



*The City of Willoughby Hills*  
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO



## 2016 City Budget Message

By Mayor Robert M. Weger

I am writing to you today to update you on the status of the City's budget. I am happy to report to you that in spite of the challenges of a changing economy and funding reductions from the State of Ohio, the City's financial health is strong. However, like most healthy individuals, the City's financial health requires constant monitoring and responsible practices.

When the City closed its books on December 31, 2015, the City had an available balance in its General Fund of \$1,476,634. The City's financial practices have improved to the point where not only did the City not receive any findings, citations or recommendation for improvements in its business practices in its last audit, State Auditor Dave Yost recognized the City with the Ohio Auditor of State Award. In making the award, Auditor Yost stated that "the citizens you represent are well served by your effective and accountable financial practices."

Under my administration, the City has budgeted conservatively but realistically. By this I mean that each year we have attempted to realistically plan for all expenses that can be foreseen. At the same time, we have based our budget on realistic estimates of the amount of revenue that we anticipate that will be received during the year.

For 2016, the Administration prepared and City Council adopted on March 10, 2016, a surplus General Fund budget. In that budget, estimated revenue exceeded estimate obligations by \$4,500. That budget is summarized as follows:

\$ 6,475,200	– Estimated Revenue
\$ 6,470,700	– Estimated Obligations
\$ 4,500	– Estimated Excess of Revenues over Obligations
\$ 1,476,634	– Unobligated Fund Balance January 1, 2016
\$ 1,481,134	– Projected General Fund Balance December 31, 2016

The maintenance of the City's infrastructure is one of the most important and the costliest expenses facing the City. During 2015, the City Engineer was successful in obtaining a \$1.06 million grant from the Federal government to partially finance the resurfacing of SOM Center Road from border to border.

The City's 2016 operating budget is impacted by a number of challenges. Those would include the following items:

- Implementation of the Affordable Care Act – During 2016 the City will be required to offer health insurance to part-time employees who qualify.
- Decreased property tax revenue – During 2015 the County Auditor reassessed city property values. As a result of the crisis in the housing market, the Auditor is estimating that overall City property values have decreased by 3.5% from 2014 values.

Capital improvements for 2017 include: 5 ton Snow Plow Truck (180K), 2 Police Cars (75K), 2018 include: Ambulance re-chassis (120K), 2 Police Cars (80K) and in 2019 include: 2 Police Cars (85K)

The City's full 2016 budget is available online. If you would like to review it in detail, it can be accessed on the City's website, [www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov](http://www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov) in the Finance Department section. You can also find and review the City's past budgets, financial statements and audit reports in this section as well.

I hope that you find this report to be informative and helpful. While the City faces challenges in the future, by working together cooperatively I believe that the City will continue to meet those challenges. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Weger, Mayor/Safety Director



## FONDEST FAREWELL TO CONGRESSMAN STEVEN LA TOURETTE

*By Mayor Robert M. Weger*

I recently attended the “Celebration of Life” services for former Congressman Steven LaTourette, who lost his battle to pancreatic cancer earlier this month. Steve began his career as a public defender and in private practice before becoming Lake County prosecutor in 1988. Steve was first elected to Congress in 1994 and served Northeast Ohio, including the community of Willoughby Hills, very well during his time as a public servant. He leaves a great legacy but will be truly missed. My best wishes to the lovely family he leaves behind and all others who knew Steve as a great friend.



## WELCOME FIRE CHIEF BOBBY DISANTO!

Congratulations to Bobby DiSanto who became the City’s new Fire Chief to replace our retiring Chief Richard Harmon. Bobby comes with 18 years of experience in the City of Cleveland and 10 years as a part-time firefighter/paramedic with the City of Willoughby Hills. We look forward to have Chief DiSanto continuing the fine work at Willoughby Hills Fire Department.

## ROAD WORK SET FOR FALL 2016

Two major Road Levy projects are set to begin in September, impacting the daily commute of many of our residents. I wanted to provide you with the details of what you can expect over the next few months. City Engineer Pete DiFranco of Richard L. Bowen and Associates has prepared the following information to best explain the scope of the projects, funding for the projects and construction information.

### SR 91

- Scope: Repair and resurfacing of 3.80 miles of SR 91, from the Willoughby Hills southern corporation line to US 20 in the City of Willoughby.
- Funding: Project is collaboration between NOACA, Lake County, Willoughby Hills, & Willoughby, with funding being provided in part by a federal grant administered through the NOACA Provisional Transportation Asset Management Program (PTAM).
- Project Management: Construction will be managed by the Lake County Engineer’s office.
- Approximate cost of construction: \$2.2 million
- Contractor: The Shelly Company
- Anticipated construction Timeframe: September 1-November 15, 2016

### Worrell Rd.

- Scope: Repair & resurfacing of 1.2 miles of Worrell Rd between the Geauga County Line and Euclid-Chardon Rd.
- Funding: Project is a collaboration between Willoughby Hills and Kirtland, with funding being provided in part by a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission.
- Project Management: Construction will be managed by Willoughby Hills, who is the lead agency.
- Approximate cost of construction: \$346,400
- Contractor: Portions of work to be performed by a contractor (TBD), as well as Willoughby Hills and Kirtland Service Department staff.
- Anticipated construction Timeframe: September 19-November 15, 2016

*Thank you for your patience during these long-awaited construction projects.*



*Dear Residents:*

*I am pleased and honored that the Willoughby Hills Recreation Commission has planned a "Unity Day" on Sunday, September 11, 2016, to honor the victims of the 9/11 tragedy, the first responders who put their lives on the line every day for our safety and our freedom and our veterans who have served our country.*

*Please join me in this City-sponsored event at the VFW Post 4358, 29412 White Road, Willoughby Hills, just west of Rockefeller Road. We will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. with a recap of the 9/11 tragedy, then I will present first responders from the Willoughby Hills Police and Fire Departments with a commemorative coin, on behalf of all of our Willoughby Hills residents, to acknowledge their dedication to our community. Following the one hour ceremony, the VFW will serve hotdogs, hamburgers and pulled pork (nominal fee) and the Fall Corn Fest Crew will be serving up their delicious roasted sweet corn.*

*Prime Time Band, a DJ, a balloon artist, kids' games and family games will be all part of the fun as well, as we come together as a community for this special event. Here are the times of the activities:*

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>11:00 a.m. to noon</i>    | <i>Ceremony: VFW 9/11 Remembrance, Mayor Weger's First Responder Coin Presentation, Benediction<br/>Immediately following the ceremony, food sales will begin.</i>                        |
| <i>12:30 - 2:30 p.m.</i>     | <i>Prime Time Swing Band with patriotic tunes</i>   |
| <i>1 p.m. - 2 p.m.</i>       | <i>Family Field Games (featuring "Burglar's Sack Race", "Bucket Brigade", "H2O Balloon Toss" and "Fire Pole Bat Spin")</i>  |
| <i>1 p.m. - 3 p.m.</i>       | <i>Kid's Games (featuring "Fire Hydrant Ring Toss", "Detective's Duck Pond", "Chief's Lollipop Tree," "Burning Building Bean Bag Toss", Face painting and Italian fortune cookie game</i> |
| <i>1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</i>       | <i>The Balloon Ninja - great balloon creations</i>  |
| <i>2 p.m. - 5 p.m.</i>       | <i>Inflatables</i>  |
| <i>2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</i> | <i>D.J with family music</i>  |

*50/50 deck of card raffles will be held throughout the event with all proceeds benefitting Willoughby Hills Police and Fire and area veterans.*

*I know our Police and Fire Departments have done so much to help the residents of our community. Please plan to come and show your support during this community event!*

*Sincerely,*

*Robert M. Weger, Mayor/Safety Director*



The City of Willoughby Hills  
35405 Chardon Road  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094

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

City Of Willoughby Hills Presents

# UNITY DAY

**FEATURING 9/11 | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH**  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE | TIME: 11AM - 6PM**  
**VFW POST 4358 - 29412 White Road**

• 9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE at 11am •

• Family Games and Activities. •

• Picnic - Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Ribs will be sold by the VFW. Roasted Corn and other food and drinks to purchase •

• PRIME TIME BAND will be there with Patriotic Music and playing other favorites and DJ with Family Music •

• Bring a Chair and a Blanket •

**HELP US SHOW OUR APPRECIATION TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**

Visit Us At: <http://www.willoughbyhills.oh.gov>

Residential Customer  
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

## Willoughby Hills Fire Department TOUCH-A-TRUCK



### \* FREE EVENT \*

Fire & Rescue Apparatus  
Law Enforcement  
HazMat & Tech Rescue  
Bomb Squad  
Service & Tow Trucks  
Military Displays  
Helicopter  
New Cars

Food Available  
Inflatable Slide  
Displays  
Demonstrations  
Education  
Activities  
Music  
And A Whole Lot More!

Fun & Educational For The Entire Family!



September 17, 2016  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
35405 Chardon Road

[www.facebook.com/willdtd](http://www.facebook.com/willdtd) [www.facebook.com/willfirerescue](http://www.facebook.com/willfirerescue)