



## **E-NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 61 FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 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:**

As our frigid temperatures continue, it is important that I provide our residents with the following information:

- 1) The City Service Department runs four plow routes in our city. The plow routes are outlined on the City website. You can plan that they will follow these routes, with the exception to return to the City Hall lot for salt replenishment.
- 2) We currently have an adequate supply of salt in inventory and will continue to salt the streets and intersections to ensure safety.
- 3) Don't forget to give our plows room to work. Do not try to go around them, preventing a dangerous situation for them, or you or others.
- 4) As a reminder, the City is not able to provide snow plow service to "private streets" for various reasons, including the weight limits and cul de sacs. The private streets normally contract with a vendor to service them.
- 5) The City cannot plow private driveways or aprons either. There is a liability for the City to do this and it is recommended that each resident seek the services of a contractor on their own if they are unable to do it themselves. A good hint in seeking a contractor is to check with your neighbors to see who they use. Often times, the contractor will provide a better rate if he is already servicing a neighbor.
- 6) In the event that a City snowplow truck has knocked your mailbox down, please notify the Service Department immediately at 440-975-3550 to report it. We are only responsible for mailboxes that are knocked down by our vehicles, not something knocked down by others. Please be respectful of that.

My last point on this is that I cannot say enough about the fine job that our Service Department has done over the past few weeks. Some of the storms have been wicked and they have done an outstanding job in keeping up with it and keeping us all safe. Fire Chief Gandee has asked that I remind residents to shovel around fire hydrants in their area to make them easy to get to in the event of an emergency. Also, if you have a more modern furnace, hot water tank, etc., be advised that some of them vent through the side wall. Make sure that the snow is away from them or you may experience problems with the function of the appliances. Make sure that you have a working CO detector in the house to alert you in case a carbon monoxide buildup occurs.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

**Monday, January 31, 2022**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Willoughby Hills Community Center  
LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT – COVID BOOSTER CLINIC  
Make appointments online at [www.armorvax.com](http://www.armorvax.com) (limited walk-ins)

**Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers  
**RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, February 3, 2022**

7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers  
**PLANNING COMMISSION & ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW (PC-ABR)  
MEETING**

**ACCESS LINKS MAY BE FOUND ON THE CITY WEBSITE FOR ALL OF THESE MEETINGS.**

**COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE NO LONGER ON ZOOM, ONLY IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

JUST A REMINDER THAT ALL COUNCIL ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS  
MAY BE FOUND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT:

[http://www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov/government/city\\_council/records/prior\\_years.php](http://www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov/government/city_council/records/prior_years.php)

### AARP TAX ASSISTANCE SITES FOR SENIORS:

TaxAide provides tax counseling for taxpayers who cannot afford to pay for professional tax preparation and those 60 years of age and older. TaxAide is a free service of the AARP Foundation with the cooperation and approval of the Internal Revenue Service and will be available January 31 to April 15, 2022, at the following locations, dates and times in Lake County. Taxes prepared by appointment. Please call the listed number to schedule and make an appointment:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Dates/Times</u>
Eastlake Sr. Ctr.	600 E. 349 St.	Eastlake	440-975-4268	Tuesdays 9am-2:30pm
Mentor Sr. Ctr.	8484 Munson	Mentor	440-974-5725	Thursdays 9am-2pm
Willoughby Sr. Ctr.	36939 Ridge Road	Willoughby	440-951-2832	Mondays 9am-2pm
Willowick Library	263 E. 305 St.	Willowick	440-943-4151	Wednesdays 5-7:30pm & Fridays 10am-2:30pm
Wickliffe Library	1713 Lincoln Ave.	Wickliffe	440-944-6010	Mondays 9am-2pm
Mentor Library	8215 Mentor Ave.	Mentor	440-255-8811	Tuesdays 10am-2pm
Morley Library	184 Phelps St.	Painesville	440-352-3383	Fridays 10am-2pm

After this was printed in the last E-newsletter, several residents called City Hall to say “thanks” for providing this information and they have their appointments all set! Good job!

## RECREATION COMMISSION NEWS:

### Annual Pancake Breakfasts:

Sunday, March 6, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Recreation)

And

Sunday, March 13, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (WH Lions Club)

At Willoughby Hills Community Center

Come to enjoy "All You Can Eat" pancakes and french toast (breakfasts also include sausage, applesauce, juice & coffee).

Price: \$7.00 pre-sale (at City Hall, Community Center, or from any Recreation Commission or WH Lions Club member), or \$8.00 at the door.

Children ages 5 to 12 = \$4

Children ages 4 and under = free

To volunteer to help with this event, please contact Diana in Recreation at 440-975-3540 or email

[newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov)

The City website will soon provide a list of volunteer jobs and times to work. Plan to give a few hours to our community to help with our Recreation programs and WH Lions scholarship opportunities!

### Spring Craft Show:

Saturday, March 19, 2022 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We have contacted previous vendors for renewals.

After February 11, the show will be open to new vendors.

Call 440-975-3540 for an application.

Put it on your calendar now!

Lots of great crafts.

A few volunteers will be needed for this event to work the concession stand, get vendors set up and sell raffle tickets. If you are interested, please call Recreation at 440-975-3540 or email:

[newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov).



## Baseball and Softball Signups:

Registration is open for the Willoughby Hills Youth Sports League for Boys Baseball and Girls Softball, ages 5- 18. Our home field games are played at Roemisch Park, with other games played in surrounding communities. The 5-6 year-olds play in a co-ed instructional league that focuses on learning the basic fundamentals of the game. Early registration is encouraged and will end **February 28, 2022**. The link to sign up is [www.whblsports.com](http://www.whblsports.com).

The League is looking for volunteers to join the league in a variety of roles, not all related to having to coach baseball. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Lynn Hallum at 440-715-5275. The Youth Sports League's next meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 at Willoughby Hills Community Center.



## Trivia Night in Willoughby Hills (age 50 and over):

If you are age 50 or over and are interested in a fun night to play trivia and perhaps prepare to be a member of the 2022 City of Willoughby Hills Mind Challenge team, please join us on:

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at  
Willoughby Hills Community Center, 35400 Chardon Road

We will explain the rules, assign teams, and let the fun begin!

This is a collaborative effort for the team so there may be things that you don't know that the others do! Don't be afraid to try!

If you are interested, please email Gloria Majeski no later than Friday, February 11:  
[newsletter@WilloughbyHills-OH.gov](mailto:newsletter@WilloughbyHills-OH.gov) or [GloriaMajeski@WilloughbyHills-OH.gov](mailto:GloriaMajeski@WilloughbyHills-OH.gov)

## Recreation/Lions Club Pancake Breakfast Volunteers Needed:

Do you have a little free time on Sunday, March 6 or Sunday, March 13? Sign up to volunteer for a few hours for our annual Pancake Breakfasts. Volunteers are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Job assignments include such things as serving, table clean up, supply maintenance, washing dishes, preparing applesauce and syrup, clean up, raffle ticket sales, and ticket collection.

Email your name, available volunteer times and job preference to:  
[newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov](mailto:newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov) and you will be notified to volunteer for the event.

All volunteers receive a free Pancake Breakfast!!! Sign up today!

## **Council/Mayor Retreat Recap from Saturday, January 22, 2022:**

Council Clerk Mehollin will be providing a comprehensive recap of the Council/Mayor Retreat which was held on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at Willoughby Hills Community Center, but here is a quick recap of some of the items that were discussed:

### **Present at the Meeting:**

Mayor Andy Gardner, Executive Asst. Gloria Majeski, Law Director Mike Lucas, Fire Chief Rob Gandee, Police Chief Matt Naegele, Asst. Law Director Tom Lobe, Road Supt. Mark Grubiss, Finance Director Frank Brichacek, Council President Chris Hallum, Council Vice President Mike Kline, Council Members: Joe Jarmuszkiewicz, Dan Knecht, Tanya Taylor Draper, Julie Belich, Vicki Miller and Council Clerk Karen Mehollin.  
Guest: Joe Sakacs, Mayor, City of Wickliffe

After Council President Hallum and Mayor Gardner welcomed the group, Mayor Gardner presented a Power Point presentation entitled "State of the City." Some of the highlights of his 30-minute presentation included:

#### Financial Update - Year-end 2021

- 2021 Ending Balance in General Fund = \$2,480,500.
- Also, purchased Chipper/Jack Hammer for Service Department
- Allocated \$80,000 to purchase/implement Bodycam Program
- Encumbered 2021 funds for 2022 Police Car purchase & purchase of PD radios
- 2022 Draft Budget projects an increase of \$112,100 (conservative budget); if no changes, would take surplus to \$2,600,000
- Highlights of 2021 Financial Management include:
  - (1) Property & Casualty Insurance Policy with Employee Bonds - greater coverage with three-year rate guarantee acquired.
  - (2) Health Insurance rates held to 6% increase in medical, 0% dental, 0% vision and 0% GAP increases.
  - (3) Strongest ever Net Profits tax
  - (4) Mayor's Court revenue - increased from \$432K to \$518K in 2021.
  - (5) Auditor's Award received for 2019-2020 financials (including CARES Act funding)
  - (6) Completed spending of \$1,153,100 from CARES Act
  - (7) Rescue Act Total Allocation is \$1,000,687 - \$500,343 received in 2021.
  - (8) Road Fund included replacement of loader (\$175K), resurfacing of Alan, Meadowbrook and Diane Court, Annual rejuvenation work, road striping, engineering and construction deposit for Route 6 East project for 2022; Dodd Road slope failure repair
  - (9) Sewer rehabilitation continued
  - (10) General Obligation Debt retired in 2021 (Community Center)

#### 2021 Project/Equipment Highlights:

- Service Department: Truck for Road Superintendent, new loader, new chipper, new hydraulic jackhammer
- City Facility Improvements: Community Center deck repair, new flooring in City Hall, PD, FD, PD Substation remodeling, upgrade PD & Service locker rooms, upgrade PD Patrol and SGT office workstations, CARES Act improvements (Council Chambers & touchless faucets)
- Police & Fire: new ambulance, radios, video systems, security camera system at Police Substation, flock cameras installed in City, Community policing seminars hosted by WHPD, and COVID PODS established for vaccines/boosters

## **Council/Mayor Retreat Recap (continued):**

### 2021 Project/Equipment Highlights (Continued):

- New Businesses to include Zoom Express Car Wash, Cleveland Animal Rehab, Gaetano's Restaurant and Benjamin Moore Paints
- WHISPER re-instated to help senior citizens
- Holiday "give backs" to include WHFD Toy Drive, WHPD Food and Blanket Collections, Veterans' Day bags from Mayor's Office, Classic/CCF Wellness Run to benefit Velosano and St. Noel Food Pantry

### 2022 Goals:

- Payroll system upgrade
- Bond issuance for new fire truck & salt storage facility
- PD electronic ticketing from PD car to court
- 2023 Draft Budget to Council by first meeting in December 2022
- Review/evaluation of current contracts/rebidding where feasible
- Safety - Speed sign program, Staff Alice training, 3 Police Cars, fire engine replacement, Chief's car replacement, body camera program, flood notification & planning program, evaluation of photo enforcement program, and others
- Human Resources - FD staffing evaluation, Union negotiations, Hire PT Zoning Inspector, and hire Community Center Property Staff members
- Community Engagement - City website upgrade, LED sign for Community Center, continued growth of City E-newsletter, Block Party program, Development of new Recreation programs, FD 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, FD Lock boxes for residents and Rock N Roll Day in WH
- Planning - Completion of Master Plan, continued evaluation of referendum zoning, Strategic Plan, Continue 10-year Financial Capital Plan, Economic Development Plan (w/ Council) and emergency planning
- Capital Plan - Continue progress on Road Plan, Salt Storage facility, new snow plow/dump truck, chipper, new Fire Chief car and 3 new PD vehicles

Council then discussed their 2022 Goals, to include:

- Establish ongoing dialog with existing businesses/plan for new businesses to come
- Building/Zoning Administrator
- Cell Towers/Cell service on east end of City
- Printed City newsletter
- Improved website
- District meetings
- Creation of a City Beautification Subcommittee (to enhance City Hall complex area)

Council Vice President Kline explained his interest in ongoing discussion with current businesses (by way of Business Subcommittee) to see what our businesses would find beneficial, i.e. job fair, ongoing meetings tailored by their type of business, focus on "success" stories, etc. He stated that our new website will be able to help with this as well. Council President Hallum suggested that a note be sent to each business, asking for coupons/promotional information to provide with "New Resident Book" that is sent by the Mayor's Office.

Economic Development was then discussed:

Councilwoman Taylor Draper spoke of her concern that "we need to do better" with our economic development efforts. Assistant Law Director Lobe stated that he has met several times with Scott Scheel and Ray Somich concerning the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills, and he had asked them to rewrite what they felt their Zoning Code concerns were so that he could take that to Council. We have not yet received this information. There was discussion whether a full or part-time position should be established to serve this need. Law Director Lucas suggested meeting with the developer of Pinecrest, as it had been stated that we would like to emulate the concept of live, work and play. Other discussions on this topic included marketing of the City,

## **Council/Mayor Retreat Recap (continued):**

referendum zoning, the vision, and how to best “sell” our City amenities. Council discussed visiting current businesses one on one to get a better idea of what type of business will work in each area.

Cell Tower – Council discussed the possibility of purchasing the former Garfield School property for a cell site, talking to cell service providers to seek the best locations, consider the generation of revenue, but be mindful of safety requirements (as identified by the Grange/River Road location previously). Further meetings will be set up in the future to discuss this topic.

Fund Raiser/City Fellowship/Miscellaneous – Councilwoman Taylor Draper suggested a City softball game or other activity to bring people together, even other cities to challenge. Councilwoman Miller suggested improvement of our Senior programs. Council President Hallum suggested that he would like to continue with the District meetings, three times a year, to invite more community input. The concept of a Business Task Force as opposed to a PT Economic Development Director has discussed. Council will continue to work with current businesses to address their needs and listen to their thoughts. A Volunteer Database was discussed to allow volunteers to sign up for activities via the website, being able to select the event, job, and times to work. We can add the “City Beautification” tasks to these and perhaps individuals who like to garden or plant will come forward to assist.

Capital Plan – Mayor Gardner presented Council with a 10-year Capital Financial Plan which was prepared with collaboration of Finance Director Brichacek and Department Heads. This addresses the future purchase of vehicles, equipment, repairs, etc. It is rather extensive but will be provided on the City website for public viewing.

Referendum Zoning - During the lunch break, Wickliffe Mayor Joe Sakacs was our guest and spoke of “referendum zoning,” which was passed by the Wickliffe voters in the November 2021 election. This gave the City an opportunity to move forward with economic development when previously court action was required. Assistant Law Director Lobe offered Council and Mayor information on this topic, citing that some of the Wickliffe procedure could be followed if referendum zoning would be put to our electors, but other aspects would have to be handled differently. This is a topic that will be researched and be the topic of future meetings.

The final few topics included Community Engagement, Collaborations and Council Operations. Community Engagement consisted of ideas such as website update to eliminate Google searches that brings up old information, food truck day at Shoppes of WH to encourage apartment dwellers to mingle, “Taste of WH” or Ribfest, volunteer appreciation, Board/Commission get-togethers, pathways to parks, church collaboration, business giveaways at events, PD/FD Safety meeting for residents once or twice a year.

Council Operations brought forth dialog concerning the current procedure of Working Committee of Council covering the duties of many other previous Committees, held the Monday before the Thursday Regular Council meetings. All were in agreement to keep this schedule intact.

A more comprehensive recap of the Retreat will be provided by our Council Clerk, Karen Mehollin, in the coming weeks on the City website.

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:00 p.m.



## COVID-19 Booster Opportunities in Willoughby Hills:

Don't forget that Willoughby Hills Community Center is a Point of Dispensary (POD) for the COVID-19 booster for the Lake County General Health District. Make your appointment at [www.armorvax.com](http://www.armorvax.com) to ensure you can be seen at any upcoming Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We had previously disseminated information about the government's four free COVID-19 test kits that can be mailed to each household. The website for that is:

<https://www.covidtestkits.gov>

Finally, we will provide information concerning the distribution of N95 and KN95 masks by the government as well, but it appears that Meijer's, CVS, Walmart are all future resources for these, with Walgreens expected to begin to make them available as soon as January 28. Click on the Fox8 news story below for some great information on this topic:

<https://fox8.com/news/free-n95-masks-when-where-can-ohioans-get-theirs/>



### BMV Scam Warning:

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is warning residents of a scam that sends them to a spoofed BMV website. The agency reported that people are getting fraudulent text messages from someone claiming to be the BMV. The text message may read "Your profile information is incomplete. You are required to update your OH BMV profile now." The text message ends with a link to the spoofed website. Clicking the link sends victims to a page where they will be prompted to enter identifying information and ultimately upload their identification documents. The information sought on the fraudulent site includes license/state ID number, date of birth, last name and social security number. It also wants victims to upload photos of the front and back of their ID. Those seeking to contact the OH BMV can do so by calling 1-844-644-6268.





## **Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation Welcomes Mayor Gardner:**

Special thanks to the third-grade staff and students for welcoming Mayor Gardner on Monday, January 24, 2022 to speak on local government. Mayor Gardner enjoyed his visit with the students and staff and hopes they will one day be our leaders in Willoughby Hills! He spoke of the process to become Mayor and the various elements of his job. Here is a photo - all 75 students probably not pictured, but it was a great group of students! Thanks again for your hospitality!



### **Business Spotlight:**

Dynamic Duo Beverage & Deli Pizza Shop, 34351 Chardon Road, Unit #1, Willoughby Hills 440-585-9000

Dynamic Duo, owned by Rodney Saunders, provided lunch for the City's recent retreat. Not only was the food (consisting of a huge sub sandwich, potato salad, cookie and beverage) delicious, Rodney's preparation of the food made the distribution to the meeting attendees very easy. Rodney specializes in deli food and beverages and can provide a great tray for funeral lunches, showers, parties, or a simple "meal for one." Located in Willoughby Hills since January 2010, Rodney enjoys serving the people and businesses of Willoughby Hills. In addition to the deli portion of the business, Dynamic Duo offers lottery services, beer and wine and many other amenities of a "corner store." Dynamic Duo never hesitates to help the community, most recently assisting with a successful Toy Drive to help fill our ambulance with toys in December. Plan to stop at Dynamic Duo.



## Resident News:

Welcome to the following residents:

David Miller of Trailard, Eric Molesky of Gullybrook and  
Sean Cahill & Abigail Schafer of Chardon Road

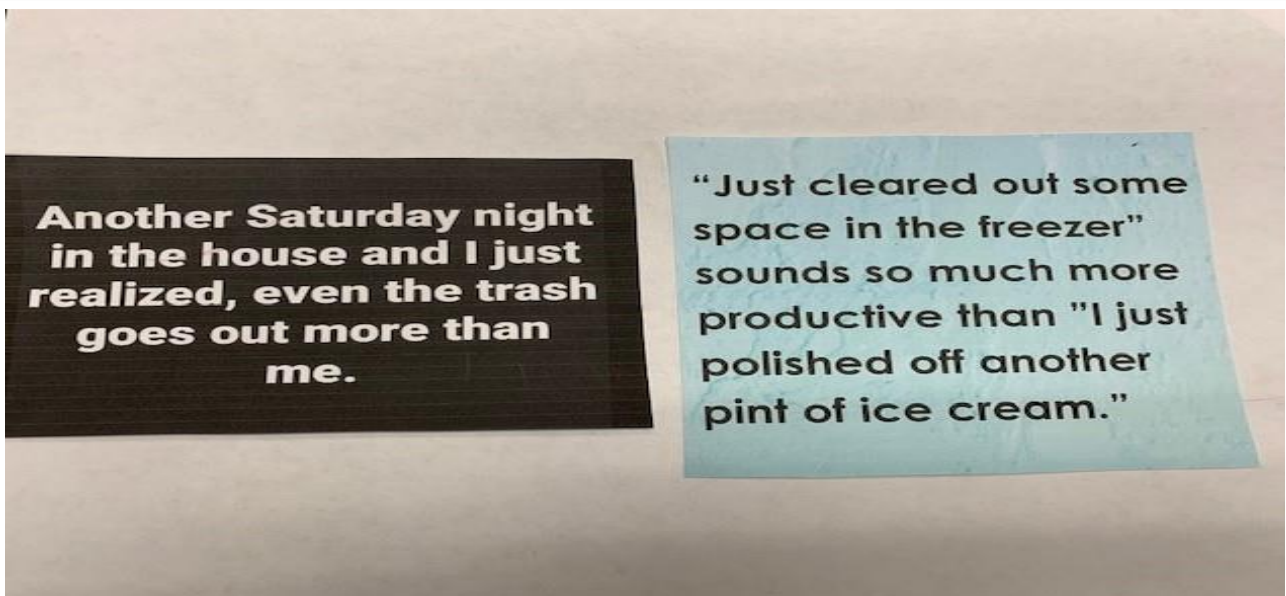
Glad to have you in Willoughby Hills!

Sympathy to the family of Jean Malecek who passed away this week. Please keep her son Ken and his wife Kathy of Maplevue and her grandson Kevin of Cambridge Circle in your thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy to the family of Chuck Glinski of Lamplight Lane who also passed away this week. Chuck was a proud veteran who had a true love for our country. Please keep his wife Nancy, son Mark, and all of his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.



**IS BEING INSIDE DUE TO THE COLD AND COVID GETTING YOU DOWN???**



**CALL CITY HALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT 440-946-1234 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV](http://WWW.WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV)**

