

MAYOR'S REPORT FOR WEBSITE  
FEBRUARY 2012

I was proud to give my State of the Cities Address at the Willoughby Area Chamber of Commerce's luncheon on February 23, 2012. Mayor Anderson from the City of Willoughby and Mayor Tyler from the City of Kirtland joined me as we made presentations about our cities. I highlighted all of the good work all of our departments are doing, including the excellent police work that is being done in light of the current economic times. With the reinstatement of our Detective Bureau as a result of our "Safety First" income tax campaign, we have been successful in solving many crimes, bringing many of the criminals to justice, holding them responsible for their actions. I also focused on the economic development of our city and the need for a good economic recovery plan for areas in our community, with focus being put on the city's west end. I have asked Council to approve a job description for an Economic Development Director who will work with us to tackle this difficult task. In our upcoming newsletter, we will also survey our residents to get a handle on where they shop and dine and what they want to see in the way of new development in the City of Willoughby Hills. After my presentation, the other two mayors spoke and it was remarkable to note that they have the same type of concerns in their cities. We can certainly attribute many of the closings and lack of new openings to the economic climate nationally, but we still need to strive to address this problem and try to bring business back to our city.

As we work on these issues, we will continue to work on keeping our "Residents First" with excellent fire, police and city services. We have arranged for AARP to assist our residents with their federal and state income taxes. The AARP personnel will be at the Community Center from February through April (by appointment) to offer tax assistance. RITA will be in our city on Monday, March 12, 2012 to assist with city income tax (no appointment necessary). We will continue to process applications for Community Development Block Grants for "Area C" residents who may qualify for this assistance with sanitary sewer installation.

We encourage all residents and friends to come out to our pancake breakfasts on March 4, 11 and 18. The Willoughby Hills Lions Club will be sponsoring a basket raffle featuring many fine items. Our Fall Corn Fest Committee will also be sponsoring a raffle for a 32" TV and a Kindle Fire to "kick off" our September festival. In addition, the Recreation Department will be taking applications for baseball and softball. This is another sure sign that spring is on its way!

In closing, I will be presenting my State of the City address to the Willoughby Hills Seniors on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. during the Senior Potluck Luncheon. Please mark your calendars to be at this event. I hope Mother Nature will continue to be good to us and send spring weather along soon!