

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Holiday season, and wish all of you the best of luck in 2025!

In October, the City of Euclid announced that sewer rates would be increased 8.96% for 2025. As reported here before, sewer rates continue to rise due to increasing treatment costs as well as rising operational costs and the need for ongoing improvements to be made to our sewer system. The Sewer Revenue Fund is an Enterprise Fund that must be self-sufficient and healthy in order for the City to continue to be able to make improvements to our sewer system as well as apply and qualify for grants and low interest loans now and in the future. You may recall that in my December article I reported that we received \$873,100 in grant money from the Ohio Public Works Commission which in conjunction with our Lake County Storm Water funding, will enable us to complete two very important sewer infrastructure projects this year with minimal cost to the City. These grants also played a part in the City being able to absorb a portion of the increase passed on to us by the City of Euclid as the Finance Committee has recommended to Council an increase of 7% for 2025. The legislation for the sewer increase will be voted on at the January 7th City Council meeting which begins at 6:30 pm. Any residents having questions or concerns are encouraged to attend. Please know that anytime an increase is considered, it is a very tough decision for the City which is not made lightly as we realize it will have a significant impact on our residents. Please remember that the City of Willowick does offer eligible residents a 30% discount up to a maximum quarterly amount of \$25.27 on their sewer consumption charges. If you are already receiving the water discount through Lake County Department of Utilities you do not need to do anything. They will automatically apply the sewer discount to your account. In order to be eligible for the sewer discount a resident must be qualified through Lake County Department of Utilities for their water discount program. Qualifications include being 65+ years of age; being an owner and occupant; and homestead eligibility. There is a link on the city website where the application that needs to be completed and submitted to the Lake County Department of Utilities can be accessed.

This is just a reminder that starting February 1st, 2025, Major Waste Disposal Services will be the City's new provider for Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste services. Residents should have received a letter in the mail from Major Waste Disposal Service informing them of the upcoming change from Kimble and asking them to choose their service level. If you have not received this letter, please contact Major Waste Disposal at (440) 254-4929.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our Service Department, Fire Department and Police Department for their great efforts during the November 21st snowstorm that impacted our area. We experienced more tree and debris damage from this storm than we did during the rain storm event that took place on August 6th. The Service Department did an outstanding job of plowing the streets that evening and removing fallen tree branches throughout that night, into the weekend as well as the following week. I would also like to commend them on their efforts during the major snow storm that impacted Lake County over the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. This is just another example of why Willowick is such a great place to live.

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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