

2016 STATE OF THE CITY



Tim Theaker, Mayor

I am pleased to present my 2016 State of the City address which outlines the progress we made throughout the year. Elected officials, my administration, city employees, residents, volunteers, students, and a host of other city partners continue to work collaboratively for the good of our city to make it more vibrant, attractive, strong and proud. We are building an economy that includes everyone and has real opportunity for all of our citizens.

Significant highlights for each department are detailed below.

AIRPORT: The Terminal Building at Mansfield Lahm Airport received a much needed facelift in early 2016. Built in 1985, the Terminal Building had not had any major renovations in 30 years. Updates to the ceiling, flooring, wall coverings, counters and furniture transformed the building. Two separate rooms were provided for pilots, an office for calculating flight plans and a room for rest and sleep.

The airport was awarded funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation; Aviation Division in the amount of \$59,156 for the replacement of wind cones at each end of all runways. FAA funding was also used to design the Taxiway Echo relocation and Taxiway Delta rehabilitation.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Bill Schmidt and his committee, the 7th annual Airport Open House was held in July and was very successful.

The snow removal equipment building and tractor storage building were repainted in 2016. Airport staff repainted all taxiway centerlines, enhanced taxiway centerlines, Hold Short Markings at all intersections, pavement markings on Runway 14/32 with the exception of side strips, and the above ground fuel tanks at the SRE buildings.

Cracked sealed the entire initial 3,000' at the approach end of Runway 32 and approximately 24,000' of cold joints on Runway 14 approach end, all of Taxiway Bravo, portions of Taxiway Alpha and the Terminal apron.

A revised Airport Certification Manual and Snow and Ice Control Plan were submitted with approval from the FAA.

BUILDING & CODES: A new Chief Deputy Engineer/Plans Examiner/Building Inspector was added to the Bureau of Building Inspections, Licenses and Permits staff in our efforts to make this department a one-stop shop and more business friendly. All plan reviews are now being completed in-house rather than being contracted to Richland County as in previous years.

New construction and alteration building permits were issued to 83 residential and 80 commercial clients during 2016 with commercial renovations totaling over \$3,500,000.00. Major commercial projects included the Richland School of Academic Arts, Ohio Health, Taco Bell, Mechanics Bank, OhioHealth Offices and Kingwood Garden Center. New construction projects included new buildings at Newman Technology, Jay Industries and Taylor Metal, Zion Refuge Church and a new Transitional Housing unit for Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services.

There were also 6 new residential dwelling units permitted with an estimated total value of \$1,285,000.00. Total estimated construction dollars for all permits was over \$22,092,296.00.

During 2016, 97 structures were demolished throughout the year with funding coming from the P.R.I.D.E. levy, Neighborhood Initiative Program or from the property owner.

537 contractors and 28 garbage haulers registered with the City in 2016, 377 zoning applications were submitted for approval, 579 residential/commercial buildings inspections and 907 mechanical, residential/commercial electrical inspections were performed. Total revenue collected by this department was \$219,118.02.

A total of 2,688 violation complaints or systematic inspections were investigated and issued. 415 individual lots and several right of ways were mowed with the help of city forces, seasonal employees and community service workers. 68 structures were boarded up, trash was removed from 274 private properties and 38 right of ways.

CLEARFORK: A grant was received for \$19,395.99 from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to assist in the cost of the Marine Patrol program. This program helps ensure the safety of the citizens of Mansfield and everyone who enjoys the Reservoir.

The installation of a new water system at the campground started at the conclusion of the camping season and will replace old service lines installed in 1966. This will increase pressure and lessen breaks that were occurring in the campground.

Fishing activity slowed during the mid to late summer months due to dry conditions and lack of rain to the area. The low water conditions made it tough on boaters and fishing from the shore. At one point during the summer, the water level was down almost 29 inches.

Work continued on removing ash trees from the picnic areas. These trees were affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. Most or all of the affected trees should be removed by this summer.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: The Department of Community Development remains committed to its core values of providing rehabilitation and repair services to the citizens of Mansfield. In addition to home repair activities, the office funded five organizations that provided public service for low to moderate income residents of the city. Community Development spent approximately eight hundred fifty thousand dollars between development activities and the loan program.

It has been a year of change for the department as the manager of the department left and a rehabilitation officer retired. A replacement has been hired as the Director and a new rehabilitation officer transferred into Community Development in February of 2017 thus bringing the department back to full capacity.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Activity in the Economic Development office overall was higher than it has been for the past 8-9 years. Newman Technology constructed a 80,000 square foot facility, acquired tube manufacturing equipment and created 5 full-time jobs for an

investment of \$7,500,000.00. Jay Industries had multiple projects that included expansions of the Jay Plastics and Taylor Metal Products facilities. Carroll Fabrication, a new CNC machining business, acquired the remaining building at the former Ohio Brass site. They have purchased new CNC machining equipment and created 14 full-time jobs for an investment of approximately \$500,000.00. Hess Industries, after acquiring land and the building at 108 Sawyer Parkway, renovated the building and purchased new CNC machining centers which created 2 full-time jobs for an investment of \$1,500,000.00.

Ohio Valley Manufacturing began an expansion project at their Swarn Parkway welding facility which will be completed in the second quarter of 2017. New equipment for the expansion will be acquired which will create 5 full-time jobs. They have increased employment at their main plant by adding 20 new employees. 84 Lumber Company purchased the former Roberts and Dybdahl buildings on North Main Street and will invest approximately \$2,000,000.00 in renovations and purchase equipment for a truss making operation. They project the creation of 58 full-time jobs within the first year of operation. Cement Products demolished two deteriorating buildings and fully renovated an existing building into a new office space and showroom. They project creating 3-4 new full-time jobs by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2017 for an investment of \$1,000,000.00. TLC Kanvas purchased the former Grainger building on National Parkway and relocated from Bellville to Mansfield bringing 20 full-time employees. This company projects the creation of 5 full-time jobs in 2017 for an investment of \$500,000.00.

The area saw considerably more activity in the way of investment in small businesses during 2016 and it appears that 2017 will be even better.

ENGINEERING: The Engineering Department administered two separate contracts totaling \$4.29 million to resurface 96 streets and alleys (20.20 miles) in Mansfield during 2016.

Staff members continued the development of the GIS utility mapping program for the Water Distribution System, the Sanitary Collection System, and the Storm Sewer System.

Engineering designed and implemented the Harker/Main Street intersection improvement project in conjunction with re-routing truck traffic from Town and Country, designed and implemented the Cook Road widening project at Lexington Avenue, designed the Lindaire Lane Sanitary Sewer Improvement project, designed the Cook Road Waterline Extension project, administered the construction of the Runway 5-23 reconstruction project, and developed and administered the 2016 Pavement Marking program.

Every street light was inspected with 712 outages reported to First Energy for repair or replacement.

The city engineer was very involved with successfully negotiating new sewer contracts with the City of Ontario and Richland County.

Other projects Engineering was involved with throughout the year included securing 90%+ funding for the construction of Trimble Road, acquired the necessary property for the Trimble Road Construction project along with coordinating utility relocation efforts and finalized design,

coordinated and administered the pre-engineering study for the Touby's Run Floodplain Mitigation project, completed the flow monitoring project of the entire Sanitary Sewer System inside the City to determine where the greatest sources of I/I occur, and developed an \$850,000.00 I/I project to be constructed in 2017 with grant funding received totaling 50% of the construction.

FIRE: It was a record year for the department in terms of calls for service with 10,395 total calls, that's over 28 calls per day (more than one/hour.) The bulk of these calls were for EMS transports which generated over \$1.7 million in cost recovery for the department.

A rescue squad was put into operation at Station #4 on South Main Street with the intent of having it open any time daily staffing permits.

The department took delivery on two new Pierce pumper trucks this year that were purchased in 2015 and two new Braun ambulances were purchased this year. The Fire Prevention Bureau is awaiting delivery on a new marked vehicle for their office that should arrive in the next few weeks.

Our Haz-Mat team, which serves Mansfield, Richland, and Ashland counties, received extensive training along with some new equipment. They are now attached to the METRICH unit for drug lab responses. Three of our paramedics have been trained to work directly with the ASORT team during their call outs. Both of these advents will greatly enhance our safety forces.

HUMAN RESOURCES: As in the past several years, operations of the department were pretty level and consistent. Staffing levels remained the same, the director and a personnel coordinator; however, the presence of an administrative assistant to the Safety Service Director has been extremely helpful handling inquiries and intake.

This department assisted the Civil Service Commission in conducting entry level examinations for both police and fire as well as promotional examinations for the Police Department. This included assisting both the police and fire departments in evaluations of new entry hires that we were able to carry out because of attrition.

It has been five years since bid offerings have been sought for our medical and prescription drug coverage so with the assistance of CBIZ, a bid offering was conducted. After careful consideration the decision was made to stay with Anthem for the next three years. Because of a national trend in higher medical and prescription insurance costs, our plan costs were carefully examined and in the end insurance costs were increased by 6.5%, which is modest compared to state-wide and national trends.

Worker compensation claims actually decreased slightly in 2016 with the majority involving safety personnel. Lost time related to injuries was minimal. Our Managed Care Organization and Third Party Administrator remained the same this year. Our goal 2017 is to continue managing claims in an effort to reduce their impact on the City.

Employment levels in 2015 were consistent with trends over the last few years. Attrition accounted for most new hires.

As for collective bargaining, the City concluded negotiations with both the IAFF and FOP which resulted in new three year contracts for those units.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Notable improvements for IT during 2016 include implementation of a new digital transcription and parking ticket system for the Police Department, completed multifunctional device renewal project, reviewed and implemented components to create a stronger network and email security system, completed an upgrade to New World, upgraded WASP system at the Service Complex, implemented LEADS Messenger on individual PSCC workstations, and worked to ensure greater network stability.

IT setup SPARKS framework in Courts for better collaboration, implemented new probation software in Courts and assisted with KIOSK implementation that interfaced with the new system, assisted with implementation of additional cameras in Courts to enhance security, and assisted with the new Pitney Bowes system in the Clerk of Courts office.

MAINTENANCE: Maintenance completed over 600 electronic service requests and numerous verbal requests. Completed preventive maintenance on HVAC and other building equipment and systems, assisted with structural repairs at multiple facilities, and assisted with department moves/changes throughout the year.

Significant projects included having all Municipal Building parking lots sealed and striped, started L.E.D. light upgrade on existing light fixtures at Municipal Building, new doors installed at the Ocie Hill Community Center, a new HVAC system installed at Fire Station #3, a new HVAC system installed at the Service Complex, and had a new pressure washer installed in the Mayor's Garage which included changing the mounting system to stop noise and vibration from reverberating through the building.

OCIE HILL COMMUNITY CENTER: The Ocie Hill Community Center is now a sought out destination for family celebrations, birthday parties, baby showers, graduation parties, after funeral gatherings, community events, workshops and training. The Center provides recreational programming for ages 5 through adult, seven days a week offering a full-size gymnasium and an improved workout room having free weights, a punching bag, spin and other equipment.

Many facility and grounds related projects were accomplished throughout the year. The third floor, which formerly housed an elementary school, now offers multiple faith based, community serving agencies. Project One, along with Rubies, The Gate, Berean Baptist Church, Girl Scouts, Teen Time and the Shirley A Program all call the Ocie Hill Community Center home. The rear parking lot development project, going into its second year, has the interest of the RCDG to showcase in the America in Bloom competition. Additions include a walking track, full court basketball, four square, hopscotch and kickball areas. Community partner, Lowe's, donated a swing set in 2016.

PARKS/RECREATION: The American Musicians Association Local 159 held a Summer Concert Series at South Park with six performances for our citizens to enjoy. South Park was also home to the Children's Educational Garden, a program sponsored by Friends of the Mansfield Parks and the City, which educated children in the benefits of growing food. Richland Early American Center for History (R.E.A.C.H.) hosted several events at the Blockhouse throughout the year. They also broke ground late in the year for a historic log cabin that is being

restored and relocated to Central Park for their education program. The Parks Office at South Park received a much needed remodel that included a new roof, new drywall and new flooring. This was the first work completed on the facility since 1993. A new pavilion with restrooms and a kitchen was completed early in the year.

Rex's Landscaping was contracted to improve the landscaping at Central Park which included replacing several old wooden benches with new concrete benches. The playground equipment was replaced with musical instruments our citizens will be able to enjoy. Over 30 events were hosted at Central Park throughout the year.

Thanks to the Friends of North Lake Park, the first Taste of Mansfield event featuring bands and food vendors was very successful and well attended. Hooked on Fishing – Not Drugs, a program funded by the Richland County Foundation, was hosted at North Lake Park which taught school age children the lifelong skill of fishing along with the dangers of drugs. New to the Hooked on Fishing program in 2016 was a SNAP-ed program that taught children the benefits of healthy eating and provided them with a healthy snack.

Maple Lake Park saw a complete remodel of the restrooms and updates to the baseball field. John Todd Park was part of a volunteer project spearheaded by Cleve Gordon who oversaw clean-up projects, brush being cut back, and the refinishing of the baseball field. Liberty Park received new playground equipment, two old restrooms, bleachers and a concession stand were removed, and thanks to neighbors, McElroy Road Church of Christ, and the Mansfield Baptist Temple, several clean-ups were conducted. In partnership with the YMCA, Liberty Park pool was operational during the summer months. Crossroad Community Church selected Johns Park as their community project in 2016. They replaced and painted benches, painted the outside restrooms, repaired flowerbeds and passed out groceries to the surrounding area. The tennis courts were refinished and nets replaced at Burton Park. The baseball field was redone at Prospect Park and was used for the Attorney General's Baseball program kick-off this year.

POLICE: The Mansfield Division of Police currently has 83 sworn officers and 34 civilian employees. Two officers retired and eleven new officers were hired in 2016. The Police Department handled 36,854 calls for service receiving 160 citizen compliments for outstanding work in the community which was an increase of 61.6% from 2015. Officers arrested 4,952 persons. Part 1 crime decreased by 2.9% overall compared to 2015. Assault offenses were drastically decreased by 28.5%. Personal injury crashes decreased by 13.6% and property damage crashes decreased by 3.7%. There were two fatalities and three homicides in 2016.

The Detective Bureau Domestic Violence Officer was assigned 783 cases and assisted in arresting 269 suspects on felony and misdemeanor charges. The detective assigned to assist Children's Services and the Sex Crime Unit was assigned 150 cases.

The Community Services Bureau worked hard during 2016 while stepping up to cover vacancies in personnel. Supervisor's assigned officers to high crime areas to impact crime and interrupt criminal activity.

The Police Department is proud of their support and involvement in community programs such as the Juvenile Mentoring Program, A.C.E. Program, Safety Town, Golden Agers Program,

Leadership Club, Explorers, After School Programs, PAL Sports, and neighborhood watch groups.

SERVICE COMPLEX:

REPAIR GARAGE: The City's Repair Garage completed 837 work orders in 2016. The Repair Garage also installed a new repair lift. This new above ground lift replaced an obsolete underground unit allowing for a greater lift capacity and improved employee safety. This lift allows the mechanics to lift any vehicle in the City's fleet.

SEWER REPAIR: In 2016 the City's Sewer Repair Department responded to 211 backup calls resulting in 34,647 feet of sewer lines being flushed. An additional 81,848 feet of sewer and storm lines were flushed due to monthly sewer maintenance. During the year, 12 catch basins were rebuilt while 235 catch basins were cleaned in an effort to prevent flooding. The Sewer Repair Department took possession of one small 1-ton dump truck used for snow removal, one small 1-ton flat-bed truck used to carry the City's large air compressor and generator. The City also purchased a new camera used to provide a live video feed from within the sewer and storm water lines to increase repair accuracy.

STREETS: In 2016, the City's Street Sweeper swept 407 miles of roadway, collecting 45 cubic yards of waste. The Street Department continued to battle pot holes throughout the city. In 2016 the city filled 2,465 pot holes. Of those 2,465 pot holes filled by the city, 1,797 were reported by citizens while 668 were filled proactively by the department before complaints were received. The Street Department repaired or replaced 343 signs and signals due to inclement weather and vehicular accidents. 125 trees required the attention of the Street Department to keep the City right-of-ways clear. The City also removed 147 dead animals from the streets. The Street Department purchased a boom mower to be used for difficult to reach areas along the roadside.

WATER REPAIR: The Water Repair Department made 161 repairs to water mains in 2016, an increase of 18% compared to 2015. While making these repairs, the City repaired 16 valves and replaced an additional 30. 68 hydrants required the attention of the Water Repair Department, due to either vehicular accidents or scheduled routine maintenance. The City installed 13 new taps in 2016, one more than the previous year. The city responded to 382 leaks and completed 344 service turn on/off's. Water Repair purchased a new, four wheel drive back hoe with an air hammer attachment and a new hydro excavator. These two pieces of equipment will be used to expedite the excavation process required to make repairs on the City's water mains.

UTILITY COLLECTIONS: Our Utility Collections Department processes over 18,700 water/sewer bills on a yearly basis. New service was set and turned on at 273 properties throughout the year. There were 3,178 delinquent turn offs with 1,310 of those being turned back on. 287 disconnects were requested in 2016.

A new virtual network register from Metron was deployed in 2016. We now have over 150 accounts, mostly apartment complexes/condos and manufacturers, that have the new digital register. Registers are being tested to work in conjunction with our city-wide meter read network and a computer was added to back-up and assist with remote reads.

Cameras were added to the main lobby, cashier area and mailroom for additional security. Necessary repairs were made to the roof and the drive thru window bay was replaced.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: The plant treated 3,525.77 million gallons with an average of 293.81 million gallons per month. They removed and land applied 6,629 wet tons that came from the plant process only and 9,530 wet tons that solely came from the lagoon.

Two large building roofs were replaced using local contractors. New LED lighting is being installed throughout the plant and photocells. Two 7 million gallon pumps were repaired at the Park Avenue East Lift Station, railing and safety markings were painted, and repairs have begun on concrete tank walls and steps throughout the plant.

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant earned a laboratory proficiency testing award for the third year in a row.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: The Water Treatment Plant purified and pumped 3.822 billion gallons of water to the City of Mansfield, with no EPA chemical or bacteriological violations. The plant laboratory performed 15,571 chemical and turbidity tests and 1,969 bacteriological tests. Drinking water samples were also collected and sent to EPA approved labs for organic contaminants, metals, and radiological contaminants. All tests came back within allowable limits.

A pontoon boat was purchased and equipped for algae treatment at Clearfork Reservoir.

Water samples were collected from 46 boil advisories due to water breaks or depressurization. The affected areas were tested and cleared within 24 hours of sampling.

Our 2015 Annual Consumer Confidence Report was completed with copies sent to our 20,000 customers along with their Utility Bills. The report was also posted on our web page.

Routine grounds maintenance was performed along with mechanical maintenance and daily security inspections to our plant facility, lake facility, 10 wells, Straub Elevated Tank, Shaker Elevated Tank, Shaker Pump Station, and Woodland Storage Reservoir.