



MICHAEL J. VANNI
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On the May 6, 2025 Special Election ballot, Willowick residents will be asked to consider Issue 3. Issue 3 is a proposed Charter Amendment asking if the Chief of the Willowick Fire Department should be excluded as a member of the classified service of the City. The Fire Department has operated as a part-time department with the exception of the Fire Chief and the Administrative Assistant. This model has served the City quite well over the years and Willowick has been blessed with great firefighters and officers who have, and currently serve, the residents. However, there are some challenges that an all part-time department present with one of them being the lack of a succession plan in place for the Fire Chief position. The recent decision to hire three full-time Captains will address this issue down the road but not in the immediate future. By removing the Fire Chief position from Civil Service, it would immediately provide the City flexibility in appointing a Fire Chief that is familiar with operating a part-time department as well as provide continued leadership stability in the department. Please feel free to reach-out to your Council person or myself with any questions.

Also on the ballot is State Issue 2, which deals with the continuation of the State Capital Improvements Program. This program has been in existence since 1987 and helps support the completion of important infrastructure projects in local communities. This program is not a tax increase but rather is funded by state issued bonds which are already built into the state budget. The State's existing revenues pay the debt service. Over the duration of this program, the City of Willowick has received over 9.2 million dollars in grants and over 2.3 million dollars in no interest loans enabling us to complete 27 critical street and sewer projects. Over 2 million dollars were received for projects over the past 5 years. Please feel free to reach-out to your Council person or myself with any questions.

The 33rd Saint Mary Magdalene Homecoming Festival will be running from Thursday May 29th to Sunday June 1st 2025. Come and enjoy delicious festival food, live entertainment, a Chinese Auction, Monte Carlo, Bates kiddie rides, and carnival games. There is also a \$10,000 Main Raffle where tickets have been on sale for many weeks.

Come and watch the Willowick Community Parade on Sunday, June 1st. The parade will kick-off at Manry Park at 1:00 pm and will finish up at Saint Mary Magdalene Church on Willowick Drive. This is a great summer tradition for Willowick and is personally one of my favorite events of the year!

Please also make sure to routinely access the city website at www.cityofwillowick.com as we are constantly updating the site and adding community programs and events available to our residents.

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