



The City Of Willoughby

Volume 13, March 2009

Ward 4 Newsletter

Parks & Recreation Happenings

Summer Registration

Registration begins on Monday, March 30 for Willoughby Residents for season passes, swim lessons and camps. Look for your 2009 Spring/Summer Parks & Recreation Brochure in the mail during the week of March 9. We offer many opportunities for you to have fun!

ROADS

SOM Sanitary project continues but majority of the work has been complete. Soon the construction will be done and the middle lane will be repaved. It is also acknowledged and recognized that going southbound there is significant damage to the area between the two lanes. Discussions are taking place on how best to make repairs to this section in addition to the paving plans below. At this week's Council meeting we have legislation to Bid the 2009 Street Repair program. We are way ahead of last years schedule with hopes that early bidding will deliver lower pricing in a very competitive environment as well as allow us to finish up earlier in the season. A number of Ward 4 streets are on this years list: Commercial Streets: E337 (Campbell), E355, E345 as well as Oakridge from Hickory to the Oakridge south area. Ridge Road Slope Stabilization Project is starting March 2nd with Ridge Road closed between Shankland and Robinhood for 60 days. Detour signs have been posted and all residents are encouraged to stay away from Ridge road for the next couple months. City employees will be assisting with traffic control at key intersections during peak school hours and monitoring traffic conditions so we minimize the impact on other streets.

SOM SHARED USE PATH (Bikeway) UPDATE

NOACA's Transportation Advisory Committee met on February 20th and recommended that this project be approved and added to the Transportation Improvement Plan. On Friday, March 13th the NOACA Governing Board will meet and vote on the project. From what I have been told, if we get approval from the Board on March 13th this project should have a green light to proceed. At that time, Willoughby and Willoughby Hills can begin the process of engineering and budgeting. We will also then have conversations about when construction can begin. Thank you to those who offered public opinion. I was told by NOACA that many positive comments were submitted and no comments opposing the project.

FINANCIAL HEALTH of WILLOUGHBY

Federal Fiscal Stimulus Package

We have projects on many lists being created for funding out of the Stimulus Bill. These all need to be shovel ready and in our area consist primarily of sewer projects and road projects. In total we have submitted 11 projects for consideration and wait word on how many of these receive funding. 2008 was a good year in spite of a very difficult economy. Willoughby continues to have fairly steady revenue and our department directors continue to show fiscal restraint and once again came in under budget on the expense side. The General Fund balance actually increased by \$800,000 in 2008 to a total of \$6.5M which is very good news. With the economy continuing to show significant job losses and pressure on everyone the preliminary budget for 2009 is being discussed. Our forecast is for a slight reduction in revenue and minimal increases on the spending side, primarily for cost of living salary increases and health care. Capital spending projects for 2009 will be held until later in the year so we can continue to monitor the economic impact on our community.

CITY SIDEWALK & SNOW REMOVAL UPDATE

Last month I shared that a new program was underway to remove snow from sidewalks along Euclid Avenue. I spoke with the Mayor and he agreed that the sidewalk along SOM and around the Pine Ridge Commercial center would be included in the City program. Cross our fingers that snow is behind us and spring is around the corner so maybe no more plowing of sidewalks until next year. Good news is the new program appears to be a major success and our area is now included. Special thanks to our friends at the Lithuanian Center who offered to assist in keeping clear the sidewalks along their property where we have a Laketran Bus Stop and residents walking to the Heinens grocery on a regular basis.

WARD 4 COMMUNITY NEWS

Gloria Ritter had her very own Art Show at Loganberry Books last month. Check out her artwork at gloriakritter.com.



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