



The City Of Willoughby

Volume 23, January 2010

Ward 4 Newsletter

Parks & Recreation Happenings

Sledding Hill

Just a reminder that the sledding hill location behind City Hall is closed this year due to the construction at City Hall.

Register for a Class!

Registration has begun for classes and programs offered through Willoughby Parks & Recreation. We offer a variety of opportunities for all ages, from sports to dance to arts to fitness. Check us out on the web at www.willoughbyohio.com or call us at 440-953-4200.

City Offices will be CLOSED on

Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.



Councilman Bob Carr
rcarr@willoughbyohio.com
Home 440-946-2926
Cell 440-488-7321

STATE OF WILLOUGHBY UPDATE

Many Cities have faced layoffs in 2009. We are very fortunate to have come thru this year in pretty good shape. Conservative forecasting, some additional revenues via estate taxes and departmental controls of the budgets has us exceeding end of the year fund balance projections.

Income Tax, which is the primary source of revenue, was down nearly \$1,000,000 but we forecasted and anticipated about 70% of that going into the year. In addition, we took a very conservative approach to our Capital projects. Typically, Capital Projects are done early in the year. This past year we delayed all Capital projects until the end of the year so we knew exactly where we stood financially. In late November, we approved a little over \$1M in projects: \$250k for Service Dept vehicles; \$650k for Safety (Police and Fire); and \$150k for Parks and Recreation to make improvements to Gilson Park.

As we enter 2010 in a still uncertain market, we will take the same conservative approach as the new budgets are created. I would also expect a delayed approach to any 2010 Capital Projects.

SNOW PLOWING

If you have snow plowing for your driveway contracted, please be aware that there is a City Ordinance that states no snow is to be pushed out into or across the street. If your contractor is found to be doing this, they will be cited.

PARK PAVILIONS

Need a place to hold a picnic or a party - why not at a park pavilion? Pavilions are located at Daniels Park (seats 56, 63 and 98), Osborne Park (seats 70) and at the Euclid Ave. Municipal Pool Park (seats 84). All of the park pavilions have electricity, water, grills and seasonal restrooms available nearby. Call Parks & Recreation at 953-4200 to reserve a pavilion. **Reservations are accepted for residents only** along with a current utility bill & \$35 non-refundable fee.

NEW COUNCIL TERM BEGINS

It has been a very fast two years and my second term begins this month. What have we accomplished in the past two years?

Traffic Control improvements - Lowered the Speed Limit on SOM to 35MPH along with increased enforcement and increased signage marking the speed limit.

Updated traffic study with evaluation for new traffic signals on SOM.

Communication - This newsletter goes out electronically to over 400 residents of Ward 4. It is also posted on the City Web site for the public. Please continue to share with any neighbors who do not have email access and let your friends know they can be added to the distribution list by sending me their email address.

Bikeway Project approved by NOACA - The bikeway project extending from Eastlake to Mayfield Village, on the East side of SOM has been approved by NOACA. Willoughby's portion of the engineering is in the 2010 budget. Once Willoughby Hills approves their portion we will be able to complete the engineering and begin the process of setting timelines for completion of this exciting initiative.

Successfully defended our zoning in Ward 4 by defeating the proposed new building on the Lithuanian Center property.

I thank each and every one of you for your continued support. Please share any ideas you may have for projects and improvements in our Ward and City.

BUSINESS UPDATES

A couple new businesses have opened in our Ward.

Papa John's Pizza and **AT&T Wireless** have both opened at Euclid and SOM

Don Tequila Mexican Restaurant is located on Euclid across from Lake East Hospital

Steak on a Stone, although not in Ward 4, is also new in the Target/Giant Eagle shopping area.