

Willoughby • Ward 2 Newsletter



Volume 3, August 2020

Councilman: Ken Kary

Ward 2 News

TWO TOWN DITCH continued

Two Town Ditch travels from Mentor to Willoughby and exits into Lake Erie. This natural waterway runs from Bellflower Drive near Palmerston Drive, in Mentor to the Pond just North of Cross Creek Clusters, traveling under Tamarac Blvd, then running north under Rt. 283 (Lakeshore) and eventually exiting to Lake Erie.

THE PROBLEM: Basement flooding has occurred due to the fact that this waterway was incapable of handling the large water-flow during some of our “heavier” rainfalls. After all the engineering studies, it was determined that there is a need for:

A retention basin near Bellflower Elementary in Mentor off of Rt. 306. This basin will help to control the flow of storm water thru Two Town Ditch

Plans to enlarge the Culvert that runs under Lake Shore Blvd to aid in the exit of water to the lake. A new 4’ culvert will be added parallel to the old culvert that is 4’x3’ box culvert. This will ease this “bottleneck” that is causing the flooding along the Two Town Ditch area. Regarding funding, monies are coming from a County Tax to residents in Willoughby to cover the costs.

Now that much of the work has been completed on this storm-water project, we are coming to the final stages. Here is where we are TODAY.

- there needs to be an updated modeling of the stream
- we need to compare flood elevations with and without the culvert replacement
- we need to develop a cost estimate for downstream channel lining
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- we need to address the permitting implications that the Eastlake resident has requested whose property will involve the path of the flow of water

**More NEWS on this PROJECT
as we near its completion**

Citywide News

...FIREWORKS...



The City of Willoughby has an ordinance (C.O. 550.02) which prohibits the possession, sale or discharge of fireworks. In Columbus, House Bill 253, which the House passed by a 78-17 margin, would create the Ohio Fire Code Rule Recommendation Committee to advise the state fire marshal on rules around the manufacture, sale and use of fireworks. The committee would include officials at the local and state level. Current law requires consumers who purchase fireworks in Ohio to transport them out of the state within 48 hours. It also bans anyone from using fireworks — known as 1.4G fireworks — in the Buckeye State. The bill “will update our state’s antiquated fireworks laws,” state Rep. Michael O’Brien, D-Warren, said on the House floor. “Ohio firework laws have been largely unchanged for decades while our bordering states permit the sale and use of fireworks. Because of this, our citizens are allowed to purchase fireworks in Ohio, but unfortunately, they’re required to travel to another state to legally set those fireworks off.” HB 253 now heads to the state Senate for consideration. If approved and signed into law, the bill “would make Ohio the 49th state in the country to allow fireworks usage,” O’Brien added. To close, until this legislation becomes law, remember, The City has an ordinance which prohibits the possession, sale or discharge of fireworks.

Ward 2 News & Citywide News

2020 ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CITY OF WILLOUGHBY

Erie Street Reconstruction



The City of Willoughby will be reconstructing Erie Street from the Norfolk and Southern rail crossing to the CSX rail crossing. This work will

include storm sewer drainage work, paving replacement, new curbs, sidewalks and aprons. Traffic is open one way, northbound. Detours are posted. Project scheduled June – early August.

Lost Nation Road Rehabilitation

Concrete pavement repairs on Lost Nation Road and Willoughby Parkway will begin in July and run through late September.

ADA compliant handicap ramps are installed along Lake Shore Boulevard and State Route 84 as a requirement by the State of Ohio to coincide with the repaving of these two roadways. Work began late spring and continues through the construction season.

Lakeshore Boulevard Resurfacing

The resurfacing of Lake Shore Blvd. from the Western Corporation Line to the Eastern Corporation Line will begin in early fall and be completed by the end of the construction season in November.

Citywide News

SUMMER EVENTS 2020



The City and community organizations responsible for our summer events have postponed or rescheduled the events due to state guidelines for gatherings and health/safety protocols. Below are the current dates, which may be subject to change.

- **Osborne Park Market and Flea** – Wednesdays (through September) 4 pm – 8 pm
- **DTW Outdoor Market** – Saturdays (through October) 8 am – 12 pm
- Car Cruise-In is canceled for 2020
- **July 4th Fireworks** are canceled; planning to add to the Rib Burn Off weekend in Sept
- **Gazebo Concerts** – Thursdays beginning July 9th, 7 pm – 9 pm
- **Outdoor movies** to start in July; more information to follow
- Last Stop Willoughby/Corn Roast is canceled for 2020
- **Live Well Willoughby** – Saturday, August 15th
- **ArtsFest** – Saturday, August 29th
- **Virtual DTW 5K** – Saturday, September 19th and Sunday, September 20th
- **Rib Burn Off** – Saturday, September 26th and Sunday, September 27th
- **GARAGE SALES ARE PERMITTED**
- [Click here](#) for a garage sale permit application.

Ward 2 News & Citywide News

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The Willoughby Façade Improvement Matching Grant Program is intended to promote reinvestment and restoration of commercial property facades within eligible areas. High importance will be given to projects that make a visual impact within the community (noticeable change in curb appeal). Façade grants of up to \$10,000 may be awarded.

[Lakeshore District Façade Grant Guidelines & Application](#)

[Downtown Willoughby Façade Grant Guidelines & Application](#)



This program provides real property tax exemptions in designated CRA districts for existing businesses planning to expand, and to new businesses looking to construct facilities in Willoughby.

- Five-year 100% exemptions are available for the increase in real property value for new residential, commercial or industrial construction.
- Eight-year 100% exemptions are available for the increase in real property value for expansions and/or remodeling of existing residential, commercial or industrial buildings.

To qualify for the Community Reinvestment Area Program, you must:

- Own property in a Community Reinvestment Area (reference CRA Map attached below).
- File an APPLICATION with the City of Willoughby before construction/improvements begin.
- Attach a copy of the LEGAL DESCRIPTION of your property to your APPLICATION.
- All CRA tax exemptions must be APPROVED by the Department of Community Development.

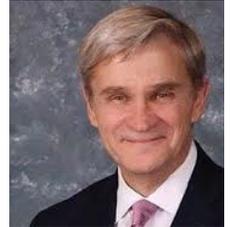
[CRA Guidelines and Application](#)

[CRA Map](#)

Citywide News

MAYOR'S REPORT JULY 2020

FOR YOUR BENEFIT HERE ARE COMMENTS FROM OUR MAYOR FOR JULY 2020



To say the summer of 2020 is exceptional would be an understatement!

Willoughby is experiencing continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic backlash it has created. As we move through the next months, we will face continued unknowns. We are working under guidelines and directives as issued by the State of Ohio and the Lake County General Health District, and both authorities issue frequent updates for activities that include rules regarding social distancing and mass gatherings.

The guidelines for public pools place significant restrictions on operations, including the minimum number of swimmers and occupants on the pool decks as well as cleaning and disinfecting at two-hour intervals. This puts additional pressures on our seasonal help at the pools, which are mostly students. Our Parks and Recreation Department surveyed 2019 season pass holders to gauge interest in opening the pools, and the results showed no clear support for opening or closing them. We also looked at several models to open the pools for three-hour time slots. Finally, we studied opening both pools and opening a single pool. In the end, we decided it would be impossible to meet the requirements for social distancing and ensure the safety of our children and their guardians. The models also indicated that opening a single pool could result in a loss of up to \$90,000 and opening both pools would represent a little less than double this figure. This is an important consideration because as of this writing, we are approximately \$1 million behind in income tax collection from the same time last year. Income tax represents about 67% of our total operating revenue. Other revenue sources which include fees for services, fines, licenses, among others, are also down.

It is also unfortunate that due to the same social distancing and mass gathering restrictions, we postponed the July 4th fireworks until mass gathering numbers increase, like nearly every other community in Lake County.

Our baseball and softball leagues have begun play and playgrounds are open. We ask our residents to wash their hands before and after use of our play structures. We are also happy to announce other summer events will begin in July. These are activities where social distancing and crowd management are more manageable, and attendance is easier to estimate. Our gazebo concerts will start on July 9th, and outdoor movies will begin in July. Live Well Willoughby, sponsored by the Downtown Willoughby Organization is on August 15th; Artsfest, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce is Saturday, August 29th; and the DTW Rib Burn-Off, sponsored by the Bar and Restaurant Association will be September 26th and 27th. We are also planning a sunset concert at Osborne Park on September 2nd and working on other events for the Lakefront District.

Finally, we have been developing economic re-entry programs for both our Historic Downtown and the Lakefront District. We will be introducing these in the upcoming weeks and hope you will continue to shop and eat local.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER