

VILLAGE OF HOLLAND MAYOR'S REPORT 2022

January 3, 2023

This annual report highlights activities in 2022 during a much welcomed year of return to normalcy in the Village of Holland. Notable changes in personnel, added improvements in technology and continued efficient delivery of services kept everything moving forward. The most valuable resource the Village has, continues to be, the support of its residents and business along with the experience and effort of the staff and Council.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Councilman Nate Gaubert joined Council late in 2021 and served the Village for 2022 in his first full year of service. At the other end of the experience/service spectrum, Councilman Roger Burditt, who has served Holland in a variety of positions since 1978 (council, fire service, fire officer, finance chairman, plan commission) delayed his Council retirement and accepted an appointment to a vacated Council seat for the next two years. Another experienced Councilman, Terry Nachtrab, who was elected to three full terms, resigned after many years of service due to health problems. Justin Hoen, the manager of the local nursery and landscape center and resident of Kipling Drive was appointed to finish Councilman Nactrab's term. At the January meeting, Ryan Spangler was elected President of Council and renewed appointments were made for Councilmen Scott Brown, Mike Bettinger, and Mr. Gaubert.

The Police Department also saw several personnel changes. Patrol officers Morgan Schumann and Marc Cerda resigned and moved to other police service. Sergeant Troy Major, who served in Holland for many years resigned and is now an officer in a neighboring community. Two part time officers, Charles Kessinger and Aaron Weise also left the department. We thank all these individuals for dedicated service. 2022 saw three new officers recruited and hired to full-time status. Colin O'connor, Alexander Tonjes, and Richard Smoot join the department as fully certified officers and are now on duty completing their specific Holland training and probationary period. Recruiting as a continuing priority of the department continues.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The daily operation of the Police Department, led by Chief Bob Reed and Lieutenant James Piotrowski, continues with assured protection, peace keeping and traffic enforcement in the Village. The Council's safety committee and department staff have completed a complete full year examination and review of all department policies. This has resulted in needed improvement and full compliance with national LEXIPOL standards and a renewed and continuing certification by the Ohio Collaborative for Law Enforcement.

Technology upgrades in police operations and record keeping and report filing are ongoing. Major equipment investment in vehicle upkeep and purchase of a new patrol vehicle were budgeted items. The new Durango is readied for January '23 service. The year also saw the replacement of all the aging officer service weapons with new ones. Taser replacement and repairs to the speed control trailer were also completed.

EMERGENCY AND FIRE SERVICE

Fire and emergency rescue services in the Village are handled by contract with the Springfield Township Fire Department. Assistant Chief Dave Moore reported to Council at the January meeting and outlined the staffing of the 71 member department and the specific services they provide. He described the training level of all personnel and the updated equipment and excellent service they provide. The Village is well served by the \$153,750.00 investment in the safety of our community. Chief Moore also gave a power point presentation into all other services and activities the Fire Department provides. The number of calls for service in the Village continues to grow to the 500+ incidents annually. We continue to be impressed and grateful for the quality of service provided.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

During 2022 continuing through 2023 the Village works with Poggemeyer Design Group for engineering services. Presently, projects include evaluating the needs and conditions of the streets and right of way in the Whisperwood neighborhood as well as planning for resurfacing of McCord Road from Kipling to Angola. Actual construction for both these projects looks to be in the 24-25 timeline, so long as planning is complete in 2023. Council was host to a community meeting for comment on Whisperwood improvements and consideration is ongoing. Over the past summer months, work was scheduled to work around the needs of the Springfield Schools schedule, to resurface Hall Street from Holloway to Kittle Road at the stadium. This also included limited tree removal, sidewalk repair, and resetting manhole tops in the immediate area. All was completed on schedule with some, but minimal, residential inconvenience.

Private commercial construction projects were approved for a Jiffy Lube on McCord Road and a "Mod-Wash" subscription car wash in front of Menards.

VILLAGE FINANCE BUDGETING

The Village of Holland remains in a strong and healthy financial position thanks to our stable and solid resource base. Our revenue accounts enable us to work on long range planning (like our 25 year street upkeep plan) while at the same time be able to meet immediate needs, without moving from one emergency to another. We continue with a policy in budgeting of spending less than we receive in revenue to allow for unforeseen needs. Our general fund expenditures for 2022 were \$3,607,485.00 .

For 2022 our employees were rewarded with a 3.0% wage increase with no change in individual contribution to benefits or health plans. All essential employees who helped keep the Village operating through the full declared coronavirus pandemic received bonus awards through grants from the American Recovery Act, so long as they served through the crisis and were currently employed in the Village when bonus was paid. Calculated adjustments were made.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

The Village continues to be served by Republic Waste Management through contracted service manage through the Lucas County Solid Waste District. Our annual cost of \$95,140.00 ensures weekly refuse and recycling at curbside for residential customers, as well as a once a year unlimited curbside pick-up for the residential stops. There is also a supplemental service (at minimal additional charge) for scheduled large item pick-up. Republic service has been largely well accepted with them, as provider, being responsive to communication and requests from the Village offices. Our Village services will continue the drop off into provided dumpster in the maintenance yard as a seasonal scheduled service for garage and yard clean-up. Actual yard waste disposal continues south of Toledo Airport on Maumee Western Road.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Village maintenance staff continues to offer high quality municipal services. The snow plowing, ice treatment, and road upkeep remain priority. Leaf collection and help with storm debris are addressed as needed. The staff also is responsible for all building maintenance of all Village facilities as well as upkeep of vehicles and mechanical/needs. Response to citizen complaints or requests continues as priority number 1.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Strawberry Acres Park continues as the center for a variety of community activities. The latest brilliant holiday lighting displays are on display for the whole community. Summer movies in the park, our preschool trick or treat, and or Christmas "HOLLANDAYS" are all planned supported and enjoyed on a community wide basis. Particular interest in jogging, walking, pickleball, train watching, or team sports attract many people to all our facilities. The reputation our rental facilities enjoy is proven by their near constant reservation requests.

An underused but great activity we are proud to promote is our partnership with the Holland Springfield Spencer Historical Society and their use of a Holland building for their museum at Clark and Front Street across from Railroad Park.

CONCLUSION

All of the observations of this brief report are simply a snapshot of the Village of Holland and the things that make it a very special place. The items listed, and I am sure several unintentionally left out, represent the efforts of dedicated staff, elected officials, and a supportive resident population. As Mayor, I am proud to serve and offer sincere gratitude for everyone's contribution.