



# The <sup>WH</sup> Village Voice

March 2025

## From the Office of the Mayor

Dear Villagers,

It's been a long December as the song goes, and spring can't come fast enough!

I certainly know that our Service Department would welcome warmer weather. I want to give a big "thank you" to Bob Haynik, our Service Director, and the crew for doing a tremendous job this winter keeping our roads plowed and salted. At the time I write this the Service department has laid 1,100 tons of salt, used 713 gallons of diesel fuel, and spent 430 hours keeping our roads clear. It typically takes 1.5 to 2 hours for our snowplow to make a complete loop around the Village.

### Speaking of Roads...

This winter has been brutal to our roads, and the Village will be performing street maintenance and repairs when the weather breaks. There is no road due for repaving this year, but potholes will be filled and crack sealing applied. We will making an updated assessment, and I think every road will receive some mending. The city of Kirtland is also looking to do major patchwork or repave their section of Markell Rd. this year.

### Boundary Adjustment with Willoughby on Interstate-90

Did you ever wonder why there are "Waite Hill – Corp Limit" signs on Interstate 90? The Village's original boundary in that area followed the path of the Chagrin River. When I-90 was built in the 1960's a part of the Chagrin River was relocated south of the freeway. Although the river was moved, the boundaries stayed where they were. Two small portions of the Village spanned the right of way for the freeway – this was the reason for the sign. Having the freeway in the Village meant the Village Police Department was responsible for handling accidents that occurred in the Village on the freeway. Responding to such calls required Village police officers to leave the Village, get on the freeway, re-enter the Village on the freeway, and manage the call. This caused the Village to rely on mutual aid if there were police calls in the Village while the officer was out of the Village. This was not optimal.



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For three years the Village and the City of Willoughby have been engaged in a process of relocating the boundary line so that the freeway from Mentor to Willoughby Hills would be located exclusively in the City of Willoughby. I want to thank Willoughby Council and Mayor Fiala for making this accommodation, and the Lake County officials who worked with us to make this happen. As of the time of this writing, the “Waite Hill” signs need to be removed, but the freeway is officially not in the Village.

### **Improving Wireless & Cellular Communications**

As mentioned in the previous Village Voice, the storms over last summer exposed our inadequate and unreliable wireless and cellular capabilities. The deficient wireless and cellular connectivity is a safety issue for our residents and employees. I am committed to remedying this issue and there is unanimous support from Council to increase safety in the Village. Progress has been made on a solution, and an announcement will be forthcoming soon.

Please remember to check the Village’s website ([www.waitehilloh.gov](http://www.waitehilloh.gov)) as it’s regularly updated. Feel free to call Village Hall (440-942-1612) or email me ([rcox@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:rcox@waitehilloh.gov)) with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

*Ryan*

### **Village Website**

Remember to stay on top of all Village happenings by visiting our website, [www.waitehilloh.gov](http://www.waitehilloh.gov).

Please do not hesitate to call Village Hall or e-mail us with any questions, comments or concerns that you have. As always, we will do our best to address them. Again, thank you for your time and interest.

### **Waite Hill Village Foundation**

For more information contact Chris LeGros [legros.christina@gmail.com](mailto:legros.christina@gmail.com) or 440.487.1652  
Visit [www.waitehillfoundation.org](http://www.waitehillfoundation.org) for more information



## **From the Office of the Chief of Police Carl H. Dondorfer**

Greetings, Residents of Waite Hill!

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and we wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2025. As we go through a snowy and cold winter season, I thought I would update our residents on some of the accomplishments your Police Department completed in 2024 and some news for 2025.

Over 2024, the Waite Hill Police Department completed the voluntary Ohio Collaborative Certification Process. The Ohio Collaborative, a 12- person panel of law enforcement experts and community leaders from throughout the state, established Ohio's first state law enforcement standards in 2015. These standards will hold everyone accountable and instill a greater confidence with the public. All law enforcement agencies are expected to meet or exceed these standards as they develop policies and procedures to meet new expectations and to participate and complete the certification process. The standards are Bias Free Policing, Investigation of Employee Misconduct, Use of Force, Recruitment and Hiring, Vehicular Pursuit and Community Engagement. I am happy to report that as Chief, I completed the stringent certification process over 2024 and we recently received our Final Certification documentation which is attached to this article.

Lt. Steve Gerics was selected to attend the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Virginia for the winter session. The FBI's National Academy is known as the premier law enforcement training programs in the world and very competitive to be selected to attend. Established in 1935, the National Academy provides advanced investigative, management, and fitness training to senior officers who are proven leaders within their organizations. In addition to undergraduate and graduate-level college courses offered in such areas such as law, behavioral and forensic science, understanding terrorism and terrorists, and leadership development, students forge lasting connections that strengthen global law enforcement partnerships. Lt. Gerics will complete the 10-week training program in the second week of March 2025.

The WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System) has been deployed with the village limits. This is the new emergency notification platform which is provided by the Lake County

Emergency Management Agency. This new technology used by public safety entities in the county can be used for Emergency and NON-Emergency specific information sharing. The new technology has

been working well and has received great reviews from residents. If you're not signed up or would like to participate in the notification system please call the department.

The Waite Hill Police Departments prides itself in excellence in public service and service to the community. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our officers with any questions or concerns. Thank you and stay safe.

Respectfully,

*Carl H. Dondorfer*

Chief of Police



## Service Department News

Greetings to all and Happy New Year and (almost) Spring,

As a reminder, the Service Department has been enduring large loads and untied bags which allows the items to be scattered around the Village. So, we please ask you to tie your bags, and if you have large amounts of loose cardboard please bag and break them down flat so it does not come out of our trucks. There is also a large cardboard container for recycling that you can drop off as an option; the boxes just need to be broken down to utilize this option. **Please try not to overload the bags of normal garbage so we can lift them in the trucks. If they are too heavy we will leave them.** The Service Dept. has new stickers that may be left on your can or oversized bag for being too heavy or bags untied or an excessive load. There are always some residents who forget to put their trash out on Friday or have contractors blocking their driveway; just call on Monday and we will be happy to return. There have been several residents with unusually large loads of trash and heavy items that should be called for Thursday pickups that two guys can lift. Your trash needs to be out by 8:00am. Once again, I can't stress enough: if your bags are not tied they will not be taken, nor will unusually large loads of items and large amounts of boxes other than garbage bags.

We have been greeted with Mother Nature to start the year with lots of snow and bitter cold. If you see us coming in the big plow truck just stop until we go by, no need to pull off the road and risk getting

stuck. Our goal continues to be to provide residents the best service we can, so if you have any questions feel free to contact us at 440-942-2074 or stop up and just say hello.

Regards,

*Bob Haynik*

Service Director

**Recycling Reminders:**

- All of your paper, aluminum cans and glass can be recycled in the marked containers behind Village Hall
- All items to be recycled must be loose and not in any type of bag
- All items must be dry and free from any leftover food or other contaminants

**Acceptable Items for Recycling:**

- **Paper:** newspaper, phone books, office/school paper, magazines, mail, hard/soft bound books, catalogs, brown paper bags, flattened cardboard
- **Aluminum cans:** beverage cans – if a magnet does NOT stick to the can, it is aluminum
- **Glass:** beverage containers (beer bottles), food containers (pickle jars), candle jars, perfume and cologne bottles



David & Mollie Stiles  
Jonathan Piper  
Scott & Rachel Colosimo

9445 Metcalf Road  
9621 Hobart Road  
7067 South Lane

## In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathies go out to anyone who has lost a loved one in recent months. We'd like to especially recognize members of our Waite Hill community that have passed away.

Judith Fay Gruber 12/16/24



**Waite Hill Village Important Dates:**

The Village Calendar is always updated and available on the village website. Click the following link to access it: <https://www.waitehilloh.gov/calendar.php>