

**2019**  
**MAYOR'S REPORT**  
**VILLAGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILESTONES**

**VILLAGE – GENERAL**

**Fire Station Renovation:** Phase I, which consisted mainly of three new truck bays, was completed by Perkins-Carmack within budget. Phase II, which included renovation of offices, day room, training facilities and sleeping quarters, was awarded to Signet Services and will be completed in early 2020.

**United Dairy Farmers:** Construction was completed in May, followed by a Grand Opening. The building, which includes features designed uniquely for our historic village, has been well patronized by both residents and visitors.

**Glendale Town Hall: Exterior:** Received much needed improvements in 2019, including brick tuck pointing, cleaning of all the bricks, removal of the crumbling brick planters adjacent to the entrance, installation of 4 vintage limestone benches (donated by Jess Hauer Masonry) in front of the building, and replacement of failing the exterior rear stair exit handrails.

**Interior:** Town Hall Auditorium received several needed improvements, including the repainting of the interior walls and trim, the installation of sound absorbing wall panels, and the deep cleaning/polishing of the hardwood floors.

**Quiet Zone:** On December 30 the Village received formal notice that CSX Transportation had accepted our Notice of the Establishment of a New Quiet Zone. The Quiet Zone went into effect on January 10, 2020. Glendale is only the second community in Hamilton County and the 15<sup>th</sup> in the State of Ohio to have a Quiet Zone. No Village tax dollars were spent on the project. All costs were covered by Federal, State and Railroad funds and private contributions.

**Park Board Tree Canopy Program:** The program helped residents plant 32 trees on private property at reduced prices.

**3 births and 24 deaths:** of current and former residents were reported to the Village Office.

**General Fund investments:** Interest earned was directed to the VPGI to allow its growth and to provide for necessary capital improvement funds. In all funds, the Village earned \$271,021 in interest.

**Agreement of Cooperation:** with Hamilton County Community Development, allowing for up to \$40,000 per year in grants for qualified ADA and other safety projects.

**Landmark Property:** Removed from Planned Overlay District.

**Community Improvement Corporation:** Created to represent the Village in economic development. The CIC will generate cash for the Village that will delay the need for future tax increases.

**Bi-Annual Audit:** In October the Village received notice that it had pass the bi-annual Financial Audit by the State of Ohio. There were some miscellaneous matters that needed to be addressed, but the auditors found no evidence of fraud or malfeasance in the Village's financial records.

**Geoff Base-Smith** was appointed to fill the remainder of Jenny Kilgore's Council term that will expire in January, 2022.

**Debbie Grueninger:** Former long-time Councilwoman was elected to a four-year term on Council on November 5.

**"This is Glendale:"** TIG began in May and aired eight (8) times in 2019. The monthly series uses technical assistance from ICRC and features co-hosts, Bett Kooris and Joe Dubinski. It has been viewed by a growing number of people, reaching 1115 views for the November edition.

## **GRANTS**

### **Police Grants:**

D.A.R.E grant for the 2019 school year for \$377.00

Bike Helmet Grant use to purchase 200 bike helmets worth \$1500.00

School Resource Officer (SRO) grant was renewed for \$60,000 by a private foundation.

Wal-Mart grant for \$2000 used to purchase a DRONE. GPD Sgt. Keist has been trained and certified to fly it.

State of Ohio grant for \$6667.00 used to the purchase Bullet-Proof Vests.

### **Fire Grants:**

Ohio EMS Board grant for \$1,200 for EMS related-equipment. We have received this annual grant for 4 consecutive years.

Proctor Fund grant of \$72,000 mainly for furnishings and equipment in Phase II of gthe renovation of the Glendale Fire Station.

### **Parks Grants:**

Two grants from the Proctor Fund: \$10,000 for the planting of trees, and \$15,000 for the removal of dead or diseased trees.

## **DEPARTMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station addition construction of new bays (Phase I) was completed within budget and work is underway in the renovation of interior living quarters and training facilities (Phase II).

With assistance from GFD officers, the Firefighter Safety and Health Network provided training, support and education to firefighters in cancer awareness and prevention measures.

The fire department dedicated the addition of the 3 new truck bays to the firehouse. This provides much needed space for the GFD and improves the safety of the firefighters' workspace.

GFD responded to 511 runs in 2019. This is the greatest number of runs in the history of the fire department. Responses have been all over the region again this year, including the City of Cincinnati.

Chief Hardwick received many honors and awards attesting to his high standing in the local firefighting community, including: re-election to the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board; Lifetime Career Achievement award from the Cincinnati/ Hamilton County Fire and Police agencies and the Cincinnati Christian University; membership in the Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Executive Board; and selection to be the Operations Section Chief at the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Center.

Chief Hardwick directed the Regional Mass Casualty Incident disaster drill in September at the Great American Ball Park, which was the largest drill of its kind in the Cincinnati area. More than 1000 responders, actors, volunteers took part in the drill.

Chief Hardwick organized the Ohio FACE Team which provides a network of fire departments, hospitals, cancer centers and researchers to connect with an individual and their family should they contract cancer. This is based on how the Florida FACE Team started their program and have become so successful in gathering data for fire fighters and fire departments.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Officer Greg Barber named "Police Officer of The Year" for 2018.

GPD provided over 78 Back-to School Backpacks for the children in the Glendale Community. Each Backpack was filled with every school supply needed for the entire school year.

GPD provided twenty-five Glendale Families with a wonderful Christmas Holiday.

GPD began use of a drone for various events in the village. The drone will also be used in law enforcement, for example, the tracking of fleeing crime suspects.

GPD was awarded the "Gold Star Award" for D.U.I enforcement within our community, improving on the "Silver Star Award" received in 2018.

The State of Ohio recognized all Glendale Police officers for completing mandatory state training requirements on time and with scores of 100% proficiencies.

Officer Josh Hilling was one of ten officers chosen nationwide to be a part of a training panel to develop new standards and practices for all police departments across the nation. The standards and practices were related to officers involved in “Deadly Use of Force” situations.

Adopted Ord. 2019-39 to improve parking regulations, addressing concerns of residents, such as, parking of trucks and portable storage units on Village streets, as well as parking cars to extended periods of time without a permit.

On November 18, an alert resident thwarted an attempted burglary at his home. He notified GPD and officers pursued the suspect for several hours, finally apprehending him in Woodlawn. He is a suspect in a number of burglaries in the community and our thanks go out to the officers involved.

## **PARKS AND GLENDALE PARK BOARD**

The Village received a new utility vehicle for use in grooming the parks and recreational fields, funded by a \$12,150 grant from the Procter Fund.

The Village received a grant for \$9,675 to purchase a new paint striping machine for the recreational fields (and streets) from the Procter Fund.

500 tree saplings were again given away to residents at a cost of \$520.

41 trees were planted around the Village under a private fund grant of \$10,000.

35 dead or diseased trees were removed and 45 trees were pruned under a private fund grant of \$15,000.

The wild flower and milk weed planting program continued around the Village.

The Park Board planned and supervised the installation of new landscaping on the west side of the addition to the Glendale Fire Station.

After much planning by the Park Board, work began to improve Toll Gate Park, one of our four main entrances to the Village. A water irrigation system was installed (\$7,500 from the Village Plan and General Improvement Fund) to care for the many new trees and plantings that have been planted in the Park. More landscaping will be added as funds allow. This project will greatly improve the appearance of the Village as people enter from the South on Congress Avenue.

## **STREETS AND REFUSE COLLECTION**

The Streets Department arranged for the repaving of Washington Avenue (entire), Coral (from Coral to Willow), North Greenville (from Willow to Sharon), Hetherington (entire), and Willow Avenue (from Coral to Sharon) This work was completed for approximately one-half the cost

of conventional asphalt, with a total expense of \$149,331. Street Construction funds, which are funded by State gasoline taxes and license plate fees, were used to complete this work.

With the participation of GHP and Public Works, all of our 85 black street sign posts and 160 brackets were scraped, sanded and repainted. This project was coordinated by Peg Shardelow and completed in the fall of 2019. Volunteers performing the work included Carolyn and Mike Beaugrand, Bob Denny, Randy Green, Don Lofty, Nancy Macenko, Bill and Helene Sedwick, Bill Skyllingstad, Carl Stritzel, Susan and Bobby Swaine, and Jim Wesselman.

The replacement of the bridge at Sharon and Littlecreek has been bid and awarded to Smith Construction Co., in the amount of apx. \$402,000. Work was delayed due to additional engineer work and the coordination and procurement of materials, and is now expected to begin in March of 2020.

The Village received a grant for \$9,675 to purchase a new paint striping machine for the streets (and recreational fields) from the Procter Fund.

656 trip hazard sidewalks were identified and repaired by precision grinding at a cost of \$40,000, saving approximately \$50,000 over the cost of replacing the concrete.

A contract renewing Rumpke was awarded in 2019 for a five (5) year term with 2.3% escalation each of the years.

The Village achieved the top tier for recycling in Hamilton and, as a result, received a payment of \$7500, which was used to reduce the costs of waste, trash and recycling collection.

Ohio Gas Tax was increased by the Legislature, at the urging of the Governor, and will provide up to \$60,000 in additional street construction and maintenance revenue per year.

The Village fees for waste, trash and recycling were imposed to provide necessary revenue to pay for Rumpke services throughout the Village. The fees cover only the actual costs to the Village and were deemed necessary to compensate for shortfalls in the Village budget.

Other Refuse collected by Public Works:

Wood chipping 129 loads = 645 cubic yards

Leaf collecting 199 loads = 995 cubic yards

A total of 435 cubic yards of chipped wood and leaves was distributed to Village residents and other for landscaping.

## **UTILITIES**

The tie-in to the Cincinnati Water Works main on Rt. 4 was completed (\$154,000), which now allows the Village to fill and maintain water in the water tower in the event of an interruption in service from the Village waterworks.

Applications for low interest loans for a new water main on Sharon have been submitted for consideration in early 2020.

Water and sewage rates were increased to address inflation and future capital projects.

Water Main Break Repairs: A new underground water main leak listening device was purchased (\$2,800) and dramatically assisted workers in locating numerous underground leaks that were previously undetected. The Village found a total of 12 Water Main Break Repairs, which were repaired for a cost of \$40,515.

On 26 December there was a severe water main break and 350,000 gallons of water in the tower drained in 1 hour. The Utilities, Police and Fire Departments got to the scene quickly and managed the disruption. The contractor arrived on the scene at 6:00am and, by 9:00 the leak was patched. Mayor Lofty noted that several improvements recently implemented helped the expedite the work including shut off valves installed on Sharon Road, the new Cincinnati Water Works connection supplied the west side of the Village, and an existing connection provided water to the east side of the Village.

Wastewater Sewer Collapse Repairs: A severe Sewer Collapse (Albion Lane) was repaired for \$26,000

## **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION**

To keep our residents informed, the Village sent 115 emails in 2019, which was a decrease from the 167 emails sent in 2018. This decrease was due to the more consistent use of the Friday Weekly Newsletter. There are 921 subscribers to the Village email list, up from 876 subscribers at beginning of the year, an increase of 5.1%. Our overall opening rate for 2019 (whether or not the email is opened or ignored) was 54.9% compared to the average open rate of 25.58% for government emails, and an increase of 10.0% over last year.

The Building Department issued 112 building permits in 2019, collecting a total of \$47,923 in building and zoning permit fees.

Property Maintenance Inspector issued 61 reports for property, clean-up, high grass, needed repairs, improper signage, and vegetation encroachment on sidewalks in 2019.

Awarded Tree City USA (marking 21 consecutive years of this award) with a Growth Award (8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year). Note that the Village has just received notice that it will again be a Tree City with a Growth Award for its efforts in 2019.

Agreement with Hamilton County Community Development enables Village to apply for Community Development Funds (Apx. \$40,00 per year) for improvements such as crosswalks, play grounds and handicapped accessibility projects.

Continued energy aggregation program with Eagle Energy (now named AGE), resulting in savings to residents and businesses of \$60,800 on electricity, but an expense of \$29,000 for natural gas (while this is uncommon, natural fell slightly below our already low contract price for

much of 2019), for a total combined savings of \$31,800 for residential and business gas and electric bills.

Employees received 2% COLA increase to cover inflation.

Renewed employee Health and Dental Insurance (6% increase).

Renewed the Ohio Public Entities Pool property and liability insurance (1.1% increase).

Applied for 0% and low % loans for the rebuilding of the Glendale water distribution system.

Prepared, submitted and adopted the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Received \$24,000 refund from Ohio Workers Compensation due to low incident rate.

Awarded the redesign of the Village website to ReVize in the fall of 2019, as the lowest and best vendor, and work is now underway with David Lumsden's oversight. This project is expected to be complete in the spring of 2020.

Often traveled public sidewalks received snowplowing, once streets were cleared.