

# STATE OF THE CITY



2022

# *State of the City 2022*

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# Mayor John M. Stanforth

In 2022, Wilmington residents witnessed a flurry of construction activity, including rebuilding Rombach Avenue, improved downtown pedestrian crosswalks and traffic flow, Airborne Road paving, new bike & walking trails, rehabilitation of city water reservoirs and the Mulberry waterline, sidewalk and paving initiative.

The value of these projects totaled \$19.5 million, more than 78 percent of which was financed by grants, fulfilling a promise I made to taxpayers to leverage local taxes with available state and federal funds.

Our code enforcement department experienced its busiest time in decades, cleaning up problem areas of the city. Working with property owners to fix more than 250 serious code violations, and organizing city-wide clean up initiatives, our code enforcement continues working hard to reduce blight to discourage petty crime and vandalism -- problems that remain stubbornly difficult to resolve.

Our police and fire departments continued important growth in 2022. Our 911 call emergency center added needed dispatchers, and our police and fire departments operated with the full staffing authorized by City Council. In addition to an active shooter situation in 2022 and serving many high-threat search warrants, our police department fully engaged in a community-wide effort to find solutions to our homeless and vagrancy issues that have plagued the city for decades.

In 2022, the city experienced many changes in leadership, welcoming Jessica Powell as director of transit and Brad Reynolds as human resources director. Promotions included Ronald Fithen to serve as chief of police, Steve Honeycutt to wastewater superintendent, Adam Simpson to water superintendent, Kirby Keltner to cemetery superintendent, and Andrea Tacoronte to deputy service director. We have assembled a great team of hard-working, conscientious people tasked with providing excellent service to citizens while keeping a watchful eye on budgets and spending.

The city also experienced a surge of growth in private sector investment in 2022. Fourteen new single-family homes were started in 2022, with nearly 400 more ready for construction or planned. Existing businesses, including Polaris, finished major expansions. Healthsource of Ohio launched a major expansion downtown, and the General Denver Hotel constructed an addition with a rooftop deck. We have a new Kettering healthcare facility under construction on Rombach and a new Chipotle restaurant.

When I embarked on this journey with the citizens of Wilmington in 2016, the city was in a very different place. I ran on a platform of better roads, more code enforcement, and strong safety services. And to that end, the citizens of Wilmington put their trust in us by agreeing to share their hard-earned money in the form of an earnings tax. They did this with the hope that we would do what we promised.





## ***Mayor John M. Stanforth***

When I embarked on this journey with the citizens of Wilmington in 2016, the city was in a very different place. I ran on a platform of better roads, more code enforcement, and strong safety services. And to that end, the citizens of Wilmington put their trust in us by agreeing to share their hard-earned money in the form of an earnings tax. They did this with the hope that we would do what we promised.

I believe we have done just that. Our growth in 2022 is a direct result of important work during the last seven years. Strong police and fire services, tidier neighborhoods, removal of blighted properties, better roads and improved infrastructure, extensive trail systems, and hardworking and helpful public servants all help to create a community that draws economic development.

This growth is also built on the shoulders of leaders that came before us. This year, we entered into a major water sales contract with Fayette County in support of the new Honda battery plant in Jeffersonville. This was only possible because earlier city leaders; among them Nick Eveland, David Raizk, Bob Holmes, David Hockaday, Tom McMillan, and others; had the vision of a regional water supply from Caesar Creek Lake. This contract with Fayette County will forever improve the financial picture of Wilmington's water department.

As pleased as I am with our work in 2022, I am also excited about what's ahead in 2023. In the spring, we will begin rehabilitation of Davids Drive, one of the largest road projects in recent memory. This ODOT-let project will rebuild Davids Drive from the base up. The first phase (approximately one mile of road) is estimated to cost \$3.1 million. Service Director Brian Shidaker and his team have procured funding to cover the first phase. The rest of Davids Drive is estimated to cost an additional \$6.6 million, and we are actively securing funding now. Davids Drive is a major economic corridor for the city, and its restoration represents a key feature for growing new jobs and opportunities.

The city will also break ground on the new wastewater treatment plant in 2023. The new facility will provide more sewer capacity and enable us to stay compliant with increasingly stringent EPA requirements. The additional sewer capacity will also be an economic driver for the city and county.

In 2022, we also saw a significant increase in citizen participation in our governance, a very hopeful sign for our future. In 2023, city leaders will begin work with the Clinton County Regional Planning Commission and residents in the Grant and Douglas Street neighborhood to focus on a major revitalization project grant. The Clinton County Coalition on Homelessness, the Wilmington Ministerial Association, the Wilmington Police Department, along with citizen watch groups are actively working to find ways to remedy problems associated with homelessness and vagrancy. Volunteers participating in the Clean Up Wilmington initiative started by our code enforcement department have done an impressive amount of trash pickup and beautification throughout the city. When we all work together, we can accomplish great things.

The contributions of our employees to this community have not gone unnoticed. On January 25, Code Enforcement Official Annen Vance and Chief of Police Ron Fithen were presented C4 Awards in the Government/Public Service category. Congratulations to these fine employees on this well-deserved recognition.

As we enter 2023, I feel confident that our growth trend will continue. I am proud of who we are, what we have accomplished this year, and what we are prepared to do together. I want to personally thank city employees, city council and other elected officials, our dedicated civic organizations, churches, and street ministries and our citizens for your part in making 2022 a great year. We still have much to do, but we are up to the task. Let's get to work.

***John M. Stanforth, Mayor***

***Margie Clarkson, Administrative Assistant***

# Public Works

## WATER

The major accomplishment of 2022 was the establishment of a partnership with Fayette County to provide water to the Honda/LG electric vehicle battery plant to be built near Jeffersonville. The contract, signed in November, gives Fayette County access to up to 4.5 million gallons of water per day. For decades, the City has been paying for 7 million gallons of water each day from Caesar Creek Lake, even though the amount used has seldom been much more than 2 million gallons daily.

In 1993, the City entered a contract with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to purchase source water from Caesar Creek Lake. In addition to providing Wilmington residents with a reliable water source, the intention of the contract was to spur regional economic development. The ODNR contract had become a cost burden for the City because economic development partners had not materialized. This new partnership with Fayette County will greatly lessen that burden as all costs will now be shared. In addition, the improvements that will occur at the Caesar Creek intake and pump facilities will benefit both Fayette County and Wilmington water customers.

Construction will begin in 2023 so that water is flowing to Fayette County in time for the battery plant opening, scheduled for late 2024.

A new 6-inch water main was installed on North Mulberry Street, replacing the approximately 80-year-old main that was restricted to an inch in some spots. The new main, funded by American Rescue Plan Act funds, is giving customers higher quality water service and improved fire protection. Using an Ohio EPA grant, lead service lines in that area were also replaced during the project.

As the year closed, the Water Department was in the process of choosing a consulting engineering firm to help determine the best way to handle the “forever chemicals” problem with the City’s drinking water reservoirs in Burtonville. A grant of more than \$1 million from Ohio EPA and funded by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation will be used for the study, which will likely result in additional treatment facilities being installed at the water plant to remove PFAS chemicals from the water. PFAS compounds are called forever chemical because they do not readily break down.

The PFAS compounds have been used in many products since the 1940s, including firefighting foams used at aviation facilities like the Wilmington Air Park, which is in the watershed that feeds the reservoirs.

In June, U.S. EPA greatly reduced the levels that certain PFAS chemicals would be considered safe in drinking water. Immediately following the issuance of the updated guidance, Wilmington reverted to using Caesar Creek Lake as the primary water source.

The purpose of the PFAS study is to be able to again make the City reservoirs a viable water source to ensure a resilient supply of the highest quality. The City’s drinking water met federal and state standards throughout the year. Among the thousands of water samples analyzed throughout 2022 were the triennial lead and copper testing. All lead and copper results – taken from 30 residences throughout older portions of the City – were well below current EPA criteria.



# Public Works

## UTILITY BILLING

In the utility billing office, more than 1,300 people have opted for paperless billing, which was a new option for customers along with several new ways to make payments. Paperless billing has resulted in the savings of thousands of dollars in postage and paper stock.

## WASTEWATER

Design of the new Wastewater Treatment plant continued throughout 2022 and is now 60 percent complete. Construction of the new plant, which will replace a functionally obsolete treatment facility originally put on-line in 1937, will begin in the spring. Completion is expected in 2025.

The new plant will have an average-day capacity 50 percent larger than the current plant and the wet-weather capacity will be 225 percent higher.

Throughout the design process, City personnel and the design-build team have been searching for ways to make the project more economical for our citizens. As an example, the decision was made not to build a new administration and maintenance building. Instead, an existing building will be retrofitted as the wastewater department headquarters. This will save City sewer rate payers upwards of \$1 million.

## STORMWATER

Among the projects identified in the sewer collection system was a pipe that crosses Lytle Creek behind the Peterson Place subdivision. Erosion has exposed the pipe, making it highly susceptible to collapsing. The City has been awarded a \$450,000 Ohio Public Works Commission grant to help pay for a new sewer main.

The stormwater department has attacked problems in the rainwater collection system. One of the projects was the repair of a collapsed storm sewer on North South Street near the library. And in December, a compromised storm sewer was found near the intersection of Wayne Road and Washington Avenue.

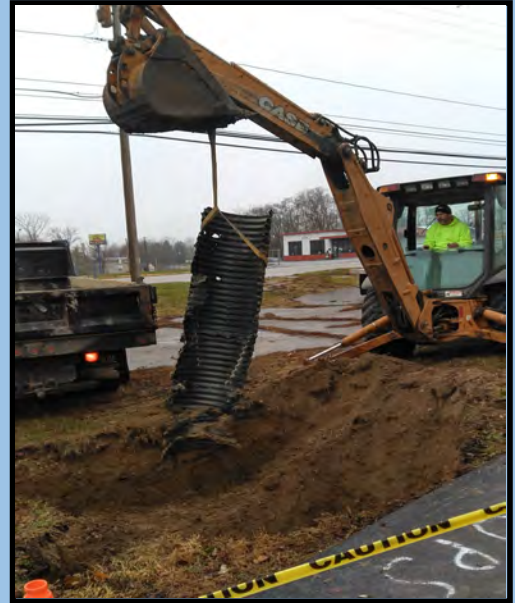
The stormwater utility fee also funded the city's first household hazardous waste collection day in April. Some 100 residents took advantage of the opportunity to drop off unneeded chemicals so they could be properly disposed and kept from polluting waterways. Another collection day is tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2023.

Several people with vast experience were appointed to managerial public works positions in 2022, fortifying our ability to serve our Citizens:

- Adam Simpson, Water Superintendent
- Steve Honeycutt, Wastewater Superintendent
- Howard Lunsford, Water Chief Operator
- Donald Smith, Wastewater Chief Operator
- Karen Miller, Utility Billing supervisor

***Rick Schaffer, Director of Public Works***

***Beth Magee, Administrative Assistant***





# Human Resources Department

The City of Wilmington's Human Resources Department's internal mission is "We Serve Those Who Serve Others" and in 2022, we're pleased to report that we met our mission. 2022 was a year of growth and change. With new HR staff transitioning into the Department, it was an interesting but successful year.

Brad Reynolds assumed the HR Director role in May and HR Generalist Laura Loggains had arrived in January. Along with City Archivist Becky Bowman, the HR team worked to meet the work-life needs of all City employees – no matter the position, department, or location.

While the overall effect of COVID was less than the past two years, it was still an issue to manage with 18 confirmed cases. During the year, we updated our guidelines to reflect revised directions from the CDC and Health Department.

The focus of the City's HR Department was on six key areas – Total Compensation; Selection, Recognition, and Retention; Communications and Performance Management; Development and Education; Risk Management and Insurance; Employee/Labor Relations. The following provides a few details on 2022 accomplishments in each of these six areas:

## Compensation and Benefits

- Pay rates and overall organizational structures were reviewed for internal and external competitiveness using consultant studies. Where appropriate, changes were recommended, brought to Council for approval, and implemented.
- Job descriptions were reviewed to verify accuracy and proper classification. Necessary changes were made and put into place.
- Regular vendor meetings were held to ensure benefit plans were meeting employee needs and that we financially tracked with our budgets.
- We completed the annual open enrollment for all staff with city-wide implementation.
- Considerable time was spent encouraging employees and families to use Marathon Health Services. Health education sessions were offered in addition to incentives to increase the use of Marathon's clinics, pharmacy, and services – especially given their significantly reduced costs.

## Selection, Recognition, and Retention

- Our recruiting outreach was expanded to improve applicant flow and attract higher quality candidates for all City positions, especially for the Police and Fire Departments.
- We hired 54 individuals (26 full-time and 28 part-time) in 2022. Every new hire came through our Paycor online portal or were recommended by existing staff, a process that we'll be building on in 2023.
- We initiated automatic responses and tracking of any online application or notice of interest.
- We began sending written work anniversary and birthday notices to each individual employee to improve recognition.
- Each employee received a small token of appreciation for the first time at year-end 2022.
- Communications and Performance Management
- To improve communication, staff-only "One Call" voice updates to individual cell phones were initiated.



# Human Resources Department

## Selection, Recognition, and Retention Continued

- We implemented a monthly employee newsletter that goes out online and in hard copy.
- The formal performance evaluation document and review process was updated to provide more consistent and helpful feedback to employees.
- Development and Education
  - We began a quarterly leadership training program that targeted directors, managers, and supervisors. This will continue in 2023.
  - Education programs were provided in coordination with other agencies and organizations for financial efficiencies and better learning.
- Risk Management and Insurance
  - We worked with insurers and consultants to guarantee proper P&C coverage for ongoing insurance concerns.
  - We provided needed information (and follow up) in response to Wilmington Air Park incident.
- In order to ensure we received discounts through the State Workers' Comp program, we participated in all required safety programs and insurer meetings along with assuming positions on related organizational boards.
- We managed and responded to 71 public records requests which required over 85 total hours to complete.
- Employee/Labor Relations
  - WSA labor agreement completed and implemented.
  - Employee files brought current to safeguard compliance.
  - To ensure consistency, ongoing in-person and written support provided to city departments who were dealing with staff relations issues.
- Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations updated and distributed.

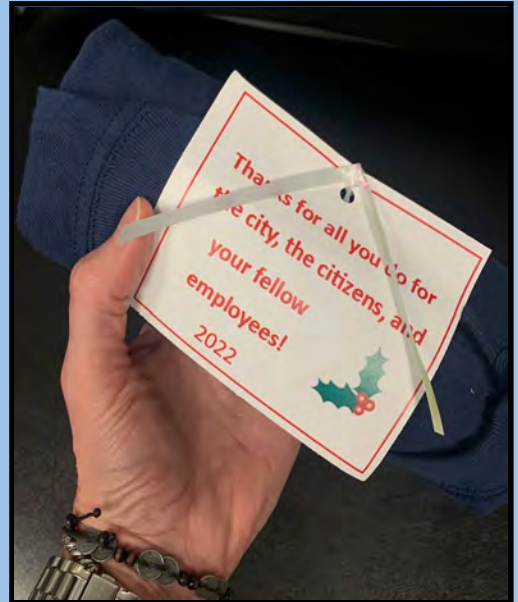
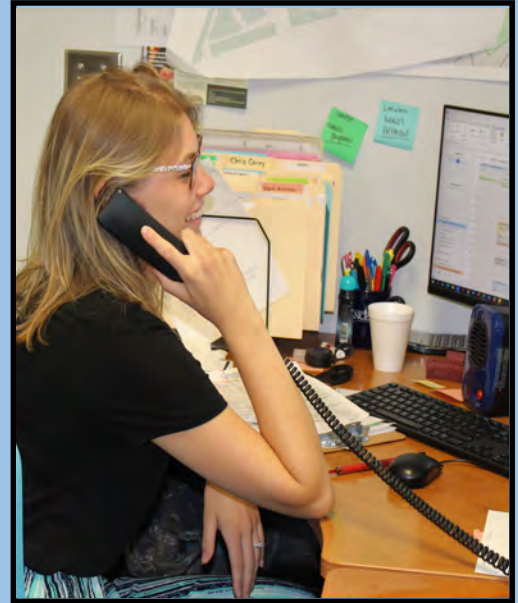
## The Future

For 2023, HR will continue managing all six areas of responsibility with a special emphasis on employee recognition, recruiting, and staff communications. Virtually and in person, we'll be expanding leadership development programs plus basic supervision skills. We'll continue to ensure staff pay and benefits remain competitive plus we'll be improving our searches for quality candidates, especially in Police and Fire.

Leading employees towards healthier lifestyles will be an ongoing journey in all departments. Use of Marathon Health will also be promoted heavily in 2023. Regarding technology, we're looking to develop a short- and long-term plan to address the projected technology needs in our workplace. Finding ways to capture reliable data to improve how we do our work is critical to our operations and bottom line.

Good things happened in Human Resources in 2022. The past year has provided a strong foundation on which to build for the future. With a more experienced team and a clear direction in place, we envision 2023 as a banner year of support for City employees and the people they serve every day.

***Brad Reynolds, Human Resources Director***  
***Laura Loggains, HR Generalist***





# Police and Communications Department

As of December 16, 2022, the Wilmington Police Department has handled 12,736 calls for service. The top three offenses for arrests were:

1. Petty Theft
2. Criminal Trespass
3. Obstructing Official Business

Over 400 traffic citations were issued which include crash related offenses. Over 50 traffic arrests were impaired driver related. The department has zero tolerance for impaired driving. To combat impaired driving, we sent two officers to be trained and certified as nationally and state recognized Drug Recognition Experts (DRE). Ptl. Jack Coates and Ptl. William Foster join myself, Chief Ron Fithen, as the departmental DREs. DRE training supplements some of the advanced training our officers have received to be able to recognize and effectively arrest individuals suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs of abuse.

The department strives to keep up with technology. The department has Axon Fleet Cameras installed in each cruiser. The Axon Fleet Camera is an in-car mobile video recording system that works in conjunction with the Axon Body Worn Cameras each officer is issued. This technology assists not only us, but our Prosecutors as well, as evidence obtained on these systems provides for successful prosecution.

The Special Response Team (SRT) continues to make an impact within the community and is an asset for other agencies as well. The team currently has had total of 15 total callouts which include:

- 1 active shooter / radical extremist (Cincinnati FBI Building shooter)
- 1 vehicle take-down
- 1 Barricade subject
- 12 high threat level search warrants

During these call outs the SRT team has seized the following as evidence during their search warrant services:

- 2 pounds of methamphetamine
- 20.5 grams of Fentanyl
- 4 grams of heroin
- 10ml of methadone
- 14 firearms

The SRT continues to train a minimum of 12 hours per month as governed by both the National Tactical Officer's Association and Ohio Tactical Officer's Association. Recruitment and retention has been a national issue among public safety agencies. Our Communications Center has worked severely under-staffed for the past several years and I am happy to announce that we have added three additional dispatchers in 2022.

Training has always been my top priority for my officers. Each officer has completed 24 hours of Continuing Professional training as mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Beyond the mandated training, our officers have attended over 720 hours of training to include Risk Liability and Management, First-Line Supervision, Field Training Officers, SRT Management, and Active Shooter Response, just to name a few.

The Investigations caseload was being handled by one Detective for half of the year. Ptl. Travis McKinney was named as the department's newest Detective and moved over to Investigations in September of this year.

2023 is going to be a special year for the Wilmington Police Department as I intend to invest in technology and create a drone program for both the SRT and Patrol. Every cruiser will be outfitted with a RADAR unit for speed and traffic safety enforcement. It is my belief that we must provide our officers the tools to do their jobs and to make an impact within the community. My goal is to decrease speed related crashes and offenses by 25% in 2023. Radar and Lidar devices are the tools that will allow that to happen. I also plan to re-implement the K9 Unit in 2023.

***Ron Fithen, Chief***



# *Fire Department*

We made 4021 responses in 2022. Most of these were EMS calls (3186) but our services also included Fire responses, Fire Inspections, Investigations, Public Interaction in several ways, and other general calls for assistance.

We made 557 fire responses for fires such as Houses, apartments, grain dryers, vehicles, and mulch. We responded on many good intent calls where someone may have thought there was a problem and just needed us to check it out for their own piece of mind. We also responded to 139 motor vehicle accidents.

We made mutual aid or cover run calls to neighboring departments 274 times and needed assistance from them 89 times.

Our department does not have a designated full-time fire inspector but several of our members are certified fire inspectors and have completed many inspections on new buildings, renovated buildings and business', potential foster care houses, and yearly inspections.

We had a scare in 2022 while working a foam incident at the air park where 2 of our firefighters were lost and disoriented for a time but we were able to safely get them out and all fire and EMS personnel went home safe. We are so very thankful for everyone who helped during that time.

I.S.O. (Insurance Services Organization) did an audit of our services and City and their findings resulted in a positive outcome for everyone. I.S.O. helps determine insurance rates for citizens and businesses. The City of Wilmington had always been rated at 5 on a 1-10 scale with 1 being the best. In 2022 I.S.O. determined the city rating at a 4 which we are all very pleased with. They involve the Fire Department as well as the Water department, hydrant system, and such.

We made several purchases throughout the year of equipment which will help us do our jobs better. i.e., a new pick-up truck, cardiac monitors, ventilation fans, and such.

We hired 1 new Firefighter/Paramedic this year. Cameron Young joined our team from Clarksville to help the citizens of Wilmington and Clinton County. We look forward to Cameron bringing new ideas and energy into the Fire Department and working side by side with our seasoned members.

*Andy Mason, Chief*





# Sanitation Department

## REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES

The City of Wilmington operates residential and commercial solid waste collection services. The City Refuse Collection crews put in a lot of effort to provide good, reliable and cost-effective trash removal service for the residents and businesses. This essential daily service currently covers over 4000 residential and 470 commercial customers each week. This service is provided five days a week, 52 weeks a year with a very slight interruption due to holidays. In May of 2022 the department purchased a Dennis Eagle – New Way Sidewinder automated trash truck from Trivista Equipment in Youngstown, Ohio.

The Refuse crews assist in many other daily functions of the Sanitation Department such as facilities maintenance, equipment maintenance, landfill operations and customer service requests.

The Collections Department maintains a fleet of 12 vehicles to serve the citizens of Wilmington with refuse pick-up.

- One 31 cubic yard high compaction Dennis Eagle-New Way Sidewinder automated trash truck.
- One 27 cubic yard high compaction New Way Roto Pac automated refuse truck.
- One 25 cubic yard high-compaction Loadmaster refuse truck.
- One 20 cubic yard high compaction Loadmaster refuse truck.
- One 20 cubic yard high compaction New Way recycling truck.
- One 31 cubic yard high compaction Loadmaster automated recycle truck.
- One single axle Ford dump truck.
- Three service pickup trucks.
- One sport utility vehicle.
- One mechanic tool truck.

The Sanitation Department also collects yard waste and tree branches along with large item pick up.

## COMPOSTING

The Sanitation Department operates an Ohio EPA-approved Class 4 compost facility for the area residents.

Each day the route truck collects approved yard waste bags as well as appropriately bundled brush, or residents may bring in their yard waste for a tipping fee of \$10.00 per cubic yard. Accumulated brush, leaves, grass clippings and tree branches are ground into mulch. Over 4500 cubic yards of mulch was generated this year. Evans Landscaping was contracted to grind the compost this year. The city's Maintenance and Repair Department, Wilmington City Schools, and ODOT also use this compost facility for disposal of their leaf and brush collection.

## COMMERCIAL DUMPSTER RENTALS

The Sanitation Department continues a very successful dumpster rental program for our commercial customers. The department now offers over 470 commercial dumpsters as rentals, providing a high quality and convenient service. This department also services and maintains these dumpsters in-house. In addition, our welding shop provides dumpster repair, replacement for private owners, and other special fabricating for operations. The department also offers one week rentals of six cubic yard dumpsters for residential use.





# Sanitation Department

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Approximately 2,000 residents actively recycle. The Sanitation department along with Clinton County Solid Waste Management maintain a bulk cardboard drop off location for residents to dispose of cardboard. This is an effort to capture excess cardboard from going into the landfill and consuming air space. We transport the cardboard to Hanna Paper Recycling in West Chester. There is a slight revenue stream with the material as it can be sold on the open market for a per ton amount. We currently rent eleven cardboard dumpsters to Wilmington businesses and the Wilmington City School system.

## LANDFILL OPERATIONS

The Sanitation Department is currently placing waste in a 6-acre cell that was completed and opened in May 2020. There were various other projects that took place throughout 2021 such as leachate line clean out, litter pickup and leachate repair. A&D Lawn Care and Neil Myers were contracted to grass seed the east unit as well as the south slope on cell 7.

The City Landfill is licensed by the Ohio EPA to accept up to 195 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per day. The city-operated collection services generate on average 34 tons per day. Other miscellaneous daily waste averaged approximately 166 tons, for an average daily disposal total of 200 tons for 2022.

The Landfill Department has 10 pieces of heavy equipment. The department purchased a used 2002 Al-Jon 81KE landfill compactor in September.

- 1 (one) CAT D5K bulldozer
- 1 (one) CAT 963C track loader
- 1 (one) CAT D3C bulldozer
- 1 (one) CAT 816 compactor
- 1 (one) Kobelco 250LC excavator
- 1 (one) Case backhoe
- 1 (one) Kubota Z726 zero turn mower
- 1 (one) Volvo A-30F off-road dump truck
- 1 (one) CAT 330F Excavator
- 1 (one) Al-Jon 81KE Landfill Compactor

## DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

The department currently operates with fifteen full time employees, 52 weeks a year, five days a week. Employees are cross trained on all equipment and able to perform all duties in both collections and Landfill operations.



***Cody Romohr, Superintendent***  
***Shyanne Pitzer, Administrative Assistant***

# Maintenance and Repair Department

The Maintenance & Repair Department presently consist of nine employees. Seven maintenance crew members, one mechanic, and a superintendent.

Duties of the Maintenance & Repair Department are:

- Repair and reconstruct streets and alleys
- Asphalt paving
- Plow and salt city streets and right of ways during inclement weather
- Mowing of city right of ways, city properties , and delinquent properties
- Painting of traffic control lines and markings
- Removal of trees in the city right of way and on city properties
- Install and maintain traffic signals
- Leaf collection
- Maintenance of city owned vehicles and equipment
- Transport and set up mobile sound stage
- Traffic control for events and festivals
- Inspect , repair , and maintenance of bridges
- Install , repair , and maintain street signs
- Install , repair , and maintain guardrail
- Inspections on roadway construction projects

The Maintenance and Repair Department set the mobile sound stage up 14 times.

There were 15 days spent trimming trees in the city right of way in preparation for leaf pick up and the snow removal, there were 4 trees removed. There was 2050 cubic yards of leaf's picked up during leaf season.

There was over 100 gallons of paint used to paint the streets. There were 124 road and street signs removed and replaced due to accidents or low reflectivity of the signs.

The pothole patcher was used for 110 days using 30 ton of #9 stone and 350 gallons of emulsion to preserve and extend the life of the asphalt on various streets. There was 100 ton of hot mix asphalt used to repair various streets.

The crews mowed 93 abandoned or delinquent properties along with keeping the roadside ditches and various city right of ways and properties mowed.

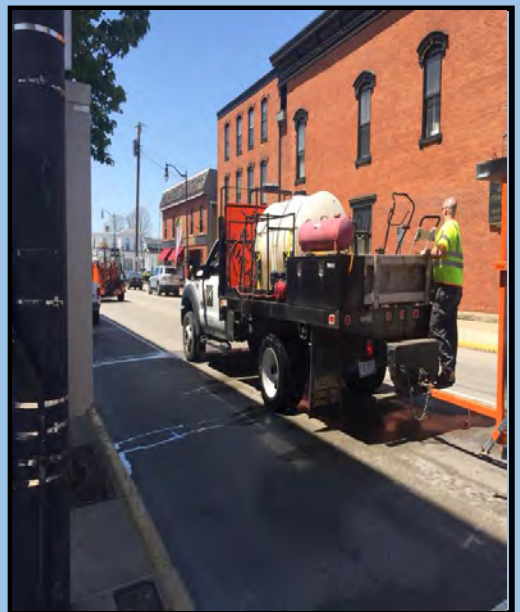
The crew put up and took down 500 military banners along with 4 banners for Hollidazzle, 8 Clinton County fair, 272 welcome, fall, winter, Christmas banners and garland. The crew maintained 150 hanging flowers in the downtown area for 7 months using over 25,000 gallons of water.

Assisted the Police Department with the removal of 5 vagrant camps. Renovated 16 Security lights at the Safety Center for the Police Department.

Purchased a new Ford F250 truck.

Installed 8 signs on The Elizabeth Looney Bike Trail. Made 30 signs for various City Departments. Removed graffiti for about a quarter of a mile on the Luther Warren Peace Path with assistance from Travis Mellenger.

***Jerry Runk, Superintendent***





# Building and Zoning Department

The Building and Zoning Department issues permits for residential and commercial construction work performed in the City. In 2022, the department issued 112 zoning permits and 383 building permits.

The total number of building permits issued in 2022 was 9% higher than 2021. We issued 383 building permits, with a breakdown of 235 residential and 148 commercial permits. The City saw a 23% decrease in the number of commercial permits from 2021 to 2022 and a 47% increase in residential permits. Permits were split at approximately 61% residential and 39% commercial work.

The stated value of commercial construction projects started this year was \$32,586,498. Residential projects were valued at \$2,321,357. We collected \$87,826.08 in building permit fees. This is 1% less than the previous year. Permit fees are a combination of flat and calculated charges based on the area of the work.

In 2022, eighteen new primary structures were started. Of those eighteen structures, there were fourteen new single-family homes and one multifamily home. These homes were or are being constructed on Red Maple Lane, Timber Glen Drive, Nelson Avenue, Michigan Avenue, Prairie Avenue, Meadow Ridge Circle, Woodside Drive, S. Wall Street, Regal Drive, N. Spring Street and Howard Street. There were three new commercial buildings started.

As for building department inspections, 467 building and electrical inspections were completed. 132 inspections were for electrical work and the remaining 335 covered building, mechanical, and fire work.

Some of the commercial projects that were completed this year:

- Polaris warehouse expansion and renovation of first floor office space on Airborne Road
- Chipotle on Rombach Avenue

There were also some smaller notable changes completed: New second floor conference room at Wilmington Savings Bank on South Street, remodel of Dove Church on Rombach Avenue, remodel of Wendy's on Rombach Avenue, remodel of Walmart on Rombach Avenue, additional classrooms at Wilmington Christian Academy on Davids Drive, renovations to several buildings at the Wilmington Air Park, and an outdoor patio at the General Denver Hotel on W. Main Street.

Works in progress include improvements to the wastewater treatment facility on Nelson Avenue, Kettering Health medical facility on Rombach Avenue, HealthSource medical facility on W. Main Street, and renovations for Clinton County Administrative Offices on Davids Drive at the old Southern State Community College site.





# Building and Zoning Department

The following is a breakdown of all building permits issued by purpose in 2022:

Construction Purpose	Permit Tally
New Single-Family Home	
Standard Construction - 13	
Manufactured Home - 1	14
New Multifamily Homes	1
Expand Residential Home	7
Repair/Remodel Residential Home	5
Deck/Porch	4
New Commercial Building	3
Expand Commercial Building	3
Repair/Remodel Commercial	16
Industrialized Unit	1
New Outbuilding	9
Expand Outbuilding	0
Repair/Remodel Outbuilding	2
Utility	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>

The remaining 229 permits issued were for electrical, mechanical, utility construction, fire suppression and alarm work, signage, demolition, solar power installation, siding, swimming pool, and certificates of occupancy.

## BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The Board of Zoning appeals hears requests from applicants pursuing variances to the Zoning Code, conditional use requests, and appeals from code enforcement orders. The Board met twelve times this year and heard requests regarding signage, setback requirements, landscaping requirements, footprint of structures, impervious surface requirements, parking space requirements, fence height, accessory structure locations and setbacks, conditional uses, and gravel drive surfaces. The Board approved forty variance requests and three conditional use requests. The Board denied four variance requests and three variance requests were dismissed.

**Brian Shidaker, Director of Public Service**  
**Shirley Orwick, Building and Zoning  
Official**



# Code Enforcement Department

The Code Enforcement Department strives to fairly and efficiently enforce and uphold the Codes and Ordinances while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of our residents, businesses, owners, and visitors. The City of Wilmington accepts complaints from citizens as well as other local departments and agencies regarding violations of the City's Property Maintenance and Zoning Codes. The department then investigates each complaint and determines a course of action.

## Cases and Violations

The number of new violations decreased this year from 592 to 532. Those 532 violations resulted in 382 new cases being opened with some cases consisting of multiple violations at one address. The chart below shows a breakdown of all current open cases from 2016 to present. A lot of time and effort has been put forth this year in respect to record keeping and case organization. While more cases were open in 2022 than in previous years, the use of warning notices in some instances prior to opening violations has been very successful.

Code Enforcement Case Load (YTD 12/15/2022)	
Code Enforcement Cases Opened 2022	382
Code Enforcement Cases Opened 2021	263
Closed Cases 2022	260
Open Remaining Cases from 2021	23
Open Remaining Cases from 2020	10
Open Remaining Cases from 2019	1
Open Remaining Cases from 2018	6
Open Remaining Cases from 2017	3
Open Remaining Cases from 2016	1
Total Open Cases (As of 12/15/2022)	178

Violations of the zoning and property maintenance codes are addressed by issuing warnings or formal violation notices (depending on the type and severity of violations) and working with the property owner and/or tenants to bring their property into compliance within a specified time frame. If property owners are not compliant, the cases are then turned over to the City Prosecutor and criminal charges are filed in Municipal Court.

This department handles a variety of violations regarding exterior property maintenance, junk vehicles, litter, grass and weeds, infestations, interior property issues, and other property issues. Below is a chart of the various violations opened in 2022.



N. Spring Street- Owner and tenants had ongoing issues with sanitation and litter. The home was abandoned and foreclosure proceedings began. The home was sold to a third party at a Sheriff's Sale and they have done extensive renovations on both the interior and exterior.





## Court Action

When property owners fail to comply with City Ordinances, it becomes necessary to file criminal zoning charges in Municipal Court. Five cases were filed in 2022, and all of those cases are still pending in court. This department reserves filing criminal charges as a last resort after all efforts to achieve compliance have been exhausted.

## Special Projects

Continuing the work from 2021, the “Clean-Up Wilmington” program started by this department has continued to address littering, dumping and other blight, while working with other departments, agencies, donors, and volunteers.

### Clean-Up Wilmington- 2022 Volunteer Stats

- 14 Volunteer Events
- 237 Volunteers
- 59 Activity Hours
- 612 Volunteer Hours
- 166 Bags of Litter
- Over 20 miles of City Streets & Alleyways cleaned

## Collaboration and Community Support

This year the Code Enforcement Department has been privileged to collaborate with several City and County Departments, as well as individual project donors, and volunteers:

- Clinton County Regional Planning/ Land Bank (Taylor Stuckert & Ellen Sizer)
- Clinton County Juvenile Court Community Service Program (Chad Mason)
- Clinton County Solid Waste and Recycling District (Jeff Walls & Erin Hartsock)
- Clinton County Prosecutor’s Office (Justin Dickman & staff)
- Clinton County Treasurer’s Office (Kyle Rudduck & staff)
- City Prosecutor’s Office (David Henry & Jane Horne)
- Clinton County Dog Warden (Rex Doak)
- Wilmington Police & Communications Department
- Wilmington Fire Department
- Wilmington Sanitation Department
- Wilmington Street Department
- Sugartree Landscaping (Lee Sandlin & Crew)
- Sugartree Ministry Center
- Main Street Wilmington
- Clean-Up Wilmington Volunteers
- Amazon Air
- Wilmington College (Michael Allbright & Chip Murdock)
- Clinton County Visitor’s Bureau (Susan & Melissa)
- Art House- (Andrew Conarroe)
- TimberTech- Earth Day Experience
- Alkermes – Alks in Action (Sonja Godfrey)
- Kava Haus (Brad Hayes)
- Danatos Pizza (Doug Devilbiss)

Without the support of these departments, agencies, donors, and volunteers, this year’s progress and success would not have been possible. A big thank you to all the willing volunteers who have participated in our clean-up activities, “Many hands make light work!”

## Property Success Stories

Photos below depict several property cases that have been closed or are in the process of compliance. Originally these structures were all in poor condition on the interior as well as the exterior, but with renovations the side-by-side photos speak for themselves.

Looking forward to continued success and collaboration in 2023.

***Annen Vance, Code Enforcement Official***

E. Truesdell Street- An active investigation by the City of Wilmington Police Department uncovered substantial issues inside this property. Tenants were evicted and the property owner has started interior and exterior renovations to correct all violations.



E. Vine Street- Owner was repeated non-complaint in regard to exterior and interior maintenance of the vacant house. Court case was filed and arraigned in November of 2021. Owner sold to an investor in March of 2022 and the new owner began renovations.



Lytle Place- The owner of this structure passed away and family members were inhabiting the home without electricity or running water. After the home became vacant, it was sold at Sheriff’s Sale to a third party who completely renovated. This home then sold to a private owner over the summer.





# Parks and Recreation

2022 was another fantastic year for the City of Wilmington Parks & Recreation. Here are some highlights from the year:

## Sports Leagues

We served over 1,100 youth and adults this year. We were able to successfully run every sports league in our inventory this year, first time since covid. Participation numbers were higher this year than they have been in the past 2-3 years in every sport!

All our baseball fields got an upgrade with added dirt to keep our fields safe and looking great!

Our volunteer coaches made each season fun, competitive and positive for our youth again this year. We appreciate your time and efforts!

Special thank you to all our banner sponsors, baseball/t-ball/softball sponsors, Beacon Orthopedics & Sports Medicine along with Wilmington Inn for helping us fully cover all youth sports league cost for the fourth year in a row!

## Special Events

Summer Fishing Derby was back this year! This is a great program in partnership with our Wilmington Police Department (WPD). Kids and their families were able to enjoy time fishing and picnicking with WPD & Park Staff.

Trunk or Treat was another big success. It was well attended and lots of happy kids! Thank you to our partners from Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington Fire Department, Wilmington Savings Bank, Wilmington Auto Center, Wilmington Church of God, local Girl and Boy Scouts, Direct Auto Insurance, Clinton County Animal Care Center, Auntie Boutique Fashion, Future Home Health Care, Dealer track, G & J Pepsi, Polaris Industries, Dragons Karate, Ohio State Patrol, Ahresty, Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Crown Services, First State Bank, For the Love of Pulling, Calvary Baptist Church, Makeshark, Wilmington Public Library, Wilmington College Lady Quaker Basketball Team, Elizabeth Gardner Photography, Ames Dental Office, Wilmington Lions Club, Clinton County Sheriff's, and Dr. Tawadros Pediatric Dentistry for making these events possible for our community.

## Trails

The Luther E. Warren Peace Path Extension Project is complete. Trail users now are now able to enjoy the beautiful scenic trail off Nelson Ave that extensions all the way out to Ogden Road. BIG thank you to all those involved who made this project a reality.

In partnership with the Clinton County Trails Coalition and HealthFirst of Clinton County, we installed new signage along our trails. These signs provide trail users with helpful information to help encourage and motivate them to live a health lifestyle. We are very grateful for this partnership!

## Resurfaced Tennis & Basketball Courts

We received funding from ODNr NatureWorks Grant Program and HealthFirst of Clinton County to resurface our tennis and basketball courts at J. W. Denver Williams Jr. Memorial Park. The new courts look great, and we appreciate the support!

We look forward to what the future may hold for our beloved park system. Thank you once again to all of our sponsors, staff, board members, volunteers and generous community. Without your hard work, help and support, we would not be able to serve our community and do what we do. Remember, these are your parks - let us know how you would like to get involved. Parks do indeed build community!

***Jermaine Issac,***  
***Superintendent of Parks & Recreation***



# Transportation Department

Wilmington Transit System (WTS) is proud to provide affordable and reliable public transportation to the citizens of Wilmington. Many people rely on this service to help maintain their independence and quality of life. Community members use our transportation services for employment, medical appointments, shopping, education, childcare and staying connected to their family and friends. We currently have an inventory of twenty-five transit vehicles, four of those vehicles are equipped with a wheelchair lift. In 2022, WTS provided over 100,000 rides. Approximately 40,000 of those rides were able to be reimbursed through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Elderly and Disabled Grant program, which the department is fortunate to be awarded these funds every year.

In January of 2022, WTS welcomed a new Director to the department, Jessica Powell. Jessica has set many goals for WTS however the largest is to increase efficiency by implementing an electronic dispatch system. While this new system may bring challenges and change to our community in the beginning stages, this system will create great benefits to the community with ease of use and more efficient ways to schedule their transportation needs. The goal is to have the system in operation in January 2023.

Our whole administrative team has been built from the ground up this year. We are proud to have welcomed Chasity Williams as our Mobility Manager, Amy Beebe as our Administrative Assistant, Brad Doyle as our Laborer, and Nicholas Clarkson as our Crew Leader.

We installed a new camera system in each vehicle to improve safety and security for all drivers and passengers. The system is equipped with GPS location, AI for harsh driving alerts, and vehicle diagnostic alerts.

WTS was awarded funding in late 2021 for several projects through the Ohio Transit Partnership Program grant (OTP2) funded by the Department of Transportation (ODOT), to renovate the facility. We have made progress on a few of these projects in 2022 while the remainder will be completed in 2023. We are excited to get these projects completed so that we are providing more exceptional service to our passengers and the community who greatly depend on our service.

The OTP2 grant provides funds to rural or urban transportation systems with an emphasis on the preservation of transit facilities and innovative transit initiatives. The Charles Street facility is approaching its 21st anniversary and needs improvements to the structure and grounds. WTS chose to request funding for several improvement projects. WTS will also have an upcoming transit study completed to examine ways transit can be more efficient as well as the possibility of providing new services.

Funding provided by ODOT was received in 2022 for the purchase of four new transit vehicles. Each of these vehicles will be modified minivans much like the current fleet of vehicles utilized by WTS. All four of the vehicles are equipped with a wheelchair accessible ramp to accommodate passengers who need these services. While we look forward to these vehicles being delivered, due to manufacturer shortages, we are currently on a wait list; however, we are hopeful to receive them in early 2023.

Our Transit employees are to be commended for their continued dedication to our passengers. We have faced staffing challenges like many other employers, and they have met the day-to-day challenges with a positive attitude and a smile on their face.

***Jessica Powell, Director***





# Sugar Grove Cemetery

Sugar Grove Cemetery experienced one of its busiest years in 2022. Cemetery staff completed a record number of burials, and foundation repairs since the City took ownership in 2015. With the appointment of the first ever Cemetery Superintendent, Kirby Keltner, efforts are being expanded to focus more on headstone repair and restoration as well as planning for improvements in the coming years.

## STATISTICS

**Burials and Land Sales** - There were 99 total interments at Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2022. Of these, 37 were cremations and 62 were full burials. Additionally, 76 grave spaces were purchased during the year.  
**Foundations** - City workers poured 62 foundations for new grave monuments and set 7 new government markers during 2022. The staff also repaired or leveled the monuments of 73 older graves this year, including pouring 5 replacement bases.

## EQUIPPED FOR SUCCESS

In 2022, the City invested in a dump trailer. This addition will allow our staff to reduce ground damage and improve our efficiency and service.

## GROUND AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

The cemetery currently operates with a newly appointed Cemetery Superintendent, 2 full-time laborers, and 1 part-time laborer. The team works diligently to preserve and maintain the grandeur and natural beauty of 40-plus acres of developed land and over 15,800 graves.

When not mowing, trimming, or performing burial services, the team removes old shrubs and trees, clearing overgrown areas, and pruning deadwood to keep existing trees strong and healthy. As is typical, there have been incidents of storm damage throughout the year. Each tree that falls in the cemetery presents a unique challenge. Our staff works carefully to remove tree debris while minimizing damage to the grave spaces and privately owned headstones.

Sugar Grove Cemetery's fence along Truesdell St. underwent significant repairs this summer. There were two vehicle accidents that caused damage to the fence. These repairs were completed by outside contractors.

## THE BRIDGE

When the City assumed responsibility for Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2015, the bridges became subject to the same uniform inspection standards as other city bridges. Unfortunately, the truss bridge over Lytle Creek did not pass state inspection, and it was ordered closed to vehicle traffic until repairs could be completed. The City applied for and was awarded a Municipal Bridge Grant to help offset the cost of repair. Through this process, the bridge, which was built in the early 1900s by the Champion Bridge Company, was identified by the state as a historic structure. After a delay in construction due to COVID, the historic truss bridge was completed and reopened in April of this year. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain and flooding in the spring, cemetery staff discovered failing structure around the bridge nearest the maintenance barns at the start of the year. This bridge was promptly closed to protect public safety. Repair of this bridge is intended by the end of next year.

## VOLUNTEERISM

As always, the City is grateful to those who volunteer their time to help maintain the beauty of Sugar Grove Cemetery. This year, Sugar Grove Cemetery hosted a group from Alkermes, Inc. This group of 22 individuals tackled tasks ranging from replacing veterans' flags, trash cleanup, cleaning curbs, resetting, and clearing debris around headstones, and painting the pergola near soldier's point. Another group of volunteers also gathered informally prior to Memorial Day to participate in the annual tradition of replacing the flags on veterans' graves. The Wilmington Garden Club continues to sponsor and maintain flower beds in the cemetery.

***Brian Shidaker, Director of Public Service***  
***Andrea Tacoronte, Deputy Service Director***  
***Kirby Keltner, Cemetery Superintendent***

