

## MAYOR'S REPORT

February 2018

Following Council's non-confirmation of Acting Fire Chief Tom Talcott and Acting Law Director Michael Germano, I have placed an ad in the newspaper to continue to search for a candidate that Council deems suitable. I am disappointed that two great candidates were not confirmed and we must now begin a lengthy process to credential others. Council had proposed Ordinance 2018-3 which would have engaged Richard Harmon as the City's part-time Acting Fire Chief, paid \$70,000 per year as a contractor. I vetoed that ordinance, with the reasons why I did so, being documented on the Mayor's page of the City website.

I am pleased to report that the Pleasant Valley Road bridge repair project is complete and the bridge has been reopened. I appreciate the patience of residents living in that area that had to be inconvenienced with travel during this time. I hope that the repair will last a long time and we do not have to deal with this anytime in the near future.

The 2018 budget has been prepared and delivered to Council. I commend Finance Director Frank Brichacek and his staff on a job well done.

Best wishes to former Acting Fire Chief Tom Talcott who retired after over forty years of service and Dispatcher Janet Schuller who also served over twenty years with the City of Willoughby Hills. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Police Officers Craig Anderson and Cory Planisek on their Lake County Blue Coats Awards, acknowledging their bravery at the Classic BMW incident last fall. They received the Jorge Medina Award with a great representation of their family, friends and the Willoughby Hills Police Department. Craig has returned to work and we look forward to having Cory back next month!

Ordinance 2018-11 was passed by Council, but vetoed by me since it suspends the WHISPER fund. You will recall that WHISPER was established to help our seniors. Council plans to investigate the fund and has suspending all operations of assistance and funding until their investigation is complete. I personally apologize to all of our residents for this unexpected, and, I feel, unsubstantiated action. It is my hope that their investigation will occur promptly so that we can continue to do the good work we have done through WHISPER over the past nearly ten years.

One final reminder to get your favorite photographs ready for this year's Photo Contest. Judging will be prior to the pancake breakfasts in March. There will be great prizes and the reception promises to be a lot of fun. Start getting your entry ready now!

In closing, I hope that all residents stay in tune with the legislation and vetoes currently being discussed in our city. I have provided the reasons for all vetoes to Council ordinances on the website and welcome any calls from residents to discuss further. Thank you for your interest as we continue to put "Residents First."