



Ward 4 Newsletter

Volume 32, January 2011

Parks & Recreation Happenings

Sledding Hill Regulations:

- The hill closes at 10:00 pm
- No intoxicating beverages
- Willoughby residents only

Sledding Under The Stars

Sun., Jan. 16th
7:00-9:00 pm

Come & Enjoy an evening of sledding, music and hot cocoa!

Park Pavilion Rental

Reservations are being accepted now for spring/summer parties, graduation parties and more. Call us at 953-4200.

Register for an exercise class, it's a new year, why not try a new class!



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FISCAL REVIEW TASK FORCE

Last month I shared the summary result of the Fiscal Task Force. Attached along with the newsletter this month is the full report. This is a very important local issue and I think everyone should take a few minutes to read the entire report. I am also pleased to share that the Administration has taken immediate action on a number of these initiatives that will provide over \$1,000,000 in annual savings to our budget. We have identified future potential savings of \$250,000 annually. The Administrations recommendation is that we NOT increase any fees or taxes until such time that all possible cost saving options have been fully explored and adopted. So NO fee for trash collection at this time.

Highlights:

New labor contracts have been executed with all City personnel. No pay increase in the first year and agreement to implement a new Health Care Insurance package that is more in line with private sector plans. The new plan will have higher deductibles, a higher co-pay and will save the City \$400,000

Consolidation of Service and Recreation Department labor pools will be implemented that will allow for three 8 hour shifts in winter to handle snow plowing and a new seven day summer schedule. This will significantly limit the overtime and save the City over \$350,000

Personnel changes. Council Clerk and Mayor Admin will be reduced to part time positions. Couple police officers are expected to retire in 2011. These positions will not be replaced and the Fourth Platoon will be eliminated. The Building Department will be reduced by one full time inspector. Total administrative savings in excess of \$300,000

WARD 4 BUSINESS NEWS

East of Chicago Pizza is now open on Euclid Avenue. Have you noticed the coming soon signs at the former Hollywood Video store? My daughter came home all excited, saying "Willoughby is getting a Panera Bread!". I think this will be a great addition and located at a prime intersection.

OSBORNE PARK MASTER PLAN

Willoughby received a matching grant and we have executed an agreement with Brandstetter Carroll Inc. to provide a master plan for both Osborne and Sunset Parks. Details coming soon for an online survey and public workshops.

SANTA GATE

Did everyone catch the news story last month about Willoughby's very own "Santa Gate" crisis? A resident complained that the American Flag was not flying on the Wes Point Park flagpole and instead there was a lighted, waving Santa. Made the evening news with Parks and Recreation Director, Brian Katz (Ward 4) being interviewed. This little news item caught like wild fire as it is one of those human interest stories with a diversion from the everyday news (job loss, economic crisis, war etc) and had the perfect holiday theme. Next thing you know the Santa Gate crisis was on news across the country (Fox News) and the world. We had a single resident complain about Santa and then the City was deluged with calls defending Santa and even the American Legion supported taking down the Flag for winter as it is difficult to maintain and would be damaged by the winds. All in all an entertaining few days and national spotlight for Willoughby. Mayor Anderson was referred to as "the Mayor who saved Santa". After mentioning this to some co-workers while in Pittsburgh for a meeting, I received this picture later that night.



Evidently he arrived home in Columbus to this news story and snapped this photo off the television.