

Where Residents Are First



Winter 2013

MAYOR'S REPORT 2013

By Mayor Robert M. Weger

2013 began with my January 4, 2013, 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 to 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 Comforts, Country Charm." This new motto certainly denotes the fact that our updated amenities do not detract from our rural pleasantry. 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 welcomed.

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Mayor's Court Report	2	Veteran's Memorial Park	5
5th Annual Corn Fest	2	2012 Weddings	5
Service Department Update	2	Police Department in Review	5
Economic Development	3	Recreation Department & Events	6
Word Search	3	Fire Department Report	7
Building Department Update	4	Important Numbers	7
Lion's Scholarship	4	Fun Activities in Willoughby Hills	8



MAYOR'S COURT REPORT

By: Janeen Mullin, Clerk of Court

Willoughby Hills Mayor's Court has been busy keeping up with new legislation implemented through the Ohio Revised Code. On March 22, 2013, The General Assembly will be introducing new legislation recently passed by the House and Senate regarding texting laws. The law indicates that no person shall text at any point while driving a motor vehicle, unless you are contacting an emergency agency. Texting not only puts you in danger, but the people around you. Please remember...DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE!! Let's keep everyone safe.

The Willoughby Hills Mayor's Court staff would like to offer you information regarding our new website. The website provides an abundance of information including our waiver schedule, 2013-2014 court days and a listing of our Codified Ordinances. Please feel free to visit us at willoughbyhills-oh.gov and click on the various programs, resources and links to help provide you with any information you might be seeking.

Lastly, The Willoughby Hills Mayor's Court staff would just like to remind you that we are here to serve the public and consider your safety our number one priority. As we enter a new year, take a little extra time to be aware of your surroundings, observe the speed limits, and report any suspicious activity. We hope you have a safe and healthy 2013.



CORN FEST 2013

The dates are set....September 7 and 8, 2013. We are hoping Mother Nature cooperates this year to bring nice weather for a fantastic Fall Corn Fest. Despite last year's inclement weather, attendees had fun and got to experience great food, fun and live entertainment.

2013 promises to be bigger and better. The planning has already begun, so don't be left out. Please call Gloria at Mayor Weger's office (440-918-8730) to be a part by volunteering on the day of the event or becoming a member of the fun Fall Corn Fest Committee.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By: Nate Catania, Service Superintendent



We are pleased to continue the following services in our Service Department:

BRUSH DROP OFF

Residents may bring their property's tree trimmings, brush and leaves to Roemisch Park and drop off to be recycled. The area is located next to the cell tower, straight in the Community Center driveway. Tree and brush from residents only please! No grass clippings, garbage or demolition materials are permitted. Area is not paved, so wet days for drop offs are not recommended.

COMPUTER RECYCLING

Residents may bring unwanted computers and certain electrical equipment to the City Service Department for recycling on Monday through Fridays from 7am to 3pm. Please see Service personnel at the garage located in the back of City Hall. Please No tube TVs, home appliances or alkaline batteries. For a complete list, call 440-918-8740.

PAPER RECYCLING

The City has two areas that residents can drop off paper: 1) At the Community Center straight in the driveway to the gravel lot, and 2) Behind the City Hall Complex, past the Campbell Park entrance and tennis courts. You will see the yellow and green Abitibi bins at both locations. Newspapers, phone books and office paper are all acceptable. No cardboard please! All proceeds benefit our WHISPER Program for our senior citizens.

FALL LEAF PICK UP

Every fall, beginning at the end of October, Service crews removed leaves left at the edge of the road. This process takes over six weeks and involves all Service workers. Some tips to help us serve you better are: Place leaves within 8 feet from the edge of the road, do not pile near mailboxes or other obstructions, no sticks or brush, and do not pile on top of landscape stone.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

By: Steve Roszczyk, Economic Development Director

Establishing a brand new department and integrating it into an ongoing operation is never easy. Starting from scratch, the 'to-do' list can look daunting. Accordingly it has been a busy seven months since the Economic Development Department was established.

The first order of business was to determine what needed to be done to become a professional, first class organization. Obviously, the next step was to just do it. Starting from scratch meant building the basics; sales strategies were developed and an economic development website was created; an effort to start branding the City as a desirable place to do business began with designing a new logo; easy to understand zoning maps and professional sales materials were created; research was conducted to find state and federal business incentives and financing; an inventory list of all vacant properties within the City was created; the department began working with the Advisory Committee for Economic Development (ACED), a citizens group, whose purpose is to help guide the City's strategic direction; and finally it also established relationships with developers, realtors and businesses.

All of this had to be done concurrently, without losing sight of trying to bring new businesses to the city. The area requiring the most attention is the Bishop/Chardon road business district. It is the focus of the ACED citizens group, as well as the departments'. Critical to success was to establish relationships with the major players: DDR, Spigel Properties and influential businesses. Results thus far have been positive. Eastside VW is expanding and O'Reilly's Auto Parts is building a new store on the southwest side of Chardon Road. Buckeye Charity Gambling has moved into The Shops at Willoughby Hills and Dollar Tree is opening a store between National College and Phoenix Theaters. Ongoing discussions are taking place to fill more vacancies in The Shops at Willoughby Hills, as well as the old Sears Hardware building.

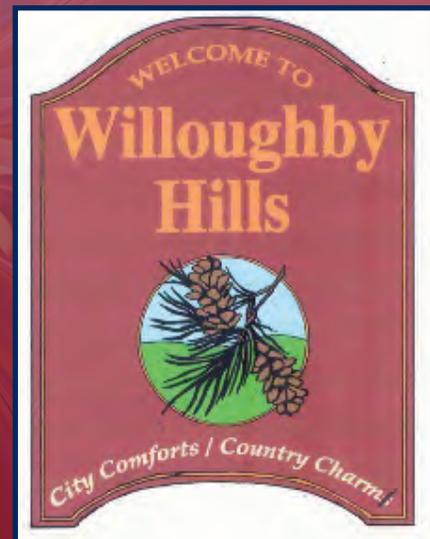
New development is also taking place in the SOM Center/Chardon Road area and announcement regarding it should be made soon.

While the department is still in its infancy, a foundation has been established enabling it to take advantage of new opportunities in 2013. Refining, improving and strengthening that foundation will be ongoing with particular emphasis placed on branding, strengthening relationships, developing a plan to attract industry and to a limited degree, event marketing. Continued emphasis will focus on attracting new businesses to the west side, with concentrated effort placed on The Shops at Willoughby Hills and the Sears Hardware building.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ITEMS MAYOR WEGER

S	A	U	S	A	G	E	E	N	I	A	U	P	APPLESAUCE
Y	E	N	U	E	A	B	T	N	V	A	T	F	BASKETS
P	K	K	R	N	L	E	K	O	B	E	O	R	BLUEBERRIES
U	N	C	A	A	K	F	L	I	S	A	S	E	BREAKFAST
R	T	R	A	C	T	U	F	T	S	C	C	N	CAMRADERIE
Y	C	S	I	M	N	C	A	A	K	C	I	C	COFFEE
S	J	T	A	T	R	A	S	E	R	E	O	H	FRENCHTOAST
T	N	U	E	F	R	A	P	R	P	F	A	T	JUICE
E	N	E	I	S	K	K	D	C	F	I	K	O	PANCAKES
K	R	S	E	C	U	A	S	E	L	P	P	A	RAFFLE
S	D	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	I	E	S	RECREATION
A	J	R	R	C	S	T	S	R	B	I	E	T	SAUSAGE
B	E	S	F	R	O	E	E	B	B	E	I		SYRUP
													TICKET
													VOLUNTEERS

Answers on
Page 7



Take a look at our new city sign!
You will be seeing them around
our city very soon!



BUILDING DEPARTMENT UPDATE



Things are Moving Forward at the Willoughby Hills Building Department in 2013

Last year brought big changes for the Building Department and Service Departments as Mayor Weger authorized the remodeling of the old Service Building behind City Hall to jointly house the Service Superintendent, Building Commissioner, the Building Department offices, Planning Commission and BZA office, as well as providing space for sewer files and an archive room.

This is the fourth metamorphosis for this efficient little building. Originally designed and built in 1956 to be the temporary offices of Willoughby Hills Village, it was remodeled for the needs of the Police Department and then Service and Sewer Department prior to the current configuration. When first built, a garage door opened up to the service garage space where chairs were set up for council meetings. Diana McCann now serves both Service and Building departments as joint clerk. Building Commissioner Wyss is pleased with the new arrangement. "We all

feel satisfied with the results. The fresh new space makes it a pleasure to come to work. Serving our residents crosses between the duties of service, building and zoning quite often. Having both departments together allows for better coverage overall. Contractors and residents alike have commented how nice it better serves their needs." Thanks go out to Mayor Weger for his support and vision.

2013 Ohio Residential Code is now a reality. After many years of working with the Homebuilders Association, the Board of Building Standards' new code is the first major overhaul since Ohio standardized building codes back in 2006. Ohio, with this new code, is leading the way with many innovative integrations of model codes from the International Building Code family. It is the first time that accessibility issues are addressed in the residential code. If you have any questions regarding the new code or about a building project you have coming up we are always here to serve your needs. Feel free to call the Willoughby Hills Building Department at 440-975-3550.

Mary Rose Estates Congregate Care Apartments Nears Completion



In August 2009, Willoughby Hills was approached by the late Thomas Ackerman and the Lithuanian Center on Ridge Road in Willoughby to build a 40 unit senior apartment complex on Mr. Ackerman's 3.38 acre site which lies between Interstate 90 and Gullybrook Drive at 35253 Maplegrove Road. A HUD funded building it includes the 40 one bedroom apartments, a community room, communal laundry facilities, and management offices. Built by the Douglas Company of Holland, Ohio, the Willoughby Hills Zoning Department and Planning Commission worked tirelessly to support and move this project to this point of near completion. We welcome the Mary Rose Estates to the City of Willoughby Hills!

WILLOUGHBY HILLS LIONS SCHOLARSHIPS



Willoughby Hills Lions Club will be offering three \$1500 scholarships to any high school graduating senior who will be attending a two or four year college or trade school.

Applications may be obtained from your high school guidance counselor or by calling Florine O’Ryan at 440-951-1826.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 15, 2013!

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PROPOSED

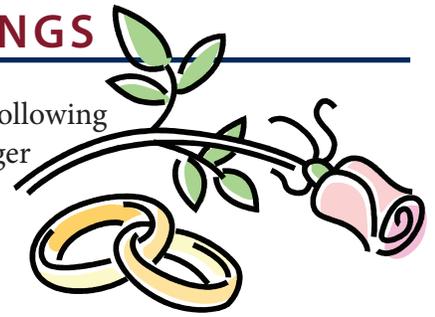
The City plans to construct a Veterans Memorial Park located immediately adjacent to its existing Veterans Memorial on Chardon Road. In addition to the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, the intimate amphitheater-style venue to be known as the Willoughby Hills Veterans Memorial Park, will be available for weddings and performances, such as summer concerts planned for the future.

The cost to construct the facility is estimated to be approximately \$30,000 and will be funded by sponsorship donations. All revenues will be used exclusively for the construction of the facility and sponsors will be recognized on permanent markers at the facility.

If you are interested in donating to this worthy cause and help us further recognize the contributions of the veterans of our armed forces, please visit the City website or City Hall kiosk for a donation form. Thank you for your support.

2012 WEDDINGS

Congratulations to the following couples who Mayor Weger had the privilege to marry in 2012:



Samuel Blenman and Marcia Reeves
Michael Chansa and Zidyenji Ruth Mataka
Mikhail Rustamov and Krystyna Lir
Kory Kachka and Meri Kirnos
Matthew Jimenez and Emelyn Calog
Steven Divincenzo and Paula Fink
Nathaniel Ferris and Melissa Sullivan
Marlon Simmons and Wanda Carr
Matthew Amans and Nicole Williams
Keith Perlic and Christine Hatten
Mathew Zawitz and Elizabeth Hughes
Terrance Cooper and Patricia Rodholm
Timothy Thompson and Eve Arnold
Nicholas Vernon and Bethany White
Donald Wade and Angela Howell

Best wishes for many years of happy, married life!

Willoughby Hills Police Department in Review – 2012

By: Police Chief Christopher J. Collins

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Willoughby Hills Police Department, I'm pleased to present you with a review of our department for 2012.

The renovation of our Patrol and Administrative Office was completed and will allow for the more efficient operation of our staff. The new Patrol area includes shift supervisor offices, computer work stations, training and evidence processing areas, storage, and a kitchen. The patrol area is now located adjacent to the officer locker rooms, fitness facility and patrol car garage. The administrative offices relocated the Police Chief and his Executive Assistant and provides better operating areas for the Detective Bureau and Court Officer. This renovation was the final project that began with the remodeling and upgrading of the Emergency Dispatch Center in 2009.

The department continued its community outreach programs attending a number of events along with its "Kids Print" Identification Card System purchased with funds seized from criminals. This system was used to print ID cards for children and young adults containing important and sometimes life saving information.

We also placed three new patrol cars into service that include all the emergency equipment and computers to allow officer to effectively and safely patrol our City. One patrol car was installed with an automated license plate reader (ALPR) that links to the officer's in-car mobile data computer. This ALPR System reads license plates and alerts the officers to any active warrants or other problems related to the vehicle registration and/or vehicle owner. The system has led to a number of arrests and continues to help us keep criminals off our streets.

As we move into 2013, we continue to work hard everyday to provide the best police service to our residents and guests. I look forward to working with Mayor/Safety Director Robert M. Weger and members of City Council as we strive to make Willoughby Hills a safer community for all to enjoy.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By: Denise Edwards, Recreation Coordinator

Happy New Year from the Willoughby Hills Recreation Department! Thank you for helping to make the 2012 Recreation events so successful. We are looking forward to more fun and excitement this year. The 2013 Recreation events are listed in this newsletter, as well as on the City website and WHTV cable channel.

Our events kick off on Sunday, March 3, 2013 with our Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfasts. The two subsequent Sundays (March 10 and 17th) will continue the tradition of great food and fellowship. Don't miss out on these great breakfasts!

Don't forget to plan ahead and rent a room at the Willoughby Hills Community Center for your next special occasion. As a resident, you are entitled to special pricing. Check the website for rates and availability so your next party can be a memorable event.

You are also welcome to call us for information or to set up an appointment to view the Community Center rooms. The Recreation Office is located in the Community Center, 35400 Chardon Road. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9am to 2pm at 440-975-3540.

2013 RECREATION AND CITY EVENTS

March 3 and 10, 2013	8:30 am to 2 pm	Pancake Breakfasts at the Community Center
March 7, 2013	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Art Gallery – Free Artist's Reception
March 17, 2013	8:30 am to 2 pm	Lions Pancake Breakfast at the Community Center
March 23, 2013	1:00 pm	Easter Party at the Community Center
April 28, 2013	Noon to 6pm	WH Boys League Pasta Dinner & Raffle
May 9, 2013	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Art Gallery – Free Artist's Reception
May 27, 2013		Memorial Day Ceremony
July TBD		Willoughby Hills Day at Classic Park
July 8 -12, 2013		Safety Town for Youngsters entering Kindergarten
July 11, 2013	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Art Gallery – Free Artist's Reception
August 10, 2013		Flea Market (rain date is August 11)
August 24, 2013		Touch a Truck
Sept. 7-8, 2013		Fall Corn Fest
Sept. 12, 2013	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Art Gallery – Free Quilter's Reception
October 12, 2013		Craft Show
October 26, 2013		Halloween Party
November 7, 2013	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Art Gallery – Free Artist's Reception
November 11, 2013		Veterans Ceremony
December 1, 2013		Winter Fest & Christmas Card Lane Lighting
December 7, 2013		Breakfast with Santa

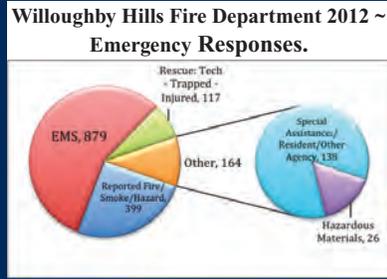
Visit www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov for more info on all of these great events!

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

By: Rich Harmon, OFE, Fire Chief

Practice Fire Safety

Each year thousands of Americans die or are severely injured from preventable events. On average U.S. fire departments responded an estimated 370,000 fires in the home. Of these fires 53% started in the kitchen, living room or bedroom and accounts for 64% fire related deaths in the home. Simple items such as fire extinguishers and lids for pans would prevent many of these fires. Smoking and burning candles are the leading cause of fires in living rooms and bedrooms, causing nearly 50% of fire related deaths. Of the estimated annual 370,000 fires in home, alcohol use was a contributing factor in about 40%.



Practice Safe Driving

Each year there are an estimated 1.6 million vehicle crashes caused by distracted drivers, leading to over 5,000 deaths and estimated 125,000 injuries annually. The leading cause of distracted drivers is cell phone use and text messaging. Other causes include: eating and drinking, talking, grooming, reading maps, GPS navigation or adjusting a media player.

When our lives get busy or time is short we may find ourselves trying to fit it all in. This leads to perhaps leaving food on the stove while trying to check the laundry, or making a quick call or text message while driving. Unfortunately our Firefighters are responding to calls every day where a split second forever changed lives. So remember to be safe in the home and do not do anything that distracts from safe driving. For more safety tips: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/> Follow us: (Facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/WHFireRescue?fref=ts> (Twitter) @WHFireRescue

Be Safe! And Remember That Smoke Detectors Save Lives...

PANCAKE BREAKFAST ITEMS
MAYOR WEGER

S	A	U	S	A	G	E	N	I	A	U	P	
Y	E	N	U	E	A	B	T	N	V	A	T	F
P	K	K	R	N	L	E	K	O	B	E	O	R
U	N	C	A	A	K	F	L	I	S	A	S	E
R	T	R	A	C	T	U	F	T	S	C	C	N
Y	C	S	I	M	N	C	A	A	K	C	I	C
S	J	T	A	T	R	A	S	E	R	E	O	H
T	N	U	E	F	R	A	P	R	P	F	A	T
E	N	E	I	S	K	K	D	C	F	I	K	O
K	R	S	E	C	U	A	S	E	L	P	P	A
S	D	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	I	E	S
A	J	R	R	C	S	T	S	R	B	I	E	T
B	E	S	F	R	O	E	E	E	B	B	E	I

- APPLESAUCE
- BASKETS
- BLUEBERRIES
- BREAKFAST
- CAMRADERIE
- COFFEE
- FRENCHTOAST
- JUICE
- PANCAKES
- RAFFLE
- RECREATION
- SAUSAGE
- SYRUP
- TICKET
- VOLUNTEERS

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Council President, At-Large III

David A. Reichelt 440-585-9686

Council Vice President, At-Large II

Nancy E. Fellows. 440-943-4756

Council-at-Large I

Christopher L. Biro 440-944-7470

Council-at-Large IV

David M. Fiebig 440-585-4433

Council, District 1

Frank A. Germano 440-221-9923

Council, District III

Kevin D. Malecek 440-347-0350

Council, District II

Raymond C. Somich 440-567-8316

Clerk of Council

Victoria A. Savage. 440-975-3541

Fire/Police Emergency 911

Fire Dept. – Non Emergency 440-942-7207

Police Dept. – Non Emergency . . 440-942-9111

Mayor’s Court – WH only 440-942-5050

Recreation Dept. 440-975-3540
Fax 440-918-8748

Building & Zoning Dept. 440-975-3550

Service Dept. 440-918-8740

Mayor’s Office 440-946-6614

City Hall – Main Number 440-946-1234
Fax 440-975-3533

Willoughby Hills Library 440-942-3362

Willoughby Hills Seniors. 440-951-1826



The City of Willoughby Hills

35405 Chardon Road
Willoughby Hills, Ohio 44094

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Willoughby, Ohio
PERMIT #221

Residential Customer
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

MORE FUN ACTIVITIES IN WILLOUGHBY HILLS

We are pleased to include the following events in our newsletter as community events you may enjoy:

Recreation Commission and Willoughby Hills Lions Club “All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfasts”

Sundays, March 3, March 10 and March 17, 2013 • 8:30 am to 2 pm

Featuring plain pancakes, blueberry pancakes, french toast, sausage, juice and coffee

Prices: Adults \$6 pre-sale (at City Hall or from any Recreation or Lion's Club member), or \$7 at the door

Children ages 6 to 12 - \$3.50 • Children 5 and under - FREE

Breakfast also features our famous Basket Raffle and Fall Corn Fest featured raffle items - Big Screen TV & Kindle Fire



FREE Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

Calvary Assembly of God

28870 Chardon Road, Willoughby Hills, OH, 440-944-5100

Saturday, March 23, 2013 • 10 to 11 am

Breakfast, balloon animals, inflatables, photo booth, games & Easter Egg Hunt for kids in Grade 5 and younger.

Call Church to register! Prize Drawing for Pre-registrants!

Have Fun With Yoga! – Classes at Willoughby Hills Community Center

Every Wednesday, 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Cost is \$10 per class (Cash or Check Accepted)

For questions, email: funyoga1@gmail.com



Sale – Willoughby Hills Community Center

Saturday, March 23, 2013 • 8 am to Noon

Come in for some great bargains! For more information, email: kids.sale@aol.com