

MAYOR'S REPORT 2013
By Mayor Robert M. Weger

2012 began with my January 4, 2012, Inauguration in which I took the oath to remain serving as the Mayor of the City of Willoughby Hills for the next four years. In addition, we inaugurated the return of Councilmen Malecek, Somich, Germano and Fiebig. It is a pleasure serving with such fine individuals and I anticipated good things for our city as I began the leadership for another term with such good people.

In looking back at 2012, I am pleased to report that we did many good things in the community. Economic development was our number one priority as we sought to bring businesses to our city and increase tax monies coming into our community. Steve Roszczyk was hired as our Economic Development Director and has worked to establish relationships with existing businesses, as well as seek to find other interested parties to move into the city. Steve used the Resident Survey from a previous City Newsletter to listen to what the residents perceived are potential problems and beneficial solutions as they relate to the economic development of the City of Willoughby Hills. He has made some promising progress and will continue to work make improvements to enhance our city. As part of Steve's vision to market the City of Willoughby Hills as "new and improved", the city motto was updated from "Where the City Meets the Country" to "City Comfort, Country Charm." This new motto certainly denotes the fact that our updated amenities do not detract from our rural pleasantries. We will plan to transition to the new signs throughout this year. In addition, the Economic Development link on our city website serves to showcase our city and provide information for any one who may want to live, work or own a business here. In this tough financial climate, all of these tools will help market our community. We welcome Steve's presence here and support all of his economic development efforts.

Our Building and Service Departments were consolidated in 2012. This has streamlined the process for residents in getting information processed when trying to get a building permit, implementing a sanitary sewer connection or having a general service-related issue. This building is located behind the City Hall/Police Complex.

We ended the year in good financial shape, with most credit being given to the fact that our salt usage was reduced because of the mild winter. This was truly an unexpected savings, but was most welcome.

We will face many challenges this year with a reduction in property taxes with the new valuation rates, loss of inheritance tax funding, and the loss of Eaton Corporation from Willoughby Hills. We will work hard to try to make up these losses and continue to conserve where we can. Bringing new businesses to the community will become an integral part of this plan, too. 2013 will welcome Dollar Tree and O'Reilly's Auto Parts on the west end of our city and Mary Rose Estates will open their doors to many residents over the next three months. We look forward to more success stories as the year unfolds.