



Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 34044
Parma, Ohio 44134

Please visit our website at www.noccassoc.org

Fall 2012

President's Piece:

NHS of Greater Cleveland Launches Consumer Law Center Program to Protect Ohio's Consumers Earnings, Savings and Long-Term Wealth

Danita Love, NOCCA President and Highland Hills Council President

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland announced the launch of the NHS Consumer Law Center – a new effort in consumer protection that will give consumers from northeast Ohio and beyond the knowledge and confidence to pause before they spend their hard-earned dollars on a transaction that might not be in their best interest.

By means of educational materials, seminars, practical advice, and public awareness campaigns; the NHS Consumer Law Center is being created to arm the citizens of Northeast Ohio with the information that they will need to make informed, intelligent and financially-safe consumer decisions.

Consumers in today's marketplace are at constant risk of being steered into purchasing decisions that are designed, primarily, to benefit the sellers. Despite the recent financial crisis, the risk to consumers' long-term wealth remains high. One of the reasons is that the primary weapon for consumer protection in Ohio (the Consumer Sales Practices Act, or CSPA) continues to be diluted at a time when it should be strengthened. In addition, the proliferation of scam artists, predatory short-term lenders and a weakened economy are all conspiring to harm every consumer's buying power.

We can't all be experts in consumer law. So it's great to have a resource like the NHS Consumer Law Center that consumers can contact for easy-to-understand explanations of how the laws protect us as consumers."

PLAN TO ATTEND OUR FALL FORUM

Thursday, November 15, 2012
100th Bomb Group Restaurant
20920 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44135

Let's Talk Jobs

Guest Speaker:
Grace Kilbane, Team Lead
Strong Cities, Strong Communities
U.S. Department of Labor

Registration	6:00 p.m.
Program	7:00 p.m.
Q&A	8:00 p.m.

Grace Kilbane recently volunteered for and is serving as the Team Lead for a White House Initiative on Strong Cities, Strong Communities in Cleveland, Ohio to test a new engagement strategy across nine federal agencies to work together locally to advance the City's economic development strategies. Cleveland is one of six cities chosen to pilot this initiative. Grace and her husband are thrilled to be back home in the Cleveland area after almost 30 years!

Contact Linda Young at 216.548.7800 or via e-mail at lindacrossyoung19@att.net to make your reservation.

President's Piece: (continued)

Mark Wiseman, the Director of the new NHS Consumer Law Center – whose history of fighting for consumers includes working as the original Director of the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention Program; as an Assistant Attorney General in Ohio's Consumer Protection Section and as a member of the Federal Reserve's Consumer Advisory Council – has said he believes that the NHS Consumer Law Center will be able to arm our citizens with the knowledge needed to make buying and borrowing choices that benefit their own households, instead of benefitting the scam artists and charlatans who are prowling our neighborhoods, disguised as legitimate businesses.

All Consumer Law Center services are free of charge and are intended for anyone seeking information about consumer issues. The Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland is an organization providing free, fair and unbiased information, programs and services to the residents of Greater Cleveland and the surrounding areas of northeast Ohio to assist residents in achieving, preserving and sustaining the American dream of homeownership. NHSGC is one of the first chartered NeighborWorks® organizations.

For more information call 216.458.HOME (4663) or visit their website at www.nhscleveland.org.

Opinion Matters:

Cuyahoga County Agency of Inspector General

The preamble to the County Charter indicates that a primary goal of the reformed County Government is to ensure that County leadership is focused, effective, and accountable. To assist in the achievement of this goal, the Agency of Inspector General will publish significant reports covering its daily activities.

The Agency of the Inspector General Ordinance authorizes the Agency of Inspector General to conduct all examinations under Section 2.05 of the County Charter. In furtherance of this authority, the Agency of Inspector General has all such rights and duties to investigate corruption, misfeasance, fraud, waste, abuse, malfeasance and nonfeasance without interference or pressure from any other public office or employee. The Agency of Inspector General exercises this authority by investigating specific allegations of misconduct and through auditing or reviewing County operations.

The Agency of Inspector General is also designated as the County's chief ethics officer and is charged with the responsibility of investigating and enforcing the Ethics Ordinance in accordance with the terms of said Ordinance. The Agency of Inspector General is focused on the provision of training and other forms of guidance to assist employees in meeting the highest ethical standards.

The Agency of Inspector General is required to prepare and publish semi-annual reports concerning the work and activities of the Agency.

Forum Wrap-Up:

State Funding: What Local Government Can Expect

Peggy Cleary, NOCCA Secretary and Fairview Park Councilwoman

NOCCA welcomed Susan Cave, Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League, who offered an overview of what local governments can expect from state funding in the upcoming bi-annual budget.

For municipalities, villages and townships that rely on state revenue sharing to prop up the general fund, the news for the next budget cycle does not look good. NOCCA members were reminded of the 50% cut to the local government fund in the 2011-2012 budget and its negative impact it on municipal budgets. Municipalities provide a wide variety of basic and essential services, including police, fire, EMS and street and sewer maintenance. These services are not funded or provided by the state, but are provided by local governments.



Beginning January 2013, the state will repeal the estate tax, 80% of which went directly to the municipality, village or township. On January 1, 2013, the 2013-2014 budget will be proposed by the governor before it is taken up by the House, then the Senate. It is expected to be a tight budget and local governments are being told not to look to the state for additional revenues.

Our forum speaker encouraged local elected officials to contact their state legislatures to let them know of the work we do, the wide variety of services needed, and our inability to place the burden on the local taxpayer to maintain the same level of services. We need to let our state legislators know that we need help from the state to assist in funding essential services that cannot be provided by local taxes.

To view the forum in its entirety, please visit our website: www.noccassoc.org.

Membership Corner:

Benefits of NOCCA Membership

Paul R. Barker, NOCCA Board Member and North Olmsted Councilman, Ward 2

Quarterly NOCCA forums are a great place to learn and meet new people. I have been attending the forums for 3 years. During this time, I have made contacts with other council people, managers and directors of various organizations and companies that NOCCA arranges to speak at these meetings.

Approximately a year ago we had the Cleveland Division of Water speak at our meeting. This meeting came about as a result of a strong letter I wrote for a NOCCA publication. The Cleveland Public Utilities Department did a great presentation and the attendees were able to meet many of the people who run and administer the different divisions of the water department.

Last year there was a problem with a sidewalk due to a water main break in my ward, with the help of the North Olmsted Service Department we were able to get a sidewalk replaced within a month of the water main break. The tree lawn, which was heavily damaged, was not repaired.

The following spring the service department started to make calls again for completion of the tree lawn repair. Months went by without any solution. I decided to call one of the gentlemen I met at the NOCCA Forum meeting. I explained the situation and asked if he would be able to look into the completion of this repair. To our surprise the tree lawn was replaced within three days.

At budget time, when you as a council are deciding which organizations you are looking to join, please consider the Northern Ohio City Council Association. I truly feel that all city councils in Cuyahoga County should consider voting yes for membership in this organization. The cost is reasonable for your council to join. The quarterly meetings are informative and free with your membership, but most of all members have the opportunity to network with people who prove to be viable resources to help them with their job of serving residents.

We increase the effectiveness
of NEO council people through
education, empowerment and engagement

Municipal Topic:

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Diane Bickett, Executive Director



This fall, Cuyahoga County communities were asked to approve Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan Update as part of a state-mandated planning process that requires counties to reduce reliance on landfills and increase waste reduction and recycling. Thanks to the support of the communities, this plan was ratified and will be implemented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District.

Many of the programs and services contained in the Plan help communities manage waste in a cost-effective and environmentally-sustainable way. Please contact the District about any of the following municipal services.

- Litter Collection Services
- Community Recycling Awareness Grants
- Municipal Contracting Consortiums
- Household Hazardous Waste Management
- Waste and Recycling Contracting assistance
- Scrap Tire Round-Up
- Recycle Your Computer Month
- Business Recycling Assistance
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Education

The District offers a variety of other services designed to increase recycling opportunities, divert waste from landfills, promote environmental awareness, and support local recycling-based businesses.

Funding comes from a “generation fee” which is a \$1.50 fee levied on each ton of solid waste generated in Cuyahoga County and landfilled in Ohio.

Visit our web site at www.cuyahogaswd.org or call us at (216) 443-3749.

NOCCA E-NEWS

November 2012

2012 NOCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	Danita Love	Highland Hills
Vice President:	Jackie Albers	Maple Heights
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	Matt Trafis	Seven Hills
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	Paul Barker	North Olmsted
	Adele Zucker	University Hts.
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This e-newsletter is published by the
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Linda Cross-Young, Administrative Secretary
216.548.7800
lindacrossyoung19@att.net