

FOCUS ON DANBURY TOWNSHIP 2017 YEAR-END REVIEW

By Dianne Rozak, Danbury Township Trustee
www.danburytownship.com

Our staff of dedicated employees continually performs a huge amount of work for residents as well as visitors. Road Superintendent Brett Waldron and his employees do an extraordinary job of keeping parks, roads and township property in excellent condition. The department handled 28 funeral services; coordinated brush grinding and leaf drop off; distributed free mulch; held three successful clean-up weeks; maintained parking areas, lawns and ball fields at six parks, cemeteries and the shelter house; performed maintenance on buildings and equipment; oversaw the repaving of Quarry Road, Buck Road and the Buck Road extension and did crack sealing and berming; attended training sessions; coordinated election set-up and again participated in Wreaths Across America. To date 300 tons of salt has been used due to the severe winter weather.

The police department, managed by Chief Michael Meisler, has eight officers and K-9 Officer Joe-Joe. They provide protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with seven marked and two unmarked vehicles. Total incidents were 4,652. The department handled 20 incidents inside the Village of Marblehead and 233 within Lakeside. K-9 Joe-Joe assisted with 29 drug searches, 9 building searches and 4 tracking situations. He was also involved in 32 training events. Police incidents with high amounts of attention included house watch requests, alarm calls, lockouts, suspicious persons or vehicles, traffic complaints, animal complaints and verbal traffic warnings. The department is located at 419 S. Bridge Road where residents may use a secure document shredding service and bring unwanted prescriptions for disposal. Call (419) 732-2549 to make arrangements for these free services.

The Danbury Township Fire Department, led by Chief Keith Kahler, reported 851 incidents detailed as: 707 EMS calls, 37 fire calls, 43 motor vehicle accidents, 54 fire alarm activations and 10 carbon monoxide activations. 759 patients were transported. Our new Sutphen pumper was put in service early in the season and one ambulance was converted to a rapid intervention truck. The dollar value of fire losses totaled \$440,800 and, of that number, \$402,000 resulted from four boat fires. The department roster totals 47.

The Danbury Township Zoning Department, overseen by Kathryn Dale, AICP, continues to be the center for residential and business growth and expansion. Cheryl Harmsen, also the Safety Coordinator, assists Kathy. 245 permits were issued which was 8 less than last year. Single family home permits totaled 28 and commercial activity was high with 17 new commercial structure permits compared to 7 in 2016. Overall revenues increased and residential improvements continued in large numbers including additions, porches, decks and accessory structures. These permits are evident of people retiring to the area and making improvements instead of starting anew. The Board of Zoning Appeals heard 24 cases and the Zoning Commission heard 6. A massive undertaking for the

department was the completion of the Land Use Plan update. The department responded to 6,830 calls, emails and in-person inquiries and went on 965 site visits.

For 2018 the trustees continued their relationship with Workplace Resources for an employee assistance program; an expiring 1.5 mil Fire and EMS levy will be placed on the May primary ballot as a replacement levy; the general fund will be reviewed closely; township-wide newsletters will continue to be provided to residents; our website www.danburytownship.com will be upgraded; three clean-up weeks will be held and the trustees will again volunteer their time for the fifth-annual Dog Show on May 20 to benefit the Humane Society. Training for new BZA and Zoning Commission members will be held and implementation of goals established for the Land Use Plan will be addressed. Police will replace at least one vehicle, pursue resurfacing of the department's parking lot and exterior security lights will be upgraded to LED. The Road Department will review township roads to determine resurfacing needs and again provide seasonal mulch distribution to residents.

I would like to thank my fellow trustee Charles Scott for his years of dedicated service to the township. Effective January 1 we welcomed John Paul Dress who will join Dave Hirt and me as trustee. Fiscal Officer Carolyn Adams has been working diligently to keep the financial side of township business up to speed and in compliance. We are all working very hard to meet the continual growing needs of your township. We wish you a safe and productive 2018. Please do not hesitate to call any of us with your questions and ideas.