

MAYOR'S REPORT
AUGUST 2009

By now, all of our residents should have received our City Newsletter, which was made possible with the support of our area businesses. I have received many nice comments regarding this change from our previous newspaper and hope to be able to provide another newsletter after the first of the year. It will contain our Recreation Department's events for 2010, as well as update on our City Departments.

Plans have been underway for our Fall Corn Fest and it promises to be an exciting event, with a lot of good food and fun for the entire family. Discounted dinner tickets are currently being sold for both our Texas Roadhouse steak and chicken dinners on Saturday night and La-Vera's fried chicken and cornbread dinner on Sunday. The dinners were very well received last year and a real treat for anyone who enjoys a great meal. Both dinners also include our fresh roasted sweet corn. Sweet Plum Market at Gale's Garden Center is getting ready to pick the best of the crop for Fall Corn Fest! Plan to come and be a part of the fun!

Our Police IT Dispatch Center is nearly complete, with our dispatchers moving into the newly renovated area last week. This renovation provides them with state-of-the-art equipment and an excellent work environment. Special thanks to Council Vice President Dave Reichelt who assisted in the acquisition, implementation and training requirements of the project. His help is greatly appreciated and resulted in a smooth transition for the members of our Police Department.

City Council approved my recommendation to move forward with Heavy Trash Pickup for our residents by accepting the bid proposal from PennOhio. Pickup is scheduled to take place during the first two weeks of October, with the east side of 91 being serviced beginning October 5 and the west side of 91 being serviced beginning October 12. This information has been published on our website, channel 12 and in the News Herald, but if you have any specific questions regarding the Heavy Trash Pickup, please contact my office.

Beginning on September 8, we will be showcasing local artists at the Community Center. We are fortunate to have John Davis, one of our Willoughby Hills residents and a member of the Willoughby Hills Watercolor Class, lead us in setting up the display and getting many local artists involved in displaying their work. Plan to stop by and check out the array of local talent. This art work will be changed on a monthly basis.

Over the past five years, we have been able to pave roads such as River, Bishop and Chardon. We have also been busy striping many of our streets. We will continue to do as much as possible with current funding, but want to stress the importance of the passage of the renewal of our Road Levy in our November election. This will allow us to continue maintenance and ample salting for the safety of our community. Our Service Department requires this funding to be able to offer our residents the level of road care they are entitled to. Please vote "Yes" on this Road Levy renewal in November.

I was happy to learn that the four Council members who are up for re-election in November will be unopposed. I hope this is in recognition of the fine job they are doing for our residents. I know you will continue to be pleased with their efforts. They are a hard-working group of individuals who have the City's best interest in mind with their Council actions. Congratulations to Council Vice President Reichelt, Councilman Chris Biro, Councilwoman Nancy Fellows and Councilman Dave Fiebig on this vote of confidence!

With students recently reporting back to school, I wanted to advise our residents that we have provided Cornerstone Christian Academy (located at Willoughby Hills Friends Church on SOM Center Road) with a school zone sign. Speeds of 20mph will be enforced during school hours. Motorists will be given ample time to adjust to this change via the speed trailer as a warning, but will be ticketed in the future for exceeding the 20mph during school hours. Please pay close attention to this stretch of Route 91 to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

City Hall offices will be closed on Monday, September 7th as we observe Labor Day. This nationally recognized day commemorates the contributions employees have made to provide strength and prosperity to our country. I personally recognize the importance of our City workers on the success of our community and want to thank them for the great job they do for the City of Willoughby Hills on a daily basis. Our City Council and Boards and Commissions also work hard to ensure that we have a nice community in which to live. Special thanks to these workers and all of the workers in our city and in our country who we pay tribute to on this Labor Day.

I continue to strive to put "Residents First". Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about our City.