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We are deeply grateful to the residents of our community for voting to renew the two vital levies on this November's ballot. Your support of the 1 mill levy for sanitary and storm sewers and the 1.5 mill levy for safety forces ensures that we can continue making essential improvements to our infrastructure and maintain up-to-date equipment for our police and fire departments. These five-year renewals will not increase your property taxes, but they will make a lasting impact on the health, safety, and quality of life in our neighborhoods. Thank you for investing in our future and standing behind the services that keep Willowick strong.

On October 7, the Finance and Budget Committees met to review a proposed sewer rate increase in response to the City of Euclid's announcement of a 9.09% hike for 2026. This increase is driven by rising treatment and operational costs associated with the EPA-mandated Waste Water Treatment Plant. As a result of this, Willowick's Finance Committee has recommended a 7% sewer rate increase for 2026. The proposed legislation will be presented to the City Council for three readings. The first took place on Tuesday, November 18, with a second reading on December 2, and a final vote scheduled for Tuesday, December 16. This proposed increase is consistent with the percentage that the City Council approved last year. We understand that any rate increase is a difficult decision and recognize the impact it may have on our community. Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more and share their feedback.

The City Council is considering an increase to the current sewer consumption discount from 30% to 40% for eligible residents. If you are already receiving the water discount through the Lake County Department of Utilities, no action is required. Your sewer discount will be automatically applied to your account. To qualify for the sewer discount, residents must be approved for the water discount program administered by the Lake County Department of Utilities. The eligibility criteria include: being 65 years of age or older, owning and occupying the residence, and meeting homestead exemption requirements. The link can be accessed on the city website, this includes the application that needs to be completed and submitted to the Lake County Department of Utilities.

Please remember that there is no parking on the street when there is 2 inches or more of snow. This policy is in place for the safety of our Service Department staff and to ensure the streets can be cleared efficiently. In the event of a major storm a snow emergency may be declared. Vehicles that are parked in the street could be towed at the owner's expense. Please be considerate and do not park in the street while our crews are plowing. They are often working beyond their normal hours to keep the streets clear for travel allowing our police and fire departments to respond safely. Also, please drive slowly during snowy conditions. We only salt the main routes and intersections, so make sure you have the ability to stop safely.

The Annual Winter Wonderland at Manry Park will be held Sunday December 14, from 8:30 to 12:00 PM. There will be plenty of fun activities for the entire family, including a pancake breakfast, a visit with Santa, decorating holiday cookies, and other holiday themed activities. Admission is \$15 per child for ages 2 and older. For more details, please visit the city website.

I hope everyone has a safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Please make sure to regularly visit the city's website at www.cityofwillowick.com, as we continuously update it with new community programs and events for our residents. Additionally, the city has launched a new Facebook page, which can be accessed through our website. Both the Facebook page and the website are updated daily.

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