

Where Residents Are First



Winter 2017

MAYOR'S REPORT

By Mayor Robert M. Weger

I am pleased to bring back our City Newsletter this year to our residents, who have asked me to continue this fine communication link between City Hall and the residents of Willoughby Hills. Without the newsletter last year, we experienced a significant attendance decrease in many of our Recreation events and an inability to reach all residents regarding current events. While we used the City website and government cable channel to notify our community, it was not enough and I recognized the importance of continuing with resident communication in the form of our City Newsletter.

In January, I normally review the previous year and then report on goals for the coming year. This year, however, I have provided a very thorough report from my "Mayor's Retreat" which was held in December and gave each of the Department Directors an opportunity to review their accomplishments and goals. In addition, my guest was Mr. J. Scott Scheel, who closed the deal to purchase the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills in September. After several meetings with Mr. Scheel throughout 2016, I was so pleased to have the plan come to fruition in September. He has started some improvements to the area and is anxious to bring new businesses to our community. A brief summary of his presentation is provided in the summary of my retreat, which you will find in this edition of our City Newsletter.

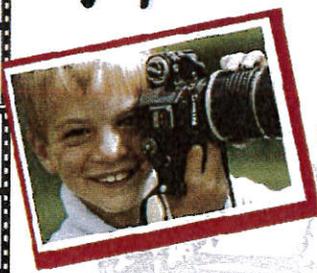
As always, I look forward to good things for our residents in 2017. Please do not hesitate to call me with any of your questions or concerns. Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year!

The City of Willoughby Hills

LAKE COUNTY, OHIO



Willoughby Hills Photography Contest



Reception and prize winners announced on, Friday, March 10th 7pm - 9pm

When: Reception March 10th 7-9 pm. Photography drop off dates, March 1 and 2 10 - noon & 7-8pm

Where: Willoughby Hills Community Center Art Gallery 35400 Chardon Rd.

Who: Anyone over the age of 6

For more information please visit us on our website at <http://www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov>

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RECAP OF MAYOR'S RETREAT HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2016

I was pleased to host my Mayor's Retreat on December 14, 2016, which was an opportunity for our City Hall Department Heads to present an annual report of their department for 2016, which also included their vision for 2017. I wanted to share the highlights of each Department's report with our residents.

MAYOR'S COURT

Presented by Clerk of Court Janeen Mullin

The Mayor's Court serves to hear traffic cases, violations of City ordinances and other misdemeanors. In 2016, 6,080 cases were filed (304 criminal cases, 173 parking cases and 5,603 traffic cases). The Court has one full-time employee and one part-time employee to handle this case load. We employ a Magistrate and Prosecutor who hear the cases on Court days (normally every other Tuesday). Their goal for 2017 is to improve the safety of the Court office, with the addition of bullet-proof glass (this has been acquired free to the City and will be utilized to accomplish this goal in 2017).

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Presented by Finance Director Frank Brichacek and Assistant Finance Director Debbie Doles

In 2016, our Finance Department continued to keep the City "on track" with careful budgeting and expenditures and attention to detail for transparency. All Finance reports were made available on the City website, as was done in the past. The Department was burdened with the temporary absence of full-time Finance Assistant Sharen Michney, but looks forward to having her back for the entire 2017. In 2017, the Finance Department would like to implement the City payroll on a new payroll system. They would like to ensure a five-year plan for Capital Equipment. They are also working with the State Treasurer's office to bring Open Check Book to our residents.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Presented by Building Commissioner Fred Wyss

Mr. Wyss serves as the City's Building Commissioner and is a Certified Floodplain Manager. His secretarial support is provided by Full-time Building Clerk Diana McCann, who also serves as the Service Department Clerk. In 2016, 425 building permits were issued, 6 new sanitary sewer connections were permitted, 16 new single family homes were built, 3 additions to single family homes were issued, 10 new garages/storage buildings were built, 11 new commercial zoning permits were issued, 352 additional permits for electrical, plumbing, HVAC, pools and decks were issued and 415 inspections were performed. Mr. Wyss also addressed many building and zoning violations that were called in to his Department. In 2017, the Building Department is looking to upgrade their system and application software for improvement of overall efficiency and record keeping management.

CITY ENGINEER

Presented by City Engineer Pietro DiFranco & Asst. City Engineer Kevin Trepal

The engineers reviewed the 2016 projects which included Worrell Road resurfacing and Stark Sanitary Force Main. They performed 23 plan reviews, assisted with drainage violations, and coordinated projects with agencies such as ODOT, NOACA, CRWP, CSWCD and Cleveland Metro Parks to complete projects including Bishop/White intersection, SR-91 resurfacing, Pleasant Valley Bridge Inspection, Strawberry Pond Restoration, and various storm water projects. In 2017, the engineers will continue to work on projects assigned to their department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Presented by Acting Fire Chief Patricia Heller

2016 was a busy year for our Fire Department, responding to 1,854 calls. The Department consists of nine full-time firefighters and approximately twenty part-time members under the direction of Acting Fire Chief Heller. In addition to responding to fire and EMS calls, the Department participates in the Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team, Western Lake County Fire Investigation Unit and the Lake County Hazardous Intervention Team. The Fire Department also provides contracted Fire and Emergency Medical Services for the Village of Waite Hill since 1976. In 2016, the Department acquired the following equipment for patient care, emergency alerting and firefighter safety: Two pulse oximetry units, Two Evac-U-Splint vacuum mattresses for patient immobilization, LUCAS machine for CPR compressions, 9-1-1 Call Box at Fire Department Entrance and nine ballistic vests. This equipment will help the Department to better serve our residents. In 2017, Acting Chief Heller proposes to institute a monthly department training schedule, continued EMS training, replacing the 1997 Sutphen engine, installing a Stryker Cot lift system in our second ambulance, obtaining a second LUCAS machine for our second ambulance, upgrading Department computers, replacing outdated turnout gear and accessories, and increasing staff.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Presented by Police Chief Christopher Collins

The Police Department's top priority continues to be those crimes that affect the safety, welfare, and quality of life in our community. To attain this goal, the Department continues to be progressive in its policing strategies and their search for new equipment and technology to enhance their investigative capabilities. In 2016, there were 19,107 calls for service to our Dispatch Center. These were then handled by nineteen full-time officers, sixteen part-time officers, eight full-time dispatchers, two part-time dispatchers, as well as Chief Collins and his Executive Assistant/Dispatch Supervisor Debbie Semik. The Police Department's Community Outreach programs continue to be well received, especially with the Summer Safety Town Program, "Kids Print" ID cards, "Senior Day" activities, and the Touch-A-Truck event. In 2017, the Police Department will be replacing two Police vehicles and vehicle equipment, installing a new 9-1-1 phone system, hiring two full-time police officers, reviewing the possibility of a sub-station at the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills and purchasing a COBAN DVD Archiving System. They look forward to continuing to make Willoughby Hills a safe and enjoyable community.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Presented by Recreation Coordinator Denise Edwards

The Recreation Department has the responsibility of overseeing the Recreation events, Sports Program (in collaboration with WH Boys League) and Community Center and Park rentals. In 2016, Recreation hosted our inaugural "Unity Day", commemorating the events of 9/11 and paying tribute to Willoughby Hills First Responders. In addition, Community Center rentals were excellent and the Department was awarded a grant to refurbish the Campbell Park Tennis Courts. Unfortunately, attendance at some of the City events showed a decrease in attendance, mainly contributed to the fact of the City Newsletter not being published. In 2017, Recreation would like to improve their marketing techniques and continue to provide excellent sports programs and City events. The staff currently consists of two Part-time Recreation Coordinators and one part-time maintenance man.

MAYOR'S OFFICE

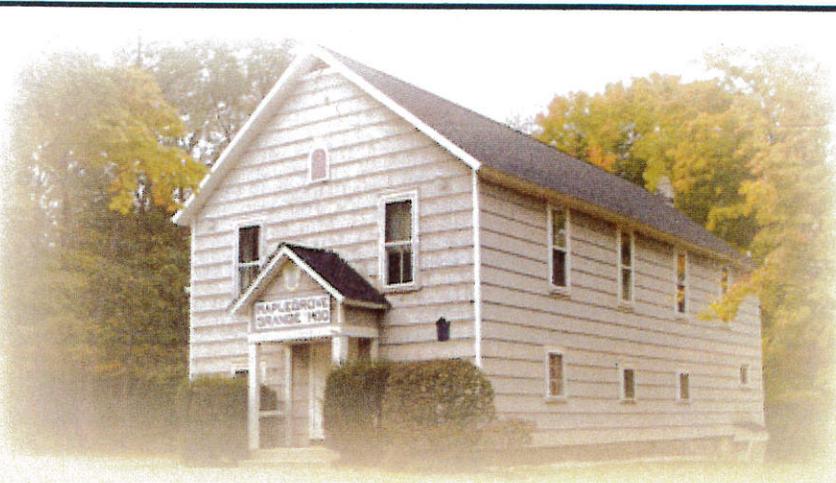
Presented by Executive Assistant Gloria Majeski

In addition to the regular Mayor's office duties of phone calls and resident/visitor reception, Gloria was able to write and receive grants for ADA doors on the City Hall Complex Police Department (\$11,000), Roemisch Complex Revitalization Plan Grant (\$11,000) and assisted Kyle Overmyer (Recreation) with a grant in the amount of \$18,187 for tennis court enhancement. Our program to dispose of surplus City vehicles on auction continued in 2016, netting the City approximately \$47,000. Assisting with the City's Property & Automobile insurance, Gloria identified an "Errors and Omissions" claim, enabling the City to claim \$33,000 for a traffic signal box replacement. In addition, her work with our health care renewal from Health Span to Anthem, helped secure a -2% premium increase, netting a savings of approximately \$82,000. The Senior WHISPER program continued in 2016 to assist many senior citizens, with added Medicare Enrollment assistance and help for many seniors at Mary Rose Estates on Maple Grove Road. Mrs. Majeski identified goals for 2017 to include: 1) Records Retention - assisting the Fire Department to establish their parameters, 2) Two City Newsletters to be done, 3) Continue to search for grants for the Roemisch Complex, 4) Continue WHISPER work at Mary Rose Estates and Volunteer Recruitment with Students, and 5) To propose to Mayor and Council a Sewer Rate Reduction Proposal based on Homeowner's Actual Consumption. The Mayor's Office continues to strive to assist our residents and to keep our "Residents First."

SHOPPES OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS

Presented by Mr. J. Scott Scheel & Mr. Raymond Somich

Our good friend and former Council President Raymond Somich was kind enough to introduce the new owner of the Shoppes of Willoughby Hills (formerly Loehmann's Plaza) to the retreat. Mr. J. Scott Scheel closed the deal to purchase this property on September 30, 2016, and has already started renovations to include the parking lot asphaltting and lighting. He did a nice presentation to identify the commitment of current business owners, as well as outlining his vision for making this area a very viable part of our community. While too soon to unveil new merchants, we look forward to meeting with him on a regular basis as things progress. I will plan to keep you apprised when he advises me. We are hopeful that Mr. Scheel will do a great job in turning this area around.



SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Presented by Road Superintendent Mark Grubiss

Superintendent Grubiss's job (along with 7 full-time and 2 part-time (seasonal) workers) is multi-faceted. In 2016, they performed many road work projects (including milling Route 6 speed bumps, milled/filled patched E. Miller, Trabor, Eddy, Dodd, Bishop, Rogers, Mapleview, Millgate, River, Eagle hill and others, assisted with Worrell Road resurfacing and trimmed and chipped the entire east side of the city back to the right of way. Storm and sanitary sewer projects were numerous and also resulted in 100% of all sanitary mains and pump stations being cleaned. In addition, City Hall was re-landscaped and blocked added along the parking lot and Police drive. The Department also began switching all light over in City Hall and Police to the new LED bulbs for cost savings and efficiency. There were over 300 work orders called in by residents who needed assistance. For 2017, Service Department has identified the following roads as needing pavement replacement: Somrack, Jenny Lane, Bates Lane, Red Fox Pass, Kennelly, Trailard, Glen Gate, Mayfriars, Rockefeller, Glen Kyle and Oakwood. They will continue to respond to the daily resident calls and City complex needs.

Thanks to all of my directors and our guests who made the Mayor's Retreat a success. This will be an annual event and is open to the public.

CLEVELAND SPORTS TEAMS-THEN & NOW
MAYOR ROBERT WEGER
 FIND CLEVELAND SPORTS TEAMS -THEN AND NOW

S	N	O	R	A	B	S	R	I	S	I
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L	C	E	A	S	P	R	I	T	S	O

BARONS
 BROWNS
 CAPTAINS
 CAVALIERS
 CRUSADERS
 FORCE
 INDIANS
 LUMBERJACKS
 MONSTERS
 ROCKERS
 VIKINGS

2017 Recre

ART GALLERY RECEPTION

Friday, January 6, 2017
7-9pm

ART GALLERY RECEPTION

Friday, March 10,
7-9pm

WHBL FUNDRAISER

Saturday
February 4, 2017
at LaVera

SAFE
June

EASTER PARTY

April 8, 2017
10am - 12pm
at Calvary Assembly
of God

ART GALLERY RECEPTION

Friday, May 5, 2017
7 - 9pm

CORN FEST CONCERT

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

ART GALLERY RECEPTION (QUILT EXHIBIT)

Friday
September 8, 2017

ART GALLERY RECEPTION UNITY DAY

Saturday
September 9,
at the VF

TRICK OR TREAT AND TRUNK OR TREAT

Tuesday
October 31, 2017
6 - 8pm

ART GALLERY RECEPTION

Friday
November 10, 2017
7 - 9pm

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ation Events

**WILLOUGHBY HILLS RECREATION
PANCAKE BREAKFASTS**

Sundays, March 5 and March 12, 2017
8:30am - 1:30pm

SPRING CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, April 1, 2017
9am - 3pm

**WILLOUGHBY
HILLS CAPTAINS
DAY AT
CLASSIC PARK**

Saturday,
July 22, 2017

**ART GALLERY
RECEPTION**

Friday, July 7, 2017
7-9pm

**GARAGE
SALE DAY IN
WILLOUGHBY
HILLS**

Saturday,
August 5, 2017

**TOUCH A
TRUCK**

Saturday,
September 16,
2017
10am - 2pm

FALL CRAFT SHOW
Saturday, October 14, 2017
9am - 3pm

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Friday, October 20, 2017
6-8 pm

**BREAKFAST
WITH SANTA**
Saturday

December 9, 2017
8:30am - 12pm

**WINTER FEST AND
CHRISTMAS CARD LANE**
Saturday, December 3, 2017
10am - 5pm

Don't Miss these events!

RESIDENTS FIRST!

This page is intended to keep residents apprised for various items of interest that they may find helpful as residents of Willoughby Hills.

AARP TAX ASSISTANCE

AARP Volunteers will be at the Willoughby Hills Community Center on Mondays, beginning on February 13, 2017 through April 10, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to assist residents with Federal and State income tax. They offer free tax preparation help to anyone of any age, especially if you are 50 or older or cannot afford paid tax preparation.

Call Gloria in the Mayor's office at 440-918-8730 to schedule an appointment to have your taxes done by these wonderful volunteers.

R.I.T.A. TAX ASSISTANCE

Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.) will be at City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, March 30, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. to assist residents with preparation of City income tax. No appointment is necessary.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MEETING WITH LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Mayor's Office has been notified that the Lake County General Health District will be conducting a meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to review new Ohio guidelines for septic systems. Each individual household in the City currently on septic will receive a notice about this meeting and points of discussion. Mark your calendars to attend, but if you are unable to attend the meeting, the Mayor's Office will disseminate the necessary information to all homeowners that this would pertain to.

NEW STREET LIGHT AT MAPLE GROVE AND MAPLE HILL ROAD

A streetlight has been ordered to ensure visibility and safety at the new intersection of Maple Grove and Maple Hill Roads. This should assist the residents of the new Maple Valley development, members of Maple Grove Alliance Church, and other visitors to this area.

PAPER RECYCLING AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING

Just a reminder that the City has Abitibi bins located at the Community Center and City Hall (by the tennis courts) for recycling of papers. All proceeds benefit our Senior Program (WHISPER).

In addition, there is a large truck for cardboard recycling located by the tennis courts. Please feel free to bring your recycling to these locations, rather than putting them in your weekly trash.

SNOW REMOVAL

Please remember to keep the street clear of excess snow when using your snow thrower or plow contractor. Our Service Department appreciates your cooperation.

ACCESS TO CITY TV CHANNELS ON CABLE

City news and events, as well as Council meetings and most Council Committee meetings, can be viewed on the Government Access channel. On Time Warner Cable, you will be tuning in to Channel 12. On AT&T U-Verse, you will access the Government channel on Channel 99. Please note that Direct TV users do not have the Government Access feature and will, therefore, not be able to access any government programming.

NOPEC INFORMATION

City Hall receives regular calls regarding NOPEC, which is the Northern Ohio Public Energy Council, who provides services for natural gas and electric services. Under Ohio law, local governments may band together into an aggregation, or buying group. The City of Willoughby Hills is a member of the aggregate known as NOPEC. Since our city is a NOPEC community, Willoughby Hills' residents are automatically enrolled, unless they choose not to be by completing an "Opt Out" form. This means that all eligible customers become part of the buying group unless they take specific action to opt out of the aggregation. Opt-out notices are sent to every eligible natural gas consumer every two years, giving him or her this options. Electricity customers receive opt out notices every three years.

The gas supplier currently chosen by NOPEC is Next Era Energy Services (phone: 1-855-667-3201). Residents will automatically be enrolled in a variable rate of \$3.54 per mcf. This rate will be reviewed again in March or April and will not be a long-term variable rate. This is the current rate as of January 1, 2017. Normally, the rates are readjusted every few months. It is best to call NOPEC at 1-888-848-7914 to confirm current pricing. Comparison rates for all suppliers may be found on the NOPEC website (www.nopecinfo.org). For NOPEC's plan, there are no sign up fees and no early termination fees.

The electric supplier currently chosen by NOPEC is also Next Era Energy Services (phone 1-855-667-3201). Current pricing, effective January 1, 2017, is \$.04978 per kilowatt. It is a fixed price effective until June 2017. NOPEC is also offering a second option for a variable rate, but you must call them to enroll in this option. The phone number to reach NOPEC about this supplier is 1-800-292-9284.

Please remember that each consumer is free to make his own decision regarding electric and gas suppliers. In terms of pricing, consumers should be wary of "gimmicks" and "giveaways" in which short-term savings are promised, with no long-term guarantees of continued savings.

Hopefully this information will provide you with the information you need concerning NOPEC.

SPORTS SIGN-UP SCHEDULE FOR WILLOUGHBY HILLS BOYS LEAGUE

By Tom Elliott and Jeffrey Ross,
Willoughby Hills Boys League

SPORT BASEBALL

SIGN UP DATES Dec. 1 – March 1

SEASON DATES May 1 – July 10

NOTES Thru Western Reserve Baseball League
Other cities involved include Euclid, Willowick,
Wickliffe, Richmond Hts., Mentor McMinn.

Ages:

- Instructional = 5-6 year olds
- Mighty Mites = 7-8 year olds
- Minors = 9-10 year olds
- Majors = 11-12 year olds
- Pony = 13-14 year olds
- Colt = 15-18 year olds



SPORT FLAG FOOTBALL

SIGN UP DATES Mid-August

SEASON DATES Aug.15-mid Oct.

NOTES This is a co-ed league, played on Saturdays
at Roemisch Field. Open for ages 6 to 12.

SPORT BASKETBALL

SIGN UP DATES Sept. – Oct.

SEASON DATES Jan.1-March 10

NOTES Instructional League (Grades K-2, 3rd & 4th Grade,
5th & 6th Grade, Play on Saturdays at Edison
Elementary. Others play at Willoughby Middle on
Friday nights.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Council President, At-Large II Nancy E. Fellows.....	216-952-3044
Council Vice President, Large IV John T. Plecnik.....	440-382-9978
Council-at-Large I Christopher L. Biro.....	440-944-7470
Council-at-Large III David M. Fiebig.....	440-585-4433
Council, District I (East) Jennifer Sommers Greer.....	216-288-9005
Council, District III (Central) Christopher Hallum.....	440-840-6710
Council, District II (West) Janet R. Majka.....	440-346-2854
Clerk of Council Victoria A. Savage.....	440-975-3541
Fire/Police Emergency	911
Fire Dept. – Non Emergency	440-942-7207
Police Dept. – Non Emergency	440-942-9111
Mayor’s Court – WH only	440-942-5050
Recreation Dept.	440-975-3540
Fax	440-918-8748
Building & Zoning Dept.	440-975-3550
Service Dept.	440-918-8740
Mayor’s Office	440-946-6614
City Hall – Main Number	440-946-1234
Fax	440-975-3533
Willoughby Hills Library	440-942-3362
Willoughby Hills Seniors	440-951-1826

CLEVELAND SPORTS TEAMS-THEN & NOW
MAYOR ROBERT WEGER
FIND CLEVELAND SPORTS TEAMS -THEN AND NOW

S	N	O	R	A	B	S	R	I	S	I	BARONS BROWNS CAPTAINS CAVALIERS CRUSADERS FORCE INDIANS LUMBERJACKS MONSTERS ROCKERS VIKINGS
K	C	S	N	W	O	R	B	U	V	S	
C	A	V	A	L	I	E	R	S	R	C	
A	P	R	R	M	C	D	N	E	O	R	
J	T	U	C	R	I	A	T	G	C	R	
R	A	R	O	A	I	S	I	I	K	S	
E	I	F	A	D	N	U	E	O	E	I	
B	N	K	N	O	O	R	I	R	R	O	
M	S	I	M	M	U	C	R	N	S	D	
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GRANGE CELL TOWER INFORMATION

As our City legislation requires, residents within 500’ of the Grange property were recently notified of a proposal for a cell tower on the property. The cell tower company, TowerCo, had selected this location in the City because of the ability to gain maximum cell tower reception, which is currently lacking in that area. It also provides the City a monthly income of approximately \$1,500.

Representatives from TowerCo made a presentation to City Council, addressing many concerns. One particular concern was that of a “huge metal structure” not blending in with the Grange Building or the adjacent cemetery. Representatives instead opted to provide a cell tower that looks like a tree, which will blend in to the current property. In addition, they have chosen fencing that will also be aesthetically pleasing.

Opposition from residents living beyond the 500’ notification limit came forward after Mayor and Council had approved this project to go before the Planning Commission for final approval. Their concerns seem to be related to the aesthetics of the property and the fact that the current law only provides for 500’ radius notification.

Sometimes change in our community is difficult to accept, but we are hopeful that all parties will come together through the Planning Commission’s efforts, to provide the City with a cell tower that will be aesthetically pleasing, functionally providing cell phone reception that is lacking in that area of our community, and the ability to receive long-term funding from this endeavor. Thanks to all members of our Planning Commission who are tasked with the finalization of this project.





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

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

The City's Senior Program (W.H.I.S.P.E.R.) hosted a holiday lunch for the seniors at Mary Rose Estates on Maple Grove in Willoughby Hills. The residents, many who thought of this gesture as "their Christmas dinner", enjoyed the company of Mayor Weger, WHISPER Coordinator Gloria Majeski, and Senior Helpers Leah Vincent and Yolanda Stay.

WILLOUGHBY HILLS SENIORS' POT LUCK LUNCHES

Just a reminder that the Willoughby Hills Seniors Group hosts a pot luck lunch on the third Tuesday of each month at noon at Willoughby Hills Community Center Senior Room. A guest speaker is scheduled at each pot luck to inform our seniors of various items of interest. Come and join the fun!

Tuesday, February 21
Tuesday, April 18
Tuesday, June 20
Tuesday, August 15
Tuesday, October 17
Tuesday, December 19

Tuesday, March 21
Tuesday, May 16
Tuesday, July 18
Tuesday, September 19
Tuesday, November 21

