

THE FACTOR

A Publication *Sharing the Truth* about our Current Administration....and why it should be a MAJOR FACTOR in Your decision for Mayor this November!
Published by Standing FAST for Broadview Heights (details on Page 3)

<http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>

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Taxpayers overpay for City's heating by nearly \$100,000

For much of this year, Broadview Heights has paid nearly TWICE AS MUCH for its natural gas than our neighbor to the east, the City of Brecksville. In fact, by the summer of 2011, our city had the highest natural gas rate of any community in Ohio.

For the two-year period ending August 31, 2011, Broadview Heights was paying **\$9.19 per 1,000 cubic foot (mcf)** for the city's natural gas. Most other cities were paying **\$5.50 per mcf** at this same time.

Based on city usage data, taxpayers in Broadview Heights have been ripped off. Why? Because, in exchange for at least \$3,400 in campaign checks given to Mayor Sam Alai, Council President Dunlap, and Council Reps. Stewart and Pavlica, our City's elected leaders in mid-2009 agreed to a NO BID, TWO-YEAR FIXED RATE CONTRACT to purchase natural gas from North Coast Energy at the \$9.19 rate – much higher than the “going rate” at the time.

You can find and read the contract for yourself at our web site:

<http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>.

This amounts to Broadview Heights paying almost **\$190,000 per year** for natural gas purchases, based on the usage statistics listed on the last page of this contract. If Broadview Hts. had been a part of NOPEC – the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council – as is Brecksville and more than 100 other area communities, its rates would have been more than **25% less**.

HERE'S THE MATH – Over this past two-year period of time, taxpayers in Broadview Heights have paid about **\$47,350 MORE PER YEAR** for natural gas for their city buildings, due to this contract. **Over two years, this adds up to more than \$ 94,700 in higher-than-normal costs for natural gas that the City has been charged.**

The Broadview Heights gas contract was MUCH HIGHER than it should have been. Below is the “historical” chart chronicling natural gas rates over the past few years.

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City services are in decline

A reduction in snow plowing and salting in the winter, resulting in more stuck vehicles, traffic accidents, and unsafe road conditions.

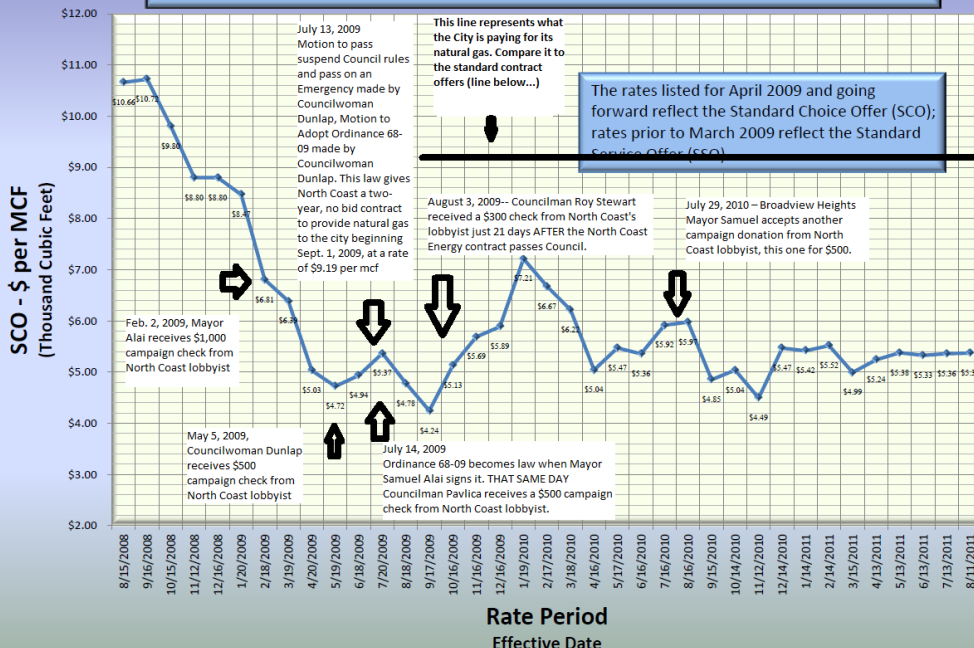
A reduction in the number of secondary roads repaved or repaired in the last four years, leading to more pot holes, bumps, and greater damage to our vehicles.

A precipitous decline in the City's income tax revenues, as businesses and jobs move out of

[See DECLINE on Page Two](#)

FOLLOWING THE MONEY AT LEFT: Arrows point to campaign contributions and the timeline of legislation that gave Broadview Heights a much higher-than-standard rate of \$9.19 per mcf for its natural gas. The solid black line represents the ACTUAL RATE us taxpayers paid. The blue line beneath is the “standard contract offer” from Dominion East Ohio, as published on the PUCO web site. The difference – how much we taxpayers overpaid.

Dominion East Ohio - Historical Natural Gas Rates



This chart represents a snapshot in time of past performance and does not necessarily reflect future price trends.

Quotable Quote

You can fool all of the people some of the time.
You can even fool some of the people all of the time.
But you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Abraham
Lincoln



DECLINE

Continued from Page One

Broadview Heights, some to neighboring Brecksville.

A **lack of communication** about sewer bill increases, street light assessments (some as much as 64% higher), and other “unknown” tax increases being levied on growing numbers of homeowners.

A **serious drop** in housing values in some areas, due in part to oil/gas drilling and other negative factors.

These are just some of the many reasons why Broadview Heights residents are unhappy with their local government.

What's the response? Both Mayor Sam Alai and Council President Helen Dunlap claim “transparency” in their campaign literature.

Transparency – According to Wikipedia, in government and politics, transparency is introduced as a means of **holding public officials accountable and fighting corruption.**

Maybe that explains why we're a City that's in decline, sadly.

[See chart on Page 4 for more info.](#)

Why we're becoming known as Gas Well Hts.

Council President, Econ. Dev. director personally benefit by taking well \$\$\$

Fracking – the process by which gas companies pump chemicals (some toxic) into the ground to extract natural gas and oil – is fraught with dangers. Here is a link that chronicles these environmental nightmares, a

recent Duke University study showing a connection between modern fracking methods and higher methane levels in water wells. Here's a link:

<http://today.duke.edu/2011/05/hydrofracking>

A FEDERAL SAFETY AGENCY did an analysis of the land around Cady Road just west of us, in North Royalton. Here is what they found:

*“The combustible gas levels measured through screening and analytical methods at homes along Cady Road are a **physical hazard**. Levels of gases were detected within the **explosive range or above at two wellheads, and near explosive levels in two basements.***

*A **risk of fire and explosion exists for any enclosed area in which private well water is used**. Residents could also experience potential non-life threatening effects from the levels of methane and other combustible gases detected in their water wells, including dizziness, headaches, nausea, and fatigue.*

Methane and other combustible gases pose an urgent public health hazard to Cady Road area residents that have private well water. (Emphasis added.)

Frightening?

Yet in the eight years since Samuel Alai was first elected to Broadview Hts.

City Council, the number of wells in our community has **increased by 2,150%**, from about four wells in 2003, to more than 86 wells now either in operation or in the “signed and in construction” process.

Mayor Samuel Alai “talks the talk” about the evils of gas well drilling. He even told us he'd appeal two proposed wells all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court. But somewhere along the way, after losing an initial court case, he changed his mind. Instead, Mayor Samuel Alai settled “out of court” with driller Gonzoil Oil, and the City **accepted \$10,000 in payments** for each of two recent wells.

<http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com> contains a copy of the settlement.

DUNLAPS' GAS WELL, SCHROEDEL'S\$\$\$ TOO

Council President HELEN DUNLAP and her husband Brian are participating in a natural gas and oil well, signed more than a year ago, on September 15, 2010. See the document for yourself on the factsforbvh web site.

Neighbors are up in arms about it. Of course details have been “kept quiet” a full year. But Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap will be receiving a one-eighth royalty on all the oil and gas coming from their land. Of course, Helen Dunlap has also received campaign contributions from owners of Cutter Oil. So a second elected official said YES to the money and NO to trying to protect our land and our families.

So did a third person associated with City Hall. Economic Development Director DAVID SCHROEDEL voluntarily signed a lease agreement to go into the “Laszlo No. 1” well in the Briarwood development in the North end of the City...one of the wells the Mayor first fought, then accepted \$10,000 to settle. This fact was NOT disclosed to City Council prior to Council's vote on the settlement.

Mayor Alai, Council President Dunlap and Economic Development Schroedel seem to think – we can't beat them, so join them and make money on them. Harm to the environment and our children's future seems to be less important than making a few dollars.

You be the judge...

Candidate “A” has **OPPOSED** adopting the new Cuyahoga County code of ethical conduct for elected officials in Broadview Heights. He has also **OPPOSED** using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) a tool other area communities have successfully employed, for infrastructure improvements. Candidate A also used his influence in Council to help see that a resolution that would have **REDUCED THE MAYOR'S SALARY BY 15 PERCENT** was not adopted. Candidate “A” has also opposed an independent audit of our City's finances, as suggested four times in a row by the **STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**.

Candidate “B” (or should we say “P”?) has advocated adopting a Code of Ethics for our elected officials. He introduced legislation to Council to reduce the Mayor's salary. He has advocated using TIF to improve our local infrastructure without raising your taxes and draining our City's finances. He's also followed the State Auditor's recommendation to create a **Citizen's Audit Committee** and conduct an independent examination of our City's finances.

So which is better: A = ALAI or P = PRICE?

Myths & Facts

MYTH: Mayor Alai claims he's obtained more than \$3.5 million in grants for the City.

FACT: The figure is FAR LESS than that, especially if one takes out the two grants that former Mayor Glenn Goodwin actually obtained for the Broadview Road reconstruction project.

MYTH: Alai claims he "increased" the City's bond rating.

FACT: Like almost every other City in our area, Broadview Heights got a "bump up" in its bond rating when credit rating services (esp. Moody Investor Services) REALIGNED its ratings scale. Independence, Brecksville, and other cities have had the same "bump up" due to realignment. But their Mayors don't take credit for it.

MYTH: Council President Dunlap speaks of "increased transparency" in her campaign literature.

FACT: Mrs. Dunlap signed a lease to participate in a gas well in September 2010, KEPT QUIET about it for nearly a year, and still refuses to release financial details of this agreement. Sound like transparency to you?

MYTH: Councilman Roy Stewart stated in recent campaign literature that he's a member of the Broadview Heights Lions Club.

FACT: Stewart has **not** been in the Club for more than two years now. Ask ANY Lions member, and they'll tell you the truth about this claim.

Standing Fast for Broadview Heights is an independent political action committee registered with the *Cuyahoga County Board of Elections*. It is **NOT** affiliated with any candidate for elected office. It is a researched-based source of information on Broadview Hts. municipal government, elected officials, candidates and issues that impact the taxpayers and residents.

We now operate the blog:
<http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>
Email us at Facts4bvh@gmail.com

Contributions welcome!
Standing Fast for Broadview Heights, Karen Thier, Treasurer.
PO Box 470048
Broadview Hts, OH 44147

Close family ties link Mayor Alai with County corruption scandal

Mayor Sam Alai has had a much easier time campaigning for re-election, now that the Cuyahoga County corruption trial is delayed until after the November 2011 election.

Mayor Sam Alai is closely tied to the scandal. You'll see the names **Russo** and **Dimora** and **Pumper** among the many contributors to the Alai for Mayor campaign in 2007 and 2008. The Mayor's brother-in-law Michael Gabor, the greatest contributor to Sam Alai's 2007 election, was also Frank Russo's right-hand man. Gabor has been charged with multiple counts of bribery, obstruction of justice and mail fraud.

Alai has many connections to the major figures in the Cuyahoga County corruption scandal: Gabor's wife – the Mayor's sister — is one. Another is the many thousands of dollars of money flowing into Sam Alai's campaign coffers.

Gabor and his wife alone gave a combined \$3,750 directly to Alai's campaign fund. (Gabor's County salary was about \$42,400 a year.) If you want to see the \$3,750 in contributions, go to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections web site. Type in Alai and see the 2007 campaign finance reports.

Frank Russo and Steve Pumper — who also gave significant sums of money to Alai's campaign — have

(or heading for) prison. Russo pled guilty to **21 major crimes**. Pumper was guilty of **nine** corruption-related crimes, including **bribery**, **obstruction of justice** and **lying to the FBI**. Sam and Terry Alai even have had some of these people over to their house for poker games. WOIO Investigative Reporter Carl Monday broadcast a story about this. One poker game took place just a few weeks before Dimora's indictment.

It's important to note that some figures associated with the Cuyahoga County corruption have also contributed to Council President Helen Dunlap's campaign in 2009. They never gave to her before, and haven't since, but they opened up their checkbooks in 2009.

Let's also point out that Joe Price also accepted campaign contributions from a few figures in the corruption scandal. Price did not deny this but openly shared why, and posted the explanation on his campaign web site, back in August. You can find it even today at www.joeprice4.us

Shouldn't community leaders exercise good judgment and possess integrity?

Voters should keep that in mind as they decide upon whom to trust as their Mayor for the next four years in Broadview Heights.



AT LEFT – Frank Russo and Jimmy Dimora, from a 1998 Plain Dealer file photo. These two and Michael Gabor have all been major supporters of Sam Alai, donating many thousands of dollars, combined, to his political campaign fund.

Vote for a Flip Flopper?

"Don't you think it would be best if we had an independent voice as Mayor?"

That was a statement Mayor Sam Alai made to hundreds of voters when he was running for Mayor in 2007. Within months of making it, Mayor Alai changed and became a Democrat. In the process, he received PRAISE from then-County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora for, "joining the winning team." You'll find a link to this news story at: <http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>

SINCE his election as Mayor in 2007, Sam Alai has voted as a **DEMOCRAT** in every election where there's been a party contest. That's three times. BEFORE his election in 2007, Sam Alai had either voted as a **REPUBLICAN** or taken a non-partisan ballot in every previous election.

So is he an independent voter now? A Democrat? Or something else?

More info is at: <http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>

Follow the money: See who's giving and getting \$\$

31-A
RC 3517.10

Statement of Contributions Received
Presented by Secretary of State 3/05

Name of Committee in Full
Helen Dunlap for Council at Large Committee

Full Name of Contributor
Ronny Becker

Street Address
2779 Royalwood Rd

City
Broadview Hts

State
OH

Zip Code
44147

Amount
30.-

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
cash

Full Name of Contributor
Sarah J. Franko

Street Address
1168 Oxford Dr.

City
Broadview Hts

State
OH

Zip Code
44147

Amount
30.-

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
check

Full Name of Contributor
Christine L. Castle

Street Address
3353 Treelawn Dr.

City
Richfield

State
OH

Zip Code
44286

Amount
100.-

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
check

Full Name of Contributor
Elizabeth Cutter

Street Address
9270 Cedar Valley Rd

City
West Salem

State
OH

Zip Code
44287

Amount
300.-

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
check

Campaign contributions are public records. You can see the Cutter Oil contribution to Councilwoman Dunlap. Michael Kennedy, the donor to Mayor Alai and Councilman Pavlica, is the lobbyist at North Coast Energy. Many more of these are at <http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>

31-A
RC 3517.10

Statement of Contributions Received
Presented by Secretary of State 3/05

Name of Committee in Full
FRIENDS OF SAM ALAI COMMITTEE

Full Name of Contributor
MICHAEL KENNEDY

Street Address
332 CLEARVIEW ST

City
BROADVIEW HEIGHTS

State
OH

Zip Code
44147

Amount
1000.00

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
CHECK

Full Name of Contributor
DEL CORPO FAMILY TRUST

Street Address
7100 PARKWAY DR

City
DELAVAN

State
OH

Zip Code
44024

Amount
500.00

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
CHECK

Statement of Contributions Received
Presented by Secretary of State 3/05

Name of Committee in Full
Friends of Tom Pavlica

Full Name of Contributor
Dave Wondolowski (Co Committee to Elect Wondolowski)

Street Address
1842 Woodmere Drive

City
Broadview Heights

State
OH

Zip Code
44147

Amount
500.00

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
Check

Full Name of Contributor
Michael Kennedy (Co Re-Election Campaign)

Street Address
332 Clearview Court

City
Broadview Heights

State
OH

Zip Code
44147

Amount
500.00

Form (Cash, Check, etc.)
check

RecGATE keeps growing Contractor now paid more than \$70K

Purpose and **Integrity** are two of the key words on Mayor Sam Alai's election web site. **Transparency** is another popular word that both Mayor Alai and Council President Helen Dunlap use regularly.

REC-gate: Paying more than \$70,000 over the last 28 months to a scheduler most everyone BELIEVED was just a volunteer, indicates just the opposite of the attributes mentioned above. When one puts this situation through the "sniff test" and smells the circumstances around it, you'll probably reach the conclusion that REC-gate is about politics, and puts politics above interests of children and the City's Recreation programs.

FACT: This "volunteer," Rick Howe, has billed the city in invoices that just happen to be EXACTLY \$4,975 at least 13 times now, dating back to May 2009. This is significant because, by Charter, City Council must approve invoices of \$5,000 or more. Is this transparency or integrity, or an intentional effort to evade Council scrutiny? (Details at <http://factsforbvh.wordpress.com>)

FACT: The enabling Ordinance Mayor Alai has used to justify REC-gate, 159-08, has the words "from time to time" in it to explain why funds are spent. Going back several years, this Ordinance and two others like it have all been explained to City Council as authorization to pay baseball umpires, soccer and basketball referees, scorekeepers, and fitness and other Recreation instructors. UNTIL 2009, IT HAD NOT BEEN USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. Mr. Howe had received just one check, for \$224, in 2006. But the big checks began in the Spring of

2009, when City Hall paid the first of what became 13 consecutive invoices totaling PRECISELY \$4,975.

What was happening then? Joe Price announced that he was running for City Council.

FACT: While in his paid contractor capacity, Mr. Howe vigorously bad-mouthed a political opponent of Mayor Alai and praised the Mayor at every opportunity. He's done this in meetings and emails, even emails to recreation officials in other cities. He wrote a letter to the editor of the **Sun Star-Courier** supporting the Mayor. Of course, readers didn't know then he was being paid by the City...that fact was NOT disclosed. In this capacity, getting City money, Mr. Howe fits the definition of the word "shill."

Please share this story with every coach, parent, or volunteer recreation league director who's involved with youth sports. **These coaches, commissioners, and other volunteers dedicate untold thousands of hours to help out our children.** Many of them believed that this scheduler was a volunteer too, and they all would like to keep politics out of recreation.

And what about City employees? **Some lost jobs, or had hours cut,** because of tight finances at City Hall in 2008-2010. But there was money to pay this contractor. **Purpose?** Seems like politics. **Integrity?** Where is it? **Transparency?** It's not there. Look at this contractor's latest invoice, and – **is this ethical? Is it right?**

FASTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS: Rapidly rising costs for engineering and legal fees, more details about city contracts, and which elected officials are giving big \$\$\$ to help others get elected – this is some of the additional information we have. *You can help us "get the word out" and help improve our government.* Please send a contribution in any amount (checks only please) to: **Standing Fast for Broadview Heights, Karen Thier, Treasurer. PO Box 470048 Broadview Hts, OH 44147**

Who's broken the law?

Sadly, Broadview Hts. has developed a reputation for "dirty" campaigning. But in recent years, ONE PERSON has been found guilty of violating Ohio's election laws.

That's Sam Alai.

Alai and his wife Terry misused the "Alai Family Checkbook" in 2009, breaking Ohio's election laws, in an unsuccessful effort to sway a City Council election.

See the story for yourself here: http://www.cleveland.com/sunstarcourier/index.ssf/2010/03/broadview_heights_mayor_found.html

This is yet another fact to keep in mind as November 8 approaches.

The final chart

Look at Broadview Hts' income tax receipts in Mayor Alai's first three years as Mayor. They are down 11 percent. This year's revenue picture looks better, but that's due a local Super Lotto winner's good fortune and funds from a one-time only cell phone tower sale.

