

STATE

OF THE

CITY



2020

State of the City 2020

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Mayor Stanforth's Greeting



2020 was the year of perseverance. Even though the virus has made for some difficult times, we accomplished a lot. Who would have predicted wearing a mask would become normal or ZOOM no longer a phrase from a comic book, but a new way to hold meeting. Or the new dress code for meetings is dress shirt or blouse with sweatpants and slippers. Who knows what changes in our lifestyle 2021 will bring?

Project highlights for 2020 include the expansion at the landfill, adding approximately another 30 years, keeping the disposal rates for our citizens low. This was successful and on budget because of the excellent leadership and oversight by Landfill Superintendent, Mike Crowe. Rick Schaffer, promoted to Public Works Director, oversees the Water Department, Wastewater Department, and the Stormwater Department, established in 2020. The Stormwater Department, created to ensure compliance with growing EPA requirements, is also operated with the assistance of the new Stormwater Administrator, Eric Green. Our water treatment plant is wrapping up the expansion and upgrades to meet the demands of water supply, the EPA, and the ever-evolving algal bloom. These upgrades will also allow for fluoridation of our water. Director Schaffer will also be leading the team for our new wastewater treatment plant in 2021.

2020 included a new department head, Larry Dale Bennington, now running our transit department. He has done an outstanding job of balancing the needs of our customers and keeping our driver safe. Maintenance and Repair Superintendent Jerry Runk led his department in an aggressive program to remove blight, honeysuckle, and homeless encampments. His department is also invaluable to the successful residential street paving project in the southern part of the city, including part of Sugartree Street, which we included in our annual tree program, planting trees on both sides of the street.

While my goal as Mayor has always been to maintain safety services, 2020 brought the opportunity and need to expand our safety services. Police Chief Ron Cravens added a K9 and officer and has been preparing his department for the 2021 spring launch of our bicycle patrol units. I encourage and remind our citizens we need your help fighting crime. See something, say something. Fire Chief Andy Mason led his department through the extremely challenging time, navigating the unknown of COVID-19 while responding to the calls for service. We are grateful for the vaccine provided to our responders that we know will help keep them safer and our citizens safer.

In addition to an already project heavy year, several more were added because of opportunity from CARES funding. The funds had a very short timeline to be utilized with strict guidelines. City Administrator Marian Miller oversaw the completion of server upgrades, several office and building modification upgrades, and personal protective equipment distribution projects. With the combined efforts of the Auditor's Office and the local Chamber of Commerce, she established a Small Business Grant Program, awarding over \$130,000 in emergency grant funding, providing aid to nineteen Wilmington businesses. The excellent relationship with the Auditor's Office is instrumental for this success.

2021 is going to be an incredible year, with more projects than the city has ever taken on. The Rombach Avenue project will start in the spring. The first third of Davids Drive will be designed in 2021 and completely rebuilt in 2022. Safety improvements will begin in our downtown. Mulberry Street from Locust Street to Xenia Ave will be redesigned, including the addition of a new 6" water line for Mulberry Street. Due to the generous contribution of the Roberts family, the bike trail from Nelson Ave to Ogden will be completed by summer. This trail will be completed by grants, donations, and the tenacity of Clinton County Regional Planning Executive Director, Taylor Stuckert. Thank you, Taylor. At long last, our bridge at the cemetery will finally be replaced, after navigating the difficult process of restoring a historic Champion bridge. The success and ability for these projects comes down to the success and ability to receive grants. Brian Shidaker, Safety Service Director, is a master at this. The City is on track to complete 26.609 million dollars in projects by the end of 2021. This undertaking is supported by over 19 million dollars in grant and loan funding. The City applied for and was awarded over 9.6 million dollars in grants and over 9.4 million dollars in zero-percent loans. The citizens will get a return on these investments the City is making for decades to come.

I am proud of each one of our department heads. We have the best team ever to lead the city. They are constantly aware of husbanding the taxpayer money and spend it carefully and wisely. If 2020 can be as successful as it was despite a global pandemic, I look forward to sharing the successes of 2021 with all of you.

John M. Stanforth

John M. Stanforth, Mayor
Marian F. Miller, City Administrator
Ingrid Anderson, Administrative Assistant

Public Works

WATER

The major improvement project at the Water Treatment Plant was delayed by the pandemic, but the new treatment basin, bulk water station, and disinfection system were brought on late in the year. The addition of fluoride to the drinking water and the improved security and computer systems are now expected to be complete before the end of February 2021.

The four-inch water main that was changed to a six-inch water main on Grant Street is almost complete and will be brought online in January. The project is using a federally-funded grant facilitated by the CDBG. Four-inch lines do not provide adequate flow for customers or firefighting. Similarly-sized, 100-plus-year-old lines remain in service on portions of more than 30 streets in town. Undersized lines are scheduled to be replaced on portions of Rombach Avenue and Mulberry Street in 2021. The Public Works Department is developing a systematic plan to replace remaining four-inch water mains in the coming years.

Ohio EPA endorsed the City's newly-developed Source Water Protection Plan, which lists ways to prevent pollution of the City's drinking water sources – Caesar Creek Lake and Cowan Creek. The endorsement will make the City eligible for funding of projects to protect water quality.

The interior re-coating of the City of Wilmington's water tower located at the Clinton County Fairgrounds occurred in the spring. The work was part of a six-year plan that runs through 2023 to rehabilitate both the interior and exterior of the city's four water towers. A properly maintained water tower both preserves water quality and protects the investment the City and its residents have made in the water system. With regular maintenance, a water tower can remain in operation for 100 years or longer.

In September, the Water Department learned that very low levels of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances chemicals (PFAS) can be found in our Cowan Creek source water. These chemical compounds have been used in many consumer products, but where water is contaminated it is often caused by firefighting foams used at military installations, airports and fire training facilities. Even though the levels were well below Ohio EPA criteria for concern, water plant personnel immediately made adjustments in treatment to reduce the levels in the drinking water and is committed to further reducing them below detectable levels.

The new treatment basin at the water plant was designed for algal toxin removal but is also useful in PFAS removal -- though much higher chemical addition will be necessary. The City has hired a group of law firms with expertise in this area to recoup the additional treatment costs from chemical manufacturers.

The State of Ohio joined the City's battle with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over improper charges related to the City's use of water from Caesar Creek Lake. The Attorney General's Office filed a lawsuit against the Corps seeking to stop charges for things like birdseed, bathroom fixtures, heating and cooling equipment at the visitor's center, travel expenses, cedar chip bedding for duck boxes, nature trails, parking lots, pedestrian bridges, aquarium and a Bobber the Water Safety Dog costume. The Corps continues to charge the City for these types of items, along with large, unwarranted labor costs, even though they have no connection to supplying water to the City.



Public Works

UTILITY BILLING

After the firm hired to modernize the water meter and utility billing operation defaulted on its contract, City personnel took up the task. The automated meter reading system is working as designed and only a few hundred meters have yet to be replaced. Concurrently, new software is being implemented to allow customers to monitor their water usage and more easily pay bills online.

Ohio EPA congratulated the City for its intensified administration of a Backflow Prevention Program. The program ensures the proper devices are in place to prevent potentially contaminated water from flowing backward from the plumbing inside a building back into the City water main. This program helps preserve the health and safety of all residents.

WASTEWATER

A master plan for Wastewater Department was endorsed by City Council in August. The backbone of the plan is the construction of a new treatment plant to replace the existing one, originally built in 1937 and last updated in 1988. The new plant will be located on the former Textron property, directly across Nelson Avenue from the current plant. To save money, portions of the existing plant will continue to be used for sludge handling and storage.

The new plant will be designed to treat an average of 50 percent more wastewater than the current plant. It will also be better equipped to handle high-flow episodes and can be expanded relatively easily. The Public Works Department is in negotiations with a team of engineers to begin the design process.

A collaborative process called Design-Build will be used where an engineer and construction firm will work together to design and construct the plant. This process should avoid conflicts and result in the plant being in operation sooner, hopefully by 2024.

An expedited completion plan for the new treatment plant is important because the current plant is reaching/nearing end of life. The plant staff is continually repairing and reconfiguring plant components. Because of their efforts, the aging plant is still able to meet current regulations. Another reason for a new plant is the EPA will be implementing more stringent limits that the existing plant would struggle to meet.

In an effort to assist with coronavirus data gathering, the Wastewater Department became part of a statewide program administered by the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio State University to monitor the sewage entering the treatment plant for coronavirus. In operation since October, the testing looks for genes of the coronavirus in the wastewater. The results were meant to give the local Health Department an early warning of the disease's spread in Wilmington and tracked the surge experienced in the area late in the year.



Public Works

Early in 2020, a new street sweeper was purchased, replacing a 30-year-old machine that barely worked. The new unit allows personnel to more efficiently keep the streets looking better and reduce the volume of debris entering and disrupting the storm sewer system.

STORMWATER

City Council approved the formation of a Stormwater Utility in September. Removing stormwater management operations from the Wastewater Department has been under study for many years and follows the lead of more than 100 other municipalities across Ohio.

The Stormwater Utility will begin collecting fees from residents and businesses in July 2021. The fee will be on the same utility bill as the other city services, and will be calculated on the amount of impervious surface; like buildings, asphalt, and concrete -- the property contains.

An average residential property will be charged approximately \$6.00 a month. An online database is being developed so residents and businesses can soon learn exactly how much their property will be charged.

An incredible amount of stormwater is entering the sanitary sewer system. If the problem is not addressed a much larger, more expensive wastewater treatment plant would be needed and a vast array of tunnels would have to be constructed throughout town.

The stormwater fee will be used to support both the sanitary sewer and stormwater piping systems, identify improper connections to the sanitary system and complete other EPA-mandated activities. The stormwater efforts, in combination with the new wastewater plant, will position the City for industrial and residential growth. Removing the rainwater from the sanitary sewer piping system has the effect of increasing the capacity of that system.

Rick Schaffer, Director of Public Works

Adam Simpson, Chief Operator– Water

Jordan Martin, Chief Operator– Wastewater

Eric Green, Stormwater Administrator



Human Resources Department

Over the past year, the Human Resource Department was busy ensuring the City's workplaces were safe and compliant with all the new rules and regulations resulting from COVID. However, despite all the unexpected challenges, Human Resources was able to accomplish great things because of the administration's commitment to advance the City as a high-quality progressive workplace.

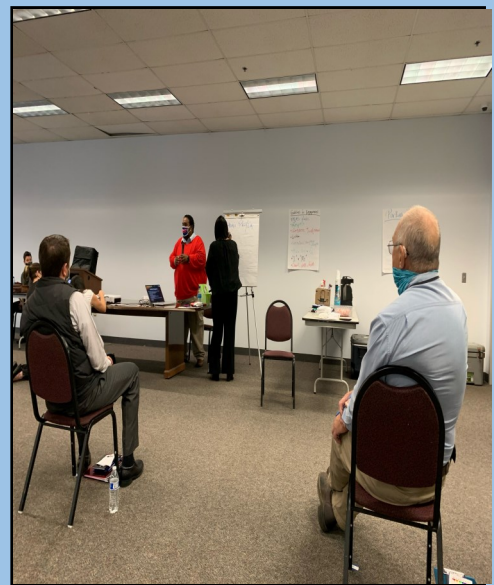
The Human Resources team welcomed 37 new hires, of which 21 are full-time, and 16 are part-time. New employees are so critical to the success and growth of the City. Each new hire brings a fresh perspective and new ideas, which helps us improve our processes.

The Human Resources Department welcomed a new Administrative Assistant, Maria Burrell. Maria has been a part of the City of Wilmington family for over three years. Before joining the Human Resources team, Maria supported the Service Director's Office and Building and Zoning Department. Maria hit the ground running, and in the short time she has been in the Human Resources Department, she has improved both the Department and the support we provide to the employees.

A wellness and rewards program was introduced as part of the City's medical insurance benefit offering. GO365 allows employees and their spouses to earn rewards for healthy activities such as workouts, preventive exams and more. We have had an overwhelming response to GO365! Out of the roughly 225 registered employees and spouses in GO365 we have 135 participating! I am very excited to see what 2021 brings for our new wellness initiative. HR will continue to drive participation and engagement in the wellness program throughout the year.

During 2020, new technology was integrated into the Human Resources department, to set us up for great success in 2021. One of those technologies is *bswift*, a benefits administration system. This platform will streamline the employee benefits process allowing employees to enroll in benefits in an online system. In addition to countless educational videos, *bswift* also includes a decision support feature that uses artificial intelligence to ask the employee a series of questions about what medical expenses are expected in the coming year. The system will then compare the plans and suggest the best options for the employee. Since employees can do benefits enrollment from home, the employee can include their spouse and family in the benefits selection decision.

Another technology Human Resources began implementing in 2020, is the Pryor Learning Management System. Pryor not only includes the annual regulatory training such as Harassment and Discrimination training, but it also includes skill-based training such as Microsoft Office and Customer Service. Human Resources will have the ability to assign courses and track completion inside the Pryor system. The system will also allow departments to be more productive since each training is self-paced, and we will not have to cripple everyday operations to accommodate all employees into a few training sessions.



Human Resources Department

Another new addition to Human Resources is a service window! Employees and the public can receive help or get questions answered through the new window. The window enables us to have safe interactions with visitors during the pandemic.

Lastly, a new technology Human Resources has started implementing in 2020 is the Newton Applicant Tracking System. Newton allows employment applications to be submitted online! Newton also helps on the back end with the Administration of job applications, interviews, job offers, etc. Newton is a one-stop-shop for the entire life cycle of an application. When fully utilized, this system will allow for a better experience for the applicant, hiring manager, and Human Resources.

We are excited as we look forward and plan for the new year. The City Administration's support in 2020 and all Human Resources accomplishments, have created a foundation for continued success in 2021.

Greg Muenchen, Director of Human Resources
Maria Burrell, Administrative Assistant



Police Department and Communications Department

2020 was a year of forming and norming for the Wilmington Police Department.

The department added a patrol officer, a K-9 unit and dispatchers, while preparing for the return of the bike patrol. An Assistant Chief position was created to add depth to department leadership. This position is expected to be filled in the beginning of calendar year 2021. The candidate search continues for the right applicants to fill a dispatch position and vacant patrol positions. Our goal is to find people with the correct core values to serve our community and live the mission statement of the department.

Our partnership with The Matt Haverkamp Foundation allowed the selection of our new K-9 Team at no cost to the City. We interviewed three officers for the position of K-9 handler, and selected Jordan Ianson to be the K-9 handler. In late summer, Patrolman (Ptl.) Ianson, and two others went to Von Licke Kennels in Indiana, where we selected a Belgium Malivois and German Shephard mix, named Miko, over two other dogs. Miko and his handler, Jordan, attended a ten-week training course. Excelling together, the pair was certified in November. The team has high potential and are dedicated to both our city and county to deter the drug trafficking and stop the flow of poisons into our community.

The Dispatch and Patrol sections had a new CAD/RMS server and program installed in March of 2020 as the pandemic began to hit. The importance of this program is that it allows for a Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), which allows the two largest agencies in the county to share information and be more effective in our service to citizens. The department found there was a learning curve to the program, but it falls in line with recommended templates from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Emergency Management Agency. The department also installed a new radio, phone, and 911 recording system that will provide better record communications, while preparing the infrastructure for the E911 requirement when it becomes law.

The focus for 2021 will be hiring, training, and implementation of the bike patrol as a functional unit. The retirement of veteran officers and the training of their new hire replacements will impact our work in the new year. Our new hires have already made their mark in the community. Ptl. Foster was named Officer of the Year, while Ptl. Sylvester was named Crime Fighter of the Year. Our Dispatcher of the Year was split among the four senior dispatchers who carried the department through a year of short staffing challenges. Our recent hires in Dispatch show great potential and promise for our City.

Our commitment to the citizens of our community is strong and every addition to our staff reiterates our resolve to reduce the fear and incidence of crime while protecting property, and promoting the peace in our hometown. This commitment will be achieved by partnering with our key community leaders, organizations, and neighborhood watch groups. Our staff is always open to constructive dialogue that benefits our community and addresses quality of life issues. We look forward to a positive and healthy 2021.

Ron Cravens, Chief



Fire Department

The Wilmington Fire Department (WFD) responded to 3584 calls in 2020. Most of these were EMS calls, but our services also included Fire Responses, Fire Inspections, Investigations, Public Interaction in several ways, and other general calls for assistance.

We made 537 fire responses for fires such as houses, apartments, vehicles, and mulch. In addition, 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.

Even throughout the pandemic, our department completed many fire inspections on new buildings, renovated buildings and businesses, potential foster care houses, and yearly inspections.. This is possible by having depth of certifications within the department with many Firefighters having their fire inspectors certifications. We were unable to spend a lot of time out with the public this year just interacting and spreading the word on fire prevention due to COVID. We miss interacting with kids and adults through our time in the schools, involvement at the park such as National Night Out and Halloween, neighborhood get-togethers, and visits from groups or individuals at the Fire House. Hopefully 2021 will provide those opportunities once again.

We hired two new Firefighter/Paramedics this year. Justin Comer joined our team from Xenia Township and Michael Sowards came from Paint Creek FD to help the citizens of Wilmington and Clinton County. We look forward to these team members bringing new ideas and energy into the Fire Department and working side by side with our seasoned members. Also, we congratulate firefighters Shingai Calhoun and Brad Burns for earning their paramedic certification in December.

We did replace the bay doors on the firehouse with new, well insulated, doors. We also replaced rescue air bags which are used mostly in vehicle accident scenarios when we need to lift or stabilize vehicles. Through the efforts of firefighter Jeff Haines, the WFD was awarded a federal grant which allowed the purchase of nearly \$50,000 for new fire hose and nozzles. This new equipment helps the department better serve the citizens we protect. The Department also benefitted from the generosity of local business with the donation of smoke alarms for community distribution from State Farm and new tools and saw blades from Lowes.



Andy Mason, Chief



Sanitation Department

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 400 commercial customers each week. This service is provided five days a week, 52 weeks a year with a minimal due to holidays and weather.

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 27-yard high compaction (Roto-Pac) automated refuse truck
- Two 25-yard high-compaction refuse trucks
- One 20-yard high compaction recycling trucks
- One 31-yard high compaction (Loadmaster) automated recycle truck
- One single axle dump truck
- Three service pickup trucks
- Two sport utility vehicles
- 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 OEPA-approved Class 4 compost facility for the area residents.

Each day the route truck collects approved yard waste bags, 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 4000 cubic yards of mulch was generated this year. The city's Maintenance and Repair Department also uses this compost facility for disposal of their yearly leaf collection.

DUMPSTER RENTALS

The Sanitation Department continues a very successful dumpster rental program for our commercial customers. The department now offers over 300 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.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Approximately 3000 residents actively recycle.

The department maintains two bulk corrugated cardboard drop-off sites (City Hall parking lot and Landfill parking lot). This is an effort to capture excess cardboard from going into the landfill and consuming air space.

With promotional help from local citizens, and an old cardboard baler that was repurposed at our facility, we are successfully recycling the material. There is a slight revenue stream with the material as it can be sold on the open market for a (per ton) amount.



Sanitation Department

We currently rent nine cardboard dumpsters to Wilmington businesses and the Wilmington City School system. With workers provided by the Clinton County Community Corrections and Clinton County Job and Family Services, we bale and recycle the cardboard.

LANDFILL OPERATIONS

The Ohio EPA approved the City's permit application for a 24-acre expansion on December 18th, 2019 adding an additional 40 years of air space to the facility. Ryan central was awarded the contract and began construction on the first 6 Acre cell in May 2020 and it is currently fully operational.

Ryan Central was contracted to cap and install berms on the South, East, and North slopes of the existing landfill as well. The slopes seeded and mulched for erosion control and appearance.

The City Landfill is licensed by the Ohio EPA to accept up to 195 tons of waste per day. The city-operated collection service generates on average 30 tons per day. Other miscellaneous daily waste averaged approximately 144 tons, for an average total daily disposal of 174 tons for 2020.

The Landfill Department has 9 pieces of heavy equipment

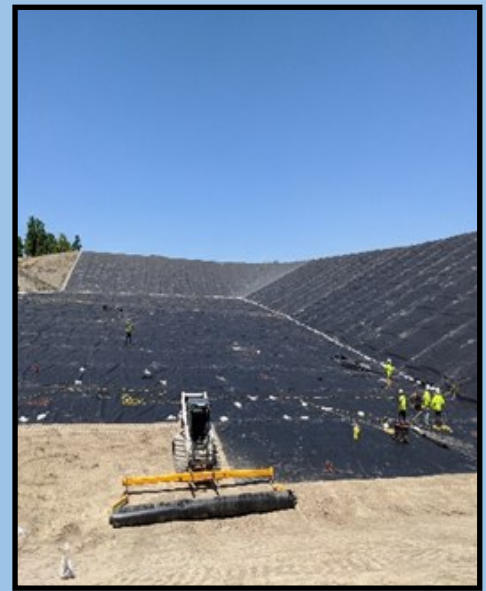
- 1 CAT D5K bulldozer
- 1 CAT 963C track loader
- 1 CAT DC3 bulldozer
- 1 CAT 816 compactor
- 1 Kobelco 250LC excavator
- 1 Case backhoe
- 1 John Deere tractor & mower
- 1 Volvo A-30F off-road dump truck

DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

This department currently operates with fifteen fulltime 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.



Mike Crowe, Superintendent



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 broad, varied, and ever changing from asphalt paving and reconstructing streets and alleys to plowing and salting the same streets. The department also mows city right-of-ways, city properties, and delinquent properties. Assisting and maintaining traffic safety measures falls on the Maintenance and Repair department with tasks such as painting traffic control lines and markings, controlling traffic for city events and festivals, installing and maintaining traffic signals, as well as maintaining right-of-way visibility. The department also completes the leaf pickup program, ensuring leaf debris is removed from the street, preventing the storm drains from becoming blocked.

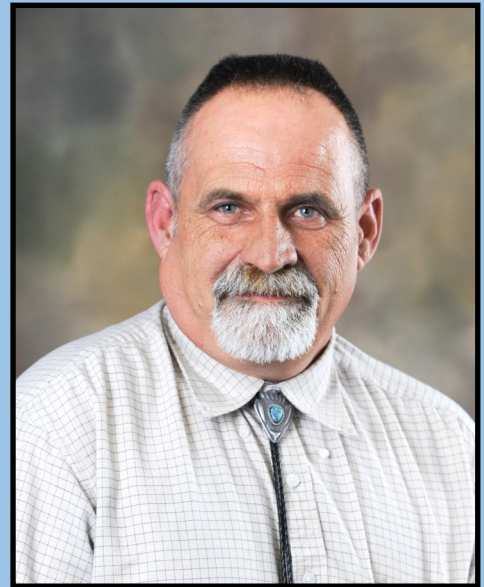
This small crew makes a big difference in the appearance of our city. The numbers tell the story.

- 14 days spent trimming trees in the city right of way in preparation for leaf pick up and 2080 cubic yards of leaves were picked up during leaf season.
- 9 trees were removed in preparation for snow removal
- 150 gallons of paint used to paint the downtown area and the subdivisions.
- 143 road and street signs removed and replaced due to accidents or low reflectivity of the signs.
- 128 days of pothole patcher use, applying more than 50 ton of #9 stone and 605 gallons of emulsion to preserve and extend the life of the asphalt on various streets. In addition, 80 tons of hot mix asphalt was used to repair various streets.
- 51 abandoned or delinquent properties were mowed along with roadside ditches and various city right of ways.

8 vagrant camps were cleaned-up; 20 houses re-boarded and one condemned house demolished in partnership with the Police Department. The M&R Department not only cleans up; but is also critically important in quality of life and beautifying the city for residents and visitors alike.

The Maintenance and Repair department not only cleans up; but is also critically important in quality of life and beautifying the city for residents and visitors alike. The crew put up 254 military banners along with 48 banners for community events including the Banana Split Festival, Clinton County Fair, Welcome banners, 150th Anniversary of Wilmington College, Fall and Winter banners plus Christmas banners and garland. Additionally, the crew maintains 96 hanging flowers in the downtown area for six months a year and assists in the tree maintenance program with the Mayor, helping plant 40 trees on Locust, Walnut, Main Streets and Prairie Ave in 2020.

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 2020, the department issued 89 zoning permits and 430 building permits.

The total number of building permits issued in 2020 was 5% higher than 2019, but the amount in fees collected was slightly lower than the previous year. We issued 430 building permits, with a breakdown of 254 residential and 176 commercial permits. The City saw a 15% drop in the number of commercial permits from 2019 to 2020, but there was a 26% increase in residential permits. Many of these were small home remodeling projects. Permits were split at approximately 60% residential and 40% commercial work.

The stated value of commercial construction projects started this year was \$7,162,115. Residential projects were valued at \$1,725,976. We collected \$109,931.78 in building permit fees. This is only 2% less than the previous year. Permit fees are a combination of flat and calculated charges based on the area of the work.

In 2020, nine new primary structures were started. Of those nine structures, six were new single-family homes. These homes were or are being constructed in the Timber Glen Subdivision, and on Truesdell, Mulberry, and Howard Streets. There were three new commercial buildings started.

As for building department inspections, 537 building and electrical inspections were completed. 129 inspections were for electrical work and the remaining 408 covered building, mechanical, and fire work.

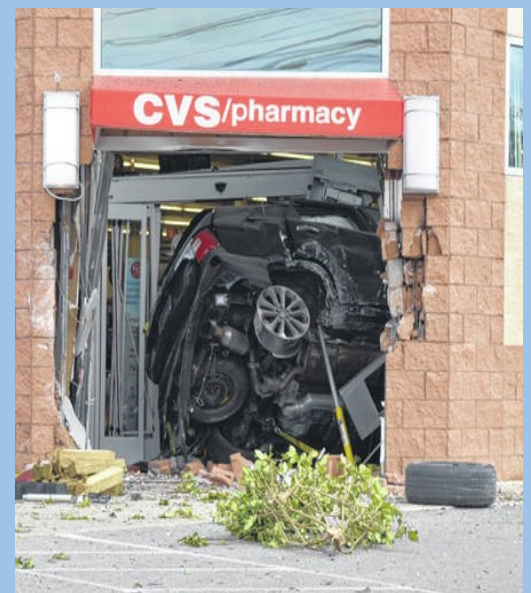
Some of the commercial projects that were completed this year:

- Clinton Memorial Hospital Home Health Care on Rombach
- Clinton Memorial Hospital Endoscopy Suite renovation
- Façade work and renovation of the Wilmington College Health &
- Remodeling of Burkes Outlet on Rombach
- Construction of Magic Tunnel Car Wash on Rombach
- Clinton Memorial Hospital Cath Lab Renovation
- Planet Fitness remodel on Rombach

Roosters restaurant on Eastside Drive

There were also some smaller, notable changes completed: The repairs to the CVS on Main Street after a vehicle crashed into the building, improvements to the Amazon facility at the Airpark, renovations at Talbert House, and a small remodel at Wal-Mart.

Works in progress include the new five-story Marriott hotel on Holiday Drive and a new 5,900 sq. ft. processing facility for Cannascend on Davids Drive, and a remodel of the concession area at the Murphy Theatre.



Building and Zoning Department

The following is a breakdown of all building permits issued by purpose in 2020:

<u>Construction Purpose</u>	<u>Permit Tally</u>
New Single-Family Home	6
New Multifamily Homes	0
Expand Residential Home	6
Repair/Remodel Residential Home	13
Deck/Porch	8
New Commercial Building	6
Expand Commercial Building	4
Repair/Remodel Commercial Building	35
Industrialized Unit	0
New Outbuilding	3
Expand Outbuilding	0
Repair/Remodel Outbuilding	1
Utility	2
TOTAL	84

The remaining 346 permits issued were for electrical, mechanical, fire suppression and alarm work, signs, demolition, 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 four times this year and heard requests regarding signage, setback requirements, building height, and accessory structure variances. The Board approved eight requests for variance. The Board denied one variance request.

Brian Shidacker, Director of Public Service
Shirley Orwick, Building and Zoning Administrative Assistant
Annen Vance, Code Enforcement Administrative Assistant

Code Enforcement Department

The City of Wilmington accepts complaints regarding violations of the City's Property Maintenance and Zoning Codes. These complaints are received from citizens submitting them in person, by phone, through the City website, or through the SeeClickFix mobile app and are investigated by the Code Enforcement Official.

The number of violations decreased this year from 701 to 433. Those 433 violations resulted in 375 new cases being opened. Of the new 375 cases, 37 cases remain open. Here is a breakdown of all property maintenance warnings and violations issued in 2020:

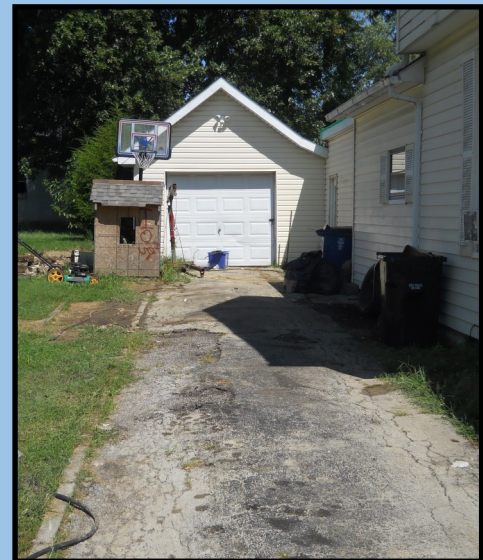
Type of Violation:	
Unsafe Structures and Equipment (also demo orders, vacant structures)	36
General (Exterior & Interior Property Areas.)	51
Public Nuisance	41
Animal Violations	4
Vehicle Violations	41
Weeds & Grass	99
Litter	10
Trees & Shrubs	0
Zoning Ordinances (Permitted Use, Accessory Structures, etc.)	16
Other	23
	24

Of the 375 new cases opened this year 338 were closed. In 2020, 388 total cases are listed as closed or resolved which also includes 50 cases from previous years. A total of 37 cases remain open from 2020 and 32 remain open from years 2016-2019 and are in various stages of the code enforcement process. Below is a breakdown of the statuses of the 54 open cases:

Open Case Status:	
Condemned Buildings- Boarded up and monitored, seeking demolition	4
Open Court Cases	1
Follow Up Inspections Scheduled-Compliance in Process	17
Condemned Buildings in Foreclosure- Monitored for Progress	3
Properties Working Towards Compliance- Continued Improvement	12
Noncompliant	1
Various Stages of Notification and Compliance	16

Violations of the zoning and property maintenance codes are addressed by issuing formal violation notices 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, they may be brought before the Municipal Court. Seven properties were turned over for prosecution this year and one is still open in the municipal court system.

Five condemned properties were demolished this year. Of those properties, two were acquired and demolished by the Clinton County Land Bank. This year the Code Enforcement Department has collaborated with the Clinton County Land Bank, The Clinton County Juvenile Court Community Service Program, and Sugartree Landscaping to help to bring problem properties into compliance. Our department looks forward to continued success 2021.



Parks and Recreation

2020 was a challenging year for everyone, including the Wilmington Parks & Recreation Department. Although Covid-19 flipped our world upside down, Wilmington parks had an increase in trail use and unstructured activities. Here are some highlights from the year:

Special Events were very limited this year due to Covid-19. We were not able to do our normal events such as the Salamander Hike, Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, and the Owl Prowl. Fortunately, we were able to host a drive through Trunk or Treat this year with the prescribed safety precautions in place. The event was well attended, and we were happy to bring some sense of normalcy to the kids in our community. This event was made possible with loyal support from our community partners; the Wilmington Public Library, Wilmington Fire Department, G & J Pepsi, Wilmington Church of God, Wilmington Savings Bank, Polaris, Cub Scouts Pack 777, and the Wilmington Police Department.

Sports Leagues served over 240 area youth this year. Due to Covid-19, we were only able to run a winter basketball league and a fall soccer league. Our volunteer coaches made each season fun, competitive and positive for our youth again this year. We appreciate their time and efforts! Special thank you to all our banner sponsors, anleague sponsors Beacon Orthopedics & Sports Medicine and Wilmington Inn for helping us fully cover all youth sports league costs for the third year in a row!

We are resilient. Although 2020 was a very challenging year, we look forward to what the future holds 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

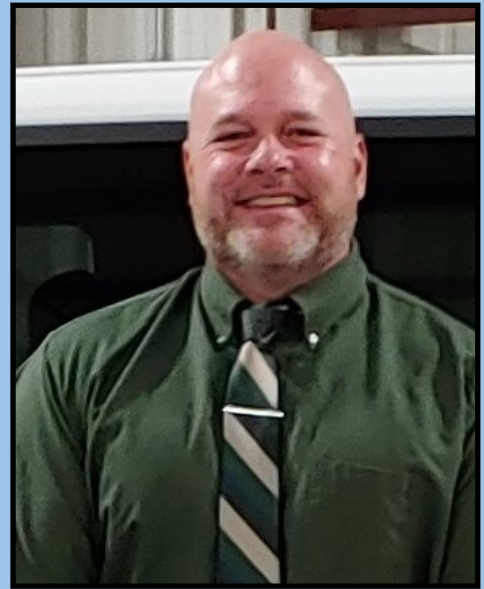
The Wilmington Transit System (WTS) continues to be a highly valued asset of the City and the citizens of our community. Through the federally funded Cares Act Stimulus Bill, Wilmington Transit System has been approved to receive eight replacement vehicles. Four will be Dodge MMV's (Modified Mins Vans) and four will be full-size Ford Transit vehicles to continue service for our riders. All eight vehicles will be granted to City at 100%, with no local cost for all eight vehicles.

Ridership for the calendar year 2020 is down approximately 25% due to the Corona pandemic. We did have an increase of over 2,000 rides provided to area Elderly and Disabled riders. Our main goals are to maintain fares at the same level while making safety the highest priority for our passengers. Equally important is our striving to keep Wilmington's matching funds contribution at the lowest possible level.

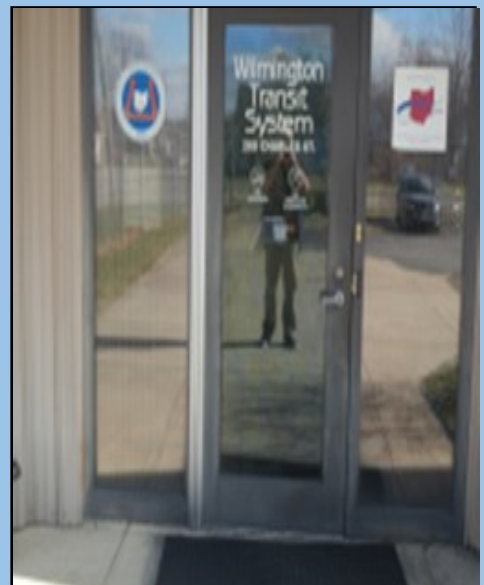
Many seniors, people with disabilities and the underprivileged, rely on this service to help them maintain their independence and quality of life, using the service for medical appointments, food shopping, work transportation, etc. Wilmington Transit System also benefits from an Elderly and Disabled Grant program that is awarded on a yearly basis.

Vehicle maintenance is critical to maintain a safe and efficient service to our many riders. As required by ODOT, we will remain current with the turn in mileage of 150,000 which also reduces maintenance and fuel cost. Our part-time staff member who concentrates on the cleanliness and sanitizing of our vehicles helps create a more pleasurable and safe riding experience for our passengers. We want to ensure that local taxpayers are aware of the pride we have in our Transit and how we are striving to take the best possible care of our vehicles.

Our Transit employees are to be commended for their continued dedication to WTS riders, with exceptional customer service. We thank all our employees for their service and commitment to the Transit System!



Larry Dale Bennington, Director



Sugar Grove Cemetery

Sugar Grove Cemetery experienced a landmark year in 2020. April marked the fifth anniversary of the transfer of ownership from the private Sugar Grove Cemetery Association to the City of Wilmington. Building from the foundation passed on by the Association, the City of Wilmington has continued to make strides in improved cemetery management and grounds maintenance.

STATISTICS

Burials and Land Sales There were 85 total interments at Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2020. Of these, 24 were cremations and 61 were full burials. Additionally, 82 grave spaces were purchased during the year.

Foundations City workers poured 57 foundations for new grave monuments and set 3 new government markers during 2020. The staff also repaired or leveled the monuments of 52 older graves this year, including pouring 3 replacement bases.

EQUIPPED FOR SUCCESS

In 2020, the City invested in a tractor and two golf carts. These additions, along with equipment purchased in 2019 has improved our efficiency and service.

GROUNDS AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

The cemetery currently operates with a Cemetery Technician/Grounds Manager, full-time laborer, and 1-2 seasonal laborers during the busy mowing and weed-eating season. The team works diligently to preserve and maintain the grandeur and natural beauty of 40-plus acres of developed land and over 15,600 graves.

When not mowing, trimming, and performing burial services, the team removes old shrubs and trees, clearing overgrown areas, and pruning deadwood to keep 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.

The fence along the front of Sugar Grove Cemetery also underwent significant repairs this summer. Over 2000 feet of the iconic cast iron fence was mended, with broken sections welded and new bolts throughout.

In 2019, a new pole barn was built to house equipment and provide additional workspace. In 2020, further improvements were made in the maintenance shop area, with the addition of asphalt in the drive and parking lot.

EROSION PROJECT

Another maintenance issue addressed at Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2020 was the erosion along the bank of Lytle Creek. The City had been monitoring this erosion issue at the west side of Section 9. As it became clear the graves near the creek would eventually be in jeopardy if the creek continued to cut into the bank, a plan was implemented to construct a retaining wall that would not interfere with the creek flow but would protect the bank. This City contracted out the maintenance project, and approximately 50 feet of retaining wall was installed just before Thanksgiving 2020.

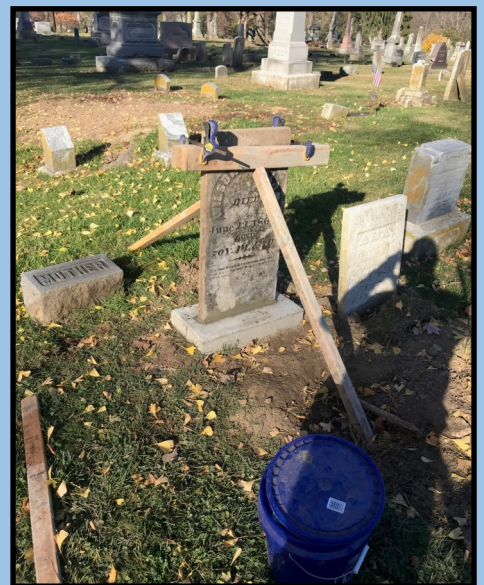
THE BRIDGE

When the City assumed responsibility of Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2015, the bridges became subject to the 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. This designation means special consideration must be given toward restoration and preservation of the bridge. In 2020, the City hired a design-build contractor to rebuild the bridge. Design of the project is underway, and construction will begin in the spring of 2021 with an expected completion date of fall 2021.

VOLUNTEERISM

As always, the City is grateful to those who volunteer their time to help keep Sugar Grove Cemetery beautiful. This year, because of the Ohio Health Department recommendations against large gatherings, Sugar Grove was not able to host volunteer workdays. A group of volunteers did gather informally prior to Memorial Day to participate in the annual tradition of replacing the flags on veterans' graves, and the Wilmington Garden Club continues to sponsor and maintain flower beds in the cemetery.

Brian Shidaker, Director of Public Service
Andrea Tacoronte, Coordinator
Kirby Keltner, Cemetery Grounds Technician



City of Wilmington
Office Directory

<p>Mayor's Office 2nd Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-5458</p>	<p>Human Resources 2nd Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-9094</p>
<p>Building & Zoning 2nd Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-5134</p>	<p>Sugar Grove Cemetery Office 2nd Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-2059</p>
<p>Fire Department 46 E. Sugartree Street (937)-382-2244</p>	<p>Transportation Department 260 Charles Street (937)-382-7961</p>
<p>Auditor's Office 2nd Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-6604</p>	<p>Income Tax Department 1st Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-1880</p>
<p>M & R Department 494 S. Nelson Avenue Wilmington, Ohio 45177 (937)-382-6339</p>	<p>Parks & Rec Department 2nd Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-4781</p>
<p>Police Department 1st Floor 69 N. South Street (937)-382-3822</p>	<p>Sanitation Department 397 S. Nelson Avenue (937)-382-6474</p>
<p>WW/Sewer Department 475 S. Nelson Avenue (937)-382-2413</p>	<p>Water Department 1142 Prairie Avenue (937)-382-3614</p>