



## STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

Issued February 26, 2018 by Mayor Joel B. Day

In several different ways, 2017 was a year of growth for the City of New Philadelphia.

Construction of the new central fire station was completed in June. New Philadelphia's economy grew with the addition of several new businesses.

A master plan was completed for development of the Southside Community Park on Oldtown Valley Road. Property was acquired on State Route 416 and at the Waterworks Fields on South Broadway that will help utilize the Tuscarawas River for recreational and economic purposes. The tennis courts at Tuscora Park were renovated. And the New Philadelphia Rotary Club celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by constructing a boardwalk and gazebo at the park.

Graduate students from the University of Cincinnati began to construct a master plan for downtown revitalization and future city growth. With assistance from American Electric Power, the City developed and initiated a sustainability plan that included the installation of new energy-efficient LED street lighting downtown, on South Broadway and at Tuscora Park.

Kent State University-Tuscarawas announced plans to construct a gateway entry into the campus area from East High Avenue. The City worked with planners from the Ohio Department of Transportation District 11 office to design improvements for traffic flow through the West High Avenue/Bluebell Drive intersection.

However, the year 2017 was not without its challenges for the City government. In November, with Council's approval the City joined a coalition of over 100 municipalities in Ohio in filing a lawsuit against the State. The suit claimed that the Ohio Legislature violated the State Constitution when it passed legislation that gave businesses the option of paying net profits income tax to the State Tax Commissioner instead of to local municipalities. Over the past eight years actions by the Legislature and Governor Kasich have substantially cut the return of state tax dollars to municipal governments. For New Philadelphia, that amounted to a loss of about a \$3.5 million in operating funds over the period. With operating expenses rising, the loss of local government funding put a strain on the City's finances, particularly its general fund.



Thanks to the efforts of City Council, Auditor Gundy and City Department heads, the level of city services was not affected. Together we controlled spending and identified ways to be more efficient with taxpayers' dollars.

The statewide opioid addiction epidemic is also in the streets of New Philadelphia in 2017. It was a leading reason why there was a significant increase in police and fire calls last year. A number of actions were taken in response to the epidemic.

On the recovery side, our safety forces were trained to administer the lifesaving antidote NARCAN to overdose victims. Wes Halter, the Fire Department's Emergency Services Coordinator, was appointed to the county's Quick Response Team, which visits overdose victims to educate them on the recovery options available in the community.

The New Philadelphia Health Department made weekly visits to the county jail to identify inmates who are heroin addicts and offer them a path to recovery with the department's Vivitrol program. Vivitrol is a drug that blocks the brain's craving for heroin. The program, headed by Director of Nursing Nichole Bache, required each patient to have a monthly Vivitrol injection for an entire year in order to end their addiction. In 2017, there was an average of 24 persons per month in the program.

In addition, last year Health Commissioner Vickie Ionno teamed with Municipal Court Judge Nan VonAllman and Court Administrator Judee Dzigiel to create what they termed a "Recovery Court." This program identified criminals battling addictions and offered them paths to recovery, either through our Health Department or another county agency or support group.

On the prevention side, Police Chief Goodwin was very active in educating local school kids and community members to the dangers of drugs and addiction. He also put measures in place to better identify drug dealers and drug houses. And Chief Goodwin located a drop box in the police station lobby where citizens could dispose of their unused prescription drugs.

The effect of this collaboration between city departments was very encouraging.

In summary, I would say that as we began the New Year, the state of New Philadelphia remained strong, despite the financial and societal challenges we faced in 2017. The City government continued to encourage and create business opportunities. Planning for future growth took place. All branches of our local government -Executive, Legislative and Judicial - worked as a team to move New Philadelphia forward as the county seat.

The following is a department by department summary of activity and accomplishments in 2017. Reports by the Auditor, Health Department and Municipal Court will be issued at a later date by their respective department heads.

## **MAYOR'S ACTIVITIES**

- Received a \$35,000.00 check from American Electric Power for reaching the goals of its Community Energy Savers Program. The money was used to upgrade all downtown street lighting to more energy efficient LED lights.
- Began development of an “Energy and Sustainability Road Map” study after completing the American Electric Power Energy Savers Program. The study’s purpose is to identify areas in the City’s operation where additional energy savings could be realized as well as practices that improve environmental sustainability within the City.
- Welcomed the following new businesses to New Philadelphia: Kinder Morgan, R and J Cylinder, Starbucks, Chipotle, Goo Goo Car Wash, The Ezekiel Project, McKinney Meats, and Off the Wall Music.
- Signed an agreement with Quaker Digital Academy to allow advertising signs on City sanitation trucks. The City Sanitation Department will receive 40% of the revenue, with the remainder going to QDA to fund student scholarships.
- Was invited to speak at State Representative Al Landis’ and County Probate Court Magistrate Adam Wilgus drug addiction awareness assemblies at Tuscarawas Central Catholic and Welty Middle Schools.
- Issued Mayoral Proclamations for: Charlyn Menapace’ retirement from New Philadelphia City Schools, Riley Meese’ accomplishment at the Scripps National Spelling Bee, the First Baptist Church of Dover’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the New Philadelphia Rotary Club’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Accepted the donation to the City of the former Riverview Welding property on South Broadway from Joe and Cheryl Coniglio. The property was taken into the Waterworks Fields Park, with a parking area and boat launch to be constructed there to gain recreational and emergency watercraft access to the Tuscarawas River.
- Signed the purchase of the former Carlisle Canoe Livery property from Jan McInturf. The property was taken into the City parks system, with a parking lot and boat launch to be constructed there to gain recreational and emergency watercraft access to the Tuscarawas River.
- Signed a two year lease with Buckeye Career Center, allowing its use of the north bay of the old fire station for the adult education firefighter/EMS program.



- Received City Council approval to allow the City to join a coalition of Ohio cities in a lawsuit aimed at blocking the State Tax Commissioner from collecting net profits income tax from businesses operating in New Philadelphia.
- Wrote letters of support for: the Tuscora Park tennis courts project, the KSU-Tuscarawas Gateway project, the Park Place Teen Center renovation project and the Municipal Court LED lighting upgrade project.
- Administered Oaths of Office to Ted Polka as the Police Department's Traffic Control Officer, David Morris for his promotion to Police Sergeant and new City firefighters Chris Summers, Joseph Clark and Jamie Burgasser.
- Accepted the offer from Michael McInturf to have a group of his graduate students at the University of Cincinnati's School of Architecture develop a master plan for the City's future growth. Mr. McInturf is an associate professor at UC and a New Philadelphia High School graduate. He wanted to do something to give back to his hometown.
- Worked with planners from the Ohio Department of Transportation District 11 office to design improvements for traffic flow through the West High Avenue/Bluebell Drive intersection. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in 2018 with completion expected in 2019 in time for the opening of the new Menard's store on Bluebell Drive NW.
- Met with Rodney Wekkin, Menard's real estate representative, to start the permitting process for construction of the company's store in late spring or early summer of 2018.

#### **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - Mary Ann Otte**

The following is the number of licenses and permits issued by the Mayor's Executive Assistant, as well as the money collected from parking meters and fines:

- Number of vendors licenses issued for 2017 – 269
- Parking Permits issued for 2017 – 411
- Solicitors and Handbill Permits issued – 19
- Garage Sale Permits issued – 458
- Internet Café Licenses issued – 2
- Taxi Cab Permit – 1
- Shows/Exhibitions Permit – 1
- Re-zoning Request - 1
- Total number of money collected from parking meters and fines - \$25,661.88
- Number of complaints, inquiries sent to the Street Department, Police Department and Zoning & Building Code Administrator – 132

**Total Revenue collected for the year 2017 - \$61,844.83**

## **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**

Two new members, Joe McCartney and Lucas Moreland, were welcomed to the Planning Commission. The Commission met seven times in 2017 with the members exploring ideas for annexations, downtown revitalization, zoning code revisions and wind turbine restrictions.

The following actions were taken by the Planning Commission in 2017:

- Approved a new design for a storm sewer system for land off of Jefferson Street SE owned by Rob Edwards.
- Recommended to City Council's Zoning and Annexation committee the annexation of eight parcels of Goshen Township land at Harry Clever Field and at East Avenue and Evergreen Cemeteries.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT – Director Mary Kurtz**

Significant strides were made in developing employee safety programs, establishing a salary scale for non-bargaining employees and revising the City Employee Handbook. In 2017, the City's workforce consisted of 160 full time employees, 15 permanent part time employees, 12 part time employees and 86 seasonal employees. Director Kurtz' list of accomplishments is as follows:

1. *Completed revision of Employee Handbook*
  - *Held committee meetings seeking input*
  - *Worked with Attorney consultant to ensure legality and conformance to the law and all bargaining unit contracts*
2. *Finalized Non-Bargaining Salary Structure*
  - *Worked to replace Ordinance 39-97 with Ordinance 19-2017*
    1. *This transferred authority from City Council to the Mayor in determining salaries for non-bargaining employees in line with the new salary scale structure.*
3. *Developed and Implemented the Executive Safety Team*
  - *Conduct Quarterly Meetings*
    1. *Provide report detail to Team of injuries along with the associated costs*
  - *Conduct Safety Sub-committee Team – City Hall*
    1. *Meet monthly to write/develop OSHA safety policies*



2. *Incorporate policies into Safety Manual*
  - *Manual will be customized by department*
  - *City Hall and General Services are “pilot program” departments where the policies will be used as a guide for all departments in the organization.*
4. *Transitioned involvement of HR into the Random Drug Screening Process*
5. *Expanded Employee Wellness Program by implementing a Weight Loss Challenge*
6. *Conducted Mandatory Substance Abuse Training for all employees through EAP Program*
7. *Conducted Mandatory Employee Training for Aultcare Benefit Rollout changes*
  - *Introduced TeleDoc program*
8. *Coordinated with IAFF and the Auditor on offering a new deferred compensation program for all employees*
  - *The plan is through IAFF, but is open to all employees of the City.*
9. *Coordinated Mandatory Cultural Sensitivity Training*
10. *Interviewed and hired key positions*
  - *Firefighter*
  - *Police Officer*
  - *Water Department Superintendent*
  - *Dispatcher/Jailer – Police Department*

## **SERVICE DEPARTMENT – Director Ron McAbier**

Tax dollars returned to New Philadelphia through Federal and State grants enabled important infrastructure and park development projects to be completed. In addition, Service Director McAbier and his staff were instrumental in helping the City acquire properties needed to utilize the Tuscarawas River for recreational purposes as well as gain entry points for the Fire Department’s rescue boat and dive teams.

### **2017 PROJECTS**

- Community Development Block Grant project, fiscal year 2016 – Installation of new curb and sidewalks on Fair Avenue NE from Ray Avenue NE rear to 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE using a \$75,000.00 CDBG grant. This was a continuation of last year’s CDBG project on Fair Avenue NE from Beaver Avenue NE to Ray Avenue NE rear.
- Water Treatment Plant Backwash Effluent to Sanitary Sewer project – Installation of a backwash line to discharge water plant effluent into the City’s sanitary sewer system per Ohio EPA mandate. Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds were used to help cover the project’s \$184,000.00 cost.



- Crider Avenue Land Acquisition and Trail – In partnership with New Philadelphia Schools, \$180,000.00 in Clean Ohio grant money was obtained to construct a green space park at the end of Crider Avenue NW. The park includes a walking trail and benches for the public, as well as the creation of a nature base and outdoor classroom for the schools. The land use assures the protection of water lines coming from City reservoirs above the park.
- Carlisle and Coniglio Land Acquisitions and Improvements – The City obtained both properties in 2017 in order to develop boat ramp parks to better utilize the Tuscarawas River for recreational purposes and as entry points for fire department rescue boats and divers. The former Carlisle Canoe Livery property on State Route 416 was purchased for \$24,000.00 while the former Riverview Welding property on South Broadway was donated to the City by Joe and Cheryl Coniglio. The City plans to use Clean Ohio funds, other grant funding and private contributions to construct ramps, docks, parking and picnic areas and landscaping at both locations. The approximate cost of the Carlisle project is \$450,000.00 and the Coniglio project \$600,000.00. Because the Coniglio property is included in the route of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail in New Philadelphia, it is likely that a trailhead will be constructed at the location.
- LED Lighting Project – Approximately 145 high pressure sodium street lights in the Central Business District and on South Broadway were replaced with energy efficient 37.5 watt LED lights. The annual savings to the City is estimated at \$6500.00. The total cost of the project was \$43,957.00, which was paid for with an American Electric Power Energy Savers Program grant of \$35,000.00 and an AEP rebate check of \$12,670.50. Eventually all sodium street lights in the City will be replaced with the energy efficient, and brighter, LEDs.

## **BUILDING PERMITS**

The following permits were issued by the Service Director in 2017:

- 14 new single-family homes
- 7 duplexes
- 11 additions to commercial buildings
- 15 garages/carports construction
- 12 additions onto residential homes
- 259 miscellaneous permits for signs, lot splits, concrete, licenses and taps

## **SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

In 2017, the Service Director approved 16 permits for sidewalk replacements with a budgeted amount of \$30,000.00.



## **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

The Board of Zoning Appeals held 12 meetings in 2017. Thirteen variance requests were granted and five were denied.

## **ZONING AND BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATOR – Mike Scolati**

Eighty-four letters were drafted and mailed to property owners who were in violation of the City's codified ordinances for having conditions such as:

- High grass
- Overgrown shrubs and trees
- Garbage
- Junk and junk vehicles

Fifteen of the owners were also cited for failing to obtain building permits for work being done on their properties. Also, three dilapidated properties were torn down.

## **GENERAL SERVICES – Superintendent Ray Grewell**

The City had a successful street paving season in 2017, spending close to \$275,000.00. The streets paved included:

- Ray Avenue NW from Tuscarawas Avenue NW to North Broadway
- South Broadway from York Drive SW to the corporation limit
- 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW between Fair Avenue and Ray Avenue
- Fair Avenue NE from Ray Avenue extension to 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Front Street SW from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the railroad tracks

The Street Department used 284 tons of hot mix at a cost of \$15,921.00. This was used to repair roads and drive approaches throughout the city.

With an aggressive citywide tree maintenance program, 30 problem trees were removed and countless others trimmed. In 2017 the City met the requirements to receive Tree City USA designation for the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive year.

A new safety program was instituted to create safer work environments and practices for the General Services workforce. In 2017 the program focused on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for each individual job performed and equipment safety.



The following improvements were made to General Services buildings and equipment:

- A new metal roof was installed on the Sanitation Department building
- Three new pickup trucks were leased to upgrade the small truck fleet
- A new mower was purchased as part of an effort to become more efficient in mowing City property

The city compost pile was removed. A private individual agreed to accept all new leaves from the fall of 2017 free of charge. This resulted in a savings of more than six thousand dollars for the City.

818 extra brush and trash piles were picked up in 2017.

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Specialist Jeff Erb**

The City contracted for server management from Pioneer-360 of New Philadelphia. Because of complexities in server maintenance, security and the ever-increasing threat from Internet and email viruses and malware, the latest technical knowledge was needed to safeguard City data.

The following improvements and safeguards were made to the City's internal network:

- A new expandable server was purchased as Hardware-as-a-Service (HaaS) to lower costs and to make server maintenance and support a monthly budgeted amount.
- Network hardware was consolidated into a new standard rack and new patch cables dressed to remove clutter.
- Outdated and unrepairable work stations were removed from City departments and placed in the annual City auction.
- A new Wi-Fi network was installed throughout the John Knisely Municipal Centre (City Hall). It allows for Internet connectivity of mobile devices with restricted guest access.

Other technology improvements made in 2017:

- A new City website was launched, which is attractive, fresh and functional across all Web platforms. New features allow department administrators or their designees to update and care for their department's content on the website.
- New payment options were implemented for utility payments.
- New accounting systems were installed in the Auditor's department.



## GIS (Geographic Information System) MAPPING

Annual updates were made to the City's GIS maps to reflect changes in infrastructure, property ownership and boundaries. Maps were used to assist the research and activities of the Mayor's Office, Service Department and City Planning Commission.

## AIRPORT COMMISSION

As the Service Department's liaison to the New Philadelphia Airport Commission, Mr. Erb reported the following accomplishments in the maintenance of Harry Clever Field:

- New sidewalk was installed at the airport restaurant - \$2700.00
- Three airplane hangar pads were replaced - \$8500.00
- Sixty feet of six foot chain link fencing was installed where the former Med Flight office was located.
- The entire airport runway was milled and resurfaced, including painting new lines and directional markings - \$1.3 million project funded 90% by the Federal Aviation Administration, 5% by the Ohio Department of Transportation – Aviation division and 5% from the City.

## WATER OFFICE/WATER FILTRATION – Superintendent Derek Leyda/Superintendent Scott DeVault

After serving the City for 18 years, Derek Leyda retired as Water Department Superintendent on November 30, 2017. Scott DeVault of Beach City, Ohio was hired as his replacement. Mr. DeVault was an operator at the City of Twinsburg, Ohio Public Works Department. Together they compiled the following report of the operation of the City's water supply and distribution systems in 2017.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF SERVICE CONNECTIONS

SPRINKLING METERS	389	
WATER ONLY ACCOUNTS	174	
SEWER ONLY ACCOUNTS	14	
ACH ACCOUNTS	1244	
WORK ORDERS	5403	
AMR WORK ORDERS	2913	
8067 - ACCOUNTS INSIDE CITY	225 - ACCOUNTS OUTSIDE CITY	<b>8230 - TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>

### WATER FILTRATION

JANUARY 1, 2017 - DECEMBER 31, 2017

PUMPED FROM WELLS	784,650,499 GALLONS
PUMPED TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	713,461,257 GALLONS



CHLORINE USED	4,697 POUNDS
PERMANGANATE USED	928 GALLONS
SALT USED	5,248,093 POUNDS
CARBON DIOXIDE USED	103,600 POUNDS
TOTAL HOURS OPERATIONAL	5,862

### WATER DISTRIBUTION WORK STATISTICS

JANUARY 1, 2017 - DECEMBER 31, 2017

LEAKS MAIN 16	LEAKS SERVICE 8	NEW SERVICES 9	RENEWED SERVICES 24	NEW OR REPLACED HYDRANTS 7
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### WATER IMPROVEMENTS

INSTALLED 1 - 6" INSTA - VALVE  
INSTALLED 2 - 12" INSTA - VALVE

REPLACED 430" OF 2" WATER MAIN

REPLACED 1 - 4" MAIN VALVE  
REPLACED 4 - 6" MAIN VALVE

INSTALLED 130' OF NEW 6" WATER MAIN  
INSTALLED 240' OF NEW 12" WATER MAIN

### WATER PLANT

- CLEANED AND SERVICED WELL #4
- CLEANED AND SERVICED HIGH SERVICE PUMP #4
- REFURBISHED #4 GREENSAND FILTER
- CHANGED THE WAY THE PLANT DISCHARGES ITS FILTER AND SOFTENER WASTE STREAMS TO THE CITY'S SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM INSTEAD OF TO THE TUSCARAWAS RIVER

**WATER OFFICE** - a new check scanner was installed to speed up bank deposits.

### WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT – Superintendent Brian Myers

The wastewater treatment facility is designed to treat flows up to 4.5 MGD and has a peak flow of 10.5 MGD. We treated just over 1 billion gallons, averaging 4 MGD, with an efficiency of 97.8% in organic removal and a 95.6% removal of total solids. There are approximately 90 miles of sanitary sewer with 20 lift stations that pump wastewater from low lying areas throughout the city. The City has approximately 40 miles of storm sewer that is separate from sanitary sewer. All lift stations and plant operations are monitored by a SCADA system. The waste that the plant generates is run through a belt filter press and then disposed of at Kimble Landfill totaling 201 dry tons.

The following improvements were made at the City's waste water facility in 2017:

- CIC lift station was upgraded with a reconditioned pump.
- The gravel lane to the sewer plant was paved.
- 24 led pole lights were installed at sewer plant.
- The plant outfall was repaired.
- Installation of new reporting software for the SCADA system.

Other duties performed by Waste Water Department personnel included:

- Pumping out the park pond to lower the water level during construction of the RTY Boardwalk project.
- Helping with snow removal on City streets when needed.
- Assisted the Street Department on several downtown projects.
- Cleaned the water runoff ditch at Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School.

The sewer department completed the following projects and tasks throughout the City in 2017:

- Resurfaced 32 catch basins
- Rebuilt 23 catch basins
- Raised 15 manholes
- Handled all OUPS tickets and cleaned catch basins on a daily basis.
- Monthly jetted and sucked out hot spot areas to ensure that the sanitary system worked properly
- Answered 25 sewer calls resulting in only 5 lines needing jetted to help flow
- Used the sewer camera to identify problems in both sanitary and storm systems.
- Extended storm line 40 feet and added a catch basin at 2<sup>nd</sup>/Moore NE.
- Fixed several sink holes throughout the City.
- Assisted the Water Department with fixing leaks throughout the year.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jim Parrish**

2017 was an exciting as well as a historic year for the New Philadelphia Fire Department with the opening of the new Central Fire Station at 134 Front Avenue SE. Under the guidance of Chief Parrish, Safety Director Greg Popham and Service Director McAbier, the project was completed on time and within budget with very few change orders.

Along with the new fire station came the creation of a dedicated Fire Prevention Bureau, headed by Lieutenant Michael Pearch as the Fire Safety Inspector/Educator. His duties include the inspection of businesses and residential housing within the City's corporation limits. Since the Bureau's implementation on July 1, 2017, Lt. Pearch completed the following:

- 474 new inspections
- 287 re-inspections
- 19 educational activities
- 4 daycare inspections
- 14 fire drills
- 3 foster home inspections
- 2 group home inspections

Lt. Pearch estimated that he inspected 50% of the businesses in the City during this period.

Also in 2017 the City welcomed diversity into the Fire Department by hiring its first female and first minority firefighter/paramedics.

An ongoing challenge in the Fire Department was the increase in call volume. In 1999, the call volume for the year was 1500. By the end of 2017, that number had risen to 2,825. Staffing levels in the Fire Department were not sufficient to effectively respond to this increasing workload without resorting to paying excessive overtime costs. The City of Uhrichsville was facing the same response cost financial strain. This led to a discussion between myself, Mayor Rick Dorland, Chief Parrish and Uhrichsville Fire Chief Jud Edwards on the possibility of sharing the staff and equipment in each department to lower costs. As a result, both cities agreed in September to hire Emergency Services Consulting International to determine the best options available for sharing their fire and EMS services. The study's recommendations should be known by March of 2018 and will help determine what actions need to be taken to address the staffing issues and rising overtime expenses.

To battle the growing opioid epidemic in Tuscarawas County, a Quick Response Team was created last year with 100% of its cost funded by a grant from the Ohio Attorney General's office. Wes Halter, New Philadelphia Fire Department's Emergency Services coordinator, was selected as a member of the three-member team. Its purpose was to visit overdose victims to tell them about addiction treatment options that are available.

In 2017, the City's firefighter/paramedics completed 938 hours of continuing education for both fire and EMS. Much of that education was conducted on duty by utilizing the new fire station's training classroom and props.

This year, the Fire Department will continue to seek private donations and grant money to fund the purchase of a \$300,000.00 Fire Structure Training Facility, which would be located behind the new fire station. It would be the first of its kind in this area and could be a source of new revenue for the City. So far \$50,000.00 in private donations have been made to the project.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Mike Goodwin**

Crimes related to the area's opioid addiction problem resulted in a challenging year for the New Philadelphia Police Department. 2017, City police officers handled 11,828 calls, an increase of 1,369 calls from the previous year. Often the police are the first responders to calls from family members or friends of overdose victims. From the knowledge gained by being on the front line of the opioid addiction battle, Chief Goodwin had a Prescription Drug Takeback Box installed in the lobby of the police department building. Community members could dispose of unused prescription drugs, including opioid based pain killers, in the box. The box, typically filled with 50 pounds of drugs, was emptied every other week. In addition, Chief Goodwin instituted a policy that allows police officers to carry the life-saving drug NARCAN to administer to overdose victims.

Here are other 2017 statistics from the New Philadelphia Police Department:

- 816 traffic accidents
- 1479 traffic citations issued
- 1085 criminal arrests made
- 147 cases sent to the County Prosecutor's office for felony review

Other accomplishments:

- The transition to electronic traffic tickets and electronic accident reports was completed.
- Additional energy efficient and cost saving LED lighting was installed in the building.
- 20 hours of State mandated training was completed by all officers.
- All officers completed mandatory weapons training and re-certifications.
- Members of the Special Response Team completed training and re-certifications.
- Presentations were made to area school children on the dangers of drug use and the police department's role in protecting them and the New Philadelphia community.
- Chief Goodwin attended several local and statewide conferences on the opioid addiction epidemic, serving at times as a panel discussion participant.

There were two retirements from the police force last year: Sergeant Randy Williamson and Dispatcher Bonnie Sprout. Due to those departures, the City hired new patrolman Bradley Geist and dispatcher Ashley Gross. In addition, patrolman David Morris was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Barring unforeseen major expenses, Chief Goodwin plans to accomplish the following building improvements in 2018:

- Replace seven exterior windows on the building with more energy efficient units.

- Replace the carpet in the detective’s office.
- Utilize the south bay of the old fire station for additional police department office space.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION – Superintendent Rod Miller**

Completion of a master plan for the new Southside Community Park, acquisition of land along the Tuscarawas River, renovation of tennis courts at Tuscora Park and construction of the Rotary Club’s boardwalk and gazebo highlighted the growth of the City park system in 2017.

The master plan was approved by the City Parks and Recreation Board and City Council after receiving support from New Philadelphia residents and businesses, City School officials and the Goshen Township board of trustees. \$6.4 million is the estimated cost of constructing the new park. To construct phase one of the plan, the City applied for funding from the State Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio grant program. Also with the help of State Representative Al Landis and State Senator Jay Hottinger, a request was made for funding from the State Capital Improvements budget.

The Park Board endorsed the City’s purchase of the former Carlisle Canoe Livery on State Route 416 to add to the City parks system. At this site, as well as the Riverview Welding land donated to the City in 2017, boat launches and parking areas will be constructed. The City applied for Clean Ohio grant funding for these improvements, which will open the Tuscarawas River to use by canoeists and kayakers.

Because Clean Ohio grant criteria prohibit the City from applying to fund improvements on land it owns, park board members explored ways to meet the grant requirement. That led to the formation in August of the non-profit Tuscora Park Foundation, which satisfied the Clean Ohio criteria that a third party entity hold an easement on City-owned land on which improvements would be made. The foundation board members consist of the Park Board president, the City Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, the Mayor, two Park Board members and up to four members of the general public. Its mission is to assist the City in funding capital improvements at all City parks.

The \$396,000.00 tennis courts project at Tuscora Park got underway in July, right after New Philadelphia City Schools laid new FieldTurf on the football field at Woody Hayes Quaker Stadium. A combination of public and private funding paid for the construction, which installed a new drainage system, new surfaces for six courts and new LED lighting. The funding sources were:

- |                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| • City of New Philadelphia       | \$ 50,000.00 |
| • New Philadelphia City Schools  | \$ 50,000.00 |
| • The Reeves Foundation          | \$ 50,000.00 |
| • The Rosenberry Foundation      | \$ 25,000.00 |
| • The Timken Foundation          | \$ 25,000.00 |
| • Ohio Dept of Natural Resources | \$196,000.00 |

The Park Board enacted advertising sign regulations for all City ballfields. The board wanted a uniform size and appearance for any signs hanging from backstops and fencing.

The Board also approved new contracts with RTY, Incorporated to continue to operate the rides, concessions and the Park Place Teen Center at Tuscora Park. Language was added to the contracts that allows RTY to recoup losses from unprofitable years to assure the organization has money to repair and maintain the rides and concession equipment.

For the safety of park users and to reduce vandalism, the City had security cameras installed at Tuscora Park in the fall of 2017. The cameras record 24 hours a day and can be viewed by Park officials as well as City police.

Attendance at the Tuscora Park Pool was up slightly in 2017 thanks to better summer weather:

**Tickets sold at the window**

- Adults- 6,949 for a total of \$34,745.00
- Students- 8,239 for a total of \$24,717.00
- 77 Season passes were sold for a total of \$5000.00
- 1700 people visited the pool on WJER’s Nickel Day, bringing in \$85.00

Total pool revenue in 2017:                   \$66,952.00

Total Adult Swimmers in 2017:           7,030

Total Student Swimmers in 2017:       8,739

*These numbers do not include children 0-5 years old who were admitted free of charge.*

Additional pool revenue from company picnics:       \$2,405.00

Six energy efficient LED lights were installed at the Tuscora Avenue parking lot and 48 were installed at the renovated tennis courts.

**CEMETERY DEPARTMENT – Supervisor Kelly Herron**

Under the guidance of Superintendent Herron and the City Cemetery Board, the following accomplishments were made by the Cemetery Department in 2017:



- From January 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 100 burials were made, with 54 as full burials and 46 as cremations.
- 15 veterans' markers were installed.
- 15 grave spaces were sold
- 32 loads of leaves, or 28 tons, were removed from the City cemeteries.
- The East Avenue Cemetery mausoleum was pressure washed
- Five trees were removed in the East Avenue Cemetery and two trees in the Fair Avenue Cemetery.
- A new 4x4 pickup and a new dump truck with a snow plow were purchased for the Cemetery Department.
- Progress was made toward collecting cemetery revenue from delinquent accounts. \$2,531.25 was collected in 2017, leaving a balance of \$9,524.41
- The cemetery fee schedule was revised and approved by the Cemetery Board
- The Cemetery Department web site was integrated into the new City of New Philadelphia web site.

The City Cemetery Board held 10 meetings in 2017. During the last three meetings of the year the board reviewed proposals from three consultants on improving the usage of the City's existing cemeteries and developing a possible new cemetery. The purpose was to find new ways of generating revenue that would remove the Cemetery Department's dependence on money from the City's general fund. Action to hire a consultant and acquire new land is expected in 2018.

## **INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT – Administrator Vicki Daniels**

City income tax revenue in 2017 decreased approximately 6% from the previous year. This decrease was due to implemented changes of Ohio House Bill 5 in 2016, which affected the 2017 total income tax collected. The Income Tax department identified the potential deficit in early 2017 and made improvements, which included:

- Increased communication with other municipalities to insure consistency between other villages and cities
  - Attended meetings of Greater Ohio Association of Tax Administrators (GOATA)
  - Attended a 3-day Ohio Municipal League seminar in July 2017 to network and receive local tax collection updates
    - HB5 is still being updated

- Information on HB49 Budget Bill
- Working closely with the New Philadelphia Law Director and Prosecutor's Office
  - Updated New Philadelphia Tax Ordinance on required Ohio Revised Code changes
  - Increased communication concerning court cases
- With the help from New Philadelphia Police Department, court mandated changes to serving court documentation on taxpayers has proved to decrease taxpayer delinquencies
- As of 12/31/17, taxpayer delinquencies total approximately \$32,000.00 of outstanding tax liability. This is a decrease from the previous year of approximately \$12,000.
- Started garnishment of wages on delinquent taxpayers
- Processed over 1,000 non-file letters to insure conformity of New Philadelphia tax ordinance
- Continuing to make concerted effort to clean up accounts and identify new taxpayers
- Identified and communicated with rental property owners who have not previously filed income tax returns
- Insured new businesses were identified and contacted by:
  - Communicating with other City departments
  - Using social media

## CONCLUSION

The accomplishments achieved in 2017 would not have been possible without the efforts of our entire City workforce. I commend the department heads, support staff and other non-bargaining employees for the job they did in administering city services. Members of our FOP, IAFF, and AFSCME bargaining units performed the day-to-day duties to deliver those services, at times under conditions of harsh weather and extreme stress. Their efforts were greatly appreciated. I want to thank all of our employees for being dedicated to their jobs and for the pride they take in serving the citizens and businesses of New Philadelphia.

I also thank the members of City Council, Auditor Gundy, Treasurer Gerber and Law Director Fete for sharing their expertise, advice and guidance with me. It was vital in shaping the decisions I made in 2017 as mayor.



Joel B. Day, Mayor