

MAYOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2015

December was certainly a memorable month in the City of Willoughby Hills. I cannot recall another year when there was barely any December snow. Our plow trucks are ready to roll and the salt bins are full, but we have yet to tackle a big snowstorm! Despite having no snow or ice, our Police Department reminds us to drive safely. It won't be long before the snow begins and we have a head start on our preparedness!

Our city did a great job with assisting those in need over the holiday. The Recreation Commission, in coordination with the Fire Department, hosted Winter Fest 2015. During that event in early December, we were able to collect "an ambulance full of toys" which were donated to Asa's Angels for distribution to children in Willoughby Hills and neighboring communities. I was touched by the generosity of John Fowle and his staff at Willoughby Hills Auto who donated eight \$100 Giant Eagle gift cards for distribution to senior citizens in our WHISPER program. The staff said they wanted to forego their usual holiday bonus of turkeys or hams and, instead, give back to the community. I cannot tell you how much these seniors appreciated their generosity. Many just have their social security checks as a means of survival, so this extra "boost" certainly touched their hearts. Maple Grove Alliance Church, City Hall staff, and a generous couple on Rogers Road (who wish to remain anonymous) teamed up to provide for a single mother with four young children in Willoughby Hills to make this a memorable Christmas for the family. I delivered their boxes of books, toys, food, gift cards, and many other beautifully wrapped gifts to put under their tree. Wow! What an impact we were able to make this holiday season! Thanks so much to these generous people who truly made a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

Speaking of people who truly make a difference in the lives of their neighbors, please join me in congratulating Council President Ray Somich on serving on City Council for twelve years. Ray has done an outstanding job in serving the citizens and always had their best interest in mind when he represented the residents with sewer issues and economic development issues on the West end of the city. He brought a fairness to his role on Council as Council President for the past two years. Ray is now retiring from Council to spend time with his ever growing family of four children and eleven grandchildren. I wish Ray the best and thank him for his dedication and service to our community. He will be truly missed.

As this year winds down, I want to wish all of our residents and businesses a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Council President Ray Somich