May 30, 2011 at 10:00

"A Day of Remembrance"



Please join us on Memorial Day to remember those who have died in service to our country.

Free reception immediately following at the Community Center.

Miscellaneous Information



LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. PHILLIP PRICE

MAYFIELD SCHOOLS LEVY CYCLE STRETCHED FROM THREE TO FOUR YEARS

Dear Resident,

This letter is to explain a recent decision made by the Mayfield Board of Education at their January 19, 2011 meeting. This decision, based on recommendations presented by the Superintendent and Treasurer, affects every homeowner in the district.

The policy of the Board with regard to requesting levies is to limit requests to once every three years whenever possible. Maintaining that policy has been extremely difficult given the state's recent fiscal situation and unfunded mandates that have cost Mayfield Schools millions of dollars a year.

Knowing that funds would be scarce, the district has imposed strict controls on spending over the past several years. Those decisions were often difficult because we did not want to compromise the excellent education our students receive. Your Board of Education has reduced the budget more than \$2.5 million over the past three years. Implementing our conservative spending plan, while sometimes painful, was the right thing to do. We have set priorities and stuck to them, as every family must in financially challenging times.

Today those reductions have allowed us to maintain a stable financial environment for our district. We are operating in a lean but responsible manner, focusing every possible dollar on classroom instruction, and requiring that every budget request be closely scrutinized.

We are pleased to report that as a result of this careful budgeting, the Board of Education will not request that an operating levy be placed on the ballot in the Spring of 2011 - even though this is the third year of the budget cycle. By extending the levy interval to four years, we believe it will be easier for families to budget and for seniors and others on fixed incomes to better cope with their property taxes.

Mayfield's two-year consecutive ranking of "Excellent With Distinction" on the Ohio Report Card stirred pride throughout the district and reinforced our theme of "A Tradition of Excellence." We enter 2011 realizing that there are enormous budget challenges on the horizon for all schools in Ohio. For now, however, we believe that stretching Mayfield Schools levy cycle to a fourth year is an appropriate and justifiable course.

Miscellaneous Information

Highland Heights Lion Club

The Lions Club will sell Mothers Day Carnations at the corner of Highland Road and Bishop Road and at the Home Depot parking lot beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 7th.



Lions Club trash bags for Spring and Summer clean-up can be purchased at Bud Ley and Sons on Highland Road, Jim's Barbershop on Bishop Road and Postal Annex on Wilson Mills Road.

Highland Heights Garden Club

Our special fundraising event is our March 19th "Clean your Attic Sale", held at the Community Center. You won't want to miss out on all the many treasures available from our members and other vendors. Approximately 45 tables will be available to browse and purchase items. It is free and open to the public. Doors open at 9 a.m.



On April 13th our program is the Cultivation and Slides of the Iris, with Bob Pinndale, Iris Specialist, and a Highland Heights resident. Our May 11th program will be, Photographing Your Flowers and Scrap-booking Your Photos. Carl Straub, an award- winning photographer will share some of his techniques for great floral photos. Then a representative of Creative Creations will use our photos to create greeting cards or scrapbook pages. And on June 8th, our Annual Picnic with local Cleveland Historian, Dan Ruminski presenting a brief program entitled "The Francis Drury Story," telling of his role in Cleveland's floral history.

The Garden Club is actively involved in working with City Council to start up a Community Garden in H.H. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please contact Noreen Paradise at 440-667-7564.

Won't you consider joining our interesting garden club? We cover topics for all nature lovers and plant enthusiasts. We meet September through June, the second Wed. of the month at 6:30 p.m. During the summer months we often take tours of gardening related places and this June we will be visiting a local goat dairy and creamery, Lucky Penny Farm in Garrettsville. Call Sharon Daviso, Membership Chairman if questions or more information is needed. (440-446-9395)

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY**

APRIL 9, 2011 FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

Highland Heights Community Center at 5827 Highland Road



\$3.00 per person

Tickets will be available at City Hall beginning March 9
Crafts * Entertainment * Refreshments * Picture Gift with Special Guest

Magician Rick Smith Jr.



**American Cancer Society
Hillcrest Area Relay for Life**
(Including Gates Mills, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield, Richmond Hts. and South Euclid)

Saturday June 11 to Sunday June 12
Mayfield High School
6166 Wilson Mills Road
Mayfield Village, Ohio 44143

Open to the Public!

Find out how to get involved in the American Cancer Society's
largest event to fight against cancer.

Create a team, join a team, help on the committee.

For more information or to form a team, please visit their website at:
www.RelayForLife.org/hillcrest or contact Katie Crea at 888-227-6446, extension 1201.

Save the Date!

Saturday, August 6, 2011
Highland Heights Community Day
Community Park @ 5905 Wilson Mills



We are currently in the process of accepting participants and vendors for this year's event. Contact Chuck Brunello at 440-567-7771 or cbru@roadrunner.com.

Anyone interested in volunteering to serve on the committee, please contact Chuck Brunello at 440-567-7771 or cbru@roadrunner.com or Lisa Stickan at 440-759-1106 or lstickan@highlandhts.com.



Highland Heights 2011 Calendar of Events

March 31	T-Ball Registration Deadline
April - All Month	Computer Round Up at Service Department 8:00 - 3:30
April 2	Shredding Day at Service Department from 9:00 - 1:00
April 2	Household Hazardous Waste Collection
April 4 - June 10	Brush Collection - Please call Service Department to arrange for pick up
April 9	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Community Center from 10:00 - 11:30
April 16	Early Bird Walk-In Registration from 9:00 to Noon at Community Center
April 20	Early Bird Walk-In Registration from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Early Bird Fees End
April 21	Regular Fees for Day Camp and Pool Begin
May 2 - 13	Household Hazardous Waste Collection 8:00 - 3:30 weekdays
May 14	Household Hazardous Waste Collection 9:00 - 2:00
May 4	Senior Health and Wellness Fair 1:00 - 3:00 at Community Center
May 21	Baseball Pictures taken at Community Center
May 27	Summer Program Registration Deadline Except for Pool
June 9	Day Camp Parent Orientation - Community Center 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
June 10	Pool Opens & ½ Season Pool Pass Begins
June 13	Day Camp Starts
June 13	Swim Lesson First 4-Week Session Starts
June 13	Tennis Lesson First Session Starts
July 4	No Day Camp, Swim or Tennis Lessons
July 11	Swim Lesson Second 4-Week Session Starts
July 11	Tennis Lesson Second Session Starts
July 18	½ Season Pool Pass Starts
August - All Month	Computer Round Up at Service Department 8:00 - 3:30
August 5, 6 & 7	Annual Tennis Tournament
August 5	Day Camp Ends
August 6	Community Day at Highland Heights Community Park
August 7	Swim Team Meet
September 14	Commission on Aging Picnic at Community Center from 12:00 - 2:30
September 5 - 16	Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Service Department 8-3:30 (weekdays)
September 17	Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Service Department 9:00 - 2:00 (Sat.)
October 1	Shred Day from 9:00 to 1:00
October 22	Children's Halloween Party
December 7	Commission on Aging Seniors Holiday Celebration
December 10	Children's Holiday Party

**City of Highland Heights
2011 City Roster**



Mayor Scott E. Coleman 440-461-2440 scoleman@highlandhts.com

2011 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

President Scott A. Mills, At Large	440-477-5883	smills@highlandhts.com
Cathy S. Murphy, Ward 1	440-442-3809	cmurphy@highlandhts.com
Leo R. Lombardo, Ward 2	440-449-2881	llombardo@highlandhts.com
Robert Mastrangelo, Ward 3	440-442-2854	rmastrangelo@highlandhts.com
Lisa Marie Stickan, Ward 4	440-759-1106	lstickan@highlandhts.com
Edwin V. Hargate, At Large	440-473-5476	ehargate@highlandhts.com
Frank J. Legan, At Large	440-449-0645	flegan@highlandhts.com
Jean Buchak, Clerk of Council	440-461-2440	jbuchak@highlandhts.com

CITY OFFICIALS

Building Comm. Dale Grabfelder	440-461-2440	dgrabfelder@highlandhts.com
City Engineer Steve Hovancsek	216-255-1883	bmader@hovancsek.com
Community Ctr. Coord. Judy Dick	440-461-2440	jdick@highlandhts.com
Finance Director Anthony Ianiro	440-442-7404	aianiro@highlandhts.com
Fire Chief William Turner	440-442-7406	wturner@highlandhtsfire.com
Law Director Tim Paluf	216-696-9555	tpaluf@highlandhts.com
Recreation Director David Ianiro	440-461-2440	coach1212@aol.com
Police Chief James Cook	440-442-8825	hpolice@neohio.twcbc.com
Prosecutor Dan Taylor	216-241-1400	dnlwtaylor@yahoo.com
Recreation Director David Ianiro	440-461-2440	coach1212@aol.com
Senior Coordinator Mary Velotta	440-461-2440	mvelotta@highlandhts.com
Service Director Thom Evans	440-461-2440	tevans@highlandhts.com
Highland Heights Community Pool	440-442-2423	5905 Wilson Mills Road

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Tri City Consortium on Aging, Stacey O'Brien	216-291-3902
Highland Heights Commission on Aging, Emil Lucarelli	440-442-5408
Highland Heights 50+ Club, Shirley Flanagan	440-442-5408
Highland Heights Garden Club, Helen Vlastic	216-481-0894
Highland Heights Lion's Club, Rick Eisenberg	440-449-2119
Hillcrest Rotary	216-381-1700

MISCELLANEOUS PHONE NUMBERS

Cleveland Division of Water	216-664-3060
Cuyahoga County Auditor	216-443-7010
Cuyahoga County Board of Elections	216-443-3200
Cuyahoga County Board of Health	216-201-2000
Cuyahoga County Court House (Marriage Licenses)	216-443-8922
Cuyahoga County Mayfield Public Library	440-473-0350
Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineering (plugged sewers, dye tests)	216-443-8201
Dominion East Ohio Gas	800-362-7557
First Energy	800-589-3101
J&J Refuse Trash Pick Up	800-201-0005
Lyndhurst Municipal Court, 5301 Mayfield Road	440-461-6500
Mayfield Board of Education District #1819	440-995-7200
Richmond Heights Post Office	800-275-8777

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER - The community center has two rooms with an adjoining kitchen available to rent for your parties or meetings. The City wants to assure that your events are everything you want them to be. To help this happen, we are asking that when children are at the event, they be monitored for their own safety and also so there is no damage done to the Community Center. The staff of the Community Center is there to make sure the building is in the best condition for your party, not for taking care of children who attend events. So, if children are present, please make sure they stay in the room where the party is taking place and that they are monitored. Please call Judy Dick at 440-461-2440, ext. 149 or e-mail jdick@highlandhts.com for more information. You can also find more information on room rentals at www.highlandhts.com.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Legislative and Finance
Leo Lombardo, Chairman
Cathy Murphy
Lisa Marie Stickan

Safety and Service
Frank Legan
Bob Mastrangelo
Edwin Hargate, Chairman

Drainage
Cathy Murphy, Chairman
Frank Legan
Leo Lombardo

City Council Meeting Schedule
2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 8:00 p.m.

For utility rate information
Call PUCO at (800) 686-7826
For NOPEC information on
Electricity, call 1-800-292-9284
Gas, call 1-888-848-7914

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

US Representative District 14
Steven C. LaTourette
1 Victoria Place, Room 320
Painesville, Ohio 44077
(440) 352-3939
email: www.house.gov/writerep

US Senator Rob Portman
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3353

US Senator Sherrod Brown
600 East Superior Ave., Room 2450
Cleveland, Ohio 44144
(216) 522-7272

State Senator District 18
Timothy J. Grendell
Senate Bldg., Room 034
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 644-7718
email: SD18@mailr.sen.state.oh.us

State Representative District 98
Richard Hollington
77 S. High Street, 10th floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-644-5088
Email: district98@ohr.state.oh.us



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HOLIDAY RUBISH COLLECTION
Memorial Day - Monday May 30th
All routes will be delayed by one day!

The following holidays are observed by the city's rubbish/recycling contractor:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| New Years Day | Labor Day |
| Memorial Day | Thanksgiving Day |
| Independence Day | Christmas Day |



Any time these holidays fall on a weekday OTHER THAN Friday, rubbish collection from that day on will be delayed one day during that week.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Good Friday, April 22 | Labor Day, September 5 |
| Memorial Day, May 30 | Thanksgiving, November 24 and 25 |
| Independence Day, July 4 | Christmas, December 23 and 26 |