

Good evening and thank you for being here tonight.

Introduce guests: Mayor John Pribonic, Stow  
Mayor Allen Mavrides, Munroe Falls  
Mayor Dave Kline Tallmadge  
Mayor Bill Goncy Boston Heights

Patty White Cuyahoga Falls School Board  
AJ Harris Cuyahoga Falls School Board

Lisa Kamlosky Summit County DD

I hope to give you some valuable information tonight about things that have happened in the Village during the past year, and some insights as to what is on the horizon for this coming year. I won't keep you long. As the flag raiser at Iwo Jima, Ira Hayes, once said, "No one ever complained about a speech being too short".

As Mayor, it has been my duty to inform you of the State of the Village each year. That is the reason we are all here tonight. Before I begin, however, there are few things I need to share with you.

First, I want you to know that I am very nervous about delivering a speech in front of such a large group of people. Will I say the right things? Will I be boring? Will you walk out before I am done? Well, let's look at what I hope are the answers to those questions: Will I say the right things? Hope so. Will I be boring?... Hope not. Will you walk out before I'm done...Don't even think about it.

Secondly, while I love my job as your mayor, and while I put in much time, thought and effort to represent you to the best of my ability, there are other things in my life that demand my time and attention. One example...everyday Kathleen takes 3 of our grandchildren to school, and every day I pick them up from school and bring them home. You should be in the car, what a trip. The girls, 13 yr. twins, are constantly changing the radio channel to find the best music. Let me tell you, what they call music and what I call music are at opposite ends of the spectrum. And their 8yo brother, always wanting to be the center of attention. He does not know the word "quiet". And his jokes.....Here's one of them. What did the horse say when he tripped? I can't giddy-up. Grandkids, a joy, and a blessing... but also a challenge.

Third, strange things often happen to me. The other day I went to a wine shop to buy some wine. When I went to pay for it, the cashier said she needed to see my ID. I said, "What? You're kidding me. But she insisted on seeing my ID. I showed it to her, paid for the wine and told her to keep the change as a tip for flattering me by IDing me. As I walked out, she put the tip in a tip jar and I heard her mumble "works every time".

Ok, let's talk about Silver Lake. Another busy year, another successful year. Allow me to share with you some of the highlights of 2022:

- First and foremost, it is very important that you know that the Village heavily relies on help from our residents. You are the reason the Village is successful in so many areas. I am very appreciative and very thankful that so many of you answer the call to help when asked. Specifically, we need volunteers to serve on our various boards and commissions. Allow me to recognize those presently serving. Don Brown, Courtney Zimmerman, Lou Ciraldo, Brian Lapolla and Denny Stoiber serve on the Planning Commission. Jeff Nank, Ann Marie Lann, Stan Lero, Dr. Mary Ann Schneider and Vicki Scott serve as members of the Citizens Housing Committee. Tom Kramer, Jeff Anderson, Doug Hachat, Craig Chmielowicz and Mike Thorson form the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Park Board is composed of Brad McBride, Jim Newhouse, Sarah Snook, Debbie Steel, Bob Barsan, Shelley Jurkowicz and Cecilia McDermott. Sheri Petrosek, Brad McBride, Bob Henry, Debra Sanderson and John Gerrath are members of the Shade Tree Commission. An ad-hoc advisory commission to the Mayor, the Watershed Commission, was also created this year. Its membership is somewhat fluid, but includes Denny Stoiber, Shelley Jurkowicz, Al Lloyd, Therese Dunphy, Polly Bloom, Marty Emmett, Tim Nichols, and Jim Durr. Please join me in thanking each of these men and women who freely offer their time and talents to the Village.

- Equally important, I want you to know what extremely qualified, hard-working, and dedicated employees the Village has. In a word, they are the best. There is not a weak link in our work force. Everyone does his/her job extremely well, no shortcuts, always helping each other, and always working in your best interests. Please thank our employees.

- We lost a valuable member of my administration this year. Attorney Bob Heydorn passed away last April. He was so important to the Village, and we miss him more than we can ever express. I hope you noticed the sign above the doorway as you entered this room; this room has been dedicated to Bob's memory and has been christened as the Robert W Heydorn Chamber. Fortunately, God must have been looking down upon us. He knew we needed immediate help. He brought attorney Patricia Ambrose Rubright to us. In just the few months that she has been with us, she has proven her worth, and serves us with zeal, passion, and a true love of the Village. Patti, please stand and be recognized.

- We entered several legal contracts in 2022. These include a 5-year renewal of our Fire/EMS/Dispatch contract with Cuyahoga Falls. We hired OHM to be the Village engineering firm. OHM represents several communities, has unquestioned expertise in understanding and developing municipal projects, and has an excellent track record in obtaining grants to help fund various projects.

- We hired Cistone Construction Company to correct a problem at the eastern end of Silver Lake boulevard, where a storm sewer had caused erosion.

- With the help and cooperation of Cuyahoga Falls and Mayor Walters, repairs have been made to the Route 8 soundwall.

- We vacated 2 streets for which the Village has no use.

- The Garden Club once again sponsored a great Festival. Cancelled for 2 years because of covid, the 2022 festival may have been the biggest and best one ever. Thank you, Garden Club.

- And once again, a very successful car show was held in Silver Lake last September. The car show has been put on for the last 8 years by Scott and Brandi Croghan, and their many volunteers. Thank you, Brandi and Scott.
- We opted out of the new State fireworks legislation, believing that residents would not appreciate fireworks going off in the Village 7, 8, 9 or more times throughout the year.
- We again participated in a clothing drive for the homeless.
- We received another near perfect score when the State performed its yearly audit of our books.
- The senior snowplow program was renewed.
- The Englewood Drive project was completed in October. After years of neglect, after years of being anything other than a safe street, Englewood Drive is now one of the most beautiful streets in the Village, complete with new sidewalks, new curbs, and new sewers. It also now sports an underground detention basin at the Oakhill Island and 3 bio-retention swales that will help curb flooding on the east side of the Village, as well as reduce contaminants that enter the waters of Silver Lake.
- We bought several needed pieces of equipment. For the service department, we bought 2 new trucks, a leaf vacuum vehicle, and a 2-ton double drum gas roller. We purchased a new cruiser for the police department. At the same time, we sold unneeded equipment, equipment whose useful life to the Village had expired. Two such pieces of equipment were a leaf collector and a police car.
- We installed new water lines on Outlook Drive.
- We continue to be on solid ground financially. The close of 2022 showed that we had a general fund balance of \$2.3 million, a figure that represents about 60% of our entire operating budget.
- We started construction on a project very dear to me, the Veterans Tribute Garden. We expect it to be finished sometime in April, with a formal dedication taking place on Memorial Day, May 29. I am indebted to, and very thankful for, the committee that has worked very hard on this project, one that has spent countless hours and has given unselfishly of their time and talents in making the VTG a reality. Thank you, John Schlupe, Mike Thorson, Barb Oldham, Rosalie Goshen, Denny Stoiber and Bob Steiner. I cannot mention the Goshen name without also recalling the very moving and very patriotic flagpole dedication we held at the VTG in November for the late Lt Colonel Nick Goshen. Nick was born and raised in Silver Lake; he was a highly decorated soldier, a man so deserving of being the first person honored at the VTG.
- Very important to our employees, Council approved a new salary ordinance, one that more fairly compensates our employees for the excellent jobs that they do. As wages go, I believe we can still do better. When an employee leaves us for another job in another municipality, it is almost always because they can make substantially more money elsewhere, usually doing the same job on which

they honed their skills while working for the Village. We may still lose employees to other higher paying communities, but this new salary ordinance should help minimize such movement. I thank Council for their support. I thank Council also for its dedication and commitment to the Village. The men and women seated directly in front of me serve you well. They take their jobs seriously; they examine every piece of legislation placed before them; they talk, debate, ask questions, and even, if you can believe it, sometimes disagree with me. But in the end, they do what they think is best for the Village. Please thank them for the jobs they do.

Moving forward to 2023, what are some things we can look forward to this year:

- We have entered protracted discussion on what can be done to correct, or at least greatly minimize, the serious flooding problems that plague Chautauqua Drive.
- We are entertaining changes to our building code. One deals with increasing the maximum height a house can be, it's presently set at 30 feet. Another one deals with the number of cars that residents can legally store on their properties. The present number is 3, but questions have been raised as to whether, in this day and age, this limit may be too restrictive.
- We will be purchasing a new leaf truck. This will be one where a single driver can pick up leaves by remotely controlling an attached tube to suck up the leaves. You may have seen such a vehicle in Cuyahoga Falls during leaf pick-up season. The fact that we will also be able to use this vehicle to clean our streets means that we will not have to renew our contract with the company we now use for that service, saving us around \$10,000 a year. This truck is a wise purchase and will pay for itself over the next few years.
- We will buy another police cruiser to replace one now at the end of its useful life cycle.
- We will buy a needed generator for the pump house, one that will in great part be paid for by a grant secured for us by our engineers at OHM.
- We will continue to look for a way that will enable people living in the Colony Allotments to safely cross Kent Road at Thomas Drive. Repeated appeals to ODOT to install a light at that intersection have fallen on deaf ears, but perhaps a request to install a light the type of which you see bicyclists use when crossing busy streets may more favorably be considered. ODOT will soon receive such a request from me.
- We are looking into what the Village may be able to do to maintain and increase the tree canopy in Silver Lake. One way to do that is by helping to educate residents on what they can do to ensure the health of trees on their properties. Both the Park Board and the Shade Tree Commission will lead that venture.
- We will continue to embrace and foster a healthy relationship with the Silver Lake Board of Trustees. Specifically, we recognize that the lake is important to everyone who lives here, that it gives us our identity. It is important that we do what we can to help maintain and increase the health and vitality of the lake.

This November, you will be asked to go to the polls to elect 3 at-large council representatives and a mayor. I will never be able to express to you the satisfaction and feeling of accomplishment that I have felt during the years I have been mayor of Silver Lake. I love this job, and I feel I have served you well. I first became mayor in 2006 and have been re-elected 4 times since. 18 years. At the end of my present term, I will have been your mayor for 18 years. As I have said many times, I am both honored and humbled to serve as your mayor. Adding in my six years on Council, I have been involved in Village government for 24 years. What a ride it has been! So much has been accomplished. So much has been done! Road maintenance, sewer repairs, water line projects, the senior snowplow program, the VTG, the 2014 sidewalk program, the patio at the gazebo, the centennial celebration, Englewood Drive, new playground equipment for two of our parks, two pergolas on two different sites, security updates, software, and hardware improvements... so much has been done during my administration. I'd like to think I am responsible for all of it, but I know I that was not the case. The accomplishments I have achieved are the result of the hard work of many others. Whatever good has been done over 18 years has been done because of your support, the support of Council, the high level of work done by our service department, the care and protection provided by our police department, and attention to detail of my administrative staff. During my career as a high school ice hockey coach, I was fortunate one year to have won a state title in that sport. For doing so, I received many accolades. But I knew that championship was due more to the quality of players I had on that team than it was to my coaching ability. What I did best that year was just stay out of their way and let them play. I do much the same thing as mayor. While I may offer advice, make suggestions, provide some direction, and ultimately make the final decisions, just as I recognized the talents of my hockey players, I also recognized the talents of our work force. As I said earlier, we are blessed with excellent employees. Nobody knows how to run a service department better than Mark Lipan. Jamie Norris knows more about running a police department than anyone I know. No other municipality has a more qualified and knowledgeable treasurer than Sean Housley. Patti Rubright has proven herself to be a very effective legal voice for the Village. Suzanne Lipan and her right-hand man, I should say woman, Kim Pigman, are top-notch when it comes to handling all the bills, purchase orders, collection of fees, issuing of permits, scheduling of events, phone calls, drop-in visitors and the myriad of other things necessary to the smooth running and operation of the administrative office. Me, I just stayed out of their way, and let them make me look good.

So, what does all this mean? It means that it is a good time to leave. It means that this November, I will not be a candidate for Mayor of Silver Lake. After 18 years, it's time for someone else. I have enjoyed virtually every one of the approximately 6254 days, 37,524 hours and 2,251,440 minutes that I will have served as your mayor. I will miss being mayor, but I am confident that we have people living here that are fully capable of continuing to move this Village forward. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your support, and for always being willing to help whenever asked. I am thankful for the unwavering support of my family, especially that of Kathleen. She's always been there for me, most of the time with a pat on the back, but there were also times she gave me that needed kick in the rump, too. I'm not sure where I would be today had she not come into my life 45 years ago. It is her love and guidance that has made me the man, husband, father and grandfather that I am today. I must also tell you that when I told her I was retiring, she said "Great...but does that mean you're going to be home all the time now?"

I'm not sure what I will be doing in retirement. A greeter at Walmart? A bag boy at Acme? A walker of peoples' pets? Or maybe just a lazy, old man sitting in my recliner down in my man cave with my TV remote in hand? I'm pretty sure Kathleen won't go for that last option. Who knows what the future holds for anyone? Does anybody remember a football coach named Bum Phillips? Bum was a head coach in the National Football League for 10 years, first in Houston, then in New Orleans. He retired from coaching in 1985. One Sunday, after he was retired, he was being interviewed by a reporter at half-time of a nationally telecast football game. After a minute or so of chit-chat with the TV reporter, she asked him, "Coach, now that you are retired, what are you going to do?" Without hesitating, Bum looked at her and said, "Not a damn thing, and I'm not starting until noon". Umm, food for thought for me?

Thank you for your attention. Thank you for friendship and your support. Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your mayor. Thank you for enriching my life.