

MAYOR'S REPORT

May, 2009

By Mayor Robert Weger

May has been a very busy month for the City of Willoughby Hills. It began with a Special Election held on Tuesday, May 5th, when many of our residents came out to vote. Those that previously voted at City Hall did so at the Community Center for the first time and that worked out very well. The result was - 89% of our residents voted "No" on Issue 1, which meant that our one acre zoning was saved. Had the issue passed, a parcel of land on Maple Grove Road would have been rezoned from "Residential" to "SCR – Senior Citizen Residential", allowing the developer to build four senior citizen homes per acre, a nursing home or an assisted living facility. The voters spoke loud and clear in agreement with me and City Council – we want to keep our current zoning and a more rural setting in Willoughby Hills.

Again this year, I had the privilege to travel to Washington, D.C. with several members of Council and our Law Director. We met with officials from the F.A.A. to voice our concerns about the proposed expansion of the Cuyahoga County Airport runway. As in previous years, our presence made an impact on them and they certainly recognize our objection to the current plan. Additionally, we were able to spend some time with Congressman Latourette and heard about statewide economic planning. We will continue to apply for any applicable stimulus funding as it becomes available.

A long overdue and much needed project was completed this month as Bishop Road was repaved. Our Service Department did an outstanding job in accomplishing this work in a timely manner. Many residents happily transported free mulch from City Hall to their flower beds as a result of their work, as well. With the arrival of warm weather, they have been spending days planting flowers and preparing the Veteran's Memorial for our Memorial Day Ceremony.

Work continues on the Police and Fire Emergency Dispatch Center and related systems, which will include the replacement of the city's outdated telephone system. We look forward to the completion of this project in the coming months.

This month saw the sudden and unexpected closing of Sam's Club, a longtime business in the City of Willoughby Hills. We are anxious to obtain other tenants in the Shops of Willoughby Hills to fill this void. In these hard economic times, this serves as a good reminder that it is good for the residents to dine and shop in Willoughby Hills!

I am looking forward to Sunday, June 14th, when I will throw out the first pitch at Captains Stadium for Willoughby Hills Fan Appreciation Day. Special advance-sale tickets, which must be purchased at City Hall, are only \$5 each. This event should be a lot of fun.

I hope you put September 12th and 13th on your calendar to enjoy our second annual Fall Corn Fest. It is a two-day event this year and will include great food, fireworks, and lots of fun and entertainment for all ages.

The City will be celebrating Memorial Day at our Veteran's Memorial on Monday, May 25th, at 11:00 a.m. This is a great ceremony in which we remember the men and women who have served, or are currently serving, our country to ensure our freedom. Please remember to pay tribute to them on this special day.

In closing, I want to wish all of our residents a safe and happy summer. Please remember to contact me if you have any questions or concerns as I will continue to put "Residents First".