



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

September 2024

## From the Office of the Mayor

Greetings residents,

It's hard to believe the kids are back to school and the leaves will soon be turning colors. Cooler weather and clam bakes are right around the corner.

We had roughly 100 residents turn out for the Summer Neighborhood Gathering in July. What child doesn't like ice cream, balloons and face painting? We also got a "behind the scenes" tour of the Police Department. I'd like to thank our Service and Police Departments as well as Kerri Bowden for helping organize the event. The Waite Hill Halloween Party will take place on Saturday, October 19th. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

There are two important and timely subjects that I would like to address with you.

### Weathering The Storms

We had a handful of storms over the summer with the most violent one taking place in early August. A tornado touched down on Waite Hill Road. Thank goodness no one was harmed. Most of the Village was without power and wireless service for several days. Gardenside Drive was hit the worst. Fallen trees and downed powerlines prevented residents from leaving their street and there was no access for emergency vehicles to pass through. Due to the widespread damage across Northeast Ohio, First Energy couldn't open the street for five days. Residents on Gardenside Drive could not be contacted or make outgoing calls as cellular and internet service was non-existent. The Police Department borrowed an ATV from the Willoughby Hills Fire Department and Chief Dondorfer did daily "door to door" house checks to see if residents were safe and had any immediate needs, especially those that are elderly and ill. I cannot thank our Police and Service Departments enough for going the extra mile to help our residents and getting the Village back to operating as soon as possible. **If**



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Police Chief  
Carl Dondorfer  
(440) 942-6279  
[cdondorfer@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:cdondorfer@waitehilloh.gov)

Clerk-Treasurer  
Robbi Laps  
(440) 942-1612  
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Law Director  
Stephen Byron  
[sbyron@waitehilloh.gov](mailto:sbyron@waitehilloh.gov)

**your power goes out or you see a downed power line, please call First Energy at 888-544-4877 to report it.** Please do not assume that someone else has called.

The safety issue this storm caused has magnified the Village's inadequate and unreliable cellular and wireless communications capabilities. The safety and well-being of our residents and employees come first. Council will be reevaluating this matter to improve the Village's cellular and wireless connectivity.

### **Real Estate Appraisals & Property Taxes**

The county has completed their Sexennial Property Revaluation (required by Ohio law), and you should have received via post your property's updated valuation. Properties in the Eastlake-Willoughby school district are up 29% collectively and those in the Kirtland school district are up 25% collectively. However, your property tax bill will not go up proportionally to the increase of your property value. This is due to House Bill 920 that was passed in 1976 to keep revenues stable for entities like schools when property values increase or decrease. In other words, schools receive the same amount of funding regardless of whether your property appreciates or depreciates in value. Despite the increase in your property value, this component of your property tax bill will remain relatively flat. Eastlake-Willoughby and Kirtland schools account for 55% and 50% respectively of property tax bills. The Village will benefit and see higher property tax revenues from the reappraisal. By our estimates it will make a material difference in reducing our deficit.

I will continue to keep you updated and do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any concerns.

Regards,

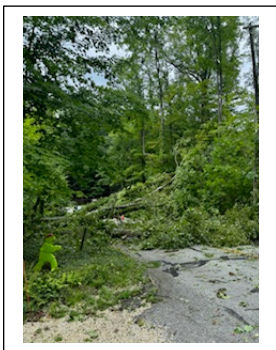
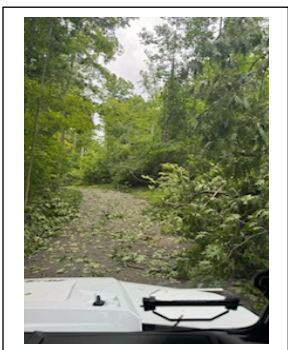
*Ryan*

### **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 Tornado Damage:**



## **Waite Hill Village Foundation**

For more information contact Chris LeGros [legros.christina@gmail.com](mailto:legros.christina@gmail.com) or 440.487.1652

Waite Hill is the “land time forgot”. While the Village has grown over the last 200+ years, its beauty has remained largely unchanged. Many of us have traveled the world and seen wonderous sites, but very few can compare to the fantastic rural landscape we enjoy here every day.

But beauty and serenity have a cost. Our roads are rural and as such endure tough NE Ohio winters. Our homes are generally spread out, so our Police and Service Departments must work extra hard to keep things on an even keel.

Some numbers:

1. The Foundation began to make annual contributions to the Village in 2018 and those contributions totaled \$260,000 to date. Since 2018, the Village has spent a total of \$1,079,000 paving Waite Hill Rd., Metcalf Rd., and Hobart Rd. Doing the math, the Foundation has paid for nearly 25% of those expenses.
2. Since the Foundation is a non-governmental body, it is not bound by the investment restrictions the Village is forced to adhere to. As a result, its growth is faster than what the Village can achieve. That growth has resulted in the Foundation fund growing to the present \$1.2 million.
3. The Foundation’s contribution in 2023 accounted for 2.6% of the Village’s Gross revenue for that year.
4. The annual contributions to the Village by the Foundation have saved residents over 1 mill in property taxes each year since 2018. Property tax rate is measured in mills; a mill is one tenth of a cent and is used in expressing tax rates on a per dollar basis. This translates to \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed property value.

So where does this leave us?

Without the generous support of residents to our foundation, our lives in the Village would be quite different. So.....thank you for your past support and please consider continuing support in the future.

Please send your donations to:

Waite Hill Village Foundation  
c/o Ancora - Attention: Dana Lusardo  
6060 Parkland Blvd, Suite 200  
Cleveland, OH 44124

Visit [www.waitehillfoundation.org](http://www.waitehillfoundation.org) for more information

## **Waite Hill Book Club**

Are you a reader who’d like to combine your hobby with community comradery? If so, interested parties should contact Regina Fisher who is gauging interest in renewing the Waite Hill Book club. Her contact details are listed below:

[regina.fisher.gonzalez@gmail.com](mailto:regina.fisher.gonzalez@gmail.com)  
440.225.0036



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

Greetings, Residents of Waite Hill!

I hope that all of you have had an enjoyable summer as we head toward back-to-school time and the fall weather, which is right around the corner. I'm excited to announce some new technology that the residents of Waite Hill will have the ability to enroll in free of charge. The technology is known as **WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System)**. This is a new emergency notification platform, which is provided by the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. This technology is similar to reverse 911, which is restricted by policy and procedure for imminent danger situations.

WENS, however, can be used by public safety entities in the county for NON-Emergency information sharing. Only two entities in Lake County, the City of Mentor and The Village of Fairport Harbor, have implemented this technology thus far. In simple terms, the way the system works is once you enroll, your wireless phone number would be listed in a database strictly built by Lake County EMA for the Village of Waite Hill. If there was an incident in the Village such as wires down resulting in a road closure, storm damage updates, public safety concerns or incidents within the Village, I, as Chief, or the Mayor at his request, could activate the notification system. I would be able to access the database remotely from my cell phone and send out notifications in the form of a voice recording and or typed message which would show as a SMS text with a title of the incident and a message description. The caller ID will come up as (440) 942-6279 and the Text ID as 693-10, which you could later save as Lake County WENS.

The notification system will provide residents with up-to-date information on matters within the Village limits or adjacent communities. To enroll, just visit [www.lakeohioalert.com](http://www.lakeohioalert.com) to see the registration portal. Once you register, the information will be added to the Waite Hill Database by Lake County EMA. Over the next couple months, I will be working with EMA to build our database and hope to go live shortly after that.

This notification system will also make sure residents are notified of situations in a timely fashion should something happen over the weekend or in the evening when our Clerk-Treasurer would not be in the office to send an email to Village residents. We are extremely excited to provide this free and optional notification system to the Village of Waite Hill. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and or concerns that I may be able to help you with.

The Waite Hill Police Departments prides itself on 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*

Carl H. Dondorfer  
Chief of Police



## Service Department News

Greetings to all,

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. 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 into the trucks. If they are too heavy we will leave them. There are always some residents that forget to put their trash out on Friday. Additionally, if there are contractors blocking your driveway just call on Monday we will be happy to come out and get it for you. 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 as well as unusually large loads of items and large amounts of boxes other than garbage bags. Many residents still continue to violate these rules. We pick up trash by hand not with any machine so please respect that. Also, during the summer months maybe please try to keep the inside of your cans somewhat clean for us.

Our goal continues to provide the 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



Sam Lincoln  
Brandon Matis & Chloe Hart

6715 Eagle Road  
9780 Mountainview



*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.**

Don Cox 6/23/24

**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>



**It's HALLOWEEN!!!**

Join us for the Waite Hill Halloween Party at Village Hall  
Saturday, October 19, 2024  
5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Jungle Terry and friends will entertain from 5:30 to 6:30 pm!  
Food, prizes and more!

Please call or email Village Hall and let us know how many  
adults and children you will be bringing.

Clerk-Treasurer (440) 942-1612  
rlaps@waitehilloh.gov

If you would like to make  
a donation for the party,  
please make your check  
payable to the  
Village of Waite Hill

**THANK YOU!**