



Citywide News

Sidewalk improvement initiative



City Council passed in 2016 an ordinance amending Chapter 903 of the

Codified Ordinances of the city of Willoughby. The new section titled, New Sidewalk Construction was created. The goal of this legislation is to assess the city in total regarding sidewalks, the city is looking at those sidewalks that currently are in existence, those areas where there are gaps in sidewalks and finally the areas where sidewalks do not exist.

- Regarding the sidewalks that are currently in existence, the city will assess the condition of those sidewalks and where there are sections that are in "poor" condition, the property owners may be asked to have the section/s repaired or replaced.
- There exist sites where there are "gaps" in the sidewalk run, the city has the right to have the owner of those properties void of a sidewalk to have one installed to match the existing sidewalks in that development.
- Finally, in locations where there are no sidewalks installed, the city will evaluate these areas and where SAFETY IS THE PRIMARY CONCERN, sidewalks may be proposed.

The primary point to be made here are that Willoughby is, in many ways a pedestrian city. This belief is one that Council, back in 2016 wanted to promote, as well as the current administration. We also know that there are sections of sidewalks throughout the city that are just plain "dangerous".

Ward 2 News

Sidewalk information for Ward 2



For Ward 2 there are also sidewalk issues that Council will be dealing with. First and foremost are those areas that exist where a developer came in,

built homes, and added sidewalks for the residents of that development. The problem, not all lots sold and with those lots, no sidewalks were installed. Now we have great communities where there are "gaps" in the sidewalks. What the city would like to do is get the property owners of those empty lots to step up to the plate and install sidewalks in those locations so the residents of that development have a convenient and safe way to navigate the neighborhood. Along with this, we as a city need to work together to take care of and maintain the integrity of the sidewalks that are already in existence. There is, and it has been in existence for quite some time a city ordinance that covers the maintenance and repair of sidewalks. All property owners are responsible for the condition of the sidewalks at their property. This means, if and when you sell your home, the sidewalks are in need of repair or replacement you can be notified by the city that prior to the sale the sidewalks are improved to an acceptable standard. Along with this, if the sidewalks present a danger to pedestrians, you again are responsible for the repair or replacement. Finally, the condition exists in Ward 2 where there are no sidewalks. For many residents, this is acceptable while for others not so. My primary concern regarding the areas where sidewalks are not installed is Grant Elementary, on Hurricane Drive. For the safety of the students, sidewalks on



Hurricane would certainly offer the most likely place to see new sidewalks installed. If money were not an issue I would certainly be a proponent of their installation at this location. The problem here is the funding of those sidewalks. The cost would be put on the homeowners of Hurricane to bear the burden of the cost of installation. Granted, the city would provide a contractor at the best price possible

since they would give the city a price break since they would be installing sidewalks throughout the city. But this still may be too costly. **What I, as the councilman for Ward 2 would like, is for those residents on Hurricane to call or write to me regarding their opinions on the installation of sidewalks on their street. For me, at this time I need to hear from my residents. Sidewalks will not be committed to without your feedback.** If the number of residents in favor of sidewalks is substantial, then we could look at the possible pursuit of this project. If there is a strong no vote on the install of sidewalks on Hurricane Drive, then we can pass on that plan at this time and focus our attention of those walks that are in poor or better yet dangerous condition. The real decision here for me is up to the residents of that particular street in Ward 2. **I welcome your response.** I also welcome any sidewalk comments from anyone in Ward 2.

Citywide News

Sidewalk improvement initiative continued



Currently, the city is creating a list of sidewalks that exist, but present a dangerous path for walkers. Along with this, there are areas that are being documented where there are "gaps" in housing developments where there are possibly vacant lots and no sidewalk was installed. Finally, and probably the most important is the creation of a list of areas where NO SIDEWALKS EXIST but because of a large number of pedestrian traffic (without sidewalks) creates a very dangerous situation for the residents of the city walking in those locations. The city engineer has listed seven (7) locations currently that are being recommended to review for the possible install of new sidewalks. These include the following:

- SOM Center Road (SR 91) (US20 to SR 84) on the west side
- SOM Center Road, same area, the east side
- SOM Center Road from SR91 to SR 84 to Maplegrove, both sides
- Arlington/Parkgate (Shankland to Willoughcroft
- Hurricane end to end
- Ridge Road (SR 84) Maplegrove to Wickliffe
- Ridge Road (SR 84) SR 91 to Harmony (north side)

These sites were listed for the following reasons: No current sidewalks, large amounts of pedestrian traffic, and finally the most important, safety needs for pedestrians.

The current Council has identified three distinct items under review:

1. Sidewalk improvements - Designation for sidewalks to be installed on streets where they currently do not exist, primarily for safety reasons.
2. Fill gaps where they exist on streets

Ward 2 News

Outdoor Market returns



Even though this is citywide news I just feel its great information to share with Ward 2 residents that may not even know that Willoughby has a Spring-Fall Outdoor Market. Every Saturday from May to October, in the Willoughby City Hall parking lot, there is an Outdoor Market. The hours are from 8:00 am-Noon. Take some time on the weekend to shop this great Willoughby asset.

OSBORNE PARK • POOL PASSES are on sale

Take advantage of the two pools Willoughby has to offer, "EARLYBIRD PRICING" takes place through May 11.

Willoughby Parks and Recreation
 1 Public Square
 Willoughby, OH 44094
 Phone: (440) 953-4200



For Ward 2 residents, some of the "highlights" of OSBORNE PARK

- 1-mile walking path
- 2 playgrounds
- 2 pavilions to rent for your next family outing, one new, ON THE LAKE
- Basketball court
- Tennis court
- Swimming pool
- Park benches/park swings
- Picnic area
- Disc Golf
- Additional entrance off of Eaglewood Drive; turn right onto Casteel Way and enjoy the breathtaking view of Lake Erie as you find your parking spot.

Citywide News

Sidewalk improvement initiative continued

3. Maintenance and Repair of existing sidewalks - We have code in place and methodology available to send notices to homeowners to repair damaged sidewalks. Historically, this has only been monitored at the point of sale and complaint driven.

Council has a large task facing them regarding sidewalks in the city. There have already been some "lively" debates as well as many comments regarding details that need to be addressed. Please understand, as of this writing, that the only item finalized it that there is a new ordinance that enables the city to require the installation of new sidewalks where it is determined they are necessary for not only convenience but also SAFETY. Council is looking at the three (3) elements cited earlier (dangerous sidewalks, gaps in sidewalks, and finally locations to have new sidewalks installed for the safety of our residents. As they work their way through this city issue, please understand that the ultimate goal is to provide the safest and most logical solution to help our residents navigate Willoughby easily and safely.

In closing, I must mention the downside of this project. Based on past practice it has been the responsibility of property owners to maintain, replace or install sidewalks. That means, whether it is a city-owned property, a business, a school, or a private residence, the property owner pays for the cost of the work to be done. Many of us know this from the practice of a "point of sale" sidewalk inspection many of us had to complete prior to the sale of a home or property. If the city cited the property owner for defective sidewalks, they had to repair or replace those sections cited at their cost. The city does not have the funds to do this work. That is why the current ordinances exist that put the responsibility on the property owners. Let me conclude with the statement that the goal here is to be as transparent as possible with the program. The city wants to keep the residents involved on many levels. If you have concerns, please contact your council representative. They were elected by you to represent you.

Ward 2 News

Please share your email address

I am asking all Ward 2 residents to please take the time to contact me and share their email address. If you have not done so yet, please email me at:

kenkarycouncil@gmail.com

I will then add your address to my master list so you will automatically receive all my mailings. Currently, I send out my Newsletters as well as Council Meeting Summaries. I now send out my mailings to over 200 Ward 2 residents. I am doing my best to keep in touch with Ward 2 residents and this method has proven to be the most effective at this time. The "BEST" is when we have a face to face Ward Meeting, which I will try to do two times per year (Winter and Fall). My first Ward Meeting was January 29th, 2018 @ Lost Nation Golf Course. At that meeting, I believe we had approximately 60 residents attend. For me, it was a great success. In closing on this, if you do not wish to share your email address, you are welcome to visit the City of Willoughby Website:

<http://willoughbyohio.com>

Click on **Government**, then **Council**, and on the right side, you will see the Ward 2 Newsletters listed for your viewing.

Lost Nation Municipal Golf Course

Lost Nation Golf Course is an 18 hole facility, featuring a 6500 yard, 18 hole golf course with driving range, putting green and snack bar. The pro shop carries the latest Bridgestone and Titleist products.

Designed by H.S. Colt and Harry Allison, the course features a challenging layout that will test golfers of all abilities. The front nine features two newly remodeled par 5's and one of the best par 3's in the area. The back nine features the famed 15th hole that is arguably the hardest Par 4 in the area. The back nine features 5 holes where water comes into play.

In 2014 the finishing touches of over \$5million in renovations and updates were completed including improvements to drainage and irrigation and the rebuilding and redesign of two par 5's. Lost Nation also secured a federal grant to restore severely eroded stream banks along Ward's Creek, which run through the back nine. This grant allowed the course to repair the stream banks and create wildlife habitat both in and out of the water and to create buffer area to reduce sediment runoff into the waterway. Come and enjoy a round at Lost Nation, we are sure you will want to come back.

Contact Ken

Councilman Ward 2: Ken Kary

Cell: 440-537-2841

Email: kenkarycouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.kenkary.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kenkarycouncil/>

Twitter: @kenkaryward2

The views I express in these Newsletters are my own and do not reflect any official view or position of the City of Willoughby