

# Woodmere Winter Wonderland



January 2012

For these cold winter months that have just arrived in Woodmere, let's take a look at life in our village through the weather, sports and activities associated with the season.

## Synchronized Skating



Mayor Smith's nod to 2012 begins with a welcome to new Woodmere Council members - Ben Hobert, Tennyson Adams and Azaadjeet Singh who were all sworn in on January 1, 2012. "I am looking forward to our working together as a congenial and collaborative team. Welcome to you all!"

## Building Igloos

Here in Northeast Ohio we use very different building materials from the ice of igloos. But, we're quite serious about building. Our building is out of federal compliance concerning the amount of work space for employees. The fire department space is far too compressed. We must follow the federal rules in order to be able to do the right job for the village. Watch for more news about building a new Service Department Building.

## Ski Archery



The bulls eye is the Roselawn house. Yes, the Village is, at last, taking aim and directing our arrows to the Roselawn house which will be put on the market very soon. The house has been costing the village \$21,000 per year. The sale of the house will reduce our expenses considerably.

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### Snow Angels

A major failure of the previous administration is the fact that the village charter has not been updated since the village was incorporated in 1945. We need to move the village into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Currently, there are 6 people who will be put on the March primary election ballot for the Charter Review commission. They are – Cynthia Samples, Kim Robinson, David Corney, Betty Perry, Sandy Hahn, Stu Leitch. There is room for a seventh person by write-in.



### Building Snowmen

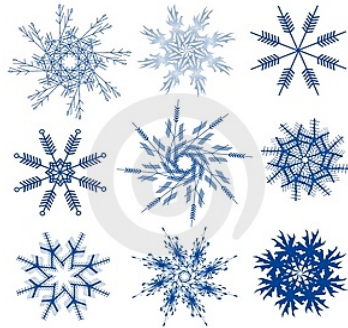
The need for repairs to the Fire Department and the Police Department was so acute they totaled over \$200,000. The Police Department concrete pad in the back and the Fire Department concrete pad had to be replaced, as well as the disintegration of the building in the front. But, because of Mayor Smith's and engineer Ed Hren's resourcefulness and numerous conversations with Cuyahoga County Executive, Ed Fitzgerald, Mayor Smith was able to obtain a 100% grant for the Village to do the necessary repairs. Initially, the village had to put up \$70,000, but this will be reimbursed when the project is done. At this point the concrete work is finished. All that remains to complete the project is the brick work, which is scheduled to be done in the spring. Kudos to Mayor Smith!

### Cross Country Skiing

On our way to February and Black History Month. There will be exciting activities sponsored by Eton at Eton. More information will follow.



## Storm Watch



Orange High School, one of the top schools in the state, recently had a bomb threat that paralyzed the school for three days. I had an opportunity to interview Kenya and Alex, two top students in their senior year at Orange. They explained to me that the first call from the administration stated that school was closed for an emergency reason. Neither of the girls was scared at this point. As the day

wore on, information seeped out to the students that there had been a bomb threat via email.

Besides the emails, certain student received extremely frightening videos via Twitter. Jews, African Americans and a specific school administrator were singled out as the reason for the bomb. It was at this point that Alex became truly frightened and stayed out of school when it reopened on Thursday and Friday. Kenya went back to school on Thursday but became

frightened at seeing the FBI with their guns. Regardless, she remained in school Thursday and Friday.

At this point, so many weeks later,

the only emotion these girls feel is anger with the students that were sending the bomb threat emails. The restrictions in school are annoying and the extended days prove difficult for students who work after school. These two girls are very grounded, and have gotten on with their lives. We, at Woodmere Village Hall, are proud of our dedicated students, and hope that all of them have been able to move on.

## The Real Medal Count

The state's performance audit is complete, and their recommendations have been received. Watch for these changes in the police department resulting in the same excellent service with decreased costs to the village.

## Olympic Awards Ceremony

Mayor Smith was nominated by County Executive Fitzgerald to serve on the greater Cleveland Sports Commission. Public service is a great commitment, and Mayor Smith has selflessly agreed to attend the necessary meetings and to perform the other duties that will be required of him in this position. Congratulations to the mayor for his commitment to community, and his ongoing willingness to serve.

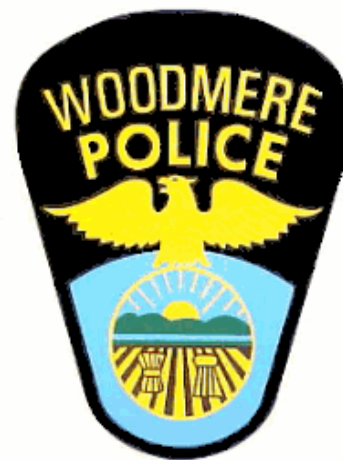
## Ice Patrol



The current status of the village remains in fiscal emergency. But, we have come a long way. At the beginning of this administration the surplus was \$60,000. Now the surplus is \$160,000 due to cost cutting and changing policies and procedures.

## Snow Scavenger Hunt

Police Chief Terence Calloway has accepted a position at Austin Pey University in Tennessee. His last day at the village will be February 17, 2012. Chief Calloway has given outstanding service to the village, and we wish him nothing but the best. In the mean time, we are actively looking for a new Police Chief.



## Cabin Fever

During these cold winter days and nights, many of us spend a great deal of time cocooning in our homes, just wanting to be warm. The fire chief offers these three tips to keep your house warm and safe from fires this cold winter: (1) Have the fire place chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time. (2) Keep all portable heaters out of children's reach and at least 3 feet away from flammable objects. (3) Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

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### Snow Crystals



*Snow Crystals* are winter's diamonds, and Woodmere's newest beautiful diamond is Angela Wilkes. Mrs. Wilkes is a newly elected member of the Orange School Board. She is the first African American woman to serve in that capacity. Mrs. Wilkes is a clinical counselor in private practice specializing in

women who have had trauma in their lives. Her husband is a psychiatrist with whom she shares an office. Their oldest son, Stephen, is finishing a residency in psychiatry in Cincinnati; their youngest son, David, is a financial analyst in NYC.

In a recent statement to the mayor, Mrs. Wilkes said, " I will always keep at the forefront of my decisions, both the impact upon the students' quality of education, and the taxpayers' expectations of fiscal responsibility." Angela Wilkes, we are so proud of you!

### A Warm Fire And A Good Book To Read

An exciting new project by reading teachers from Moreland Hills

Elementary School is the Evening Family Book Club. Students, along with an adult, will attend monthly book club

meetings from 7:00 PM-8:00 PM at Woodmere Village Hall on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The books can be taken out from the

Orange Library, but they will also be available at the meetings. This activity is FREE. The application forms are available at Village Hall or the schools and need to be returned to your child's school as soon as possible.

For more information call: Amy Maloney – 216-831-8600 x4913, Sue Steines - 216-831-8600 x4818, Mary Endsley - 216-831-8600 x4212, Kim Kidd - 216-831-8600 x4605. The goal of these dedicated teachers is

to develop good reading habits and the love of reading among our young family



## WOODMERE WINTER WONDERLAND

### Winter Wonderland Who, What and Where ?

What USA president was known for his fireside chats?

In what year was the first Winter Olympics held?

What USA city has the most snowfall?

What is the biggest snowflake on record.

In a 1990 movie, writer Paul Sheldon's car skids off the road during a blizzard in New England. He is rescued by a woman who tells him, "There is nothing to worry about. You are going to be just fine. I am your number-one fan." What is the name of the movie?

Who wrote "The Winter's Tale?"

How much does it cost to heat Buckingham Palace each winter?

What is the warmest US city in January? What is the coldest US city in January?

How big was the biggest snowman ever made?

Name at least three famous Americans born in January.

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### Winter Wonderland Who, What and Where Answers

FDR

1924 in [Chamonix](#), France

Buffalo, NY wins this particular distinction with an overwhelming average snowfall of 85.7 inches.

Cleveland comes in at the number 10 spot with a mere 59.8-inch average snow fall.

The largest snowflake on record was found in Fort Keogh, Montana in 1887 and was a whopping 8" x 15"! That's bigger than a sheet of business stationery!

*Misery* – from a Stephen King story. Kathy Bates plays the number-one fan who rescues James

Caan's character and then traps him in her house. The blizzard makes it impossible for people to find him.

William Shakespeare

The Buckingham Palace heating bill exceeds \$1.5 million a year.

Miami, Florida is the warmest with average January temperatures being about 76 degrees. Fairbanks, Alaska is the coldest with the average temperature in January peaking at about 0.3 degrees.

The biggest snowman ever built measured 113 feet 7 inches tall, and was built in 1999 in Bethel, Maine.