



E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 91 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 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:

Today's newsletter was distributed a bit early to remind everyone of the Veterans Day Ceremony being held at 11:00 A.M. today in the O'Ryan Room of the Community Center. I am very grateful to Willoughby Hills VFW Post #4358, Post Commander Dave Broadwater, Post Chaplain Al Taddeo and Pastor Bill Nyerges from the First Covenant Church for honoring not only our in Willoughby Hills veterans, but veterans everywhere.

Tonight, the City Recreation Commission will be hosting the 2022 Photo Contest Reception and Awards. We had 35 entries this year, more than double the number we had in 2021! Thanks to all of our photographers, the Recreation Commission and our judges for making this event possible. The reception will start tonight at 7:00 P.M.

On Pages 6 and 7 of today's newsletter, you will see that registration is now open for our annual Breakfast with Santa. Register early as this popular program always fills up fast. In other Holiday news, we have extended the deadline for Christmas Card Lane renewals and reservations. If you are interested in having a card on Christmas Card Lane this Holiday Season, please deliver your renewal or application to the Recreation Office Drop Box in the Community Center by 12:00 Noon on Monday, November 14.

It is with sadness that I announce receipt of notice from longtime Board of Building and Zoning Appeals member John Klements that he will not seek to be reappointed when his current term is over at the end of the year. John has served for 25 years, including this year as Chairperson, and his expertise, thoughtfulness and dedication to the City is deeply appreciated. If you see John, please express your appreciation to him for his service. If anyone is interested in serving on our Board of Building and Zoning Appeals, you only have to commit to an initial 5 year term, not 25 like John. The application is on the website and additional details are on Page 8 below.

Construction on the Salt Storage project advanced this week with the structure and canopy going up Wednesday and Thursday. This project should be complete by the end of the month and we can begin storing salt in the new facility this December.

The updating and redesign of the City website is well underway. This week, we approved the general design for the new website. The next step will require setting up the menus and submenus, followed by transferring data and adding functionality to the menus and options. If all continues on schedule, the new website will debut this winter.

Finally, leaf pickup is in the home stretch. They came down quickly this year. Thanks to our Service Department for their excellent work gathering up the leaves so quickly.

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, November 11, 2022

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

11:00 A.M. O’Ryan Room of the Community Center

City Hall and Service Department Offices Closed for the Holiday

Friday, November 11, 2022

PHOTO CONTEST RECEPTION AND AWARDS

7:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M. Community Center Lobby and Gallery

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

TRIVIA NIGHT IN WILLOUGHBY HILLS

7:00 P.M. Community Center O’Ryan Room

Thursday, November 17, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION/ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SHEETZ CONDITIONAL USE

7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Saturday, November 19, 2022

POLICE DEPARTMENT FOOD DRIVE

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. in front of Marc’s at The Shoppes of Willoughby Hills

CANCELLED-Monday, November 21, 2022 Working Committee of Council

CANCELLED-Thursday, November 24, 2022 City Council Meeting

Thursday and Friday, November 4-25, 2022

CITY HALL CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Thursday, December 1, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION/ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW

7:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Sunday, December 4, 2022

WINTERFEST AND CHRISTMAS CARD LANE LIGHTING

5:00 P.M FIRE STATION

Monday, December 5, 2022

WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING

6:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Tuesday, December 8, 2022

BOARD OF BUILDING & ZONING APPEALS

8:00 P.M. Council Chambers

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

7:00 P.M. Council Chambers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM NOPEC

What is NOPEC? The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest nonprofit governmental energy aggregator in Ohio supplying electricity and natural gas for more than 20 years to over 1 million residential and small business accounts in 242 communities and 19 counties statewide.

Why did NOPEC transfer its electric customers back to the utility's default standard service offer (SSO)? As a consumer-focused non-profit, NOPEC operates and advocates for what's best for our communities and customers. As we looked at the price forecasts following the invasion of Ukraine, it became increasingly apparent that being on the SSO rate would result in our customers paying less for their electricity through Spring 2023.

Why didn't you respond sooner to higher energy prices? A year ago at this time, NOPEC's rate was competitive in the Ohio retail markets and with the SSO rates. Then, like everyone in the energy industry, we watched as the cost of energy began to rise globally driven by prices in Europe, the war in Ukraine, supply chain issues and other forces outside of NOPEC's control. By July 2022, NOPEC prices were nearly double the utility's default SSO rate, driven up additionally by the hotter weather across the country this summer. To benefit our customers, we acted prudently and quickly to return 550,000 electricity customers to the lower SSO rate. We informed the PUCO of market developments and our response plan. As of September 22, NOPEC has submitted all customers enrolled in the Standard Program Price to the utility SSO for electric service. Customers can expect to begin supply with the utility SSO on the next available meter read date per utility guidelines. Any claim that we sat and waited while our customers experienced months of much higher prices is simply false. We moved as quickly as possible to provide rate relief for all these electric customers. Electricity prices increased significantly.

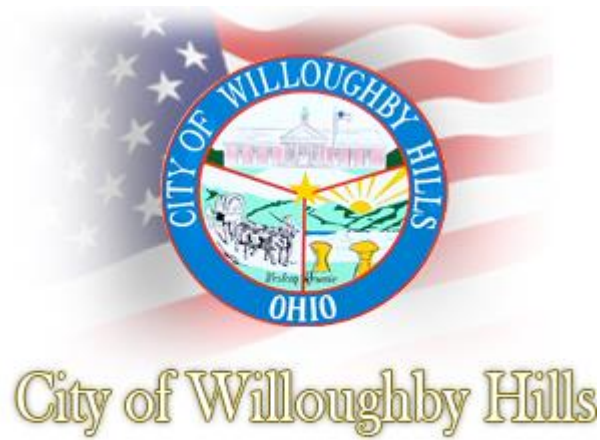
Why were NOPEC's so much higher than the utility's SSO? For 20-plus years, NOPEC's strategies have resulted in consistently competitive pricing to the benefit of our customers. Unfortunately, this year, worldwide events created an unpredictable and unprecedented energy price spike. This resulted in our customers experiencing much higher rates than the utility SSO. That's why we acted swiftly and decisively to return them to the lower utility rate.

Did NOPEC do anything that others didn't? No. What NOPEC did was look out for its customers by helping them lower their electric rates. NOPEC followed Ohio law and rules in transitioning these customers to the utility's SSO rates. And by no means is NOPEC alone in taking this action. Approximately 40 other governmental aggregations in Ohio also have returned about 100,000 customers to the SSO this year. Many other commercial and industrial customers have returned to the SSO as well. In sum, NOPEC did the right thing for its customers as quickly as possible in compliance with Ohio law. No one can predict the future of energy prices.

How do you know NOPEC rates will be competitive come June 2023 when you intend to bring your customers back? We're not predicting the future. What we do know with certainty is the locked-in SSO rate will be reset in mid-2023 and is likely to be more reflective of current market rates. This means that NOPEC's electricity rate likely will again be competitive with the utility rate. When the SSO rates increase next year, as we anticipate, we expect our customers will return to NOPEC to again receive the many benefits of our aggregation. The PUCO is asking you to justify being able to continue operating. How do you respond? NOPEC did the right thing for its customers as quickly as possible in compliance with Ohio law, rules and regulations. We'll file our formal response to the PUCO's entry by the September 28 deadline.

What will prevent this from happening again? These were unprecedented conditions around energy prices and we took the unprecedented step of turning 550,000 electric customers back to the lower SSO price. We believe the future SSO rates will more closely reflect current market pricing moving forward making this kind of price disparity much less likely in the future.

Does NOPEC make a profit when energy rates are higher? No. NOPEC is a nonprofit meaning we don't profit from higher energy rates. We have a small staff, we're governed by an unpaid volunteer Board of Directors, we take no taxpayer dollars, and our member communities pay nothing to belong to NOPEC.



Veterans Day Ceremony

Willoughby Hills VFW Post #4358 will present a Veteran's Day Ceremony at 11:00 this morning. Willoughby Hills First Covenant Church and Army Veteran Pastor Bill Nyerges will be the featured speaker. The VFW Post will host a light luncheon immediately following the Ceremony at the Post House located at 29412 White Rd, Willoughby Hills. Thanks to Post Commander David Broadwater, Chaplain Al Taddeo, Master of Ceremony Ray Somich and Pastor Nyerges for honoring our Veterans.

Snow Plow Registration

Beginning this year, the City is requiring that all residential snow plow contractors register with the City. Registration is being completed through the Service Department and is only \$25.00 for the contractor's first vehicle and \$5.00 for any additional vehicles operating in the City. As well as their contact information, contractors will need to provide proof of insurance and their customer list. Contractors will be provided with copies of City ordinances including requirements: (i) that plowed snow not be left in the streets or on any neighbor's property, (ii) that plowed snow not be so high that it obstructs or impairs the vision of pedestrians or motorists and (iii) that the plowed snow does not block access to any fire hydrants.

LEAF PICK-UP REMINDERS FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

1. Place leaves within eight feet (8') of the road (that is the range of the leaf vacuum), but not in the road.
2. Yard Waste pick-up by Republic continues through **November 30**.
3. There is no need to call, our crew will get there! Keep your leaves out and ready, and we will get to them as soon as we can.

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY WHILE OUR CREWS ARE ON THE ROAD AND GIVE THEM PLENTY OF SPACE TO WORK AS YOU APPROACH AND PASS THE LEAF CREWS.

Fill-A-Cruiser Food Drive



November 19th 2022

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Community Partners:



PLEASE PLAN TO SUPPORT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SAINT NOEL'S FOOD PANTRY BY STOPPING BY MARC'S ON NOVEMBER 19TH BETWEEN 10:00 A.M. AND 2:00 PM TO FILL A WILLOUGHBY HILLS POLICE CRUISER WITH FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

WILLOUGHBY HILLS

Breakfast with Santa & the Santa Shop

Saturday, December 10

8:30 - 11:45 AM

at the Community Center (35400 Chardon Road)

Adults: \$7.00 | Children: \$5.00 (3 & under FREE) | Santa Shop Gifts: \$2.00 each (pay at event)

RESERVATIONS
* REQUIRED *



Call: (440) 975-3540 or Email: recreation@willoughbyhills-oh.gov

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA & SANTA SHOP

Saturday, December 10 | 8:30-11:45 AM
Willoughby Hills Community Center | 35400 Chardon Road

RESERVATION FORM

Name:	Phone:
Email:	

Number of Adults:		@ \$7.00 each	=	
Number of Children*:		@ \$5.00 each	=	
*3 and under are FREE			Amount Enclosed	

Number of high chairs
needed:

Number of booster seats
needed:

Please return to: Willoughby Hills Recreation Department
35400 Chardon Rd
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094
(9AM-12PM | After hours: Safety box below window)

Please make check payable to: **City of Willoughby Hills**



RESERVATION TIME REQUESTS

Breakfast reservations are scheduled every 30 minutes from 8:30 - 11:30AM. Please list 3 different reservation times you would like in the order you prefer, and we will do our best to accommodate you:

1)	2)	3)
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Phone reservations will be accepted with a credit card payment, by calling:
(440) 975-3540. Monday through Friday 9AM – 12PM

Reservations due by **December 5.**

Santa Shop gifts \$2.00 each; paid at door.

TRIVIA NIGHT IN WILLOUGHBY HILLS

**THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA NIGHTS WILL BE TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 15, 2022 IN THE O'RYAN ROOM OF THE
COMMUNITY CENTER AT 7:00 P.M. ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.

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.