

MAYOR'S REPORT
APRIL 14, 2008

Many politicians customarily review the first one hundred day of their administration since those days serve as a benchmark of how well they are likely to do in the future of their tenure. I thought I would use this month's "Mayor's Report" to let the community know how well I think our first one hundred days have been and how hopeful I am for even better days ahead for the City of Willoughby Hills.

First and foremost, the hiring of capable personnel has truly been the best thing that could have been done for the City. To add to the terrific Department Directors (and their staff) already in place with Chris Collins as Police Chief, Rich Harmon as Fire Chief, Nate Catania as Service Director, Mario DiFranco as Building Director, Peg Morgan as Clerk of Courts, and Leslie Harmon as Recreation Coordinator, the hiring of some other key people solidified our administration. Tom Lobe's appointment as Law Director served to reaffirm the strength needed at City Hall for good, sound legal representation. Tom is familiar with this role and its duties and responsibilities as he had served as an excellent Law Director in the past for the City of Willoughby Hills. His re-appointment now will provide superior legal services under this new administration. Sharen Michney-Halkiewicz assumed the role of Service Department Secretary. She is able to handle all of the paperwork in order for Nate and his crew to be out on the road assisting residents. Sharen's compassion to our resident callers has proven her to be an excellent liaison between our community and our Service Department. Our Finance Department, which had been under much scrutiny in previous years, now has all of the makings of a top-notch, well organized department. Debbie Doles, assuming the role of Assistant Finance Director, has given us someone who can intelligently analyze tax and payroll issues and offer quick resolution. Her dedication and conscientiousness has helped the Finance Director as well. Our Finance Director, Joe Mirtel, along with Debbie, has been given the challenge of making some sense of books that had been deemed "unauditable" when he came on board. With Joe's previous municipal experience, however, he has been able to put policies and procedures in place to ensure better bookkeeping skills. Given a carry forward balance of only \$19,694.38, Joe has done an excellent job for us in preparing budgets and trying to get us back on track. Joe's recommendation of adding a position of part-time Internal Auditor (and the hiring of Frank Brichacek) was a great move to get the City's 2005-2007 books carefully reviewed and adds the hope that we can correct some past mistakes. Janeen Mullin was hired as our Finance Assistant and has served to organize the Finance Department with her efficiency and organizational skills. She proves to be a friendly face to greet our residents and I am confident she will be receptive to all residents' questions and concerns. Finally, Gloria Majeski was hired as my assistant and she has done a great job in handling things when I am not in the office. We communicate throughout the day, so I want our residents to rest assured that they are well taken care of in spite of my position as a part-time Mayor. Gloria serves to complete my staff as one who truly believes in our "Residents First" commitment.

In addition to our staff, I am truly proud to have our wonderful City Council, Council Clerk, Boards and Commissions. There is finally a sense of communication and project completion between Mayor and Council. It feels great and is so good for the City.

I have been fortunate to be able to add the following list of fun and meaningful events to my first one hundred days as well:

- Marrying five couples in Council chambers
- Swearing in one new firefighter and two new police personnel
- Teaching a third grade classroom “What it Means to Be a Mayor”
- Appointing new members to several Commissions & Boards
- Appointing nine members to the Charter Review Commission
- Giving Proclamations to two new businesses – Classic Auto Group & Cleveland Clinic W.H. Family Health Center
- Honoring our dispatchers on National Communications Week
- Serving as “Celebrity Server” for United Way of Lake County
- Declaring “Child Abuse Prevention Month” and “Red Cross Month”
- Learning my staff uncovered a \$38,000 error previously paid in medical insurance premiums
- Implementing our “Residents First” Program where residents’ concerns are handled efficiently and professionally

With our great personnel and the opportunity to do well for the community, I look forward to good days for Willoughby Hills. Our Recreation Department will continue to provide nice events for the community. June 28th marks the date of our “Community Day” featuring an antique car show, a parade, a rock climbing wall and the Church’s famous chicken dinner. Plans are underway for a September community event to include a steak roast and corn hole tournament. We will continue our opposition to airport runway expansion. We will continue to provide sanitary sewer information and assistance to our Area C residents. Florine O’Ryan will continue to select excellent programs for our Seniors. “Goodbye to Garfield” is planned as a means for our residents and friends an opportunity for one last tour of the halls of a school holding many fond memories. Larry O’Donnell will make sure our veterans are not forgotten and plans a wonderful Memorial Day ceremony this year.

In summary, as I reflect on our first one hundred days, I am proud of what we have done thus far, but am excited for the days yet to come for the City of Willoughby Hills.