



City of Willoughby Hills

E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 63 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Welcome to our new E-newsletter subscribers!

Happy Multiplication Day.....2/11/22 (2 X 11 = 22)!!

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

NEWSLETTER@WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV

MAYOR GARDNER'S REPORT:

On Tuesday, February 15 from 7 to 9pm at Willoughby Hills Community Center, we will be hosting our first Trivia Night in Willoughby Hills (ages 50 and over please). We will assemble teams of six players each (feel free to bring your friend for your team or you will be assigned a team upon your arrival) and together the team will answer trivia questions on such topics as Sports, Slogans, Geography, Willoughby Hills Trivia, History, TV, Movies, Music and more. The team will collectively come up with one answer to turn in for the team. If the answer is correct, the team will score points. The team with the most points at the end of the game will be named the winner. It is truly so much fun, as I learned recently when I participated with my team members Mary Melvin, Sandy Falck, Dave and Denise Reichelt, Mike Kline and Gloria Majeski in the "Mind Challenge" and brought home 2nd place and \$1500 for our Senior Center. We would love to have a second or third team come together to make another Mind Challenge team to represent Willoughby Hills.

Please plan to come and join the fun on Tuesday night. Please RSVP to Gloria Majeski at newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov if you can attend. We would love to have you!

Second, thanks to our Recreation Commission Chairman Laura O'Donnell, the City now has a great way to sign up volunteers for our City events. It is called "Sign up Genius". We are starting volunteer signups with our Annual Pancake Breakfasts on Sunday, March 6, 2022 (sponsored by Recreation Commission) and on Sunday, March 13, 2022 (sponsored by Willoughby Hills Lions Club) from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Willoughby Hills Community Center, 35400 Chardon Road. Pre-sale tickets for this event are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 and over. Children under 5 are free. Tickets are \$1 more if purchased at the door. "To Go" orders are available and will provide for a great Sunday morning breakfast.

Click on the links below to sign up to volunteer...pick your time and the job you want to work on that date:

LINK FOR RECREATION COMMISSION PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEER SIGNUP:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549ABAA2DA5FB6-willoughby>

LINK FOR LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEER SIGNUP:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DA9AF29A1F9C34-willoughby>

Tickets may be purchased from any Recreation Commission member or at City Hall, 35405 Chardon Road on Mondays thru Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Let this be volunteer opportunity be your first step back into "normalcy." See you there!

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Monday, February 14, 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

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TRIVIA NIGHT IN WILLOUGHBY HILLS

(ages 50 & over please)

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Willoughby Hills Community Center

R.S.V.P. to newsletter@willoughbyhills-oh.gov

if you want to join us!

Thursday, February 17, 2022

MASTER PLAN MEETING – 7:00 P.M. Council Chambers

PC-ABR Meeting- CANCELED

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

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 & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

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.

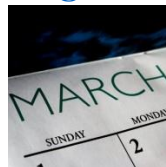
Call 440-975-3540 for an application.

Put it on your calendar now!

Lots of great crafts.

Click on the link below to sign up to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4da9af29a1f9c34-willoughby1>



<http://www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov/departments/services/recreation/index.php>

Another opportunity for Healthcare Professionals & General Support Volunteers:
For a 2-day free healthcare clinic: April 2nd & 3rd at Lakeside High School, 6610 Sanborn Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004 Remote Area Medical is a volunteer-based, global organization that brings free quality medical, dental & vision care to those in need!

Call 865-579-1530 or visit www.ramusa.org

Baseball and Softball Signups:

Baseball and softball registration is open through the Willoughby Hills Youth Sports Association. Please register at www.whblsports.com. Early registration closes February 28th, so please register early and join our pre-season indoor workouts. The league is also looking for volunteers to help with coaching, sponsorship, the concession stand, and other items. If you are interested, please contact Lynn Hallum at 440-833-4444. The next league meeting is Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at the Community Center.



SPECIAL SHRED & DATES:

With residents staying home, it appears that there is a lot of cleanup being done, both records-wise and with computer equipment. The City has scheduled the following dates for residents to come to City Hall from 9am to noon for recycling of paper and computers:

SHRED DAY:

Saturday, June 11 and Saturday, October 15, 2022

ELECTRONICS RECYCLE DAY:

Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, September 10, 2022

Mark your calendars now!



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>

SERVICE DEPARTMENT NEWS:

Service Superintendent: Mark Grubiss

Contact us at 440-975-3550 or service@willoughbyhills-oh.gov

1. Why do the plows block my driveway with snow?

Willoughby Hills Service Department snowplow operators do not place snow in driveways on purpose. The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from streets so that the road is open to vehicular traffic. Plowing pushes snow to the side from the middle of the street naturally, and, unfortunately, this results in snow piling up in front of driveways. Snowplows typically push snow to the right of the travel lane and the driver has no control over this. In addition, the driver cannot stop or raise the plow at each driveway, as this would leave a pile of snow in the roadway. Residents are advised to wait until the plow has been through their road prior to cleaning their driveway and mailbox area. If drifting or more snow occurs, the plows may have to make multiple passes on a road at a later time to keep the road clear. If possible, plow drivers will try to prevent excessive blockages at driveways but at times, this is not possible. Please remember that the clearing of driveway and mailbox areas is the responsibility of the resident. You can prevent snowplows blocking your **driveway by clearing a portion of the road shoulder immediately adjacent to your driveway**. Doing so provides an area where snow from the plow truck can be deposited before reaching your driveway.

2. When will the City replace/repair a mailbox?

a. The Willoughby Hills Service Department is responsible for clearing over 51 miles of roads in the City as quickly and safely as possible. During this operation, rural mailboxes may be damaged. Please notify the Service Department as soon as possible if you feel your mailbox had been damaged due to our snow removal. The Willoughby Hills Service Department will replace damaged mailboxes only when the damage is due to a City snowplow striking the mailbox. The Service Department staff will erect only a standard issue mailbox and post as a replacement. When practicable, the mailbox may be fixed and reinstalled by the Service Department. **CONTACT THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT TO REPAIR/REPLACE YOUR MAILBOX FIRST. THE CITY DOES NOT REIMBURSE FOR PURCHASES/REPAIRS NOT MADE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT.**

b. The Willoughby Hills Service Department will not replace damaged mailboxes when the damage is due to the force of snow thrown at a mailbox by a City snowplow. If the mailbox is damaged due to the pressure of the snow coming from the plow, it's **up to the resident to pay for the replacement costs** as well as conduct the work. After inspection, the Service Department reserves the right to refuse to replace any damaged mailbox when, in the Service Superintendent's opinion, it does not appear the snowplow was operated in a negligent manner.

Mailbox Tips:

- Plastic mailboxes are more prone to damage due to the oversized dimensions and the brittle nature of the plastic in extreme cold temperatures. Please consider before purchasing a mailbox.
- Mailboxes should be no closer than 18" to the road.
- Mailboxes should have a 4X4 post construction and a height of 36" to 42" from the ground.
- Install a snow shield to protect your mailbox from the snowplow and snow damage.

Council Update:

Finance Committee Chairman Mike Kline conducted a third (& final) Finance Committee meeting this past week, one on Tuesday, February 8. The audio from this meeting is available on the City website, but the meeting was focused on reviewing the proposed City Budget for 2022, specifically, Police Department expenditures. By law, the Budget must be adopted no later than March 31, 2022.

During the meeting on Tuesday, February 8, Police Chief Naegele was invited to address Council and the public regarding Police Department needs going into 2022. He reviewed his plan for equipment and staffing. The challenges that our Police Department faces are very similar to the Law Enforcement scenarios you watch each night on the evening news or open your newspaper to each morning. Chief Naegele thanked the present Administration and Council for recognizing these needs over the past year since he has been Police Chief as they have been very receptive when he has asked for additional equipment or updated technology to fulfill the needs of the Police Department. Chief Naegele prepared an outstanding presentation on body worn cameras, his newest request for state of the art equipment to provide for the Department. With the intensity of crimes in today's society, the cameras will serve the residents well as we continue to protect our Police Officers. Chief Naegele is anxious to have Council's approval for the purchase of the cameras and looks forward to adding them to the Department. This expenditure was accounted for as we allocate funding into 2022. Police Chief Naegele 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/PD%20ANNUAL%20REPORT%202021.PDF>

Tuesday's meeting was the final Finance Committee meeting prior to the passage of the Annual Budget. Special thanks to Council Vice President Kline and all of City Council, Mayor Gardner, and all of the City Hall Department Directors and the residents for providing this thoughtful process in adopting the City's budget.

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



Resident, Employee & Boards/Commission Members News:

Sympathy to Bob & Linda Sacerich on the passing of Bob's brother, Nick Krajacich and to Marty & Linda Gazdak on the passing of Linda's father. You and your family remain in our thoughts and prayers.



Congratulations to John Klements on being named Chairman of the BZA and to Mark Kotoch on being named Vice Chairman of the BZA! We know you will do a great job with the City's Board of Zoning Appeals.

Congratulations to Willoughby Hills Police Officer Anthony Papa on being named the 2021 Willoughby Hills Police Officer of the Year, as voted on by his peers. Great job, Anthony! We will be honoring you with a Mayoral Proclamation and a Council Resolution at the February 24th Council Meeting.



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 Fire Rescue ISO Rating Improves to Class 3

Congratulations to our Fire Department on its recent increase in the Public Protection Class (PPC) from Class 4 to Class 3. The Department's PPC is determined by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) who conducts an evaluation of the community's fire protection every 5 to 7 years. Upon completion of their evaluation, they provide a classification from 1 to 10, with a PPC of "1" being the best. It is based on Emergency Communications, Fire Dept. Staffing, Apparatus and Equipment, Water System and Community Risk Reduction. Some insurance companies use the PPC to determine fire insurance premium costs for commercial buildings and some homes. The improvement may result in fire insurance premium savings for some members of the community. Mayor Gardner said, "This is great news for our community. It shows that our community has become safer for our residents."



ONE MORE REASON WHY YOU NEED TO BUY A PANCAKE BREAKFAST TICKET:

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started.

CALL CITY HALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT 440-946-1234

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.WILLOUGHBYHILLS-OH.GOV

