Village of Boston Heights NEWSLETTER

January and February of 2009

Calendar of Upcoming Events

All Meetings Listed Are Open To The Public!

<u>Jan.14</u>	Council Meeting,	Wed.,	8 PM
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- **Jan. 27** Finance Committee Meets, Tues., 7 PM
- Feb. 4 Planning/BZA Meeting, Wed., 7 PM
- Feb. 5 Park Board Meets, Thursday, 7 PM
- Feb. 11 Council Meeting, Wed., 8 PM
- **Feb. 24** Finance Committee Meets, Tues., 7 PM
- Mar. 4 Planning/BZA Meeting, Wed., 7 PM
- Mar. 5 Park Board Meets, Thursday, 7 PM

Village Bulletin Board

ODOT ROUTE 8 PROJECT

Phase II of the Route 8 Improvement Project began December 15, 2008 with contractors clearing the right-of-way for new ramp and roadway configurations at Boston Mills Road, the Ohio Turnpike and Hines Hill Road.

Early on in 2009, as weather permits, Chittenden Road will be connected to Boston Mills Road and act as the detour route for Boston Mills Road which is slated to close from around June 12, 2009 until mid to late year 2010 when the Boston Mills overpass for Route 8 is completed and the Boston Mills roadway reopened to Olde Eight Road.

In 2009, the connector roadway west of the Holiday Inn will be constructed and for a period of time in mid to late 2009 and into 2010 it will be the detour route for the southbound mainline Route 8 traffic so that the new Ohio Turnpike ramps to the new southbound Route 8 may be constructed.

ODOT Officials tentatively believe that most of the project will be open to traffic late in 2010 with June of 2011 as the completion date for all associated work on the project. Traffic information will be online at: www.StateRoute8.info, early in 2009.

Village residents or businesses may view the updated plans for this project posted at the back of village hall. Mayor Goncy will be attending monthly ODOT update meetings and will be the village person to contact for Route 8 project information.

Mayor's Update

AVAILABLE NATURAL GAS PROGRAM

I was contacted by a few of you asking if Boston Heights residents or small businesses could become part of the natural gas program that neighboring Hudson was offering to their residents and small businesses. The program fixes rates at \$8.05 per Mcf through the January 2010 billing cycle and has no enrollment or opt out cost. The second year may be variable or at a fixed rate to be later established by Hudson.

After contacting Direct Energy, Buckeye Energy Brokers and the City of Hudson, residents or small businesses in our Village may choose to opt into this program and later may also opt out at no cost. The Direct Energy number to enroll is: 1-866-803-4618 and is operational M-F, 8 AM to 8 PM and Saturday from 8 AM until 5 PM. Depending on your billing cycle [have your account number available when you call], your lowered rate may not take effect until February or March. You must state that you live in the Village of Boston Heights and want to enroll in the Hudson Direct Energy Program. Senior Citizens 65 and older may qualify for an additional \$0.10 discount.

Visit Village Hall M-F from 8 AM to 4 PM [closed 12:30 – 1:00 PM] to view more information that is posted or click on resident William Hinkle's Boston Heights Overlook website.

You are under no obligation to enroll in this program. Please do your research and only opt in if this program is of benefit to you and contact me if you have an enrollment issue.

Council Meeting, December 10, 2008

[Mayor Goncy, Councilpersons: Cheung, Foss, Hudson, Lightner, Miller, Slane; Clerk-Treasurer Zeman, Solicitor Cassetty and Village Engineer Schreiber were present.]

After Roll Call, the Pledge of Allegiance, Approval of the Meeting Agenda and Minutes of Past Meetings approved, Correspondence was read:

Letters from village residents Ann & Frank Markunas and Betty Warren thanked the Park Board for the "like home" Thanksgiving Dinner presentation and the social opportunity given to Village Senior Citizens.

The Mayor read a letter addressed to our Police and Fire Departments from Cleveland Hiking Club thanking them for helping an injured member of the club.

The Kenmore Construction Company letter advised the Village that the S.R. 8 Project would begin on December 15, 2008 and included 2.3 miles of roadway.

An ODOT letter stated that Traffic Advisories would be updated weekly and sent to the Village. The Mayor stated that new updates on the project would be posted on the hallway bulletin board as they are received.

The Mayor reported that activity on Mayor's Court bills in the Ohio Senate and House might occur during the "Lame Duck" sessions being held before year-end.

Information from the Health Department and Department of Environmental Services was being compiled to address the issue of mandatory sewer tie-ins on Olde Eight Road. Residents involved will be contacted after the first of the year.

The Mayor stated that northern Summit County residents with sewer lines tied to the North East Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) could face a monthly storm water utility fee proposed by NEORSD. Mayors from Richfield, Macedonia and Boston Heights have asked the Summit County Executive's Office to research the issue and ask NEORSD what benefit communities would receive from this fee.

Boston Heights submitted for recovery of clean-up expenses along our roadways during the September windstorm, which was generated by a gulf coast hurricane. FEMA Officials tentatively approved approximately \$2000 of expenses the Village incurred due to that windstorm for reimbursement to the Village.

Lastly, Mayor Goncy presented a Proclamation to each of the families of Fairview Cemetery Trustees who performed restoration work at Fairview Cemetery.

ORDINANCE #16, Approved the Temporary Annual Appropriations for the Village of Boston Heights for the Year 2009.

ORDINANCE #17, Amended the Permanent Annual Appropriations Ordinance (Ord. 5 - 2008) for the Year 2008.

<u>RESOLUTION #30</u>, Confirmed the appointment of Ed Fetko to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Michael Bush to the Planning Commission and Carol Fenn to the Fairview Cemetery Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION #31, Approved the following employment for the Year 2009: the firm GPD/ACLA as the Village Engineer, Terry Brannan as the Fairview Cemetery Sexton, Maryann Bode as the Clerk of Mayor's Court, Kathi Cole as the Assistant Office Clerk, Laurie Ann Stoddard as part time help for the Clerk-Treasurer's Office and David Himes as the Zoning Inspector.

RESOLUTION #32, Approved the hiring and appointment of Michael Cassetty as Solicitor of the Village of Boston Heights for the Year 2009.

A **Motion** approved review of the October 2008 financial statement.

A **Motion** assigned \$350.00 as the Street Dept. Uniform allowance.

A <u>Motion</u> allowed the Village to buy back the cemetery deed for the Section: North Lot #291, Graves #6 & #7 from residents who had moved out of state.

Planning Commission/BZA

Planning Commission met on December 3, 2008 and approved revised minutes of Dec. 2007, Feb. 2008 and March 2008.

Review of minimum allocation of parking spaces for Office Professional, General Business, Retail Business and Light Manufacturing Districts as well as conditional uses in the Residential District was the bulk item on the agenda. Requirements used by other area communities were considered for possible inclusion into a coordinated plan, which could be modified by Planning Commission now before sending an approved document to Council for their eventual approval.

Members felt the inclusion of storm water retention on the parking site was appropriate and review of that issue was necessary in future development.

Village Zoning

As 2009 begins, a reminder of current zoning restrictions of the Village of Boston Heights is published for your information and future reference:

- ➤ Vehicles parked in any yard should have current license plates.
 Unlicensed vehicles and equipment may be stored inside garages and barns.
- ➤ Outdoor fires are permitted in appropriate grills and outdoor metal and masonry fireplaces, some with or without chimneys.
- ➤ Open fires contained in a 3' to 4' diameter area and composed of wood and non-toxic materials are allowed without obtaining a permit. Caution to keep appropriate distances around flammable materials such as grass, brush, woodlots, buildings, etc., must be taken.
- ➤ Temporary signs advertising sales and events are permitted on private property with permission of the landowner and a no-cost application at Village Hall. Signs placed in any public right-of-way are subject to removal and allowable permits are not obtainable.

Fairview Cemetery Trustees

Trustees ask anyone interested in preservation and beautification of Fairview Cemetery attend the Association meeting held Mon., Feb. 9, 2009, 7PM at Village Hall. Interested but unable to attend, call Kim Brannan at: 330.650.0227.

2009 Village Elected Officials

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