

2021 Village of Pleasantville Year End Review

During the 2021 year, the Village had many challenges presented. Challenges such as lower revenues due to the pandemic, income tax revenues being down about 26% (when compared to 2020), and materials increased in cost drastically. Because of these challenges, the Village has had to look at ways to cut back on spending and look at alternative ways to purchase materials needed to ensure the Village residents, and the services provided by the Village, are not directly impacted. During most of 2021, we operated with only five council members, as no one had (or has yet to) applied for the open seat that was vacated earlier in the year.

The 2021 year also brought positive things to the Village – things such as the lifting of mandatory face masks which allowed your Village pool to operate as it has in the past while still being cautious and asking patrons to social distance. The 1st Annual Pleasantville Music and Food Festival was successful in raising funds for Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio. The event also gave residents and families the opportunity to gather in the park, enjoy great music from various artists and sample some local food vendors. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2022 event. The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch with Santa were both able to happen again.

At the Water Treatment Plant, the Village continues to upgrade, repair, and improve to ensure quality drinking water is delivered to residents. Wells #3 and #4 were both refurbished at a cost to the Village of \$25,000. Electrical and mechanical parts in the plant are being updated as needed. The filtration system had minor repairs performed as-well-as new pancake valves installed.

Lincoln Avenue Phase I Storm Drain, Sidewalk Replacement project was started and is nearing completion. The total project cost was well over \$300,000 – this amount was funded by Village funds as-well-as Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant funds.

West Columbus Street Storm Drain, Sidewalk Replacement project was awarded by OPWC at an estimated cost of \$400,000. Again, this project will be funded by the Village and by OPWC and construction is set to begin in the Spring of 2022.

The Village submitted a grant application to Ohio Department of Natural Resources and was awarded funds to upgrade the diamond at Otte Park. This Otte Park Baseball Diamond Upgrade Project has an estimated cost of \$60,000. The grant is 75% reimbursable which means, the Village's estimated cost will be \$15,000 and ODNR will reimburse the Village \$45,000 for the project.

The Village Municipal office was moved to 101 S. Main Street allowing easier access for customers and providing protective barriers for residents and employees from possible COVID exposure. The Village took its first step towards building our technology infrastructure to allow flexibility for future pandemics. This includes installing a server with remote access and upgrading the council room with video recording and sound recording devices. All of these changes and upgrades are so that we (the Village) can better serve the public, protect our employees, and ensure that the business and the continuity of local government can be performed even when faced with a pandemic or emergency that would, as in the past, shut down the government.

The Village has been working with Pleasant Township Fire Department to improve the ISO Rating for the Village. With improved communication and implementation of asset tracking, we were able to improve our ISO score from a 5 to a 4. This change could potentially reduce insurance costs for Village residents.

Looking forward to 2022, we already have in place, a strong plan to improve the Village and continue building on our success. We have applied for OPWC funds for Pearl Street storm drainage and sidewalks. We will be applying for funds to develop a "Safe Routes to School" plan through ODOT. The Village will also be competing for local CDBG grant funds that could potentially total \$800,000 that will be invested in our parks, pool, and community center. There will be public hearings and input sessions in 2022 so that residents can voice opinions and ideas to help decide what projects will be funded. Please stay tuned for these session dates and times within the upcoming year.

The Mayor has been working with ODOT to start the process for future construction of sidewalks and other improvements on Main Street. It has been identified that in order to make these repairs and start new construction, the Village needs to clean up right of ways. The mayor and his staff will continue to work with ODOT to apply for funds to correct right of ways on Main Street and allow for the Village to move to the next phase of improving Main Street.

We look forward to 2022 and to continuing to make Pleasantville a great place to live and grow.

