

The Village of
HEBRON
Crossroads of Ohio
Where Our Paths Connect



A Message
from the Desk of
Mayor Mockus:
2023 Year End Report

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Introduction

After three years of trials linked to COVID and significant changes in team composition, the Village of Hebron wrapped up 2023 with the announcement of Microsoft's interest in joining our community. All areas of Licking County and the surrounding regions are faced with big challenges related to development, housing, as well as agriculture and culture preservation. Selected community members worked together with external experts to flesh out a comprehensive plan to address these challenges. The plan should debut soon to help guide our future work.



1 Photo Credit: Valerie Mockus

The overall state of the Village in 2023 was very good. I have provided reports from the leadership in the primary areas of service for your review.

It is uniquely my duty as mayor to report the state of the village and it is the duty of each of us to improve the state of the village. I hope you will continue to join me in our efforts to make better this a village we all love. Thank you each for all you do to make Hebron the wonderful place we know and love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Mockus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mayor Mockus

Economic Development

In the past year, our village has witnessed significant strides in economic development. Key achievements include onboarding our new Economic & Community Development Director, Brittany Misner, continued support of the businesses located in the industrial park, progress towards completion of the comprehensive plan, and investments of residential units and businesses. 2023 was a year of building strong partnerships across the county and state, and these efforts will continue into 2024. With convenient access to major transportation routes, dependable utilities, and a prime location within the Lakewood Local School District, Hebron stands out as an exceptional place to live and/or do business. At the heart of our vision is a commitment to sustainable growth while preserving the cherished small-town values that make Hebron unique.

Parks and Recreation

- Gutridge Electric installed two (2) light bars with three (3) lights each at Canal Park Softball complex.
- All bleachers at Canal Park were updated to code. We also purchased an aluminum bleacher for the softball complex.
- A new bridge deck was installed on the walking bridge by the softball complex.
- Seven new bluebird boxes were constructed and erected at Evans Park.
- At Evans Park, our department converted roughly 4 acres of open grassy area to wildflowers.
- The HASA (Hebron Area Soccer Association) expressed lack of parking concerns to me in mid-May. In June, PWD expanded their parking lot with asphalt grindings to give them an additional 20-30 spaces. The gravel lot was striped to create a total of 149 parking spaces.
- The flagpoles and shelter houses at Canal Park were painted.
- Dreams Excavating & Paving resurfaced the entrance of Evans Park, baseball complex parking lot, and the walking path around Evans Park.



2 Photo Credit: Valerie Mockus

Public Safety

The Village of Hebron has excellent public safety services to keep residents and visitors alike safe. The year of 2023 was our first full year with West Licking Joint Fire District. The average response time for a Hebron call for Fire/EMS was 2 minutes and 51 seconds.

Fire/EMS

Daily Staffing/Manning at Station 406

- Station 406 staffed with five (5) full time Firefighter/EMT daily (under previous fire jurisdiction, staffing was between 2 to 3 daily)

Marine 1 Water Division

- Added a 26' tri-toon with 225 Mercury outboard to the division allowing quick access and multiple victim staging/rescue. Also allows for mobile command on the lake vs. the shore.
- Responded to 7 calls on the lake.
- Worked BLASST and two Yacht Club events.
- Added/upgraded PPE for water incidents including four (4) full sets of water exposure suits and 4 new ice suits.

Station 406 run stats for 2023

- 524 runs in the Village of Hebron
- Station 406 responded to 1348 runs
- Rescue 406 responded to 785 incidents
- Medic 406 responded to 1193 incidents
- Station 406 responded to 20 reported structure fires within their first due district
- Average response time from time of dispatch to on scene in the Village is 2 minutes and 51 seconds.
- Station 406 provided mutual aid 285 times to surrounding fire departments
- Includes all stations in the District:
 - 15,216 times a district apparatus responded to an incident during 2023
 - 37 working fires within the fire district in 2023

Trainings Conducted 2023

- The list of these trainings would have likely not been available to the District if the Village of Hebron had not joined.
- Fire Extinguisher Training – local Hebron companies requested training on the proper use of Fire Extinguishers for specific types of fires within their specific industries.
- Hazmat Training – conducted at station 406 April 26-28, 2023
- Farm Rescue Training – conducted July 25-27, 2023 (Newark Advocate article link below)
- Auto Extrication Training – conducted October 11-14, 2023 (Jae's Towing supplied the District with 30-40 vehicles to use for this training)

<https://www.newarkadvocate.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2023/07/28/west-licking-joint-fire-district-holds-farm-rescue-training/12297564002/>

Police

The police department is currently down one full time officer. We recently hired Ryan Collins after council authorized our first lateral entry from another agency. We have added an administrative assistant position to the police department and are currently advertising for full time police officer on numerous social media sites. The police department is in the process of updating the cruiser fleet with in-car cameras. The police department purchased four flock cameras that have been used to solve several crimes. Calls for service were down when comparing to 2022. Crash reports were down over 2022 but citations increased. The department participated in several events such as drug take back day, trick or treat, and shop with a cop to name a few. We participated in a multi jurisdiction sex trafficking sting and we have experienced an increase in internet crimes investigations.



3 Photo Credit: Valerie Mockus

Public Works

Storm Water Projects

- Continued to pursue funding sources to address stormwater/flooding issues. Several fundings that have been awarded include FEMA Flood study (\$175,000), CDBG Critical Infrastructure to repair culverts at High and Broadway St (\$500,000), as well as CDBG planning grant (\$75,000).
- Waters St: A new catch basin and approximately one-hundred feet of 12" storm line was installed.
- Hopewell Lane: Worked with V3 Engineering, Village solicitors, residents and Pulte Homes to obtain easements for installing a new storm system on Hopewell Lane. 540' of 12" storm sewer was installed, along with four catch basins and yard inlets.
- Hamilton Avenue: We replaced approximately ninety feet of storm pipe between 117-113 Hamilton Avenue. There was a total blockage in the clay tile that caused flooding through the catch basins at Deacon Street.
- Staff repaired a compromised 15" clay tile storm line at 119 Maple Ave. that caused a 6ft. x 6ft. x 4ft sinkhole.

Streets, Highways, Curbs, Sidewalks

- Street Paving Projects: Dreams Excavating & Paving, LLC. was awarded the resurfacing projects in 2023. The following streets were milled and paved: Waters Street, Dennison Street, Buckeye Street, Hopewell Lane and Gutridge Lane.
- Throughout the Village, most street name signs have been replaced with the WHITE on BLUE signage. There are a few streets that we misplaced in the original order, but they will be replaced in the coming months.
- Staff used about six tons of cold-mix asphalt repairing and patching potholes.
- Working with Licking County Health Department "Creating Healthy Communities" and Toole Design, staff designed and produced a walking map of Hebron. This project was fully funded through the Licking County Health Department – Creating Healthy Communities department! Outdoor pamphlet holders are placed at the Green Space, Evans Park and Canal Park. Copies can also be picked up from the Municipal Complex.
- Premier Arborist Services removed three trees within the Village right-of-way. The trees posed an imminent threat to pedestrians and public utilities. The PWD crew also removed a hazardous Buckeye tree in the ROW at the southbound by-pass off ramp and E. Main Street.
- Deteriorated sidewalk at the corner of N. High Street. and North Street were replaced, with additional base was installed.

Cemetery

- Staff conducted six burials in the cemetery in 2023.
- Staff have been researching the process of producing grave markers for unmarked graves.

Downtown

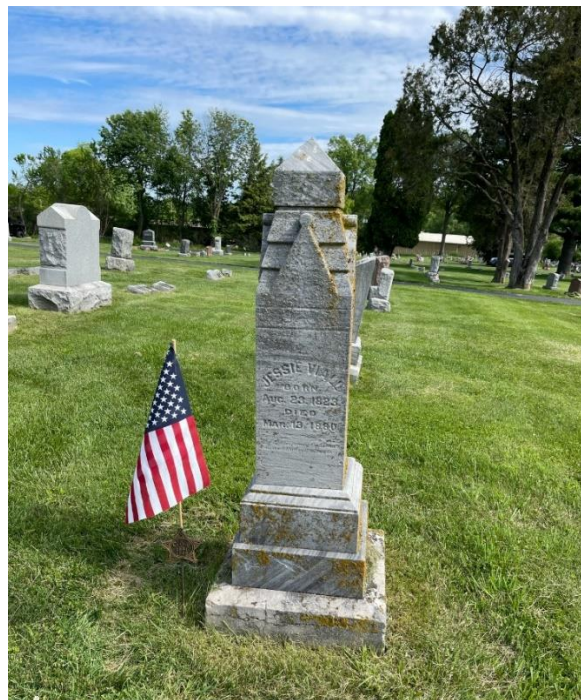
- Ten flower baskets were ordered from Wilson's Garden Center and installed in 2023. After a slight hiccup in flower quality and a swap from Wilson's, staff maintained the baskets and received numerous compliments throughout the year. Staff also ordered an additional ten baskets to be placed along N. and S. High Street for 2024.

Spring and Fall Village Clean-Up and Chipper Days

- Sixteen residents brought refuse items that completely filled up our 20-yard dumpster. We also collected seventeen tires and four dump beds full of chips. The Licking County River Round Up was also a success in 2023! The Village of Hebron had 33 volunteers, who collected 2,000 pounds of trash!

By the Numbers

- 66 tons of road salt
- 150 gallons of salt brine
- 1,029 gallons of vegetation control
- 27 gals of mosquito Adulticide control (fogging)
- 195 Natular Tablets (Mosquito Larvicide)
- 2,411 gallons of gasoline; 917 gallons of diesel fuel



4: Photo Credit: Valerie Mockus

Water and Water Reclamation

Water

The water plant produced a total of 194,084,000 gallons of finished water in 2023. System-wide water demand had decreased -17% compared to 2022 and -8% compared to the past 5-year average. Annual daily average production – 532,000 gallons/day.

- Approximately 25% of the facility's designed capacity.
- May was the highest production month – 17,494,000 gallons.
- February 13, 2023, was the highest single day production 1,085,000 gallons.
- November 24, 2023, was the lowest single day production – 290,000 gallons.

Water Reclamation

The WRF treated 227.404 MG in 2023 and removed 28.7443 dry tons of sludge.

- The department has also been working on updating the level sensors at the lift stations as well as updating the lift station pump and controlling component inventory.
- The cleaning and televising project of the villages' sanitary lines has been substantially completed and has been reviewed for defects.
- In March 2023, Keith Corwin was promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent and Devin Adkins is continuing to work towards obtaining his Class I wastewater license.

Service and Maintenance Activities

Staff continued to perform admirably on various assignments and tasks to improve the overall performance of the village's drinking water system.

- 762 – Responded to "811 Call Before You Dig," locate ticket requests.
- 207 – Completed Utility Billing Work-orders.
- Disruption of continuous water service – boil water advisory issued to residents due to emergency repair:
 - In front of 111 N. 7th St. – The cause was deteriorated fasteners on s 1 1/2" service tap saddle at the 4" transit mainline. Failure due to age or exceeded life expectancy.
 - In front of 515 E. Main St. – The cause was a section of 4" universal cast iron main line cracked and split close to pipe joint. Failure due to age or exceeded life expectancy.

Projects

- Water Hydraulic Model – is a computerized software tool that simulates the overall operation and analyzes the performance of the village's existing drinking water system. This model will be used to evaluate needed future improvements and impacts of proposed developments. –
- Survey & Detailed Design – Miscellaneous Waterline Replacement Improvements
- § Wooster Street, Maple Avenue, Broadway, Cully Street, S. High Street.
- Source Water Expansion Well #7 – Contract awarded to begin construction –

Others

- GIS System & Mapping
- Shawn Kolometz was promoted to fill the newly created Assistant Water Superintendent position and Cody Sanford was hired to fill the vacant Water Laborer full time position.

Financials

Fiscal Office

In summary of the year the following highlights should be noted:

- Interest rates rebounded for 2023, which showed an increase in interest revenue for the Village.
- Other revenues that I estimated also came in as expected or higher.
- Carryover fund balances for 2023 were strong and in line with my estimates.
- The 2023 overall appropriations served the Village's needs, and expenses were under the appropriated amounts for every fund.
- It is expected that the cost of supplies and the cost of operating will rise again in 2024.
- However, with continued care of spending and if revenue continues in the same trend as 2023, the Village of Hebron should be on track for another good financial year in 2024.
- The Fiscal Officer ended her role as the Interim Administrator at the end of 2023. During her time as the Interim Administrator, the operations of the Fiscal Office remained a priority and all responsibilities and deadlines were met.
- Growth is anticipated for the Village, which means our costs will grow as well. The projected growth for the Village of Hebron is promising and the Chief Fiscal Officer is looking forward to this trend and hopes to see many positives for the Village.

Tax Administration

The Income Tax Department closed the year with revenues at \$2.7 million. The tax revenues exceeded what we had anticipated for 2023. With the continued economic growth in the area, it is expected that revenues will continue to increase during the coming year. The Village Council recently passed legislation to make changes to the Income Tax Ordinance that will impact our filing requirements as well as administration and enforcement of our municipal income tax.

Legal

Over the past year, the Village has experienced an increased need for legal services due primarily to development in the area. Matters demanding increased legal involvement include the Microsoft data center, annexation and other land use issues, revision of the zoning code, bulk water sales and real estate purchase opportunities. These are in addition to the myriad of issues addressed in the normal operations of a municipality. The increased level of legal services will likely persist consistent with development.

The Village is involved in only one litigation matter, specifically Ohio Insurance Services Agency, Inc. v. OPEC-HC, Franklin County, Ohio Common Pleas Court, Case No. 18CV0007888. This case involves the failure of a public entity health insurance consortium. It has languished in the court system for nearly six (6) years. The Village's exposure is considered minimal.

The Village continues to be well served by sound, timely and practical legal counsel and advice from its Solicitor and his team, including engaged expertise specific outside counsel. In summary, the Village continues to function and thrive under the parameters of Ohio law applicable to statutory municipalities.