



The ^{WH} Village Voice

From the Office of the Mayor

Dear Residents,

Well, spring is here. Winter arrived like a lion, went dormant like a lamb, and left like a lion, leaving us with six inches of snow on March 19th. Here's to looking forward to less snow and many more sunny days ahead.



This letter will be singular in focus. Its singularity results from the critical importance of continued funding from our Police, Fire and Emergency levy to the Village's annual operating budget.

By way of background, in 2013, our residents approved a 6.2 mill charter levy. The levy was limited to a term of five years as a measure of accountability (as opposed to asking for a permanent tax increase), with the understanding that we would vote on its renewal five years down the road. When Council and the Administration asked the voters to pass the charter levy in 2013, we did so to preserve the police and other safety services provided by the Village.

In May 2018, it came time for the Village to seek renewal of this charter levy for a new 5-year renewal as the original term was ending. Fortunately, residents turned out and approved the renewal for a new 5-year term, with almost 80% of our residents voting in favor of passage.

We are now nearing the end of our second 5-year term of the charter levy, necessitating a need for renewal for a new 5-year term. As a result, there will be an issue initiated by Waite Hill on the May 2nd ballot seeking to **RENEW** the 6.2 mill charter levy originally passed by our electors in November 2013 for a new 5-year term. It should be emphasized that 100% of the proceeds raised by this charter levy are restricted to police and other safety services. Passage of this renewal will **NOT** result in any new tax.

The Village of Waite Hill
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A second catalyst to the timing of our charter levy request in 2013 was a then-pending change in state law that eliminated reimbursement from the State of Ohio for the 10% rollback credit and the 2.5% primary residence property tax credit on all levies enacted after 2013. After 2013, reimbursement of those monies from the State was eliminated on all **NEW** levies but was preserved for the **RENEWAL** of all existing levies. So, passage of an extension of the term of the charter levy in 2013 enables us to continue to be reimbursed for the rollback proceeds as long as the levy is renewed.

The levy has generated \$2,435,049 in the first nine years since its passage to support our police and other vital safety services:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Property Taxes</u>	<u>Rollback Proceeds</u>
2014	\$227,049	\$31,899
2015	\$236,663	\$32,475
2016	\$235,863	\$32,537
2017	\$233,699	\$30,954
2018	\$234,692	\$30,585
2019	\$239,155	\$31,084
2020	\$230,523	\$30,897
2021	\$237,036	\$31,266
2022	<u>\$273,594</u>	<u>\$35,542</u>
Total	<u>\$2,148,274</u>	<u>\$287,239</u>

There has been \$2,148,274 collected in taxes, and the State has funded *an additional* \$287,239 in rollback reimbursements. 100% of these proceeds have been used to fund operating expenses for police and safety services.

If we renew this levy, the State of Ohio reimbursement of rollback proceeds to the Village will continue. Unfortunately, because the State has eliminated rollback reimbursements for all new post-2013 levies, renewal of the existing levy is the only way to preserve this significant financial benefit.

On average, over the past five years, the funds from our charter levy have represented approximately 25% of the Village’s operating budget. Since passage, **ALL** the proceeds from the levy have been used to fund operating expenses for police and safety services. **NONE** of the proceeds have been used for capital expenditures or other operating expenses of the Village.

We are at a place where the continued funds from our charter levy, including the rollback proceeds that would be permanently lost if the levy is not renewed, are critically important to the preservation of police and safety services at current levels.

We have consistently strived to do our best for the Village and will continue to do so at all times. We are committed to delivering the most value possible under the circumstances and within the resources available to us.

Please vote on May 2nd, 2023 or send a mail-in ballot to the board of elections before May 2nd. In order for the Village to maintain the current levels of police and safety services in the Village, the levy needs to be renewed. We thank you for your consideration and understanding regarding this issue.

Best Regards,

Bob Ranallo

Robert A. Ranallo





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

Greetings, Residents of Waite Hill!

I hope you all are doing well. The weather may be breaking as we head into spring, and warmer temperatures are right around the corner. I wanted to remind all the residents of the Village that once the warmer temperatures arrive, Service Director Bob Haynik and I will conduct the annual survey of dead or dying trees that present a hazard to persons using the roadways within the Village. If a tree is identified as a hazard, a letter will be sent out to the resident explaining their obligation to remove the tree(s). Bob Haynik and I will be available to come out to meet with any resident and identify the hazard(s) so the issue can be taken care of in a timely fashion. I want to thank all the residents who worked with the Village last year to remove several dead or dying trees that posed a hazard. We had great cooperation throughout the Village in enhancing the safety of our roadways.

Springtime is also a good time for residents to inspect their split rail fencing. The harsh winter weather and heavy snow obviously can damage and impact the condition of this fencing. Under Section 1317.08(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Waite Hill, General Conditions, ***“All fences shall be maintained in good condition, and shall be structurally sound and attractively finished at all times. Any grounds between the fence and property line shall be well maintained.”*** The Village appreciates your cooperation in maintaining the standards of split rail fencing in Waite Hill.

In my portion of the newsletter, I always make Village residents aware of what is new in the profession of law enforcement or what current crime trends are occurring within the Village or adjacent communities within Lake County. Governor DeWine recently signed Senate Bill 288 earlier this year. This Bill will strengthen Distracted Driving Laws in Ohio.

So, what does this new law involve? Senate Bill 288 designates the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices while driving as a primary traffic offense for all drivers and allows law enforcement to immediately pull over a distracted driver upon witnessing a violation. Under the previous law, distracted driving was a primary offense only for juvenile drivers, preventing officers from stopping

adult distracted drivers unless those drivers also committed a separate primary traffic violation, such as speeding or running a red light. It was considered a secondary offense.

When I reviewed the press release on this new law, I was alarmed at some of the statistical data in the State of Ohio regarding distracted driving. From 2018 to present, there were 60,263 distracted driving accidents in Ohio, which resulted in 1,774 fatal or serious injury crashes. According to other states who have implemented this new law, those states saw a 15 – 20 % reduction in car-related incidents and lives saved.

So, what will law enforcement look for which would indicate a violation of this new law? Motorists are allowed to have a cellular device mounted for navigation purposes, you are permitted to have a cellular device held to your ear or use as a mounted speakerphone, you may use the phone when parked or stopped at a red light, and you may have full use of a device in an emergency situation.

What is not permitted is texting, using a device that is not held to your ear, using a device that is not mounted, or holding or physically supporting the device, which is indicative of texting. This new law goes into effect at the beginning of April 2023 and will allow law enforcement to lawfully stop the motorist for this primary offense. For six months, a written warning will be issued to motorists stopped for distracted driving. After the six-month grace period, law enforcement will have the authority to issue citations. Penalties include a fine of up to \$150.00 for a driver's first offense and two points on their license unless a distracted driving safety course is completed. Increased penalties can occur if the driver is a repeat offender.

I encourage all of us to comply with this new law to do our part as responsible motorists and practice safety to avoid tragedies resulting from distracted driving. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Waite Hill Police Department 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 that you may have. Thank you and stay safe.

Respectfully,

Carl H. Dondorfer

Carl H. Dondorfer
Chief of Police



Service Department News

Greetings to all.

As we head into spring, the Service Department will resume patching and sealing the Village roads to help prolong their life as long as possible. Grass cutting along the roadsides will begin as well. As always, we appreciate your patience and keeping speeds to a minimum to help keep us all safe.

On trash day, the Service Department continues to find overloaded trash bags and bags not securely tied. As a reminder, trash bags are thrown into our trucks by hand. Please fill them to a manageable weight and make sure they are secure. Large quantities of cardboard should also be bagged. ***Any bags that are too heavy or not securely tied will be left behind.***

Please remember to utilize our paper recycling container behind Village Hall. This container can also accommodate any of your cardboard boxes as long as you break them down. Any cardboard picked up from your home on trash day will not be recycled.

If you happen to forget to put out your trash on Friday, please call us on Monday. We will be happy to come out and get it for you. Our goal continues to provide the residents with the best service we can! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at 440-942-2074 or stop up and say hello.

Regards,

Bob Haynik
Service Director

Save the Date

Shredding Day
Saturday, July 15, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Village Hall Parking Lot



A message from NOPEC:

As we prepare for the re-enrollment of our electric customers and our upcoming natural gas enrollment mailings, we anticipate that your residents may have questions. To make this enrollment process as seamless as possible, NOPEC is offering **in-person and virtual informational presentations for your residents and your community officials.** The presentation dates listed on the schedule below will coincide with the mid-April gas and electric enrollment letters eligible residents and small businesses will receive.

2023 Informational Meeting Schedule

Virtual Meetings

April 18	April 22	April 27
10:00 to 11:00 pm	2:00 to 3:00 pm	7:00 to 8:00 pm

www.nopec.org/InfoMeetings

In-person Meetings

<p>April 17 - 4:00 to 5:00 pm Macedonia City Hall Community Room 9691 Valley View Rd. Macedonia, Ohio</p>	<p>April 20 - 6:00 to 7:00 pm Warrensville Heights City Hall Council Chambers 4743 Richmond Rd. Warrensville Heights, OH</p>
<p>April 18 - 12:00 to 1:00 pm Mahoning County Library East Branch 430 Early Rd. Youngstown, Ohio</p>	<p>April 25 - 4:00 to 5:00 pm Bainbridge Township Townhall 17826 Chillicothe Rd Chagrin Falls, OH</p>
<p>April 18 - 3:00 to 4:00 pm Elyria Public Library Central Branch 211 Second St. Elyria, OH</p>	<p>April 25 - 5:30 to 6:30 pm Parma City Hall Council Chambers 6611 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH</p>
<p>April 19 - 4:00 to 5:00 pm Harpersfield Township Administration Building 5516 Cork Cold Springs Rd Geneva, Ohio</p>	<p>April 25 - 6:30 to 7:30 pm Concord Township Community Center 7671 Auburn Rd. Painesville, OH</p>



DID YOU KNOW? FAQS FOR BUILDING INSPECTION DEPT.

Q What municipalities does the Lake County Building Inspection Dept. have jurisdiction over?

A We issue commercial and residential permits for the following areas unless otherwise noted (see below). For municipalities not listed below, you should contact that area's Zoning Department to inquire about their requirements.

- Concord Township
- Fairport Harbor Village
- Grand River Village
- Kirtland City
- Kirtland Hills
- Lakeline Village (Residential only)
- Leroy Township
- Madison Township
- Madison Village
- Mentor-on-the-Lake
- Painesville City
- Painesville Township
- North Perry Village
- Perry Township
- Perry Village
- Timberlake Village (Residential only)
- Waite Hill
- Wickliffe (Commercial & Residential Electric only)
- Willoughby Hills
- Willowick

Q What exactly requires a permit?

A We always recommend calling to speak with an inspector first to get clarification on what is required. Most construction requires some form of permit/approval. Some permits include but are not limited to: Structural, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, Gas Piping, Hydronics, Fire Alarm, Fire Sprinkler, Kitchen Hood, Hood Suppression, Room Suppression, Refrigeration, and equipment installations that are essential features in the construction or use of a structure.

Q How do I obtain a permit?

A Our permit applications are available online at lakecountyohio.gov. Click on "Departments". Under "Building & Development", click on "Building Inspection". Applications are listed on the left side of the page. You can also bring your applications to our counter in person or submit them through the mail.

Q Can I submit permit applications and plans digitally?

A Permit applications are accepted online. They can be submitted through our website at lakecountyohio.gov. Click on "Departments". Under "Building and Development", click on "Building Inspection". On the left side of the page, you will see "Document Submittal". You can also submit your applications via email at lcbd@lakecountyohio.gov.

Q How much does a permit cost?

A Our 2022 Fee Schedule is available at lakecountyohio.gov. Click on "Departments". Under "Building and Development", choose "Building Inspection". The Fee Schedule is listed on the left side; however, we always welcome your calls with any questions you might have.

Q How do we contact the Lake County Building Department for permits or for questions about what areas your department covers?

A You can contact the Lake County Building Dept by telephone at 440-350-2636 or visit our office in person at 105 Main St., Building B, Second Floor, in downtown Painesville. We can also be contacted via e-mail at lcbd@lakecountyohio.gov. Our office hours are 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).



April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
2	3	4	5	6 Aluminum Can Pick-up Extra Pick Up	7 Trash	8
9	10 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	11	12	13 Extra Pick Up	14 Trash	15 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
16	17	18	19	20 Extra Pick Up	21 Trash	22
23	24 Planning and Zoning 8am	25	26	27 Extra Pick Up	28 Trash	29
30						

May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Aluminum Can Pick-up Extra Pick Up	5 Trash	6 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
7	8 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	9	10	11 Extra Pick Up	12 Trash	13
14	15	16	17	18 Extra Pick Up	19 Trash	20 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
21	22 Planning and Zoning 8am	23	24	25 Extra Pick Up	26 Trash	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Aluminum Can Pick-up Extra Pick Up	2 Trash	3 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
4	5	6	7	8 Extra Pick Up	9 Trash	10
11	12 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	13	14	15 Extra Pick Up	16 Trash	17 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
18	19 Juneteenth	20	21	22 Extra Pick Up	23 Trash	24
25	26 Planning and Zoning 8am	27	28	29 Extra Pick Up	30 Trash	

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Paper Recycling 8:00am - Noon
2	3	4 Fourth of July	5	6 Aluminum Can Pick-up Extra Pick Up	7 Trash	8
9	10 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am	11	12	13 Extra Pick Up	14 Trash	15 Paper Recycling 8am Shredding Day 10am
16	17	18	19	20 Extra Pick Up	21 Trash	22
23	24 Planning and Zoning 8am	25	26	27 Extra Pick Up	28 Trash	29
30	31					