



The ^{WH} Village Voice

September 2015, Issue 10

From the Office of the Mayor...



Fellow Residents:

Labor Day is upon us. Welcome to fall. Here is a summary of activity in the Village over the past few months.

New Clerk-Treasurer

Bernice Schreiber started as our new Clerk-Treasurer on July 1. Bernice is a certified public accountant who came to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience stemming from her eight years of service as fiscal officer at the Village of Bentleyville. Bernice hit the ground running after spending three weeks of on-the-job training with Janet Mulh during June.

Speaking of Janet, the Village was fortunate to have her eighteen years of dedicated service before leaving for Gates Mills for a full-time opportunity. Janet was honored for her years of service at the July Council meeting.

Finances

Generating sufficient revenues to pay our expenses continues to be a substantial challenge. As noted in the last edition of The Village Voice, we ran at an overall cash flow deficit of \$263,829 in calendar 2014. This was in line with our forecast and matched our projections when discussing the Safety and Service Levy that was passed at the end of 2013. Our entire effort at this juncture is to give ourselves the longest runway possible with our existing dollars and assets as we seek ways to supplement our revenue and trim expenses. Unfortunately, like virtually all municipal entities and private business, we have little to no control over such items as insurance, health care and similar items. As I said during my last newsletter, as we continue to search for solutions (and we welcome the input of anybody who might have ideas in this regard), it is important to remind everybody that the Village faces very real fiscal challenges. Deficit spending will catch up with us in time.

On a more positive note, we were able to refinance our Village Hall bonds at the end of June. The former bonds paid annual interest at the rate of 4%. We were able to refinance them at a rate of 2.66% with the right to refinance again in five years. While we do not anticipate a refinancing five years from now, we did not anticipate one five years ago either, when the bonds were originally issued. The market for these instruments improved dramatically from the Village's standpoint, however, over the five years following original issuance. We were able to capitalize in this change in the market by cutting our interest costs by over a third.

Office of the Mayor continued on page 3

The WH Village Voice is published quarterly for the residents of Waite Hill Village by Village Council. It is also available online at www.waitehilloh.gov. Please submit any updates on births, deaths, weddings and other news to share with fellow residents to villagevoice@waitehilloh.gov or by mail at 7215 Eagle Road, Attn: Village Voice.

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The Waite Hill Police Beat



Hello to all residents.

Now that summer is about gone, and the dreaded winter is just around the corner, we have to remember to take care with pedestrian traffic and school buses. Our Village has had an increase of traffic over the years. There have been a few incidents with crashes and near misses of pedestrians versus vehicles. We are trying to be diligent with the speeding vehicles on our roadways. Please contact us with any areas of concern that you may have.

We have received a few complaints of golf carts being operated on the roadways with children driving them. So everyone is aware, this type of vehicle is not permitted to be operated on our roadways. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or anyone else at the police department.

This year, we have seen an increase in residents receiving scam letters in the mail, via email, and by telephone. If you are the recipient of anything suspicious, please do not hesitate to contact the police department for help verifying the legitimacy of any communications. There also have been scams involving threatening IRS calls that reference being sued if you do not cooperate with the phone caller. I personally received one of these calls and reported it to the Attorney General's Office.

Deer season is approaching fast, and they are already on the move throughout the Village. Unfortunately, the deer are not too traffic "savvy" and think they own the roads. So, please be extra careful when driving. While deer-involved crashes can occur anytime, most mishaps happen between the hours of 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. because deer are "crepuscular" meaning that they are most active at dawn and dusk. Defensive driving is the best way to avoid hitting these animals. Be particularly cautious at dusk and dawn when deer are the most active.

As many of you probably saw already, there were bear sightings in Kirtland around the area of Hobart Road. Please remember not to have pet food or other food products outside near your home. Usually, bears are more afraid of you and wander off when they see people; however, I'd rather discourage them than invite them to stay in the Village. They usually pass through by way of the river beds and creeks on various properties. You may remember, we have had a few bears walk through the Village over the years. Take a look at the link: <http://fox8.com/2015/08/18/photos-show-black-bear-walking-through-kirtland-mans-yard>.

Please remember, if you notice anything that does not look right or looks suspicious, please contact us. The best way to reach an officer is through the dispatcher at 440-942-1660. If it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

The Waite Hill Village Police Department, as always, looks forward to serving the community. Your safety and security is always our concern!

Respectfully submitted,
Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police

In Memorium...

Our deepest sympathies go out to anyone who has lost a loved one in recent months. We'd like to especially recognize members of our Waite Hill community that have passed away.

Anthony S. Ocepek July 3
James A. Brown July 29

Service Department Update

Greetings from the Service Department. Where did the summer go? Fall and Winter are closing in fast. Road salt prices have stabilized this season and we have an ample supply in our storage shed for winter use. For your safety and ours, please remember to slow down and provide plenty of clearance for our trucks.

The Lake County Solid Waste Management District will be having a household hazardous waste collection at the Lake County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Examples of accepted items are: pesticides, fertilizer, oil based paints and stain. NO latex or water based paint will be accepted. If you have any additional questions about this program, please call 440-350-2908.

We would like to remind all residents to please tie your garbage bags before we pick up on Fridays. Some trash tends to get blown out of our trucks and we try hard to keep our Village litter free. If you have heavy or oversized items, please call us to schedule a Thursday extra pickup.

We recently closed Metcalf Road to address the erosion issue along the edges. We would like to thank the residents for your patience while we completed this work.

Lastly, please take notice of the date changes on the calendar for extra pick-ups and trash pick-ups during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 440-942-2074.

Mike McClain
Service Director



Save the Date!

October 24th, 5:00-7:00pm

Waite Hill Village Halloween Celebration



We are looking for your input!

Please call the Village Hall to share your ideas about the Halloween Celebration

or to join our planning committee.

(Or send an email to villagevoice@waitehilloh.gov.)

To help defray costs of the party, donations are graciously accepted. Please make checks

Village Update from the Mayor (continued)

Service Department and Road Program

Crack sealing of our roads will soon begin. This activity, together with significant repairs, has become the norm in virtually all surrounding communities as action is undertaken to prolong the life of those roads. Waite Hill is no exception in this regard. Our challenge is compounded by fact that, between having our share of the State of Ohio local government fund cut in half, the elimination of the estate tax in Ohio, and our annual deficits, there has been no source from which the Street Maintenance and Repair (SMR) Fund can be replenished. Though SMR does have a current balance, it is not expected that the balance will last more than a few years as repairs increase and, ultimately, some roads will need to be replaced.

Council and I have just begun to explore funding alternatives for roads. Stay tuned as data is gathered and details begin to take shape.

Police and Safety

There have been several occurrences of crime in neighboring communities over the past several months. This leads Chief DeWitt and me to remind you that, even in Waite Hill, you can never be too careful. Take the customary precautions to ensure your safety. Keep your doors and windows secure, use your alarm systems and, most importantly, do not hesitate to report suspicious activity or circumstances. You can never be too safe in this ever-changing world of ours.

We will be offering flu shots at Village Hall. Please look for a flyer in your mailbox with details in the near future. Additionally, if you are in need of help with disposing expired prescription drugs, please contact Chief DeWitt for more details.

Village Website

Remember to stay on top of all Village happenings by visiting our website, www.waitehilloh.gov.

Please do not hesitate to call Village Hall or e-mail us with any questions, comments or concerns that you have. As always, we will do our best to address them. Again, thank you for your time and interest.

Very truly yours,

Bob Ranallo

Congratulations!

Julie and Ryan Cox of Metcalf Road welcomed their daughter Claire to their family on August 9th. We wish them all the very best!



Village Meeting Schedule:
(all meetings held at Village Hall)

Council Meeting

2nd Monday of every month
8:00am

Planning and Zoning Meeting

4th Monday of every month
8:00am



NOPEC has been receiving several reports of door to door solicitors from energy marketers stating that our community is no longer a member of NOPEC. These claims are false.

Before, any supplier can move a customer to another program, they will receive a recession letter from the utility. Any inappropriate sales behavior from an energy marketer should be reported to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) at 800-686-7826 or by visiting www.puco.ohio.gov.

SEPTEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	 3	 4	5
6		8	9	 10	 11	12
13	 14	15	16	 17	 18	19
20	21	22	23	 24	 25	 26
27	 28	29	30			

-  Council Meeting 8am
-  Planning and Zoning Meeting 8am
-  Trash Only
-  Trash and Recycle
-  Extra Pick-ups



Labor Day



Hazardous Waste Collection - Fairgrounds



Village Halloween Celebration



Daylight Saving Time Ends



Thanksgiving



Christmas



New Year's Day

OCTOBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				 1	 2	3
4	5	6	7	 8	 9	10
11	 12	13	14	 15	 16	17
18	19	20	21	 22	 23	 24
25	 26	27	28	 29	 30	31

NOVEMBER

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22	 23	24	 25	 26	 27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

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27	 28	29	 30	 31		

JANUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
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