



The ^{WH} Village Voice

From the Office of the Mayor

Hello Residents.

As the world, our country and our State continue to quickly evolve in the face of daily developments on the COVID-19 front, it is beyond evident that we as a society are ready to re-emerge into a world that offers hope for a return to some sort of normalcy (whatever that may mean to you) and engagement with others, and daily lives free of some of the restrictions that have limited us since the onset of this thing called the coronavirus. One need look no further than this past Memorial Day weekend where our nation encountered record numbers of travelers, packed parks and beaches, a return to sporting events and other public gatherings not seen for over a year. Indeed, what a 15 months it has been.



We at Village Hall have adapted, recommencing in-person meetings of Council, Planning and Zoning and Architectural Board of Review, albeit with masks, social distancing and observance of other CDC guidelines. Also, in accordance with CDC and State of Ohio guidelines, we reopened Village Hall to the public on June 2.

Some of the more noteworthy happenings around the Village are described below.

All Good Things Must Come to an End: A Retirement

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement of long-serving Police Chief Keith DeWitt. Chief and I have been in discussions for over a year about his pending retirement, and fortunately, he has paved the way with a most capable successor in Lieutenant Carl Dondorfer.

It must be said that Chief DeWitt has faithfully served the residents of this Village with unparalleled loyalty and distinction for almost 27 years.

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The Village of Waite Hill
7215 Eagle Road
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waitehilloh.gov

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He was sworn in as a patrolman in 1994, rose to the level of Lieutenant shortly thereafter, and was promoted to Chief in 2012, a role in which he has expertly served for the past 10 years. No amount of words can describe Keith's contributions to this Village. He led by example and consistently displayed a sense of service, devotion and commitment to its residents. Keith was a problem solver who took on the most daunting of challenges, setting a tone of professionalism, excellence, service and humility in all he did. We hate to lose him. At the same time, we are gratified that Keith will be able to enjoy a retirement that he so diligently earned.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Keith's successor Carl Dondorfer brings a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, having served in various roles at the Lake County Sheriff's Department, Lake Metroparks Ranger Department, and the Willoughby Municipal Court. Carl is also a graduate of the FBI Academy, and we are fortunate to have him join the Department.

Chief DeWitt's last day will be June 30th. Please make it a point if you see him to thank him for his service. We are all better off because of it. At the same time, congratulate Lieutenant Dondorfer and welcome him to his new role.

Markell Road Bridge

Work on Markell Road bridge began last month and is scheduled to continue through the end of November. This has resulted in road closures and alternate routing of traffic patterns while the work progresses.

The Kirtland school system, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Kirtland and other neighboring police, fire and safety forces have all been informed of the road closure and made appropriate adjustments. In addition, those engaging in construction projects and their contractors should be notified of the need to re-route themselves to conform to the limitations and restrictions.

We will keep you informed of any intervening developments as they occur.

Paving Projects

As we have previously communicated, we typically do not engage in paving projects without a major funding contribution from the Ohio Public Works Commission. We were not awarded any funding for road projects in 2021. Accordingly, we do not anticipate any road projects this summer. We will continue our customary maintenance and crack sealing programs in an effort to lengthen the useful lives of our existing streets and roads.

Building Projects

We have seen an unprecedented level of activity in new homes, additions and improvement projects proposed in the Village this year. The Architectural Board of Review and Planning and Zoning have

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been very active reviewing and evaluating new construction projects and we expect four to six new homes to be completed over the next year.

Please remember that before undertaking any project that includes the building of a new structure (whether a primary residence or an accessory structure) or an alteration to the exterior appearance of an existing structure, prior approval from the Architectural Board of Review is required. Please call Robbi Laps at Village Hall who will outline the approval procedure for you.

Waite Hill Upper and Lower Preserve Work

As many already know, Western Reserve Land Conservancy owns 385 acres of land in the Village, largely as a result of a merger with Waite Hill Land Conservancy in 2012. Conservation easements protect the properties in perpetuity as nature preserves, and the Land Conservancy spends considerable time and resources managing the properties for birds and other wildlife, scenic views for the community, education, research, and other permitted uses.

There will be a good amount of work that takes place this summer and fall by the Conservancy at the 185-acre Lower Preserve on the west side of Smith Road. A new driveway will be installed to improve access to the property and facilitate the property's maintenance and upkeep.

The Land Conservancy will also be doing work over the next few years on the 60-acre Sherwin Bird Sanctuary parcel located on the east side of Smith Road. That work will include the removal of most of the non-native invasive vines, shrubs, and small trees north and south of the upper pond as visible from the road, with the area to be cleared and restored with flowering pollinator plants. This will promote a higher quality habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife and reduce the spread of invasive species to surrounding properties.

Finally, the Land Conservancy is hoping to host a hike at the Sherwin Preserve for residents in the fall, so check your mailbox later this year for details.

Volunteers Needed

The American Red Cross is seeking volunteers to assist in several different capacities as it seeks to fulfill its outreach to those less fortunate in need of disaster relief, shelter, food, comfort, blood and other emergency relief. They have asked that we reach out to our residents. If you have an interest, please contact Melanie Collins at the American Red Cross. She can be reached on her cell phone at (330)204-6615; melanie.collins4@redcross.org.

Public Notices

A lot is going on in the Village and communications this year look to be frequent. To help stay in the know, please make sure to furnish your email addresses to Robbi Laps at Village Hall so that all

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communications can be delivered timely. Alternatively, all public meeting notices are routinely posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule of Village Hall, and you are encouraged to stop by from time to time to get caught up on Village happenings.

Village Website

Remember to stay on top of all Village happenings by visiting our website, 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.

Best Regards,

Bob Ranallo

Robert A. Ranallo

Save the Date
Waite Hill Paper Shredding Event
Saturday, July 17 9:00 – 11:00 am



Waite Hill will host the Village paper shredding event in July. The truck will be located in the front parking lot of Village Hall. It will be a drive-thru event with company representatives removing boxes from your car. There will be no need to exit your vehicle. Paper documents, DVD's and credit cards can all be shredded. Paper should be removed from binders but there is no need to remove staples or paper clips. See you in July!



From the Office of the Chief of Police Keith A. DeWitt

To All Residents:

It has been my pleasure to serve our community for the past 27 years as a part-time police officer all the way to Chief of Police. I have had the privilege of meeting a great many people and developing lifelong friendships with many of you. But now it is time for me to retire and pass along the reins to Carl Dondorfer. My last day will be June 30th, but I will always be indebted to you all. Carl brings a lot to the Village as well as all of our officers. We have certainly benefited from the continued support from Council and all the residents.

What I have always enjoyed about working in the Village was how the officers consistently worked together to make the Police Department what it is today. More importantly is their dedication to the department, Village Council, and of course to all our residents. Our style of community policing over the years makes all the difference in what is a difficult and trying task within our current national environment. All the new faces in the Village certainly speak volumes about the enjoyment you feel living here.

Over the past years, I have watched many families in the area grow and have shared heartache and joy with a lot of you. I appreciate your loyalty throughout the years and will take the memories of all that I have experienced with me into my retirement.

Again, thank you so much for the phenomenal career here that I have truly enjoyed!

Sincerely and respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith A. DeWitt".

Keith A. DeWitt



Please join Mayor Ranallo and Village Council
to bid farewell to our friend,
Police Chief, Keith DeWitt.
We will also officially welcome our new
Chief of Police, Carl Dondorfer
to the Waite Hill Community.

August 14, 2021
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Remarks given at 1:45 pm

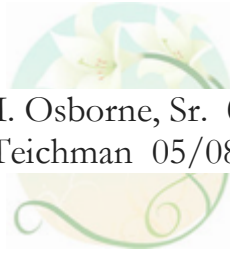
We will gather behind Village Hall.
Please wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated.



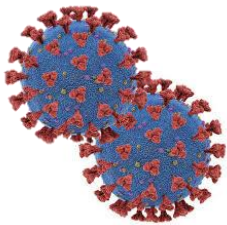
Heather Riddle 9715 Smith Road

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.



Richard M. Osborne, Sr. 06/04/21
Becky Teichman 05/08/2021



**COVID-19 Data, Vaccine Update
and Resources available through
Lake County General Health District**
www.lcghd.org

Upcoming Clinics:

Willoughby Outdoor Market
June 19 8:00 am – Noon
18 and over

Wickliffe Public Library
June 29 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
12 and over

*Come visit Waite Hill Village's Little Free Library located in the Village Hall lobby.
"Take A Book – Share A Book"*



Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. There are more than 80,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states and over 90 countries.

Through these Libraries, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Little Free Library has received recognition from the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation, *Library Journal*, the Women's National Book Association, and more.

June 2021

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

July 2020

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

August 2021

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---------|-----------|---------------------|----------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Extra Pick Up | 6 Trash | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Finance Mtg 7:30am Council Mtg 8am | 10 | 11 | 12 Extra Pick Up | 13 Trash | 14 Chief of Police Celebration 1:00-2:30 pm |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Extra Pick Up | 20 Trash | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Planning and Zoning 8am | 24 | 25 | 26 Extra Pick Up | 27 Trash | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

September 2021

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