

Mayors Annual Report

2016

Prepared by Deborah Blewitt

Mayor and Council Member Changes in 2016:

After serving the Village first as a Council Member, then as Mayor, Mayor Robert Donham II resigned as Mayor due to obtaining a new full-time position in Central Ohio. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Council President Deborah Blewitt was then appointed as Mayor to serve the unexpired term.

Phil Snyder was then elected as Council President for the remainder of 2016, while Sheila Moore was appointed to serve the open Council Seat.

Office and Administration:

The Village Office staff, for the most part remained in place with Cheree Taylor continuing as Fiscal Officer and Lori Lee remaining as the Income Tax Administrator. Marie Evitts was hired as a Part-Time Utility Billing Clerk to fill that open position.

Bill Pennington resigned as Village Administrator, but will continue his service as Supervisor of the Sewer Plant. In his place, Ryan Wagner, the Water Plant Supervisor, now holds the position as Village Administrator along with his Water Superintendent position.

Water, Waste Water, Streets, Infrastructure and Parks:

Water Grant – Phase 1: Upgrades on water department, first time in 30 years, is currently in the bidding process, project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2017

Sewer Grant – Phase 1: Upgrades on water department, first time in 30 years, is currently in the bidding process, project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2017

Streets Completed: The street paving project started in 2015 was completed in 2016. The streets including were: N. Main St., the remainder of Maple Grove Rd., and Horn Rd.

Water& Sewer Rate DECREASE- Water and Sewer rates were lowered, which residents should have noticed on their bills. There is a destination fee that was added (similar to all utility services), however with the lower rates, we anticipate that our residents/customers will see a savings throughout the year.

The Utility Billing department is now also able to accept payments by credit/debit cards, to assist our residents by offering more ways to make their payments.

Parks – Along with the completion of the road paving project, we also paved the drive and parking areas of the Village Park. This makes the park more accessible and allows for more structured parking, also providing more parking spaces.

The playground equipment was also moved and a new playground area was also built, providing our children with a safe, fun up to date play area.

2016 saw the Park and Recreation committee institute new community programs as well as continue the tradition of old programs/activities. In 2016, they held the first annual movie night for our kids, which attracted a great number of attendees as they watched movies together in the Community Center.

October saw our first annual Oktoberfest, held on E. Center St. in front of the Government center. The Oktoberfest provided many games and activities for all of our residents, as well as a Chili-Cook Off, and Wine Tasting event.

December brought us our 3rd Annual Parade of Lights, again filled with activities for residents of all ages, as well as the Polar Express train rides, giving riders a view of many decorated houses within the Village. We were also proud to host the Trans-Siberia Orchestra Tribute Band, brought to us by our own Rich Gano.

Community Center – The Community Center renovations continue to prove its value to our residents and neighbors alike. Along with most of the Village events being held there, we saw an increase in Hall rentals, giving both our residents and neighbors affordable alternatives to hall rentals for their private events.

The Village of Windham was also awarded a substantial grant for the continued renovations of the Community Center. Although the monies will not be received until sometime in 2017, the Community Center will be receiving a new roof, new siding, handicapped accessibility and other updates from this Grant.

Police Department:

The Police Department continues to operate with 4 Full-Time Officers, 6 Part-Time Officers, and 2-Auxiliary Officers.

In August, the Police Department hosted their 3rd Annual National Night Out, with activities and prizes for all in attendance. The parade and activities continue to grow each year, as does the attendance. For the second straight year, we estimate the attendance to be between 700-1000 people.

In December, the Police Department conducted their 3rd Annual Fill-A-Cruiser, accepting donations to help those less fortunate during the Holiday Season. Once again, our residents and friends did not disappoint, as this years donations far surpassed any of their hopes and expectations. Based on a generous donation, the Police Department was able to purchase over 20 Winter Coats for kids in need.

The police vehicles purchased 3 years ago, continue to be a valuable asset, as once again our Police Department has able to keep the maintenance/repair costs at all time lows. Our Police Department provided security for all of our Village events, with extra manpower and staffing for the Oktoberfest, the Parade of Lights and their own National Night Out. During these times, the department provided this staffing at no cost to the event coordinators helping to make the events affordable. Continuing to provide you with 24 hour police protection, 7 days per week, the additional staffing for events the Police Department was once again able to end the year under budget for the 3rd consecutive year.

Fire District:

2016 brought many changes to the Fire Department and the Fire District. Most notably, the Fire Department is now staffed with at least 2 EMT's from 8:00AM-8:00PM. Village residents are seeing the best response, in the shortest amount of time that they have ever seen.

Housing, Planning and Zoning:

We were able to have a Market Study completed in 2016, and we have begun distributing this to potential builders, developers and businesses. The Market Study is a detail study on the Village, its population, and economic growth potential. By having this completed and available for view, this will help us attract potential developers and investors.

Five more dilapidated buildings were torn down in the Maple Grove area, opening up more land, and making this area more attractive to potential builders. Village Officials met with multiple interested developers, and will continue in 2017 to work towards new development and growth.

The Village was featured in the Dec/July issue of AMATS magazine, which is a regional magazine distributed to various businesses and builders looking to grow their operations.

New Village Website:

In 2016, the Village Website was designed, and updated by a professional web-site developer and was designed to make information more accessible to our residents, and to make the site more user friendly. All Village information can now be found on the web-site and it will continuously be updated.