

E-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 140 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

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

Good Afternoon Willoughby Hills. I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and is ready for another very busy holiday season.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to the many residents and Marc's customers who donated food to this year's Police Department Food Drive. St. Noel's has reported that 1,747 pounds of food (almost 500 pounds more than last year) was delivered to the food pantry as a result of this group's generosity and the efforts of the Police Department to collect the donations. Special Thanks to Post Commander Dave Broadwater and VFW Post 4358 for their generous donation of \$2,000 to the food drive. Thanks to Chief Naegele, Capt. Leonbruno and Officer Continenza for coordinating the drive and collecting the donations.

Sunday is our annual WinterFest and Toy Drive. Special thanks to Emerald Glen Title for stopping by this week with a very generous donation to help us start filling the ambulance for Toys for Tots. I hope that everyone will come to the Fire Station between 5:00 and 6:30 P.M. and bring a toy (or more). As I noted above, all toys collected will go to the Toys for Tots Holiday campaign. If you bring a toy to Winterfest, you will be entered in a raffle for one of many gift cards that have been donated by local businesses and restaurants. Winterfest will also feature a visit from Santa, the WHFD Bounce House, snacks and performances by the Willoughby South High Holiday Band. If you can't make it to WinterFest, donation bins are available in the Community Center Lobby, City Hall Lobby, Fire Department Lobby and in the Police Department Lobby (enter through the entrance at the rear of City Hall, this one is available 24/7).

Next weekend's Breakfast with Santa is filling up fast! If you haven't had a chance to register, contact the Recreation Department ASAP. Details for registration appear later in this Newsletter. Also attached is the registration form for our Holiday Lights Contest. Please consider entering individually or with your neighborhood! Judging will be in 2 weeks. Next week we will post the routes for the 2023 Willoughby Hills Parade of Lights with Santa (and the Grinch). The Holiday Parade will be December 18-21 with a make-up night on December 22 should we have inclement weather or an emergency in the City that delays Santa and the Grinch from completing their rounds.

I want to complement the hard work by the members of our Service Department plowing the roads during this week's Lake Effect storm and for their hard work collecting leaves throughout the City. The leaves fell in bunches this Fall and they did a great job keeping up. They are now back to finishing off their last passes through the City.

The Police Department's photo-enforcement program will kick-off on Monday. There will be a thirty (30) day warning period. A ticket may be issued if you are in excess of 10 miles per hour over the 20 mile per hour speed limit in our School Zones (Chardon Road in front of the School of Innovation and SOM Center Road in front of Cornerstone Christian Academy) during restricted hours. Photo enforcement will also be used on Interstate 90 and Interstate 271 if you exceed 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limits. As noted by Chiefs Collins and Naegele, the speeds on our highways have been increasing steadily since 2020. Please drive within the posted speed limits and help keep our community safe for everyone.

Finally, I want to welcome Janet Feld, Bernadette Blumel, Renee Viola, and Scott Cameron to our Recreation Commission! It is great to add some folks to this group. I hope to see many of you at Winterfest this Sunday.

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 3, 2023 WINTERFEST 5:00 P.M.—Fire Station

<u>Wednesday, December 6, 2023</u> RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING 7:00 P.M.—Council Chambers

> Thursday, December 7, 2023 PC-ABR MEETING 7:00 P.M.—Council Chambers

> Saturday, December 9, 2023 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 8:30 A.M.—Community Center

Monday, December 11, 2023

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING 3:00 P.M.—Council Chambers

Monday, December 11, 2023 WORKING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 P.M.—Council Chambers

<u>Tuesday, December 12, 2023</u> BOARD OF BUILDING & ZONING APPEALS MEETING 8:00 P.M.—Council Chambers

> <u>Thursday, December 14, 2023</u> REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 P.M.—Council Chambers

<u>Friday, December 15—17, 2023</u> HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST JUDGING

<u>Monday, December 18–21, 2023</u>

SANTA (& GRINCH) PARADE 6:00 P.M.—Citywide (details forthcoming) Thank you to all who came by Marc's on November 18th and donated food items for St. Noel's Food Pantry. It was another successful year as 1,747 pounds of food were donated. In addition, a very generous monetary donation was presented to St. Noel's from VFW Post #4358's Post Commander Dave Broadwater. It's wonderful knowing that so many people assisted in making someone's holiday season just a little more special.













Monday, December 4, 2023

Second Annual Senior Citizens' Night Out 4:00—6:00 P.M. South High School Cafeteria 4900 Shankland Road Willoughby, Ohio 44094

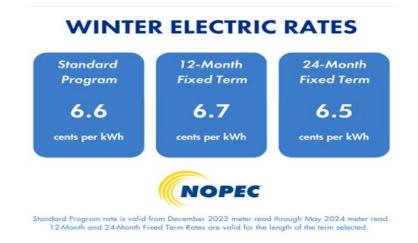
Free event is open to all area seniors, ages 65 and over.

Doors open at 4:00 P.M. Dinner will be served at 4:30 P.M. followed by student performances.

RSVP to Pam Clair, 440-975-3774 or pam.clair@WESchools.org



NOPEC will hold their Standard Program Price steady December through May 2024. During a period when the Standard Service Offer (SSO) pricing for CEI, Ohio Edison and AEP Ohio has been and will remain about 9.5 to 12 cents/kWh through May 2024, NOPEC has committed to holding their low pricing steady for their customers. For more information, and to view other pricing options, visit www.nopec.org/electric



It's that time of year to deck the halls, but please have fire sense when decorating your Christmas tree.

Here are a few facts from NFPA:

- Almost one-third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, they are more likely to be serious when they do occur.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes more than one in every five of the fires.

Enjoy your holiday decorating; having fire sense may even keep the Grinch away!



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

PICKING THE TREE

 Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes more than one in every five of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information NFPA Public Education Division - 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169 Your Logo

www.nfpa.org/education ONFPA.2020

Welcome to our new 2024 Recreation Commission Members!

Renee Viola Janet Feld Bernadette Blumel Scott Cameron

Thank you for volunteering your time and talent toward the continued success of our City's events!



City Leaf Pickup

The City's Service Department has begun leaf pickup and will continue to pickup until the first heavy snowfall. Please note the following:

- Keep leaves within 8 feet of the road.

- Do not block the ditch.

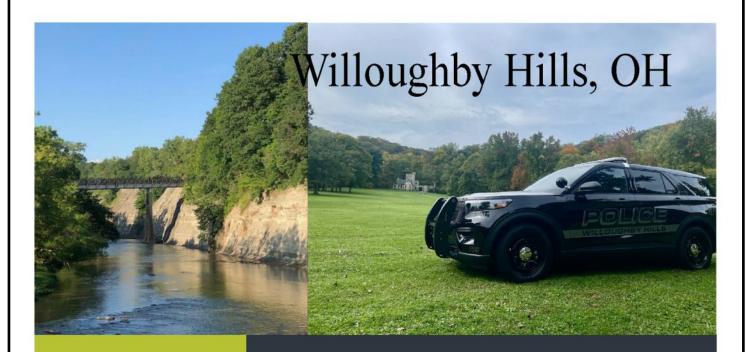
- Leaves only (no grass, twigs, or branches).
- <u>Please slow down</u> when you see our Leaf Crew out and pass with caution.

The Service Department would like to remind residents that snow plow season is coming up quickly and it's a perfect time to check that mailboxes are secure and not rotted. The City will not be fixing mailboxes unless the plow strikes them. Plow shields are recommended.

PRESCRIPTION DROP BOX:

<u>Please note that our Police Department is no longer hosting a Prescription Drop</u> <u>Box in their lobby</u>. For medication disposal, please visit the following locations:

CVS Pharmacy (in back near pharmacy) 6005 SOM Center Road Willoughby, Ohio 44094 Lake County General Health District 5966 Heisley Road Mentor, Ohio 44060



FIXED SPEED ENFORCEMENT LOCATIONS:

- Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation (32500 Chardon Rd)
- Cornerstone Christian Academy (2845 SOM Center Rd)

Traffic Safety Enforcement Program

Each year, too many families are affected by crashes caused by speeding. Sadly, the victims of traffic crashes are often occupants of other vehicles who have fallen victim to speeding and careless driving.

Improving traffic safety for residents and visitors is a strategic goal of the Willoughby Hills Police Department. That is why I am so pleased to report that we are implementing a photo enforcement system in Willoughby Hills. The state of the art system is designed to help us encourage safer driving habits and save lives. Our police officers cannot enforce traffic laws everywhere, all the time. The new enforcement system will allow us to enforce traffic laws in a safer way for the officer and the violator. There are no upfront costs to the taxpayers and, over time, violators will fund this program.

I encourage you to respect the rules of the road – help keep yourself and your neighbors safe and sound. Join me in supporting our new traffic enforcement system.

Sincerely,

Matthew Naegele Chief of Police

35405 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 Tel (440) 942-9111

www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov

Question & Answer



There will be a warning period for the first 30 days, after the program begins.

Is speeding a public safety concern?

According to the IIHS, speeding is a factor in one-third of all fatal crashes in the U.S., killing more than 10,000 people per year. In addition, according to the NHTSA, speed-related crashes cost the U.S. economy approximately \$40 billion per year.

How will the new Speed Enforcement Program work to protect lives in Willoughby Hills?

This Traffic Enforcement Program will protect lives by reminding motorists to slowdown and obey speed laws. Automated safety cameras will identify motorists who are breaking the law by exceeding the speed limits. The registered owner of the violating vehicle will receive a traffic citation in the mail.

What systems will the police department be using?

The Willoughby Hills Police Department will be utilizing handheld and fixed location photo enforcement equipment. In school zones, we have set up fixed location cameras to capture vehicles traveling at an unsafe speed in an effort to keep our children safer. These will be operational only on school days during school hours. The handheld equipment will be used by certified police officers in multiple locations along the interstate and other roadways in the community. The system will be used to identify and ticket speeding vehicles in a manner that is potentially safer for the officer and occupants of the vehicle.

Does someone double-check the evidence?

Sworn police officers will determine violations. Our vendor will do the initial screenings of information for photo and data quality. Officers will review every violation to verify vehicle information and ensure the vehicle is in violation. These officers will utilize the same standards for photo enforcement as they would with a standard violation event. Upon officer approval, a citation will be mailed to the vehicle owner. The owner will then have the right to pay the citation or exercise a contest process.

What are the Traffic Enforcement fines in the City of Willoughby Hills?

Speed Over	Fine Amount Owed	Fine if in a Construction or School Zone
1-19 MPH	\$150.00	\$150.00
20-29 MPH	\$200.00	\$200.00
30+ MPH	\$300.00	\$300.00

Are automated enforcement cameras legal?

Yes. Courts have ruled in favor of a municipality's right to use automated enforcement technology in a fair and judicious manner.

Will people know when they are entering a School enforcement zone?

Yes. Signs will be posted at every enforced zone, warning drivers that photo enforcement is in use ahead.

Can I challenge my citation?

Yes. Each citation ticket contains detailed information on how to exercise your due process rights and contest the citation.

What about privacy? Will I be photographed in my vehicle?

No. Vehicles following traffic laws are not photographed. Additionally, the driver is not visible on the citation.

35405 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, OH 44094 Tel (440) 942-9111

www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov

WILLOUGHBY HILLS SENIORS, INC.

Find a group of friends who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life. (Amy Poehler)





SENIOR NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 1, 2023

Willoughby Hills Seniors, Inc. is happy to provide this newsletter to you as a way to stay engaged in senior activities in our community.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SENIOR CENTER DUES FOR 2024: We have applied for Lake County Senior Tax Levy funding which could provide for the myseniorcenter.com software, providing each member with a key fob for access to the Senior Room. We will send the dues applications out **in 2024** rather than before year end to allow for the new system for each member. We will keep you posted on this new membership amenity.

THANK YOU TO OUR SENIORS:

Thank you to all of the seniors who ventured out to "fill the cruiser" with food donations, sponsored by the Willoughby Hills Police Department. They were able to provide many, many meals for recipients of the St. Noel Food Pantry. What a great gesture by our community to give back to our community. Thank you so much! The Fire Department will be offering a somewhat different community event to offer toys to children for the holiday. Winterfest is set for Sunday, December 3, 2023 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Station. Please stop by with a new, unwrapped toy to allow the Fire Dept. to show the same kind of community support shown by our Police Department.

Again, thank you so much for giving back to our community.

DECEMBER SENIOR ROOM CALENDAR:

The December Senior Room calendar is provided with this newsletter but the room availability for the holidays may be subject to change...waiting to confirm the building open/close status with the Part-time Recreation Coordinator. Will keep you posted.

SENIOR HOLIDAY POTLUCK:

Our Holiday Senior Potluck is set for Tuesday, December 19 at 11:30. Fried chicken will be the main entrée. Please plan to wear your favorite holiday sweater for a great photo op! Looking forward to seeing you then.

RESIDENT NEWS...

Sympathy to the Pat Jacobson and Lynn Lasalvia of the WH Senior Apartments who recently passed away, Richard Damore of Miller Avenue who passed away on November 28 and Ana Turnski of Chardon Road who passed away on November 22. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers. Welcome to the following new residents: Meekolashawna Chisolm of Cambridge Circle & Chris Swanson of Milann Drive. We welcome all seniors to our group!

WHISPER HELP FOR OUR SENIORS:

Several residents have reached out to get information about the City's WHIPSER Program, which was developed in 2009 to help our seniors with everyday tasks. The City website has the complete booklet for the policies and procedures of the program, to include a list of various outside and inside tasks that are offered. Here is a brief list of the indoor tasks listed:

Dusting, vacuuming, general cleaning, indoor/outdoor window washing, indoor minor painting, indoor minor repairs, technology assistance (computers, printers, etc.) and indoor battery/bulb changes.

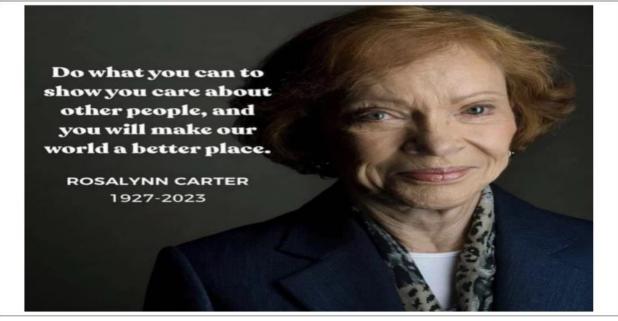
In order to receive services, the resident must complete the Service Application (on the City website or email <u>whseniors@yahoo.com</u> for an application to be emailed to you). The Application is then sent to the WHISPER Facilitator, Karen Mehollin

(City Communications Supervisor), Willoughby Hills City Hall, 35405 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094. Some of the tasks are reviewed before the WHISPER Committee while others are assigned to volunteers, all of whom have been background checked (over the age of 18 only!) according to the WHISPER guidelines.

The Willoughby Hills Senior Board will be reaching out to the WHISPER Committee for a special project to help replace some address numbers around the community that are difficult to read or are absent. You may recall, Fire Chief Gandee presented this issue at our April Senior Potluck. It would be nice to get this taken care of in the new year. We will be reaching out to residents who are in need of this service once the request is approved by the Committee. We will keep you posted.

In the meantime, feel free to use the program that was developed to help our seniors! Reach out if you have any further questions or concerns!

LEAVING YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT FROM A FAVORITE SENIOR WE LOST THIS WEEK....



Have a good week!Willoughby Hills Seniors, Inc. Board Members
(Mary Cihula, Laurie Feltham & Gloria Majeski)Email:WilloughbyHillsSeniors@yahoo.comPhone: 440-951-0776

SENIOR ROOM ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

<u>Mon</u> <u>Wed</u> <u>Sun</u> <u>Tue</u> <u>Thu</u> <u>Fri</u> <u>Sat</u> 2 1 PINOCHLE EXERCISE 11am 6-9pm MAHJONG 1pm PINOCHLE 6-9pm 5 8 9 3 Δ 6 7 YOGA 1pm KNIT/CROCHET Winterfest BRIDGE 12:30-3pm EXERCISE 11am **Breakfast with Santa** WHFD (Lions Room) 10am to noon 8:30am to noon MAHJONG 1pm 5pm-6:30pm W-E Schools PINOCHLE 6-9pm PINOCHLE Seniors' Night Out 6-9pm South High School 4-6pm 10 12 15 16 11 13 14 YOGA 1pm KNIT/CROCHET PINOCHLE BRIDGE 12:30-3pm EXERCISE 11am (Lions Room) 10am to noon 6-9pm MAHJONG 1pm COMMUNITY PODIATRIST QUILTS (By Appt.) 10am 10am-2pm **Quilt Guild Party** 6:30pm at Trader Jacks 17 18 23 19 20 21 22 YOGA 1pm POTLUCK LUNCH BRIDGE 12:30-3pm KNIT/CROCHET **EXERCISE** 11am PINOCHLE (Lions Room) 11:30am-1pm 10am to noon 6-9pm MAHJONG 1pm NO SENIOR TRIVIA NO QUILT GUILD MTG. THIS MONTH 24/31 25 26 28 29 30 27 CHRISTMAS SACERICH SEWS KNIT/CROCHET PINOCHLE Christmas BRIDGE 12:30-3pm EXERCISE 11am 12PM-3PM (private) Eve DAY 10am to noon 6-9pm MAHJONG 1pm New Year's Eve

<u>DECEMBER 2023</u> Willoughby Hills Seniors, Inc.





SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL 4900 SHANKLAND ROAD WILLOUGHBY

Sponsored by Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

ENJOY AN EVENING THAT FEATURES:

- FREE dinner for seniors, ages 65 and older
- Student band, drama and choir performances
- Art and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Displays
- Rebels Express, a student run business
- Meet the Superintendent, Board members, and other school administrators and staff



"We enjoyed a delicious dinner served by volunteer students while chatting with board members and administrators. The musical entertainment provided by the students was the highlight of the evening. This is an excellent way for seniors to connect and learn more about our school district."

--Terry Foreman, community member

This FREE event is open to all area seniors, ages 65 and older. RSVP to Pam Clair, call 440-975-3774 or email: pam.clair@weschools.org

OPPORTUNITIES



W.H.I.S.P.E.R. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Willoughby Hills Isolated Senior Program for Everyday Relief (W.H.I.S.P.E.R.) committee is looking for volunteers to assist with incoming requests for services. While we continue to appreciate our outdoor task volunteers, we currently do not have volunteers to assist with indoor tasks such as dusting, vacuuming, and window washing—and without volunteers these projects cannot be completed.

In order to become a W.H.I.S.P.E.R. volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old and willing to be background checked. If you think you might like to help out please fill out the volunteer application located <u>here</u>. Programs such as this don't happen without volunteers like you! Come see Santa & the lighting of Christmas Card Lane!

Willoughby Hills

Sunday, December 3 5:00-6:30PM

at the Willoughby Hills Fire Station (35455 Chardon Road)

SANTA 🎄 SOUTH HS BAND 🎄 GAMES 🕸 SNACKS







TOY DRIVE: Bring an unwrapped toy to donate and recevie a raffle ticket.

Help us stuff an ambulance with toys!



The First Covenant Church Invites you to

"Christmas around the World"

Sunday, December 3th, 2023 at 6:00 PM 29400 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills

A Christmas Music Concert certain to put you in the Holiday Spirit

Featuring classical music on piano, vocals and stringed instrumentals performing Christmas music from around the world

This concert is free and open to everyone in the community

Refreshments and reception will follow in our fellowship hall

Please join us!

Donations to cover expenses only are welcome Information: (440) 943-3611

WILLOUGHBY HILLS Breakfast upith Santa & the Santa Shop

Saturday, December 9 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM at the Community Center (35400 Chardon Road)

Adults: \$7.00 | Children: \$5.00 (4 & under FREE) | Santa Shop Gifts: \$3.00 each (pay at event)

RESERVATIONS

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

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA & SANTA SHOP

**

Saturday, December 9 | 8:30AM-12:00PM Willoughby Hills Community Center | 35400 Chardon Road

RESERVATION FORM

Name:	Phone:			
Email:				
Number of Adults:		@ \$7.00 each	=	
Number of Children*:		@ \$5.00 each	=	
*4 and under are FREE	Amount Enclosed			
3540	Number of boo ughby Hills Recreation D O Chardon Rd	needed:		
	ughby Hills, OH 44094 -12PM After hours: Saf	ety box below wind		
Please make check payal	ele to: City of Willought RESERVATION	• *********	IS	
	re scheduled every 30 n	ninutes from 8:30 -	11:30AM. Please list 3 different do our best to accommodate you	
1)	2)		3)	
	ons will be accepted 975-3540. Monday t		rd payment , by calling: AM – 12PM	
	Reservations due	e by Decemb	er 7.	
San	ta Shop gifts \$3.	00 each; pai	d at door.	

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

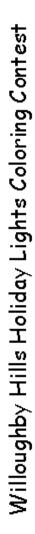
WILLOUGHBY HILLS RESIDENT ENTRY:

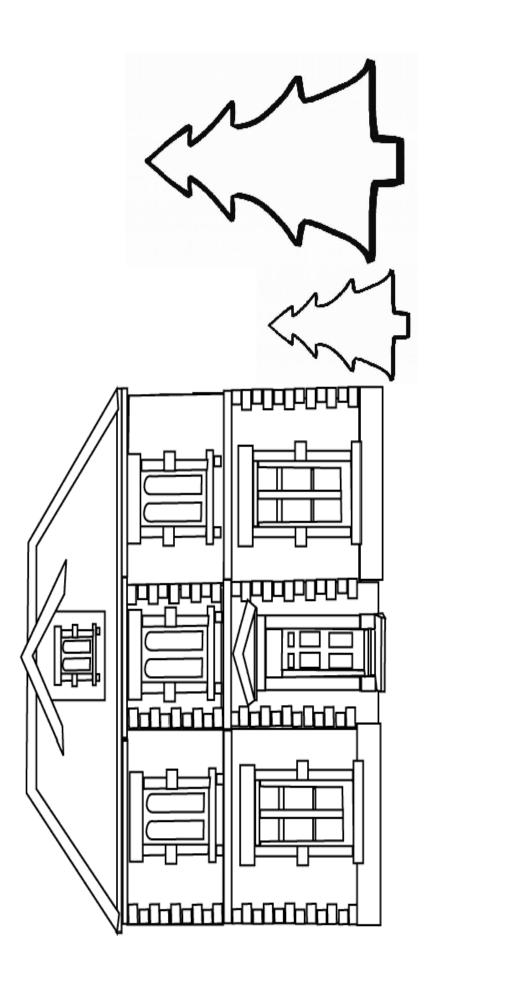
Name:	Phone:	
Address:		
Email:		
Individual Home Part of Neighborhood Spirit Entry		
Nearest cross street:		
Nominated by*:		

*You can nominate your own home or business.

WILLOUGHBY HILLS BUSINESS ENTRY:

Address:		
Phone:	Email:	
You can submit entries by either:		
Email: recreation@willoughbyhills-oh.gov	Mail/Drop Off:	Willoughby Hills Community Center 35400 Chardon Rd Willoughby Hills, OH 44094
		(After hours: drop below window into safety box)
Judging will be the weekend of December	15. Have your lig	hts on!
You will be judged on the following criteria:	Originality, disp	lay, lighting and overall curb appeal.
No professionally decorated homes. Willou are not eligible to win prizes.	ighby Hills employ	yees, Commission members and family
Gift cards will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3 a winner! Neighborhood Spirit & Business 3		
Get together with your neighbo	rs and submit y	our entries by December 13.
techin		Compose





This house decorated by _____

Phone .

Age

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES!



Are you a Willoughby Hills Business Owner? Do you know of a WH Business who would like their information added to a 2024 City Directory? We are in the process of compiling a list of our local businesses into one directory for distribution to our e-newsletter subscribers in early 2024.

We appreciate our Willoughby Hills businesses and want our residents to appreciate them just as much by supporting local! If you'd like to be included in the directory, please fill out <u>this form</u> and return by December 16, 2023. Thank you!



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.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEK!

