

MAYOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 2014

By Mayor Robert Weger

2013 proved to be a productive year for the City of Willoughby Hills. We accomplished the paving of Maple Grove, Dodd's Landing, Hanna Road, and portions of Gatsby Lane and Kristen Court. Other Service Department projects included repair work the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge, Rogers Road slope failure project and guardrail installation on River Road. We were able to obtain Storm Water Management funding to complete the Community Center SWIF Project installing permeable pavers at the parking lot, Rosewood storm outlet extension, Cricket Lane drainage improvements, Gatsby Lane drainage improvements, Dodd's Hill roadway sinkhole repair, River Road culvert pipe installation and erosion repair, Sayle Farm drainage improvement, Rockefeller and White Road drainage and ditch improvements, Erich Drive erosion repair at the creek, Eddy Road pipe collapse repair and Hunting Trail pipe repair. In addition, we were able to clean and maintain 50% of the city's sanitary sewer system, which is ahead of schedule as required by the EPA.

In 2013, our Mayor's Court collected \$1.29million in Court revenue, which represents a \$50,000 increase over 2012 totals.

Our Police and Fire Departments responded to a record number of calls and did fine work to keep our residents safe.

Our Community Center celebrated its 10th birthday, as did the Willoughby Hills Branch of the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library. The former Garfield School site became the home of the Willoughby Hills Soccer Teams with the installation of two wonderful soccer fields. O'Reilly Auto Parts, Mary Rose Estates, The Wood Room came to call "Willoughby Hills" Home this year. We brought Color Run to our city, where we hosted over 15,000 people to our city for this event. Kathy Polanz became "Mayor for the Day" in October 2013 and was able to witness firsthand what a great city we have in Willoughby Hills.

We our 2011 and 2012 audits from the State of Ohio and are proud to report that they found them to be "unqualified" audits, which means the "best that can be given." This just shows how we are committed to doing the right thing as this marks our sixth year with this distinction.

In summary, 2013 was a very busy and productive year as we look back on our accomplishments.

As we look ahead to 2014, I recognize the economic implications that will make this a challenging year. With funding being cut from state and federal government resources, the closing of our internet cafes, Eaton relocation and reduction in property tax receipts, I continue to work hard with all our departments to reduce our spending as much as possible and continue to work within a strict budget. I am consciously aware of our resident needs, however, and vow to continue our "Residents First" program, to continue to deliver the best service possible for the citizens of Willoughby Hills.

I look ahead to 2014 with optimism though because I am aware of some economic development projects that could prove to be very positive for our city. These projects include Maple Valley Subdivision off of Maple Grove Road, Dunkin Donuts on Bishop Road, Clover Development on Chardon Road and possible new tenants for the Sears Building and Eaton property.

With the good team of workers we have in place, I am confident we can forge ahead to continue to do good things for the City of Willoughby Hills.