

FOCUS ON DANBURY TOWNSHIP - 2019 YEAR-END REVIEW

By Dianne Rozak, Danbury Township Trustee

www.danburytownship.com

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As we move forward into 2020 the staff at Danbury Township continues to excel at meeting the needs of our residents and visitors. Road Superintendent Brett Waldron and his employees do an extraordinary job of keeping parks, roads and township property in superb condition. The department handled 18 funeral services, purchased new fencing for the side and rear of Sackett Cemetery, hosted the annual Wreaths across America ceremony and mowed and trimmed the cemetery forty times. Township resident "free mulch days" were held at the brush drop-off site and one professional grinding of branches, leaves and limbs was done by Universal Farms. Leaf drop-off continues to be a well-received program. After the successful passage of the general fund levy the township clean-up weeks were reinstated. New rules were instituted and the three clean-ups were very successful, efficient and safe. The department spent 494 hours mowing township properties exclusive of many hours of trimming. Dead or hazardous trees as well as brush in the township road rights of way and parks have been removed and ditches were monitored and cleaned as needed and as a preventative maintenance measure. Four roads were paved, crack sealing was completed, yearly preventative maintenance was done on township buildings, new heating and air conditioning was installed in the meeting room and hallway and the athletic field fencing was updated. An additional 300 tons of salt was obtained through the ODOT state purchasing program, a grant valued at \$18,000 was awarded by ODOT to replace all signs, posts and hardware, the staff attended a pavement preservation course, was re-certified for pesticide application and continues to be responsible for set-up and teardown at voting locations.

The Police Department, managed by Chief Michael Meisler, has eight full-time officers and one K-9 named Kalahan who is handled by Officer Brian Sloan. Our officers provide protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with seven marked and two unmarked vehicles. The officers drove 130,152 miles patrolling during 2019. Total incidents were 3,600. The department handled 10 incidents inside the Village of Marblehead and 173 within Lakeside. K-9 Kalahan assisted with 7 drug searches, 1 building search, 7 training events, 2 demonstrations and 19 assists to other agencies. Police incidents with high amounts of attention included alarm calls, lockouts, traffic complaints, assisting Fire and EMS and verbal traffic warnings. The department has a regular presence at Danbury Schools where a patrolman is available at certain times in an office provided by the school. The DARE program is taught by Officer LaMarca who conducts the classes with elementary students throughout the year. The department is located at 419 S. Bridge Road where residents may use a secure document shredding service and bring unwanted prescriptions for disposal. House watch and senior watch are two other services provided by the department. Call (419) 732-2549 to make arrangements for these free services. The township's recycling bins are located on the south side of the police department property.

The Danbury Township Fire Department led by Chief Keith Kahler reported 862 incidents detailed as: 697 EMS calls, 40 fire calls, 40 motor vehicle accidents, 58 fire alarm activations, 4 carbon monoxide activations and 23 mutual aid calls. 700 patients were transported. The department roster totals 47. The department recently purchased property

to build a central fire station. The property is located on the south side of State Route 163 just west of the N. Shore Blvd. intersection. Architectural planning is currently underway for the new station. Fire and EMS staff meet every Monday evening for training, department updates and continuing education sessions.

The Danbury Township Zoning Department, singularly overseen by Kathryn Dale, AICP, continues to be the center for residential and business growth and expansion. 239 permits were issued which was 17 less than in 2018. Single family home permits totaled 27 (three less than the previous year) and commercial activity yielded 11 new commercial structures and additions (three more than in 2018). Residential improvements continued in large numbers including additions, fences, porches, decks and accessory structures. This points to the continuing trend of retirement to our area with improvements versus starting anew. The Board of Zoning Appeals heard 31 cases and the Zoning Commission heard 6, both of which were increases from the previous year. The office responded to 7,119 calls, emails and in-person inquiries, went on 885 site visits and sent 63 violation letters. There were no abatements and two municipal court proceedings were held. Mrs. Dale works in conjunction with businesses seeking to locate or expand in the township and also works closely with commercial and residential developers, business owners and residential property owners to design projects that will add to the township's economic, environmental and social well-being. In addition, she is in regular contact with the trustees to recommend and research the abatement of abandoned and dilapidated structures as the general fund budget allows.

Township newsletters are published three times a year – spring, summer and fall. They are always available on the township's website along with other current information. Our website is www.danburytownship.com. The March primary will see a 2 mil police levy on the ballot. A current 1.5 and 1.0 mil levy will be eliminated if the 2 mil levy is passed. The Road Department will review township roads to determine resurfacing needs and again provide seasonal mulch distribution to residents.

Trustees John Paul Dress and Dave Hirt join me in wishing everyone a safe and productive 2020. Fiscal Officer Carolyn Adams continues to work 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. Please do not hesitate to call any of us with your questions and ideas.

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