



E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 86 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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:

Please join me in welcoming our new Mayor's Court Clerk of Court Debra Blankenship. Debra comes to us after 27 years at the Willoughby Municipal Court where she most recently served as the Chief Deputy Clerk in the Criminal/Traffic Division. Debra is a Concord resident, has been married for 31 years and has one son. Debra joins Assistant Clerk of Court Teresa Romano who did an excellent job handling Mayor's Court operations the last couple of months.

I hope that you will plan to attend our Fall Craft Show tomorrow (Saturday, October 8) and run or walk in the Classic 5K Run/Walk Sunday morning. 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 purchase as you start to think about your gift lists for the upcoming holiday season. Doors open at 9:00 A.M. Also, start getting your papers together for next Saturday's Shredding Day (9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. in the City Hall Front Parking Lot).

We have a few additions to our already full calendar of events this month:

1. On Wednesday evening, October 12, the Police Department will be hosting a Community Education event to assist residents in two key topics: responses to active threats (a version of "ALICE training") and crime prevention. This event is open to anyone desiring more information about how to protect themselves in the event that they are in the vicinity of an active shooter and how to protect their families and property against potential criminal activity. For more details, please see Page 8 below.
2. The Hach-Otis State Nature Preserve is one of the best kept secrets of Willoughby Hills. While everyone knows about Squire's Castle, very few people take the time to discover the beauty of Hach-Otis. The City is now giving you a chance to see it at the height of the Fall color season. On Saturday, October 22, long-time resident and Hach-Otis caretaker John Lillich will lead a nature walk. Hach-Otis has some of the most majestic views that our City offers of the Chagrin Valley and will, hopefully, be exploding with fall colors as you visit. This is a great chance for any photographers to get some shots for the City Photo Contest!

Finally, the Service Department and our vendor, Greystone Construction continue to make progress getting our new Salt Storage facility ready for the winter. The side and rear walls to the facility went up this week. We will be installing the asphalt floor in the next couple of weeks before Greystone returns to install the superstructure for the roof. A photo of this week's progress is below on Page 6.

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 8, 2022

FALL CRAFT SHOW
SEE ATTACHED FLYER, PAGE 4
9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Willoughby Hills Community Center

Sunday October 9, 2022

CLASSIC 5K RUN/WALK
SEE ATTACHED FLYER, PAGE 7
CLASSIC LEXUS/BMW SOM CENTER ROAD

Monday, October 10, 2022

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

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENT
RESPONDING TO ACTIVE THREATS AND CRIME PREVENTION
5:30 P.M. O’Ryan Room of the Willoughby Hills Community Center

Thursday, October 13, 2022

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

Saturday, October 15, 2022

SHREDDING DAY
9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. City Hall Front Parking Lot
NOTE UPDATED HOURS FOR THIS EVENT

Tuesday, October 18, 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

Saturday, October 22, 2022

HACH-OTIS NATURE WALK LEAD BY RESIDENT JOHN LILICH
1:00 P.M Hach-Otis State Nature Preserve at the end of Skyline Drive
Meet John in the Parking Lot and Dress for the Weather.
Skyline is on the East side of River Road
just North of Chardon Road.

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!

**FREE
ADMISSION**

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!

HERE ARE THE CITY'S NEW FORD EXPLORER POLICE VEHICLES



The City's new police vehicles arrived last Friday and will be on the road soon. A new Black/Gray scheme replaces the Police Department's traditional Black and White police colors.

PROGRESS ON THE CITY'S NEW SALT STORAGE FACILITY



This facility will more than double our current salt storage capacity!

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





The Willoughby Hills Police Department is hosting the
following training for our residents

PROACTIVE RESPONSES TO ACTIVE THREAT SEMINAR

And

CRIME PREVENTION AND DETTERRENCE

Willoughby Hills Community Center

October 12, 2022 from 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Cost: Free

The Recreation Commission is seeking new members to assist with the planning and implementation of City recreation events including: Pancake Breakfasts, the Easter Scavenger Hunt, Fall and Spring Craft Shows, the City Halloween Party, Winterfest, Christmas Card Lane, the Holiday Lights Contest, the City Photo Contest and Breakfast with Santa. The Commission is also evaluating a potential all day City event (similar to Rock and Roll Day in 2022). Anyone who is interested in becoming a part of the Commission can fill out an application and deliver it to City Hall. Applications are available on the City's Website. Simply select the "Government" Tab, then drop down to "Boards and Commissions" and select "Become a Member of a Board or Commission" from the menu on the Left. From the Boards and Commissions Page, you can also review minutes of the Recreation Commission's past meetings.

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.