



# Heather Lake Association

## Winter Newsletter 2022

### PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

Board members are not paid nor do they receive any special perks or benefits. They are volunteers and serve because they care about this community and want to be a part of making it better.

Attracting volunteers for open board positions, committee assignments and neighborhood activities has been difficult for several years. The park cleanup day was cancelled earlier this year due to the lack of interested volunteers. We all have busy lives and limited free time. So, in order to keep our community running effectively, the board is aggressively researching professional management options.

To learn more about the professional management options available, plan to attend the March 23rd annual meeting.

Let's show pride in our community and make Heather Lake the best place to live in Fairfield County. You can begin by attending the Heather Lake Annual Meeting and show that you care.

### ASSOCIATION ASSESSMENT

Most of your association assessments goes toward the maintenance of the lake and common areas. We are all experiencing the effect of increased inflation and rising cost of products and services. The Heather Lake Association 2023 budget reflects increases in mowing, lake maintenance, legal/retainer and property insurance expenses.

In the past, assessments have experienced slight increases. However, we must plan for the future. Our community is 20+ years old and there are some areas that will require attention soon, such as the path around the lake. Even though the path was slurry sealed in 2021, it will need to be replaced within 5 to 10 years. In addition to the rising costs of normal operating expenses, more funds need to be earmarked for reserves to cover future replacement costs.

Quotes from our service providers reflect a significant increase in mowing costs. Our service contracts were negotiated years ago but have reached their termination/renewal point and needed to be renegotiated.

This year, in order to save money and have a more "hands on" approach to the clean-up and maintenance of our common grounds area, we relied heavily on a few volunteers. Although we appreciate the effort and hard work, this concept is not sustainable. It is unfair for a few to carry the entire burden. Due to the lack of active volunteers, our budget will reflect the hiring of more service providers for maintaining the common ground areas.

The board is obligated to set assessments at a level that is adequate to cover operating expenses and fund the reserves. The 2023 budget will reflect the need for an increase in assessments. We have been seeing cost increases of approximately 30%. An increase in assessments will be required to fund the 2023 expenses of the Heather Lake Association.

The 2023 budget will be distributed prior to the annual meeting in March.

**Alone we can do so little  
Together we can do so much**

 Helen Keller

### NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

To streamline general information requests, a new email box has been created for submitting Design Review Applications and general inquiries. This email will be monitored daily and will be directed to the appropriate individual for response. The new Heather Lake general information email address is:

**[info.heatherlake.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:info.heatherlake.assoc@gmail.com)**

Board Treasurer, Mike Smith, has a new email address as well. To keep treasurer inquiries separate from other requests please forward all future treasurer correspondence to him at:

**[heatherlake.assoc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:heatherlake.assoc.treasurer@gmail.com)**





## WINTER WEATHER

The association does not salt or remove snow/ice from the path around the lake. Please be careful when you visit the park and walk at your own risk. Also, as a reminder, there is **NO SKATING** on the pond. Ohio weather is not conducive to a thick, solid, safe ice.

## DESIGN REVIEW APPLICATIONS

Many of us are still in the process of repairing/replacing damage to our homes as a result of the May 3rd hailstorm. Supply-chain issues and insurance negotiations have caused some delays. Homeowners who have obvious damage to the outside of their homes were asked in the September Newsletter to inform the board of an estimated timeline for repairs. The board received only a few responses. A second request was mailed to those who did not respond, so please take the time to send us an update.

Most homeowners have followed the proper guidelines and submitted a Design Review Application prior to starting their repairs/replacements that changed the look of their home. Violation letters were mailed to homeowners who did not gain board approval before making changes. Please submit your after-the-fact Design Review Application now to avoid an enforcement assessment. The Design Review Application along with the guidelines can be found at [heatherlake.org](http://heatherlake.org).

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

- ◆ **Holiday Lights at Easton Town Center** – 11/18 – 1/2/23 nightly from dusk to dawn. Admission is free with more than 21 million twinkling lights, a 56-foot tree located in the Town Square and the charming Easton Express Railway model train display.
- ◆ **Magic of Lights at Historic Crew Stadium** – 11/23 – 1/1/23 a new drive-thru lights display featuring more than 2 million magical lights. \$25 per vehicle M-TH and \$30 per vehicle F-SU.
- ◆ **WonderLight's Christmas** – Hartford Fairgrounds 11/11 to 1/2/23 5:30-10PM every evening including holidays. \$30 per vehicle (up to 7 passengers). A two-mile light show from the warmth of your vehicles - [wonderlightschristmas.com](http://wonderlightschristmas.com)

## HONOR FLIGHT COLUMBUS

Honor Flight Columbus (HFC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring America's veterans from WWII through the Vietnam War with a trip to Washington DC to visit their service and war memorials. The trips are at no cost to the veterans and are funded by donations from businesses, foundations, and grateful Americans.

HL resident and Vietnam Navy vet, Ron Scott was honored to be a part of HFC mission #118 on 11/3. Vietnam vets were not treated kindly on their return but the HFC Homecoming Ceremony gave them the proper homecoming they should have received 50 years ago.

On their return they were presented a mail call bag that contained letters and cards from family and friends. Unbeknownst to Ron, HL resident Sue Nutini, coordinated with her granddaughter's 3rd grade teacher, Melissa Dinan, also a HL resident, to adopt Ron as their classroom veteran. The children drew pictures and wrote notes that were included in his mail call bag. All notes and cards he received were much appreciated, but the ones from the children were so very special to him. This life changing opportunity and the acts of kindness he received will forever be appreciated. When making your year-end donation decisions this year, you might want to consider **Honor Flight Columbus** and remember...

**THANK A VET!**

## CHARITABLE DONATION IDEAS

**Fairfield County Protective Services Holiday Donation Drive** – make the holidays special for children and the elderly. Every donation will make a difference.

[fcjfs.org/services/child\\_protection/partnerships\\_and\\_donations](http://fcjfs.org/services/child_protection/partnerships_and_donations)

**Meals on Wheels** - Every dollar received provides meals and other crucial services to improve the health, and independence of seniors. <https://www.mowfc.org/donate-o>

## BOARD MEMBERS

President	Brad Briggs	<a href="mailto:heatherlake.assoc.president@gmail.com">heatherlake.assoc.president@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Position Open	
Treasurer	Mike Smith	<a href="mailto:heatherlake.assoc.treasurer@gmail.com">heatherlake.assoc.treasurer@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Carol Scott	<a href="mailto:heatherlake.assoc.secretary@gmail.com">heatherlake.assoc.secretary@gmail.com</a>
Deed Restrictions	Position Open	
Park & Common Grounds	Kim Reinbold	<a href="mailto:heatherlake.assn.commongrounds.@gmail.com">heatherlake.assn.commongrounds.@gmail.com</a>

## BOARD SUPPORT

Parks & Common Grounds Support	Tom Nutini, Karl Reinbold, Joe Rudinsky and Ron Scott
Architectural Review Board	Susan Nutini
Webmaster	Don Hornbeck

**Email:** [info.heatherlake.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:info.heatherlake.assoc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.heatherlake.org](http://www.heatherlake.org)



*What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?  
A cookie sheet!*

