



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

## From the Office of the Mayor



Dear Residents:

It has been a busy several months in the Village as seasons change and new challenges arise. Apart from the harsh weather of the past couple of months (for which our Service Department deserves recognition for its tireless work in keeping our roads cleared and safe), a summary of some of the more significant activities of the Village follows.

### Village Cellular Service – A Postscript

The November election has come and gone and our cell phone referendum gave us the data point that Council, the Administration and I were seeking in our quest to determine how best to proceed in securing improved cellular and broadband coverage in the Village. That data point indicated that 55% of the residents who voted on the issue were opposed to the construction of a cell tower to improve service and coverage, and 45% of the residents who voted were in favor of a tower.

Interestingly, in the resident survey conducted by the Waite Hill Wireless Committee, almost 70% of the respondents indicated that it was important to very important for cellular coverage in the Village to be improved.

As rapid changes and advancements in technology continue to place increased reliance on cellular communication as a primary mode of voice and data transmission, we recognize the continued need for dependable cellular and data transmission. At the same time, we respect the view of those who voted on the issue on the best way of achieving improved coverage.

At this juncture, we will continue to monitor changes in the industry and alternatives on how improvements might best be achieved. We have no intention to pursue a cell tower at this time, and will continue to monitor and consider alternatives that currently exist or may be developed for improved service.

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Finally, we thank all of you who took the time to vote on the issue as it provided valuable information to the process, thereby benefitting everyone.

### **Waite Hill Road and Markell Road Bridge Restrictions – An Update**

As evidenced by the new signage that has been installed on each end, the Waite Hill and Markell Road bridges have become restricted to single-lane passage and a load limit of 11 tons. We have had ongoing meetings and conversations with the representatives of the Lake County Engineer's office, the body responsible for oversight, testing, maintenance, repair and replacement of all bridges in the County.

Each of the subject bridges will need to be replaced. At this time, it is anticipated that those replacements will take place in 2020 and 2021, though timing is subject to change. Funding will be underwritten entirely by the federal government, with the County overseeing all work. Fortunately, there is no required financial participation by the Village. The replacements will take an extended period to complete and will result in road closures while the work is completed.

I will be communicating additional details via email and on the website as they become available. In the meantime, all schools, neighboring police and safety forces and others have been notified of the restrictions and alternate routing. In addition, those engaging in construction projects, their contractors have been notified of the need to re-route themselves to conform to the limitations and restrictions.

### **Road and Construction Projects**

Construction began in October on the drainage, slope stabilization and paving project on the Waite Hill Road hill. The project is extensive and complex, and we anticipate that work will continue through June of this year. This will necessitate that the existing road closure remain in place until work has been completed.

We anticipate that along with road striping, there will also be paving improvements in the second half of the year in those areas of the Village that have experienced advanced deterioration. Our activity in that regard will be driven by the recommendations made by our Village Engineer in a Pavement Evaluation Report completed in the latter part of 2017.

As we have consistently communicated, the funding of road repairs and replacements continues to be an extremely challenging issue for the Village. The elimination of the Ohio estate tax at the end of 2012, coupled with the halving of our annual allowance from the State of Ohio Local Government Fund, has resulted in the elimination of both of the funding sources used to fund such repairs and replacements since 2012.

The funding of road repairs and replacements remains among our biggest challenges moving forward. Council and I will continue studying the issue with our Village Engineer, and the

conclusions in the Pavement Evaluation Report will help us optimize our approach to maintaining roads for years to come.

### **Charter Review**

Waite Hill's Charter is an 18-page document that establishes how the Village is governed. By its terms, it requires that a group of seven residents convene every five years to review the Village's Charter of governance and make recommendations for improvement.

The significance of the Charter Review Commission is that it has the power to review the Charter and put recommendations for improved governance of the Village in front of Council for deliberation and submission to our voters. The Commission is due to meet in 2018, and we are in the process of assembling seven residents to conduct the review.

If anybody would like a copy of the Charter it is available on the Village website, [www.waitehilloh.gov](http://www.waitehilloh.gov). By the same token, if you have any thoughts or suggestions for how the Charter might be improved, please call Village Hall and let us know so that your thoughts are heard.

### **Public Notices**

Please remember to turn in your email addresses to Robbi Laps at Village Hall so that all communications can be timely delivered to you. Alternatively, all public and meeting notices are routinely posted on the bulletin in the vestibule of Village Hall, and you are encouraged to stop by from time to time to get caught up on Village happenings.

### **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

# Waite Hill Remembers Longest Serving Mayor

Arthur D. Baldwin, II passed away at his home on October 27, 2017, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Margot, four daughters and their families. Art served the Village of Waite Hill for over 50 years first on the Village Council and then 46 years as Mayor, the longest tenure in Lake County history and the longest continuous service in Ohio. Art provided a steady hand to the Village for so many years and was a well-respected civic leader among his peers. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Art and the entire Baldwin family for their commitment and service to Waite Hill. Art helped create, as he used to say, the "casual elegance" that we all enjoy today as residents.

## 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.**

Brian Sherwin 9/16/17

Art Baldwin 10/27/17

Shirley Martinet 12/15/17

## The Waite Hill Police Beat



Hello to all residents:

As the snow continues to fly, please remember to slow down and take extra time to get to your destinations. The Service Department does a great job keeping our roads open, but they need our assistance. If you have someone plowing your driveway, please remind them not to push snow across the road as driving and plowing hazards can be created.

As you know, Waite Hill Road (hill) will be closed for the winter and into the spring to complete all emergency repairs. Additionally, we plan on making repairs to South Lane and Markell Road (hill) early this spring as well as re-striping the roadways.

## Police Department

Sgt. Beaumier successfully graduated from Police Executive Leadership College and was promoted to Lieutenant during the October council meeting. Officer Tyler Lillash has completed the field training program, and he is on his own and doing very well.

## Scam Alert!

Unsuspecting people are continually falling victim to scams of all types. Here are a few reminders and some of the scams we hear of most often:

- Please remember to be cautious when purchasing anything over the internet. Shop at established, respected retailers and always be wary of anything that sounds too good to be true. Never give any personal information that is not needed to complete the transaction (for example, your social security number).
- This past year, we have seen an increase in residents receiving scam letters via mail and email.
- Residents have also reported phone calls with a person claiming to be from Microsoft asking for computer and personal bank information to fix their computer.
- With tax season approaching, remember to be careful when preparing your taxes. There have been individuals assuming identities of others and fraudulently receiving tax refunds. Your best defense against fraud is to file as early as possible.
- Again, remember to ***never*** give out personal information to phone solicitors.

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. If you receive any scam phone calls or a suspicious person 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.

## Home Safety

Our surrounding communities are continually experiencing 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.

## If a Coyote is in Your Backyard. What Should You Do?



1. Understand that coyotes are common throughout Ohio's 88 counties in both rural and urban settings. There are no wild wolves living in Ohio.
2. Identify that the canine is truly a coyote and not a stray dog. If you determine that the animal is a stray dog, contact your county dog warden.
3. If you do have a coyote on your property, remove all "attractants" to deter the coyote from returning. This includes removing garbage and pet food before nightfall and cleaning up around the grill. Coyotes prey primarily on small mammals such as rabbits and mice. Small pets may also be taken. Keep small dogs and cats inside or stay with them at night when coyotes are most active. Coyotes are curious but generally fearful of humans. Clap your hands and shout to scare off coyotes that are investigating your yard.
4. If the coyote visiting your yard seems to lack a fear of humans or is presenting a conflict even after removing attractants from your yard, contact a nuisance trapper. You can locate a trapper near you by calling the Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543). Coyotes in rural areas can be controlled through legal hunting and trapping methods. Consult the yearly Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations booklet for more information or go to [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com) to view more information online.
5. We are keeping a close eye on our population, so if you continue to see an increase, please contact me at 440-942-6279.

Please remember, if you notice anything that does not look right, 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 are always our concern!**

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police

# Service Department News

Greetings to all:

As we are approaching the middle of winter, we would like to say thanks for your respectful driving around the snow plows this season. We try, as always, to keep our roads as safe as possible for the residents, and we appreciate your patience while we are plowing the roads.

As a reminder, the Service Department has been doing the recycling for about one year, and we have been enduring large loads and untied bags which causes items to be scattered around the Village. We please ask you to tie your bags and bag loose cardboard so it does not come out of our trucks. Also, please try not to overload the bags of normal garbage so we can lift them into the trucks. Our goal continues to provide 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



Tom Reed & Jon Martin 9818 Mountainview Dr.

Bart & Martha Williams 9080 Metcalf Rd.

Bowman Beeman & Sara Beth Guren 7031 Waite Hill Rd.

## 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 DeWitt, Bob Ranallo, Clerk-Treasurer Robbi Laps, Ryan Cox

# february

2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
29 January	30	31	1 February <b>Recycle Extra Pick Up</b>	2 <b>Trash</b>	3/4
5	6	7	8 <b>Extra Pick Up</b>	9 <b>Trash</b>	10/11
12 <b>Council Meeting 8am</b>	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 <b>Recycle Extra Pick Up</b>	16 <b>Trash</b>	17/18
19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22 <b>Extra Pick Up</b>	23 <b>Trash</b>	24/25
26 <b>Planning and Zoning Meeting 8am</b>	27	28	1 March	2	3/4
5	6	7	8	9	10/11

# march

2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
26 February	27	28	1 March <b>Recycle Extra Pick Up</b>	2 <b>Trash</b>	3/4
5	6	7	8 <b>Extra Pick Up</b>	9 <b>Trash</b>	10/11 Daylight Saving
12 <b>Council Meeting 8am</b>	13	14	15 <b>Recycle Extra Pick Up</b>	16 <b>Trash</b>	17/18
19	20	21	22 <b>Extra Pick Up</b>	23 <b>Trash</b>	24/25
26 <b>Planning and Zoning Meeting 8am</b>	27	28	29 <b>Recycle Extra Pick Up</b>	30 <b>Trash</b>	31/1 April
2	3	4	5	6	7/8

# april

2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
26 March	27	28	29	30	31 / 1 April Easter Sunday
2	3	4	5 Extra Pick Up	6 Trash	7/8
9 Council Meeting 8am	10	11	12 Recycle Extra Pick Up	13 Trash	14/15
16	17	18	19 Extra Pick Up	20 Trash	21/22
23 Planning and Zoning Meeting 8am	24	25	26 Recycle Extra Pick Up	27 Trash	28/29
30	1 May	2	3	4	5/6

# may

2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
30 April	1 May	2	3 Extra Pick Up	4 Trash	5/6
7	8	9	10 Recycle Extra Pick Up	11 Trash	12/13 Mother's Day
14 Council Meeting 8am	15	16	17 Extra Pick Up	18 Trash	19/20
21	22	23	24 Recycle Extra Pick Up	25 Trash	26/27
28 Memorial Day	29	30	31 Extra Pick Up	1 June	2/3
4	5	6	7	8	9/10