In addition to being a long-time Bay resident, this year Sue Kohl is celebrating 20 years working with the city. She began as the Assistant to the Building Director in 1999, and was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Mayor in 2012.

Sue handles the day-to-day running of the Mayor’s office, including coordinating his hectic schedule and fielding inquiries from residents and non-residents. She manages the city website, email blasts, and the monthly community calendar to keep Bay residents up to date on city events. Sue is also the mastermind and organizational force behind the hugely popular Food Truck Fridays, started in 2017 and gearing up for its third season beginning this May. Sue takes a lot of pride in her work and enjoys helping residents and her community.
President's View

Dwight Clark, City Council President

Serving the residents as a legislative leader of Bay Village is a passion and calling I’ve enjoyed for almost 10 years on City Council. My wife, Nancy, and I have raised three children in Bay, all attending and graduating from our wonderful public school system. We’ve been residents for almost 35 years, and I can honestly say there’s not a better community in northeast Ohio.

I’ve enjoyed serving in volunteer capacities with the Bay Rockets, Bay Village Education Foundation and Field of Dreams, amongst other non-profit organizations. In 2019, we, as a city, stand on the precipice of several game-changing enhancements, all part of our recent Master Plan, including a new library, new housing development, bridge and road renovations, and walking/biking connectivity improvements.

City Council members serve as ambassadors for our city, a communication gateway to our residents, and truly represent all the good things Bay Village has to offer. Council works tirelessly to be efficient, open, and responsive, taking a pledge to create or revise laws and ordinances always geared to the best interests of those residents who elect us to office.

Our Bay Village citizens, our city employees, our location, our parks, our quality of schools, our record of safety... all reasons why I serve proudly, honorably and humbly, for each of you.

And Now A Word from Your Wards

Marty Mace, City Council At-Large

First elected to Council in 2015, I am grateful to be able to continue serving our community after retiring as a firefighter/paramedic for Bay Village. It is an exciting time to serve as our City center is transformed by the Liberty housing project, the new library and increased lakefront access.

I am the chairman of the Environment, Safety and Community Services Committee. I also serve as a member of the Finance Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee. It is rewarding to address our community’s needs; such as infrastructure and public building maintenance, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Nancy W. Stainbrook, City Council At-Large

My family’s lived in Bay for 23 years and I’m Councilwoman At-Large. My responsibilities include Chair of Public Improvements, Representative to the Community Services Board, and Library Committee member. I’m proud of leading efforts to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at Council meetings, renewing civic pride.

Bay is a wonderful city because of our commitment to others and to good government. I became involved in local government because sustaining our success is important. It takes generations of residents working together to create vision and execute strategy. It’s an honor representing residents and contributing to Bay’s success.

David L. Tadych, City Council Ward 1

Since 2001, when first elected, I have considered Ward 1 representation an honor and privilege that never gets old. I am the longest serving Council member, and elected Vice President by Council.

For 24 years, through the IRS/AARP tax program, I helped taxpayers. I chair Council’s Finance and Budget Committee, have represented Bay in four triannual union wage negotiations, and serve as Council’s Tree Commission representative.

I am most proud of chairing Bay’s Bicentennial, and initiating ward meetings allowing residents to voice concerns. Over the years, I have met many wonderful residents who care, as I do, deeply about Bay.

Lydia DeGeorge, City Council Ward 2

Years ago, after reading Council and Mayoral decision-making news, I began attending council sessions. I wrote about those experiences on social media. As I shared information, I formed relationships with residents. Serving as Councilwoman was the next step, a natural progression for me. I currently chair the committee responsible for upcoming waste contracts and utility aggregation.

I am in the process of forming a merchant organization. I am proud of my duty to our business owners and constituents and our open communication as we continue to keep Bay a safe, desirable place to live, work and play.

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Sara Byrnes Maier, City Council Ward 3

I am honored to serve the residents of Ward 3 in my first term. I am a graduate of BHS and moved back to Bay to raise my family in this amazing city.

I served on the citizen steering committee for the city’s master plan as a way to get involved in the community, which is what led me to running for ward representative.

I am happy to be able to use my background as a city planner in my role as Council representative to the Planning Commission and as Chair of the Planning, Zoning, Public Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Peter J. Winzig, City Council Ward 4

I’ve enjoyed a wonderful 17 months as your Ward 4 representative, working with residents, Council, and City staff. In 2018, we completed Ward 4 street improvements, Bradley Park (Co)lumbus) tennis courts resurfacing, nearby restroom upgrades, and playground renovations. On the Finance Committee, we’ve kept a keen eye on expenditures, investing in City buildings, equipment, and infrastructure. On the Library Subcommittee, we guided the project back on schedule and look forward to a great facility. I’m working on Cahoon Park fields and buildings, Library City Center Park, infrastructure, budget, updating and improving ordinances, and responding to residents’ needs and concerns.
Show Me the Money
Report from the Finance Dept.

The Bay Village Finance Department is dedicated to the responsible and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Finance Director Renee Mahoney started with the City in 2013, and since that time she has worked to restore and improve the City’s financial standing after the global downturn in 2008.

The Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) recommends that cities maintain a general reserve limit, or “rainy day fund,” of two months’ expenses. Depleted in 2008, the City’s general reserve limit was increased to $2 million in 2018 under Director Mahoney’s guidance, meeting the GFOA recommendation for the first time since the downturn.

In addition, Bay Village has received an Excellence in Reporting commendation from the Ohio Auditor of State in 2018 for the fifth consecutive year. This year, Director Mahoney is sourcing a new integrated finance system to further improve efficiency and modernize the Finance Department. The new system should be implemented and go live by the end of 2020.

Recent Grants

Cuyahoga County awarded Bay Village $50,000 under the Community Development Supplemental Grant Program (commonly known as the casino money) to refurbish the athletic courts at Reese Park. The refurbishment will include converting one of the tennis courts to pickleball courts. This was the most competitive round for this grant program so far, with 52 applicants and 20 awards.

Kathryn Ketcher, Project Manager for Bay Village, completed the application with a strong show of support from the Senior Center BV60+ group. The refurbishment should be complete this summer, and will enable expanded programming for both Community Services and the Recreation Department.

Community Services

The Community Services Department, led by Director Leslie Selig, touches the lives of many Bay Village residents, bringing together those in need and those who are able to help. In September, Community Services kicked off a chain of volunteer and giving events with the community garage sale at the Dwyer Center. Area residents could rent tables to sell items outright, or donate their items outright to be sold by Dwyer Center volunteers. Staff and volunteers handled set up, pricing, and cleanup of the event, which raised over $2,000 in 4 hours. Part of the proceeds was used to buy material for no-sew lap blankets, leading to the next volunteer event.

Assistant Director Connie Lupica organized and instructed 22 volunteers at a 3-hour blanket assembly get-together. Some blankets had personalized designs, such as red, white and blue for veterans, or dogs, cats, or flowers based on the recipient’s known interests. Lupica and Car- ryanne Smitley delivered the blankets to Meals on Wheels recipients in January. The responses from recipients and volunteers was overwhelmingly positive. If you would like information on available services or how you can help, contact Community Services at 440-899-3409.

Project of the Year: BV60+

BV60+, Senior Center programming designed for the interests of “younger seniors,” was named Project of the Year by the Bay Village Community Council. Launched by the Bay Village Senior Center in 2018, Community Services Director Leslie Selig based the program on focus group responses indicating a lack of programming that would be interesting and accessible to “younger seniors.” BV60+ activities include pickle ball, bowling, disc golf, and outings to BAYarts, wineries, and the Flats, and response to the program has been tremendous. Vicki Sprague, initially the volunteer chairperson of the BV60+ committee, was brought on as a part-time city employee to coordinate the rapidly-growing program. New events in 2019 are slated to include a monthly game night, kayaking, golf, and “Meet & Greet” happy hours. For more information on BV60+ activities, see the Bay Village BV60+ Program Facebook page.

More Than Fighting Fires

Update from Fire Chief Chris Lyons

Fighting fires is only one among many responsibilities that your Bay Village firefighters are prepared to encounter every day. For instance, although all of our firefighters are also state-certified EMT-paramedics (and have been since 1976), we still get questions from residents about where the paramedics come from during a medical emergency. Nearly 75% of our emergency calls are, in fact, medical in nature. And while an “EMS call” may sound rather pedestrian, when you are having a heart attack, or your spouse is having a stroke, or your child needs to go to the emergency room, it is anything but an ordinary day for you.

The BVFD is an all-hazards response organization. This means that we respond to any emergency where life, health, or property are at risk. The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) lists nearly 30 different types of “Technical Rescue” disciplines, each with its own set of unique skills, training, and specialized equipment. These include everything from Cave Search & Rescue to Structural Collapse Rescue. Of course, we try to prepare for scenarios that are most likely to occur here in Bay Village. For example, all our members train regularly and are certified in Rope Rescue (cliffs by Lake Erie), Vehicle Extrication & Rescue (automobile accidents), Water Rescue (think Huntington Beach), and Hazardous Materials (trains and trucks carry a variety of chemicals).

The Firefighters Rescue Task Force works in tandem with police officers during an active-shooter training exercise at Bay High.

Protecting & Serving
Report from Police Chief Mark Spaetzl

The safety and security of our residents is our primary responsibility. To achieve this goal, we not only arrest those who violate the law and investigate criminal activity, but more importantly, we constantly engage with the community to build positive trusting relationships, provide a wide variety of services, and give back to our residents.

We are currently engaged in over 30 different programs and activities that touch the lives of our residents, from the very young to the more mature.

In addition to time spent in the Bay Schools by patrol officers, we provide Safety Town, read to Normandy students in the fall, provide bike safety courses, host the Police Explorers program, sponsor the annual Touch-a-Truck event, and many other activities for our youth.

We regularly provide speakers for the senior center and run the very popular Community Police Academy each year. Our officers feel privileged to work and interact with our Bay Village families. Follow us on our Bay Village Police Department Facebook page or contact Sgt. Rob Gillespie at 440-871-1234 to learn more about how we engage with the community.
Bay Village Branch Library
Update on Library Progress

On April 3, the Cuyahoga County Public Library and HBM Architects presented conceptual plans for the new Bay Village branch to the Bay Village Planning Commission.

This was a pre-submission hearing, an opportunity for the commission members to learn about the project and provide feedback to the architects prior to the formal review and approval process.

HBM Architects used historic buildings in Bay Village as inspiration for the design, which features a front porch, a second-floor outdoor reading space bordered by a “green roof” with live plants, and separate children and teen areas.

There will be several study and meeting rooms which will be a welcome addition to the community. The plans were well received by the commission and members of the public in attendance. The library is a major component of the recently completed citywide master plan, and will help frame the Village Green or town center between the library and city hall.

Formal plan submission is expected later this spring, and a public hearing for final input from the residents will follow. For more information, see the city website.

Building Blocks
Facts from the Building Dept.

The Building Department was reconstructed from the ground up in 2019. The city’s contract with Safelbuilt ended in 2018, and Eric Tuck-Macalla started as the Building Director at the beginning of 2019. The new department came together quickly with two full-time inspectors – Bob Lyons, Property Maintenance Inspector, and James Vagase, Building Inspector – as well as Shawnee Schuller, Assistant to the Building Director, and Lauren Oley, part time Assistant.

The Building Department handles permits for new construction and renovations, property maintenance concerns, commercial and rental property inspections, and contractor registration. Director Tuck-Macalla hopes to implement online form submittals in the near future.

Bay Village Service Dept.
Maintenance is Job #1

In addition to the high-visibility construction projects going on around the city this summer, the Service Department is occupied year-round maintaining the things most of us least want to think about. They clean the sewers; pick up trash, leaves, and brush; and push snow out of our way. They clean the sewers; pick up trash, leaves, and brush; and push snow out of our way. They repave local roads, install new playgrounds, clean the restrooms at the parks, and mow acres of public grass. Jon Liskovec, Director of Public Service and Properties, keeps as much work as possible in-house to reduce reliance on outside contractors. Fortunately, the Service Department has a very talented and dedicated staff that keeps the city looking and running great.

Keeping it Green

The Mayor and City Council work with the Bay Village Green Team, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of Bay Village volunteers, to develop and implement plans that make our community more sustainable. The team manages the Community Garden on Forestview, consults with civic groups looking to reduce waste generated at events, and organizes shredding days, composting seminars, multiple waterway cleanups and other projects throughout the year. All residents are welcome to participate. See their website at bayvillagegreenteam.org for all the information.