



Village of Jackson Center

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Looking Back 2017 / Looking Forward 2018

It has been an exciting and busy year in the Village with many projects either completed, underway, and some just starting. Some may be getting tired of reading about all the Villages accomplishments during 2017, but not me. I could go on and on all day about the great things that have taken place. I feel very honored to have been a part of these projects that have enabled our Village to grow and be prosperous. I am looking forward to an equally exciting 2018.

The Village also saw changes in the personnel in several departments. Lt. Chuck Wirick was sworn in to serve as the next Village Police Chief on October 23rd. Water and Wastewater Superintendent, Kevin Sailor retired after serving 43 years with the Village Water and Wastewater Departments. Plant Operator, Braden Lotz was promoted to fill the position of Superintendent. Drew Sosby was hired into the Water and Wastewater Departments on January 1st as an apprentice. Also hired was Dwaine Sosby to serve as Parks Superintendent. This is a new position created by Council to maintain the expanding Village Parks.

The Village was saddened by the loss of several former longtime employees, Richard D. Sailor the Villages first Administrator; Rosie Mullen, Utility Clerk; Bob Mitchell, Street Department; and Marvin Rostorfer, Village Council and Board of Public Affairs.

Project Bambi, the new traffic signal on West Pike is complete and in use. The nearly \$600,000 cost for this project was shared by ODOT, Jobs Ohio, Airstream and the Village.

The beautiful School Project is wrapping up and with this, the Village has completed the Davis, Linden, and South Street Project. The 1.384M dollar project included new water main, new storm lines, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, light poles and asphalt. The Village was very fortunate to be able to do this project in correlation to the building of the new School.

Casey's General Store broke ground in June and opened its doors January 2018. The Verizon tower has been erected just north of the Village limits on property owned by Dennis Lotz and was completed in November. NKTELCO purchased 533 North Main Street and has installed a Fiber Hut for lines coming into our Village with the hopes to start installing lines in 2018.

The first phase of the new park is nearly completed. Irrigation is being installed on the soccer fields, trees are planted, and grass for the fields will be sown in the spring. The \$200,000 project was constructed with \$182,647 of grant funding and the remaining was a match of \$17,353 from the Village. The Village received an additional grant for the trees in the Park. There were 56 trees planted and funded by a \$14,169 grant received from EcoSmart Choice. The additional \$14,922.24 was Village funds.

The detention/retention pond behind Airstream is complete with the exception of the installation of a pump to pump down the retention portion of the pond. The 4.5-million-gallon pond is 2.4 mg (million gallon) detention (drains on its own) and 2.1 mg retention (needs pumped out). The \$220,000 project was constructed with \$180,000 of grant funding and \$40,000 was Village funds.

Construction is now finished on the Village Solar Field. The 2.34 MW Solar Field was started in October by Next Era Energy. The project is part of the AMP Solar Phase II Project. AMP (American Municipal Partners) has teamed with Next Era Energy to build up to 80 MW of solar electric generation facilities. The Solar Field is located at the end of Jerry Drive, directly behind Airstream. The 9-acre site will be made up of 6,894 solar panels harvesting the power of the sun. The Village will be receiving about 20% of the power produced from the field. The extra power produced will be put back on the grid for other AMP communities in the Project. The Solar field will produce enough energy to power approximately 280 homes. The Solar Field started producing power on December 20th.

2018 is already off to a very cold, but fast start for the Village. The Electric Department has added some new temporary poles on West Pike for the re-routing of the electric lines so ODOT can replace the culvert this spring. Work is expected to start in March and be completed in July/August. The School and the Village are applying for a grant to help in the cost of paving the new track and walking path at the School and to finish the paving of the walking track in the new Park.

The Main Street Enhancement Project will commence this year. The Project will involve new traffic signals at Main and Pike Streets along with new crosswalk lights. These lights will match the new lights put up at Airstream Drive. Also, new decorative poles and LED street lights will replace the existing High-Pressure Sodium



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lights along Main Street. The projected \$745,800 project will be funded by the Transportation Alternative Program. ODOT will fund 95% of the Project with the Village funding the remaining 5% or \$37,290.

The Village will be purchasing the 533 N Main lot from NKTELCO for the land to build a new substation for the Village. The new growth in our Village has increased our electrical load. The Village has hired GPD Group as our Design Engineers for the \$2.78M Project. Work should be completed by April 2019.

The Village will be constructing two new tee ball fields at the Wally Byam Memorial Park this spring. They will be located at the site of the existing soccer fields. With the soccer fields being moved to the new Park this opened this space for these fields. Work is expected to begin this spring with games played on the fields this summer.

The Village is as looking at constructing a new Vehicle Storage Facility for the Village crews. The Village owns a 3 acre lot on Washington Street where the approximately 13,000 square foot building will be constructed. The \$1.5M Project is hoping for a late spring, early summer start.

Work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project is continuing, the new building is now complete and work will begin on the inside of the new Lab portion this year. Work is continuing on the clarifiers and work to start soon on the Scada system. New pavement will be the last part of the project and we are looking forward to that part of the project.

This will be another busy year for the Village and the Village Crews. It won't be long until I will be doing this for 2018/2019 newsletter. So take some time to stop and smell the flowers and Smile 😊.