



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

March 2016, Issue 11

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



Fellow Residents:

We hope all is well with you as we put February in the rear view mirror and look forward to spring. With the exception of a brief dust up in December, some of the expected cold that January ushered in and a few days of snow that were more of a nuisance than the typical northeast Ohio winter, we do not have much room to complain about the hand Mother Nature has dealt us so far this year.

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

### **Ken Dery Retirement; New Council Replacement**

After 23 years of dedicated service to Waite Hill as a Council representative, including the last 21 of those years with the added responsibility that comes along with serving as Chairman of the Village's Planning and Zoning Commission, our esteemed colleague, Ken Dery has retired from Council. Ken devoted countless hours, days and years in those roles, presided over more than a handful of contentious disputes, and worked selflessly and tirelessly to resolve complex zoning and property use issues that arose over the years. He took a lead role in rewriting the Village's zoning code in 2012, a task last undertaken in 1963. Ken has been a model public servant and we will all miss him. Fortunately for the Village, he has graciously agreed to continue chairing the Village's Planning and Zoning Commission. Please make it a point the next time you see Ken to thank him for his service. We have all benefitted from it.

Ken's replacement on Council is Sam Knezevic. Sam moved to Waite Hill from Highland Heights where he served as the Chairman of that community's Planning and Zoning Commission. Professionally, Sam has served as a corporate lawyer with the Sherwin-Williams Company and Thompson Hine. He was also the Chief Operating Officer of Elyria Foundry Company prior to its sale. Sam resides on Reserve Drive where he and his wife Patty built a new residence in 2010. They have four adult children.

As a side note, Karl Scheucher, Chair of Council's Finance Committee, and Marcia Merritt, Chair of Council's Community Outreach and Communication Committee, were each elected to serve a new four-year term this past November. Both were sworn in (along with Sam) at the January Council meeting.

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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.

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# The Waite Hill Police Beat



Hello to all residents!

On December 14, 2015, Officer Edward Sedmak was sworn-in as a new officer for the department. He started on December 16th and is in the field-training program with Officer Brian Beaumier. Edward lives in Mentor with his wife, Angela and their three-year-old son. You may have met him at the Halloween Party and if not he will be introducing himself to each of you soon.

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 have also been scams involving threatening IRS calls with reference to being sued if you do not cooperate with the phone caller. In addition, residents have reported phone calls claiming to be from Microsoft asking for computer and personal bank information in order to fix the resident's computer. Remember to never give personal information to phone solicitors. If anyone receives a call similar to those listed or a solicitor shows up at your door, please call our department at the non-emergency number (440-942-1660) or 9-1-1 if you feel it is necessary.

Cities around us have been experiencing home burglaries, car thefts, car break-ins, and thefts of UPS and Fed-Ex packages delivered to their doors within the last month. These have been occurring while no one is at home. Please be diligent in securing your home and vehicles. If you have a home or car alarm, please make sure they are activated. Please contact the department at 440-942-1660 if you should notice ANY suspicious activity, persons or vehicles. No call is too small to investigate.

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.

Some residents are still experiencing bad cell service and I can only suggest that you contact your cell service provider and ask for a network extender which will increase your signal strength within your home. We have one in both the police department and service department and results have been satisfactory.

Back in October, we had an incident involving a need for a rescue squad on Markell Road and the reporting person had difficulty completing a call to the 9-1-1 dispatch center. The caller had to drive his vehicle to the police department and use the lobby phone to contact dispatch. A second person who arrived on scene also experienced difficulty but eventually got through. Fortunately, the victim was okay; however, this certainly could have delayed the rescue's response to a more serious call in the future.

Happy New Year to all of our residents from the Waite Hill Police Department employees and I hope 2016 brings each of you happiness and good health. Stay safe and please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns or questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt  
Chief of Police

**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**

## Service Department Update

Greetings from the Service Department!

After a mild November and December it seems that Mother Nature is ready to give us winter weather. Please remember to slow down and be patient when the weather turns bad.

As a reminder, please call the Service Department (440-942-2074) to schedule extra pickups on or before Thursday. These pick-ups are for large or bulky items.

Many residents have contracted snow plowing for the winter season. Please remind your contractors that plowing snow across the roadway into or on another property is not permitted.

Long time Service Department employee, Paul deWitt will be retiring in April. Paul has been a dedicated and reliable asset to our village for over 30 years. Paul has been a valuable part of the Service Department, always willing to jump in and help with whatever needs to be done. Paul has provided the department with much knowledge from mechanical issues to village infrastructure. He will be missed by all. If you see Paul, please take time to congratulate and thank him for his dedication and service

Mike McClain  
Service Director

# Village Update from the Mayor (continued)

## Finances

Every edition of the Village Voice includes a section in which I drone on about the Village's financial condition. I am going to avoid that in this edition. Our financial condition and the challenges we face have not changed. While the safety and services levy passed in 2013 has better positioned us to manage our operating budget and day-to-day expenses, funding for roads and capital expenditures continues to be challenging. This is because the current investment climate yields low returns on our fund balances, and the repeal of the Ohio estate tax has eliminated any additions to our capital fund balance since 2012.

## Service Department

The Service Department is to be commended for its customary exceptional response to our winter season dustups and bluster to date. They consistently keep our roads safe and passable under oftentimes-stressful conditions. Better yet, the unseasonably warm weather has given them a head start on spring projects. Needless to say, with four individuals responsible for servicing the needs of the entire Village, our Service Department remains extremely busy.

## Police and Safety

The Police Department has added a new member to the force, Officer Ed Sedmak. Officer Sedmak was sworn in at our December Council meeting. Please take a look at Chief DeWitt's column in this newsletter for more details.

## Building Projects

The Village has seen a spike in new building projects. As of right now we anticipate the construction of at least two new residences in the spring, one on South Lane and the other on Smith Road.

## Power Outages

One of the most frustrating things for any resident is the rash of power outages we experience in the Village, particularly those residents of Metcalf Road. We have met with CEI who is actively addressing the situation. This includes a very aggressive tree-pruning program that is currently ongoing throughout the Village. Chief DeWitt also deserves some credit for developing a relationship with CEI officials that has increased their responsiveness to dealing with the frustrating outages that we encounter.

On a side note, the Lake County Mayors and Managers Association were invited to tour the Perry Nuclear Power Plant in January. It was a real eye opener from both a safety and service perspective, and I left with a level of awareness far greater that with which I started. Suffice to say that the engineers who work and deliver energy that powers our homes have a level of education, training, knowledge and commitment that almost needs to be seen to be believed. They are a smart and dedicated workforce that sometimes thanklessly works to deliver some of the day-to-day necessities (in this case power) that we expect to always be available. A tour of the Power Plant and its dedicated staff quickly dispelled this misguided Mayor of that notion.

## 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,



Robert A. Ranallo

## Welcome to Waite Hill!

John and Carol Bell  
9725 Rollin Road

Chris and Marina Corbin  
6715 Eagle Road

Greg and Nicole Farnell  
10079 Gardenside Drive

Oscar and Meg Hackett  
9367 Smith Road

Matthew and Tara Meineke  
9360 Metcalf Road

### NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

The Village of Waite Hill and CT Consultants have entered into a contract with Schirmer Construction to repair the aging and eroded retaining wall at the top of Metcalf Road. This project will require the closing of Metcalf Road in that area for approximately 30 days. All required signage, including detours will be installed prior to the start of construction. This project is scheduled to start on Wednesday, April 20 and be completed on June 8. Weather and any unforeseen issues could change this scheduling.

A reminder to all residents will be distributed as the project date draws closer.

## MARCH

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		

## APRIL

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

## MAY

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				

## JUNE

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		

-  Council Meeting 8am
-  Planning and Zoning Meeting 8am
-  Trash Only
-  Trash and Recycle
-  Extra Pick-ups
-  Daylight Saving Time Begins
-  Metcalf Road Project Start Date
-  Computer Collection - Fairgrounds Commercial Bldg
-  Scrap Tire Collection - Fairgrounds (South End)
-  Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Fairgrounds (South End)