

MAYOR'S REPORT  
MARCH, 2008

March came into Willoughby Hills like a lion, both weather wise and with all of the City Hall activities.

Over three hundred residents filled the Community Center on two different evenings to hear the presentation by Lake County General Health District representative Laura Kramer Kuns and our City Engineer Rich Iafelice. The topic was the proposed sewer project for Area C (southwest corner) of Willoughby Hills. These meetings were intended to provide our residents with the current status of the project. It was a great opportunity for neighbors to discuss plans and options. The Power Point presentation has been made available to our residents on our website, [www.WilloughbyHills-OH.gov](http://www.WilloughbyHills-OH.gov). If you need additional information or have any questions as a result of your meeting attendance, please feel free to call my office.

The proposed Cuyahoga County Airport Master Plan also brought a lot of concerned residents together. It is important to realize that this administration is opposed to the expansion into Willoughby Hills and the Council and I have attended many meetings throughout Lake and Cuyahoga counties to voice our concerns. We plan a trip to Washington, DC in May to meet face to face with FAA officials on behalf of our City and the residents of Willoughby Hills to try to put this proposal to rest.

Our pancake breakfasts (sponsored by the Recreation Department and Lions Club) served as a welcome sign to spring, bringing out many neighbors who had previously been homebound due to our inclement weather. I want to personally thank our Recreation Department and our Lions Club for continuing this tradition of fellowship in Willoughby Hills and commend them on a job well done.

March also welcomed our newest business into Willoughby Hills when Classic Auto Group opened its Lexus/BMW/Mini Cooper dealership to add to its twenty-one other locations. We are proud to welcome owner Jim Brown and his team of employees to the City. This beautiful building was a two-year project in the making and served to rid Willoughby Hills of a piece of land that was a visual distraction. We will truly be able to appreciate its true value when the project comes full circle with the planned spring landscape.

March was proclaimed "Red Cross Month" in an effort to recognize the outstanding efforts put forth by the organization and all of its volunteers. I ask that our residents continue to support this very worthwhile cause that stands by to assist the City of Willoughby Hills in the event of an emergency.

Our Service Department has been busy with its snowplows. The recent snow and ice storms have been a challenge, but Nate Catania and his crew have done an outstanding job keeping our streets clean and servicing our residents. I was extremely encouraged by the team work shown during the recent snow storm when Councilman

Frank Germano stepped up to assist our busy Service Department by driving one of our large snowplows, City Prosecutor Mike Germano used his personal truck to clear City Hall and the Community Center parking lots, Willoughby Hills Fire Department called in extra manpower to assist in additional resident calls and assisted with snow plow duties, and Willoughby Hills Police Department aided in stranded motorist calls. I personally commend all of these individuals on a great job and appreciate the countless resident calls of thanks!

The Willoughby Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual State of the Cities Luncheon was held at LaVera Party Center on February 28, 2008, and offered an insight into updates of upcoming projects as well as the overall well-being of the cities represented, which included Willoughby Hills, Willoughby and Kirtland. My report expressed my spending the early days of my term setting a business-friendly tone in the City and encouraging our support of our local businesses. The completion of the Bishop Road widening project was cited as an important achievement for local businesses. The use of funds collected via Tax Incremental Financing to put a new traffic signal near the new Classic Lexus dealership and the Cleveland Clinic Family Health Center intersection, which will be synchronized to help ease traffic congestion, was also presented. From a financial point of view, our City's General Fund carryover was announced as being unusually low, with unencumbered funds at \$19,694.38. This makes the task of our new Finance Director particularly challenging. As I conveyed at the luncheon, however, I am extremely optimistic with the excellent staff I currently have in my administration that this team will be able to strategize to overcome these difficulties.

While it is then often said, "March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb", I will admit that it would be fine to continue at our current pace, given the benefit provided to the City and its residents and businesses. I will continue to work with my administration and Council to put "Residents First" and make you proud to be a Willoughby Hills resident.