

VILLAGE OF  
**WALTON  
 HILLS**  
 WORK. PLAY. LIVE.

*Journal*

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

A great opportunity for the Village of Walton Hills has been finalized. On Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, after several months of discussion and evaluation, we purchased the 5.39 acres located at 14660 Alexander Road, the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church. The Village Council voted and supported the purchase with a unanimous 6-0 vote during a special council meeting. The original two-story house along with two different out buildings are also included in the purchase. The total cost for Walton Hills is \$450,000 which will be paid for over a 20 year period. The Village has several options when it comes to the usage of our new purchase that will benefit our residents, including but not limited to adding more programs for our community. Below are the details as recorded:

- The larger church building is 12,000 sq. ft. and was built in 1990
- The house is 2,650 sq. ft. and was built in 1930
- There are 100 parking spaces
- Out buildings: one is a two car garage and the other holds six cars
- Total land is 5.39 acres
- Appraisal/valuation = \$480,000 to \$520,000
- County valuation = \$1,025,000

Another important note from November:

Americans elected our next president. A president who's platform was, and hopefully will continue to be in the present and future, "Make America Great Again." One way to make this come to fruition is to improve our country's manufacturing industry. As the Mayor of Walton Hills I was invited to speak at the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I was asked to speak on the importance of manufacturing in America and the significance of products "Made in America". As many of you may know, I have spent 33 years in the "tool & die" trade. I have good insight and hands-on experience with producing products that we use in our lives every day. I was honored with the opportunity to speak at the conference. The message is the same as it's always been, but now it's becoming more important to many government leaders: keeping Americans employed and creating products made here and used here. It is essential to the continual growth of our country. American manufacturing was the backbone, the focus, and the foundation, of our nation and that somehow got pushed aside. Now, our leaders are working to rebuild that strong foundation. Bringing back what has always worked for America, American manufacturing, has been and will continue to be the best part of our country.

Sincerely serving you,

*Kevin Hurst*

Mayor/Safety and Economic Director,  
**I.G.I.T.**

This is a nighttime aerial photo taken by a drone, of the Ohio Flags of Honor traveling memorial which was on display in Walton Hills during Veterans Day weekend.



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## Your Village Officials

Top row: Councilpersons Gloria Terlosky, Paul Rich, Mary Brenner-Miller, Brian Spitznagel

Bottom row: Councilman Don Kolograf, Mayor Kevin Hurst, Councilman Denny Linville

# Legislation Unanimously Approved at the 11.15.2016 Regular Council Meeting

Council meeting minutes are available in their entirety on the Village website

**Ordinance No. 2016-11** makes permanent appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the Village during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016.

**Ordinance No. 2016-12** authorizes the increase of \$15 to court costs to contribute said funds to the purchase of police vehicles and funding the auxiliary police unit.

**Ordinance No. 2016-13** authorizes the issuance of notes in the amount of not to exceed \$1,170,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purposes of (I) constructing and installing road improvements to Sagamore Road, (II) constructing and installing road/traffic signalization for Alexander and Northfield Roads, (III) constructing and installing road/traffic signalization for Alexander and Dunham Roads, (IV) acquiring and equipping service and police vehicles and retiring notes previously issued for such purpose.

**Ordinance No. 2016-14** authorizes the issuance of notes not to exceed \$550,000 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds to acquire and renovate a building for municipal purposes.

**Ordinance No. 2016-15** approves a written post-issuance compliance policy in connection with the Village's issuance of tax-exempt and tax-preferred obligations.

**Resolution No. 2016-36** authorizes the Village's purchase of the real estate located at 14660 Alexander Road.

**Resolution No. 2016-37** supports the "Lights Out for Hunger" program.

**Resolution No. 2016-38** authorizes the Village to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (not to exceed \$150,000).

**Resolution No. 2016-39** authorizes the Village to submit an application to participate in Cuyahoga County's 2017 Supplemental Grant Program.

**Resolution No. 2016-40** authorizes the Village to enter into a contract(s) to complete the Bridge Inspection Program Services.

**Resolution No. 2016-41** authorizes the Village to enter into a contract with Liberty Ford in Solon for the purchase of 3 police vehicles.



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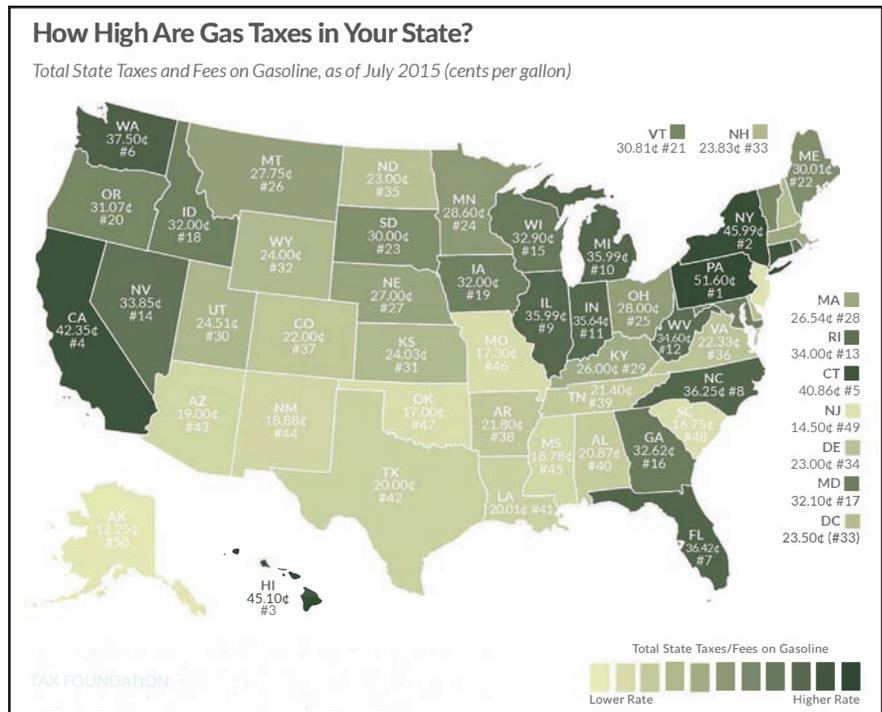
# Tax Administrator's Report

Vic Nogalo, Tax Administrator / Don Kolograf, Finance Committee Chairman

Each and every year the Village of Walton Hills prepares a budget. A large part of the budget includes capital projects. The Village has to assure that all of our streets, bridges, sewers, waterlines, building facilities, traffic signals, vehicles and equipment are in order. Nothing lasts forever and capital assets need to be addressed in a timely manner as they approach the end of their useful life. There is an outcry that our country's infrastructure is crumbling. Unfortunately for the Village, Cuyahoga County, the State of Ohio, and the federal government, the money to address these issues is limited.

In order to take advantage of the current low cost of gas and address the capital needs for all levels of government, why not raise the federal gas tax rate from 18.4 cents per gallon to \$1 while the gas prices are around \$2 a gallon? It would be an enormous boost in funding for the country's infrastructure now instead of just kicking the can down the road for the next generation to pay for it.

Currently in Ohio, we pay 46.4 cents per gallon. Ohio's rate is 28 cents (rate since July 2005) and the federal rate is 18.4 cents (rate since 1993). It's been more than 20 years since the federal increase. Based on inflation, the rate should have been increased approximately 65% up through the 2015 year. As infrastructure construction costs have grown and vehicles have become more fuel efficient, the purchasing power of fixed-rate gas taxes has declined. Ohio's 28 cents generated \$1.8 billion in 2015, not enough to address all the capital needs in the state. Ohio Representative Denise Driehaus of Cincinnati, said the transportation budget is essential. "Commerce thrives when good infrastructure is in place." To make up for the loss of gas-tax revenue,



Ohio has sold sponsorships on state assets, sold bonds against future turnpike tolls and cut costs to free up more money for construction projects while disbursements from the federal government have lagged.

According to 2014 statistics, the current rate of 18.4 cents generated a total of \$25 billion in 2014. If the federal tax rate was increased to \$1, it would generate approximately \$136 billion annually. The federal tax rate for diesel is 24.4 cents. It generated \$10.2 billion from diesel and special motor fuels in 2014. If it were also to be increased from 24.4 cents to \$1, the amount of tax revenue would approximate \$41.8 billion annually.

To better comprehend project costs, the two recently completed five lane eastbound and westbound bridges in downtown Cleveland cost over half a billion dollars. The next three planned projects include the downtown Cleveland Central Interchange (estimated completion

2021), the "Innerbelt" Curve (estimated completion 2027), and the "Innerbelt" Trench (estimated completion 2033). Collectively all three are estimated to cost over \$1.6 billion dollars. That's over \$2.1 billion dollars spent in the downtown area alone. Based on the current federal and state fuel tax structure, the revenues are not enough.

The time is right to incorporate a fuel tax rate hike only because we had been recently conditioned to pay upwards around \$4 a gallon. Americans sent nearly \$430 billion to other countries in 2008 for the cost of imported oil when gas prices hit a peak of \$4.11 per gallon. The public would not mind paying \$3 a gallon if it knew that the extra dollar per gallon would be the answer to complete funding and rebuilding of all roadways and bridges including storm sewers. This fuel tax rate hike would only be effective when gas prices are below \$3. The time is now to face the issue once and for all and take care of our infrastructure.

# Honoring Ohio's Fallen Heroes

During Veterans Day weekend, the Village of Walton Hills honored the men and women from Ohio who gave their lives while fighting the War on Terrorism. The Ohio Flags of Honor traveling memorial was on display during that weekend; it consists of close to 800 American flags. Of those, 293 represent the men and women from Ohio who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. The flag poles are inscribed with each service member's name, rank, and branch of service. The weekend event gave visitors the chance to reflect on the sacrifices that have been made to ensure all Americans

are free. The Village of Walton Hills not only recognized our fallen heroes on the War on Terrorism, but also thanked all of our veterans, many of whom had the chance to visit the traveling memorial. The Village of Walton Hills was honored to host the Ohio Flags of Honor and hopes to participate in the program again in the future. To learn more about the Ohio Flags of Honor Foundation, and how you can donate to the cause, please visit [www.ohioflagsofthonor.org](http://www.ohioflagsofthonor.org). Here are some photos that were taken during the ceremony:



## Thank You Carol James Florist

Our most sincere appreciation is extended to Carol James Florist, located at 451 Broadway Avenue in Bedford, for donating a beautiful floral arrangement for display in the Village Hall lobby every week. They also did a wonderful job of decorating our lobby Christmas tree again this year!

*Please patronize this wonderful florist!*  
**Their phone number is 440.786.1811.**



# December Recreation News

Carol Stanoszek, Recreation Director (440) 786-2964 stanoszekc@waltonhillsohio.gov  
Mary Brenner-Miller, Recreation and Community Life Committee Chairwoman

## Event: GUERNSEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE LIGHT SHOW

**Date:** Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** Leaving Village Hall at 3pm

**Site:** Cambridge, Ohio

**Note:** First we'll stop at Theo's Restaurant, then we'll enjoy thousands of synchronized lights and music and Victorian era figures line the streets! It's a great way start the Christmas season!

## Event: VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

**Date:** Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Site:** Community Room

**Cost:** Please bring a dessert to share

**Note:** Enjoy a visit from Santa Claus! Bring your camera. Get into the Christmas spirit with neighbors and friends!

## Event: SANTA DELIVERY DROP-OFF

**Date:** Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6-7:30pm

**Site:** Community Room

**Note:** Drop off your wrapped gifts including a name tag for Santa Claus to deliver on the fire truck on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Event: SANTA DELIVERY

**Date:** Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11am

**Site:** Your driveway

**Note:** Santa Claus will be coming by to drop off gifts at your home on a fire truck! Have your cameras ready when he arrives!

## Event: SENIOR LUNCH

**Date:** Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 11:15am

**Site:** Community Room

**Cost:** \$5

**Note:** Let's celebrate Christmas!

## Event: CAROL'S BOOKWORMS

**Date:** Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7pm

**Site:** Community Room

**Cost:** A food item for our Village pantry.

**\*\*Please note that all programs and trips are subject to change due to bad weather.**

**Please call the Recreation Department for any concerns at 440-786-2964\*\***

## CAROL'S BOOKWORM REVIEW

Last month we read and discussed the book "My Name is Lucy Barton," by Elizabeth Strout. We rated this book:



Out of 5

*Wishing You and Your Family a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!*

*From the Walton Hills Recreation and Community Life Department*

## Old Time Auto Service

Service Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am - 5 pm / Sat: 8 am - 1 pm



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## Being Santa for a Senior Citizen

Choosing the right Christmas gift for a senior citizen can sometimes be difficult. To help make the gift-giving process as smooth as possible, here are some suggestions for Christmas gifts for senior citizens:

**An Experience:** Whether it's a trip to a store, restaurant or local performance, aging doesn't mean one needs to stop having fun! Chances are, your loved one hasn't been getting out as much as you'd like them to. Giving them the gift of "an experience," is a great way to help ensure they get a little more exercise and social stimulation. Aside from the obvious joys of going out on the town, sharing an experience with your favorite senior citizen is sure to make the present even more special!

**A Life Enhancer:** One way to leave a positive impact on your older loved ones during the holiday season is to gift them something that enhances their daily life. Try putting together a gift bag full of items that make routine tasks easier. A few suggestions include: jar openers, apple

slicers, smaller/lightweight kitchenware and microwavable dinners.

**A Service:** When it comes to seniors, mobility can certainly be a major issue. Cleaning the house becomes more difficult, doing yardwork puts too much strain on them and things can eventually fall into disrepair if left unchecked. A great way to show appreciation for your older loved ones is to pay for a service that helps them out with some of those tougher tasks around the house. Hire someone to deep clean the home, buy a voucher for a personal shuttle service, or if you're a hands-on gift giver, create handmade coupons that they can use for your cleaning services!

This Christmas season, show the seniors in your life that you've been thinking about them. Whether you choose to share an experience, buy something to enhance their lives, or provide them with a helpful service, what's most important is the thought behind the gift!



*"During the holiday season, my thoughts turn to those that make my business possible. A sincere "thank you" for trusting me with your real estate needs. May you and yours have a joyous holiday season."*



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## Street Commissioner's Report

**Dan Stucky, Street Commissioner / Councilman Brian Spitznagel, Infrastructure Committee Chairman**

With winter right around the corner, please remember these important driving tips during snowy conditions:

- Always stay at least 100 ft. behind a snow plow truck
- Stay back at least 100 ft. because powdery, light snow thrown from a snow plow can create a "white-out" condition directly behind the truck
- Give additional stopping distance from the trucks as they make a turn; they can slide more than a car with the plow riding on the pavement
- Keeping a safe distance will also keep your car out of the path of flying rock salt
- Keep in mind that although we may be applying salt, rock salt works best when the air temperature is above 20° Fahrenheit when trying to melt snow and ice
- Reducing speed and increasing the distance between other vehicles will make for a much safer experience when navigating through the snow



Our service department salt trucks will once again be available on a 24/7 basis to ensure that we keep our streets as safe as possible day and night and that everyone gets to their destination. Also, please remember that our snow removal policy dictates that we respond and maintain all Village streets based on a priority list:

- Main roads plowed and salted first
- Side streets, intersections and cul-de-sacs next
- Gravel roads, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks last

## Christmas Paper Recycling



Don't forget to recycle all of your Christmas paper this season! You can add the following items to your regular collection or you can bring them to the recycling bin located in the Village Hall parking lot:

- Wrapping paper
- Packaging & boxes
- Christmas catalogs
- Christmas cards

*The Walton Hills Service and Building Departments  
extend a very Merry Christmas to you and your family!*

## Councilwoman Gloria Terlosky, Information Committee Chairwoman

Every time I go into a grocery store I want to start yelling "There's gold in your purses!" What I mean is that instead of a small child sitting in the seat of the grocery cart, a purse is there. It's just sitting there, wide open, with its contents visible, shouting out to thieves, "Here I am, take me, I am up for grabs!" A man's back pocket or a woman's purse can be very tempting to thieves. It only takes a second, when you are leaning over a store counter deciding which flavor of ice cream to choose, the thief has already walked away with your valuables and is probably on the way to run up your credit card bill or to apply for a loan in your name at the nearest bank. Since 2003, credit card and other companies only print the last few digits of your numbers on your statements. This is helpful, but not 100% full proof that you will be safe. You need to do your part to help prevent thefts.

Here are some things you should leave at home and NOT in your wallet:

### **Social Security Card:**

Rarely asked for. Only give the last four digits when necessary. If asked for the complete number, YOU ask them WHY?

### **Passwords/Pin Numbers:**

Cheat sheets, don't want to even go there. Major problems.

### **Credit Cards:**

How many do you really need to carry with you? Only take what you know you'll be needing.

### **Checks:**

Don't keep the whole check book with you. Just tear out what you will need for the day.

### **Spare House Key:**

If your purse or wallet is lost or stolen, then most likely so is your home address (printed on your driver's license). If your spare house key is in there, the thief will know where you live and how to get in. Leave a spare key with a neighbor. The price to replace locks could be costly.

### **Car Key:**

Since I am on the subject of keys, what's in your glove box or trunk? Any valuables? Spare change? Think about it when you hand over your car keys to the valet.

Now get your purse or wallet and take out all those important items I've mentioned. Make copies of them and keep them in a secured place at home. If your information is stolen, you now have all the numbers you need to cancel credit cards and to report them stolen. You can even put the phone numbers of the credit card companies in your cell phone. You'll be glad you did, you can quickly call to cancel them in case they're stolen! Identity theft is the number one crime being committed today! So, this Christmas season when you are out shopping, remember to keep an extra eye on your purse and wallet. Don't become a victim! Have a safe and happy holiday season!

## Lights Out for Hunger

Please join the Village of Walton Hills, Oakwood Village, Bedford and Bedford Heights and turn off your Christmas lights on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>, and then donate your electricity savings to the "Lights Out for Hunger" campaign. Proceeds will go to the Southeast Clergy Hunger Center and Messiah International Ministries Food Bank. Checks should be made out to The Southeast Clergy Council and "Lights Out for Hunger" should be included in the memo section of your check. You can mail them to:

**First Baptist Church of Bedford**  
445 Turney Road  
Bedford, OH 44146



# Spotlight on

## Walter and Joyce Bielecki

### One of the many threads in the fabric of our Village

We're going to end 2016 celebrating the wonderful marriage and lives of a couple who have called Walton Hills home since 1979, Walter and Joyce Bielecki. Walter and Joyce have both lived in northeast Ohio their entire lives. Walter was born on January 6, 1934 in his family's home on Paul Street in Bedford and Joyce was born at Bedford Hospital on November 1, 1935. Walter grew up in Bedford and graduated from Bedford High School in 1951. Joyce grew up in Valley View and graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1953.

During his senior year of high school, Walter participated in the "trades and industries" courses where he would attend school for half a day and then leave and go to work for the rest of the day. Walter said he's extremely thankful for that program because it prepared him for life after graduation. He worked for Bedford Gear which was located on Krick Road while taking the "trades and industries" courses. When he graduated from high school Walter continued working at Bedford Gear where he eventually worked his way up the ladder (something else he was familiar with; Walter was a volunteer firefighter in Bedford for ten years!) and became supervisor in the gear department. Walter was with Bedford Gear for 19 years.

During his time at Bedford Gear, Walter would occasionally take business classes in the evenings to help him with his work. Walter said he probably spent close to 20 years taking those night classes, but it was worth it because they helped improve his understanding of what it takes to own a business, and that's what he did! After nearly 20 years at Bedford Gear, Walter and one of his co-workers decided to start their own business. In July of 1969 they opened Precision Gear on 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and St. Clair Avenue. Soon after, they relocated the business to Freeway Drive in Macedonia.



Walter's success with owning Precision Gear made it easy for him to decide to sell the company to his business partner and then retire at only 50 years old in 1984! The Precision Gear Company is still open today and is located in Twinsburg. According to the company's website, "Precision Gear focuses on partnering with market leaders that share their commitment to safety and operational excellence. Its long-standing customer relationships and continued dedication towards providing superior gear solutions in the industrial and aerospace markets has been the foundation upon which the company's continued success has been built." That strong foundation was put into place by Walter when he opened the business almost 50 years ago.

Not only has Walter been successful in his work, but he's been a successful and dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, committed to keeping a strong family unit! Walter and Joyce were married on May 8, 1954. The couple has six children, four girls and two boys, 14 grandchildren (ranging in age of 36 years old to 10 years old!) and one great-grandchild. Walter said he's the luckiest guy in the world! Because of the success Walter had in his career, Joyce was able to be a stay-at-home mother, which is a career in itself! Joyce said she loved every minute of it and she's loved every minute of being married to Walter!

Recently Joyce and Walter read an article

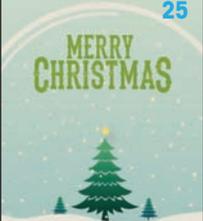
in a newspaper that said only 3,000 Americans have reached the mark of being married for 75 years. The couple's goal is to add to the total and make it 3,002 Americans! Walter and Joyce laughed because they're 13 years away from reaching their goal, but there's no doubt in this writer's mind that they're going to reach it! As already mentioned, the couple moved to Walton Hills in 1979. From the time they moved here, to this day, Walter gets up every morning and goes to the park on Dellwood Drive and does 50 pushups and touches his toes 30 times with straight legs and then another 30 times with an opened stance. Walter also walks the track to stay in shape, and Joyce does some walking too! Again, there's no doubt that they're going to reach that goal of 75 years of marriage! They're in great shape!

Athletics have always been a part of Walter's life! He played baseball, coached it and watched it! Walter has also watched a lot of Bedford Bearcat basketball and football games! He's attended every football game for the Bearcats since 1953, recently though he's only been attending the home games. Walter and his brother (who attends the games with Walter) were honored at Bearcat Stadium for their incredible attendance! They received lifetime membership jackets among other items! Joyce jokingly said that during the early years, she wasn't allowed to have a baby on Friday nights because Walter couldn't miss a game! They both laughed!

Joyce said the main thing is to keep your sense of humor, that's what gets you through life! With as much laughing as we did during their interview, it's true! Laughing keeps us going and if we learn anything from the Bieleckis it's that! Live, love, work hard and most importantly remember to laugh!

# Calendar of Events

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mayor's Court 4pm	2 Guernsey County Light Show Leaving Village Hall at 3pm	3
4 Christmas Tree Lighting 5:30pm	5 Santa Delivery Drop-Off 6-7:30pm  Women's Club Board Mtg. 7pm	6 C.O.W. Mtg. 6pm	7	8 Mayor's Court 4pm	9	10 Santa Delivery 11am
11	12 50 Plus Club Board Mtg. 10am	13 C.O.W. Mtg. 6pm	14	15 Mayor's Court 4pm	16	17
18	19 Senior Lunch 11:15am  Carol's Bookworms 7pm  Antique Car Club 7pm	20 Council Mtg. 6pm	21 	22 Mayor's Court 4pm	23	24
25 	26 Christmas Day Holiday Village Hall Closed	27	28	29	30	31

**Women's Exercise Class** - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Community Room

**Mahjongg** - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4pm at the Walton Hills Church of Christ

**Knit-Wits 2 Needles** - Tuesdays from 1 to 3pm at the Walton Hills Church of Christ

**For the most up-to-date info, call the Village Voice Info Line 440.735.5001 Option 5  
Extra copies of the Walton Hills Journal are available at the Village Hall**





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A large, detailed image of a pine tree branch heavily laden with white snow or frost. The branches are dark green and extend from the left side of the page towards the center. The background is a soft, light blue with a bokeh effect of white, out-of-focus lights, suggesting a winter night or a snowy landscape.

*May you and your family be blessed with joy, love, peace and happiness this Christmas season.*

*The Village of Walton Hills Wishes your family a very Merry Christmas!*

*The Village of Walton Hills also wishes you and your family blessings in the new year.*