

State OF THE CITY

2019



State of the City 2019

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Mayor Stanforth's Greeting

If it sounds like I repeat myself, I am. The state of the city is good. In fact, it's excellent. 2019 wrapped up another successful year, with continued credit to the citizens who supported the temporary .5% income tax. The additional revenue boosted our ability to be competitive in grant awards for paving projects and safety improvements, while ensuring we were able to maintain our safety services. The year rounded out with the hiring of six new safety service personnel.

All the departments deserve accolades for continuing their good work and their stewardship of public funds. Through many highlights, struggles, and new experiences, our departments maintain excellent services to our citizens, and I remain grateful for their commitment to the city.

2020 is slated to be an exciting year. We look forward to our largest project yet, the re-paving of Rombach Avenue. With agreed upon designs, we can move forward to the excitement of what this project will do for our city. Aggressive residential street paving has already been bid out, awarded, and funded. From water treatment plant upgrades to landfill expansions, the city is busy with improvement and maintenance programs. All of these improvements make our city run better in ways that aren't always visible –behind the scenes.

I continue to keep my word to our citizens to steward their additional .5% income tax they have given to the City of Wilmington, as does City Council. We realize the success the City has experienced could not have been done without the additional revenue. We receive positive feedback from citizens that the City is continuing to fulfill its promises while also adapting to new challenges, like addressing our homelessness population and increasing police presence. Knowing the need for services has not decreased, and is likely to increase, I asked City Council in 2019 for a renewal of the .5% income tax, which, with its unanimous passage, placed the issue on the ballot for our citizens to decide. I am confident that our citizens, want to continue forward with the economic, infrastructure, and quality of life improvements that are only afforded through its renewal. 2019 has been successful and, with the citizens trust and commitment to the City, we can ensure the successes will continue.

John M. Stanforth, Mayor
Marian F. Miller, City Administrator
Annen Vance, Administrative Assistant



Public Works

Water Department

An eventful 2019 for the Water Department was capped off with construction beginning in December of the long-awaited Water Plant Improvement Project, which will help ensure safe drinking water will continue to be provided to the citizens of Wilmington.

Planning for the project started in 2017 after the first significant harmful algal bloom in Caesar Creek Lake. The rigorous EPA-approval process was followed to bring the project to fruition.

The project includes:

- A carbon contact tank, which will ensure toxins from Harmful Algal Blooms will be removed from the water, no matter how intense a bloom may become. Powered activated carbon is effective at removing algal toxins from the water but the chemical needs to be in contact with the water for 30 minutes. The tank will provide that contact time.
- A fluoride feed system to improve the oral health of Wilmington residents. The City received an Ohio Department of Health grant of \$86,417.17 to help pay for the implementation of the fluoridation. It was the highest grant amount ODH has given a community.
- A modernized disinfection system to improve the safety of water plant employees along with people passing by the plant. Traditionally, chlorine gas has been used in the water industry to disinfect water. But the gas is very dangerous – a small leak can cause fatal injuries. The new system will use liquid bleach, which is much safer to use.
- An updated computer system for plant operations, replacing obsolete hardware and software.
- A new bulk water dispenser, which will be paid for with adjusted fees for its users, not through regular water rates.
- A comprehensive security system to protect both the integrity of the water treatment operation and department employees from people with bad intentions.

The construction is scheduled to be substantially completed by the end of 2020. A 0%-interest loan from Ohio EPA is paying for this project.

Another significant harmful algal bloom occurred in Caesar Creek Lake this summer, forcing the City to use the backup reservoirs at Burtonville for most of the summer. This bloom was probably the most widespread bloom ever recorded at Caesar Creek Lake. In addition to compromising source water, the toxins produced by the harmful bloom prompted ODNR to post an advisory discouraging swimming at the beach.

Fortunately, the City's reservoirs remained nearly algae-free for most of the summer. The ultrasonic devices that showed promise in 2018, continued to be effective in 2019. The devices send out ultrasonic waves that impede the growth of algae, saving the City from having to apply expensive chemicals to the reservoirs.

In response to the repeated algal bloom, the City launched a Source Water Protection Committee, consisting of community members and stakeholders, to develop a plan to improve water quality in both Caesar Creek Lake and Cowan Creek, which feeds the reservoirs. The Committee, headed by City Source Water Protection Coordinator Travis Lunan, met five times in 2019. The resulting plan has been sent to Ohio EPA for endorsement.

A major accomplishment in 2019 was the cleaning of a difficult-to-reach pipe within the treatment plant that had a major build-up of calcium and lime. Employees from both the water and sewer departments worked together to find a way to open up the 18-inch pipe which had become restricted to about 6 inches and was restricting flow through the plant. It had been feared that the pipe would need replaced. Our employees' determination and creativity saved the City hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As part of the six-year plan to rehabilitate the City's four water towers, the exterior was painted of the 500,000-gallon tank near the Alkermes facility on U.S. 68 South.

Lead testing was conducted throughout the City in 2019. Following EPA protocols, samples were collected at 30 residences. No lead was detected in 29 of the 30 samples. At the residence where some lead was found in the water, it was below the EPA's action level. The Water Department appreciates the cooperation of the residents in this sampling event. EPA's lead rules are evolving and are expected to become stringent. Department employees will likely have to approach residents more often to participate in future sampling.



Public Works

Water Department

The City continued its battle against unfair charges levied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to the operation and maintenance of Caesar Creek Lake. Thanks to the intervention of U.S. Rep Steve Stivers, the City received acknowledgement from the Corps that a handful of charges were inappropriately made. But that's only a start. The Corps still insists that the vast majority of the contested charges were proper. U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown was also instrumental in getting the Corps to be more forthcoming. The City will use every possible avenue to ultimately receive fair treatment from the Corps.

For the first time in many years, fire hydrants throughout the City were tested, flushed and painted in 2019. In addition to ensuring each hydrant is ready in case of a fire, the procedure removes sediment from the water main before it hardens to the pipe, therefore extending the life of the water main.

2020 will be another busy year for the Water Department. In addition to the major project at the water plant, facilities at the Burtonville reservoirs will be refurbished to ensure they continue to be a dependable source of water. An interest-free loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission is being used to finance the project. Also, 100-plus year old water mains will be replaced on Rombach Avenue between "The Point" and the Denver Park, and on Grant Street between Doan Street and Sugartree Street.

Wastewater Department

The Wastewater Department's major endeavor of 2019 was the development of a master plan to provide a path for the future of the department. Three major issues are facing the department:

- The 32-year-old Wastewater Treatment Plant has reached the end of its useful life. Thanks to the efforts of staff, the plant still properly treats the water. The maintenance of the plant has become an on-going challenge.
- The sanitary sewer collection system allows far too much rainwater to enter, taxing the limits of the treatment plant.
- Ohio EPA has decreed that the amount of phosphorous allowed in the water leaving the plant and entering Lytle Creek must be reduced by 92 percent by 2030. EPA believes the lower limit is needed to improve the overall health of the creek.

The consulting engineering firm, Prime AE, has been employed to develop the master plan that will find the most economical and effective way to simultaneously tackle all these problems. Prime was chosen after a screening process of four consulting firms.

The extremely low phosphorus limit – it would be the lowest currently in effect for any wastewater treatment plant in the state – will almost certainly mean that a new plant will need to be built. The technology used by the current plant cannot remove that much phosphorus.

Prime engineers along with department personnel have been investigating new technologies that will allow the new limit to be met. The master plan is expected to be completed in the first half of 2020 and will include the best path to addressing the issues.

To help tackle the rainwater problem, City Council and the Administration bolstered the Storm Water Management Program with the creation of a Stormwater Administrator position. Long-time Wastewater Chief Operator Eric Green has been appointed to the new position. A renewed emphasis is being placed on protecting our streams as well as keeping excess stormwater out of yards, basements and the wastewater treatment plant. This program will continue to take more and more time, effort and capital to implement and the City is committed to these actions.

The Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program continued its course in 2019 to protect the city's wastewater infrastructure and its treatment facility processes. This program monitors industrial facilities that make up a large percentage of the flow to the plant and/or have the potential to upset or interfere with the physical and biological processes that are used to treat the wastewater.

In the past year, multiple wastewater sampling events were conducted and inspections occurred at each industrial facility. Two additional industrial users were added to the pretreatment program. These activities are used to ensure that local discharge limits are being met, and to enforce the rules and regulations set forth in the city's sewer use ordinance.



Public Works

Wastewater Department

The pretreatment program also reviews the building plans of new facilities and does preliminary inspections once construction is complete. This helps to identify any potential spill areas where hazardous materials could enter the sewer systems. Because of the success of the EPA-endorsed Wilmington pretreatment program, we have not any occurrence of upset, interference, or pass-through violations at the wastewater treatment plant in many years.

More than 1.2 billion gallons of sewage were treated by the wastewater plant in the past year, an increase of nearly 10 percent over the previous year. The increase can be blamed to a large extent on the very wet weather over the first half of 2019. On an average day, 3.3 million gallons were treated, but on rainy days the flow often approached 10 million gallons per day.

The plant effectively removed 93 percent of ammonia, 97 percent of organisms that consume oxygen, 99 percent of suspended solids, and 56 percent of phosphorus from the water.

The wastewater operation continues the practice of recycle/reuse. In 2019, 2.26 million gallons of digested wastewater sludge was applied to farm ground as fertilizer, in accordance with increasingly-strict Ohio EPA rules and regulations.

Among the hundreds of maintenance activities conducted in 2019 were:

- Installed new radar level controls at the Dana Avenue and wastewater plant lift stations
- Rebuilt catenary bar screen at the plant
- Installed new mixer in sludge holding tank #1 at the plant
- Replaced screen and grit collection bins at the plant
- Rebuilt three sludge holding tank electric motors
- Installed new soft start controller on sludge holding tank blower
- Installed new discharge check valves at the Dana Avenue and Timber Glenn lift station
- Upgraded facilities for proper storage of street sweeping
- Rebuilt influent sample pump at the plant
- Replaced various wear items on pumps in plant and throughout city in lift stations including impellers, wear plates, mechanical seals and belts, among other parts
- Installed new main discharge pump for wastewater plant, and rebuilt discharge check valve
- Installed new heaters and insulation in building that houses main water line and backflow preventer to Maintenance and Repair Department building
- Installed new main line backflow preventer at wastewater plant
- Replaced support cables on trickling filters distribution arms at the plant
- Performed tank inspections on all six clarifiers in wastewater plant

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 able to accomplish great things because of the Administration's commitment to advance the City and reorganize each department for maximum efficiency.

The Human Resources team welcomed 58 new hires to the City of Wilmington, of which 21 are full-time, and 37 are part-time. Included in the new hire count is the City's new Human Resource Director, Greg Muenchen. New employees are so critical to the success and growth of the City not only from the perspective of needing to fill a job opening but with each new hire comes fresh perspective, new ideas, improved processes, and curiosity. Curiosity is contagious, and it will encourage every employee around the new hire to, rethink processes and improve the way we serve the residents of Wilmington.

The Human Resource team also held several Lunch and Learn sessions over the course of the year, giving an opportunity to review and reinforce policies such as harassment, attendance, safety, and uniform, as well as to discuss best practices and share ideas between departments. In addition to Lunch and Learns, the Human Resource Team hosted several training sessions and workshops for the City Employees, these included:

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airrosti – Who is Airrosti? What can they do for you? • Safety Week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Active Listening -CPR -Blood Bourne Pathogens -Electrical Practices -Water Plant Safety -Heat Safety -Sexual Harassment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a Culture of Respect • Wellness Fair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Financial Wellness -Chiropractic -Parks & Recreation -Fitness -Biometric Screenings • Hazardous Communication and Waste Compliance • Ethics Training |
|---|--|

The value and importance of the training and workshops this year made an immediate impact on the number of worker compensation claims filed in 2019. Compared to 2018, the number of workers compensation claims filed was reduced by 42%.

Lastly, to continue to strive for excellence in 2019, the employee handbook was reviewed and revised to update the City's employment policies to the most current standards. The updated handbook will be distributed during the first quarter of 2020.

We are excited as we look forward and plan for 2020. The Administration's support in 2019, along with all the accomplishments made, has created a foundation for continued success in 2020.



Greg Munchen, Incoming Director 2020
Jeanne Pope, Outgoing Director 2019
Kelvin Gaines, Administrative Assistant



Police Department and Communications

2019 found the Wilmington Police Department in a year of transition and rebuilding. The year began with many different transitions that carried over from the previous year, which resulted in a change in leadership and department personnel. Throughout the transition, the department focused on our mission statement and our essential function inside for our local government for the citizens we serve. This required a vast amount of overtime our staff fulfilled to ensure that our community continued to be given the customer service that they have grown accustomed too. The department also focused on rebuilding, adding officers that embody our core values, and a staff that mirrors our community.

Our rebuilding efforts began with an officer who is literally homegrown. Jordan Ianson, a 2019 graduate of Wilmington High School, began his career with the department in the beginning of the year. He attended the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Basic Police Academy and graduated in May. The department also hired another local 2019 Wilmington High School Graduate, Nathaniel Powell. Ptl. Powell graduated from Southern State Community College's Police Academy in late May. Both officers bring our local values, knowledge, and special dedication to the community that they grew up in. Their service to the community and town is something this agency looks for when hiring police officers.

While we experienced historically low staffing levels, our staff continued the great service that the community expects. The staff answered calls for service that focused on helping on quality of life issues such as barking dogs, loud noises, and vehicle unlocks. We also investigated more serious crimes such as Armed Robbery, Assaults, Domestic Violence, and Injury Crashes. Year-to-date the staff have handled almost 16,000 calls and anticipate ending the year near 16,500 calls for service, which does not include many phone calls taken to answer questions. While the variety of the calls shows the vast ranges of character, empathy, and dedication that the officers display on a daily basis.

The focus for 2020 is directed towards installing new supervisors, officers, and the newest detective who was just promoted. This requires training for their specialized positions, while replacing their previous position with new personnel. We have also strengthened our collaborations with Wilmington City Schools, Clinton County Sheriff's Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol by engaging in programs that benefit the community and strengthen our abilities to interact with each other. Programs that we've engaged in are the School Resource Officer, vagrant sweeps, and criminal saturation patrols. These programs reinforce our commitment to our community while fostering interagency communication and mission success across many different spectrums of law enforcement.

Our commitment to the citizens of our community is strong and with every addition to our staff reiterates our resolve to reducing the amount and fear of crime, protecting property, and promoting the peace of our hometown. This will be achieved by partnering with our key community leaders, organizations, and neighborhood watch groups. Our staff is always open to dialogue that benefits our community and improves quality of life issues. We look forward to a positive and healthy 2020.



Chief Cravens pictured with (L to R) Tyler Binkley, Officer of the Year; Beth Limon, Dispatcher of the Year; and Jordan Ianson, Crime Fighter of the Year.

Ronald Cravens, Chief of Police



Fire Department

In 2019 we made a record amount of responses at 3,928. 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 586 fire responses for fires such as houses, apartments, vehicles, and brush. 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.

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 have spent a lot of time out with the public this year just interacting and spreading the word on fire prevention. We interacted with hundreds of kids and adults through our time in the schools, participation at the park such as National Night Out and Halloween, neighborhood get togethers, and tour groups or individuals visit us at the Fire House.

The Fire Department did lose four members this year for different reasons. Lieutenant John Walker and Firefighter Marvin Corbin were able to retire after long careers and we will miss their service and expertise. Firefighter Jim Hadley left to pursue other options and Firefighter Jack Coates left us in November to change career paths into the Wilmington Police Department.

We did hire six new Firefighter/Paramedics this year. Brad Burton, Shingai Calhoun, Cody O'Neill, Matthew Puckett, Joshua Moore, and Kristen Black all joined our team to help the citizens of Wilmington and Clinton county. We look forward to these new members bringing new ideas and energy into the Fire Department and working side by side with our seasoned members.

We also promoted two individuals into the officer rank of Lieutenant. Rick Birt and Jeremy Rolfe were able to rise above the competition and assume the Lieutenant rank. They will lead their own shifts and help promote cohesiveness and teamwork as they develop into leaders.

We purchased a 2019 Dodge Durango and a new Lifeline Ambulance this year. Both of these vehicles replace worn out vehicles which we can no longer use. We are very thankful this year's City Administration has worked so hard to make these purchases possible.

We were able to secure several thousand dollars in grant and gift monies this year. We received \$49,000 from the government for new fire hose and adapters which we will receive in early 2020. We received \$1,000 from Walmart to purchase a new multi-gas detector, and along with an equipment donation from the local ELKS lodge



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 is a daily service which currently covers over 4000 residential and over 400 commercial customers each week.

This service is provided five days a week, 52 weeks a year with few interruptions due to holidays and weather. The Sanitation Department also collects yard waste and tree branches along with large item pick up. 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.

COMPOSTING

The Sanitation Department operates an OEPA-approved Class 4 compost facility for the area residents. The compost collection service is provided to City of Wilmington 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. M&R 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 rents over 300 commercial dumpsters that provide 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

We currently have approximately 3000 residents actively recycling. The department maintains two bulk corrugated cardboard drop-off sites as well (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.

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 collect, bale, and recycle the cardboard.

LANDFILL OPERATIONS

We are now nearing completion of the permit process for a 24-acre expansion to gain an additional 40 years of air space. We anticipate receiving the permit to install in January 2020 and begin construction on April of 2020. 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 approximate 100 tons, for an average total daily disposal of 13 tons for 2019.

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 and 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 nine times and blocked streets off 53 times for various festivals. The crews cut down six trees in City right-of-way, 106 street and road signs were made and replaced by the crews. The crews repaired or replaced 60 feet of guardrail and the crews assisted the Police Department for two weeks cleaning up vagrant camps and clearing the area between South South Street and South Mulberry Street to allow the Police Department a visual line of sight to the bike trail.

There were 15 days spent trimming trees in the City right-of-way in preparation for leaf pick up and the snow removal. The department collected 1600 cubic yards of leaves during leaf season. There was over 175 gallons of paint used to paint the downtown area and the subdivisions.

The pothole patcher was used for 121 days using 85 ton of #9 stone and 1178 gallons of emulsion to preserve and extend the life of the asphalt on various streets. There was 87 tons of hot mix asphalt used to repair various streets. The walk lights at the intersections of Farquhar and Locust Streets and South South and Sugartree Streets were upgraded to the new countdown lights. The crews spent four days cleaning a nuisance property with the assistance of crews from the Wastewater and Sanitation Departments. The crews mowed 100 abandoned or delinquent properties along with keeping the roadside ditches and various City right-of-way mowing assignments. The crews hung 176 "Honor Our Veterans" banners along with banners for the Banana Split Festival, Clinton County Fair, Clinton County Corn Festival, Holidazzle, 3rd Friday Party at the Mural, and Christmas banners and garland. We also helped plant 33 trees on Sugartree Street, Main Street, and Lowes Drive. The crew maintained the hanging flowers in the downtown area for seven months using over 20,000 gallons of water.



Jerry Runk, Superintendent



Building and Zoning Department

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 nine times this year and heard requests regarding signage, setback requirements, conditional uses, building height, parking lot requirements, and an appeal of a code enforcement order. The Board approved five conditional uses and 16 requests for variance. The Board denied seven variance requests and one appeal of a code enforcement order.

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

The Building and Zoning Department issues permits for residential and commercial construction work performed in the City. This year, a new zoning code went into effect requiring separate zoning permits as well. Fifty-one zoning permits were applied for.

The number of building permits issued and amount of fees collected this year is less than last year, but higher than median value for the previous five years. We issued 410 building permits. This is 17% less than last year, but 13% more than the median value for the previous five years. Permits were split almost evenly between residential and commercial work.

The stated value of commercial construction projects started this year was \$7,780,999. Residential projects were valued at \$1,848,500. We collected \$111,713.97 in building permit fees. This is 72% less than last year but, 94% more than the median value for the previous five years. Permit fees are a combination of flat and calculated charges based on the area of the work.

In 2019, twelve new primary structures were started. Of those twelve structures, seven were new single-family homes. These homes were constructed in the Timber Glen, Buckeye Hills and Woodside subdivisions. There were five new commercial buildings started.

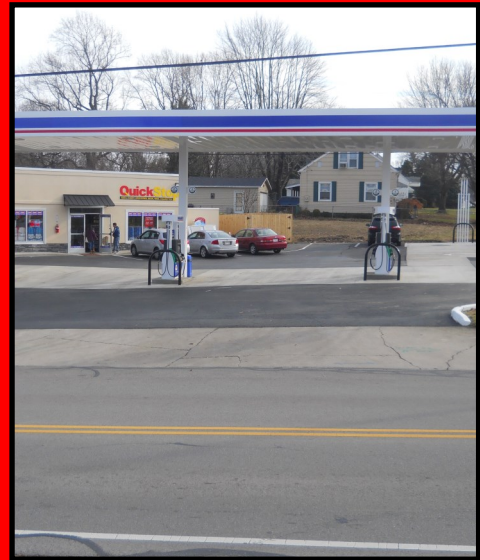
As for building department inspections, 534 building and electrical inspections were completed. 184 inspections were for electrical work and the remaining 350 covered building, mechanical, and fire work.

Some of the commercial projects that were completed this year:

- A new building for Fresenius Kidney Care
- Remodeling of a former dentist's office for BrightView Clinic
- A new building for First State Bank
- Remodeling of existing space for a new business, Kairo's Coffee
- Remodeling and rebranding of the Peeble's clothing store to Gordman's
- A new building and remodel of an existing building at the Airpark for Amazon
- Remodeling of the former Quali-Tee Sportsware building for TinCap Cider
- Expansion of the building and the addition of gas pumps at QuickStop on Truesdell

There were also some smaller, notable changes completed: Remodels of Walmart, Big Lots, and Gold Star Chili, new locations for Edward Jones Investments, Merchant's National Bank and AIM Media, and the opening of a Coldwell Banker office and Lil' Traders clothing store.

Works in progress include the remodel of existing space for Planet Fitness, new construction of a Magic Express Car Wash, remodeling of the pharmacies at CMH and the Cancer Center, and a new 5,900 sq. ft. processing facility for CannAscend.



<u>Construction Purpose</u>	<u>Permit Tally</u>
New Single-Family Home	7
New Multifamily Homes	0
Expand Residential Home	6
Repair/Remodel Residential Home	8
Deck/Porch	14
New Commercial Building	5
Expand Commercial Building	5
Repair/Remodel Commercial Building	33
Industrialized Unit	0
New Outbuilding	7
Expand Outbuilding	0
Repair/Remodel Outbuilding	1
Utility	0
TOTAL	86

Building and Zoning Department

The remaining 324 permits issued were for electrical, mechanical, fire suppression and alarm work, signs, demolition, and certificates of occupancy.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The City of Wilmington Building and Zoning Department accepts complaints regarding violations of the City's Property Maintenance and Zoning Codes. These complaints are received from individuals submitting them in person, through the City website, or through the Clickfix mobile app. The code enforcement department has also began initiating complaints this year in an effort to address property maintenance issues proactively.

The number of complaints increased this year from 549 to 653. Those 653 complaints involved 412 properties. Multiple complaints regarding the same issue at a specific property are counted as a single complaint. Twenty-eight of the complaints resulted in no actionable violation being found. The remaining 625 complaints resulted in 701 violations being found. Here is a breakdown of all property maintenance warnings and violations issued:

<u>Type of Violation:</u>	
Unsafe Structures and Equipment (also demo orders, vacant structures)	10
General (Exterior & Interior Property Areas, Exterm.)	149
Mechanical & Electrical Requirements	0
Plumbing Facilities & Fixture Requirements	6
Fire Safety Requirements	0
Weeds & Grass	306
Litter	129
Codified Ordinances (Right-of-way obstructions, dead trees, Recreational Vehicle Parking, etc.)	70
Zoning Ordinances (Permitted Use, Accessory Structures, etc.)	27
Sign Regulations	4

Of the 701 violations opened this year, 527 violations are listed as closed or resolved with 174 others being open. Violations that are open are in various stages of the code enforcement process. Twenty-six properties are currently classified as non-compliant.

Violations of the zoning and property maintenance codes are addressed by issuing a formal violation notice and working with the property owner to bring their property into compliance within a specified time frame. If property owners are not compliant, they may be brought before the Court. Seventeen properties were turned over for prosecution this year.

Three condemned properties that were acquired by the Clinton County Lank Bank were demolished this year.



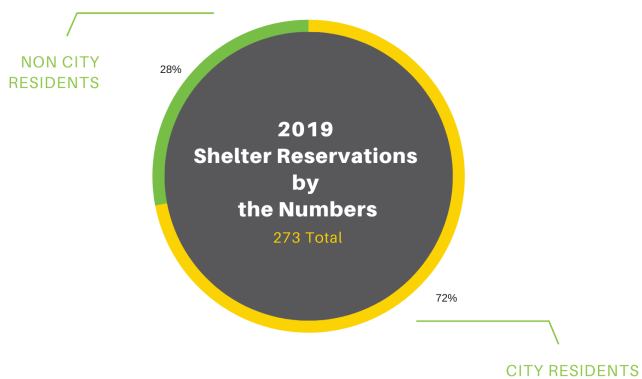
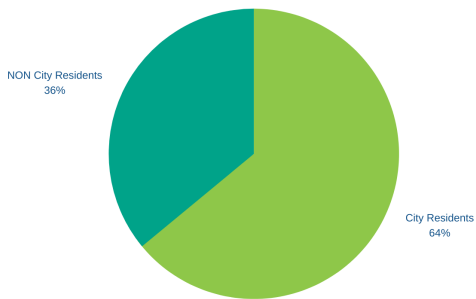
Michelle Horner, Administrative Assistant
Maria Hardin, Administrative Assistant
Terry Kerr, Code Enforcement Official



Parks and Recreation

2019 was another great year for the City of Wilmington Parks & Recreation Department. The community and key stakeholders were instrumental to our success. Without them, we would not have been able to successfully complete one of the largest projects for youth in our history while also maintaining quality programs and facilities for the community at large. Here are some highlights from the year:

- **Wooden Playground** was recreated into the Castle Park II- Thank you to TimberTech and all the other donors, sponsors and volunteers that made this possible.
- **OPWC Clean Ohio Lytle Creek Phase 1 Project** was completed
- Acquired over 20 acres of woods along the corridor of Lytle Creek.
- Woods were improved by doing hazardous tree removal, invasive species eradication, native species reintroduction and the construction of recreational trails.
- **Special Events** such as the Salamander Hike, Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, Trunk or Treat and the Owl Prowl were all well attended. Thank you to our partners from Caesars Creek, Wilmington Public Library, Wilmington Police Department, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists Rick Kneisel & many others who help make these events possible for our community.
- **Sports Leagues** served over 1,200 youth and adults this year.
- The heavy amounts of rain did not stop our teams from completing 95% of games. Thank you to all of our parents and players for being patient and flexible.
- 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 of 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 second year in a row!



Parks and Recreation

Looking ahead to what's in store for the year 2020. Our park board, staff and key stakeholders will be embarking on the development of a full strategic plan for our park system. We will be thinking big picture and seeking answers to three main questions:

1. Who are we?

Creating Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Values

2. Where are we?

Internal SWOT Analysis

Community Survey

3. Where do we want to go?

Create Strategies and Long Term Strategic Objectives

Financial Perspective (Revenue, Expenses, and Donations)

Customers Perspective (Park Users and Program Participants)

Operational Excellence Perspective (Productivity and Customer Service)

People Perspective (Staff and Volunteer Development)

Along with developing our strategic plan, we will be updating our park signage and branding initiatives. The hope is to make things more modern, consistent and easier for park users to find their way around our properties.

We are humbled by such a great year in 2019 and 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, Director
Jody Drake, Athletic Director
Travis Mellinger, Maintenance

2020-2021 Park Board Members
Sam Stratman, President
Tim Wiederhold
Julie Bolton



Transportation Department

The state of the Wilmington Transit System continues to be solid and showing consistent growth. Ridership for the calendar year 2019 was at 148,000 passengers (Actual). With the continuing increase in ridership, we documented our largest miles traveled to date at 615,159. The Wilmington Transit System has a current request submitted for three additional vehicles to ensure that we can adjust to the increased volumes and support our customers. In 2020, we will be receiving four (4) new LTN (Light Transit Narrow body) wheelchair vans. We are now current with the turn-in mileage of 150,000 required by ODOT, which also reduces maintenance and fuel cost. We also hired a part-time employee who concentrates on the cleanliness of our vehicles which, will create a more pleasurable riding experience for our customers while demonstrating to taxpayers that we are striving to take the best possible care of our vehicles.

In 2019, approximately 52% of the total rides were provided to the elderly and disabled. Our main goals continue to be maintaining fares at the same level and making safety the highest priority for our passengers. Equally important is our goal 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 well being, using the service for medical appointments, food shopping, work transportation, etc. Wilmington Transit System also benefits from a Elderly and Disabled Grant program that is awarded on a yearly basis.

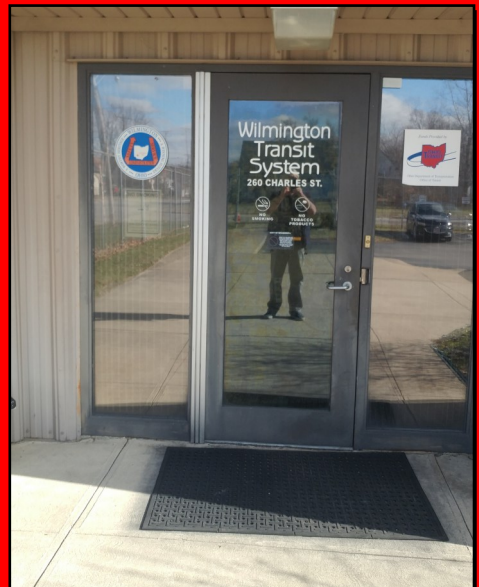
Vehicle maintenance is critical to maintain a safe and efficient service for our many riders. Our staff at Wilmington Transit continues to maintain our vehicles according to the requirements of the ODOT maintenance plan that is consistent throughout the state. This practice has prevented high dollar maintenance repairs that have been experienced in the past years.

Our Transit drivers are to be commended for their continued dedication to providing Wilmington Transit System riders, with exceptional customer service. They all contribute greatly to our cost containment efforts!

We thank them for their service and commitment to their jobs!



Tony Morris, Director



Sugar Grove Cemetery

The year 2019 marked the City's third full year of providing cemetery services for the community, and the first full year that all cemetery operations were performed by City staff. This included mowing and weed-eating, grounds and facility maintenance, burials, and foundation work. The addition of a Cemetery Technician early in the year helped the in-house operations run more efficiently.

BURIAL AND LAND SALE STATISTICS

There were 70 total interments at Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2019. Of these, 17 were cremations and 53 were full burials. Additionally, 80 grave spaces were purchased during the year.

FACILITIES

The new equipment building was finished early in 2019. Standing 14 feet tall with 1,200 square feet of work area, it has been an important addition and provides an excellent workspace for indoor cemetery maintenance tasks. After the new building was finished, the City demolished and removed the old storage building from the grounds. Many improvements were also made to the existing garage to make it a more effective workspace.

FOUNDATIONS AND RESTORATION

City staff poured foundations for 37 grave monuments and set five government markers during 2019.

The Cemetery Technician and staff repaired the foundations of six monuments during the year. Over time, shifting foundations can cause headstones to lean and sometimes topple over. In these cases, the monuments are removed and cleaned. The City removes the old concrete footer, prepares the footer hole by digging and setting wooden forms, and then pours a new foundation. The forms are removed, and the monument company resets the original stone.

Additionally, the staff obtained gravestone restoration training sponsored by the Cemetery Conservators for United Standards. With new "do no harm" techniques in hand, the City was able to perform monument repairs on older markers damaged during the 2018 ice storms.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sugar Grove Cemetery is proud to host many annual events such as Memorial Day Services, Police and Fire Memorial Services, and a 5k race during Halloween.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

The City re-established Spring Clean-Up. Prior to Clean-Up days, patrons were asked to remove all items from the gravesites so the staff could clean the grounds and clear-away worn and unwanted items. The Spring Clean-Up schedule for 2020 will be announced through newspapers, website, social media sites, and signage at the cemetery. For guidelines on cemetery rules for decorating, please visit the Sugar Grove page at the City of Wilmington website.

VOLUNTEERISM

The City is truly grateful for our many volunteers who help with the maintenance of Sugar Grove Cemetery throughout the year. For Memorial Day, volunteers gathered to place flags on veterans' graves. People of all ages devoted the morning walking the cemetery to ensure that each veteran had a flag.

The Garden Club sponsors and maintains flower beds in the cemetery. The beds are located directly inside the front gates and are updated seasonally. Countless volunteers throughout the year assist with maintenance as they tend to their families' plots and headstones.

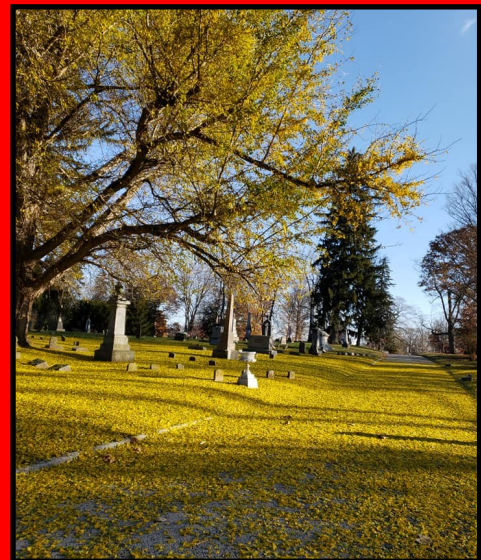
UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS

The City is in the final planning stages for repair of the bridge across Lytle Creek. The repair is being funded through the Municipal Bridge Grant Program. The process is longer than expected due to the bridge's status as a historical structure. The City has been working with the Ohio Department of Transportation on design scenarios that both preserve the historic nature of the bridge while complying with transportation standards. Bidding is scheduled to begin in early 2020 and construction should be completed during the summer.

LOOKING AHEAD

Building from successes made in 2019, the City's primary focus for Sugar Grove Cemetery in 2020 will be continued attention to fine-tuning grounds maintenance issues. We look forward to continuing to provide quality cemetery services to our community in 2020.

Brian Shidaker, Service & Safety Director
Andrea Tacoronte, Cemetery Clerk
Kirby Keltner, Cemetery Grounds Technician





City of Wilmington

Office Directory

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