



## **E-NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 88 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

**Welcome to our new E-newsletter subscribers!**

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

[NEWSLETTER@WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV](mailto:NEWSLETTER@WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV)

### **MAYOR GARDNER'S REPORT:**

The City's Halloween Party is tonight 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 hayrides. The coloring contest page is included on Page 5 of today's newsletter. Have your children color it in and bring it along tonight!

The Police Department conducted training last week for "tactical patrol" issues. This is in addition to both SORAT (Single Officer Response to Active Threat) training completed before the school year began and training done in the May for traffic stop tactics. The Department has also added a video firearms simulator to its training program that allows officers to simulate use of their weapons in a variety of range and "live" situations. I am very proud of the commitment and hard work that our Police Department takes to be as prepared as possible to address any situation they may be forced to encounter as part of their duties to protect both themselves and our residents.

Special thanks to City Council, Council Clerk Mehollin, Chief Naegele, Law Director Lucas and Finance Director Brichacek for their work in preparing and passing legislation last night to secure the purchase of four police vehicles. When I first took office in 2020, this was something that was done early in the year. With supply chain issues and the decision of some manufacturers to not produce police vehicles, we have needed to move up the timeline to the fall to ensure that the City obtains new vehicles to keep our fleet at its best. We will add three new patrol vehicles and a detective's car to the fleet in 2023. This week is National School Bus Safety Week. On Page 8 you will see some important information regarding bus safety. Thanks to the WH Fire Department for sharing.

Last Saturday's Shred Day was a huge success. We had over 115 cars come through to drop off their materials for shredding. We will let you know the dates for next year as soon as they are available. Tentatively, we are planning dates in June and October.

As I mentioned last week, the East Driveway (between City Hall and the Fire Department) is under construction for about 2 more weeks. Concrete was poured today for half of the driveway and to upgrade the front steps of City Hall. Traffic is being maintained, but please use caution in this area. Also, while the front entrance is closed, please use the rear (Police Department) entrance to City Hall.

**CITY TRICK OR TREATING HOURS WILL BE BETWEEN 6:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>.**

# CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**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**

**See Page 7**

**Monday, November 7, 2022**

**WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING**

**6:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

**ELECTION DAY**

**Thursday, November 10, 2022**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**7:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

## 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!*



Willoughby Hills Halloween Coloring Contest  
• For ages 12 and under • Color and/or decorate this page.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Turn in your artwork at the Halloween party (by 7PM) or drop off at the Community Center (box at welcome table). We will announce the winners at 7:30PM during the Halloween party on October 21.  
(If you are unable to attend, we will phone the winners; one prize will be given per age group)



## POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING

### FROM YESTERDAY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE:

Nationwide, at least eleven officers have been shot this week, which includes several fatal shootings. This is an indicator of how the law enforcement profession has been going, and the increased dangers police officers are faced with. WHPD trained this week on skills related to "tactical patrol". Training staff and officers conducted both classroom and field based scenario training - intentionally placing officers in "unknown" and "high risk" situations to translate the training to real life. We utilize SIM weapons and non lethal training / marking ammunition in order to provide the most realistic force on force experience. Everyone trained hard, built camaraderie, and had a great time.





# 2022 Willoughby Hills Recreation Photo Contest

PHOTOS DUE: NOVEMBER 5 | RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 11

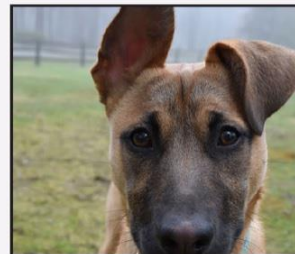
***START TAKING YOUR PHOTOS NOW!***

## **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...>

## NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK-IMPORTANT INFO FROM THE WHFD

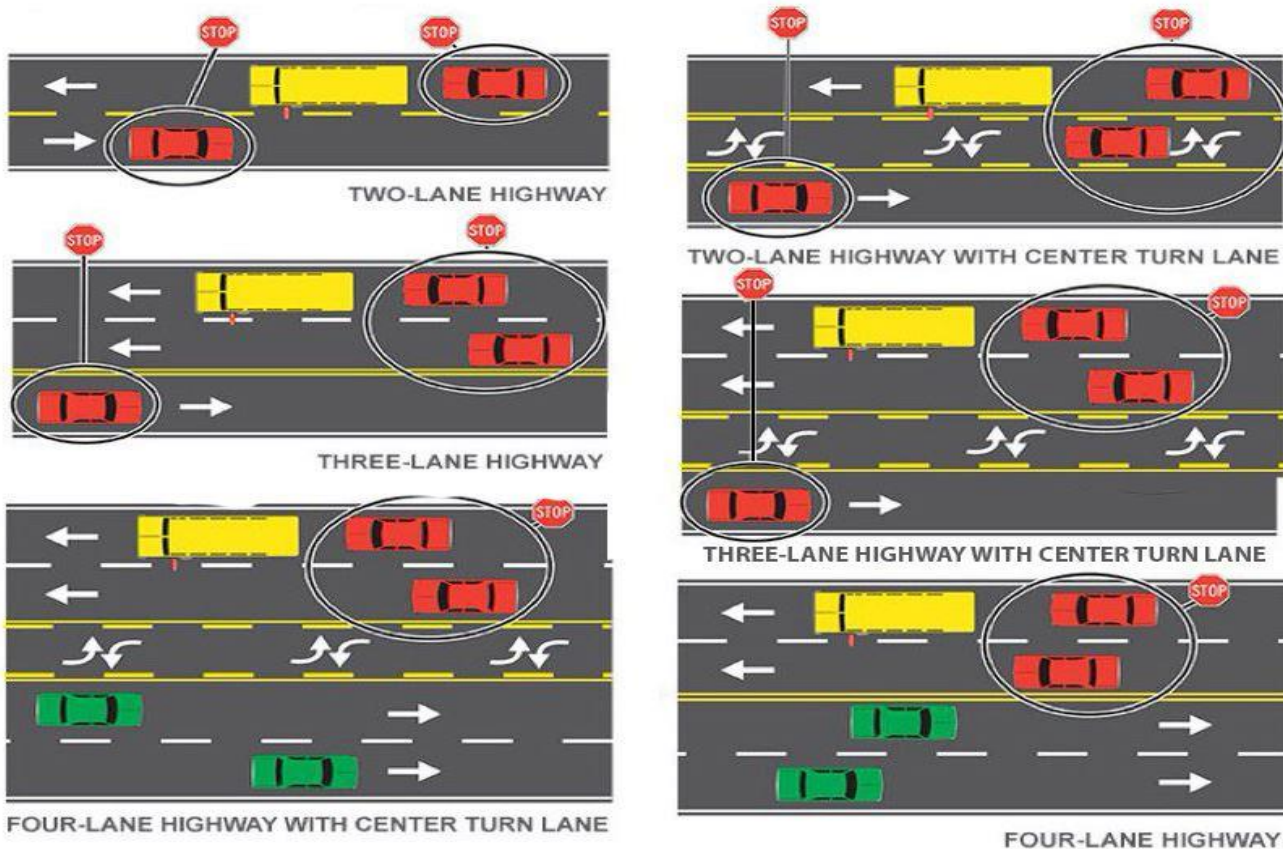
The week of October 17 through 21 has been designated as National School Bus Safety Week, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol will be increasing enforcement efforts on school bus violations, such as passing a stopped school bus, school zone violations and other school bus or school zone-related activity.

National School Bus Safety Week is supported by the National Association for Pupil Transportation and serves as a reminder to motorists, students, and school bus drivers of the important role they each have in ensuring children's safety. This year's theme is "1 Bus + 1 Driver = a BIG Impact on Education" a unique reminder to motorists and students about the dangers that exist outside the school bus.

Prior to stopping, school buses display yellow warning lights that signify the bus is about to stop. Once a bus comes to a stop, red flashing lights and a stop sign are displayed. Motorists approaching a stopped school bus from either direction are required to stop at least 10 feet from the bus while the bus is receiving or discharging students. When a road is divided into four or more lanes, only traffic driving in the same direction as the bus must stop. Drivers may not resume their travels until the bus resumes traveling. See the Chart Below.

Since 2017, there have been 6,434 crashes involving school buses in Ohio. Six fatal crashes took place during this time killing six people and injuring 2,076. None of those killed were occupants of a school bus.

### ***When to stop for a school bus in Ohio***





## NOVEMBER 2022 SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Willoughby Hills Senior Center  
35400 Chardon Rd.  
Lower Level



Podiatrist Dr. Kelley Whaley will be in the Senior Room on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. From 9:00am-11:30am in the Senior Room. Please schedule any future appointments with her.

### Senior Luncheons: Potluck or Brown Bag

Save the Date: Tuesday,  
November 15, 11:00 am.  
Please RSVP to: 440-975-3540.

### Save the date:

Willoughby Hills Photo Contest & Reception: Friday, November 11.  
7pm-9pm, Entries due by October 29<sup>th</sup>.

A Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!!

\*The Community Center will be closed on 11/24 and 11/25.

Joke of the Month: Why can't skeletons play music at Church?  
Answer: Because they have no organs!



It's Autumn here, going on **November** we view the leaves in all their **splendour**

### Activities:

**BRIDGE**: Every Wednesday  
12:30pm until 3PM Bring your cards

**Pinochle Group**: First 2 Fridays  
And every Saturday at 6PM

**Mahjongg**: Every Friday at 1PM

**Yoga**: Every Wednesday at 11AM

**Stretching Class**: Friday at 11AM



Happy  
Birthday

To everyone born in November!!!

## **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.

## **LEAF PICK-UP REMINDERS FROM OUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

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. We have 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 leaf 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.
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.**

**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.**