



The ^{WH} Village Voice

From the Office of the Mayor



Hello Villagers.

It has been about four months since we last communicated. In nine years of penning these newsletters, never could I foresee that I would be writing against the backdrop of a pandemic. Had you asked anybody to pull out their crystal ball at the end of January when my last letter was issued, and hazard a guess as to what the next 120 days might look like, I suspect most would have predicted cold, snow, more winter and an eager anticipation of spring's arrival. We could not have been more wrong – and in this unique case, all of us would have been wrong. We are in uncertain times.

Who knew at that time we were about to confront an unprecedented global pandemic that would forever change our lives? After about 75 days in our new world, it is good to see things finally begin to open up, albeit at a measured pace with unknown consequences that will only be revealed over time.

If the pandemic were not enough, the civil unrest that we are now observing throughout the country adds a palpable layer of stress and unpredictability that continues to disrupt our daily lives.

Through all of this, the business of Ohio, Lake County and the Village grind on, and the past 75 days have given me an exceptionally meaningful look at how the state, local governments and county agencies interface, work together, collectively work to solve problems and do their very best under exceptionally stressful conditions to serve citizens. Our leaders are serving us well. More importantly, their commitment to serve the public is unwavering. Some of the more meaningful efforts in that regard are highlighted below.

At the outset though, and as much as this has been rightfully said by so many in the past, I cannot express enough thanks and gratitude to our health care and hospital workers and first responders for the work they have done while

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surrounded by the very real dangers posed by the coronavirus. Heroic is a term that can sometimes be overused, but not this time. These folks put themselves in harm's way day in and day out while attending to others in need and keeping us safe and protected. We all owe them our thanks and gratitude.

COVID-19

When the coronavirus crisis hit, the mobilization and coordination of efforts by Lake County leaders, agencies and municipalities were simply extraordinary. Communications have been coordinated by Dennis Morley, Mayor of the City of Eastlake, and his assistant, Judy Moran, with efforts spearheaded primarily by the Lake County Health District and the Lake County Emergency Operations Center.

Since mid-March, between 50-75 government leaders have conducted Webex meetings for about an hour every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We started by coordinating how best to adapt to the Governor's initial stay at home order, what it meant for us as municipalities and changes that would be necessary for the way we conducted our business. Discussions dealt with efforts to secure masks, gloves, gowns, and other PPE for our health care workers and safety forces evolving to how we begin to safely reopen our parks, recreation facilities, restaurants and other businesses, and addressing everything that came up in the interim.

We have participated in calls with Governor Mike DeWine and other State of Ohio officials to gain a better understanding of State initiatives, local government support, project funding and a variety of other issues that directly impact us. Suffice to say that there are no guarantees at this juncture, and the State of Ohio is doing its best to address issues as they arise on a daily basis. We are in uncharted waters.

We have also been inundated with daily reports from the Lake County Health District, the Ohio Emergency Operations Center, the Office of State Senator John Rogers and others in an effort to keep us abreast of developments related to the coronavirus itself and daily statistics, testing, contact tracing, nursing homes, pending legislation, changes in county and court procedures and a plethora of related issues. While the volume of information is overwhelming, clarity of where we are headed remains laden with uncertainty.

A handful of statistics through May concerning the State of Ohio and Lake County:

- 34,566 individuals in Ohio have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- 5,947 Ohioans have been hospitalized from the virus
- 2,131 people in Ohio have died after contracting the virus
- 302 people in Lake County have been diagnosed with the virus
- 70 people in Lake County have been hospitalized from the virus
- 12 people in Lake County have died after contracting the virus

Fortunately, there have been no reported instances in the Village of any residents who have tested positive for the virus.

As for the business side of things, time moves on and governing continues. In this regard, a few shout outs are in order. First, thank you to our police officers. Through thick and thin, they have continued to do their job and keep things as normal as possible under circumstances like nothing we have ever experienced.

Second, thanks to our Service Department workers. They continue to show up for work, do their jobs well (often unnoticed and underappreciated) and make things seem normal for us as we quarantine.

Lastly, a big expression of thanks from all of our employees, Council and the Administration to you, our residents, for being understanding of the challenges we face, conducting yourselves in a socially responsible manner (which helps our employees better do their jobs), adapting to the changes in the way the Village has been forced to do business, and for your patience and recognition that we are all doing our best.

Village Hall may be closed, but it continues to be fully operational. We have adapted to enabling legislation that has allowed us to utilize Zoom technology and have kept our Council, Finance Committee, Architectural Board of Review and Planning and Zoning meetings all on track. Apart from our ongoing business, some other items of note include the following:

2020 Census

The Census Bureau is currently about 2-1/2 months into its campaign. The nation is showing a response rate of 59.0%, Ohio 64.2% and Lake County 73.1%. Our response rate directly affects our ability to receive our fair share of funding and representation. As of April 20, 2020, Waite Hill was showing a 54.4% response rate. If you have not yet done so, please respond to the 2020 Census. Essential and needed tax dollars directly impacting our community are at stake. When you consider the activity surrounding coronavirus as outlined above, you immediately recognize how vital these resources are. So again, for those who have already completed the Census, thank you. For those who have not, please take the time to do so and thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Paving Projects

As we have previously communicated, we typically do not engage in paving projects without a major funding contribution from the Ohio Public Works Commission. We were the recipients of a significant grant and interest-free loan from OPWC Round 34 funding that would have enabled us to repave Waite Hill Road this summer. Because of the impact of COVID-19 on all parts of the State's budget, all funding commitments have been suspended as the Governor's office and legislature make adjustments to budgets and deal with the financial fallout. If we secure our funding, the planned paving improvement will take place. If there is no funding, we will not proceed.

On a side note, we are also concerned about the impact that the financial fallout from COVID-19 could have on our share of the State's Local Government Fund, a critical component of the Village's operating budget.

Waite Hill Road Bridge

Most know by now that Waite Hill Road has been closed as the bridge at the base of the hill is being replaced. It is anticipated that the closure will continue until the end of November. All adjacent municipalities, safety forces, schools and others have been notified, and alternative plans for ingress and egress are in place.

Kirtland Septic and Sewer Work

The Lake County General Health District's office informed Council that extensive work must be undertaken in the area of Kirtland along our eastern borders. Wastewater from several failing septic systems is adversely impacting surface water quality. Lake County and the Ohio EPA are working together with the City of Kirtland to bring a solution to the area. A plan has not been finalized, but we have been assured that none of the work will take place in the Village.

Utility Work

We have received a handful of calls over the past several months about utility companies and their subcontractors, most commonly tree trimmers, appearing on properties unannounced. As a general matter, utility providers enter properties because they have an easement that authorizes them to maintain and service their lines. All utilities which will be doing work in the Village customarily let us know in advance.

We ask utility companies to let residents know in advance if they will be entering their property, and most of the time, they do their best to comply. From time to time, connection with residents is not made, and workers appear unannounced. If that should happen and there is a question about somebody on your property and what they may be doing, please let us know, and we will check the situation out.

Building Projects

Please remember that before undertaking any project that includes the building of a new structure (whether a primary residence or an accessory structure) or an alteration to the exterior physical appearance of an existing structure, prior approval from the Architectural Board of Review is required. Please call Robbi Laps at Village Hall, who will outline the approval procedure for you.

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 any questions, comments, or concerns. As always, we will do our best to address them.

Again, thank you for your time and interest and, above all, **STAY SAFE**.

Very truly yours,

Bob Ranallo

Robert A. Ranallo

The Waite Hill Police Beat



Hello to all.

First and foremost, I want to commend our residents for their cooperation and understanding of the measures we are taking with COVID-19. Our safety plan will continue to evolve as we receive guidance from state and county agencies. I want to join the mayor in a big thank you to our first responders and service personnel who continue to provide the utmost service to the Village and its residents through these challenging times. As both a resident and employee of Lake County, I can attest that we are quite fortunate with the networking and cooperation of all emergency entities within the county. My specific role on the county's COVID-19 team has been involved with preplanning for unexpected events. The officials of Lake County have indeed come together to provide the most up-to-date information and continue to evaluate what is best for the residents here.

A Few Reminders from Your Police Department

- Residents are reminded to have their address clearly marked and visible for emergency responders. When time is critical, you do not want emergency services wasting time searching for the correct location.
- If you have an alarm system at your residence, please use it. Secure your doors, windows and vehicle(s). Do not leave keys or valuables in your car. Remember, thieves are looking for opportunities.
- If you observe suspicious activity, notify the police immediately. It only takes a few minutes for the police to check a suspicious person or vehicle.
- With warmer weather here, be mindful of your speed and children playing. Also, watch for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

- Be cautious of telephone and internet scams. In these challenging economic times, criminals are looking to access your money in any way possible. *If it sounds too good to be true, it is.*
- Be aware of the latest phone scam surrounding COVID-19 Unfortunately, people are being taken advantage of by individuals trying to sell testing equipment for the virus over the phone.
- If you are a pet owner, please be considerate of your neighbors. Waite Hill Village has ordinances that pertain to barking dogs and animals running at large. You are responsible for keeping your pets under control at all times. Also, we have been getting complaints of people walking their dogs and not cleaning up after them.
- Screen time for children has increased, especially with distance learning in place. Please be aware of the information your children share digitally, including but not limited to texts and photos, in addition to posting on Facebook, What's App, Instagram, Snapchat and other social networking sites. Once the send button is hit, information is out there in cyberspace, and there's no deleting or bringing it back. Also, keep in mind, some information can be damaging, hurtful or embarrassing to your family or others and even have legal implications.
- We will not be having a summer picnic this year, and hopefully, we can revisit the occasion for next year.
- The year 2021 will be the next year for the shredding event held here at Village Hall.
- Please remember that golf carts cannot be ridden on any of our roadways.
- Lighting fireworks at home is not legal in the State of Ohio. That said, it is still vital all family members understand firework safety. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns, dismemberment of limbs and even death. The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home — period. Attend public firework displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.

The Waite Hill Village Police Department, as always, looks forward to serving the community. Your safety and security are our concern. Have a great summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police

In Memoriam

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.

Carol Sherwin 03/05/2020



Service Department News

Greetings to all.

We are definitely amid uncertain times, but hope is on the horizon. The wish of the Service Department is a better second half of 2020! You will see our team out cutting roadsides, as well as grinding and patching sections of deteriorated pavement. If you see our signs and see us working, please keep your speeds down.

As you may know, we have discontinued recycling within the Village. If you still want to recycle, you can take it to the Lake County Landfill at 2039 Blase Nemeth Rd. in Painesville. We continue to do extra pickups on every Thursday and can accept almost anything except paint, chemicals and tires. We also ask if you have a large number of boxes to call us for Thursday pick up. As always, please tie your garbage bags and do not overfill as we have to lift them by hand. We ask that you have your garbage out by 8:00 am.

We all hope everyone stays safe!! Our goal continues to provide the residents with the best service we can, so if you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (440)942-2074 or stop up and say hello.

Regards,

Bob Haynik, Service Director



**Left to right:
Austyn Richards
James Riddle
Andy Richards
Bob Haynik**



Carrie Ann & Doug Huey – 6924 South Lane
Siddhartha Srivastava & Jody Richards – 9492 Creawood Drive

Book Club Anyone?



Waite Hill Book Club's regular gatherings were interrupted by COVID-19. After surveying the group, it has been decided to have a virtual meeting on Thursday, June 25th. Regina Gonzalez will be sending a link to the meeting to everyone on the club email list that day. If you want to be added to the email list, please contact Marcia Merritt at marciamx4@gmail.com. We will be discussing the book last read, *Confederates in the Attic* by Tony Horwitz.

Come visit Waite Hill Village's Little Free Library located in the Village Hall lobby.

"Take A Book – Share A Book"



Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. There are more than 80,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and over 90 countries.

Through these Libraries, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Little Free Library has received recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, *Library Journal*, the Women's National Book Association, and more.

Waite Hill Village Council and Administration



- Left:** (left to right) Rich Steudel, Law Director Steve Byron, Sam Knezevic, Marcia Merritt, Service Director Bob Haynik
- Back:** Bob Gale
- Front:** Courtenay Taplin
- Right:** (left to right) Karl Scheucher, Chief Keith DeWitt, Mayor Bob Ranallo, Clerk-Treasurer Robbi Laps, Ryan Cox

June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Recycle Extra Pick Up	5 Trash	6
7	8 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	9	10	11 Extra Pick Up	12 Trash	13
14	15	16	17	18 Recycle Extra Pick Up	19 Trash	20
21	22 Planning and Zoning 8am	23	24	25 Extra Pick Up	26 Trash	27
28	29	30				

July 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Extra Pick Up	3 Trash	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9 Extra Pick Up	10 Trash	11
12	13 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	14	15	16 Extra Pick Up	17 Trash	18
19	20	21	22	23 Extra Pick Up	24 Trash	25
26	27 Planning and Zoning 8am	28	29	30 Extra Pick Up	31 Trash	

August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Extra Pick Up	7 Trash	8
9	10 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	11	12	13 Extra Pick Up	14 Trash	15
16	17	18	19	20 Extra Pick Up	21 Trash	22
23	24 Planning and Zoning 8am	25	26	27 Extra Pick Up	28 Trash	29
30	31					

September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Extra Pick Up	4 Trash	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10 Extra Pick Up	11 Trash	12
13	14 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	15	16	17 Extra Pick Up	18 Trash	19
20	21	22	23	24 Extra Pick Up	25 Trash	26
27	28 Planning and Zoning 8am	29	30			