



E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 85 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Welcome to our new E-newsletter subscribers!

Please encourage others to join by sending an email request to:

NEWSLETTER@WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV

MAYOR GARDNER'S REPORT:

City Council held their Fall District meetings this week. It was great to see so many residents attend to hear what is happening in the City and ask questions about their concerns. One item that I thought should be highlighted as we move into the Fall was Service Superintendent Grubiss' comments regarding Leaf Pick-Up. Please remember:

1. Place leaves within eight feet (8') of the road (that is the range of the leaf vacuum), but not in the road.
2. There will be 2 leaf crews out working once leaf season arrives in earnest. Even with both crews at work, it takes roughly 2 weeks to fully cover the City, so please be patient if the crews do not reach your pile right away. They will get there!
3. Once the trucks are full, they need to take the leaves to the recycling facility in Wickliffe. This trip can take between thirty minutes and an hour, so please be patient if the crew is waiting for the truck to return from emptying.
4. Do your best to keep sticks and other debris out of the leaf piles, they jam the machine and slow down the collection process.
5. Yard Waste pick-up by Republic continues through November 30.
6. PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY WHILE OUR CREWS ARE ON THE ROAD AND GIVE THEM PLENTY OF SPACE TO WORK AS YOU APPROACH AND PASS THE LEAF CREWS..
7. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OR CITY HALL.

Please plan to attend our Fall Craft Show on Saturday October 8 and run or walk in the Classic 5K Run/Walk next weekend. Details are in flyers on the following pages. All vendors slots for the Craft Show are full, so there should be a great variety of items to see.

Thanks to everyone that came out to honor Gloria's retirement last Saturday. I've included a few pictures below.

Chief Naegele let me know yesterday that our three new Ford Explorer patrol vehicles (ordered last December) will be arriving today. They will need a few more days with Tom Abate, our City mechanic, to finish their upfitting and then you will see them out on the road keeping our residents safe. With these three vehicles, we have now replaced 9 of our patrol vehicles in the last 3 years. Thanks to Chief Naegele, Community Service Officer Jim Ours and Tom for all they do to keep our Police Department's fleet the best for our officers and residents.

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Thursday, October 6, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION/ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE WHITE PINES CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT ON
SOM CENTER ROAD WILL BE ON THE AGENDA
7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Saturday, October 8, 2022

FALL CRAFT SHOW
9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Willoughby Hills Community Center

Saturday, October 8, 2022

FALL CRAFT SHOW
9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Willoughby Hills Community Center

Sunday October 9, 2022

CLASSIC 5K RUN/WALK
SEE ATTACHED FLYER
CLASSIC LEXUS/BMW SOM CENTER ROAD

Monday, October 10, 2022

WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Thursday, October 13, 2022

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Saturday, October 15, 2022

SHREDDING DAY
9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. City Hall Front Parking Lot

Tuesday, October 17, 2022

TRIVIA NIGHT IN WILLOUGHBY HILLS
7:00 P.M. O’Ryan Room of the Willoughby Hills Community Center

Thursday, October 20, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION/ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW
7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Friday, October 21, 2022

CITY HALLOWEEN PARTY
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Willoughby Hills Community Center
See Flyer on Page 7

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM NOPEC

What is NOPEC? The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest nonprofit governmental energy aggregator in Ohio supplying electricity and natural gas for more than 20 years to over 1 million residential and small business accounts in 242 communities and 19 counties statewide.

Why did NOPEC transfer its electric customers back to the utility's default standard service offer (SSO)? As a consumer-focused non-profit, NOPEC operates and advocates for what's best for our communities and customers. As we looked at the price forecasts following the invasion of Ukraine, it became increasingly apparent that being on the SSO rate would result in our customers paying less for their electricity through Spring 2023.

Why didn't you respond sooner to higher energy prices? A year ago at this time, NOPEC's rate was competitive in the Ohio retail markets and with the SSO rates. Then, like everyone in the energy industry, we watched as the cost of energy began to rise globally driven by prices in Europe, the war in Ukraine, supply chain issues and other forces outside of NOPEC's control. By July 2022, NOPEC prices were nearly double the utility's default SSO rate, driven up additionally by the hotter weather across the country this summer. To benefit our customers, we acted prudently and quickly to return 550,000 electricity customers to the lower SSO rate. We informed the PUCO of market developments and our response plan. As of September 22, NOPEC has submitted all customers enrolled in the Standard Program Price to the utility SSO for electric service. Customers can expect to begin supply with the utility SSO on the next available meter read date per utility guidelines. Any claim that we sat and waited while our customers experienced months of much higher prices is simply false. We moved as quickly as possible to provide rate relief for all these electric customers. Electricity prices increased significantly.

Why were NOPEC's so much higher than the utility's SSO? For 20-plus years, NOPEC's strategies have resulted in consistently competitive pricing to the benefit of our customers. Unfortunately, this year, worldwide events created an unpredictable and unprecedented energy price spike. This resulted in our customers experiencing much higher rates than the utility SSO. That's why we acted swiftly and decisively to return them to the lower utility rate.

Did NOPEC do anything that others didn't? No. What NOPEC did was look out for its customers by helping them lower their electric rates. NOPEC followed Ohio law and rules in transitioning these customers to the utility's SSO rates. And by no means is NOPEC alone in taking this action. Approximately 40 other governmental aggregations in Ohio also have returned about 100,000 customers to the SSO this year. Many other commercial and industrial customers have returned to the SSO as well. In sum, NOPEC did the right thing for its customers as quickly as possible in compliance with Ohio law. No one can predict the future of energy prices.

How do you know NOPEC rates will be competitive come June 2023 when you intend to bring your customers back? We're not predicting the future. What we do know with certainty is the locked-in SSO rate will be reset in mid-2023 and is likely to be more reflective of current market rates. This means that NOPEC's electricity rate likely will again be competitive with the utility rate. When the SSO rates increase next year, as we anticipate, we expect our customers will return to NOPEC to again receive the many benefits of our aggregation. The PUCO is asking you to justify being able to continue operating. How do you respond? NOPEC did the right thing for its customers as quickly as possible in compliance with Ohio law, rules and regulations. We'll file our formal response to the PUCO's entry by the September 28 deadline.

What will prevent this from happening again? These were unprecedented conditions around energy prices and we took the unprecedented step of turning 550,000 electric customers back to the lower SSO price. We believe the future SSO rates will more closely reflect current market pricing moving forward making this kind of price disparity much less likely in the future.

Does NOPEC make a profit when energy rates are higher? No. NOPEC is a nonprofit meaning we don't profit from higher energy rates. We have a small staff, we're governed by an unpaid volunteer Board of Directors, we take no taxpayer dollars, and our member communities pay nothing to belong to NOPEC.



WILLOUGHBY HILLS

Fall Craft Show

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 9AM-3PM

Unique, handmade items on both levels of the Community Center.
Raffles & refreshments too! (35400 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills)



Great gifts
& goodies
from local
artists!

WILLOUGHBY HILLS

Halloween

Party

MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS!



Friday, October 21 • 6-8 PM

Willoughby Hills Community Center (35400 Chardon Road)

Candy, games, snacks, a costume contest & haunted hay ride

Hope you can join us for a SPOOKTACULAR event!

FIRSTENERGY LINE PATROL

We have received notice from FirstEnergy that for the next two weeks they will be conducting helicopter patrols of their transmission lines. They have noted that the patrol will cover transmission circuits in their entirety (i.e. "breaker-to-breaker"), so patrols on certain lines may therefore extend into the neighboring regions. The helicopter pictured below is scheduled to be the aircraft conducting the patrols if you see or hear a low-flying helicopter in the area.



Last Friday, the Fire Department assisted the Highland Heights Fire Department in welcoming participants to the 2022 Veterans and First Responders Golf Outing at Stonewater Golf Club. Here is a great photo of WHFD's Ladder 1219 at the event!



CLASSIC 5K RUN/WALK

CLASSIC



Classic Lexus Welcomes You and Your Family to this Great Event!

Classic Lexus, Willoughby Hills Family Health Center & the City of Willoughby Hills present the 8th Annual

Classic Willoughby Hills 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, October 9th, 2022 • A special event for the whole family

PLACE

The run and walk will depart from:
Classic Lexus
2551 SOM Center Road
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094

Family activities!

PARKING

Willoughby Hills Family Health Center
2570 SOM Center Road
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094

Walk across the street to Classic Lexus

TIME

8am - Registration and check-in
9am - Run begins, followed by walk
5K run or walk
1 mile walk

FEES

5K Run/Walk: \$20 registration for each individual participating

1 Mile Walk:

\$20 registration for each individual participating, no charge for any pets!

Register:

In person at Classic Lexus or online at:
www.greaterclevelandXC.com/classic
or www.classiclexus.com

Prize Contest for best dog costumes!

Proceeds to benefit:
Harvest for Hunger/St. Noel's
Food Pantry & Velosano

Everyone who brings a canned good on race day will receive a FREE GIFT and help the fight against hunger!

AWARDS

Awards provided to top overall female and male runners. Runners in the top three in each of the following age groups (male and female): 15 and under**, 16-22, 23-30, 31-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+
**(children must have adult supervision at all times)

T-Shirts guaranteed for the first 200 registrants. Refreshments will be available for the walkers & runners at the end of the event.



City of Willoughby Hills

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____
E-mail Address _____

In consideration of your accepting this entry, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Cleveland Clinic, Classic Lexus, Second Sole, and the City of Willoughby Hills, their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event or in transit to and from said event. I further attest that I am physically fit and have sufficiently prepared for this event. I will additionally permit the use of my name and/or pictures in the Cleveland Clinic's publications.

Signature _____

☐ M ☐ F Age _____

☐ 5K Run ☐ 1-Mile Walk

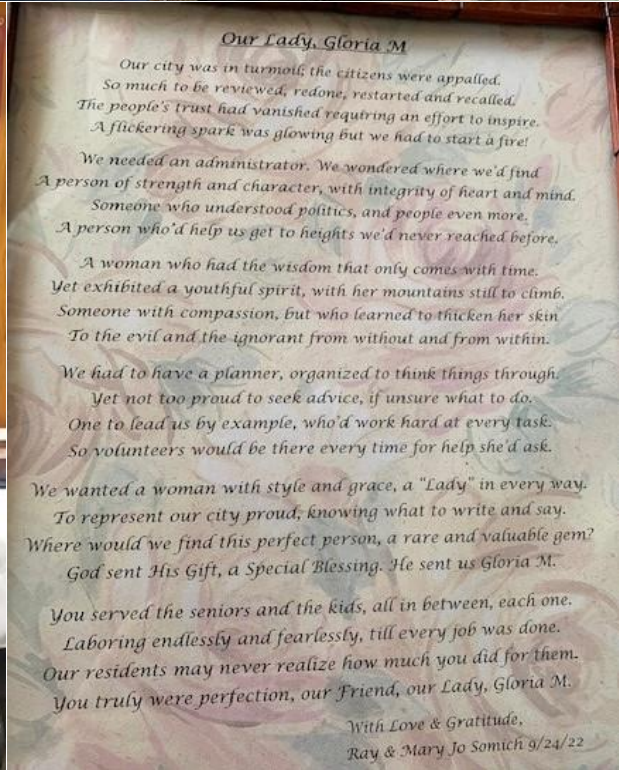
T-shirt size size (adult):

☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

**SEND ENTRY FORM &
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CLASSIC LEXUS**
SECOND SOLE
8791 Mentor Avenue
Mentor Ohio 44060
440-290-0185



A FEW PHOTOS FROM GLORIA'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION INCLUDING A LOVELY TRIBUTE FROM FORMER COUNCIL PRESIDENT RAY SOMICH



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out:

City of Willoughby Hills, 35405 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

440-946-1234 and ask for Mayor Gardner's Office.