



## **E-NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 96 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 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:**

It is hard to believe that this is the final Newsletter of 2022. It has been an exciting year for the City so I thought I would share a few highlights:

This year saw the addition of a new Captain position in the Police Department, filled by former Sergeant Greg Leonbruno. The City also welcomed a number of other full time employees including Clerk of Court Debbie Blankenship, Communications Supervisor Karen Mehollin, Service Clerk Stacey Rentz, Full Time Police Officers McNamara, Amato and Fodor and Service Department crew members Matt Mahalaney, Mike Balog and Tim Rosboril. We also sadly parted with (or soon will be parting with) four retirees: Police Officers Bordelon, Onion and Vitale and Mayor's Executive Assistant Gloria Majeski. I can't thank our City's employees enough for their hard work through COVID-19, supply chain issues, fuel cost increases, inflation and the other challenges that they have persevered through to keep providing the best possible services for our residents, businesses and visitors during the last 3 years.

The City added quite a bit of technology this year including: Bodycams for the Police Department, the speed monitoring signs that were rotated through the City, upgraded security cameras in the Community Center and around the City Hall complex, the Iworq program to assist in the management of Building Department projects and a payroll system upgrade.

Our City's fleet expanded with the addition of 4 new police vehicles and 2 new light duty trucks in the Service Department (with a new 5 ton plow truck on the way). We are also expecting a new Command/Chase Vehicle and Chief's car for the Fire Department.

In the Spring, the City issued approximately \$1,600,000 of Bonds at 2.34% to finance the our new fire engine (currently due to be delivered by the end of next Summer) and the construction of our new salt storage facility, which took its first delivery at the end of last week to prepare for the upcoming winter storm. The resurfacing and repair of the Chardon Road (East of SOM Center) was completed this Summer. This Fall, we completed the resurfacing of Legend Lane and the replacement of the City Hall parking lot and driveway.

Our Recreation programs rebounded from the ups and downs of the last 2 years with a full year of very successful programs. Thanks to our Recreation Commission and the many staff and volunteers that helped bring so much joy and fun to the City. Another thank-you to Laura O'Donnell for creating photo collages of last week's Santa (& Grinch!) Parade. They are currently hanging in the Community Center on the wall that previously held the City Photo Contest winners (which will soon be proudly displayed in City Hall).

**PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL DURING THE WINTER WEATHER THAT IS FORECAST FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SALT LOSES ITS EFFECTIVENESS WHEN TEMPERATURES FALL BELOW 15 DEGREES. WE WILL BE TREATING THE ROADS, BUT THE EXTREMELY LOW TEMPERATURES WILL SLOW THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SALT.**

I hope that everyone continues to enjoy a wonderful holiday season. When the weather is better, take a tour of City to see the many beautifully decorated homes and neighborhoods (See Page 5 below). Finally, please accept my best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

# **CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Friday, December 23, 2022 and Monday, December 26, 2022**  
**CITY HALL CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

**Friday, December 30, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023**  
**CITY HALL CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY**

**Wednesday, January 4, 2023**  
**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Monday, January 9, 2023**  
**WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**  
**6:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023**  
**BOARD OF BUILDING AND ZONING APPEALS**  
**8:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Thursday, January 12, 2023**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**  
**WILLOUGHBY HILLS TRIVIA NIGHT**  
**7:00 P.M. – Community Center**

**Monday, January 23, 2023**  
**WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION/ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW**  
**7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers**

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2023**  
**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Monday, February 6, 2023**  
**WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M. Council Chambers**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers**



# WINTER STORM SAFETY TIPS

*Willoughby Hills Fire Rescue  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio*



As high confidence continues for a multi-hazard storm system to reach our area Thursday night through Saturday, it is important to remember how to prepare for such a predicted storm. Here are some helpful tips to plan for the worst while hoping for the best. Many of these items are an important part of having a storm response kit for any type of storm that may occur at any time of the year. As always, Willoughby Hills Fire Rescue recommends that you Have a Plan.

## **Before the Storm:**

- **Travel before the storm hits** – The best time to travel is well before a storm occurs. Traveling during a storm can be extremely dangerous or even deadly due to many factors including slippery roads, the risk of downed trees and power lines or drifting snow, any of which can make roads impassable. During a significant storm there are hundreds of horror stories of people dying in their vehicles because they became stranded inside their vehicles on impassible roadways where they're unable to be rescued.
- **Stock-up!** - Have an ample supply of food, water and medications. If the storm is severe enough that roads are impassable and/or the electricity is out, you may not be able to get necessary items. Before the storm is the best opportunity to stock up on non-perishable items such as canned goods. We recommend that you prioritize items that don't require electricity to store, open or cook. For example, if you rely on an electric can opener, you should have a manual can opener in the event you have no electricity.
- **Check Battery Operated Items** – Make sure you have an adequate supply of batteries to operate flashlights and a transistor radio. In a widespread storm it is possible for the electricity to be out for several days in some instances. Your cell phones will only last for so long unless you have backup batteries or a battery powered charger for them. A transistor radio is a great tool to listen for emergency instructions and updates. This also includes smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors which have are essential if the power is out and you are using alternative heating methods.
- **Fuel-up!** – Fill-up your vehicle along with emergency generators. If travel is absolutely necessary, you want to make sure you have enough fuel to keep your vehicles running, which will help keep you warm should you get stranded. If you have portable kerosene heaters, make sure they are fueled with the correct fuel and review safe operations before the storm occurs.
- **Consider others who may need assistance** – Making plans to ensure that neighbors, friends and family are able to safely get through storm is imperative. If you know of someone who may need some help due to age or health reasons, look at ways to make sure they can be somewhere safe.



## WINTER STORM SAFETY TIPS (CONTINUED)

### During the Storm:

- **Stay Warm** – Layers of clothing do a great job keeping you warm, although the best way to protect yourself is by staying out of the elements. Which low temperatures and high winds make for some dangerous wind chills that are dangerous for anyone making frostbite a real danger. If it is absolutely necessary to be outside, warm attire and protection is a must along with limiting your exposure to the dangerous elements. Avoid strenuous activities both during and after a storm as severe elements can endanger your health. Every year people die shoveling their driveways, it is not worth it!
- **If the Power Goes Out** – *DO NOT CALL 911 TO REPORT YOUR POWER IS OUT OR TO ASK WHEN THE POWER IS COMING BACK ON!* Some of the busiest times for a 911 communications center is during a storm. People who call to advise their power is out or to ask when it will be restored are bogging down the system for people who are having real emergencies. Find out the correct number of your power utility to report your power outage. Some companies are able to provide estimated power restoration times, 911 dispatch centers do not. **The number to report power outages for FirstEnergy customers is 1-888-544-4877 (1-888-LIGHTS)**
- **Protect Water Pipes** – Over the past few years we have had some excessively cold winters where water pipes have frozen and broken. If you lose the ability to keep water pipes from freezing, consider turning off the water to affected areas and draining the pipes. In many cases when the power goes out people lose the ability to heat their buildings, so plan ahead. Many times the broken pipes will not present their damage until after the freezing occurs and the thaw starts a few days after.
- **Safer Electric Generator Use** – If you have an emergency generator, it is imperative you operate it safely. Make sure the generator is never operated indoors, **including garages**, where carbon monoxide can still seep into a home. Too often, people die from carbon monoxide poisoning when they do not properly ventilate their generator during a storm. Also, if you are using a generator to power your home, make sure your home is isolated from the electric service that is powering your house. If not, you run the risk of back feeding the electricity from your generator into the electrical service supplying your home or building resulting in a dangerous situation for your neighbors or emergency responders.

For more information go to [Plan Ahead for Disasters | Ready.gov](#) [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)



## HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST:

Thank you to all who entered the Holiday Lights Contest this year! We appreciate all of the hard work put into decorating your homes and bringing the holiday spirit in Willoughby Hills. Winners are as follows:

<u>First Place:</u>	Nick Pollice, 37225 Beech Hills Drive
<u>Second Place:</u>	George & Fran Cartwright, 2651 Dodd Road
<u>Third Place:</u>	Frank & Julie Seme, 35070 Eddy Road

### Neighborhood Spirit:

<u>Winner:</u>	2601, 2602, 2605 SOM Center Road
<u>Honorable Mention:</u>	Istra Lane off of Chardon Road

Be sure to drive by when you're out and about! These homes are sure to put you in the holiday spirit! If you'd like to experience the complete list of entrants, please email [Council@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:Council@willoughbyhills-oh.gov)

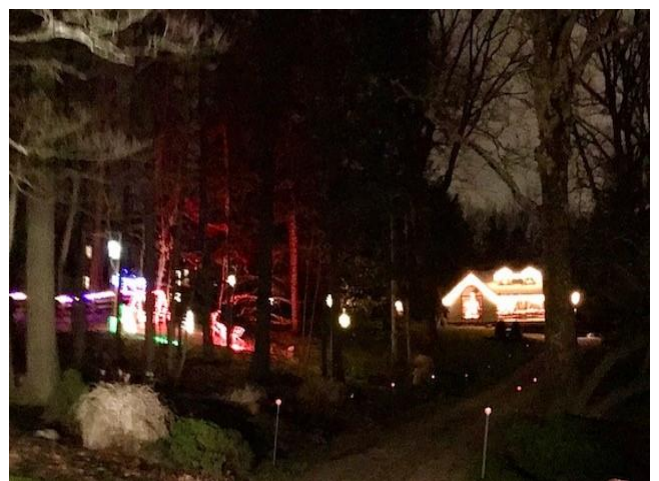
### First Place:



### Second Place:



### Third Place:



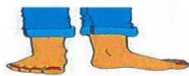


# SENIOR CENTER NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 2023, Willoughby Hills Senior Center  
1-440-975-3540

## JANUARY 2023 SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Willoughby Hills Senior Center  
35400 Chardon Rd.  
Lower Level



Podiatrist Dr. Kelley Whaley will be in the Senior Room on Thursday, January 5th, 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: Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 11:30am .

### Save the date:

\*The Community Center will be closed on Sunday 1/01/23 and Monday 1/02/23

And Martin Luther King Day-  
Monday January 16, 2023

Happy New Year!!!!

Recreation Coordinator: Diana Parker  
Staff Monitor: Sylvia Carter-Naylor

### Joke of the Month:

Q: What cartoon mouse walks on two feet?

A: Mickey Mouse

Q: What duck walks on two feet?

A: Donald Duck

Real answer: No, all ducks do!



"January 1<sup>st</sup> is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one." — Brad Paisley

### 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 January!!!



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The City is seeking to fill both the Finance Director position as well as the Part-time Clerk of Council position. If you or someone you know would like to begin 2023 working with an amazing group of people here at City Hall, this is your chance!

Click [here](#) for more details on the Finance Director position. If interested, please email your resume and [application](#) to: [asstfinancedirector@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:asstfinancedirector@willoughbyhills-oh.gov)

Click [here](#) for more details on the Part-time Clerk of Council position. If interested, please email your resume and [application](#) to: [chrishallum@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:chrishallum@willoughbyhills-oh.gov) and [council@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:council@willoughbyhills-oh.gov)



## **COMMISSION MEMBERS NEEDED FOR 2023**

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.

The Board of Building and Zoning Appeals is seeking a new member for a five (5) year term beginning on January 1, 2023. If there is an appeal, the Board of Zoning Appeals currently meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. in City Council Chambers. For more information about the BZA, on the City's Website simply select the "Government" Tab, then drop down to "Boards and Commissions" and select "Board of Building and Zoning Appeals."

Applications for both positions 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 BZA and Recreation Commission's past meetings.

## RESIDENT REMINDERS:



**Republic be will observing the holidays  
on the Sundays and will be running on a  
regular schedule the weeks of December  
26th and January 2nd.**

**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.**



**FROM ALL OF US AT WILLOUGHBY HILLS CITY HALL,  
HAVE YOURSELVES A WONDERFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY!**

