



STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

Issued March 1, 2021 by Mayor Joel B. Day

2020 was a year we will always remember. It began with optimism that the economy would remain strong, community and family events would carry on as planned and national and international affairs would continue to have a minimal effect on everyday life in New Philadelphia. Then came an announcement on January 9th from the World Health Organization, that a mysterious coronavirus-related pneumonia outbreak had occurred in Wuhan, China. By January 21st the Centers for Disease Control had confirmed the first U.S. case of COVID-19. Nine days later the World Health Organization issued a Global Health Emergency as the novel virus spread unchecked and stopped life as usual cold in its tracks.

(See the global COVID timeline at <https://www.ajmc.com/view/a-timeline-of-covid19-developments-in-2020>)

As we all know, what followed was a series of life-changing events as we learned, first hand, that our federal and state governments and health organizations were woefully unprepared to respond to a global pandemic.

Businesses were put in classifications of “essential” and “non-essential.” The essentials were allowed to remain open. The non-essentials were ordered to close. Stay at home orders were issued. Schools closed. Visitors were banned at nursing homes, jails and correction centers. Elective surgeries and procedures at hospitals were postponed. Governor Dewine began holding daily press conferences to inform us of the measures he and the State Health Department had to take to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Add to this the fact that 2020 was a Presidential election year. So, the federal and state election officials had to devise ways to conduct voting during a national health emergency. And 2020 was the year that the federal government was conducting its 10-year census count.

(See the Ohio COVID timeline at <https://fox8.com/news/coronavirus/coronavirus-in-ohio-timeline-tracking-covid-19-and-the-states-response/>)

Despite the chaos, confusion and panic the pandemic brought to our city, New Philadelphians remained strong. We did our best to follow the three main virus spread prevention protocols: wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and social distance at least six feet. The grit, compassion and resourcefulness of our community was on full display. That is why, by the end of 2020 the State of Our City was improving and its comeback was underway.

“In some respects, the reopening of businesses and the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions will be more difficult than the closings. There will be confusion and mistakes will be made. I’m asking all New Philadelphians to be patient during this process. We have to encourage each other to do the right thing and to remain calm as the reopening process plays out.”



I included those words in my April 27, 2020 Mayor's Report to City Council. Reopening did prove to be the most difficult process to endure. One of the biggest lessons learned from the pandemic was the importance of local health departments. The staff of the New Philadelphia City Health Department was thrust into new leadership roles. And from my perspective as mayor, the skill and common sense they used to follow state and federal mandates limited the economic hardship in the City and allowed a degree of normalcy to return to daily life.

The City received over \$517,000.00 in Federal CARES Act funding, which helped offset the two percent loss of operating revenue in 2020.

The pandemic's restrictions resulted in the closing of the Tuscora Park pool and cancellation of Summer Showcase concerts and the First Town Days Festival. But that didn't discourage people and organizations from coming up with ways to get out of the house.

Schoenbrunn Village was able to safely hold a one-day Food Truck Fest over Labor Day weekend. And its three-day Great Pumpkin Glow Drive-Thru event in October attracted hundreds of carloads of people from around the county. In December, the City held a virtual Christmas Lighting Ceremony, streamed live on Cable TV-2. Then, to keep the Christmas spirit alive, the City and New Towne Mall hosted the first "Reverse Christmas Parade", where vehicles drove through the mall's parking lots to view stationary parade units. The waiting line to drive through the parade route stretched all the way from the mall to downtown New Philadelphia.

The virus outbreak also brought on unforeseen challenges for our school systems. On March 14th the State Health Department ordered all schools to close. Teachers and administrators had to quickly adapt to distance learning, inventing new ways to educate students online from home. This revealed our City's shortcomings in providing public access to broadband Internet connections.

The City did not escape being touched by the national politics and social unrest of 2020. On May 31st local organizers led a peaceful march down North Broadway from the County Courthouse to Tuscora Park to protest the death of George Floyd. Then during the fall, supporters of President Trump's re-election held two rallies at the downtown quadrants.

Completion of a City Master/Vision Plan was delayed when the University of Cincinnati's School of Architecture cancelled classes because of the pandemic. Graduate students were working with associate professor Michael McInturf to finish the project. Its completion was pushed into early 2021.

The City was awarded a \$759,330.00 SAFER grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to hire three additional firefighter/paramedics. A new police patrolman was hired, the first in 20 years

according to Police Chief Mike Goodwin. That enabled the chief to assign a full-time detective to tackle the City's growing drug trafficking activity.

Even with the COVID-19 restrictions, New Philadelphia had many positive events in 2020: Our business community continued to grow. New art-based businesses opened downtown. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held at new businesses on East High Avenue near the airport: at the Five Barrel Bullet Brewing Company, the City's first craft brewer, and at the East High Avenue Lube Stop.

A new addition to Tuscarawas County's Main Library officially opened in January and a new video display sign was installed on North Broadway at the entrance of the library's parking lot.

After a bond issue was defeated that would have allowed the New Philadelphia Board of Education to purchase the property for construction of new schools, a local group bought the Oak Shadows Golf Course at auction, with the intention to keep it in operation.

In mid-summer, construction got underway to build the first phase of the Southside Community Park project. By December, a new entrance road off of Oldtown Valley Road was built, as well as a vehicular bridge across Oldtown Valley creek, two pedestrian bridges and the City's first dog park. Also, shared use and nature trails were roughed in, as well as a pollinator garden. Construction will resume in early spring of 2021 with an official opening planned for late May.

And public art continued to enhance the City's visual appeal. New murals were painted downtown by artist Jon Stuckey on the Alley Cats and the Mini-Shop Drive Thru buildings. And artist Sarah Dugger painted a mural depicting the aviation history of former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn at Harry Clever Field, where the late senator learned to fly.

The following is a department-by-department summary of activities and accomplishments in 2020. Reports by the City Health Department and Municipal Court will be issued at a later date.

MAYOR'S ACTIVITIES

- Traveled to Columbus to meet with State Representative Brett Hillyer and officials from JobsOhio and TeamNEO to discuss the shortcomings of the former Joy/Howden Buffalo property. Representative Hillyer and myself were frustrated by the fact that several parties had shown an interest in the property, but no purchase offers were made.

- Participated in negotiations throughout the year that ultimately led to Joy/Howden agreeing to donate the property to the Tuscarawas County Economic Development and Finance Alliance (port authority).
- Created the Downtown Design Standards Review Board as described in Chapter 1333 of the City's Codified Ordinances. The board's first effort was to work with the Tuscarawas County Main Library to come up with the design of the library's new electronic sign on North Broadway.
- Completed the New Philadelphia Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Plan. The plan will be used to build pathways that will allow bicyclists and walkers to more easily and safely travel the main streets of the City and connect to trails coming into the City from neighboring communities.
- Wrote and issued a Request for Proposal to secure a Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at Harry Clever Field. The result was that Professional Aviation Municipal Management Group Inc. and Professional Aviation Aircraft Services Ltd. were awarded a five-year lease to operate the airport and provide aviation services.
- Participated in daily and weekly teleconferences with the County Emergency Management Agency to receive local and state updates on the spread of the coronavirus and to develop response plans.
- After consulting with City Health Commissioner Vickie Ionno, new tempered glass protective windows were ordered and installed at the Health Department, Water Office and Income Tax Department customer counters.
- Instructed City department heads to put coronavirus protocols in place to assure that City services would be maintained throughout the public health emergency period.
- On the recommendation of the City Health Commissioner in early May, made the decision to close Woody Hayes Quaker Stadium because of complaints from the public and City Council members. Stadium users were not following the Governor's mass gathering, social distancing and mask wearing orders. The stadium was reopened on May 30th.
- Collaborated with county mayors, the Tuscarawas County Commissioners, County Improvement Corporation officials and the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce to create the #RestartTusc plan. The plan gave grants to help local small businesses reopen after they were closed as "non-essential businesses" during the first several months of the pandemic.
- Joined the ADAMHS board's Drug Addiction Task Force to address the growing problem of drug abuse and overdose deaths resulting from the pandemic's "stay at home" orders and unemployment. A response called "Project Hope" was created in each community in the county to raise awareness of the problem and encourage victims to seek help.

- Approved a pilot program developed by Police Chief Goodwin to embed behavior health counselors/social workers within the police department to assist officers on calls involving mental health issues, drug abuse and homelessness.
- Wrote a letter of thanks to Canton Mayor Tom Bernabi and the Canton City Water Department for the department assisting New Philadelphia's Water Department in the repair of a major water main break on the City's south side. Canton brought equipment and personnel that greatly reduced the repair time.
- After reviewing the damage done by flash flooding on July 7th, I encouraged Service Director McAbier to pursue his ideas to include additional storm water management solutions in the 2021 Lakeview Avenue sidewalk project and to pursue ways to fund road reconstruction and storm sewer improvements in the Glen Drive area. Both areas were the hardest hit by the storm water rushing downhill.
- Held several meetings with members of the Railroad Task Force and focus group, and held discussions with the County Economic Development and Finance Alliance (port authority) to craft a proposal to CSX Railroad to purchase the 13-mile line that runs through the City to Uhrichsville. The EDFA made a \$5 million purchase proposal. CSX replied saying they would not consider the proposal at the time because of the pandemic and other business interests.
- Held a ground-breaking ceremony on August 25th at the Southside Community Park to mark the start of construction of the project's phase one.
- Welcomed two new businesses to downtown New Philadelphia: Antique Barnwood Creations and Art and Soul Gallery.
- Conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the Five Barrel Bullet Brewing Company on East High Avenue. It became the first brewery to operate in the City since 1949.
- Chaired two meetings of the Tuscarawas County Transportation Improvement District's board of directors to continue to explore improvements to traffic flow at the I-77/US 250 interchange and discuss funding sources for a 9th Street extension in Strasburg. COVID-19 put future meetings on hold.
- Opened negotiations with the Goshen Township Board of Trustees on a new fire protection contract with the township that would include EMS services.
- Was re-appointed by the Tuscarawas County Commissioners to the HARCATUS Community Action Organization's board of directors and attended its monthly meetings.
- Contracted with the Ohio Regional Development Corporation of Coshocton to assume the administration of the City's CHIP program. ORDC has a local office on Tuscarawas Avenue NW.
- Traveled to Canton to meet with economic development officials from Tuscarawas County, TeamNEO, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce to



discuss the development of a regional strategy for petrochemical manufacturing. Future meetings were put on hold because of the pandemic.

- Participated in the County Commissioners “Complete Count” United States Census committee. Implemented programs to encourage New Philadelphians to complete their census forms.
- Had the honor of giving oaths of office to seven new members of the New Philadelphia Police Department’s auxiliary unit. Captain Ty Norris volunteered to supervise the unit and worked to bring it up to full strength.
- Approved a new command structure at the Fire Department that created an Assistant Fire Chief’s position.
- Partnered with Columbiana County and the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) to re-apply for a Federal EPA Brownfield Assessment grant. In 2019 our first application as a coalition fell three points short of being funded. OMEGA sought the help of a Columbus area grant writer to improve the re-application. The grant would fund environmental assessments and cleanups in both communities. For New Philadelphia, it would be used to address environmental concerns at the former Howden Buffalo and Puritan Laundry properties on Mill Avenue SW. Those concerns were preventing the redevelopment of both areas.
- Appointed Josh Limbacher to fill a vacancy on the Airport Commission.
- Was named to the Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation’s Site Selection subcommittee to help the group identify possible industrial development sites within the county.
- Joined the Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital Community Relations Committee to receive updates on hospital programs, meet the medical staff and learn about the hospital’s community outreach efforts.
- Safety Director Popham, Police Chief Goodwin and myself met with lodging operators on West High Avenue to hear their concerns about homeless people loitering in the area.
- On October 29th, Police Chief Goodwin, Fire Chief Parrish, Fire Inspector Pearch, Law Director Fete and myself met with the State Fire Marshall and the owners of the OYO Motel to discuss the 63 building and fire code violations at the motel, as well as reports of criminal activity at the business. The owners corrected these violations by the State Fire Marshall’s December 31st deadline. They also replaced the motel manager and raised room rates to drive off undesirable lodgers.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT –Mary Ann Otte/ Lacey McKain

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 2020 – 284

- Parking Permits issued for 2020 – 400
- Solicitors and Handbill Permits issued – 17
- Garage Sale Permits issued – 195
- Internet Café Licenses issued – 1
- Taxi Cab Permit – 1
- Going Out of Business Permit – 0
- Billiards Hall Permit – 1
- Bowling Alley Permit - 0
- Subdivision/Condo/Rezoning Requests - 1
- Total monies collected from parking meters and fines - \$11,840.34
- Number of complaints and inquiries forwarded to the Street Department, Police Department and Zoning & Building Code Administrator – 51
- **Total Revenue collected for the year 2020 - \$50,958.34**

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic’s restrictions, the City Planning Commission was only able to conduct five monthly meetings in 2020. The Commission took the following actions on city planning issues:

- Recommended to City Council the annexation of Matthew and Jessica Kinsey’s property at 278 Hummel Valley Rd SW in Goshen Township
- Recommended that City Council deny a sewer system tap in by Denney Plastics at 149 Stonecreek Rd NW in Dover Township.

Commission members were also given a presentation by the New Philadelphia Schools administration on the plan to build new schools on the Oak Shadows Golf Course land. The plan failed, and the land was purchased in December to remain a golf course.

CITY CEMETERY BOARD

2020 was a busy year for members of the City Cemetery Board. It began with the selection of “Schoenbrunn Meadows” as the name for the new cemetery under construction on Delaware Drive SE. The board met eight times during the year.

The board also assisted in designing the new cemetery’s maintenance garage and office building. The maintenance garage construction was completed in September. The pandemic caused delays in receiving construction materials for the office building, so its completion was pushed into 2021.

DOWNTOWN DESIGN STANDARDS BOARD OF REVIEW

The newly created board held its first meeting on February 5th. The purpose of the five-member board, as described in Chapter 1333 of the City's Codified Ordinances, was to establish design standards for downtown store fronts and signage, and encourage downtown property owners to follow them when making improvements. The first project to come before the board was the construction of a new electronic sign at the North Broadway entrance of the Main County Library. Off the Wall Ministries also came to the board for advice on how to remodel the storefront of its new church building at 142 West High Avenue.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE EXPENSES FUNDED BY CARES ACT GRANTS

- COVID-19 related wages and benefits of First Responders
- COVID-19 related wages and benefits of City Health Department employees
- Personal protective equipment for First Responders and City Health Department employees
- Employment of a Contact Tracer/Accreditation Coordinator for the Health Department
- Equipment and supplies necessary for administering vaccines
- Replacement of an aging pickup truck for Health Department duties
- Installation of new tempered protective glass at the Health Department, Water Office and Income Tax Department customer windows on the lower level of the John Knisely Municipal Centre.
- Touchless lavatory controls, soap dispensers and hand dryers in restrooms in all City buildings
- Hand sanitizer stations or dispensers in all City buildings
- The purchase of sanitation equipment and supplies for all City departments
- Disinfecting UV light units for Fire Department ambulances
- Video and audio equipment to enable live streaming of City Council meetings on Facebook Live.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT – Director Mary Kurtz

In 2020, the City's workforce consisted of 168 full time employees, 13 permanent part time employees, 18 part time employees and 68 seasonal employees. Director Kurtz' listed these accomplishments:

1. Instrumental in hiring four (4) firefighters and one (1) police dispatcher.
2. Completed all BWC requirements for the following programs:
 - DFSP (Drug-Free Safety Program): Earns the City a 4% discount on the BWC premium for participation in the Program.
 1. Continued to participate and track random drug draws in concert with the Health Department.



2. Continued to monitor all drug testing (i.e., pre-hire, random, and post-accident).
- ISSP (Industry-Specific Safety Program): Earns the City a 3% discount on the BWC premium for participation in the Program.
 1. Attended a 3-hour web-based Driver’s Safety Program class on October 28, 2020. This class attendance included an assessment. My assessment score was 100%, which earned the City’s last component needed to remain in ISSP.
 - TWBP (Transitional Work Bonus Program): Earns the City a 10% discount on the City’s BWC premium for participation in the Program.
 1. Ensured those employees with physician orders for restricted duty were provided duties in line with the order.
 - Accepted rebates from BWC in line with our work and involvement in the above-mentioned programs:

YEAR	Actual Medical Payments	City Paid EE Compensation (IL)	TOTAL (medical&COMP)	Annual Premium	Rebate Amounts Received To Date
2017	\$32,914	\$48,259	\$81,173	\$173,960	\$117,962 66% of Premium for Year 2015
2018	\$16,331	\$13,506	\$29,837	\$190,733	\$148,314 85% of Premium for Year 2016
2019	\$19,764	\$15,663	\$35,427	\$161,331	\$153,085 88% of Premium for Year 2017
2020	\$170	\$15,954	\$16,124	\$176,647	\$190,733 100% of Premium for Year 2018
2021				\$163,731	\$164,709 100% of Premium for Year 2019

***Rebate amounts do not necessarily reflect the exact amount of the Annual Premiums noted. BWC adjusts the premium in line with their internal calculations.**

3. Developed and implemented COVID-19 policy in response to the global pandemic. Worked with the Health Department to include both clinical and legal obligations under the FFCRA.
 - Tracked all employees affected by COVID-19.
 1. The City experienced a 29% rate of the City’s workforce being affected by the virus in some way (i.e., having had COVID, being exposed to family member with COVID, caring for a child due to school closures surrounding COVID, etc.).

SERVICE DEPARTMENT – Director Ron McAbier

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, the City Service Department completed several major projects in the City and continued to play its important role in improving the quality of our community. Property issues were addressed throughout the City: non-compliant zoning violations, property conditions and foreclosures. A task force committee was formed to specifically target abandoned and neglected structures. Its members include the Fire and Police Chiefs, the City Fire Inspector, Zoning and Building Code Administrator, Service Director and City Law Director.

Service Director McAbier listed these accomplishments for his department:

2020 PROJECTS

- **CDBG FY19** - Through a Community Development Block Grant, the city received \$750,000.00 to install new curbs and sidewalks on Poplar St NW, 2nd St NW, and North Ave NW.
- **Southside Community Park - Phase I** - Using the grants received from Clean Ohio, Nature works, and the Ohio & Erie Canalway, construction has been completed on two bathrooms, a dog park, two pedestrian bridges and a vehicular bridge as well as the installation of trails.
- **Schoenbrunn Meadows Cemetery** - Construction was completed on a new maintenance garage and construction began on a new office attached to the garage.
- **Wabash Ave Waterline & Storm Line Improvement Project** – The City received a \$299,00.00 OPWC grant to install new hydrants, water and storm sewer lines with catch basins, along with paving from North Broadway to the top of the hill at of 2nd Street NW.
- **Lakeview Rd NW/Wabash Ave NW** - Continued working with engineers on plans for construction in 2021 of approximately 3250 feet of sidewalk and curb on the Lagoon (East) side of Lakeview from Wabash Ave to Parklane Dr NW. The City received a grant of \$470,000.00 from ODOT to help fund the project, which also includes installation of a pedestrian crosswalk on Wabash Ave NW with flashing beacon signs, and an ADA ramp and stairs to access the walkway to Woody Hayes Quaker Stadium and Tuscora Park.
- **Glen Drive NE** – In December, OPWC granted the City a \$186,675.00 grant to fund road reconstruction, with resurfacing and stabilizing the road base and including replacement of catch basins.

SUBDIVISION - LOCAL CONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS -

- Gary Lawver of Lawver Construction continued construction of his Deerfield Community Subdivision at the intersection of Carrie Avenue NW and 2nd Street NW. The infrastructure was completed, and City Council accepted the Final Plat on April 13, 2020, Ord. 7-2020. Out of 25 parcels, approximately 11 homes were under construction.

ANNEXATIONS -

- Resolution 7-2020 passed by Council on March 9, 2020, authorized the annexation of the Riker property on Donahey Avenue NE, a 0.459-acre tract that was located in Goshen Township.
- Resolution 24-2020, passed by Council on December 24, 2020, authorized the annexation of 278 Hummel Valley Rd SW from Goshen Township.

RE-ZONING - Several properties in the Southwest section area of the city have been rezoned as follows:

- From Industrial Zone to Business Zone - 27 parcels approved on March 9, 2020 for rezoning in the area of 5th, 7th & 8th Street SW, Bank Lane SW, Front Ave SW, and Saint Clair Ave SW.

STREET NAME DESIGNATION -City Council approved legislation to designate of a section of Bank Lane SE in memory of former City Police Chief and Councilman Jim Locker. Signs reading “Honorary Jim Locker Lane” were placed under Bank Lane street signs from 3rd Street SE to 4th Street SE.

BUILDING PERMITS - The following permits were issued in 2020:

- 19 New Single-Family Homes
- 5 Duplexes
- 9 Additions to Residential Homes
- 5 New Commercial Construction Buildings
- 7 Additions to Commercial Construction Buildings
- 74 Garages/Carports
- 787 Miscellaneous permits for Signs, Certificate of Zoning Compliance, Lot Split/Combine Lots, Concrete, Licenses and Taps

TREE PLANTING - 79 trees were planted in various areas of the City and 26 trees were planted in the new Schoenbrunn Meadows Cemetery.

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS – The board held nine meetings in 2020. Thirteen variance requests were granted and eight were not approved.

ZONING AND BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATOR – Mike Scolati

NON-COMPLIANCE/ZONING VIOLATIONS - 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. Some of the owners were also cited for failing to obtain building permits for work being done on their properties. There were no property foreclosures in 2020. Since the adoption of the International Property Maintenance Code in 2018, the City has been able to more aggressively address property conditions and violations.

WRITTEN VIOLATIONS IN 2020

High grass and bushes

27

Property cleanup	4
Building code violations (no permits)	17
TOTAL	48

1 billed for grass mowing \$ 392.50
6 liens filed for non-payment \$2,206.25

ORDERED DEMOLITIONS – PROPERTY OWNER TEAR DOWN

Commercial property – 0
Residential property – 2

APPROVED DEMOLITION PERMITS FILED BY PROPERTY OWNER

Homes – 4
Home and garage – 1
Garage - 1

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/GIS - Specialist Jeff Erb

In 2020 we continued to utilize the expertise of Pioneer 360, a New Philadelphia company which manages the City’s computer infrastructure and network. With the present danger of computer viruses and hackers, a partner with high levels of technical knowledge is a must. Firewall equipment and software is continually updated to provide intrusion detection and data protection.

We continued to implement a program to update computing operating systems in all departments to Windows 10. In addition, Horizons Network began construction of a high-speed fiber optic network that will connect all City departments to improve data sharing and transmission, lower costs, enhance network security and provide for future expansion.

AIRPORT - Harry Clever Airport – several improvements were made at Harry Clever Field in 2020 thanks to grants from the Federal Aviation Administration:

- Precision Approach Path Indicator or PAPI lights alongside the main runway were replaced.
- The runway taxi lanes and customer parking lots were restriped.

However, the FAA notified the City in April that it would no longer fund improvements at the airport if the City did not own the land it now leases from the State of Ohio on the southeast (33) end of the main runway. The land, which is included in the original Schoenbrunn Village tract, is managed by the Ohio History Connection. An agreement to allow the Ohio Department of Transportation to take ownership of the land, then transfer it to the City, was still being negotiated at year’s end.

In August, a local benefactor commissioned artist Sara Dugger to paint a mural on a billboard at



the airport to honor former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn. At the age of 19, Glenn learned to fly at Harry Clever Field while enrolled in a civilian pilot training program sponsored by Muskingum University. The mural, entitled “It All Started Here at Harry Clever Field”, depicts Glenn as a military aviator, astronaut and senator.

GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION – Superintendent Ray Grewell

STREET DEPARTMENT

In 2020, the Street Department continued its extensive paving program. In the northwest section of town, the following streets were resurfaced:

- Beech Lane and 1st Dr. around the county library
- Leo Benjamin Court
- Gooding Ave, Park Ave, Hardesty Ave, and a small problematic section on Sherman.

On the east side of town:

- University Dr. and Robinson Dr.

On the southwest section:

- Ellen Ave, Lockport Ave, Larkin Ave, and the cul-de-sac on Donald Drive.

A total of \$467,219.00 was spent on street paving in 2020, with total of 6677.64 tons of asphalt put in place by Newton Asphalt.

- 236.72 tons of hot asphalt, at a cost of \$14,179.76, was used to repair pot holes.
- 61.55 tons of cold asphalt at a cost of \$5,032.29 was used during the winter months to fill pot holes.
- Both of these costs were down in 2020 because we are paving more roads and had a light winter in 2019.
- 891.02 tons of road salt was purchased at a cost of \$62,041.72.
- \$7,545.12 was spent to remove 314.38 tons of street sweepings.

TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

A used 60-foot bucket truck was purchased for \$45,130.00. Having a true tree bucket truck allowed the City tree crew to increase the amount of trees it removed and trimmed. In 2020,

107 trees were removed and close to 200 others were trimmed. Also 120 stumps were removed. As the result of the tree maintenance program, the City again qualified to be part of Tree City USA.

SANITATION AND RECYCLING DEPARTMENT

In 2020, the Sanitation Department collected 10,537.43 tons of trash. It cost \$318,825.88 to dispose of the trash at the landfill.

This was the first full year of paying to dispose of recycling materials. 536.26 tons of recycling was collected, costing the City \$24,131.70. The Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Solid Waste Management District paid the City \$16,087.80 through its yearly curbside pickup grant program. The City applied for and received from the SWMD a \$2,500.00 recycling grant to purchase 400 new 18 gallon recycling bins and another \$2,500.00 grant to pick up litter and trash at the Buehler's recycling site.

- Crews made 1,713 extra residential trash pickups in 2020.
- 65 twenty yard hoppers of brush and yard waste were recycled by Bull Country Compost.

WATER OFFICE / WATER SUPPLY / WATER DISTRIBUTION - Superintendent Scott DeVault

It was another productive year for the City's Water Department. Department personnel continued improving operations and the addition of newer equipment complemented the department's ability to complete jobs efficiently.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

Distribution System improvements included the completion of a 12" water main project on Wabash Ave NW and a 6" water main project on Poplar Ave NW. One of the water reservoirs off of Ridge Rd. was epoxy coated with a second one planned for 2021.

Other Distribution System improvements made across the City were Hydrant Replacement, Valve Replacement, Service Connection Renewals, New Taps, New Mains, and New Service Installations.

The City's Water Plant continued its efficient production of safe, clean drinking water to provide to the residents and businesses of New Philadelphia. The following report provides data on the operation of the City's Water Office, Water Supply, and Distribution System departments in 2020.

2020 WATER DEPARTMENT IMPORTANT STATISTICS

WATER OFFICE

JANUARY 1, 2020 -

TOTAL NUMBER OF SERVICE CONNECTIONS

SPRINKLING METERS	393
WATER ONLY ACCOUNTS	169
SEWER ONLY ACCOUNTS	15
ACH ACCOUNTS	1452
WORK ORDERS	1905
AMR WORK ORDERS	37

8116- ACCOUNTS INSIDE CITY

218 - ACCOUNTS OUTSIDE CITY

8334 - TOTAL ACCOUNTS

AS OF 2018 ALL ACCOUNTS ARE ON THE AUTOMATIC METER READING SYSTEM (AMR)

WATER SUPPLY

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

PUMPED FROM WELLS	837,383,594 GALLONS
PUMPED TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	756,039,172 GALLONS
CHLORINE USED	4,593 POUNDS
PERMANGANATE USED	930 GALLONS
SALT USED	5,471,680 POUNDS
CARBON DIOXIDE USED	134,300 POUNDS
TOTAL HOURS OPERATIONAL	5,717

WATER DISTRIBUTION

WORK STATISTICS

JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020

LEAKS MAIN	LEAKS SERVICE	NEW SERVICES	RENEWED SERVICES	NEW OR REPLACED HYDRANTS
18	31	15	47	32

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

JANUARY 1- DECEMBER 31, 2020



City of New Philadelphia, Ohio

WATER DISTRIBUTION

REPLACED 9 - 6" MAIN VALVE

REPLACED 2 - 12" MAIN VALVE

INSTALLED 14 - NEW 6" MAIN VALVE

INSTALLED 735' OF NEW 6"
WATER MAIN
INSTALLED 2013' OF NEW 12"
WATER MAIN

WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT – Superintendent Brian Myers

In 2020, the wastewater treatment plant treated 1.15 billion gallons of raw sewage, averaging 3.16 MGD (millions of gallons per day) with 4.1 MG (millions of gallons) of sludge produced as a result. The sludge was run through a filter press and 254.4 dry tons of sludge were disposed of at Kimble landfill.

Superintendent Myers department made these improvements to the City's waste water infrastructure in 2020:

- A complete rehab of the Northwood lift station at the end of Terrace Ave NW resulted in the installation of new pumps, rails, pipe and control panels.
- A new blower and telescoping valves were purchased and installed in the plant, while a second blower used for the aeration tanks was rebuilt.
- A new motor for a final clarifier was installed along with a gear box on one of the primary clarifiers.
- A conveyor belt for our sludge processing system was purchased and retrofitted and new LED lights installed in press building.
- A generator was installed at the CIC lift station on the corner of Reiser Ave SE and SR 259.
- The headworks was by-passed, and the influent wet well was cleaned out and a 20" T on the influent pipe was replaced at the same time.
- Smoke testing was done at the East end of the city showing little to no inflow and infiltration.

SEWER DEPARTMENT

- Sewer department crews raised 27 manholes throughout the city.
- They rebuilt 20 catch basins and raised another 5 catch basins.
- Handled all OUPS tickets and cleaned catch basins daily.
- Each month, they jetted and sucked out hot spot areas to ensure that the sanitary system worked properly.
- Answered 18 sewer calls resulting in only 3 lines needing jetted to help flow.
- Used the sewer camera to look for problems in both sanitary and storm systems.
- Fixed several sink holes and repaired 2 outfalls.

- Used the jetter to assist in replacing water hydrants and services, along with discovering multiple leaks throughout the year.
- Assisted with the installation of sewer and storm water infrastructure at the new Schoenbrunn Meadows cemetery on Delaware Drive SE.
- Cleaned out the drainage ditch on Hicks Ave NE and dug a new ditch on 2nd St SE.
- Assisted with snow plowing.
- Mapped all new sewer laterals with GIS specialist Jeff Erb.
- Continued work on the storm water management and FOG programs.

CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - Commissioner Vickie Ionno

The New Philadelphia City Health Department stepped up its efforts to protect the residents during the COVID Pandemic. It implemented Emergency Response Plans to work with COVID positive patients, used Contact Tracing to slow the spread, and adhered and enforced Governor DeWine and the Ohio Dept of Health Directives. In late December, the department's focus switched over to start COVID vaccinations. Total services provided by the Health Department will be detailed in its Annual Report when completed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jim Parrish

The coronavirus pandemic presented the City's Fire Department with challenges beyond its normal course of work. Firefighter/paramedics had to answer calls in full COVID-19 protective suits and equipment. Many times, they were transporting victims of the virus to medical facilities. Call volume was down slightly from the previous year, which could be attributed to peoples' fear of catching the virus if they went to the hospital. When Chief Parrish submitted his year-end report, he included these thoughts:

"I am continually amazed at the resiliency of our staff as they have cared for many COVID – 19 patients in our community. They never wavered from their commitment to save lives and property even while in the midst of this pandemic. When I started listing the progress and accomplishments that we have completed together this past year, it reminded me of the pride we all share in serving the residents and visitors of this great City. When a lot of communities are struggling in this difficult time, our City is progressing. I believe that is a direct reflection of teamwork and good leadership in our City."

C.A.R.E.S. PROGRAM ACTIVITY

The Fire Department's Community Access Resource Education (C.A.R.E) program was very effective in identifying residents who were in need of help from medical, mental health or social service agencies in the community. These were residents who made EMS calls, and the responding crews realized that they had needs beyond immediate medical care. Paula Lancaster, the certified community healthcare worker who operates the program, reported this activity data to City Council in September:

- 227 face-to-face visits
- 130 social services referrals
- 27 medical assessments
- 15 Primary Care Physician
- 26 medical referrals other than Primary Care Physician
- 18 medical insurance
- 10 assisted living or physical therapy
- 5 stable housing

The loss of income because of the pandemic hit some families in New Philadelphia very hard. By June, Ms. Lancaster had identified families in the City who could not afford to buy personal hygiene and cleaning products. She organized what she called a “Compassion Station” at the fire house and asked for community donations. It resulted in 160 families receiving the necessities: a clear illustration of the compassion New Philadelphians have for those in need.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU ACTIVITY – Lieutenant Mike Pearch/ Captain Jim Sholtz

Number of businesses in New Philadelphia	858
Number of fire safety inspections	829
Number of re-inspections	111
International Property Maintenance Code enforcement	12
Preplans completed	32
Hydrant data entered/repared	250
Smoke detectors handed out	104
Smoke detectors installed	26

ANNUAL STATISTICS

Monthly Call Volume

January	306
February	229
March	234
April	215
May	254
June	251
July	283
August	242
September	239
October	273
November	258
December	290
TOTAL	3,074

Call Volume:

EMS Response 2,017

Fire/Rescue Response 1,057

Fire Safety Inspections 829

N.P. CARES 804 Pathways Opened

Divisions of the Fire Department:

Fire Suppression and EMS

Fire Prevention/Education

Ambulance Billing

N.P. C.A.R.E.S.

Accomplishments:

- Improved ISO (PPC) Public Protection Classification Effective February 1, 2020 from 2015 rating of Class 3/3Y to Class 2/2Y.
- Applied for and received another SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant to hire 3 additional Firefighter/Paramedics for \$759,330.00
- Ohio EMS Grant \$7,500.00
- Established the position of Assistant Fire Chief with the responsibilities to include training and operations in the Fire Department.

- Promoted Captain James Sholtz to the Fire Prevention Bureau after the retirement of Lt. Mike Pearch.
- Promoted Matthew Graham and Robert Snyder to the rank of Captain to backfill the vacancies created when Matthew Tharp was promoted to Assistant Chief and Captain Sholtz moved to the Prevention Bureau.
- Promoted Steven Wright, Scott Torchik, and Zach Geib to the rank of Lieutenant to backfill the vacancies created by the Captains being promoted and new Lieutenants positions.
- Hired Alex Gaskin to fill the vacant position created by attrition and Jacob Fondriest, Ben Humphrey, and Kayla Eicher to fill the 3 new positions made possible by the acquisition of the second SAFER Grant.
- Re-chassed the 2012 International Excellence Ambulance onto a 2020 Ford F-550 chassis. (Process underway but not completed)
- Completed specifications to purchase a new Engine to replace the 1996 E One Engine 2101 that was refurbished in 2010.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Mike Goodwin

The alarming increase in drug overdoses and mental health related calls in the City put added pressure on our police officers in 2020. The City took several measures in response.

Chief Goodwin partnered with Community Mental Healthcare to launch a pilot program that imbedded a mental health counselor within the department. The Chief reported that the relationship reaped benefits from the very beginning. The counselor rode with officers to answer calls that involved persons with possible mental health issues. The counselor was able to connect the person with resources within the community that could help them. In addition, a detective was assigned to deal solely with drug cases and a new police officer was hired to step up patrols within the City’s neighborhoods.

The Police Department’s Prescription Drug Take Back Box program continued to be well received by the community. Chief Goodwin said approximately 50 pounds at a time were emptied from the box every other week. The box is located in the department’s lobby area.

2020 STATISTICS

CALLS TO SERVICE 12,474

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS 718

TRAFFIC CITATIONS 521

CASES SENT TO THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR 184

TOP OFFENSES IN 2020	NUMBERS OF CASES
Aggravated menacing	11
Assault	15
Assault – knowingly harm victim	17
Criminal mischief – move, deface, etc. property of another	14
Criminal mischief	21
Criminal trespass – land premises of another	17
Disorderly conduct – intoxicated create a risk of harm	27
Domestic violence – knowingly cause physical harm	22
Driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs	38
Drug paraphernalia	11
Fail to Control	25
Falsification – public official, mislead	19
Illegal Use or Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	17
Misdemeanor Warrants	48
Obstructing Official Business	28
Possessing Drug Abuse Instruments	20
Possession of Drugs	11
Possession of Drugs _ schedule I or II substance	42
Receiving Stolen Property	16
Theft	16
Theft - without consent	96
Violate Protection Order or Consent Agreement	17
Violate Protection Order or Consent Agreement _ approved pursuit to 2919.26 or 3113.31	18

MONIES RECEIVED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Parking tickets generated \$11,840.34
 Traffic ticket fines from Municipal Court \$9,828.64
 Other monies collected \$38,855.73

OTHER ACTIVITIES



- Provided security for the Tuscarawas County Library, the Performing Arts Center, and the New Philadelphia High School sporting events.
- Hired two new dispatchers and a new police officer.
- Promoted officer Tessa Pohovey to the rank of sergeant.
- Increased the number of Police Auxiliary officers from 7 to 15.
- Continued to use social media to maintain a positive relationship with the community and to assist in crime fighting efforts.

Chief Goodwin added, *“In the upcoming year we will continue to serve the citizens of the city in the professional manner that they deserve. We are planning to be seen in our neighborhoods more, as we get back to community policing. We will continue to enforce traffic laws, as this is a direct relationship to the number of accidents.”*

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Superintendent Rod Miller

The State Health Department’s restrictions on mass gatherings in the pandemic resulted in the decisions to close the public swimming pool and cancel Summer Showcase performances and the First Town Days Festival at Tuscora Park. However, the RTY rides were able to operate within the COVID-19 mandates, so families were still able to enjoy some semblance of summertime at the park.

In addition, the park staff, under the guidance of the City Health Department, was diligent in cleaning and sanitizing Tuscora Park’s playgrounds, pavilion, and picnic shelters so they could remain open. So, the usual statistics on Tuscora Park’s annual activities were unavailable.

Baseball and softball teams attempted to play games on city ballfields to keep their seasons’ alive. But some had to cancel, because it became too difficult to play within the pandemic’s restrictions.

Also in 2020:

- CARES Act money was used to purchase personal protection and sanitizing equipment, and also to install touchless equipment in the park’s restrooms.
- Roof repairs were done on the Park pavilion and Teen Center building.
- Repairs were made on the train station building, which was damaged by termites.
- RTY Inc. hired a new director and began the transformation of the Teen Center into the Park Place Youth Center. The facility was closed to allow remodeling to get underway, with a reopening date targeted for May of 2021.

CITY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

- On May 20th the board voted unanimously to close the public pools at Tuscora Park because it would be too difficult to meet Governor Dewine’s restrictions on mass gatherings. In a press release, Park Board president Mike Ernest explained “...the Board concluded that compliance with the new guidelines would not be feasible and that even if the guidelines could be complied with the operation of the pools under such circumstances would pose a significant financial

burden on the city. Ernest stated that “We certainly wanted to provide an opportunity for people to use the facility; however, the costs of operating it clearly outweighed the benefits.”

- Endorsed the Rotary Club’s application to the Ohio History Connection to have a historical plaque erected at Tuscora Park.
- Supported the City’s purchase of the basketball court property at the old South School from the Board of Education for one dollar.

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY PARK

The bright spot for the Parks and Recreation Department in 2020 was the groundbreaking and start of construction of Phase One of the Southside Community Park. A new entrance road off of Oldtown Valley Road SW, a vehicular bridge, two pedestrian bridges, parking lots, two restrooms, a dog park, a pollinator garden and walking trails were included in the construction. Vizmeg Landscapes Inc. of Stow, Ohio was hired as the general contractor for the project, which was around 85% complete before wintery weather set in. The project will be completed in the spring of 2021.

WATERWORKS PARK AND STATE ROUTE 416 BOAT RAMPS

Activity at the boat ramps was brisk throughout the spring, summer and fall as more owners of canoes, kayaks and fishing boats took advantage of the access to the Tuscarawas River. Thanks to the efforts of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, the Tuscarawas River received an official designation as an Ohio Water Trail. That raised more awareness of New Philadelphia’s boat ramps and our development of the river as an economic development asset.

CRIDER AVENUE NE WALKING TRAIL

The Parks and Recreation Department continued to urge New Philadelphia residents to include the Crider Avenue trail in their outdoor recreation plans. The trail was repaired and drainage ditches cleaned to minimize the damage that could be done by surface water runoff.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT – Superintendent Kelly Herron

Using the cemetery master plan, construction of Phase One of the new Schoenbrunn Meadows Cemetery got underway on Delaware Drive SE in 2020. The Phase One work involved:

- Cutting in and graveling roadways
- Pinning 264 new lots to allow for 1,050 new grave spaces
- Landscaping and grass seeding
- Planting 25 trees
- Building a maintenance garage (\$76,400.00)
- The purchase of three 48 niche columbaria to house cremation urns (\$25,300.00)
- Beginning the construction of a new Cemetery Department office building (\$199,336.50)

Schoenbrunn Meadows was the first new cemetery constructed in the City since at least the 1960's, and maybe longer. Its completion was slated for the spring of 2021.

Other activity in the City's three existing cemeteries included:

- From January 1, 2020 thru December 30, 2020 provided service for 134 burials. 95 were full burials, 39 were cremations
- Sold 26 grave spaces and installed 30 foundations
- Removed 4 trees in the East Ave Cemetery, 2 trees in the Fair Ave Cemetery and 1 tree at Schoenbrunn Meadows
- Picked up 40 loads of Leaves, approximately 30 tons.

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT – Administrator Vicki Daniels

The business shutdowns resulting from the coronavirus pandemic had a negative effect on City income tax revenue in 2020. The department finished the year with a 2% decrease in total revenue compared to 2019.

The staff was on site during the pandemic months, answering taxpayers' questions and diligently processing income tax returns. When the tax deadline was extended to July 15, 2020, the staff came up with new ways to receive all taxpayer 2019 returns, such as via email, night drop and by fax.

Taxpayer delinquency dollars increased, as expected for tax year 2019, due in part to the pandemic. With the extension of Tax Day, the staff had extra time to update accounts and write letters, holding businesses and taxpayers accountable who had not filed their returns.

The Income Tax Department sent approximately \$32,500.00 to the Ohio Attorney General for collection. Of this, the Attorney General has collected approximately \$11,500.00 from delinquent taxpayers. Collection parameters of the Attorney General allow New Philadelphia to recoup a good portion of the delinquencies. Also, as expected, more taxpayer payment agreements were extended. The policy of the Income Tax Department only allows one payment agreement every five years for the taxpayer. In a typical year, the department writes approximately 25 payment agreements. In 2020, 57 payment agreements were written for a tax liability exceeding \$46,000.00. Most of these agreements will be paid off by April 2021.

Looking ahead, the Income Tax Department plans to implement online filing in 2021. This was made possible from CARES Act funding and has the potential to greatly reduce the need for taxpayers to physically come to the department.

CONCLUSION

The achievements made by the City in 2020 would not have been possible without the commitment to serve made by the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1958, the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1501.

Our City is blessed with department heads and employees who truly care about the welfare of New Philadelphians. Much credit must also be given to members of New Philadelphia's City Council and my fellow Administrators for providing steady guidance and support throughout the year.

We functioned as a team in 2020 and will continue that strong working relationship in 2021. It is an honor to serve you as the Mayor of New Philadelphia.



Joel B. Day, Mayor