



The City Of Willoughby

Volume 10, December 2008

# Ward 4 Newsletter

## Visit Santa in Downtown Willoughby

In Wes Point Park

starting December 5

Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 5:00-8:00 pm

Saturdays & Sundays from 2:00-5:00 pm

December 22 & 23 from 5:00-8:00 pm

Non-perishable items collected here for those in need. Thank you!

## Luminary Sand

Sand will be available to residents behind the Rec House beginning Friday, December 5th. Please bring your own container.



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It seems like every day we are bombarded with more bad economic news. First the housing market and the increase in foreclosures. Next, layoffs by some of the largest American companies and the stock market going up and down like a yo-yo. Are you wondering how we are doing in the City of Willoughby? The finances of our City are primarily dependent on Income Taxes which are derived from payroll of Willoughby based businesses. So far, we are continuing to see steady payroll taxes and continue to watch this carefully; each and every month. The good news is that with all the strains on our economy, the businesses in Willoughby have been able to keep payrolls and income taxes very stable.

## 39th Annual Holiday Lighting Celebration

Get into the spirit of the season and join us for our annual Holiday Lighting Celebration. The festivities will start at 7 pm on Thursday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at Wes Point Park. Prior to the lighting ceremony, enjoy the Willoughby Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner. Proceeds benefit local charities. The dinner is in the Lower Level of City Hall from 4:00-6:30 pm. After the lights are lit, don't miss some great deals at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening Lions Club Christmas Auction in the Lower Level of City Hall. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Christmas Basket program and the Lions eye care program.

## CityMusic Holiday Concert

You'll jump for joy at CityMusic Cleveland's annual Not-Your-Usual-Holiday Concert on Friday, December 5, at 8 pm at Willoughby United Methodist Church. Join the high-energy musicians of CityMusic's professional chamber orchestra to enjoy delightful music and meet your neighbors. With a mission to build community through the arts, CityMusic offers music to please everyone. At the intermission reception, you'll enjoy the exquisite photography of Diane Schwartz. Bring children, family, and neighbors — be our ambassadors in your community. Everyone is welcome. No tickets required. Willoughby United Methodist Church is located at 15 Public Square. To arrange for free childcare, call (440) 942-9068.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY STROLL IN DOWNTOWN WILLOUGHBY

The downtown Willoughby merchants invite you to avoid the hassles of holiday shopping at the mall and relax and enjoy gift buying at the specialty shops and restaurants in downtown.

The Holiday Stroll kicks off the shopping season in downtown on December 4-6 with extended hours until 9 pm, special promotions and events, and refreshments for shoppers. New this year is the "Window of Gifts" that will be on display in the window of BMA Media Group, 4091 Erie Street. Totaling over \$700.00, the Window offers a beautiful selection of gifts and gift certificates donated by the Historic Downtown Willoughby Merchants Association and will be raffled off on Sunday, December 7 at 1:00 pm at the Window of Gifts. Tickets are on sale now at participating merchants.

## SOM SANITARY SEWER UPDATE

Start date for the SOM Sanitary Sewer project has been pushed back a week and will now start on Monday December 8th. As a reminder, expect delays with one lane in both directions for about 60 days.

## BIKEWAY UPDATE

Did everyone see the front page article in the News-Herald and the editorial a few days later? They are very supportive of the idea and suggest this is "a superb example of government cooperation that improves the region". The application for funding is being submitted December 1st with support by the Cities of Willoughby and Willoughby Hills as well as the News-Herald and the NOACA Bicycle Committee. We are asking for 100% funding of this project with Federal monies and hope to have definitive answers on funding within 6 months. <http://news-herald.com/articles/2008/11/14/news/nh111630.txt> is the link to the front page article <http://news-herald.com/articles/2008/11/18/opinion/doc4921dac4073d9397774010.txt> is the link to the editorial.