



E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 87 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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:

This week is the 100th Anniversary of National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape. Fire Chief Gandee and all of the Members of the Willoughby Hills Fire Department encourage all residents to have an Escape Plan in the event of a fire in their home. If you have any questions about fire prevention, fire safety or would like any help in creating a plan do not hesitate to call the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau at 440-918-8710. The Department has been busy spreading their message. This Fall, they have visited both Mary Rose Estates and the Willoughby Hills Senior Apartments to discuss fire safety as well as giving a fire safety presentation to the Kindergarten through 3rd Grade students at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

Thanks for all that attended or participated in the Fall Craft Show and Classic 5K Run/Walk last weekend. We had beautiful days for both events. The Craft Show was a vendor sell-out we had over 800 attendees! I am so grateful to Chairperson Laura O'Donnell and the Recreation Commission for all of their hard work to host this wonderful event. I also have to express our thanks to Matt Dietz and his team at Classic Lexus. The 5K benefitted Velosano cancer research and the St. Noel Church Food Pantry. Thanks to Officers Fink and Continenza for their outstanding Crime Prevention/Surviving an Active Shooter presentation at the Community Center Wednesday.

SHREDDING DAY is tomorrow, October 15, 2022 between 9:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. in the **COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION REQUIRED AS CONSTRUCTION OF THE EAST DRIVEWAY AT CITY HALL STARTED THIS WEEK.** You can drop off your papers and leave or wait and watch them be shredded. TRIVIA NIGHT IN WILLOUGHBY HILLS will be next Tuesday, October 18 starting at 7:00 P.M. in the O'Ryan Room of the Community Center. We welcome anyone age 50 and over who would like to enjoy an evening of friendly competition. We have been averaging 6 teams and are hoping to build to 10 or more teams this winter.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS: The City's Halloween Party will be Friday, October 21 from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. at the Community Center. We will have costume contests, light snacks, games, a DJ, a coloring contest and, weather permitting, hayrides. **CITY TRICK OR TREATING HOURS WILL BE BETWEEN 6:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST.**

As I mentioned above, the East Driveway (between City Hall and the Fire Department) is under construction for about the next 2 weeks. Traffic will be maintained, but please use caution in this area. Also, the front entrance is closed to be updated as part of the project, please use the rear (Police Department) entrance while the front entrance is closed.

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 15, 2022

SHREDDING DAY

9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. **COMMUNITY CENTER** Parking Lot

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

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 4

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.

Monday, October 24, 2022

WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING

6:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Thursday, October 27, 2022

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Monday, October 31, 2022

HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREATING

6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

RECREATION COMMISSION

7:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Thursday, November 3, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION/ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW

7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Saturday, November 5, 2022

PHOTO CONTEST SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submit Photos 10:00 A.M-12:00 P.M. at the Community Center

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

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!

A FEW PHOTOS FROM THE CLASSIC 5K WALK/RUN EVENT LAST SUNDAY



POLICE CRIME PREVENTION/ACTIVE SHOOTER PRESENTATION

THANKS TO OFFICERS CONTINENZA AND FINK FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PRESENTATION ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.



2022 Willoughby Hills Recreation Photo Contest

PHOTOS DUE: NOVEMBER 5 | RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 11

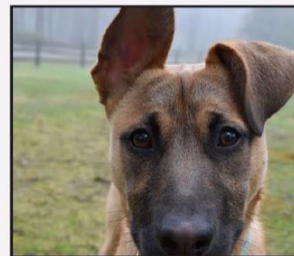
START TAKING YOUR PHOTOS NOW!

2022 CATEGORIES:

- **Beautiful Willoughby Hills**
A landmark, business, park, your backyard...
Your only restriction: must be taken in Willoughby Hills
- **Interesting Insects**
This one speaks for itself.
- **Life in Motion**
Anything that pertains to motion or transportation
- **Amazing Animals**
Wild or Domestic. Furry, feathered or other.
Send us your best.

More information to come closer to event date.
Entry forms will become available in September.

Check back with us, or follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/WilloughbyHillsREC>



Submissions accepted November 5, 2022 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. at the Community Center. If you would like an application for the Photo Contest, stop by the Community Center or download here:

<https://drive.google.com/.../1OX8n0QAxEtRAzzGTE0G.../view...>



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.™

The _____ Family's **Home Safety Action Plan**

ACTION #1

Make the first Saturday of each month "Smoke Alarm Saturday"!

A working smoke alarm will clue you in that there is a fire and you need to escape. Fire moves fast. You and your family could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test all of your smoke alarms by pushing the test button. If it makes a loud beep, beep, beep sound, you know it's working. If there is no sound or the sound is low, it's time to replace the battery. If the smoke alarm is older than 10 years old, you need to replace the whole unit.
- If your smoke alarm makes a "chirp," that means it needs a new battery. Change the battery right away.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds. (See ACTION #2.)



ACTION #2

Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year!

Having a home fire escape plan will make sure everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds so they can get out safely.

- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure they are part of the plan.
- Make sure all escape routes are clear and that doors and windows open easily.
- Pick an outside meeting place (something permanent like a neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Everyone in the home should know the fire department's emergency number and how to call once they are safely outside.
- Practice! Practice! Practice! Practice day and nighttime home fire drills. Share your home escape plans with overnight guests.

REMEMBER:

When You Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!

Get out and stay out. Call **9-1-1** from your outside meeting place.

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!

A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire alarm if it is older than 10 years old. If you don't remember how old it is, replace it.



RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS WANTED

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.

FALL CRAFT SHOW PHOTOS



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.