

Where Residents Are First



Winter 2015

MAYOR'S REPORT

By Mayor Robert M. Weger

We are once again looking forward to our Recreation Commission and Lions Club's Pancake Breakfasts as a sign of spring and to bring our residents together. I try to time this newsletter to reach our residents' homes just in time to serve as a reminder to come out to the Community Center to enjoy the food and visit with your community.

In addition, I want to report that I feel very proud of our city for its accomplishments, particularly over the past year. Our Finance Director, Frank Brichacek has reported to me and Council that we have a carryover balance of approximately \$1.2m. This serves as our starting capital for the year. While it has come a long way from the \$19,684 in 2008 when I first became Mayor, when you speak about buying large equipment or hiring personnel, these funds must be handled frugally to be able to meet our budgetary needs. The State auditors are currently working at City Hall and we look forward to another good audit commendation once their work is complete.

During the past year, we have done a record number of storm water management projects that are funded by the County and serve to relieve many drainage problems throughout the city. We have continued our leaf pick up program for residents, maintained the large brush pile drop off and are completing our last year of our Trash & Recycle contract. Our new Service Superintendent, Mark Grubiss, is working on some new ideas, including providing a Leaf Pickup Schedule to assist residents in determining the best days to put out their leaves for pickup.

Our Recreation Department has finished the year with a record number of Community Center bookings. We had the new ADA door installed with the help of grant funding and that has served the elderly and handicapped visitors well over the past several months. The children of the community were able to enjoy Safety Town, Baseball and Softball programs, and the joys of filling an ambulance with toys at Winter Fest.

Our Police Department was recently featured on "Dateline" for the excellent work they did on the Knoefel Murder Case. They continue to keep our community safe and, in the coming year, hope to focus on more community education. Between the telephone scam concerns, domestic issues and drug-related crimes, the Police Department looks forward to educating our residents to help eliminate these issues within our community. We were pleased to add Part-time Police Officer Richard Harmon (no relation to our Fire Chief!) and Full-time Dispatcher Kendra Adams and Full-time Police Officer Cory Planisek.

The Fire Department continues to work hard and we just added Firefighter Bob Vencl to round out the shift roster. We recently approved an ambulance chassis retrofit project to keep our equipment for quick response up to date. I am proud of the work that our Safety Forces continue to do for our community.

In this issue, I have provided a "Look Ahead" as I try to do every year to let our residents know about what we intend to do in the coming year. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns once you have reviewed this. Thank you and I hope to see you at the Pancake Breakfasts.

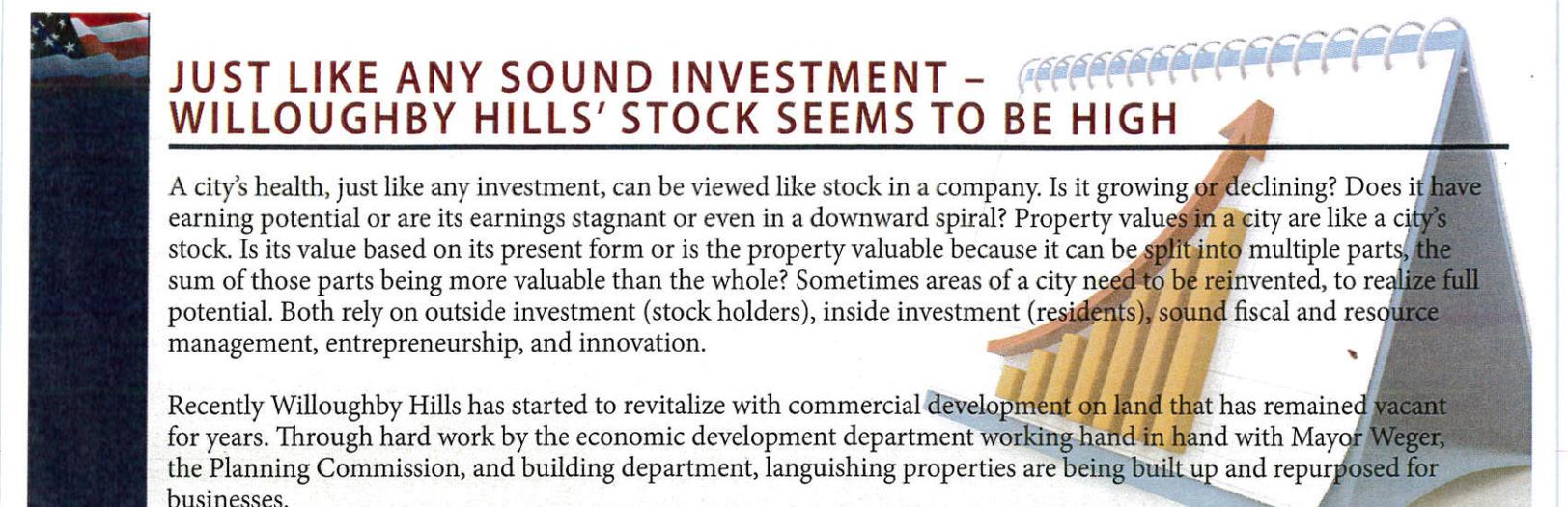
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LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

The City of Willoughby Hills



JUST LIKE ANY SOUND INVESTMENT – WILLOUGHBY HILLS' STOCK SEEMS TO BE HIGH

A city's health, just like any investment, can be viewed like stock in a company. Is it growing or declining? Does it have earning potential or are its earnings stagnant or even in a downward spiral? Property values in a city are like a city's stock. Is its value based on its present form or is the property valuable because it can be split into multiple parts, the sum of those parts being more valuable than the whole? Sometimes areas of a city need to be reinvented, to realize full potential. Both rely on outside investment (stock holders), inside investment (residents), sound fiscal and resource management, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Recently Willoughby Hills has started to revitalize with commercial development on land that has remained vacant for years. Through hard work by the economic development department working hand in hand with Mayor Weger, the Planning Commission, and building department, languishing properties are being built up and repurposed for businesses.

Some of this expansion has required zoning variances and zoning use changes. O'Reilly Auto Parts on Chardon Rd., the new American Heritage Motorcycles Shop and the soon to be constructed Dunkin Donuts on Bishop Rd. are good signs that finally, the West end near the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills is coming back to life. Signs of a healthy business environment at Bishop and Chardon are also visible with businesses purchasing their buildings and splitting off from the main development to expand and control costs. Someday this may be looked upon as a major turning point in the history of Willoughby Hills.

Residential foreclosures have hit Willoughby Hills like everywhere. Most have been resold quickly and some have been offered to the Lake County Land Reutilization Program. New home starts grew significantly in 2014 with eleven new homes. Many of the new homes were on single lots outside of subdivisions and four were started in the new Maple Valley Subdivision off Maple Grove Rd. Willoughby Hills will continue that trend in 2015.

In order to continue to revitalize the city, it needs to continue to encourage investment. Property owners and developers should embrace more creative forms of housing development, with clear conservation goals which city planners will favor. Willoughby Hills has vast expanses of lands all zoned for residential development that could be utilized. However, with little to no remaining commercially zoned space, this leaves the city with limited retail and commercial growth potential.

Growth and redevelopment are signs of a healthy Willoughby Hills. Stagnation and decline are inevitable when the goal is to remain the same or cling to the vision of the past. The real potential for the City of Willoughby Hills lies with what has yet to be seen. New forms of both residential and commercial development will bring with it long term growth potential that will keep Willoughby Hills the sought after community it has been and should continue to be well into the future.

-The author has been Building Commissioner and Zoning Administrator since 2008-

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RESIDENTS:

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER KEVIN MALECEK

Congratulations to Camelot Court resident Kevin Malecek on his recent appointment to serve as Lake County Commissioner. Kevin served the City of Willoughby Hills well during his tenure as Councilman and Council President and we wish him well on his new endeavor.

WILLOUGHBY ROTARY'S 2014 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN – DALE FELLOWS

Congratulations to Fowler Drive resident Dale Fellows on his recognition as the Rotary's 2014 Distinguished Citizen. Dale served the City with his involvement on various Boards & Commissions. This award also recognizes his work throughout the community with many other worthwhile groups, charities and organizations.

CONGRATULATIONS

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2015 MEMBERS:

Dr. Stephen Atkins of Oakwood Drive
Andy Gardner of Dodd's Hill Drive
Joyce Grady of Marcum Blvd.
Jennifer Greer of Loreto Drive
Judy Shrefler of Chardon Road
Sandra Taddeo of Skyline Drive
Tanya-Taylor Draper of Stratford Way
W. James Walsh of Berkshire Hills Drive
Gerald Wolanin of Sherwood Lane

Please congratulate these fine nine individuals who will be reviewing the City Charter to prepare ballot items for our residents in the November 2015 election!

Willoughby Hills Girls Softball Registration 2015
12/13/14 - 3/2/15

Divisions* based upon child's age at cut-off date indicated below;
(Please circle appropriate category)

Slow-Pitch Pixie 8u (Coach Pitch) as of January 1, 2015
Fast-Pitch 10u 12u 14u 17u as of January 1, 2015

Divisions based on number of applicants and skill level

Cost: Coach-pitch (Pixie) \$50.00 per player Fast Pitch: \$65.00 per player
*** Families with more than one player will be charged \$65 for the first player, and \$50 for each additional player
Make checks payable to City of Willoughby Hills, 35405 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills OH 44094

Player's Name: _____ Division: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Age at Cut-off date (see above): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Work () _____ Cell: () _____
Father's Name: _____ Work () _____ Cell: () _____

Birth Certificate
Validation:
[] Yes
[] No

Interested in volunteering as a coach, manager, or coordinator? [] yes [] no

FOR MORE INFO: 440-975-3540 recreation@willoughbyhills-oh.gov

**NOTE: SIGN-UPS AFTER MARCH 2nd WILL BE ASSESSED A \$25.00 LATE FEE
PLACEMENT WILL BE BASED ON SPACE AVAILABILITY.**

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Contact: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: () _____

Name of family doctor: _____ Phone () _____

Does your child have any allergies [] no [] yes _____

Does your child have any medical conditions [] no [] yes _____

Shirt Size (circle one) Adult Pant Size (circle one)
Youth S M L S M L XL Youth S M L XL Adult S M L XL

I/We the parents/guardian of the above, who is a candidate for Willoughby Hills Girls Softball, hereby give my/our approval for her participation during the 2015 season. I/We assume all risks and hazards, direct & incidental to the conduct of the activity and transportation to and from the activity. I/We hereby release, absolve and hold harmless the City of Willoughby Hills, Willoughby Hills Girls Softball sponsors, employees, organizers, agents, representatives and supervisors, any or all of them. I/We hereby waive all claims, demands of any nature, causes of action or any other matter against them, releasing responsibility from any person transporting my/our child to and from the activity. I/We will furnish a certified birth certificate on the above candidate upon request. In case of injury, I/We the parents of the above named child will assume full responsibility for any claims resulting from injury. I/We further grant permission for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

I agree to demonstrate good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials.

Signature of Parent / Guardian _____ Date _____



**WILLOUGHBY HILLS BASEBALL
REGISTRATION FORM**

Sponsored by the Willoughby Hills Boys League

Early-Registration Deadline: March 2, 2015

Late-Registration Deadline (\$30 late fee): March 16, 2015

Baseball Leagues & Fees:	Early	Late	Make checks payable to:
Age as of May 1st			City of Willoughby Hills Recreation
Instructional (5-6 yrs.):	\$25	\$55	Drop-off: Recreation Department w/in Community Center 35400 Chardon Rd.
Mighty-Mites (7-8 yrs.):	\$40	\$70	
Minors (9-10 yrs.):	\$50	\$80	
Majors (11-12 yrs.):	\$50	\$80	
Pony (13-14 yrs.):	\$60	\$90	

Mail to:
City of Willoughby Hills, Attn: Recreation
35405 Chardon Rd.
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

PLAYER INFORMATION

NAME: _____ MALE/FEMALE: _____

LEAGUE: _____ DOB: _____ AGE: _____

SHIRT SIZE (circle one): Youth S / M / L --OR-- Adult S / M / L

PANT SIZE (circle one): Youth S / M / L --OR-- Adult S / M / L

PARENT NAME(S): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

HOME NO. _____ EMERGENCY NO. _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

In order to have a successful season we need teams. In order to have teams we need coaches, managers and sponsors. If you are able or interested in helping make a successful season, please circle your interest below and someone from the WHBL will contact you directly.

INTERESTED IN: COACH / MANAGER / SPONSOR

If you have questions, please email or contact: whblsports@gmail.com
City Hall Recreation Dept. (440) 975-3540

Release of Liability: I/We, the parents/guardian of the above, who is a candidate for a position in Willoughby Hills Baseball, hereby give my/our approval to their participation in any and all activities of the League. I/We assume all risks and hazards incidental to the conduct of the activities and transportation to and from the activities. I/We do further hereby release, absolve, indemnify and hold harmless, the City of Willoughby Hills, Willoughby Hills Boys League, the organizers, sponsors, and supervisors, any or all of them. I/We hereby waive all claims against the organizers, the sponsors, or any of the supervisors appointed by them. I/We likewise release from responsibility any person transporting the participant to or from our activities. I/We will provide a certified birth certificate of the above named player upon request league officials. In case of injury, I/We the parents/guardian of the above named participant will assume full responsibility for claims resulting from injury. I/We further grant permission for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the "Release of Liability" statement above.

Parent's / Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's / Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

SCAM ALERT FROM WHPD

Don't be fooled by suspicious calls or mailings! Be aware of the following scam techniques that we have identified in our community:

LOTTERY SCAM – The caller will tell you that you have won the lottery, but asks you to send money to claim your prize! Don't fall for this...just say NO!

GRANDPARENTS SCAM – A grandparent will receive a phone call from someone posing as a grandchild. The grandchild claims to be in trouble and in urgent need of money. The grandparent is told to send money immediately using a prepaid money card or wire transfer. The grandchild tells the grandparent NOT to contact their parents for fear of getting into more trouble. Don't fall for this...just say NO!

IRS SCAM – The caller claims to be an employee of the IRS. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They use fake names and IRS ID badge numbers. They can alter the caller ID to disguise their identity. Victims are told that they owe money and request immediate payment through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. The victims may also be told they are due a refund to trick them into sharing private information.

Please remember.....IRS will NEVER:

- Call to demand payment
- Not allow you to question or appeal any amount truly owed
- Require you to use a specific method of payment (i.e. debit)
- Ask you for credit card information
- Threaten to call the local police to arrest you

Don't fall for this...just say NO!

"Like" WHPD on Facebook or visit the city website for a list of other scams.

Remember to call the Police Department if you are contacted about any of these scams!

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST CHECKLIST
MAYOR WEGER**

B E S R U I E R C S N C R
L I A T K C O C T I U R F
U L L S A U S A G E E E G
E C U A S E L P P A C A K
B T T O F A H U S O E M E
E B A T T E R W F T P E E
R U P H S Y U F K A C R N
R T S C S S E K A C N A P
I T C N U E U A C T U A B
E E U E C B C G O T B B I
S R A R A B T U A A E E L
S C A F C E R T E R C S K
L G L S R E U F K C A A R

- APPLESAUCE
- BATTER
- BLUEBERRIES
- BUCKWHEATS
- BUTTER
- COFFEE
- CREAMER
- FRENCH TOAST
- FRUIT COCKTAIL
- PANCAKES
- SAUSAGE
- SPATULA
- SUGAR
- SYRUP

A LOOK AHEAD – BUDGET MESSAGE

By: Mayor Robert M. Weger

I do not foresee any proposed changes in operating or financial policies, but I plan to budget for and provide the following capital improvements in 2015:

- Prepare our second 5-year contract for Trash & Recycle for our Residents – please visit our website or WHTV to stay apprised of our contract bidding for this service by attending meetings as the contract bidding progresses.
- Maintain sewers to prevent flooding
- Continue with five-year plan for storm water projects
- Establish a Leaf Pick Up Schedule.
- Continue to look for ways to economically develop the west end of our city
- Provide electrical service in Veterans Gazebo for use at ceremonies and concerts
- Establish Police Department Community Service Officer
- Fund 2 Police Cars
- Fund 1 Ambulance and needed Fire equipment including powered self-loading cot for Firefighter job safety.
- Fund 1 salt truck as part of our Vehicle Replacement Plan
- Continue 5-year plan for our streets, including plans to resurface Pleasant Valley Road and Eddy Road in 2015, with further attention to Legend Lane, Glen Kyle cul-de-sac and SOM Center and patch to other roads as part of the 5-year plan
- Obtain excellent audit from State Auditor's Office

WELCOME...

MARK GRUBISS, SERVICE SUPERINTENDENT

Mark Grubiss, a Cricket Lane resident, joins the staff at City Hall in our Service Department. We welcome Mark's knowledge of construction and planning as we continue to serve our residents with our excellent Service Department. Mark's first order of business was to manage salt usage during these winter months and he certainly has had mother nature on his side! He continues to bring new ideas and plans to the city that will benefit our residents. You will be observing the vital role he plays in the city as he works to bring optimum services to our community.

JENNIFER GREER, COUNCILWOMAN, DISTRICT 1

Jennifer is a lawyer and a long-time resident. She has been involved in the community for years. You may have even seen her on the baseball field in the summer coaching the little ones. She is a member of the Charter Review Commission, Chairman of the Safety Committee, and a member of the Utilities and Service Committees.

FAREWELL AND THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE...

NATE CATANIA, FORMER SERVICE SUPERINTENDENT

Nate served the City for over 15 years and truly got to know the residents of our community. He resigned to pursue other endeavors. We wish him the best of luck!

COUNCILMAN FRANK GERMANO, FORMER COUNCILMAN FOR DISTRICT 1

Councilman Germano served the residents for over 9 years. Aside from his work as District 1 Councilman, Noise Abatement Council Representative for Cuyahoga County Airport, Chairman of Utilities Committee and member of numerous other committees during his time on Council, Frank was an integral part of many of the Recreation Commission events. Frank was an excellent W.H.I.S.P.E.R. volunteer and always worked to make our community a better place to live. Having to leave Council to tend to personal family commitments, Frank will truly be missed.

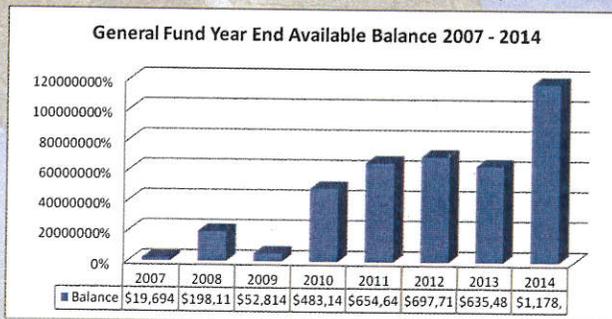
FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By: Frank Brichacek

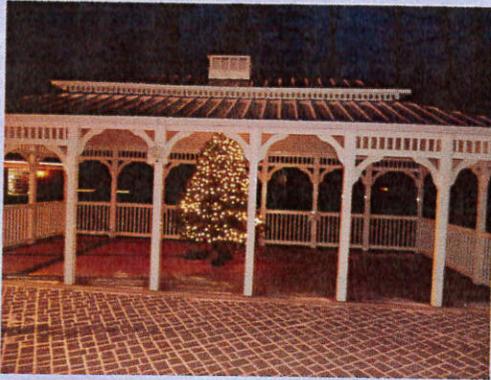
Like all local governments in Ohio and the United States, the City of Willoughby Hills uses fund accounting to account for the money that it receives from its residents and from other sources. We are happy to report that the City's year end available General Fund balance has increased from approximately \$19,700 on December 31, 2007 to approximately \$1,178,600 on December 31, 2014.

The City's General Fund is the fund used to account for all revenue received by the City that is not legally restricted to a specific purpose. We use the term "available fund balance" to describe money that is available to the City to finance City expenditures. To make a simple comparison, the General Fund's available fund balance at the end of the year is similar to the average person's savings account. The current available fund balance of the General Fund is equal to approximately two month's general operating expenditures and less than one month's total expenditures.

The City was able to achieve this result through careful management of its budget combined with the half percent increase in the City's income tax rate (which primarily impacted only those who work in the City) that was approved by City residents effective January 1, 2011. It is important to note that the State of Ohio has reduced the funding it provides to the City by 38% (approximately \$730,000 per year) from the amount that was provided to the City in 2007.

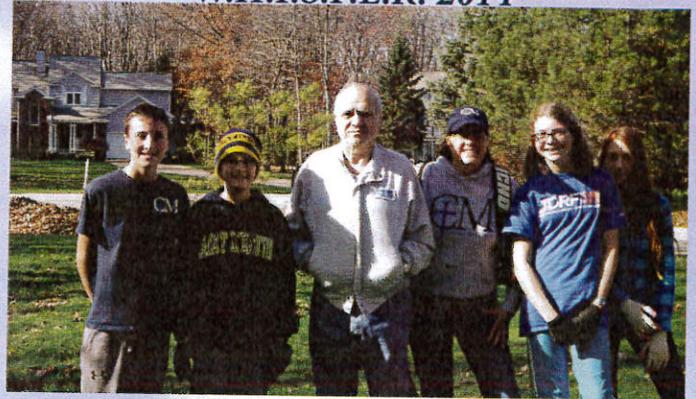


CHRISTMAS 2014



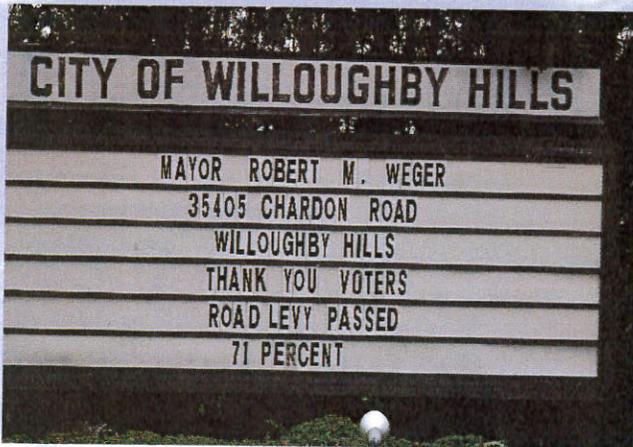
Special thanks to the Dale Greig Family for donating the Gazebo Christmas Tree in memory of Dale this year.

W.H.I.S.P.E.R. 2014



Special thanks to the students from Peaceful Children Montessori School (440-256-1976) and their helpful principal Kathy McKiernan of Hanna Road who helped this Legend Lane resident with his leaves.

ROAD LEVY 2014



Mayor Weger acknowledges the voters' response for our Road Levy.

SAFETY TOWN 2014



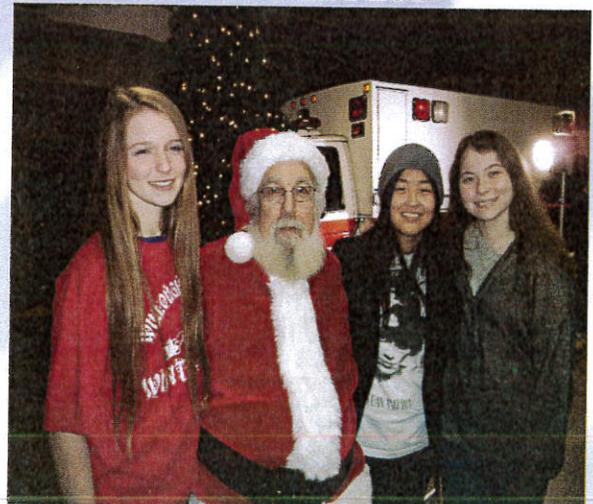
Safety Town 2014: Made possible through donations from Chardon Road resident Elaine Crane.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Santa finds his favorite elf!

WINTER FEST



Willoughby South Band & Key Club help us fill an ambulance with toys!

WILLOUGHBY HILLS LIONS CLUB

Willoughby Hills Lions Club is now taking applications for its Lions Club Scholarships. Three \$1000 scholarships are awarded annually to Willoughby Hills graduating seniors. Please see the High School Guidance Counselor or visit the city website for an application.

Last year's Scholarship recipients were:

Bradley Nelson of Rosewood Trail – currently attending The University of Michigan, where he is studying Aerospace Engineering.

MacKenna Grubiss of Cricket Lane – currently attending Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Speech and Hearing.

Steven D. Jones of Berkshire Hills Drive – currently attending Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, studying Accounting.

Congratulations to these fine young adults on their academic achievements!

LENTEN FISH FRYs

Please remember to support
the following
Willoughby Hills Fish Frys during Lent
(FEBRUARY 20 THRU MARCH 27, 2015)

ST. NOEL BANQUET CENTER
35200 CHARDON ROAD
4:30- 7:30 p.m.
440-946-6635

LA-VERA PARTY CENTER
32200 CHARDON ROAD
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
440-516-7029

MARIO FAZIO'S RESTAURANT
34400 CHARDON ROAD
440-585-3883

ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

Please remember to
clear the snow away
from your mailboxes
and fire hydrants.

– Thank you



Willoughby-Eastlake
Public Library

PROGRAMS

By: Sherry Tyso, Assistant Station Manager

Please join us for the following upcoming programs at Willoughby Hills Library:

STORYTIMES (Jan. 26-April 2 on Mondays 11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.) Ages 0-5 years

VIDEO GAME CLUB (March 7 noon to 4pm)
(April 8 and May 20 3-7 p.m.)
Come & play videos!

BIG HERO 6 MOVIE NIGHT (March 11 5:30-8p.m.)
Come for big screen movie & popcorn!

LEGO CLUB (March 14, April 18, May 30 2:00-3:30 p.m.)
Come to build Legos and win prizes!

GET STARTED W/ APPLE PRODUCTS
(March 27 4-7 p.m.)
Learn to use iPad and iPhone!

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY-PART 1 MOVIE NIGHT (April 8 5:30-8p.m.)
Great movie & popcorn!

MURDER AT THE HILLS (April 9 2-3 p.m.)
Maggie King's murder themed book is reviewed.

BOOK IT! (April 22 6-7 p.m.)
School age program to learn techniques for a personal craft book.

SASWHAT: A TALK ABOUT BIGFOOT IN OHIO
(April 27 6:30-7:30 p.m.)
A Podcast about Bigfoot in Ohio the information on upcoming documentary "Minerva Monster".

GETTING STARTED WITH MEDICARE
(May 11 6-7:30 p.m.)
Laura Mutsko gives Medicare information.

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES MOVIE NIGHT (May 13 5:30-8:30 p.m.)
Great movie & popcorn!

TRAGEDY & TRIUMPH – LOST CLEVELAND SERIES
(May 19 6:30-7:30 p.m.)
Dennis Sutcliffe will speak on the 1920s from prohibition to Babe Ruth & the Cleveland Indians seeking World Series title!

Visit www.we247.org for a complete listing and details of all of these great events!



The City of Willoughby Hills

35405 Chardon Road
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Willoughby, Ohio
PERMIT #221

Residential Customer
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Don't miss these great community events...

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH, 28870 CHARDON ROAD

MARCH 28TH 10AM – EGGSTRAVAGANZA – Games, inflatables, popcorn & Easter Egg Hunt

JUNE 29-JULY 2 9AM TO NOON – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (Ages 3 to 5th grade)

OCTOBER 7 6:30-8PM – FALL FEST CHILI COOK OFF – Apple Dessert Contest, Hot Dogs, Kids Games & More!

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH, 29400 CHARDON ROAD

COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS (\$5 lunch fee + free program):

FEBRUARY 21 12:30 p.m. "Betsy Ross-in person"

MARCH 21 12:30 p.m. "Patrick Henry in person"

APRIL 18 12:30 p.m. Italian-Irish Band

MAY 16 12:30 p.m. Bell Choir

JUNE 20 12:30 p.m. Special, in process...

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP 440-943-3611!

Watch for upcoming events including Spring Rummage Sale & Spring Concert!

VFW LADIES' AUXILIARY, VFW POST HOME, 29412 WHITE ROAD

Looking for new members! Meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Post Home. Let's continue to help our veterans!

WILLOUGHBY HILLS AUTO REPAIR, Corner of Route 6 & Route 91

BRAKES FOR KIDS – MAY 1 THRU MAY 31 – Get FREE standard NAPA Brake Pads with purchase of qualifying brake repair then WH Auto Repair will donate 10% of the proceeds to Ohio Guidestone. Call 585-1691 to schedule.

CLIENT APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE & HOSPICE OF WESTERN RESERVE FUNDRAISER – SATURDAY AUGUST 1

Games, food, raffles, bounce house, door prizes – 100% of proceeds go to Hospice!