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## USDA count shows Lyndhurst has 72 deer per square mile

*By Jeff Piorkowski/special to cleveland.com*

4-5 minutes



The USDA has determined that, in November, Lyndhurst had a whopping 323 deer living within its borders.

LYNDHURST, Ohio -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted its infrared count of the deer population living in Lyndhurst and one might be tempted to say the total is much larger than expected -- although many residents tired of seeing deer eating plants in their back yards may beg to differ.

In all, during its count last month, the USDA tabulated a whopping

figure of 323 deer living in Lyndhurst, a total that equates to 72.7 deer per square mile. In November, 2019, when the USDA determined that Highland Heights had just over 58 deer per square mile, it was thought to be an exceedingly high figure.

Highland Heights had a second USDA deer count conducted last month and found it had 274 deer within its borders, or 53.2 per square mile.

That 2020 Highland Heights average has since been thinned as USDA sharpshooters went to work on Monday (Dec. 7) and Wednesday (Dec. 9). On Monday, the sharpshooters culled 40 Highland Heights deer, and on Wednesday, another 20.

In March, the USDA counted 130 deer in neighboring South Euclid, or about 28 per square mile. Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Assistant Wildlife Management Supervisor Geoff Westerfield told South Euclid City Council's Recreation Committee in June that those 130 deer represented about twice the amount a city the size of South Euclid typically should have living among its residents. He said that a city of its size would normally have 10-15 per square mile.

South Euclid had plans to employ USDA sharpshooters, but council is now considering a sterilization program after the city was approved for an \$85,000 grant from a Cuyahoga County Council committee for that method of deer population control.

Brunello said that Highland Heights will seek tags from ODNR to cull an additional 40 deer to bring its total this year to 100.

Meanwhile, sharpshooters were also in Lyndhurst Monday, in the vicinity of Mayfield Country Club, where they culled 11 deer.

Lyndhurst Mayor Patrick Ward said city police officers have been

culling deer since September and, combined with the USDA take, Lyndhurst now has 66 less deer than at the start of September. Ward said that Lyndhurst has ODNR tags for 80 deer, but he expects to seek more tags to bring the total to 100. The USDA will be back in Lyndhurst and Highland Heights in January.

Speaking of the large amount of deer in Lyndhurst, Ward said, “(Highland Heights’) footprint is larger than ours (5.15 square miles, to 4.44) and they have more open, wooded areas than we do. And, we have more residential properties. So when you think that we have more deer than they do it illustrates why my phone rings constantly with deer complaints.”

Ward said he already believed that Lyndhurst had more deer than was previously thought. “This USDA count has far more credibility than the aerial count we have been going on for the past few (six) years,” Ward said. “(Previous mayor Joseph Cicero) was very disappointed by that count because he knew there were far more deer than that aerial count was telling us. For years, the only number (of deer) we had (from the aerial count) was 52.”

### **Menorah lighting**

Lyndhurst will hold its annual “The Menorah on Mayfield” lighting event at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13. The event, headed once more by Rabbi Mendy Freedman, of Lyndhurst Chabad Family Center, will be a drive-up event.

As attendees watch from their cars, a large screen will show the lighting, set to music. It takes place at the Lyndhurst Municipal Center, 5301 Mayfield Road. The menorah stands in front of city hall. Individually wrapped refreshments will be available after the lighting. All residents are invited to attend.

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