



Washington Township 2016 Annual Report

Executive Summary

Montgomery County

Development Services

Residential and commercial development had a strong year. Residential development continued primarily with the build-out of existing subdivisions, including the Enclaves, Washington Trace, Villages of Winding Creek, and Trails of Saddle Creek to name a few. Commercial redesign and infill development activity along the Miamisburg-Centerville Road corridor increased and included a master plan update for Southview Medical Center. Zoning certificates were issued for 107 new residences, 4 new commercial buildings, and 42 building additions and/or alterations. The Board of Trustees reviewed ten zoning cases.

The number of abated lots decreased due to the decline of foreclosures and vacant houses as well as an increased stewardship of previous properties. Overall, 35 properties received 70 mowing invoices and 225 nuisance violations were issued. Staff took a proactive approach to property maintenance by targeting key corridors. Enforcement resulted in 1,161 violations, including 530 Zoning Resolution, 406 Property Maintenance and 225 Nuisance. In addition, 955 signs were removed from the right-of-way. The Zoning Resolution also was modified to include a definition and prohibition of marijuana land uses. The modification was adopted by Township Trustees.

A partnership with Montgomery County's Business First! Program supported the economic health of businesses. Staff hosted a business walk that canvassed incubative office and light industrial businesses on Congress Park and Senate Drive, engaging with 56 business owners and managers.

Finance Department

To provide increased transparency to taxpayers, approved vendor check registers were posted on the Township web site. The department also updated all accounting and procedure manuals to reflect updated software and reassignment of duties due to reduction in staff. In addition, the State Auditor's Office issued an unqualified opinion in 2016 that no material problems were found in the Township's financial statements for calendar year 2015.

The Township remains in solid financial shape, even with state budget cuts and a decline in property values from a high of \$1,726,046,190 in 2011 to a low of \$1,649,747,810 in 2013. Since 2013 values have increased annually and will be \$1,722,015,720 for 2017. At the end of 2016, the Township's unencumbered cash balance was \$32,859,123 for all funds. Outstanding debt was \$120,000, all from the Sterling Cove road project, which is being paid by assessments of residents in the development.

Fire Department

Call volume increased to a record 7,269 emergency and non-emergency incidents in 2016 – 5,976 EMS and 1,133 Fire calls, an increase of 145 over the previous year. Fire calls included 32 structure fires, 11 vehicle fires, 21 outdoor fires, 29 hazardous materials and 90 CO detectors. The department responded to 72 EMS and 88 Fire mutual aid calls and received mutual aid assistance for 44 EMS incidents.

Major projects included preparing for the January 2017 relocation of the dispatch center to the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center (RDC), a move that provided dispatchers with access to state-of-the-art equipment and technology. The county-wide MARCS radio system was brought on line, giving Montgomery County radio users the ability to talk on a portable radio anywhere in the state of Ohio. The department addressed losses in the part-time ranks by hiring five full-time career firefighters.

The Annual Compliance Report to maintain accreditation was submitted to and approved by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Two areas of progress were health/wellness and professional development. Three members completed Peer Fitness Training and are working with staff on fitness plans. Fitness equipment was purchased for all stations. Eight staff completed college degrees and four achieved professional credentialing for Fire Officer, Chief Fire Officer or Chief Training Officer.

The department received two EMS equipment grants -- a \$4,000 State of Ohio EMS tools and equipment grant for portable respiratory suction units and a 75/25 matching grant of \$39,444 from Ohio BWC to help purchase four CPR assist devices. Budgeted fleet replacement for one fire engine and one ambulance was completed in 2016. A total of 4,170 hydrants were tested and maintained.

Community Programs – Five open houses at five different fire stations during National Fire Prevention Week offered the opportunity for 600 residents to learn about fire safety/prevention and the distinctive apparatus and equipment at each station. Other programs included installation and inspection of 326 car seats and fire safety education to schools, scout troops, adult organizations and local events. CPR training and certification was provided to 934 people, including 26 BLS instructors, and the department maintained 60 AED units throughout the community. The Project Lifesaver Team helped locate individuals who wander from home due to cognitive conditions. The program had a 100% success rate.

Police Services

The Washington Township Substation is staffed with 32 deputies who received a variety of awards for outstanding performance. Substation deputies received the Award of Excellence and TOP Cop Award for southwest Ohio from Mothers against Drunk Driving and the Deputy of the Year award for the rescue of an elderly female in a wheelchair from a smoke-filled residence

For the second year, the STAR Program (Safeguarding Township Adult Residents) addressed quality of life issues for aging residents, growing from a few dozen residents to more than 90. Its purpose is to provide a safe, secure and voluntary program that identifies, locates and/or assists seniors and other residents in times of emergency.

The number of Part I crimes decreased by 17 percent, to 304. Part I crimes are defined as homicide, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, breaking and entering, theft, theft of a motor vehicle, and arson. Detectives cleared 270 crimes out of 595 assigned, for an overall clearance rate of 45%, well above the national average.

Deputies participated in speed and OVI enforcement, saturating high-crash areas to curb unsafe behaviors. Volunteers contributed more than 420 hours, most of it to traffic enforcement. A total of 530 traffic crashes occurred, with speed/failure to maintain assured clear distance the most common cause.

Deputies completed 24,961 crime prevention activities, including preventative patrols of houses, businesses, schools, neighborhoods. Education events included the community shred where a deputy distributed literature about identity theft. Deputies hosted Prescription Drug Drop-off, resulting in collection of 631 pounds of medication and 160 pounds of sharps. Other activities included child safety seat events and Coffee with a Cop. The school resource officer made safety presentations to 2,400 students in all grades at nine schools, assisted with safety drill compliance, and presented a new DUI course. A presence was maintained in school zones for traffic enforcement. Investigation of complaints of drivers passing a stopped school bus resulted in many traffic citations.

Public Works

Leaf collection was provided without an expenditure of overtime and with reduced fuel consumption, the result of converting gas engine leaf collectors to diesel. The Township and Montgomery County benefitted from a collaboration on the Sidewalk and Curb Repair Program. The Township repaired or replaced deteriorating sidewalk and curb and the county took advantage of low bid prices offered to the Township to repair several portions of damaged curbing along county roads.

The southern extension of Paragon Road to Robert F. Mays Park was completed, providing a continuous north-south route from Alex-Bell Road to Sheehan Road. About 1,260 linear feet of concrete sidewalk was installed on east Spring Valley Road. The \$68,805 project connected existing sidewalk to create a continuous path from residential to commercial properties. In addition, engineering for Nutt Road-Phase III was completed and engineering studies/plans finalized for Gebhart Road.

The final phase of evaluating and mapping road surface conditions throughout the Township was completed. The process provides detailed information to create a timetable for road resurfacing. The Street Improvement Program replaced or repaired 6.06 miles of asphalt and 4,317 linear feet of curb. Removal of defective curbing was included. Crack sealing and paint striping was completed, with costs contained through a cooperative purchase program with Montgomery County and ODOT.

The \$37,805 Underdrain Repair Program targeted areas where excess surface water affected road surfaces, replacing 1,641 square feet of sidewalk and 1,526 linear feet of curb. In-house crews repaired or replaced 112 regulatory and 126 street marker signs, applied aggregate and asphalt, laid mulch, and hauled debris to solid waste disposal sites. The street sweeper covered 2,509 miles and collected 132 loads. Crews reconstructed 43 concrete catch basins and partially repaired 23.

Visual Improvement & Landscaping – New banners were added to the SR 725 corridor and Beautification Awards presented to 18 outstanding properties selected by the Visual Improvement Program Committee. Staff prepped flower beds and helped improve landscaping.

Super Saturday - Super Saturdays, offered three times during the year, continued to grow in popularity, with 109,750 pounds of shredded waste collected.

Vehicle Maintenance – Staff repaired equipment for five departments. Improved software helped document and itemize repairs and labor costs and detailed monthly reports enhanced record keeping.

Recreation Department

The department received more than \$90,000 in grants. Countryside Park improvements were funded with assistance from a \$30,000 Community Block Grant. Most trails are now fully accessible. Public Works provided assistance, including construction of four bridges. Sidewalk connections and cross-walks were installed from Rec West to the Rec Center, A-Frame improvements made, and a dock installed. A pollinator garden was installed with native plants, with a grant from the Levin Family Foundation and in-kind services by a local landscaper.

The department partnered with Healthways to offer SilverSneakers to members 65 and older. More than 723 people have signed since the program was established. The Enrichment Center completed its first full year in the fall, with 940 pass holders and a monthly schedule of more than 35 activities and ten special programs. Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission awarded a grant for a handicapped accessible van and provided \$3,166 in cash ride reimbursements. Businesses contributed through \$10,000 in cash donations and partnered to provide instructors, travel and refreshments.

More than 2,290 people attended a new early opening weekend for Woodland Lights that started November 25. Cash and in-kind sponsorships grew to more than \$63,718.

Summer camp enrollment experienced substantial growth, with an increase of nearly 700, resulting in \$371,000 in revenue. The program partnered with Centerville Schools to provide bus service, expanded its preschool offerings, and its combined art and theatre programs at Town Hall Theatre for efficiency.

The Landmark Children's Theatre Company and ACT Showcase Series presented 10 productions for young audiences at Town Hall Theatre. Including classes, more than 8,056 people participated in the program. The theatre received a \$15,516 Ohio Arts Council grant and presented outreach performances.

More than 1,700 people took swim lessons and the aquatics area hosted six swim meets. Fitness programs introduced three new Beach Body formats. Sampling fitness classes was simplified with the option to take a sign-up class for a walk-in fee. Delay Day Morning Care was added for when Centerville City Schools has a two-hour delay. The program served 74 students. A new July pickle ball tournament drew 93 participants.