



2020 Annual Report

Washington Township



Welcome To More

Washington Township in southern Montgomery County, Ohio, offers the best of all worlds - award winning schools, vibrant and affordable neighborhoods, abundant activities, and a strong sense of

place. Our mission is to provide for and promote the general health, safety and welfare of Township residents and employees as we create an environment focused on building for the future.



Established In
1796

26,000
Households

31 Square
Miles

22%
under the
age of 18

A Message from the Board of Trustees



Sharon Lowry
Trustee President

Every year brings change, but the year 2020 brought changes beyond our wildest expectations. Collectively, we could not have imagined that a global pandemic would impact many major decisions made by residents, businesses and public organizations. As your Board of Trustees, we are proud to serve you - the residents and businesses of Washington Township.

Despite the unprecedented changes and challenges, it was still a productive and exciting year for the Township. We offer this annual report as a way to share progress and provide highlights on projects and initiatives that happened in our community throughout 2020. As Washington Township continues to grow, it remains important to us to provide transparency, engagement, and a high level of customer service to our residents. Thank you for making Washington Township the best place to live, work and play!

Sharon Lowry
Trustee President

Scott Paulson
Trustee Vice President

Dale Berry
Trustee

Gary Smiga
Fiscal Officer

Jesse Lightle
Township Administrator



Development Services

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- In early 2020, elected officials attended the official ribbon cutting for the new SICSA Pet Adoption and Wellness Center. We are proud to have them as part of the Washington Township family!



- The first ever virtual Township Business Breakfast was held in October with local businesses receiving video updates, virtual networking and prizes.
- A resolution was passed that permitted businesses to temporarily utilize outdoor dining areas during the pandemic. The Board is considering extending that resolution through 2021.

Overview

The Zoning and Development Services department works directly with residents and businesses to approve permits, proactively identify zoning violations and work with potential developers on residential and commercial site plans. Zoning inspectors can often be found driving through the Township and visiting homes and businesses, offering assistance, enforcing Washington Township's zoning resolution and answering questions.

585
Zoning
Permits
Issued

31,000^{sq ft}
Expansion of
Ohio's
Hospice

25%
of New Development in
Montgomery County
Happened in the
Township

2020 Summary

Home improvement projects were incredibly popular in 2020 with 585 total zoning certificates issued for fences, decks, home additions and more. Throughout the year, the department focused its attention on assisting business owners and helping them understand and adapt to the changing landscape of the pandemic. Washington Township continued to be a leader in Montgomery County with 25% of new residential developments happening in the Township. Noteworthy projects included the Washington Glen development, which will bring 255 single-family homes to Yankee Street along with turn lane improvements and expanded multi-use trails in the south end of the Township.

Development Services staff remained committed to helping businesses navigate the challenges of 2020 by offering comprehensive and efficient services to the community, while observing guidelines from the State of Ohio for the health and safety of residents. Staff worked with local restaurants to allow outside dining and local churches to allow outside worship, all while responding to a record number of zoning certificates for a wide variety of property improvements and construction. This high level of activity continues into 2021.

2021 Plans

A new multi-family residential development is currently being planned for McEwen Rd, between I-675 and Washington Square Apartments. The condos would be intended for purchase and would include 37 total units.

Plans are also moving forward for the much anticipated United Dairy Farmers (UDF) on the corner of Far Hills & Whipp Rd and residents can expect to receive updates about that project throughout 2021.



**Proposed Multi-Family
Condominiums on McEwen Rd.**

The Development Services department has several major initiatives underway including an overhaul of their comprehensive plan and updating the streetscape enhancement guidelines. As part of the comprehensive plan update, the Township will be working to rewrite the current zoning codes over the coming year with a more customer-oriented approach.



**Elected Officials & Township
Administrator at SICSA Grand Opening**

The Township is currently undertaking a refresh of their Streetscape Enhancement Guidelines so that entrance way corridors and commercial corridors can be enhanced and improved. Connectivity would also be included in these improvements.



Ohio's Hospice Expansion

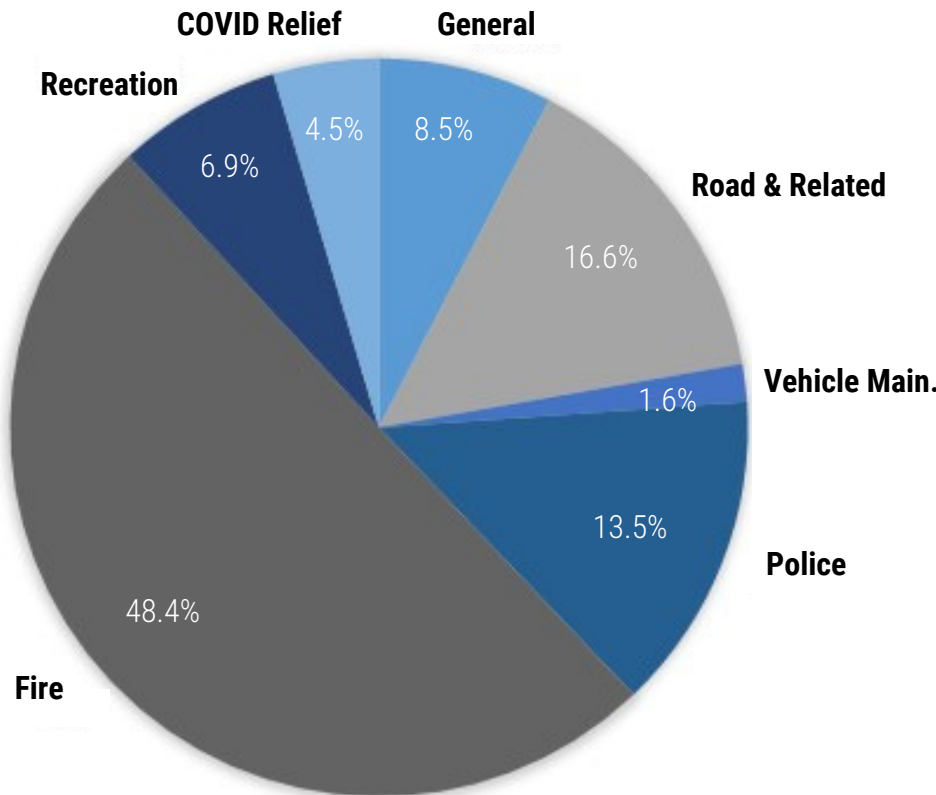
Finance Department

Overview

The Washington Township Finance Department falls under the direction of the fiscal officer and Township administrator and covers a variety of responsibilities including record retention, payroll processing, the annual budget and more.

2020 Summary

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Washington Township remains in solid financial shape at the close of 2020. Access to coronavirus relief helped cover the expenses needed to ensure safe working conditions for staff and visitors to the RecPlex and administrative buildings while the finance team continued to operate at the highest level, providing full transparency with accounting practices that ensured we continued to be good stewards of taxpayers funds.



2020 Total Revenue: \$36,584,359

MESSAGE FROM THE FISCAL OFFICER

A foundation of trust is built on transparency, particularly as it relates to finances. This is a value that our staff takes very seriously as our budget, meeting minutes, and online checkbook are always available for residents to review.

The finance team maintains a five year budget that acts as a roadmap and ensures accountability, financial forecasting and helps to control costs.

2020 marked the 30th consecutive year that the Township has received highest rating available from the State Auditor's Office. This means there were no material problems found in the Township's 2019 financial statements and accounting practices. A clean audit doesn't happen on its own and I am incredibly proud of our finance team for this achievement.

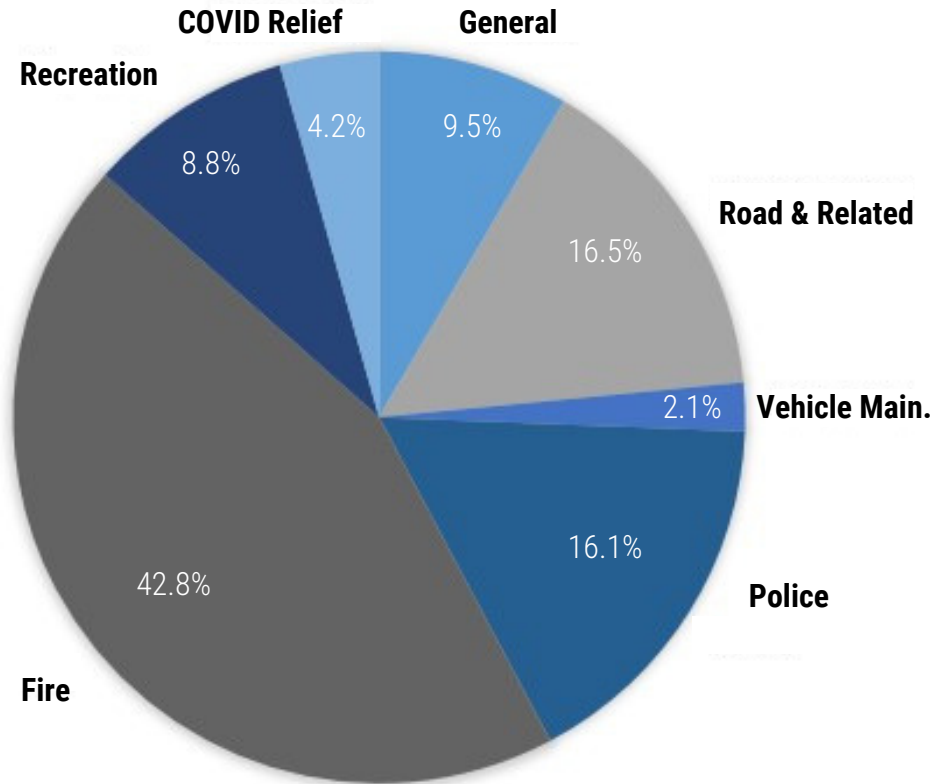
Gary Smiga | Fiscal Officer

Revenue

The main source of revenue in Washington Township comes through property taxes. In 2020, the largest portion of revenue increase came from new millage for fire department services that voters approved in 2019. This revenue will be used to fund new full-time positions and build a new fire station to replace Station 41. The Township form of government continues to be highly responsive to residents because most revenue comes from property tax levies which must be approved by voters.

Expenses

Aside from the General Fund, Washington Township's budget operates using restricted funds, meaning the money in that account can only be used for the designated purpose, and nothing more. This graph depicts those expenditures for 2020. In working toward fulfilling its levy promise to voters, the Fire Department hired 14 new full-time firefighters in 2020.



2020 Total Expenses: \$28,716,983

Where do your property taxes go?

Many public entities are funded by property tax. The graph below shows how Washington Township's property tax factors in to the overall tax bill paid by residents in the unincorporated portion of Washington Township. The residential effective rate for incorporated Washington Township residents is 90.64. Property tax is based on the value of a tax payer's property and the amount of millage voters have approved. A mill means 1/1,000. Therefore, each mill generates \$1 of taxes for every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value. Of the ten mills assigned by the state, Washington Township has been allocated 3.05 mills from residents of the unincorporated area and .7 mills from the incorporated area. The rest is voter approved.



- 53% School District**
- 19% Washington Township**
- 18% Montgomery County**
- 4% Sinclair College**
- 3% Library**
- 3% Park District**

Mike Barlow | Finance Director

Fire Department

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

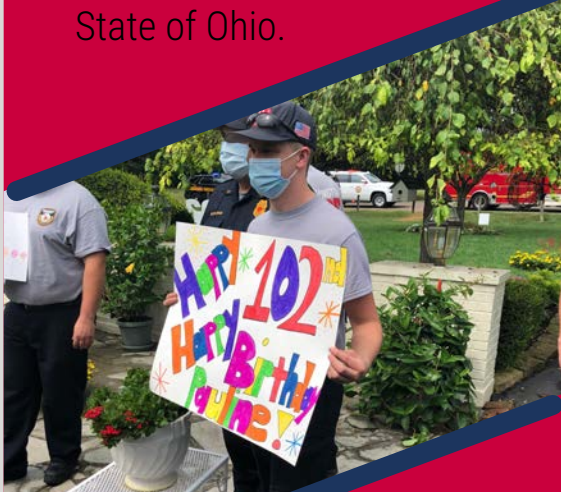
- Hired 11 new firefighters, 1 battalion chief & numerous part-time staff.
- Awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase self-contained breathing units.
- Highest number of credentialed officers in the State of Ohio.

Overview

The Washington Township Fire Department remains the only accredited fire department in the Miami Valley and one of only nine in the State of Ohio. The department provides emergency services to Washington Township and City of Centerville residents, businesses and visitors. These services include fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, operations-level hazardous materials mitigation, and other community risk reduction services. Our fire department prides themselves on utilizing the best industry practices to ensure the highest level of service is provided to our community.

2020 Summary

The department's primary focus of 2020 was our response to COVID-19. Weekly incident action plans were developed outlining our response mode during that operational period. Collecting data and following up on patient outcomes helped us continually evaluate where we stood with our response to the pandemic. Securing PPE, cleaning products, and assuring safe working environments were a top priority. Our COVID-19 response team, which included all chief officers, did an excellent job assuring we were doing what needed to be done to protect our community and staff.



13

Part Time
Firefighters

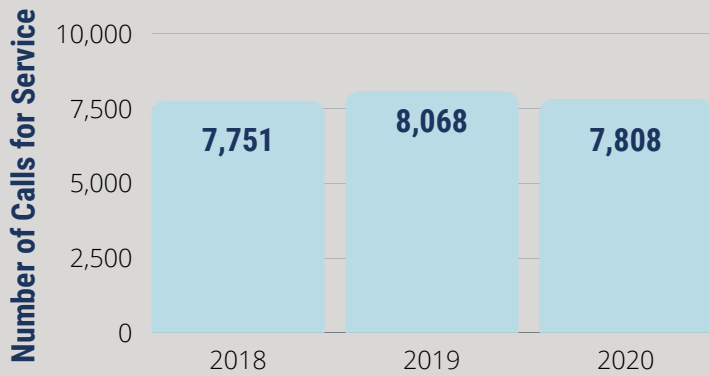
69

Full Time
Firefighters

5

Stations





Professional Development

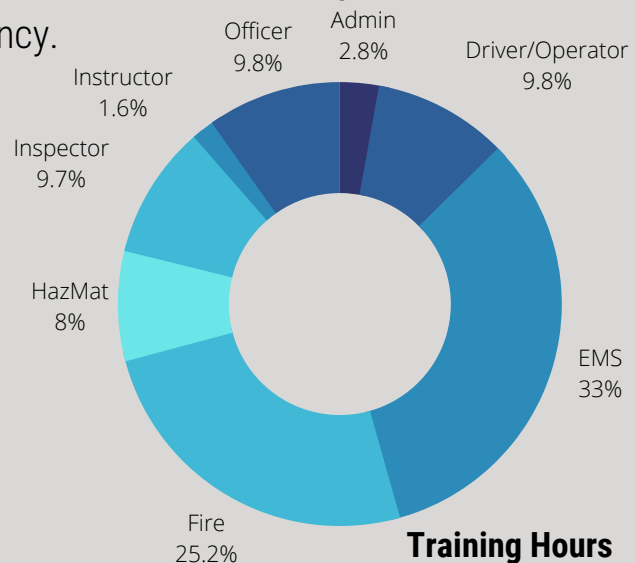
Professional development goes far beyond the traditional fire and EMS training that typically occurs in the firehouse. Our members realize the importance of professional development and the need to obtain it for future promotions. The department has incorporated specific professional

development criteria in its succession plan so that our members are fully aware of the requirements to promote. We had several members complete their degrees ranging from Associate's to Master's. As a fire department, we hold 12 credentialed officers - the most in the State of Ohio. This demanding process recognizes the professional accomplishments and technical competence of fire and emergency services officers.



Training

Our training division is assigned to a battalion chief who oversees all training and education for the department. The division utilizes three training lieutenants, the department's 36 fire instructors, 16 EMS instructors, and our fire marshal to provide training to approximately 100 firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and fire safety inspectors. Training is a vital aspect of our operational programs and the introduction of new concepts advances the safety and effectiveness of our members during emergency incidents. Training for all disciplines includes scenario-based drills designed to enhance individual, company and multi-company skillsets and proficiency.



Scott Kujawa | Fire Chief

Training Hours

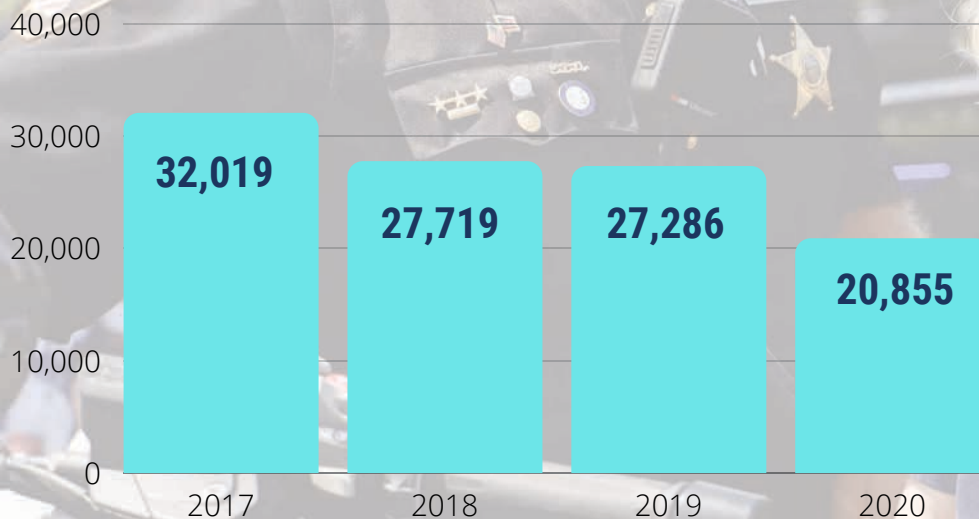
MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Washington Township Substation

Overview

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office provides full police services to Washington Township residents through a cost effective contract with the Board of Trustees. This enables residents to benefit from the service and expertise provided by a large department and to negotiate the level of police services appropriate for the community. Washington Township continues to rank among the lowest in per capita expenditures for police services among south Dayton communities.

Number of Calls Per Year

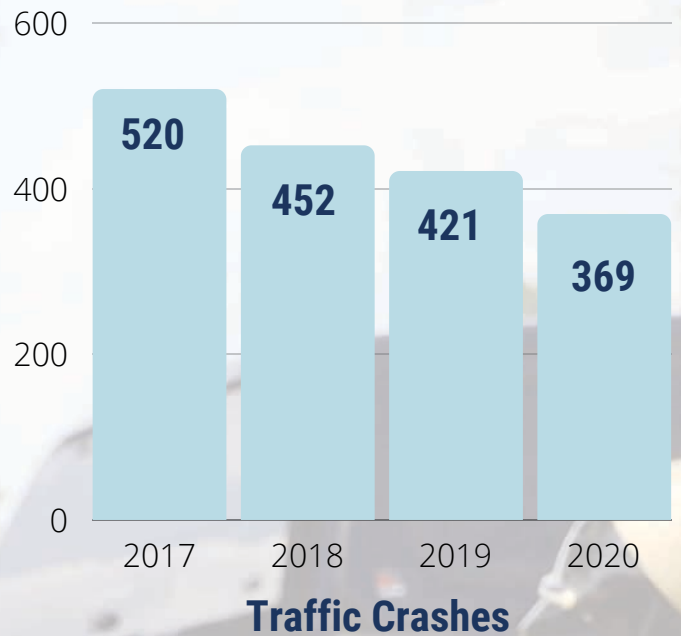


2020 Summary

The most significant crime increase in 2020 was in identity theft crimes including fraudulent credit cards, cell phones and online purchases using a victim's information. While home security and business assessments were mostly put on hold, the pandemic couldn't stop the substation from continuing their community outreach efforts. The community resource trailer was used multiple times to deliver school lunches while children were attending school virtually in partnership with Centerville City Schools. Funds were raised by the substation to purchase lunch for several local hospital emergency departments and Deputies "adopted" a graduating Centerville High School senior, presenting her with a gift card and basket full of items to congratulate her. Finally, MCSO assisted in the Township's Super Saturday events where they collected unused prescription drugs for safe disposal.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- With 67.5% in favor, Washington Township residents approved a 2.3-mil police services replacement levy. Thank you, residents!
- MCSO partnered with a local, non-profit, community behavioral health agency to provide resources to residents experiencing mental health crises. This Crisis Intervention Team program has proven to be incredibly effective.
- Although many community events were cancelled, Deputies held their popular 'Coffee with a Cop' event in early March before the shutdown occurred. The event was well received by the public.



Traffic Services

Traffic safety is one of the Township's top priorities. Overall, 2020 saw a decrease in traffic-related incidents, which could be partially due to less people on the road because of the pandemic. Friday's were the busiest days for traffic crashes, accounting for 70% of all crashes. MCSO has a Deputy Sheriff dedicated to traffic services who oversees accident reports, OVI training, reconstruction and mapping and more.



32

Deputy Sheriffs

33

Years of Advanced Meritorious Accreditation

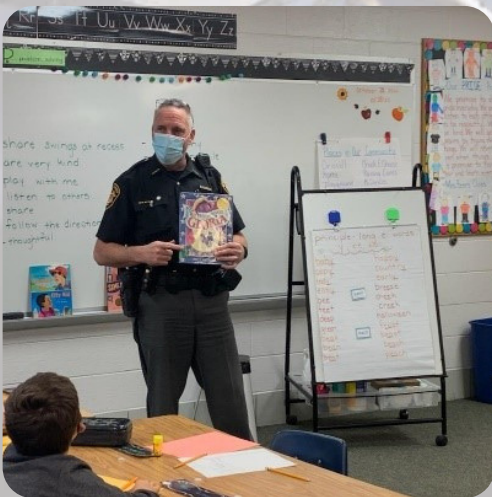
98

Residents Assisted Through CIT Program

School Education

The School Resource Officer oversees nine schools in Washington Township and educates students on alcohol, actions versus consequences, social media safety, drug awareness and prevention, anger management and more. The SRO also assists with counseling sessions, safety drills, child custody issues, child welfare, truancy issues, school bus safety and more. With in-person classes postponed, the SRO participated in virtual education programs and continued to meet regularly with school officials to advise on a number of issues.

Mike Brem | Police Captain



Public Works

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved software helped the department document & itemize vehicle repairs and labor costs while detailed monthly reports enhanced record keeping.



- Over 2,300 miles of roadway cleaned by the street sweeper.
- A mild winter brought only 8 inches of snow and crews plowed and salted roads on only eight days.
- 19 burials & 11 cremations performed and 1 veterans plaque was placed.

Overview

The Washington Township Public Works Department oversees the construction, improvement and maintenance of Township roads, sidewalks, traffic signs and signals, curbs, gutters and storm sewer system. The department also leads the Township's Super Saturday events, leaf pickup, snow removal, beautification efforts and maintenance of six cemeteries. Crews maintain public flower beds and landscaping while also clearing snow from parking lots at the RecPlex, fire stations and administrative buildings.

2020 Summary

The essential duties and services provided by the department continued throughout the pandemic in 2020. Two Super Saturday events were held with an average of 800 cars attending each event. Additionally, crews began implementing the early phases of landscape updates in concert with the Township rebrand including new median planters and refreshed flower beds. Finally, the Street Improvement Program resurfaced approximately eight miles of public roadway and replaced more than 14,400 feet of deteriorating curb.

877
Loads of Leaves

50,000
Pounds of Documents Shredded

14,400
Feet of Curb Replaced





Staffing

Staffing proved to be one of the greatest challenges posed by the pandemic in 2020. Traditionally, the department would hire seasonal part-time staff to assist during peak leaf collection season. However, given the risk of adding outside personnel to the crews, the department decided to operate independently, using only in-house staff. In a typical leaf season, crew totals averaged 26 employees. In 2020, they had 14 employees. This meant staff worked longer hours than usual however, the 2020 season went smoothly with crews continuously exceeding expectations. Additionally, while the RecPlex was closed in the spring, recreation staff were temporarily reassigned to Public Works to help with watering, mulching, and planting flowers.

2021 Plans

Similar to 2020, the Public Works department will be resurfacing 18 streets in 2021 for the Township's Street Improvement Program. This program focuses primarily on residential streets and includes curb rehabilitation, road resurfacing and sidewalk repair. Also, the continued implementation of the Township's Streetscape Enhancement project will remain a priority for the department throughout 2021.

Partnerships

Some roads and bridges in the Township are maintained by either the county or the state. When repairs are needed, the Township works collaboratively with our partners to notify residents, provide updates and participate in hearings. In 2021, the county is currently planning two bridge construction projects including Whipp Rd and Lyons Rd. While road construction can be inconvenient, the department's first priority will always be serving our residents and putting their safety first. Additionally, the Township is a full partner with local businesses who might be affected by the construction.



Recreation

Overview

The Washington Township RecPlex serves the residents of Washington Township and Centerville with a mission to build a shared sense of community for all by providing diverse programs in a safe and engaging environment. While 2020 posed significant challenges for the recreation department, staff prepared and implemented protocols unique to each program while continuing to strengthen community partnerships. Because of this preparation, the RecPlex holds the distinction of being only a handful in the region able to re-open all of its programs in full compliance with CDC directives on the dates permitted by the state.

6,221
Walk-Ins

12,088
Registrations

18,562
Appointments

2020 Summary

When a public health mandate closed the RecPlex on March 16, staff immediately began preparing for an eventual multi stage re-opening. CDC and state guidelines pertaining to capacity, session length, social distancing, face covering, sanitizing and COVID-19 testing were met, or exceeded, through modifications to the 33 acre campus encompassing the RecPlex, Enrichment Center, Town Hall Theatre and Countryside Park.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed the Strategic & Business Development Plan that provides a roadmap for the department for the next 5 years.
- Made 2 rounds of wellness calls to 3,760 patrons age 65 and older to ensure their well-being during the shutdown.
- Upgraded the department's RecTrac program management software after months of testing and training.
- Delivered meals and made weekly calls to over 125 homebound seniors through the STAR program.
- Operated a 12-week, full capacity, on site summer camp for 72 weekly participants in 9 separate sites.

Safely Serving the Community

Touchless features in restrooms, plexiglass shields in high traffic areas, motion activated entrance and restroom doors and sanitizer dispensers in multiple locations are just a few of the facility upgrades that the department implemented to ensure the safety of patrons throughout 2020.

180
Rec'ing Crew
Virtual Learners

Programming

The department worked alongside Centerville High School and the Sharks swim teams to safely host 5 swim meets while continuing to provide safe access to training facilities.

The expanded fitness center proved to be popular with over 11,000 visits while almost 300 patrons took advantage of the virtual fitness classes offered. While the Enrichment Center was closed, members had full access to the RecPlex and took advantage of the lap lane reservations, senior fitness classes, and walking track. Additionally, transportation services resumed in June 2020 and served 20 monthly riders. Town Hall Theatre seamlessly switched to virtual performances while also holding onsite classes for almost 80 participants.

Awards & Recognition

Town Hall Theatre received a \$1,000 grant from Ohio Parks & Recreation Association for their virtual programs. They were also awarded 3rd place in the Adaptive Programs category for the sensory-friendly performance of "Frozen, Jr". Ohio City Manager's Association presented the Award for Innovation in Local Government for the STAR program and the Outstanding Citizens of the Year award was presented by the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association to Arti & Hemant Garg for their philanthropic efforts on behalf of children and the RecPlex.

772
In-Person Camp
Participants

When schools moved to virtual learning in the fall, the RecPlex partnered with Centerville City Schools to run full day, onsite Rec'ing Crew programs for students in grades 1-5. As the schools pivoted between virtual and hybrid learning models, so did the RecPlex, initially offering daily virtual classrooms and moving to once weekly virtual classrooms for 180 total participants.

21,459
Visits by Enrichment
Center Members to
the RecPlex



Mark Metzger | Recreation Director

Community Engagement

Santa Tour

With traditional Santa visits out of the question in 2020, the Fire Department got creative. For two nights in December, a fire engine drove Santa around the Township to wave at all the kids. Routes created and times were days tour, all social media. from the and was truly



When the Woodland Lights festival had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, recreation staff quickly pivoted to "share the light" with the community. Staff placed decorations and vignettes at twenty different locations throughout the township and posted a map online so residents could enjoy the light displays from the warmth and comfort of their cars.

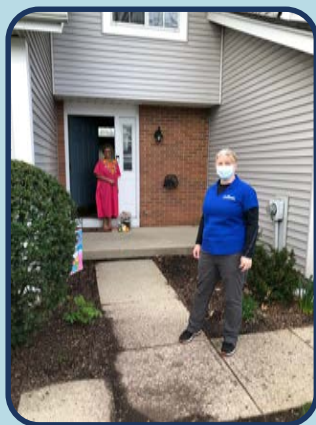
were approximate given in the preceding Santa's shared through The show of support community was overwhelming a bright spot in 2020.

Share The Light



Meal Delivery

In the spring, recreation staff delivered meals to Enrichment Center members who were part of the registered nutrition lunch program. Typically, members would come in once a week for a healthy lunch at the Enrichment Center but in light of the shutdown, staff took the meals to them! Additionally, the Washington Township Fire Department and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office assisted Centerville City Schools in delivering meals to students who qualified for the state's free and reduced-price meal program during the school closure. Although the pandemic made 2020 a difficult year, we found how just how strong our community truly is when we work together.



Mask Repairs

Town Hall Theatre staff spent hours helping the Ohio Department of Health repair faulty N95 masks at a time when PPE was in very short supply. Volunteers worked on repairing the masks at home and then returned them to the Health Department once they were fixed.

