



City of Willoughby Hills

E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 62 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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:

As we continue to shovel our way out of this week's snow storms, let me offer you hope that spring is just around the corner. Six more weeks of winter is what Punxsutawney Phil predicted earlier this week. That is giving us ample time to plan for some great spring events in Willoughby Hills.

The baseball and softball signups are already underway with several youngsters already committing to be on one of the great Willoughby Hills teams this year. The Instructional League is a great foundation to let your youngsters experience team work and get to know the basics of the game. Beyond that, the children learn to continue their skills and team work strategy to provide for a fun game of America's favorite past time sport. For adults, there is an opportunity to help with coaching and be a part of adding to the children's experience to learn and enjoy the game.

The Pancake Breakfasts are set for Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, March 13, in Willoughby Hills Community Center. Tickets are currently being sold by our Recreation Commission members, City officials and Lions Club members, as well as at City Hall. Pre-sale tickets save you a little bit of money and the tickets can also be used for to-go orders, should you choose not to come out to dine in the traditional setting. This has always been a sure sign of spring in Willoughby Hills.

In an attempt to get neighbors out to meet neighbors once the weather breaks, I have developed a "Block Party Program" for residents to be able to receive barricades for road closure/caution during the event, food suggestions from WH businesses and visits by the Police, Fire, Service Departments or City officials. For residents who would opt to have their Block Party at Campbell Park Pavilion, the City can work with you to make that happen. I will make this form available on the City website when finalized.

Finally, the City has gone out to bid for asphalt & limestone, which is also a reminder that there will be a lot of work to be done once everything thaws! In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the beauty of winter in Willoughby Hills!

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Monday, February 7, 2022

Lake County Health District – Booster Clinic

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Willoughby Hills Community Center
Make appointments online at www.armorvax.com (limited walk-ins)

And

Working Committee of Council & Rules and Legislation Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Finance Committee Meeting – discuss PD 2022 Budget

6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

And

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Meeting

8:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Lake County Siren Testing 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Regular Council Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

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

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

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-Go Breakfasts are available, too!



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.



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.

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 25th 2022 at Willoughby Hills Community Center.



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

The fun is about to begin!!!! 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 or GloriaMajeski@WilloughbyHills-OH.gov

Water Bills:

The Mayor's Office has received several resident calls regarding the water bills that were recently sent out by Lake County Water Department. Please check your bill to see the word "Estimate" which means that this quarter's bill was not an "Actual" reading, but rather an estimate of your last four water bills. The Water Department has advised the City that actual readings this quarter were difficult with staffing due to COVID, but actual readings will be provided for the next quarter, at which time any overpayment from this bill will be credited to the next. Any resident, however, who wants an actual reading may request one by calling Lake County Department of Utilities at 440-350-2070. Now is a good time to think about our Summer Sprinkler Program (with a signup due date of April 1) if you want to try to reduce your water bills when filling pools, watering the lawn, etc. More info in the next newsletter on this great program!

Why is my sewer bill so HIGH?

By Councilwoman Tanya Taylor Draper & Finance Director Frank Brichacek

A question that is running across all of our minds as we open this quarter's water/sewer bill. The answer will not please any of us but let's take a closer look.

First, Willoughby Hills does not have a wastewater treatment plant which means that we cannot process our city's sewage. The only facility in proximity to our infrastructure is located in the City of Euclid so we contract with Euclid to treat our wastewater.

Second, the bill you receive from Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU) is the cost of the sewer and water services your household utilizes every 3 months. The water portion of the bill goes to the LCDU to pay Lake County for treating and providing clean drinking water. The sewer portion of the bill is collected by the LCDU on the City's behalf. Those dollars are forwarded to the City to pay the cost of treating City sewage and maintaining the City's sewer system.

Both your water and sewer charges are based upon the amount of water that your household consumes. The more individuals in your household, the higher your water and sewer bill might be. While the City of Willoughby Hills does control the sewer rate charged to its residents, it is important to understand that the rate is a result of the following 3 factors:

- The sewage processing fee assessed to the City by Euclid.
- The fixed charge from LCDU to read meters & process bills (\$4.50 per quarter)
- The City's cost to:
 - build & maintain sanitary sewer lines including pump stations
 - day to day charges to operate/maintain/repair the sewer systems
 - yearly cost to pay debt previously acquired for replacement of existing sewer lines and pump stations

Thus, currently our rate is \$9.053 per hundred cubic feet. Is that expensive- absolutely! The price tag to correctly, properly and safely process wastes IS expensive. We can all agree that the processes which provide safe drinking, cooking and bathing water for our families are worth it.

Last, looking at other cities' rates/charges does not always explain the story comparably. Neighboring city's sewer costs could be conflated with property taxes or special assessments. Cases and determinations vary. Also, other cities have more residents due to smaller lot sizes. This enables them to allocate their fixed costs to more users due to their higher water usage from a higher population.

Please know that the topic has been extensively explored and who knows what future technology could replace. In the meantime, please believe that the Mayor's office and Council are always searching for cost saving measures such as the *Residential Summer Sprinkler Program*. Please call city hall (440-946-1234) or visit the City's website to find out more information.

As mentioned, the answer would not be pleasing but we hope you understand it a little better.

Council Updates:

Finance Committee Chairman Mike Kline has conducted two Finance Committee meetings this past week, one on Monday, January 31 and the second on Tuesday, February 1. The audios from these meetings are available on the City website, but the meetings were focused on reviewing the proposed City Budget for 2022. By law, the Budget must be adopted no later than March 31, 2022.

Finance Director Frank Brichacek has presented the Mayor's Budget Plan and Council has had the opportunity to review it at least Three Readings now but the Finance Committee meetings organized by Council Vice President Kline have provided an in-depth analysis of the budget that is very helpful, not only to Council, but to the residents as well.

During the first meeting on Monday, January 31, Fire Chief Gandee was invited to address Council and the public regarding Fire Department needs going into 2022. He reviewed his plan for equipment and staffing. The challenges that our firefighter/paramedics still face amidst the COVID pandemic are recognized and must be accounted for as we allocate funding into 2022. Fire Chief Gandee just completed his Annual Report (which can be found on the City website using the following link) and provides a great insight into the day to day operations of his Department and justification for his current requests:

[https://cms2files.revize.com/willoughbyhills/Annual%20Report%202021%20\(1\)-revised.pdf](https://cms2files.revize.com/willoughbyhills/Annual%20Report%202021%20(1)-revised.pdf)

During the second meeting on Tuesday, February 1, Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss and Mayor Gardner spoke of needs of the Service Department and Administration. Again, both very well-thought out plans that will move us safely into 2022. You are encouraged to listen to the audios of these meetings found on the link below:

http://cms2.revize.com/revize/willoughbyhills/government/city_council/records/2022_-_meeting_agendas_minutes_and_audios.php

The third and final Finance Committee meeting to discuss the 2022 Budget will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers and will include input from Police Chief Naegele. Among other Police Department needs, he will be presenting information on the proposed Body Camera Program for our Willoughby Hills Police Department. Council will be asked to review his proposal for adoption of an ordinance to facilitate this expenditure. We look forward to yet another good presentation by Chief Naegele to justify budget decisions to Council.

Special thanks to Council Vice President Kline and all of City Council, Mayor Gardner, and all of the City Hall Department Directors for providing this thoughtful process in adopting the City's budget. Any questions that residents may have that they would like brought up during the meeting may be directed to: Council@WilloughbyHills-OH.gov. Your input is appreciated.

You can click on the link below to review the complete proposed 2022 budget:

http://cms2.revize.com/revize/willoughbyhills/departments/services/finance_department/click_here_for_2022_proposed_annual_budget.php



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 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/>



NOPEC RATES:

NOPEC RATES FOR GAS FOR JANUARY 2022 (LATEST AVAILABLE):

Standard Plan
\$5.230 per mcf

Monthly Variable Plan
\$4.154 per mcf

12-mo. Fixed Rate
\$4.440 per mcf

24-mo. Fixed Rate
\$4.250

NOPEC RATES FOR ELECTRIC FOR FEBRUARY 2022:

Standard Plan
6.95 cents per kWh

Monthly Variable Plan
4.778 cents per kWh

12-mo. Fixed Rate
6.540 cents per kWh

24-mo. Fixed Rate
6.490 cents per kWh

Standard Plan - Automatically enrolled unless you pick another option or opt out totally.
Monthly Variable - Guaranteed \$0.02/mcf less than Standard Option; to enroll call 1-855-667-3201
12 & 24-month Fixed Term Products; to enroll call 1-855-667-3201.

Now is a good time to review your rates. If you choose to opt out of NOPEC, be wary of early termination fees or rates jumping after being a member for a few months. Several calls to the Mayor's Office has prompted this post as residents review their gas & electric bills and hope to do better.

Willoughby Hills Community Center Serves WH Residents for Funeral Luncheon Needs:

Just a reminder that one of the benefits as a Willoughby Hills resident is the great rates at our Willoughby Hills Community Center, 35400 Chardon Road. The Center offers a special 4-hour rental for funeral luncheons for our residents at a price of \$50. Please keep this in mind if you have the urgent need to find a place to remember your loved ones. Call 440-975-3540 for rental information.

Business Spotlight:

Do you have a favorite business you would like see featured in the City E-newsletter? Perhaps you frequent a shop or salon or receive services at a great Willoughby Hills business that you would like to share with our readers? If so, please email the business's information to: newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov and we will get the information out to others.

This week I would like to spotlight Dr. Michael Stern and his staff at "Smile Brighter Willoughby Hills" at 34500 Chardon, #1 (440-210-0999). Dr. Stern has served Willoughby Hills for many years, formerly in the Chagrin North buildings, then moving to his current (more visible) location for dentistry. His practice provides dental implants, preventive dentistry, teeth whitening, crowns/bridges, dentures and options for sleep apnea in the form of dental appliances. Within the practice, Dr. Stern participates in the Assist to Succeed Cleveland Program which offers an incredible ten-week Dental Assistant Certification program taught in an active dental office. This is a great way to train the next generation of dental assistants.

CELEBRITY SMILES

Dr. Stern's extensive training, natural artistry, and experience is well known in the Willoughby Hills area and beyond. His skills have enhanced the oral health and appearance of patients of all ages. You probably see the smiles of his patients in your own social circles, and on television. He has provided dental services for several anchors from Fox-8 News, and he formerly served as official dentist for the Cleveland Browns.



Click on the link below to learn more about this great Willoughby Hills business.

<https://www.smilebrighter.info/technology/>



Resident, Employee & Boards/Commission Members News:

Sympathy to the family of Mark Mueller of Mill Gate who passed away this week. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. As a side note, this resident was found unresponsive after a wellness check was issued by the postman. What a great job our postal workers do to report suspicious conditions in our community. They don't seem to get enough credit for the great job they do! Thank you for your assistance with Mr. Mueller and all of the other postal customers you help on a daily basis!

Get Well wishes to Joyce Grady of Marcum who is recovering from a recent fall. Special thanks to WHFD for providing her immediate care which resulted in a quicker resolution to her medical concerns. Great job!

Welcome Rachel Terzak, our newest member of the Recreation Commission! We are happy to have you join us as we plan the Recreation events in the City of Willoughby Hills.

Sympathy to the family of our Service Department employee Tim Rosoboril on the passing of his father-in-law. You and your family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Recreation Commission is looking for volunteers to help with the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, March 13. Call the Recreation Department at 440-975-3540 to sign up for the hours you can contribute to help out!



UPDATE FROM FIRSTENERGY:

As promised in a previous newsletter, we will provide information to our River Road residents who experienced power outages as soon as we received communication from FirstEnergy. In yesterday's communication with our FirstEnergy representative, we were advised that residents in the River Road area will be receiving the following message: "We understand that you recently experienced power outages, which were caused by trees situated off our right of way, falling into our electrical equipment along Chagrin River Road. In an effort to enhance your service, our utility crews will be performing another visual inspection of our lines and equipment for any potential tree reliability concerns. If you have any questions about our customer's tree responsibility for maintaining proper clearance around electrical equipment, please contact our Customer Service Team at 1-800-589-3101 or www.firstenergycorp.com. We appreciate your patience while our crews worked to restore power to the area as quickly and as safely as possible. Thank you."

We are confident that the Illuminating Company is continually working to improve its delivery of services, but will keep our residents advised of the communication we have with our FirstEnergy representatives.

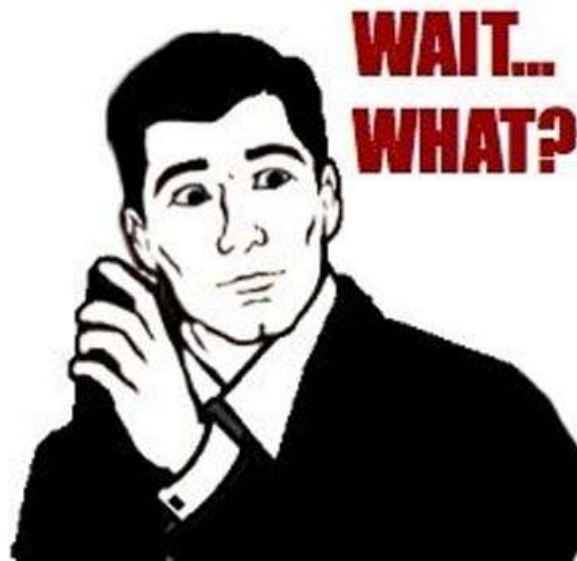
**DO YOU FEEL SOMETIMES LIKE YOU SAY SOMETHING TO SOMEONE AND
THEY JUST TAKE YOU WRONG?**

Andy walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. Andy said, "Shingles." So she wrote down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat.

Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked Andy what he had. Andy said, "Shingles." So she wrote down his height, weight, a complete medical history and told him to wait in the exam room.

A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Andy what he had. Andy said, "Shingles." So the nurse gave him a blood test, took his blood pressure, did an EKG, and told him to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor.

Shortly thereafter, the doctor came in and found Andy sitting patiently and asked him what he had. Andy said, "Shingles." The doctor asked, "Where?" Andy said, "Outside on the truck. Where do you want me to unload them?"



**CALL CITY HALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT 440-946-1234 OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT WWW.WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV**

