



STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

Issued April 2, 2020 by Mayor Joel B. Day

“The state of our city is strong, thanks to the upward trend of growth that continued in 2019.” When I wrote this opening sentence in mid-February, the coronavirus pandemic had not yet reached New Philadelphia or Tuscarawas County. The common flu virus arrived first: in our homes, our schools and our businesses. It hit me hard the last week of February, keeping me home and delaying my writing of this annual report to you. When I returned to work, the first cases of COVID-19 were being reported in Ohio. On March 9th, Governor Dewine declared a state of emergency in Ohio and my focus turned to putting protocols in place to follow the direction of the New Philadelphia City Health Department, maintain the delivery of city services, and to protect City employees and the community. So please accept my apology for not being able to issue this sooner.

As I looked back on 2019, here are some of the milestones that marked the path of growth in the City:

- Several new businesses opened in New Philadelphia, including the much-anticipated Menard’s store on Bluebell Drive NW. Hawkins, Incorporated, a chemical distribution company from Minnesota, purchased a large warehouse on Commercial Avenue SE to expand its business into Ohio. Verizon constructed a new retail cellphone center on West High Avenue. The Venue joined the growing list of downtown restaurants when it opened in September. In addition, Sacred Heart Church constructed a new parish center on Fair Avenue NE to meet the growing needs of the church and the community.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation redesigned the West High Avenue/Bluebell Drive NW intersection – installing pedestrian crosswalks and new traffic signals, and reconfigured driving lanes – to improve traffic flow and safety.
- Existing businesses hired more employees to meet market demands. The City’s income tax revenue increased by three percent for the year, a clear indicator that payrolls grew and more people were working in New Philadelphia. New home construction was seen throughout the city. Parcels in several areas of the city were rezoned to accommodate business expansion and protect residential areas.
- Work on a long-range master plan for city growth continued while development of a plan to connect bicycle and pedestrian pathways throughout the City started. The Cooper Standard Foundation gave the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition \$20,000 to begin construction of the Towpath Trail in New Philadelphia.

- Clean Ohio grant money was used to construct two new boat ramps along the Tuscarawas River. Due to high water conditions, the official opening of the ramps was delayed from July to August 10th. The ramps encouraged the use of the river for recreation and its use as a new means of economic development.
- Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital expanded its medical services into New Philadelphia by opening a family medicine center on Garland Drive SW. Akron Children’s Hospital began construction of a new wing on its children’s health center at the Lewis Regional Medical Center on West High Avenue.
- New Philadelphia’s status as the county’s center for education grew when Kent State University – Tuscarawas completed phase one of its Gateway Roadway project in May and began preparations for phase two, which includes construction of residential housing on campus. In addition, the New Philadelphia City Schools administration held a series of public meetings throughout the year to gather citizens input and businesses input on the plan to construct new school buildings in the City.
- Sarah Dugger and Bill Shryock painted new murals and Alley Cats Marketplace opened on Allen Lane NW as downtown New Philadelphia’s artistic attractions grew.
- New Philadelphia Municipal Court created a new work program that allowed defendants to avoid jail time by working to clean downtown sidewalks and areas of Tuscora Park.
- New three-year labor contracts were negotiated with the City’s Firefighters, Police, Service and Clerical workers unions.
- The largest street paving project in several decades highlighted the City’s infrastructure improvements in 2019. Three miles of roadway was resurfaced from the corporation limits on Commercial Avenue SE to South Broadway, up through the center of town to the northern corporation limits on North Broadway. The Ohio Department of Transportation funded the redesign and re-signalization of the West High Avenue/Bluebell Drive NW intersection to improve traffic flow. The project also included the installation of pedestrian cross-walks at the intersection, an improvement requested for years by the restaurants and motels in the area.
- For the first time in nearly sixty years, construction of a new City cemetery began last fall. Crews from Buckeye Career Center’s adult education heavy equipment and construction program cleared the nine-acre site on Delaware Drive SE, set a storm water dry well and roughed in roadways until winter weather ended the construction season. The City Cemetery Board selected “Schoenbrunn Meadow Cemetery” as the name for the new cemetery.
- Seven new firefighter/paramedics were hired for the Fire Department, six of them made possible by the City receiving a three-year Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response or SAFER grant from the Federal government. City Council approved my recommendation to apply for the SAFER grant to address the problems resulting from the Fire Departments increased call volumes, including the rising cost of employee overtime. By mid-year, statistics compiled by Fire Chief Parrish showed that the additional manpower had reduced the overtime

expense by 40% while the call volume continued to increase. The hiring of additional firefighter/paramedics also resulted in the Insurance Services Offices Incorporated or ISO improving the City's ISO rating from a 3 to a 2. The higher classification lowered fire insurance premiums for property owners in the city because of better fire protection.

- With the help of Congressman Bob Gibbs and local supporters of Harry Clever Field, The Federal Aviation Administration's Detroit office dropped its insistence that the airport's runway length be shortened for what we argued were unrealistic reasons.
- A contract was signed with Horizons Network Partners to allow the company to connect all City government buildings with fiber optic cable. The result will lower the City's overall cost of Internet service, eliminate the need for multiple servers and greatly increase the speed, efficiency and security of the City's computer network. The fiber would also allow the expansion of new communication technologies in the downtown area and throughout the City. Construction of the fiber network will be completed in 2020.

On October 2nd we received a stark reminder that the City needs to continue to replace the City's aging infrastructure. The rupture of the fourteen inch water main line that feeds City reservoirs created a water emergency. Service to about half of the City's neighborhoods was temporarily shut off. The City Health Department ordered affected businesses to close until the break could be isolated and water service restored.

Among the other recurring problems in the City was drug use. The opioid addiction rate fell but the use of methamphetamines increased as addicts changed their drug of choice because it was cheaper to buy and available. Police warned that dealers were selling illegal drugs laced with deadly fentanyl and carfentanil. Fire Department ambulances were carrying more narcan on board to revive addicts who were overdosing. The City Health Department continued to treat addicts incarcerated at the county jail and when possible, steer them into the department's Vivitrol treatment program to wean them from their craving for opiates. At New Philadelphia's Municipal Court, Judge Nan VonAllman's Recovery Court Program helped put defendants with drug addictions into treatment programs administered by the City Health Department. I was very encouraged by how the health department and court joined forces to address the addiction problem in the City. Going forward, I feel the Recovery Court Program will have a profound impact on reducing the City's drug addiction problem.

2019 also saw the end of an era in the City. Lam's Oriental Cuisine Restaurant closed after nearly four decades in business at the corner of Ray and Tuscarawas Avenues NW.

Mayor's Activities

- Gave the oaths of office to seven new members of the City Fire Department and four Park police officers.
- Applied for a Federal EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant for environmental cleanups at the former Puritan Laundry property and the former Howden Buffalo property. Both sites have chemical contamination and other possible environmental issues that prohibit productive reuses.
- My Dennison to New Philadelphia/Dover Railroad Task Force opened discussions with R.J. Corman and CSX railroad companies to determine the feasibility of purchasing the rail line that runs through New Philadelphia to use it to boost the local economy.
- Became a member of the Tuscarawas County Transportation Improvement District's board of trustees. The board was created by the County Commissioners to advocate for Ohio Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation assistance in solving road and highway issues that impede economic growth.
- Became a founding member of the Tuscarawas County Mayors Association. The group was organized so that the mayors could gather monthly to share ideas and find solutions to common problems.
- Approved the creation of an Administrative Assistant/Ambulance Biller position in the Fire Department upon the recommendation of Fire Chief Parrish. The position brought billing for City ambulance services in-house to save approximately \$60,000.00 per year in outsourcing costs.
- Agreed to a one-year trial of using a part-time Community Health Care Worker to assist residents who repeatedly call the Fire Department for non-medical reasons. Chief Parrish and I believe the worker could reduce ambulance calls and connect the residents with helpful community resources.
- Activated the Downtown Design Standards Review Board, which was created in 1998 in Chapter 1333 of the City's Codified Ordinances, but never established. The board creates design standards for future downtown building improvements and encourages property owners to follow them.
- Began planning for the 2020 Census in the city by assigning members to the County's Complete Count Committee.

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 2019 – 278
- Parking Permits issued for 2019 – 411
- Solicitors and Handbill Permits issued – 41
- Garage Sale Permits issued – 387
- Internet Café Licenses issued – 1
- Taxi Cab Permit – 1
- Going Out Of Business Permit – 1
- Billiards Hall Permit – 1
- Bowling Alley Permit - 1
- Subdivision/Condo/Rezoning Requests - 6
- Total monies collected from parking meters and fines - \$24,324.28
- Number of complaints and inquiries forwarded to the Street Department, Police Department and Zoning & Building Code Administrator – 98
- Total Revenue collected for the year 2019 - **\$51,967.28**

The City Planning Commission, which is chaired by the Mayor, took these actions in 2019:

- Approved and recommended to City Council the rezoning of industrial properties to business in the 24th Street NE area to allow for construction of a pre-school at the New Philadelphia School's Quaker Dome.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the rezoning of residential properties to business to allow for the expansion of Pace Sankar Landscaping on Kaderly Street NW.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the rezoning of residential properties to business to allow for the expansion of HRN Construction and Restoration on Kaderly Street NW.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the rezoning of industrial properties on Canal Street SE to business to allow for future development.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the rezoning of industrial properties to business to allow for proper uses of the former Zimmer plant buildings on Kaderly Street NW and to protect the surrounding residential neighborhoods.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the rezoning of industrial properties to business at 7th Street SW and Front Avenue SW to allow for proper uses of buildings and allow for future business opportunities.

The following is a summary of 2019 activities and accomplishments as reported by City department heads. Reports by the City Auditor and Municipal Court will be issued separately.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT – Director Mary Kurtz

Receiving a Safety Improvement Certificate from the Tuscarawas County Safety Council highlighted the achievements of Director of Human Resources Mary Kurtz in 2019. Besides seeing that the City's daily human resources needs were met, Director Kurtz also completed this list of goals last year:

1. Developed and implemented a Student Internship Program in collaboration with New Philadelphia City Schools.
 - One Junior or Senior Student
 1. Intern for 2019: Leah Harmon
 - Year-long school season: September 2019-May 2020

2. Completed writing and development of City Hall OSHA Safety Programs:
 - OSHA 100.00 – Blood Borne Pathogens
 - OSHA 101.00 – Emergency Preparedness
 - OSHA 102.00 – First Aid
 - OSHA 103.00 – Hazard Communication
 - OSHA 104.00 – Fire Prevention
 - OSHA 105.00 – Personal Protective Equipment
 - OSHA 106.00 – Housekeeping
 - OSHA 107.00 – Hand/Power Tools
 - OSHA 108.00 – Falls Prevention
 - OSHA 109.00 – Ladder/Stairs
 - OSHA 110.00 – Contractor Safety
 - OSHA 111.00 – Vehicle Safety
 - OSHA 112.00 – Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)
 - OSHA 113.00 – Electrical Safety
 1. Phase 2 for Year 2020: Develop training for these programs

3. Received Employee Safety Improvement Certificate from Tuscarawas Valley Safety Council
 - To earn this award, the organization must achieve at least 25% improvement in claim volumes and severity from the previous year.

4. Instrumental in hiring selection for Admin. Asst./Ambulance Biller for Fire Department
 - This position processes an annual revenue generation of approximately \$425K-\$450K.
 - This position will align the potential for increased revenue generation by processing claims for other entities.

5. Developed and Implemented a New Hire On-Boarding and Orientation Program

- Includes paperwork completion, safety training, orientation to the culture of the City of New Philadelphia organization, and tours of City facilities.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT – Director Ron McAbier

Service Director McAbier was instrumental in the City receiving over \$3 million dollars of grant money from the state and federal governments to fund major infrastructure projects throughout the City. He oversaw the completion of each project. Mr. McAbier also helped negotiate new three year contracts with the City's AFSCME bargaining units.

Major projects in 2019

- State Route 416 and Waterworks Park Boat Ramps –\$787,000 in Clean Ohio grant money received in 2018 was used to pay for construction of the boat ramps, which were made from environmentally friendly articulated concrete pavers. Docks were installed, and parking areas and gravel driveways were built at both locations.
- Paving State Route 416 through New Philadelphia – 3.13 miles of roadway was resurfaced from the corporation limit on Commercial Avenue SE, up Broadway through the downtown square, to the corporation limit on North Broadway. Full depth concrete repairs were done on the South Broadway viaduct to Front Avenue. ODOT funded \$842,000.00 of the million dollar project.
- West High Avenue and Bluebell Drive NW Traffic flow - New signals and pedestrian crosswalks were installed by the Ohio Department of Transportation. Lane changes were also made to help the flow of traffic through the intersection. ODOT funded the entire \$171,581.00 project.
- New Cemetery Construction/Phase 1 – Road layout, base materials and storm drains were installed at the Delaware Drive SE location.
- Southside Community Park/ Phase 1 – Project engineering was completed. 75% of Phase 1's plan was finalized. The City received over \$2 million in state Clean Ohio, Natureworks and Capital Budget grants for the project.

Local Construction and Improvements

- Lawver Construction began development of its Deerfield community allotment at the intersection of Carrie Avenue and 2nd Street NW. The infrastructure was installed to accommodate 25 residential housing lots.
- Menard's Incorporated completed its construction and opened its new store at the end of Bluebell Drive NW.
- Harry Clever Field Improvements – Construction of a new 12 bay hangar on Delaware Drive was completed. A concrete walkway was installed around the new hangar. Occupancy began in May.

- Verizon began construction of a new retail store on West High Avenue.

Re-zoning of Properties

City Council approved the rezoning of several properties in the northwest section of the City following the recommendations of the City Planning Commission.

- Industrial Zone to Business Zone Parcels – 15 parcels on East High Avenue starting in the area of the 2200 and 2300 blocks, including the Quaker Dome; 5 parcels in the 300 and 400 block of Canal Street SE; several parcels and city blocks abutting the area around the old Zimmer building on Kaderly Street NW.
- Residential Zone to Business Zone – 5 parcels in the 1200 block of Kaderly Street NW and the 400 block of Carrie Street NW owned by Pace Landscaping; 2 parcels in the 1200 block of Kaderly Street NW owned by HRN Construction.

The Board of Zoning Appeals - Seven meetings were held in 2019. Nineteen variance requests were granted and three were rejected.

Building Permits

The following permits were issued in 2019:

- 8 new single-family homes
- 4 duplexes
- 138 additions to residential homes
- 9 new commercial construction buildings
- 12 garages or carports
- 157 miscellaneous permits for signs, certificate of zoning compliance, lot splits/combine lots, concrete construction, licenses and taps into city infrastructure.

Tree Planting and Trimming

21 trees were planted in areas throughout the City. 88 trees were removed while 200 others were trimmed. Because of the efforts made to care for the City's tree canopy, New Philadelphia was given a Tree City USA designation for the 33rd consecutive year.

Sidewalk Replacement Program

12 residents were approved to participate in the program.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Specialist Jeff Erb

The capacity of City Hall servers was increased to meet the requirements of software upgrades in several departments. Firewalls were updated to provide more robust intrusion detection and data protection.

A program was implemented to prepare all departments with Microsoft Windows 7 computers to upgrade the operating systems to Windows 10. The upgrades will be completed in 2020.

Plans got underway to assist with the build out of a fiber optic cable network between all municipal buildings. The high-speed network will give City departments the bandwidth necessary to increase efficiency, productivity and data security. It will also allow for expansion into future computer and communication technologies.

Mapping Information: The local Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps were updated to include the Beaverdam Creek study provided by Kent State University. The last update of the flood maps was in the year 2010.

Airport – Harry Clever Field

The City continued to make improvements and necessary repairs at the municipal airport. Perhaps the most important was the application that was approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation - Aviation for replacement of outdated PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) lights. The project was put out for bid and will be underway by the spring of 2020. Also, at the airport in 2019:

- A new approach was published for renumbered runways #15 & #33
- Replaced the concrete floors in silver T- hanger bays #2 & #14
- Replaced the windows in the Airport lobby
- Installed new LED lights and main doors on the Green hanger off of East High Avenue

ZONING AND BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATOR – Mike Scolati

With the City implementing the International Property Maintenance code in 2018, my office has been able to improve the handling of non-compliant zoning violations of properties, the condition of properties and the filing of foreclosures on properties. Going forward the City Service Department will continue its effort to explore different avenues to improve property value and growth in our city. Starting a new decade and year in 2020 will present challenges for the City, but my office will continue to serve the citizens with the upmost respect and service.

In 2019 letters were drafted and mailed to property owners who were in violation of City Codified Ordinances for having conditions such as high grass, overgrown shrubs and trees, property needing cleaned up, and property owner's failing to obtain a building permit for work being done on their property. Over the past four years, I have aggressively moved forward to file foreclosures on abandoned or neglected properties. I also drafted letters ordering owners to tear down their properties that were in dilapidated, unsafe condition. With the adoption of the International Property Maintenance code in 2018 our office has been able to more effectively enforce property conditions and violations. My office continues to explore many different avenues to help encourage owners to maintain clean properties.

In 2019, 19 property demolition permits were issued to owners who paid to have the structures torn down.

VIOLATIONS FOR 2019 — (Total of 96 letters sent out!)

12 – Bush and tree branch encroachment letters

11 — Property clean up letters

24 – Building code letters (no permits)

49 – Grass and bush letters:

3 - Billed for Grass Mowing — Paid	\$ 1,065.00
2 - Billed but Liens Placed - Unpaid	\$ 1,910.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,975.00

FORECLOSURES AND DEMOLITIONS FOR LAST FOUR YEARS BY CITY:

- 2 – Ordered demolition of property, torn down by owner (1 commercial, 1 residential)
- 2 - Properties the County foreclosed on and auctioned off with encouragement from the City. Both structures were torn down by the new owner.
- 2 - Properties foreclosed on by the City of New Philadelphia. The \$2500.00 filing fee for each was returned by the County following the Sheriff’s auctions.
- 1 - Property Foreclosed and Demolished by the City. A lien of \$4,416.00 was applied to the property’s deed. The \$2500.00 filing fee was returned by the County following the Sheriff’s auction.
- 1 - Property Demolished by the City at a cost of \$ 6,597.00. The \$2500.00 filing fee was returned by the County.

TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT \$16,013.00

GENERAL SERVICES – Superintendent Ray Grewell

Street Department

In 2019 the City made a major investment in the Street Paving Program, spending \$498,682.00. That total included the City's 20% match required for the State Route 416 project. Another \$26,845.00 was spent to purchase 447 tons of hot mix asphalt to fill pot holes.

1000 tons of salt were ordered for the 2019 – 2020 winter season at a cost of \$86,549. This was only half of what we ordered last year thanks to a mild winter.

Sanitation Department and Recycling Program

In 2019, the Sanitation Department picked up 10,346 tons of garbage and 490 tons of recycling materials. 1075 extra trash pick-ups were made.

Bull Country Compost hauled a total of 46 twenty yard hoppers of brush to be recycled.

Improvements and Purchases

The following improvements and purchases were made in General Services in 2019:

- New siding was installed on the large garage/utility building at a cost of \$26,845.00
- Purchased a Steiner mower to more safely mow steeper hills in the City.
- Purchased two plow trucks.
- Purchased a new sanitation truck
- Purchased a new recycling truck with a \$75,000.00 grant from the Stark-Wayne-Tuscarawas Solid Waste Management District.

WATER OFFICE/WATER FILTRATION – Superintendent Scott DeVault

It was a busy and productive year for the City's Water Department. Department personnel continued improving all aspects of the department, including improving the accuracy of our GIS Mapping System, improving the Asset Management Program, and improving our Inventory Program.

In 2019, the Water Department completed many improvements to the City's Distribution System. Reservoirs off of Ridge Rd. were cleaned. Improvements to the Distribution System included Hydrant Replacement, Valve Replacement, Service Connection Renewals, New Taps, New Mains, and New Service Installations across the City. Distribution System personnel eliminated 1335' of deteriorating 2" galvanized water main in 2019.

The City's Water Plant continued efficient production of safe, clean drinking water to the residents and businesses of New Philadelphia. Water Supply Personnel worked with contractors to maintain the wells and high service pumps. All wells and high service pumps are maintained on a schedule, and are up to date.

The following report shows the operation of the City's Water Office, Water Supply, and Distribution System departments in 2019.

2019 WATER DEPARTMENT IMPORTANT STATISTICS

WATER OFFICE

JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF SERVICE CONNECTIONS

SPRINKLING METERS	392
WATER ONLY ACCOUNTS	170
SEWER ONLY ACCOUNTS	14
ACH ACCOUNTS	1371
WORK ORDERS	2317
AMR WORK ORDERS	26

8099 - ACCOUNTS INSIDE CITY

218 - ACCOUNTS OUTSIDE CITY

8317 - TOTAL ACCOUNTS

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

WATER SUPPLY

JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

PUMPED FROM WELLS	877,514,846	GALLONS
PUMPED TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	803,650,406	GALLONS
CHLORINE USED	4,886	POUNDS
PERMANGANATE USED	973	GALLONS
SALT USED	5,553,240	POUNDS
CARBON DIOXIDE USED	128,900	POUNDS
TOTAL HOURS OPERATIONAL	5,948	

WATER DISTRIBUTION WORK STATISTICS

JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

LEAKS MAIN	LEAKS SERVICE	NEW SERVICES	RENEWED SERVICES	NEW OR REPLACED HYDRANTS
37	42	38	39	27

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

WATER DISTRIBUTION

REPLACED 11 - 6" MAIN VALVE
REPLACED 1 - 12" MAIN VALVE

INSTALLED 13 - NEW 6" MAIN VALVE
INSTALLED 1749' OF NEW 6" WATER MAIN

WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT – Superintendent Brian Myers

The wastewater treatment facility is designed to treat flows up to 4.5 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) and has a peak flow of 10.5 MGD. We treated 1.24 billion gallons, averaging 3.42 MGD, with an efficiency of 97.9% in organic removal and a 96% 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. The 2019 total was 253 dry tons.

Improvements at the waste water treatment plant included:

- A complete rebuild of the U.V. system was done to ensure the proper treatment to the waste stream was achieved.
- A new SCADA monitoring system was purchased for the treatment plant and lift stations.
- A new door was installed in the press building allowing access to the back of the filter press along with a new sludge pump and 2 new backflow preventers.
- The digester building had a new roof installed over it.
- 20 led pole lights were installed throughout the treatment plant.
- A new blower was purchased for the aeration tanks.
- A new pump was installed at our Honey Valley lift station.

Sewer Department

In 2019, the sewer department raised 39 manholes throughout the city with 26 of them being on Broadway, they rebuilt 19 catch basins and raised another 12 catch basins. 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 23 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 3 outfalls. Used the jetter to help water replace hydrants and services along with multiple leaks throughout the year. Helped with work at the new cemetery site, the new airport hangers and the park. Cleaned out the ditch on 2nd NW and also N Broadway. Graveled 3rd Dr. N.W. Helped Scolati with multiple jobs. Plowed snow. Mapped all new sewer laterals with Jeff Erb. Continued work on the storm water management and FOG programs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jim Parrish

2019 was an exciting, yet challenging year in the New Philadelphia Fire Department. With the awarding of the SAFER Grant worth \$879,542.00 six (6) additional firefighter/paramedics were hired and another firefighter replaced due to a retirement. All seven (7) firefighters were out of orientation by the end of January and on shift.

The Fire Department responded to 3,204 calls in 2019, which was 341 more calls than the 2,863 calls we responded to in 2018. I attribute this increase to us having more staff on duty, thus allowing us the ability to respond to more calls because we are more available.

We took delivery of a new ambulance in May of 2019, and now have three (3) fully equipped ALS Paramedic units in service to serve our community.

Our firefighters received 750 hours of training on duty during 2019. 29 of our staff are certified as EMT-Paramedics and completed 696 hours of EMS training as well. Our SRT Medics completed an additional 288 hours of training as well.

I could not be prouder of our officers and senior firefighters who stepped up and trained our seven (7) new firefighters. Training our staff is a priority to me and we will continue to train daily. Training is part of our Lieutenants' daily duties.

In the Fall, we initiated the process to take over our ambulance billing. Smith Billing has done our ambulance billing since 2011 and has served our City well. In October, Denise Phillips joined our staff as our new Administrative Assistant/Ambulance Billing Specialist.

There were 56 tours of the Fire Department in 2019, not including the Annual Fire Prevention Week Open House.

In conjunction with Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital, our department trained 43 people in Hands-Only CPR. It continues to train anyone who is interested on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

In July/August, we had our ISO (Insurance Services Office) Public Protection Classification evaluation. I am happy to report that we again improved from a PPC of 3 to a PPC of 2, effective 2/1/2020. While this is quite an accomplishment, I will not be satisfied until we achieve a PPC of 1. We are currently the only PPC Class 2 Fire Department in the county. There are 1597 PPC Class 2s in the country.

Fire Prevention Bureau Activity

Our Fire Prevention Bureau led by Lt. Mike Pearch continues to make an impact on the safety of our community. In 2019, it conducted:

- 929 fire safety inspections

- 329 re-inspections
- 3 day care inspections
- 6 foster care inspections
- 1 group home inspection
- 48 activity inspections
- 15 fire drills
- 13 fire extinguisher demonstrations.

In summary, 2019 was a very busy year for the Fire Department, both in handling an increased call volume and improving our service delivery model. The progress of our Department is directly attributed to the dedicated men and women who serve our City and Community every day, providing excellent fire suppression and emergency medical services.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Mike Goodwin

The prescription drug take back box continued to be well received by the community. It had to be emptied every other week with approximately 50 pounds at a time.

As of December 31st, 2019, the police department handled 12,837 calls to service. There were 927 traffic accidents, 1,595 traffic citations and 1,645 criminal arrests. 225 cases were sent to the Tuscarawas County Prosecutor’s office for felony review. The City jail housed 343 prisoners in 2019.

The number of drug-related cases handled by the New Philadelphia Police Department last year were as follows:

Trafficking in Drugs	2
Trafficking in Drugs prepare	4
Trafficking in Drugs included in Schedule I or II	7
Trafficking in Drugs included In Schedule III, IV, or V	1
Trafficking in Drugs containing marijuana other than hashish	1
Trafficking in Drugs containing cocaine	3
Trafficking in Controlled Substances (Spice, Bath Salts)	1
Illegal Manufacture of Drugs or Cultivation of Marijuana	1
Possession of Drugs	20
Possession of Drugs schedule I or II substance	58
Possession of Drugs schedule III, IV, or V substance	10
Possession of Drugs marijuana	13
Possession of Drugs cocaine	13
Possession of Drugs heroin	14

Possession of Drugs hashish	2
Possession of Controlled Substance (Spice, Bath Salts)	5
Possessing Drug Abuse Instruments	47
Permitting Drug Abuse vehicle commission of felony drug abuse offense	1
Permitting Drug Abuse premises commission of felony drug abuse	1
Drug Paraphernalia	6
Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia	15
illegal Use or Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	47
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	4
Offenses Involving Counterfeit Controlled Substance possess	1

Security service was provided to the Tuscarawas County Library, the KSU-Tusc Performing Arts Center, and to New Philadelphia High School sporting events.

Four new in-car cameras were purchased for police cruisers. The Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association helped the department secure a \$10,000.00 grant to purchase four more of the cameras. All of the department’s front-line cruisers are now equipped with the new camera units.

K9 police officer Pete retired from service on July 29th. His replacement, K9 officer Diesel, started his work duties with Sgt. Michael Pierce the following day.

Monies collected by the Police Department in 2019

Parking Ticket Fines	\$ 24,324.28
Traffic Ticket Fines from Municipal Court	\$ 13,954.54
Housing Prisoners	\$ 1,320.00
Court Ordered Forfeiture	\$ 3,145.00
Donations	\$ 14,156.40
Traffic Control	\$ 955.00
School Resource Officer from NP Schools	\$ 43,800.00
DPS Funds	\$ 7,292.40
Court Appearance Funds	\$ 960.00
TOTAL	\$118,507.22

City Jail Demographics for 2019

Male Population	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Total for Row
Under 18yo	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-29	95	6	19	0	0	120
30-39	99	11	17	0	0	127
40-49	61	4	3	0	0	68
50-59	21	0	0	0	0	21
60-69	6	1	0	0	0	7
Over 70yo	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	282	22	39	0	0	

The New Philadelphia Police Department was honored to have Captain Paul Rossi selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia and participate in its world renowned 11-week training program.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Superintendent Rod Miller

The City’s park system expanded in 2019 to include two new locations along the Tuscarawas River. Also engineering plans got underway to construct a nature conservation area at the Southside Community Park. Fishing at the Tuscora Park pond was opened to handicap persons thanks to a donation from the Rainbow Connection. Here are the improvements made at City parks in 2019:

Tuscora Park

Despite the cool, rainy start of the summer season, Tuscora Park had another great year in 2019. Over 19,000 people used the park pool, generating \$75,388.00 in sales. The rental of the park’s covered shelters and dining hall generated \$32,612.00 in revenue. The rides and concessions operated by RTY, Inc. produced \$40,000.00 in revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Rainbow Connection’s board of trustees donated \$14,000.00 toward construction of a fishing pier with wheelchair access on the east side of the park pond.

Waterworks Park

The house and cement block building on the former Riverview Welding site were razed to make way for construction of a parking lot and boat ramp. The ramp gave canoeists, kayakers and fishermen access to the Tuscarawas River for recreational purposes.

State Route 416 Boat Ramp Park

A parking lot and boat ramp were constructed at the former Carlisle Canoe Livery location on State Route 416, which was purchased by the City in 2018. It too was created to give easier access to the Tuscarawas River for outdoor recreation.

Southside Community Park

The design of Phase One of the park's expansion project was altered to meet new requirements of the Ohio Public Works Commission's Clean Ohio grant program. The new design shortened the new access road into the park from Oldtown Valley Road. The location of parking lots, a pollinator garden and a dog park were also changed. Construction of Phase One is expected to begin in the spring of 2020 using a \$1.8 million Clean Ohio grant.

The Parks and Recreation Board took the following action in 2019:

- Re-elected Mike Ernest as board president, Jan McInturf as vice-president and Phil Tidrick and Bill Morgan as co-secretaries.
- Approved the prices for rides operated by RTY, Inc.
- Approved the placement of a plaque on the Rotary Boardwalk that recognized donors to the project.
- Approved a policy that requires leagues and tournaments to obtain permits for usage of City fields.

CEMETERY DEPARTMENT – Superintendent Kelly Herron

Construction of the City's new cemetery on Delaware Drive SE began in the fall of 2019. Students of the Buckeye Career Center's adult heavy equipment and construction program did the site preparation for phase one of the project. A new department office building and maintenance garage will be built on the site in 2020. The grand opening of the new cemetery is planned for the fall of this year.

The work performed by the Cemetery Department in 2019 included:

- From January 1, 2019 thru November 30, 2019 service was provided for 99 burials. 59 were full burials, 40 were cremations.
- 18 veterans' markers were installed at grave sites
- In the East Avenue and Evergreen cemeteries, 14 grave sites were sold.
- 38 truckloads of leaves – about 30 tons – were removed from the City's cemeteries.
- Planted six trees on the new cemetery property on Delaware Drive SE.
- Started the bidding process for completion of a maintenance garage at the new cemetery.

The City Cemetery Board revised and adopted new rules and regulations for City cemeteries. It was the first revisions of the rules and regulations since the 1960's.

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT – Administrator Vicki Daniels

The Income Tax Department finished strong in 2019. Outstanding delinquencies were reduced. The department finished the year with a 4% increase in total revenue above 2018. It was a testament to the dedication of the department's staff. The staff found new ways to improve efficiency. Implementing collections with the Ohio Attorney General to reduce income tax delinquencies, was just one of these improvements.

Taxpayer delinquency dollars have decreased by 40% from the previous year. The decrease, in part, was due to the vigilant letters written by the tax department holding businesses and taxpayers accountable. The Income Tax Department sent approximately \$25,000.00 to the Ohio Attorney General for collection since August 2019. Of this \$25,000.00, the Attorney General has collected approximately \$1,800.00 from delinquent taxpayers. Going forward, collection parameters of the Attorney General will allow New Philadelphia to recoup a good portion of the delinquencies.

In 2019, the City had 187 "opt in" businesses with the Ohio Department of Taxation. Certain businesses who earn income within the City limits had the option of filing their net profit returns with the State of Ohio instead of directly with the New Philadelphia Tax Department. The City did not experience a decrease of net profit tax revenue in 2019. Since 2019 was the first year of this program, there was much confusion surrounding businesses who "opted in". The net profit impact of this option taken by these businesses is yet to be determined in 2020 for New Philadelphia.

Looking ahead to 2020, the Income Tax Department will improve communications between other City Departments and other municipalities. The communication is key to accurately and efficiently collect and assess income tax liability. The Income Tax Administrator also will attend the Ohio Municipal League's Income Tax Seminar in July. This offers the chance to network with other municipalities and learn of different views to effectively review income tax returns. The Income Tax Department will also be sending additional difficult-to-collect delinquencies to the Ohio Attorney General to increase tax revenue.

CONCLUSION

The City's achievements in 2019 were the result of the skill and commitment of our employees: members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1958, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Firefighters Local 1501 and the non-bargaining department heads and their staffs. Our City is blessed with employees who are experts in their respective fields and truly care about the welfare of our citizens and the future of our City.

Our journey together through the year 2020 will bring many changes to the way we live our daily lives. Throughout that journey there will be one constant: the City administration, City Council and all City employees' determination to lead New Philadelphia through the COVID-19 crisis. It is an honor to serve you as the Mayor of New Philadelphia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel B. Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Joel B. Day, Mayor