



MICHAEL J. VANNI
Mayor / Safety Director

City of Willowick

30435 LAKESHORE BOULEVARD
WILLOWICK, OHIO 44095

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Phone: 440-585-3700

Fax: 440-585-3220

Email: mvanni@cityofwillowick.com

I want to congratulate Mike Pollack, Nahim Kaim, and Luke Ockenden, whom I had the honor of swearing in as the first full-time Captains of the Willowick Fire Department. These new positions will bring long-term leadership, structure, and stability to the Department, while enhancing safety for both our firefighters and residents. Also, congratulations to Bryan Rudersdorf, who has been promoted to part-time captain, and to Sean Coubrough and Benjamin Bindokas, who have been promoted to part-time lieutenants in the fire department.

I am pleased to welcome back Kyle Baker as our newest Police Officer. Hiring an additional officer to our police department, along with the new full-time captain positions in our fire department, demonstrates our ongoing commitment to public safety for both residents and first responders.

The City's Finance Director, Cheryl Benedict, officially retired on August 29th, 2025, after serving the City of Willowick for 30 years. I have had the honor of working with Director Benedict over the past 20+ years as both City Councilman and Mayor, and have nothing but the greatest respect for her service and dedication to our City and Finance Department. Cheryl will be greatly missed, and we wish her nothing but the best in her retirement.

We have seen an uptick in rat complaints over the past month. Common attractants for rats include outdoor food sources, stagnant water, wood piles, and improperly stored garbage. Feeding wildlife such as birds, deer, or squirrels can also unintentionally contribute to the problem by providing a food source for rodents. If you have a dog, please ensure that you dispose of waste daily. We continue to work with the County Health Department to map complaint areas and disseminate guidance. Please remain vigilant about potential attractants and visit the City's website for educational resources.

This November, there are two renewal levies on the ballot. The first is a 1 Mill levy for the Sanitary and Storm Sewer levy, and the second is a 1.5 Mill levy for safety forces. Both are five-year renewals that will not increase your property tax, but are vital for sewer improvements and keeping police and fire equipment up to date. We plan to host a Town Hall meeting in September or October to discuss these levies in detail. Please reach out to your Councilperson or me with any questions or for more information.

The annual Fill the Cruiser Food Drive will be on Saturday, September 13th, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at Petie's Family Restaurant at Shoregate Shopping Center. This great event is hosted by Petie's Family Restaurant and the Willowick Police Department and will be held rain or shine. All donations (non-perishable items and monetary contributions) go directly to the St.

Mary Magdalene St. Vincent de Paul Society, benefitting residents in Willowick and parts of Eastlake. We hope to see you there!

Congratulations to Be Smoothie Café for winning Best Smoothie in Cleveland Magazine's best of the East Competition!

It is hard to believe that fall will be here in a couple of weeks. A huge thank you goes out to the Recreation Director, Julie Kless, and her team for putting together another great summer program of events, including Big Screen Movie Night, Christmas in July, the annual Water show, the Classic Car Show, and the Summer Concerts at the lakefront park.

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.

Mike Vanni
Mayor/Safety Director