



E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 64 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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:

This week's word is "strength." I have witnessed the strength of our City departments as they practiced emergency preparedness while waiting for the impending flooding to occur in our City. Our Service Department prepared with barriers and road closure signs and kept a constant eye on the rising Chagrin River, along with the Fire Department, who prepared for the Red Cross to be available in the event that residents need to be evacuated to the Community Center or other places to seek shelter. The Police Department was on constant patrol, to assist of any resident who may flag them down for assistance if water started to flood their homes and properties. Our Administrative staff took many resident calls with questions and concerns about emergency preparedness concerns and their patience never waned. Finally, I saw the strength of our residents, who, no matter how tough the situation was, they were determined to be prepared, methodically planning for the worst-case scenario. The careful planning and strength, I believe, is what got us through the last few days when truly the weather could have been much worse and much more devastating to our City. So thank you all for the strength you showed to get us through the storm. It is greatly appreciated.

Now that we know that the warmer weather is coming, it is a reminder of our Annual Pancake Breakfast. We are all set to go with the breakfasts on Sunday, March 6 and Sunday, March 13, with "to go" orders available both days. The breakfasts will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Willoughby Hills Community Center, 35400 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills. Pre-sale tickets for this event are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5-12. Children 4 and under 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 21, 2022

HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY

NO BOOSTER CLINIC AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER TODAY!

Make appointments online at www.armorvax.com (limited walk-ins)

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL &

RULES AND LEGISLATION MEETING

6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

RECREATION COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 p.m.- Willoughby Hills Community Center

Agenda: Easter Eggstravaganza Planning

Thursday, February 24, 2022

RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING

1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

And

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

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.

Returning vendor applications are complete. If you are interested in becoming
a vendor for the Spring Craft Show, please 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>

Mark your calendars now...

Rock N Roll Day in Willoughby Hills

Saturday, August 13, 2022 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Music, games, food and fun!

Event planning has just begun. If you want to volunteer to help, please
contact Gloria in Mayor Gardner's Office at 440-918-8730.



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!



LAKE HUMANE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 FUNDRAISERS:

Lake Humane Society has unveiled the dates for its four signature events this year to help raise funds for the homeless animals in their care. They are:

- Pup Crawl: June 4 in downtown Willoughby
- Rescue Rock Off: July 23 at Mentor Civic Amphitheater
- Mutt Strut: August 28 at Lake Metroparks Farm Parks (dogs are welcome!)
- Black Cat Ball: October 27 at Tall Oaks Event Complex in Kirtland

More information may be obtained by calling the Lake Humane Society at 440-951-6122 X110.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

From Police Chief Matt Naegele

The Police Department has experienced a recent increase in both vehicle break-ins and vehicle thefts. Each stolen vehicle incident involved cars being unlocked and keys left inside. The same held true for the break-ins; the doors were left unlocked. Here are some helpful tips that may serve as a reminder to stay vigilant in protecting your property.

- Lock your doors every time you leave your vehicle. A vast majority of vehicles that are burglarized have been vehicles that were unlocked. Lock your car doors!
- Do not leave your car running unattended even for a minute; criminals are opportunists who love an easy job.
- Do not leave valuable or even cheap items in plain sight. Offenders often look into a vehicle to see if it is worth breaking into. What you think is worthless, they may see as some value to them.
- Car alarms are a deterrent – they are loud and annoying. However, next time this happens, take notice that there are no car thieves around that noisy car.
- Do not park your vehicle in an isolated area or an area where others cannot see your vehicle from the street.
- If you park in your garage make, sure you lock your garage door. If you are gone for a while do not leave your garage door opener inside your vehicle – especially in plain sight. This could potentially give them access to not only your vehicle but also your entire residence.
- **Call 911** anytime you see someone or something suspicious in the area. It is always better to be safe rather than sorry. The Willoughby Hills Police Department responds to all calls for service and take all suspicious activity alerts very seriously.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS:



Friends of Euclid Creek Announces 2022 Environmental Studies Scholarship

South Euclid, OH, Jan. 10, 2022 - The Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC), a grassroots, non-profit organization advocating for the health of the Euclid Creek watershed, is pleased to announce the availability of its 2022 annual scholarship in environmental studies. This scholarship aids one deserving student in his/her pursuit of a degree or certificate in environmental studies, field biology, or any scientific field related to watershed health.

FOEC is currently seeking applications from high school seniors or college students who are interested in studying within the fields of environmental science. A one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) scholarship - earmarked for educational purposes - will be awarded. There may be a second scholarship of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) also. The Friends of Euclid Creek Board of Directors approves all awards.

Applicants must not have received a previous scholarship from the Friends of Euclid Creek. Applicant evaluation is based on background and potential to contribute to environmental studies.

Interested students must submit a one to two-page letter describing their career goals, past volunteer work related to environmental studies, and significant achievements to date. Applicants also must provide a minimum of one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or community member. Applicants must also provide contact information as explained at <https://www.friendsofeuclidcreek.com/scholarship>.

All application materials must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2022. Mail applications to the Friends of Euclid Creek, P.O. Box 21384, South Euclid, Ohio 44121. Emailing applications is also permitted. Applicants must be willing to complete an interview with FOEC members, upon request, and release information and photos about winning the scholarship.

Direct any questions concerning the scholarship or application process to FOEC member Jeanette Evans via email at jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net or call 440-525-6545.



Willoughby Hills Lions Club Scholarship Application

Coming soon for graduating seniors!

The Willoughby Hills Lions Club will be awarding three scholarships (amounts TBD) for continuing education. Any student who is a graduating senior (from any high school) may apply. Willoughby Hills residents will be given priority.

This scholarship may be for any two-year or four-year college or vocational school. The criteria will be: Willoughby Hills' involvement, community involvement, high school extracurricular activities, and the intention to pursue a continuing education of any kind.

Beginning in mid-March, the applications will be available on the City website and at the school Guidance Counselor office. Good Luck!

FIRSTENERGY REFUND INFORMATION:

Ohio Consumers' Council & NOPEC Advocate for Record \$306m In Consumer Refunds:

Consumer advocacy by the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) led to a historic settlement at the PUCO resulting in FirstEnergy refunding \$306 million in "significantly excessive" profits to 2.1 million customers. The first installment of the refunds, averaging \$26.91 for residential customers, appear as bill credits on this month's Cleveland Electric Illuminating, Ohio Edison and Toledo Edison bills. Non-residential customers received \$2.68 per mWh. The remainder of the refund will be paid out to customers as credits on their electric bills over the next five years. The average FirstEnergy residential customer will receive a total of \$85.71 paid in installments as follows:

- **\$1.87 per month (\$22.44 annually)** per consumer (for \$80 million in total will be credited in 2022, through a monthly bill credit).
- **\$1.40 per month (\$16.80 annually)** per consumer (for \$60 million in total will be credited in 2023, through a monthly bill credit).
- **\$1.05 per month (\$12.60 annually)** per consumer (for \$45 million in total will be credited in 2024, through a monthly bill credit).
- **\$0.58 per month (\$6.96 annually)** per consumer (for \$25 million in total will be credited in 2025, through a monthly bill credit).

The settlement involves profits cases under a 2008 utility ratemaking law known as Senate Bill 221, which requires refunds of charges for "significantly excessive" utility profits. Previously the most any electric utility was required to refund to consumers for "significantly excessive" profits was \$43 million from AEP Ohio about a decade ago. The 2008 law limits electric utility refunds to "significantly excessive" profits and allows electric utilities to keep excessive profits.

"Today's record refund is the culmination of OCC's hard-fought efforts over several years to secure refunds for consumers regarding FirstEnergy's high profits," said Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston. "Last year, in an OCC appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court threw out a PUCO decision shielding FirstEnergy from refunding profits. Consumers are to get \$306 million of justice. We hope it's a trend," Weston added.

NOPEC RATES:

NOPEC RATES FOR GAS FOR FEBRUARY 2022:

Standard Plan
\$5.230 per mcf

Monthly Variable Plan
\$6.395 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.

Resident, Employee & Boards/Commission Members News

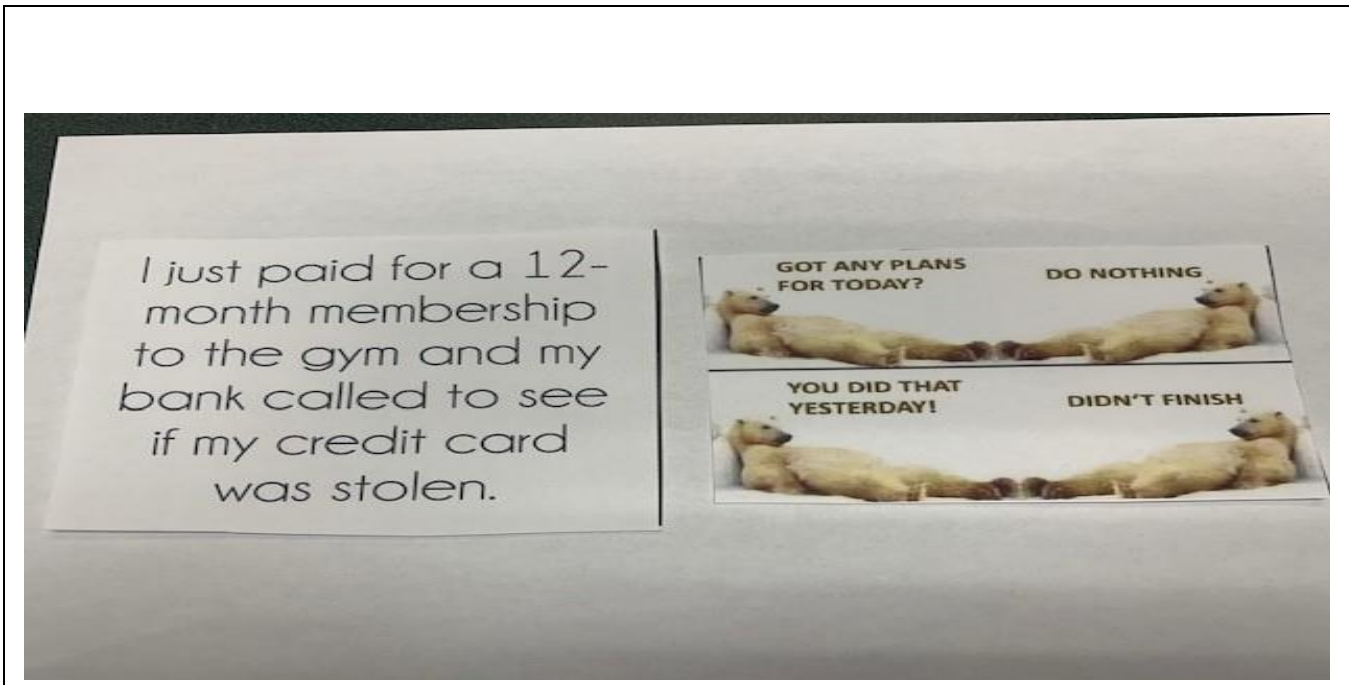
Sympathy to the family of Vernon Swope of Pleasant Valley Drive. His wife Dorothy, and son and daughter in law Kern & Millie and his entire family remain in our thoughts and prayers.



Welcome home to Joyce Grady who has returned home after a fall at home sent her to the hospital and rehab. Thanks to our great Firefighter/Paramedics who assisted her on the evening of her fall. Great job!



I THINK THE “ENDEMIC” IS NEAR....



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

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

