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# Public Service Department

MONTHLY REPORT

April 2017

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*Professionalism*

*Integrity*

*Reliability*

*Quality*

*Pride*

Be inspired.

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## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### April 2017

#### **Arbor Day Event**

The city hosted its annual Arbor Day event at Thompson Park this year where ten trees were planted in conjunction with a stream buffer restoration project. Over 40 volunteers attended the Saturday morning event, planting nearly 700 native grasses and bushes designed to filter storm water and hold soil in place to prevent erosion. Along with absorbing and cleaning pollutant runoff water from an adjacent parking lot, the trees and plants will also offer shade to the area, keeping the water cooler and creating a healthier environment for the community to enjoy.

#### **YAY Bikes!**

An advocacy group called YAY Bikes! led an educational bike ride through New Albany with the director and representatives from the development department, the Parks and Trails Advisory Board and the city's engineering office. YAY Bikes! is a nonprofit organization focused on educating the public on the rights of cyclists on the road while encouraging folks to also consider cycling as a typical mode of transportation. On their website under the education tab YAY! Bikes notes, "We provide on road bicycle education because we believe that people need both information and practice to successfully ride the roads".

#### **Central College Road Tree Planting Project**

The New Albany Links Homeowners Association obtained council approval on a cost share project with the City of New Albany for planting additional trees within the Central College Road right of way. The trees will be placed in clusters along the leisure trail between Dean Farm Road and New Albany Links Drive. The association has offered to contribute fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) toward the purchase and installation of the trees and has requested that the city match that amount to improve the appearance of the roadside corridor. The association will work with the city to determine the tree species and planting locations, however the city will have final approval.

#### **Professional Development**

Administrative Assistant Bernadette Macchi attended two days of training on Microsoft Excel where features such as design, charts, graphs, editing, printing and macros were discussed on the first day. The second day included information on simplifying keystrokes, drawing tools, database functions and formatting data.

Service employees Nick Cichanowicz, Mark Nemec, Brian Strayer, Bernadette Macchi and Andrew Love attended the 2017 Tree City USA awards ceremony hosted at Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Garden by the Ohio State University.

## PROJECT PLANNING UPDATES

### April 2017

#### **Smith's Mill Road Micro-surfacing Project**

The public service department is responsible for evaluating the condition of city streets and overseeing the proper maintenance, repair or replacement of the road system to keep it safe and drivable and to prolong pavement life. Since 2013, the city has utilized a surface treated process called microsurfacing to extend the lifespan of existing pavement. Microsurfacing consists of small black stone called trap rock, asphalt binder and additional additives and when applied to asphalt pavement extends the surface life seven to nine years. Utilizing the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program, the city is contracting with Strawser Construction to perform microsurfacing improvements on Smith's Mill Road from Kitzmiller Road to Beech Road. The project is expected to be completed during the month of June without the need to perform any road closures or detours.

#### **Traffic Signal Improvement at Harlem and Dublin Granville Roads**

The city has gained approval through city council to advertise and accept bids for improvements to the intersection of north Harlem Road and Dublin Granville Road. The project will replace the existing flashing yellow light with a full service traffic signal to better facilitate vehicle movements at the intersection. The preliminary engineer's construction cost estimate for the project is \$180,000. An engineer's study of the intersection revealed that the State of Ohio Uniform Manual for Traffic Control Devices criteria for a signalized intersection were met. The criteria must be met before a signal can be legally activated. The project is expected to be completed by October of 2017.

## CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS April 2017

### Planter's Grove Sidewalk Improvement Project

- Strawser Paving is performing the sidewalk replacement as part of the city street improvement project.
- Crews encountered heavy root growth beneath the concrete sidewalks.
- Sidewalk improvements will be completed by May.



Completed sidewalks on James River Road.

### 2017 City Street Improvement Project

- The construction contract was awarded to Decker Construction at a bid price of \$530,855.
- Work includes ADA curb ramp improvements, pavement overlay, curb repair and crack sealing.
- Construction schedule is May 2017 to August 2017.



Asphalt repaving is planned for a portion of E. Main St. north of 3rd. Street

### Smith's Mill Road Microsurfacing Project

- Using ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program the construction contract was awarded to the Strawser Construction Company at a price of \$187,865.
- Work includes the application of microsurface treatment to Smith's Mill Road from Kitzmiller Road to Beech Road.
- Work will be performed in June 2017.



A view looking east on Smith's Mill Road.

## PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS April 2017

Truck scales have been installed in the yard of the public service department so crew members can efficiently and accurately measure the amount of salt loaded and used for each route during snow removal season. Detailed records are maintained each year to track the amount of salt dispensed during winter events.



Mettler-Toledo installed a new truck scale at the public service department.

Despite some light rain, the service department's annual Spring Roadside Cleanup Project was successfully completed. The entire staff was actively involved in picking up trash along the State Route 161 roadsides within New Albany to prepare for the mowing season. A total of 113 bags of trash equaling 3955 pounds of waste was collected during the day long event.



Spring trash collection prepares roadsides for seasonal mowing.

Service department crews installed two no parking signs on Keswick Drive to prevent parking on both sides of the street and blocking traffic. The signage was included in the initial development plan, but signs were removed during home construction and were never reinstalled after the completion of the projects.



Crew members install no parking signs on Keswick Drive.

Staff built a mockup post and sign plate for the city's arboretum project planned for Swickard Woods Park. To qualify for arboretum certification from ArbNet, 25 trees and woody plants must be identified and labeled. In addition, a sustainability program must be outlined to include the maintenance of the area and an annual community event must also be hosted.



Crews built a prototype post and sign plate to identify trees in Swickard Woods Park.



## SEASONAL STATISTICS April 2017

