

Dear Waite Hill Resident:

This *Village Voice* will be the last one that you receive via hard copy.

The US Postal Service has informed the Village that it will no longer allow Waite Hill employees to place Village mail in your mailbox. Mayor Ranallo and Village Council considered options for newsletter delivery and decided to deliver the newsletter via e-mail from now on. This delivery method will save on postage, printing, personnel, and supply costs.

So that we can have accurate records to get you the next *Village Voice* newsletter, will you please:

- Contact the Clerk-Treasurer at [bschreiber@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:bschreiber@waitehilloh.gov) or the Chief at [chief@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:chief@waitehilloh.gov) with your preferred e-mail address or addresses? A quick e-mail from your preferred accounts with "Verify" in the subject line and your name, address and cell phone number in the body of the response to either of the addresses above will put you on the distribution list for the next newsletter, or
- If you prefer to send your information through the US Mail, please return this page to the **Waite Hill Village Hall at 7215 Eagle Road, Waite Hill, Ohio 44094** with your name and e-mail listed.
- If you do not have access to the internet, just let us know by returning this letter to the **Waite Hill Village Hall at 7215 Eagle Road, Waite Hill, Ohio 44094**. Sign your name below and include your telephone number. The Clerk-Treasurer will print out a copy of the newsletter for you.

The database of e-mails that we collect will be distributed to Village employees only. The Chief will use this database for emergency information, when he considers that communication necessary for your safety. Additionally, Mayor Ranallo will send Village-wide letters via e-mail from now on.

Thank you for your help in getting this database assembled.

Please deliver my *Village Voice* newsletter to the following e-mail account:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

I do not have access to the internet. Please let me know when a new issue of the *Village Voice* is available.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



# The <sup>WH</sup> Village Voice

September 2016, Issue 12

## *From the Office of the Mayor...*

Fellow Residents:

As I sit here on August 15 to give an update on Village happenings, it is another tangible reminder of just how quickly time passes. Since last writing, the Cavs have brought us our first championship in 52 long, painstaking years, the Republican convention enabled Cleveland to shine throughout the land, and the Indians are leading the Central Division in mid-August; all are reasons to celebrate. So, we should all enjoy the journey. There are many reasons to celebrate, and we are truly blessed.



Below is a briefing on the latest goings-on in the Village.

### Village Voice and Other Communications to go Digital

For the last four years, the *Village Voice*, along with other Village communications, have been distributed in paper format. Because of restrictions imposed by the local postal authorities and an elevated level of enforcement, we no longer will be able to leave communications in your mailboxes.

As a result of these changes, this is the last edition of the *Village Voice* that will be distributed to your residences. All future editions of the *Voice*, as well as all Village communications, will be sent via email transmission and posted to the Village's website: [www.waitehilloh.gov](http://www.waitehilloh.gov). We will also have printed copies of all correspondence available at Village Hall to those who wish to have communications in that format.

In order to facilitate distribution and help improve our communications, our police department and our Clerk-Treasurer will be collecting email addresses and mobile telephone numbers, so that group communications can be effectively disseminated. If you should be asked for such information, this is the underlying reason why.

We are asking all residents to let us know your email address(es) (more than one is fine) and your mobile telephone number(s) so that we can reach you with Village communications. This will help us "get the word out" on a timely and efficient basis. Please stop by Village Hall, call Bernice at 942-1612, or complete the enclosed information sheet and send to the following email addresses: [bschreiber@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:bschreiber@waitehilloh.gov); [chief@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:chief@waitehilloh.gov) so you are included in future communications. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation with this request

"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](http://www.waitehilloh.gov). Please submit any updates on births, deaths, weddings and other news to share with fellow residents to [villagevoice@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:villagevoice@waitehilloh.gov) or by mail at 7215 Eagle Road, Attn: Village Voice.

The Village of Waite Hill  
7215 Eagle Road  
Waite Hill, OH 44094

[www.waitehilloh.gov](http://www.waitehilloh.gov)

Mayor:

Robert A. Ranallo  
[branallo@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:branallo@waitehilloh.gov)

Council President:

Ryan W. Cox  
[rcox@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:rcox@waitehilloh.gov)

Council/Zoning:

Sam Knezevic  
[sknezevic@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:sknezevic@waitehilloh.gov)

Council/Finance:

Karl F. Scheucher  
[kscheucher@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:kscheucher@waitehilloh.gov)

Council/Safety:

Courtenay O. Taplin  
[ctaplin@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:ctaplin@waitehilloh.gov)

Council/Service:

Robert I. Gale III  
[rgale@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:rgale@waitehilloh.gov)

Council:

Richard A. Steudel, Jr.  
[rsteudel@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:rsteudel@waitehilloh.gov)

Council:

Marcia A. Merritt  
[mmerritt@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:mmerritt@waitehilloh.gov)

Police Chief:

Keith A. DeWitt  
(440) 942-6279  
[kdewitt@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:kdewitt@waitehilloh.gov)

Clerk-Treasurer:

Bernice Schreiber  
(440) 942-1612  
[bschreiber@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:bschreiber@waitehilloh.gov)

Public Service Director:

Mike McClain  
(440) 942-2074  
[mmcclain@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:mmcclain@waitehilloh.gov)

Law Director:

Stephen Byron  
[sbyron@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:sbyron@waitehilloh.gov)

# The Waite Hill Police Beat



Hello to all residents!

Our officers continue to obtain signatures for our “Unwanted Visitors” list. The Village offers each resident the opportunity to sign a form that will indicate whether or not they wish to allow uninvited visitors on their property. Residents who sign the form will have their names placed on a list of persons who do not wish to have any uninvited visitors. Those who do not sign the form will be placed on a list of persons who do not object to uninvited visitors coming on to their property for canvassing purposes. This list is issued to persons who wish to canvass Village residents. Those canvassing commercially must register with the Village. Canvassers who wish to speak on non-commercial matters (candidates for political office, ballot issues, religion, etc.) are not required to register with the Village.

Our officers will be participating in the 2016 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign, which starts Friday, August 19 and runs through Monday, September 5. Nearly one third of traffic related deaths are caused by impaired driving. This campaign aims to combat impaired driving and increase safety on the roadways.

With some recent storms comes the possibility for power outages. Call 1-888-LIGHTSS or report online at [www.firstenergycorp.com/ReportOutages](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/ReportOutages). Please keep the police dispatchers free to handle emergencies!

As a reminder, our surrounding communities are experiencing multiple thefts and break-ins, so please be diligent keeping your vehicle and home locked. The best deterrents are alarm systems and well-lit properties. Motion lights seem to help when you have them at the four corners of your home. A big reason for the increase of this type of criminal activity is related to drug use. Heroin is turning into an epidemic problem, and people are becoming very desperate in finding ways to continue their addiction. These individuals are doing whatever it takes to feed the addiction.

Recently we have received complaints regarding possible scams. As always, do not provide any personal information over the phone if you suspect you are being scammed. A recent scam targeting the elderly has been making its way through our area. In this scam, a person posing as a “family member” will state that he/she has been arrested and requires bail money by way of prepaid Visa gift cards. They often will use “spoofed” or fake phone numbers that appear to be coming from a jail or a police department. Other scams involve IRS calls and are threatening in nature. To prevent yourself from falling victim to this scam, know that the IRS does **NOT: call to demand immediate payment about taxes owed without first sending you notification by mail; ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone; or threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement to arrest you for nonpayment.**

If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040, or if you think you have been scammed, call their helpline at 1-877-908-3360 for advice and guidance.

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

## Welcome to Waite Hill!

Zinovi & Svetlana Rozenshtrauk  
9710 Hobart Rd.

Christine N. Marsick & Robert J. Toma  
7450 Markell Rd.

John & Gail Sager  
9930 Hobart Rd.

Steve Matteo  
9926 Hobart Rd.

## Service Department Update

Greetings from the Service Department!

I would like to start by saying thank you to all of you who frequently stop to chat with us and thank us for the job we do. Our goal is to provide the residents with the best service, and we appreciate the compliments.

The service department is once again patching asphalt around the village. We have selected the highest priority areas in need of repair and will be grinding and patching as the weather permits. We will also be “crack sealing” many streets and intersections over the next few months. Crack sealing penetrates the deepest part of the asphalt fissure in a liquid form. When dry, it provides a waterproof barrier preventing water from entering and freezing. The freeze and thaw cycles during the winter months are mostly to blame for road deterioration.

A reminder to all residents, the service department cannot accept any yard waste, tires, fluorescent bulbs, or paints and stains on Thursday extra pick up or Friday trash.

We are aware that many of you have had issues with recycling not being picked up on scheduled weeks. The village contracts Recycle Midwest to provide our recycling service. If your recycling has not been picked up on the scheduled day, or you have any other questions regarding recycling, please call Recycle Midwest at 440-622-8702.

Mike McClain  
Service Director

# Village Update from the Mayor (continued)

## Summer Celebration a Success

Thank you to the many residents and families who showed up and made our summer celebration a success. Approximately one hundred people attended and enjoyed a couple of hours of fellowship with fellow residents and our loyal staff. The weather was beautiful, and we were able to recognize Paul deWit for his 30+ years of service to the Village. Paul retired on June 30, and his dedication and loyalty will be missed. Congratulations, Paul, and all the best to you in your retirement.

## Finances

This edition of the *Village Voice* includes a supplement that summarizes some of the basic numbers and facts affecting the Village's finances. Council President Ryan Cox and Finance Committee Chairman Karl Scheucher worked earnestly to gather this data from various sources, and Council as a whole is evaluating it and its impact on the Village. The data gives us a big-picture view of the impact of recent changes in funding on our revenue sources and what those changes mean to our long-term financial outlook. I encourage you to review their observations.

## Service Department; Road Projects; New Employee

In addition to its long list of day-to-day duties, the Service Department has spent extensive time tending to our roads. You have undoubtedly noticed many repairs as we work hard to stay on the front-end of the maintenance curve. This repair activity will be followed up by an extensive amount of crack sealing, in an effort to ready the roads for winter and defer the replacement of those roads for as long as possible.

The Service Department also added a new member, Cory Shook, as the successor to Paul deWit. Prior to joining the Village, Cory worked in the Geauga County Maintenance Department. We expect he will be a great addition to the team (the early reviews are good) and hope you will welcome him when you see him.

## Building Projects

There are three new residences being constructed in the Village, one on South Lane, one on Smith Road and the third in Creewood. The Village's Architectural Board of Review and Planning & Zoning Commission have been busy.

## Village Website

Remember to stay on top of all Village happenings by visiting our website, [www.waitehilloh.gov](http://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*

Robert A. Ranallo

## **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.

Carlton Baxter May 28, 2016  
Elizabeth Augustus June 19, 2016  
Judith Slabe June 30, 2016  
Vincent Gentiluomo July 6, 2016

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

Save the Date!

Waite Hill Halloween Celebration  
October 22, 2016



## SEPTEMBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	LABOR DAY	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	

## 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

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			

## DECEMBER

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

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

- Labor Day
- Waite Hill Halloween Party
- Daylight Saving Time Begins
- Election Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

## Village of Waite Hill – Numbers & Facts

### Revenues

- Property Taxes

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Village Property Valuation	\$49,170,000#	\$45,660,000#	-\$3,510,000/-7%
Number of Home Sites	211	225	+14/+6.5%
Property Tax Revenue	\$758,100	*\$694,500	-\$63,600/-8%

#Assessed values

\*Property Tax Revenue if 2013 6.02 mill levy had not passed.

1. Post 2013 levy, residents in the Waite Hill/Willoughby School District have the 30<sup>th</sup> highest and Waite Hill/Kirtland School District have the 34<sup>th</sup> highest property tax per \$100,000 valuation in the 88 taxing municipalities in Cuyahoga and Lake Counties.
2. Ohio legislation passed the repeal of the property tax rollback effective Jan. 1, 2014 where residents now pay 15% more.
3. Waite Hill only receives 27% and 25%, respectively, of every property tax dollar paid by residents living in the Kirtland School District and Willoughby/Eastlake School District. In contrast, those School Districts receive approximately 66% and 62%, respectively, of our real estate taxes.
4. Waite Hill has 2,708 acres of total land. 433 acres or 16% is tax exempt (owned by land conservancies, the Village or the county). These properties pay no real estate taxes.

- Interest Income

Avg. Interest Earnings 2008-2012	\$519,000
<u>Interest Earnings 2015</u>	<u>\$324,000</u>
Delta	-\$195,000/-37%

1. Bonds with higher yields started maturing in 2012 and reinvested in lower yielding securities due to changes in market conditions.
2. The Village is restricted to investing in US government bonds and investment grade corporate bonds with maturities of less than 10 years.

- Local Government Fund

LGF 2008	\$246,900
<u>LGF 2015</u>	<u>\$130,100</u>
Delta	-\$116,800/-47%

1. The Local Government Fund consists of proceeds received from the State. Starting in 2009, this fund has been in decline.

- Estate Tax

Last Major Estate Tax Revenue Received 2011	\$871,000
Total Estate Tax Proceeds Received 2002-2012	\$2,584,000
Avg. Annual Estate Tax Collection 2002-2012	\$235,000

1. The repeal of the Ohio Estate Tax became effective on Jan. 1, 2013.
2. Estate tax collections were deposited in to the Village's Capital Fund, which is used to pay for the purchase of capital expenditures (vehicles, equipment, etc.).
3. Interest earnings on the Capital Fund balance are used to help fund operations.
4. The repeal of the Ohio estate tax has resulted in the Village's Capital Fund being a diminishing fund as opposed to the replenishing fund that formerly existed.

#### Other Notes

1. Waite Hill does not have an income tax. Hunting Valley (repealed 2003) and Kirtland Hills are the only other neighbouring municipalities (other than townships which are not income taxing authorities) that do not have an income tax.
2. Waite Hill residents do not pay additional fees for trash pick-up and/or recycling. In Lake County, only North Perry and Kirtland Hills do not pay for trash pick-up and/or recycling.
3. The Village's average annual expense for road paving prior to 2014 is \$250,000. Grants are applied for when possible like the paving of Eagle Rd. Waite Hill has 10.5 miles of roads.
4. Waite Hill is at the minimum staff of 6 full-time officers (including the Chief) and 2 part-time officers to maintain 24-hour police coverage.
5. Waite Hill has 4 full time service employees (including the Service Director) providing 24-hour weather and emergency coverage.
6. Waite Hill has one part time Clerk-Treasurer that is responsible for all fiscal and Planning & Zoning administration.

#### To Fix the Deficit with Increased Millage

1. Projected deficit moving forward is \$300,000 to \$350,000 per year.
2. Based on current property tax millage, Waite Hill needs 50 new \$750,000 homes to cover this deficit.
3. In order to bridge the deficit gap now, Waite Hill would need to increase property tax by 7 mills or \$250 per \$100,000 of home property valuation.