“Anyone who thinks gardening begins in spring and ends in fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.”

– Josephine Nuese
Thin Places

No, your eyes do not deceive you – This issue’s cover photo of a brilliant yellow marigold does not mean that the Bratenahl Community Foundation is confused over what season it is. Rather, it is our way of welcoming Bratenahl Blooms as partner to the Foundation. Many of you will recognize Blooms on account of its flower sale held each May here in the Village. Bratenahl Blooms brings to BCF its enthusiasm and dedication to keeping Bratenahl beautiful. Welcome, and thank you for your generosity in sponsoring this Lamplighter.

The thought of gardens, blooming and fragrant, is a far cry from the view from my window this second Sunday in January. Like an abstract painting, blocks of stark colors, lines and shapes make up the austere scene: an expanse of silver sky above iron-grey water touching an icy shore. Skeletal, black-brown lines delineate bare-branched trees, and the cold canvas is complete, a joyless tableau.

Each winter stirs in me the existential question: What am I doing here? I am, after all, a worshiper of all things summer. Visions of Florida flood my imagination: Copper-skinned, bikini-clad beauties stroll white sand beaches; sunbathers relax on striped lounge chairs; mermaid-like figures ripple through sun-dappled, turquoise pools….

But then, I recall the past ten days….

A Cessna aircraft carrying six passengers took off from Burke Lakefront Airport and disappeared into the night sky’s murderous winds and churning waves . . . Since then we have daily watched a bulbous, black Coast Guard helicopter cruising the shoreline looking for wreckage, like a buzzard scavenging for carrion. One Lakeshore Boulevard neighbor reports being asked to scout her property for “debris”—human and otherwise.

All at once, in a moment of clarity, my self-pity vanishes. I realize how blessed I am to be alive anywhere and I am grateful for this fragile, fleeting gift we call life. How brittle and subject to change all our plans for all our days seem. This moment, here and now, in the Village of Bratenahl, it really is as good as it gets.

My flash of insight reminds me of the ancient, pagan Celts who believed that heaven and earth were only three miles apart, and that at certain places, the distance was even shorter. At these thin places, one could be mesmerized, seeing into the essential truth of things, where words collapse under the weight of awe. For me, Bratenahl is one of those thin places. I count it the great good fortune of my life to call this place my home. Thanks to all who attended the Bratenahl Community Foundation Holiday Party on December 18 at the Bratenahl Community Center. Goodwill and good cheer brought warmth to a cold night, with couples whirling on the dance floor to the beat of swing music. Thanks especially go to Duke Young for his generosity and magnanimity in funding this annual event.

Speaking of thanks, elsewhere in this issue, we list the names of all who have so graciously contributed to the Bratenahl Community Foundation in 2016. Your generosity allows the Bratenahl Community Foundation to continue its mission: to enhance the lives of all residents of the Village, this jewel of a place we all call home.


Judson inspired Bill Jones to take charge of his health while living in his home, with a focus on prevention. With Judson at Home, he has a plan in place to get the services and care when he needs it.

To learn more, call (216) 791-3211 or visit judsonsmartliving.org.

About the Cover

As Larry Domin pointed out in his cover letter, The Lamplighter took a different approach for our cover this month. With a beautiful display of Marigolds, we welcome Bratenahl Blooms to the Bratenahl Community Foundation, and highlight their 2017 Plant Sale, held this year on Saturday May 20th at the Bratenahl Community Center. Considering the dreary greyness that’s common to the Northshore in the month of February, it’s also kind of nice to think about the beauty of a Bratenahl spring, which is right around the corner.
Prosecutor Duane Deskins To Lead Cleveland’s Anti-Violence Effort

Christine Domin

As Village of Bratenahl residents, we congratulate fellow resident, Duane Deskins, whom Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson has named as the city’s new chief of Prevention, Intervention and Opportunity for Youth – a key appointment in the mayor’s recently unveiled comprehensive plan to stem the city’s youth violence epidemic.

Jackson said Deskins, a longtime federal and county prosecutor, “will develop a strategy to draw together government offices, nonprofit agencies, the private sector and corporate community to tackle the social problems and dearth of opportunities that beget crime and violence in the neighborhoods.”

The mayor said he has “high expectations” for what Deskins will achieve and the partnerships he will inspire. And Deskins echoed Jackson’s spirit of collaboration.

“We’re going to bring together all the different parts and pieces of this community to build something different,” Deskins said, “to get past the notion that safety is simply a reduction in crime. It’s actually an increase in opportunity . . . for kids who find themselves, at no fault of their own, down the path toward the juvenile justice system.”

A native of Cleveland’s Glenville and Shaker Square neighborhoods, Deskins comes to the city via Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty’s office, where he led a broad initiative aimed at improving the quality of juvenile justice countywide.

As the chief prosecuting attorney for the Juvenile Division and director of juvenile crime prevention, Deskins worked to change the way cases are reviewed and youth are charged to ensure those who are arrested for crimes in Cleveland are treated the same as suburban youth, Jackson said.

Deskins will be responsible for executing the city’s comprehensive violence prevention plan – a framework that builds upon existing programs and promises new data-driven strategies.

Duane, we are proud of you! We wish you success in this important work.

What Will You Have? Four Seasons of Cocktails

Arlene Kemejak

Gaye’s Glögg, An Ancient Swedish Recipe for Après-Shoveling

Gaye Ramström, my platinum-haired Swedish neighbor, friend and Ideastream Underwriter, stopped by my kitchen the other day. Gaye came by to have me sample some of her Glögg, an old family tradition. Glögg, with the double dot diacritical mark over the “ö” is a traditional Swedish drink originating around Norrland, north of Stockholm on the eastern side of Sweden. This drink was introduced to Gaye by her far Gordon (father) who got the recipe from her far far Walter (paternal grandfather). Glögg is a spiced, sugared and simmered red wine or port libation.

The history of Glögg dates back to the 1500s when, spiced wine called Hippocras was sold by wine merchants. Named for Hippocrates, this wine was thought to have healing powers over muscle injuries (great for muscle strains induced by snow shoveling). Perhaps that is why Gaye’s far far Walter, who was 5’3” and quite the tumbler in the Swedish circus, was highly sought after to climb up the Crow’s Nest of ships. Seems he sipped a bit of Glögg from time to time. King Gustav I of Sweden renamed the German version glühwein to “glodgan vin” in the 1600’s. By 1800, it was shortened to glögg which means “to glow.” Gaye pointed out to me, as I was sipping the warm Glögg, it is nature’s blush. I immediately felt a glow like I just schussed down the mountains. How is that? The warm liquid raises the temperature of the mouth and stomach slightly, and because alcohol is a vasodilator, it forces blood to the skin, making one feel warm and fuzzy.

Gaye’s dad had a special mug he put his Glögg in, as is the tradition. The Swedes often sing traditional drinking songs with their Glögg. The most popular song is called ‘Helan går’ (Drink). If you aren’t the spirited adventurous type, Glögg can be a non-alcoholic tradition as well, using fruit juices, most typically black currant.

If you aren’t the spirited adventurous type, Glögg can be a non-alcoholic tradition as well, using fruit juices, most typically black currant. The most popular song is called ‘Helan går’ (Drink). Gaye’s family recipe uses port. Simmer with sugar/water and cheesecloth bouquet (cheesecloth containing: 8 half sticks of cinnamon the length of your thumb, 20 whole cloves (do not use ground cloves); 8 cardamom pods opened to expose the cardamom seeds inside. If you have the actual seeds, probably about 48 seeds. Tie together with kitchen string. Simmer in bubbling sugar and water for at least 15 minutes.

Add ¼ gallon of an inexpensive port wine (some people use red burgundy or cabernet). Gaye’s family recipe uses port. Simmer with sugar/water and cheesecloth bouquet for 30 minutes. Then let it sit in a kettle until Fat Tuesday. If you are gutsy, you can add a half a cup of brandy, pouring the brandy on top and light it. Do it very carefully!

Serve the mixture heated in a small cup or shot glass. Add a jigger of bourbon. Gaye’s family used bourbon or blended whiskey, but you can add 1½ rum or vodka. Add a pinch of black raisins and several whole blanched almonds. The raisins and almonds are essential to be authentic.

GAYE’S GLÖGG

1 ½ cup of sugar plus ¼ cup of water. Dissolve over low heat until smooth and clear (bubbling gently).

Make a garni/bouquet housed in a double layer of cheesecloth containing: 8 half sticks of cinnamon the length of your thumb, 20 whole cloves (do not use ground cloves); 8 cardamom pods opened to expose the cardamom seeds inside. If you have the actual seeds, probably about 48 seeds. Tie together with kitchen string. Simmer in bubbling sugar and water for at least 15 minutes.

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SKAL! (Swedish for Cheers! To your health!)
Following the death of Albert Holden, a trust was set up to provide income for his daughters, Emery May and Katherine, during their lifetimes. Emery May had been her father’s favorite, and was always treated as the son he had hoped for. Having received few of the allowances fathers usually made for their daughters, Emery May developed into a gutsy and determined young lady.

Following graduation from Westover School in Connecticut, age 21, she went to London just as World War I began. She then volunteered in Paris driving an ambulance and caring for the wounded in French hospitals. It was in Paris where she met R. Henry Norweb. Emery May was immediately taken with the charming and well-mannered young Englishman.

Raymond Henry Norweb was born May 31, 1894 in Nottingham, England and moved to Elyria, Ohio with his family in 1907. After receiving his B.A. from Harvard University in 1916, he entered the diplomatic service. That same year he traveled to Paris as secretary to Ambassador William G. Sharp during World War I.

Henry and Emery May married in Paris in 1917. They had three children: Raymond Henry Jr. who was born in a Paris cellar during an air raid; Jeanne Katherine (Mother Mary Joseph) who lived at “Louch Hame” with her great uncle, Guerdon Holden, while her father and mother traveled the world on diplomatic assignments; and Albert Holden, named for his grandfather.

Norweb’s diplomatic career following the war included postings in Japan as secretary of the embassy in 1922, then to the Netherlands as secretary of the embassy and chargé d’affaires in 1925, and to Chile as counselor in 1929.

He later served in Bolivia and the Dominican Republic and in 1940 was named Ambassador to Peru. During World War II, Mr. Norweb was sent to Portugal as Ambassador and headed the negotiations for establishing the United States air base in the Azores.

Henry retired from his post as Ambassador to Cuba, and returned to Cleveland in 1948. During all the diplomatic postings, Emery May furthered her study of art and languages. The Norwebs maintained “Katewood” during their 31 years abroad.

With the return of the Norwebs to Cleveland, Emery May, who as a child bounced tennis balls off fine old paintings in her grandparent’s home, became an active member of the Cleveland Art Museum’s accessions committee. In 1949 she joined the museum’s board of trustees. In 1962 she became the first woman president of the art museum; one of two women presidents to date.

In 1959 he became the first director of the Holden Arboretum. Under his leadership additional acreage was acquired, expanding the grounds from 1,000 to 2,900 acres.

Emery May became blind while in her 70s, which interfered with her enjoyment of gardening, embroidery, and painting. She quickly learned to read Braille and worked with her coins through touch.

Henry Norweb died of cancer October 1, 1983 at age 89. Emery May died just five months later on March 27, 1984 at the age of 88. Both are buried in Lake View Cemetery.

On September 25, 1984, Christie’s of New York auctioned the remaining contents from Katewood and the estate of Emery May and Henry Norweb. This was no ordinary yard sale. Some attendees had to park over a mile away, taking a shuttle to a large yellow and white tent that seated hundreds. About 1,200 people showed up to the auction that took $238,700.

In April of 1992, after having sat empty for eight years, Katewood took on new life, thanks to the vision of volunteer designers who put the home on view as the 1992 Designer Hope House. Proceeds from the public walk-through benefited the Cuyahoga County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

While barely visible just west of Breezy Bluff, Katewood still exists today. You can find it at the western end of the Village, just before Lake Shore Boulevard turns south.
Making Bratenahl Bloom
Colleen Brady

Bratenahl Blooms has been enriching our community for over ten years. It began as a way to bring the community together. “Our goal has always been to bring the village together and we do this with a village plant sale. It is a positive and fruitful experience helping friendships, developing new ones, keeping Bratenahl beautiful through our flowers and plants, and just being fun,” says Mary Ann Moskal, current President of Bratenahl Blooms.

Bratenahl Blooms was founded in 2006 by a group of women who met through the Bratenahl 100 and other community organizations. They came from all over the village and few knew each other before meeting to organize Bratenahl Blooms. They had a shared goal of raising money and selling plants and flowers at a price a little above wholesale cost.

Initially, Bratenahl Blooms was part of the Bratenahl 100 and all of the money raised supported the service organization. After a few years, Blooms became independent. Then in 2016 Bratenahl Blooms became part of the Bratenahl Community Foundation. Blooms funds are still kept independent of BCF, and we maintain the same goals of growing friendships and raising funds by selling flowers.

Blooms funds have paid for the flowers planted in the street corner flower boxes along Lakeshore Boulevard and at Village Hall. Also, Blooms donated funds for the bench outside the Community Center as well as supporting New Avenues to Independence group home in Bratenahl.

Long-time village resident, Dot Lowder, diggs up portions of her beautiful perennial garden to supplement the inventory. Her additions are eagerly sought by garden enthusiasts.

A White Elephant sale was organized and added by Ann Dornback to the plant sale. It has proven to be a valuable addition and some of the donations cause a great deal of discussion, and sometimes humor, between the sale staff and patrons.

Bratenahl Blooms is a loving group of village residents helping in their own small way to improve our community. Our main purpose is to bring people together and improve our village through the simple act of a plant sale. Blooms welcome new members as a way to make new friends. There are no membership requirements, just a willingness to work together. “For the betterment of the Village”.

The 2017 Plant sale will be held on Saturday May 20th at the Community Center. Pre-order forms (the bulk of our sales) will be distributed throughout the village in April. The deadline for receipt of pre-orders is Thursday May 4th. “For the betterment of the Village”.

Barco Keeps Bratenahl Blooming
Jeanne Lyons

As you walk through the Flatsman garden center one last time before they move to Ohio, that luscious coral gem in just keeps calling to you. Deep in your heart, you know it will not thrive in your garden this summer, no matter how much TLC you proffer, but that doesn’t stop you from wishing it could be yours, along with a myriad of other glorious bedding plants lining the aisles.

“Locally grown” is a trending marketing phrase for food and plants and rightfully so. Sourcing local elements for table or garden is sustainably smart and most of the time cost effective. Soil, weather, daylight, climate, growing zones, can severely alter ALL plant material from the tiniest pansy to a 3” caliper balled-and-burlapped shade tree. Even state wide, bedding plants grown in southern Ohio do not “condition” to Bratenahl as quickly as locally grown.

Bratenahl Blooms plant material, offered annually in May at the Community Center, is by far superior because it’s grown at wholesale Barco Sons Inc., in Medina. Some, but not all, Cleveland area garden centers purchase plants from out-of-state suppliers. Barco is a one stop, local plant mecca.

Originally rooted in Rocky River in 1938 and offering cut flowers to the Cleveland floral market. Barco eventually moved to the Medina area in 1968, building 260,000 square feet of greenhouses. Today they focus on growing 1500 varieties of premium plants including mums, poinsettias, Easter lilies, rieger begonias, an eclectic mix of flowering annuals, bedding flats, hanging baskets, ferns, and Burpee home garden starters.

Quality grown plants, service and distribution in a highly competitive market is key to Barco Sons’ success, which translates into happy customers who purchase from Bratenahl Blooms.

Join us May 20, and be secure that you are purchasing the finest, “locally grown” plants money can buy.

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Ilda Svechs. A Life Well Lived
Kathy Jones

Most of us think of the mass migrations of WWII being so, well, massive, but that migration ranks a distant second to today’s migration numbers. The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record with 65.3 million people displaced and 21.3 million refugees, half of whom being children. Last year the Cleveland area became the new home for 1200 refugees.

In 1944, Bratenahl’s very own, Ilda Svechs was eight years old and a refugee. Her family survived Nazi detention and UN refugee camps, and in 1949 an American family sponsored her family’s migration from Latvia to America. The Svechs’ made Michigan their new home, while eventually starting a business as Ilda continued her education.

Dr. Svechs’ drive and scholarship led to a successful career as an educator, researcher and psychotherapist. Numerous international awards are testament to her influential career and important work on the effects of childhood trauma on adult development and functioning.

Since the fall of Communism in 1991 Ilda has traveled back to Latvia 12 times, initially returning as a Fulbright scholar teaching developmental psychology and psychopathology at Latvia’s Academy of Culture and the University of Latvia. Her consulting to medical professionals and educators has improved the psychological treatment of children in Latvia, especially in the Children’s Clinical University Hospital in Riga. This has also influenced the country’s approach to female prisoners. Dr. Svechs’ focus on the importance of keeping mother and child together in the first four years is helping break a cycle of abuse and neglect, which is in-turn fostering meaningful stable relationships between mother and child, improving outcomes for both.

For the last 26 years Dr. Svechs has called our Village home. Her love for Bratenahl is apparent as she describes her enjoyment of Lake Erie, characterizing it as a “beautiful treasure.” She finds great joy and comfort in wonderful friendships and her neighbors Bob and Laura Maloney and Boo Geist. She gives credit to the excellent management staff of Two Bratenahl Place Tower for making life so pleasant and stress free. The proximity of Severance Hall, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the obviously short commute to her office adds to her delight of the Village.

Dr. Svechs’ personal story is inspiring and her professional achievements impressive. The courage of her parents in moving their young family to craft a better life for their children is being repeated many times over today. Her immigration story included American sponsors who helped the family make their way in America’s heartland in 1949.

Today, several local organizations are supporting the successful assimilation of local immigrants. Global Cleveland (globalcleveland.org), Us Together, (usotogether.us) and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, (refugees.org) offer many ways to assist the next wave of new Americans who will add their story to ours. Dr. Svechs and her family are a beautiful illustration of America’s melting pot. We hope this new wave of immigrants will create a new America for the next century, because their success will be ours as well.

Published by the Bratenahl Community Foundation
Thank you for all your support. We couldn’t do this without you!

The Reading Room

Stephanie Gallagher

“READING SERVICE - Now Available in Bratenahl”

Remember how great it was to curl up and have a parent read to you?

I am a Bratenahl resident who loves to read. I’ve recently launched a new service where I’ll come to your home to read aloud to you anywhere within the Bratenahl village boundary. You choose the reading material such as the Wall Street Journal, the classics, your hometown newspaper, poetry, or the latest New York Times Best Seller. Reading sessions last 60 minutes and are scheduled on a month at a time basis. We can meet 3 mornings a week, Sunday afternoons or whenever your schedule allows.

Whether your eyesight is starting to fail or you simply enjoy the company of being read to (and who doesn’t) call me for a confidential chat. You choose the reading material such as the Wall Street Journal, the classics, your hometown newspaper, poetry, or the latest New York Times Best Seller. Reading sessions last 60 minutes and are scheduled on a month at a time basis. We can meet 3 mornings a week, Sunday afternoons or whenever your schedule allows.

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From Kate McFadden: Congratulations to Stephen L. Kadis of Bratenahl, once again named in the 2017 Edition of Best Lawyers, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Kadis was selected in two categories, Tax Litigation and Tax Law. He has been named as one of the Best Lawyers of America for 34 consecutive years, ever since the inception of the program in 1983.

From Mary Beckenbach: A Shout Out to your Lamplighter editor Tim Schultz, also owner of Marcom Solutions. Tim was chosen as one of four local professionals by the Cleveland Plain Dealer to share what it will take to succeed in 2017. Tim’s advice “…make good decisions that position the customer first, help them solve problems, and provide added value while exceeding expectations.” He also mentioned, “stay current with new technologies and tools that help better connect with clients and customers, including Skype, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.” It’s great that our Bratenahl resident is part of the Cleveland scene!

From Pat Bennett: Thanks to the BCF for its generous donation to the Hospice of the Western Reserve. Although there was plenty of delicious food leftover from our Holiday Party, none of it went to waste.

From the BCF: A Shout Out of recognition and appreciation to Pat Bennett for starting and maintaining a great looking BCF Facebook page. Pat took this on within the last year and has done an excellent job with it. Please visit, “Like” and feel free to submit your Bratenahl related photos.

From Kathy Jones: Congratulations to Bratenahl Villager, Beth E. Mooney. The Fed recently announced that Ms. Mooney, also chairman and CEO of KeyCorp, has been appointed to a one-year term as the Fourth Federal Reserve District’s representative on the Federal Advisory Council. Mooney served as a director of the Western Reserve. Although there was plenty of delicious food leftover from our Holiday Party, none of it went to waste.

From Bill Beckenbach: A great big Shout Out to our Bratenahl Historical Society, dedicated to the enrichment of our community and villagers through the research, preservation, and educational promotion of the history of our Village of Bratenahl. Established in 1990 by a group of long-time residents interested in preserving Bratenahl’s heritage, and assuring that our legacy would be passed on to future generations, the Society encourages villagers to become members for an annual fee of only $10.00. The fee entitles members to use the records presently in possession. Any artifacts or documents anyone would be willing to donate or loan would be gratefully received. The Society is located in the Community Center and is generally open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday through Friday. It would be best to call ahead at (216) 533-1108 for an appointment just to be sure.

From 40 Days of Outward Lent
Dominic Callitto
Some people observe Lent, which is a religious observance that begins on Ash Wednesday and covers a period of 40 days, ending on Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the “preparation of the believer through prayer, penance, repentance of sins, atonement and self-denial.” In addition, some people abstain from a normal activity or practice during the 40 days. The act of abstaining is done to imitate Jesus Christ’s 40 days of fast in the desert.

If your family does observe Lent, re-educate your family about its meaning. If your family is religious, but does not traditionally observe Lent, you might still use this 40 day period to act philanthropically. Consider an “outward based Lent,” where for 40 days your family either individually or collectively agrees to be conscious of how your actions impact others.

Below are steps your family can follow to make your Lent project a success:

1. Prior to the beginning of Lent, arrange a meeting with your family to discuss the Lent project. Introduce your family to the idea of having an “outward” Lent where the entire family agrees to consistently help others for 40 days.

2. Review the list at the end of this section to choose which one of the four categories is best for your family. The list consists of the following: Forty Good Deeds, Family Sacrifice, One Individual, and One Cause. Once the category is determined, ideas can be chosen.

3. Ask each family member for ideas of how to be impactful to others during this period. Make sure the ideas are appropriate for the category your family has chosen.

4. Approximately a week later, meet with your family to discuss the ideas each family member wants to pursue. As the leader, make sure you personally contribute at least three good ideas. Ask each family member to share their ideas. If the family cannot collectively agree on one idea, vote to arrive at a consensus. Make sure each family member is aware of their daily obligation.

5. At the end of each day of Lent, make sure the daily idea was completed. The family may want to create a family journal that chronicles the 40 days of Lent. One family member could take a few pictures for each day of Lent and make journal entries. Each family member should complete their current day’s obligation before moving on to the next day’s obligation.

6. Just prior to Easter Sunday, perhaps on Good Friday which is the last Friday before Easter Sunday, create a Lent Booklet that details how the family has helped others during Lent. The booklet could contain photos, quotes, or even little stories from each day’s journal.

7. On Easter Sunday, which is the conclusion of Lent, have a family dinner. For families that observe Easter Sunday, this probably already happens. During Easter dinner, review the accomplishments of your family. Ask each family member to discuss their favorite day of Lent or their favorite activity. Make sure you use the conclusion of Lent to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of your family.

40 Outward Lent Categories:

- Forty Good Deeds: Each day during Lent, family members choose a good deed to bestow upon a friend, non-family member or stranger. The good deed can be as simple or involved as the member chooses. The goal is to reach 40 people with 40 good deeds. Examples of good deeds include writing a short note of appreciation, or leaving a generous tip.

- Family Sacrifice: Each day your family can agree to give up a small expense in their day and place the funds into a Family Charity Jar. This jar will build up during the 40-day period and at the end of Lent, the money can be given to an individual or charity. For instance, a parent could give up a cup of coffee at Starbucks each day or a child could give up having a soda with their lunch to raise money for the jar.

- One Individual: Your family chooses one individual and over the 40 days of Lent does something special for this person. For instance, your family could agree to do something special for Grandma each day. It could be as small as a phone call telling her how much she is appreciated or writing a handwritten note expressing your affection. During this 40-day period your family should do everything possible to celebrate this individual and be as active as possible in making this period special for them.

- One Cause: Your family agrees to use each day of Lent to work closely with one single charitable cause. For instance, your family might agree to help homeless animals in your community. Each day you would do something to help homeless animals. You may drop off toys at a shelter, volunteer, donate loose change to homeless causes, or foster an animal.
The View from Village Hall
Mayor John Licastro

I am pleased to submit the 2017 State of the Village of Bratenahl Report, an annual requirement under the Ohio Revised Code.

The Village’s effort to implement a Master Plan continues. The first step beyond the creation of the plan itself was a Community Facilities Master Plan and Related Land Use Strategy. This process began in May of 2014 and is continuing. Part and parcel of this effort was to circulate a Recreation Needs Study for Bratenahl. Here is what is at the forefront of this ongoing discussion:

1. Replacement of the Service Garage and building of a road salt storage facility. Van Aukens Architects Inc. has presented a plan for the existing site that includes demolition of the old structure, while erecting a new building and road salt storage facility. Costs are being discussed along with funding options. Council’s Public Improvements Committee has met with the professionals and residents. At the time of this writing, a recommendation to move this project forward is being considered.

2. Upgrade to the Bratenahl Community Center. Bill Doty Architects Inc. has taken on this project, which included the Recreation Needs Survey. This is also being discussed by the Public Improvement Committee. At the time of this writing, options are being considered with a Town Hall meeting to present to residents in the works.

The elected offices of Village Clerk and Village Treasurer have been eliminated and replaced with an appointed office of a Village Fiscal Officer/Treasurer. This individual does not have to be a resident of Bratenahl, which gives us a much larger pool of applicants. We are conducting interviews and hope to have someone hired before the end of February.

The following items are on our agenda every year of late.
They are:

- Discussion of the timing and funding for the repaving of Lake Shore Boulevard. Monies from the State of Ohio (DOPWIC) and the County will help offset the cost when the time comes.
- Continued maintenance of our roads, sewer and water systems. We will seek assistance from the County and NEOARDS in regard to sewer projects.
- Green space upkeep and access. Davey Resource Group is being considered to guide us through this process.
- Police/Service Departments needs and wants, including personnel and equipment.

- Discussion of wage increases for Village employees.
- Close watch of our revenue and expenditures. Cuts from the State to local governments are part of the new order. We did see a reduction in income tax last year that is factored in our projections for 2017.
- Coordinating with NEOARDS of the continuing tunneling and pump station project south of the Memorial Shoreway. This also includes upgrades at the NEEO Easler Sewage Treatment Plant in 2017 and the impact it has on our residents that live in close proximity.
- Potential acquisition of CMSD’s former BBP Professional Development Center. This is back on the table.
- Long-term strategy on taxes and finances in light of the loss of Estate Tax and Local Government Fund, as well as the above mentioned projects.
- Consideration of consolidation of Village Debt on capital projects, both present and future.

I would like to recognize and thank our Police Department, led by Chief Rich Dolbow and Lt. Chuck LoBello. I also want to thank and recognize our hardworking and competent Village Staff, including Julie Kreiner, our Clerk of Courts, Deputy Clerk of Courts, Angela Fernandez, Joe Zalar, the head of our Service Department and his men, Tom Jamieson and Mary Ranney, who comprise our Building Department, Diana Cooks, Deputy Village Clerk and Sue Capello, Recreation Program Director. There isn’t enough room to thank all the volunteers that comprise our Boards and Commissions. The Village is fortunate to have them. I would also like to thank members of Village Council – also volunteers – for their hard work and dedication.

Village government has, in my memory, always functioned bottom up, not top down. As elected officials, we look for residents’ input and guidance to help make the correct decisions for our Village. That, in-turn, allows Bratenahl to be on the proper path. Thank you for your feedback.

We look forward to a safe and prosperous 2017.

We hope to see you at our meetings. I close, as always, with the refrain from Bratenahl’s school song:

...she is the best, the very best, all Hail to Bratenahl!

Onsight overhead view
Proposed interior space

Public Improvements Committee Report
Mary Beekenbach, Chairperson

I am pleased to report that the Village Service Garage plans are moving forward. The dedicated members of our Service Department deserve a working environment that is safe, practical and serviceable. Council has reviewed and visited the existing century-old service garage and are in agreement that the current conditions are unacceptable, and the facility should be rebuilt.

The Phase One environmental site assessment has been completed and is determined to be clean. Mayor Licastro has approved an asbestos survey of the building so that any asbestos, if discovered, can be safely removed.

The Public Improvements Committee has determined a preferred site option as seen below:

The new 10,000 square-foot garage diagram will be located closer to Garfield Avenue making the site more attractive.

The brown square in the lower left corner will be the location of the 1,600-foot salt dome that will provide easy access for delivery of salt and more efficient loading for Bratenahl service vehicles.

The process will move forward with the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a design/build contractor that will be published on the Village website and in local newspapers. If all appropriate steps are completed in a timely manner, the Village would like to begin construction mid-summer of 2017, with a completion date in the fall of 2017.

The process will not begin until the Village Finance Committee determines best avenues for funding this project. Council and the Mayor will be investigating options for funding. Offering notes, in the anticipation of bonds, would be the first step in the process. At this point in time, funding for the Service Garage does not involve a tax increase. We will also be making a formal request to the Cuyahoga Land Bank, to partner with Bratenahl, by assisting us in the demolition of the existing service garage and then returning the area to productive use.

We hope that the Bratenahl residents will support this endeavor!

Land Conservancy Update
Marla Murphy, Chairperson/Legislative Committee

Last fall the Legislative Committee met to discuss the Village’s three parcels of conserved land, which is an important component to the Village Master Plan:

- The Bird Sanctuary is located on the north side of Lake Shore near the corner of Corning Road.
- Green Space Preserve is situated on the north side of Lake Shore and runs along Dugway Creek.
- The third property is across from Greenspace Preserve on the south side of Lake Shore Boulevard.

As owners of these parcels, the Village is responsible for making management decisions. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) is responsible for monitoring and enforcing terms of the conservation easement. As part of the agreement between the Village and WRLC, a Steward of the WRLC visits the property each spring to observe any changes in the properties and to ensure that terms of the conservation easement are being upheld.

In the past, Village resident Beau Danne, a Steward for the WRLC has completed the annual visit to our properties on behalf of the WRLC.

A special Council Meeting was held on the morning of November 1, 2016 to tour the Bratenahl Bird Sanctuary, Shade Tree Commission members, Council members Joyce-Burke Jones, Jim Paffenberger and I walked the Bratenahl Bird Sanctuary with Pete McDonald of the WRLC and our Service Director Joseph Zalar.

The group discussed the following maintenance initiatives:

- Clean brush and remove garlic mister and invasive species.
- Install a fence at the northeast section of the property.
- Remove a select few of the Norway maples adjacent to the north side of Lake Shore to allow more sunlight in the area (just like every year).
- Clear brush and debris in an area approximately 8 to 10 feet between Corning Road and the conserved land, where it abuts residential properties.
- Issue a reminder to residents that dumping of brush, grass clippings and any other rubbish and debris on the conserved land is prohibited under law.

Village Council agreed with the Legislative Committee’s recommendation to enact a policy naming Service Director Joseph Zalar as the Administrator and contact of the conserved land. A tour of the parcels will occur twice per year.

Pete McDonald, a Steward of the WRLC will lead the tour on May first. Joseph Zalar will conduct the tour on November first. A written report of their findings and recommendations will be made to Village Council. All residents are encouraged to attend.

The tour dates will be posted on the Village’s website and at the posting boxes throughout the community.
Back by popular demand!! The first wine event for 2017 is February 23, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Community Center kitchen. A selection of five wines coupled with painting a masterpiece of your own, what could be more fun? Space is limited to 20 so hurry and make your reservation! $20.00 per person. (The next wine event is scheduled for March 23).

Pickleball Introduction Class: Pickleball is one of the fastest growing games around. Everyone can play, the game accommodates to all, no age or ability limits! Come to the Community Center on Saturday March 4, 10:00am-12:00, to learn the basics of the game. The class is free of charge but please call the center to register.

Wine Tasting: March 23, 7:00-9:00 pm. Please call for information.

Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt: The Easter Bunny will be visiting the Center on Saturday April 8, 12:00-2:00 pm. Following brunch the egg hunt will commence in the building for the children. Don’t be late!

Beer Tasting: April 27, 7:00-9:00 pm. Please call for information.

Additionally: The Memorial Day Celebration will be here in no time. This year’s theme is “Flowers.” Any and all people that would like to participate are invited to do so, but please call the Community Center to make accommodations can be made. ALL Village VETERANS, please call the Center. We want extend a special thank you for your service to our nation. The Community Garden will be leasing 12’x12’ plots for $20.00 each this year. Please call to reserve your plot.

The Tag Sale has been put on the calendar for June 10-11. Ten or more participants will be needed for this event to occur. Please call early to reserve your table(s). ($20.00 per 8’ table)

2017 CALENDAR

- **2月** 11日 8:00-11:00 PM Valentines Dance
- **2月** 23日 7:00-9:00 PM Wine Tasting
- **3月** 23日 7:00-9:00 PM Wine Tasting
- **4月** 8日 12:00-2:00 PM Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt
- **4月** 27日 7:00-9:00 PM Beer Tasting
- **5月** 29日 10:00 AM Memorial Day Parade/Celebration Village Tag Sale
- **6月** 3日 7:00 PM July 4th Celebration
- **8月** 18日 7:00-10:00 PM Summer Bash
- **10月** 28日 12:00-2:00 PM Halloween Party
- **12月** 16日 12:00-2:00 PM Santa Brunch

Presently, there is an opening on the Recreation Commission. If you are interested in joining, please call the Center for more information or see the notice on the website.

Dear Residents:

Please be advised that this 2017 calendar is not all inclusive. Be sure to visit our website regularly for updates on new programs, classes and events. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Laurel Herbold for her service and participation on the Recreation Commission. She recently resigned her position, and though she will be missed we wish her the best of luck in the future. If any of you are interested in serving on the Recreation Commission please visit our website or call the Community Center for more information.

Lastly, I hope all of you have a happy and healthy new year!

– Susan Capello

Do you need more information about an event? Do you need to post something on the Community Bulletin Board? Perhaps you want to know how to rent the gym? Or maybe you would like to get on the “Rec News” email distribution list? If so, please call 216.451.5350, email me at recreation@bratenahl.org or check our new and improved bratenahl.org website. I look forward to hearing from you!

At Right: (Top) Christmas with Santa at the Community Center
At Right: (Bottom) BCF Big Band Big Holiday Party
Support The Foundation

You can help the Bratenahl Community Foundation by either volunteering to assist us with our various projects as a “Friend of the Foundation”, and/or donating tax deductible funds.

Mail to: Bratenahl Community Foundation, c/o One Bratenahl Place, Front Desk, Bratenahl, Ohio 44108-1155

Name: ___________________________ Address: ___________________________ Phone Number: ___________________________

E-mail ___________________________ Donation: $50 Friend $100 Supporter $250 Patron $500 Gold $100 Lamplighter Sponsor $ ____

I do not wish to give a monetary donation but would like to volunteer my time.

Please be sure to renew your membership each calendar year.

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