
The City of *Westlake* Ohio

www.cityofwestlake.org

Mayor
Dennis M. Clough



November 2008



Dear Resident:

Now that the fall season has arrived, I would like to remind everyone that our leaf pick-up process has begun and will continue until mid-December as long as the weather cooperates. You may view our web site, public access channel or simply call to find out approximately when we will be

collecting leaves on your street. No one should have to wait more than two weeks for a pick-up. If you do, please contact our Service Department.

Election Day is Nov. 4, and I would strongly encourage all Westlake residents to exercise your right to select the future leaders of our country, state and county offices. Your vote is important and will make a difference in our future. For a listing of all issues and candidates, visit the News & Events page on our web site.

All residents will soon be receiving a copy of our popular annual financial report as well as our annual city sponsored Westlake Magazine (not to be confused with a recently mailed Westlake Image Book, a look-alike publication). Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns on issues listed in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Clough, Mayor

Remember to Vote!

Your vote counts! Don't forget to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4. This year's election is important as it will help set the future direction of our country and will determine state and county issues and officials.

VOTE NOV. 4



Holiday Collections Rubbish/Recycling/Brush

The next three holidays that will affect normal collection days are:

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27

One day delayed for Thursday and Friday routes only

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

One day delayed for Thursday and Friday routes only

New Year's Day, Jan. 1

One day delayed for Thursday and Friday routes only

Heating Help Available

The Ohio Department of Development offers several programs to help low-income Ohioans pay their utility bills. Applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) are available at the Westlake Center for Community Services or may be completed online at www.odod.state.oh.us/CDD/OCS/heap.htm. If eligible, residents receive a benefit depending on the number of people residing in the household. HEAP is a federally funded program that provides a one-time payment per heating season. For more information, contact the Westlake Center for Community Services, 440-899-3544.

Sidewalk Repair

As more and more people are walking for exercise and pleasure, it is important that all property owners maintain their sidewalks in good condition. Westlake's codified ordinances do not permit a separation of more than one inch between adjoining concrete slabs. If you are aware of any sidewalks that need attention or are in disrepair, please call Property Maintenance Officer Tom Blue for assistance at 440-617-4108.

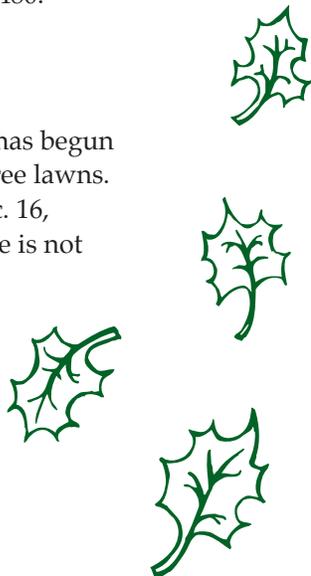
Road Projects Update

All current road projects in the city are scheduled to be completed by December 2008. Listed below are the current projects and their descriptions.

- *Columbia Road Widening and Water Line Replacement*
Replaced the water line and storm sewer connections and widened Columbia Road from two lanes to four lanes between Hilliard Boulevard and Center Ridge Road.
- *Horseshoe Boulevard Water Line Replacement*
Replaced the water main and performed concrete rehabilitation along with minor drainage work.
- *Sewer Rehabilitation Project*
Evaluated the sewer system along Canterbury Road (southern end) and identified the sources of storm water inflow into the sanitary sewer system.
- *Milmar/Dover Bay Estates Water Line Replacement*
Replaced the water main and performed concrete rehabilitation along with minor drainage work.
- *Crocker Stearns Extension*
Expanded Crocker Road/Stearns Road from Center Ridge Road to Lorain Road as well as widened Stearns Road from Lorain Road to I-480.

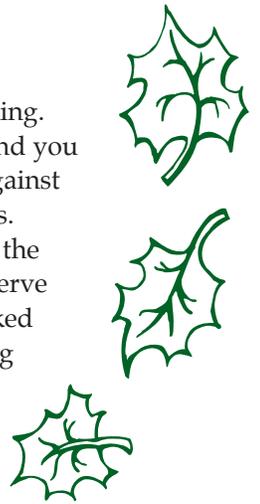
Leaf Pick-up

The Westlake Service Department has begun collecting leaves from residential tree lawns. This service will continue until Dec. 16, weather permitting. Generally there is not more than two weeks between collections, weather permitting. Please remember to place leaves in the tree lawn. Do not place leaves in the street. Leaves only—do not mix branches or grass cuttings with leaves.



Leaf Raking Safety

One of autumn's yard chores is leaf raking. Your Police and Fire departments remind you not to rake leaves into the street. It is against the law to do so, for a variety of reasons. Children may play in leaves raked into the street and be run over. Drivers may swerve to avoid leaf piles and crash. A car parked on top of leaves runs the risk of catching fire if the catalytic converter is hot. Also, leaves may drift into catch basins and clog them.



Holiday Food Drive

A citywide food drive is set for Monday, Dec. 8 to Friday, Dec. 12. Drop-off sites for non-perishable items include the Westlake Police Department, Westlake Recreation Center, Westlake Porter Public Library and Westlake Center for Community Services. Unexpired food items, paper and soap products, gift cards and monetary donations are needed. More than 100 families in Westlake qualify for government entitlement programs and rely on a holiday food basket. Please help by calling 440-899-3544 with questions or to volunteer to sort donations on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

“Coats for Kids”

The annual “Coats for Kids” campaign will begin in November. A collection box for new or gently used coats will be in the lobby of the Westlake Police Department, the Westlake Recreation Center and the Westlake Center for Community Services. The collection dates are from November 3 through December 15.

Holiday Cheer

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at Crocker Park on Saturday, Nov. 22. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the lighting of the tree at 7 p.m. The Westlake Town Criers will announce Mr. and Mrs. Westlake for the coming year. Come listen to some holiday music and enjoy the season in our beautiful city!



Westlake Recreation Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve/New Year's Eve • 5:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Christmas Day/New Year's Day • Closed

Westlake Center for Community Services

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Join us for a Thanksgiving-style lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Wagner's Country Inn. Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch starts at noon. Celtic musical group New Barleycorn, will entertain guests with their music and humor. Cost is \$22, payable by Nov. 5.



Big Band Music and Holiday Lunch

A perfect way to kick off the holidays! Don your favorite holiday attire and join us at the Westlake Center for Community Services on Thursday, Dec. 4, at noon. Enjoy a delicious lunch as well as music by the Billy Kaye Trio. Cost is \$13.50, payable by Nov. 26.

Travel Opportunities!

Great travel is available for adults, age 18+ through the Westlake Center for Community Services. This holiday season, chartered buses will take you to the Holiday Lighting Festival at Blossom Music Center and to "Forever Plaid, Plaid Tidings" at the Riverside Inn. Trips for 2009 include: Hawaii, Small Town America, Atlantic City and Cape May, Albuquerque Balloon Fest and much more. Costs vary. For more information, please call 440-899-3544.



Christmas Luncheon

The Westlake Center for Community Services will hold its annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at LaCentre. Doors open at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Enjoy a delicious buffet-style lunch and sway to the music of the top-notch show band the Geeze Cats. Cost is \$22, payable by Dec. 3.

Gift Cards

Need a holiday gift idea? Gift cards, available in any denomination, may be purchased and spent like cash at many city facilities. Gift cards can be purchased at City Hall, the Recreation Center, Meadowood Golf Course and the Westlake Center for Community Services.

Safety Tips from the Westlake Police Department

Driving Precautions

Winter driving requires extra caution. Be sure to leave more distance than usual between your car and the one in front of you, and allow for extra stopping distance. Use the brakes gently and if you need to, shift into neutral to reduce the car's forward motion. If your car starts to slide, steer in the direction of the skid. Clear off snow and ice from all of your car windows before driving. Keep the gas tank filled, and use some "dry gas" additive to prevent water from accumulating in the tank.

Shopping Tips

When holiday shopping, don't leave packages in your car where they are visible from the outside. Put them in the trunk or other storage area or cover them up with a blanket. Be careful about credit card purchases online. If you are buying items from a web site you have not visited in the past, check the company out on the Better Business Bureau web site at <http://www.bbb.org>. If you cannot locate a physical address for the company, use a great deal of discretion in making purchases. There are phony web sites out there that look a lot like legitimate ones, but exist solely as a criminal enterprise. Make sure that the vendor has a real world address and phone number.

Cold Weather Safety

City ordinance requires that sidewalks be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall. It is difficult and dangerous for school children and senior citizens to walk in the street when sidewalks are not shoveled. Also, be sure any snow plowing contractor plows the snow from your driveway onto your lot and not onto someone else's property.

Safety Tips from the Westlake Fire Department

With winter approaching, we need to take time to make sure our heating systems are ready and safe to use. When did you last have your system checked and cleaned? Clean filters are not only a safety issue, but will increase efficiency and lower the cost of heating your home. Carbon dioxide detectors are also an important piece in ensuring family safety.

Please take time to check your smoke detectors and review the escape plan for each member of your family, making sure the second way out is possible, considering all factors that affect our daily lives. Good housekeeping, attention to the proper use and disposal of smoking materials, careful use of candles and irons, and the storage of matches and lighters away from children are also important safety issues.



CITY OF WESTLAKE

City Hall • 27700 Hilliard Blvd.

Westlake, OH 44145

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**ECR-WSS
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Westlake, Ohio**

Westlake Recreation Center Events

Grand Olympics (ages 3-7)

Sunday, Nov. 16, 1-3 p.m.

Are you in the "Grand" category—either a Grandparent or Grandchild? If so, form a team of two and compete in our inaugural "Grand Olympics." Teams will participate in a Walking Relay Race, Tic Tac Toss, Rubber Duck races and more. Bring your cameras—these precious moments will be priceless! Lights refreshments will be served. Fee is \$15 for a member team/\$20 for a resident team.

Elf Workshop (ages 3-8)

*Monday, Dec. 15, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
and 6:30-7:30 p.m.*

Nothing says love more than a homemade gift. Let the kids come to the Recreation Center and make their



Christmas gifts. All supplies will be provided. Fee is \$15 for members/\$20 for residents.

Breakfast with Santa (ages up to 12)

Saturday, Dec. 20, 9-10:15 a.m. and 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Join Santa and his merry elves for breakfast. Kids can visit with Santa and get their picture taken with him. All participants who are joining us for breakfast, including small children, must be registered.

Tickets are limited, so get yours early!

Deadline to register is Dec. 14 or when tickets run out! Fee is \$10 per person.