

VILLAGE OF FREDERICKTOWN STATE OF THE VILLAGE

2018 was a year of significant achievements for the Village of Fredericktown. The local economy grew in 2018 when many local businesses increased their staffing as the demand for their products and services grew. Some of the larger employers within the Village include Fredericktown Local Schools, Kokosing Construction, Unique Metal Designs, Schafer Driveline, and Fredericktown Chevrolet, to name just a few. These employers help sustain the local economy by providing jobs to those living in the community and employers also pay earnings taxes on their profits, as well.

Since 2015, the Fredericktown Police Department's annual number of calls for service have increased by 39%. From 2017 to 2018, while criminal charges dropped by 29%, traffic enforcement increased by 85%.

The FPD was able to continue keeping their officers skills honed through training and they were able to share some of that training with the community through the Neighborhood Watch program. Each month, the FPD holds a Neighborhood Watch meeting, which is a program which created locally in 2015, to discuss Police related matters at the local level. Larger quarterly group luncheons are held where a relevant topic is shared with the group, with discussion being led by a guest speaker. This gives the community an opportunity to stay engaged and also provides them an opportunity to get to know their Police Department on a more personal level. This also enables the FPD to have "more sets of eyes" in the neighborhoods to assist in enhancing public safety and security throughout the Village.

In 2014, the FPD first partnered with Fredericktown Local Schools in providing a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus throughout the school year on a daily basis. The ongoing SRO program has further enhanced community policing efforts, which ensures a safer and more secure environment for students and faculty alike throughout the school campus. Fredericktown Local School District was the first district in Knox County to launch their SRO program and this partnership has been a tremendous success thus far, as the Police Department has a broader working relationship with the Fredericktown community than ever before.

In 2015, the Police Levy was approved by the voters at the ballot box. The greatest benefit of the Police Levy is it provides the ability to maintain twenty-four hour police protection throughout the Village on a daily basis, year round. The Police Levy also ensures that a police officer is likely only a few minutes away from any location within the Village at any given moment. The current Police Levy runs through 2020 and allows constant police protection only a few minutes away for residents and merchants.

The Village also completed two large capital improvement projects in 2018, both funded substantially through Ohio Public Works Commission grants. The first project completed was the 2018 Street Improvements, which consisted of finishing the milling and paving of Mount Vernon Avenue, W. Mound Street and Columbus Road. The new pavement is expected to have a useful life of fifteen to twenty years. The OPWC grant covered around 24% of the cost of this project.

The other capital improvement project was the Culvert Replacement Project on N. Main Street and this project included the replacement of sixty linear feet of deteriorated steel storm culvert, which was nine feet in diameter. The total cost of the construction on this endeavor was approximately \$107,000 and 79% of construction was paid through an emergency OPWC grant. The project was completed in the fall, just before winter set in.

This summer Village Council anticipates carrying out Phase 7 & 8 of a twelve-part Storm-Water Separation project. This project is mandated by the Ohio Environmental Agency and the project's objective is to prevent storm water from running into the Village's sanitary sewer infrastructure. Otherwise, rainwater runs to the Waste Water Treatment Plant where it is processed as if it were raw sewage, which is an unnecessary and costly expense. Phase 7 & 8

will entail construction of catch basins and underground storm water lines on W. Second Street and Taylor Street.

The General Fund carryover at the end of 2018 grew by 12.5% from the previous year's end. This growth can largely be attributed to the Police Levy, as the Police Department no longer relies completely on the General Fund for operating expenses. Not only does the Police Levy provide approximately \$110,000 in revenue per year for law enforcement expenses but it also allows the General Fund to go toward other expenses throughout the Village.

Council is also committed to paying down debt. This debt includes loans for street improvements, Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements, Water Plant improvements, an additional water tower completed in 2015, and the construction of the Owl Creek Trail, which is a 1.5 mile paved trail used by pedestrians and cyclists of all ages.

The future for the Village of Fredericktown is as bright it's ever been. Village Council anticipates applying in 2019 for nearly \$1 million in federal funding toward a downtown revitalization project. This project will likely be a two-phased effort at beautifying the entire downtown business corridor, which includes N. Main Street, from Mill Street to Sandusky Street. The proposed improvements include: replacement of suspended traffic lights and cables with new decorative LED traffic lights and masts; replacement of the existing "copper head" street lights with decorative LED gas-light look-a-like street lighting; new trees and other vegetation; new sidewalks; and new curbs and gutters. In addition to these improvements, Village Council is seeking other area agencies that are interested in helping with the cost of facade improvements in the downtown business corridor.

Village Council looks forward to providing residents and merchants in the Village of Fredericktown with an optimistic future. The Village will continue to partner with a number of agencies in making this a great place to live, to work and to do business. We wish our residents and merchants alike nothing but a safe and prosperous 2019.

Mayor Jerry Day
February 15, 2019