

WILLOUGHBY HILLS SENIORS, INC.

*Find a group of friends who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them,
and it will change your life. (Amy Poehler)*



SENIOR NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 26, 2024

Willoughby Hills Seniors, Inc. is happy to provide this newsletter to you as a way to stay engaged in senior activities in our community.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SENIOR CENTER DUES FOR 2024: We have applied for Lake County Senior Tax Levy funding which could provide for the myseniorcenter.com software, providing each member with a key fob for access to the Senior Room. We will send the dues applications out later **in 2024** to allow for the new system for each member. We will keep you posted on this new membership amenity.

RESIDENT NEWS...

Sympathy to the family of Jeffrey Meyer of Worrell Road, who passed away this week. He was a lifelong resident. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. Also, please remember Bob and Shirley Cherne in your thoughts and prayers on the loss of Bob's mother Lillian Cherne. She lived a long life at 97 years, but will truly be missed by her family and friends.

Welcome to Jeffrey Deiuliis and Michael Gerome of River Street and Dominic Dimora of SOM Center. All seniors are welcome to join our group.

SENIOR TAX LEVY UPDATE

Mayor Hallum arranged a meeting with Lake County Commissioner Regovich and Director Jason Boyd this week to discuss the denial of the City's application for Senior Tax Levy funding. The application was received timely and budgeted for items that will enhance the Senior Center with amenities and programs that our residents will enjoy. There have been no enhancements to the Center in many years and our new leadership agrees that now is the time to address the concerns that may have kept residents away or seeking other Senior Center activities.

The meeting seemed very productive. Director Boyd said that he took full responsibility for the decision to not fund Willoughby Hills, based upon low numbers of service usage at other Senior Centers. The County was able to track participation with the myseniorsoftware.com that has been installed in the other Senior Centers. We pointed out the following, however, that certainly put flaws in the assessment, including:

1. All attendees are not signing into the system.
2. According to the 11/15/22 Senior Service Advisory Panel meeting minutes, one Senior Center was being reviewed for the amount they were charging for their programs after resident complaints were received. Has this been investigated?

SENIOR TAX LEVY (CONTINUED)...

3. There is a current shortage of LakeTran drivers. That will affect seniors not being able to get to the senior centers. We are fortunate to have seniors who live at Willoughby Hills Senior Apartments and can walk to our Senior Center. In addition, many seniors come to the Willoughby-Eastlake library for a book or a tape and can take advantage of our Senior Center services.
4. There is a contingency fund of \$150K-\$500K that could have handled some of the equipment replacement on some of the applications. This should be invoked.
5. In the 11/28/23 Award Letter to the other cities, an additional \$50,000 was added to each grant award. With financial concerns, why was this done?
6. Mentor (using Civic Rec tracking software) indicates increases in classes and instructors on their application. Why an increase, not a reduction?

We also discussed with Commissioner and Mr. Boyd our concern about HOW the denial was handled, pointing out:

1. No one ever reached out to explain the reason for the denial.
2. The application review process was performed by a Director preparing a spreadsheet with recommendations for the volunteer five-member panel to review. There was a big "ZERO" on the spreadsheet for Willoughby Hills.
3. The Panel was not initially given the applications to review, but then did receive the application upon asking the Director.
4. There were no records of the discussion concerning Willoughby Hills on any of the Public Record Requests received by Mayor Gardner.

We were happy to be able to voice our concerns and the possibility of being able to "do better" with consistent policies and procedures in place. Commissioner Regovich and Mr. Boyd agreed to "take another look at this" and hope to get back to us in a few weeks.

Special thanks to all who reached out to the Commissioners to voice their concern about the City not receiving a benefit from the Senior Tax Levy for our Senior Center. With the real estate taxes paid in, many seniors have expressed their concerns that the other "programs" being offered as part of this levy are not ones they enjoy or would be eligible for due to income constraints. We will continue to ask for parity with the other cities and will keep you posted as things progress.

Special thanks to Commissioner Regovich and Director Jason Boyd for taking the time out of their busy schedules to have a civil discussion with explanations for the decisions being made.



**Have a good week! Willoughby Hills Seniors, Inc. Board Members
(Mary Cihula, Laurie Feltham & Gloria Majeski)**

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JANUARY 2024
Willoughby Hills Seniors, Inc.

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		BRIDGE 12:30-3pm	KNIT/CROCHET 10am to noon	EXERCISE 11am MAHJONG 1pm PINOCHLE 6-9pm	PINOCHLE 6-9pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	YOGA 1pm (Lions Room) COMMUNITY QUILTS 10am-2pm		BRIDGE 12:30-3pm	KNIT/CROCHET 10am to noon PODIATRIST (By Appt.) 10am WINTER BASKET WEAVERS 5-9PM	EXERCISE 11am MAHJONG 1pm PINOCHLE 6-9pm	PINOCHLE 6-9pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED	SENIOR POTLUCK 11:30am (CANCELED) SENIOR TRIVIA 7:00pm (O’Ryan Room)	BRIDGE 12:30-3pm	KNIT/CROCHET 10am to noon QUILT GUILD MTG. 7:00pm	EXERCISE 11am MAHJONG 1pm	PINOCHLE 6-9pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	YOGA 1pm (Lions Room)		BRIDGE 12:30-3pm	KNIT/CROCHET 10am to noon	EXERCISE 11am MAHJONG 1pm	PINOCHLE 6-9pm
28	29	30	31			
	YOGA 1pm (Lions Room) SACERICH SEWS 12pm-3pm		BRIDGE 12:30-3pm			