

2013 AT-A-GLANCE

The Village Council's biggest challenges of the year were the crucial need for a new **EARLY WARNING SYSTEM** as well as a complete **ELECTRICAL UPGRADE** to the Town Hall. These came with high price tags - **\$11,450** and **\$22,726** respectively. For the warning system, some relief was received in the way of donations from Dunkirk CIC, Blanchard/Dunkirk EMS, Northern Hardin County Fire Fighters, Ball Bounce Sport, and First Citizens National Bank. Also, a big thanks to the Ada Liberty Fire Department for supplying their ladder truck for the tower installation process. The electrical upgrades were paid up front by the Village with a small portion due by the Fire Department and being reimbursed in three annual installments. In continuing with building maintenance the **ROOF** was retreated and the exterior got a **TUCK POINT AND PAINT** job for a total of **\$3750** – in which 50% of the cost was covered by the Fire Department.

At the park there were several small projects, as well as some larger, completed through the year. The Closed Shelter House received a **NEW (USED) ELECTRIC STOVE, NEW WATER HEATER, UPGRADED ELECTRIC FOR THE 'SERVING' SIDE OF THE BUILDING**. The shelter is well on its way of replacing all wooden picnic tables with resin tables and chairs. This project has been largely supported by **MID OHIO ENERGY** and their Community Grants and will continue into 2014 until the seating side is all resin and the serving side has tables as well. A **FOURTH BALL FIELD** is being worked on as this is written. The **BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES** are reimbursing the cost of the **BACKSTOP** while the Village pays for the **SIDE LINE FENCING**. The cost of the fencing alone was quoted at **\$7,118**. We will still need to continue with outfield fencing and bleachers for 2014, but FO Spencer is on the grant hunt already!

About the village you can see **NEW TREES** thanks to a grant from the Hardin Community Foundation. **TILE JETTING AND REPLACEMENT** took place in several areas. The **RESURFACING OF ALLEYS** came in at a cost of **\$7870**. A **NEW MOWER** was purchased at a cost of **\$9579**. **MOSQUITO ABATEMENT** was performed at a cost of **\$3516**. We also managed to get involved in the Move Ohio Forward program to have **3 HOMES DEMOLISHED** at no cost to the Village or the owners.

In the water/sewer department, grant monies provided funding for **REMOTE READ METERS and NEW UTILITY BILLING SOFTWARE**. We can proudly state that we achieved **100% SEWER TIE-IN COMPLIANCE** of all occupied homes. Some abandoned homes have tied-in, with the balance being denied future service until properly tied-in. Be proud of this as many villages wait years for this accomplishment.

Given the struggling economy, beginning at the State level, I feel the Council and Board of Public Affairs tightened its purse strings and squeezed out some amazing feats this year! I want to thank you all for working together and listening to my financial opinion when needed. With 2014 in our sites, it looks to be a pretty calm year in the large project zone. Let's keep the good run going and aim high for 2014!