

STRIVING HIGHER

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Town Council

Mary Tanis
Bob Starkey
Eric Schultz
Steve Kramer
Alan Brooks

Town Manager

Tom DeGiulio

Clerk-Treasurer

Debbie Astor

Town Departments

Town Council Office
865-6108

Clerk-Treasurer's Office
865-2421

Public Works
865-4222

Police Department
865-1163

Fire Department
865-4226

Social Media

Follow us for
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Face-
book.com/TownOfDyer

From the Desk of the Town Manager

Every month I write to you about what is going on in your Town. This month's newsletter gives us an opportunity to look back on what was accomplished last year. So much of what local government does for its customers (residents) and travelers go unnoticed. Many other things we do we want to be visible and very public. That is the way we want it to be.

We always enjoy seeing that we have a safe community as determined by the various groups that rate communities. An excellent school system is critical for our future and our Fire Department is well equipped and will soon upgrade its facilities.

You expect clean water when you turn on your tap and when you flush or drain water it goes into the sanitary system without issue. In order to accomplish these services, we spend millions of dollars storing, distributing and pumping potable water and collecting and treating sanitary waste. Residents always rate storm drainage as a high priority. It is also a high priority in our infrastructure programs. When you look at a street you generally see a roadway, curbs and sidewalks. What you don't see is the three utilities I just spoke about. The three underground utilities can increase the cost of an infrastructure improvement by 40-55%. We cannot do a street improvement without looking at the condition of the underground utilities. The underground infrastructure often drives the priority of construction scheduling. In 2019, we completed several major projects in subdivisions and started projects in areas that will take several more years and millions of dollars to complete. This is the reason we have storm water, water and sanitary fees. These fees are reviewed every few years. They support the capital projects and maintenance of these complex systems.

The plans for 2020 will include significant infrastructure projects on Harrison Ave. south of Protsman School, the Northgate-Filmore-Pierce areas. The Osage-Laurel area is in line for a \$2.5 Million plus infrastructure upgrade that will begin this year. After these projects are bid we will look at streets that will require only resurfacing.

Plans are underway to develop additional potable water storage capacity on Calumet Ave. Plans are also being studied for necessary improvements at the Sanitary Treatment Plant and a review of sanitary sewer. These are all multi-million dollar investments. All of these improvements will require financial support by the users.

There are many things that are visible to you as a resident. The plans are underway to open bids on a new Fire Station on 213th on the NW corner of Central Park. It will replace the old station at the Calumet and 213th. This should be completed in the Fall of 2020. This is another multi-million dollar expense. It will be funded by Tax Increment Revenues. The Park Department has been completing several neighborhood parks, both new and upgrades. Beginning in 2020, we have several major projects planned for Central Park. In addition to the aforementioned Fire Station a fourth ball field will be constructed that will allow Dyer Girls Softball to move in 2021. Concession and restroom facilities will be built in 2021. With DGS out of Northgate, it will allow for the redevelopment of Northgate as a major storm water detention area and soccer complex.

We have much work to do and we are prepared to keep moving in the forward direction. I hope you appreciate the work of all of our departments that have recapped their respective high-lights in the newsletter.

Parks and Recreation Department



During 2019, the Parks and Recreation Department completed 2 park improvement projects. Sheffield Estates and Green Meadows Park both received a new playground with pour-in-place surfacing. Sheffield Estates Park also received a short walking path that connects to neighboring streets for better access for residents. At Hearthstone Park, a small 16 car parking lot project started late in the Fall and is on track to be completed by the Spring of 2020. These projects were funded with a 2018 Park Bond.

Through a CommuniTree grant program, we received 82 native trees between the Spring and Fall. These trees are about one-inch caliber and were planted within the following parks: Northgate Park, Central Park, Elmer Miller Park, Pheasant Hills Park, Cherry Hill Park, Cottonwood Park, Green Meadows Park and Sandy Ridge Park. Additionally, we received an Urban Forestry Grant for the planting of 37 trees. These trees were more mature at two-and-a-half-inch caliber and all 37 trees were planted at Eberly Park.

The Central Park Master Plan was revisited through 2019. The Park Board started the year focusing on the development of the north end of the park. With assistance from our Park Board engineer and landscape architect an updated, attainable concept plan has been approved for the north end development. Some of the features include: a fourth ball field, concession stand, playgrounds, walking paths, low maintenance landscaping, batting cages and ball field lighting. Dyer Girls Softball is being planned to move from Northgate Park ball fields to the Central Park ball fields once the project is fully complete.



As we continue to grow our recreation programming, high attendance was seen at many of our programs and events, such as, our annual Daddy Daughter Dance, Kindermusik classes, Toddler Time Playdate classes, Youth Summer Camps, Senior Golf League, Thornton Quarry Tour, Holiday Shopping Spree and our annual Fall Family Fest. Additionally, we hosted new recreational opportunities, such as, a White Sox camp, 2 Movies in the Park at Northgate Park, new nights for Senior Wii Bowling program and our Central Park garage sale. We are looking forward to continuing to offer



these and many new family fun events, programs and trips for all participants. In 2020, be on the lookout for improved programming such as Kidz Zone at Summer Fest, our 3rd Annual Fall Family Fest and the new Dyer Community Market at Pheasant Hills Park.

During 2020, along with the Central Park development, the Park Board is planning on entering the starting engineering phases for the following park improvement projects: Autumn Chase Park and Cherry Hill/ Pheasant Hills Park. These projects would include new playgrounds with pour in place surfacing, walking paths connections and all required drainage. Construction for these projects would be planned for 2021.

Please see the Park and Recreation's Facebook page for the list of upcoming recreation events.



DYER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Prevention / Community Outreach

Through out the year the fire department participated in numerous activities in and related to the community. First Aid and fire safety at the Freedom Fest. Annual fire prevention visits to the 2 grade schools and a preschool. Station tours for Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and other civic groups, preschools and day cares. Participation in local youth group events and park programs. Attendance at several block parties and tours of the stations when people just stopped in. Attendance at Principle meetings at the High School and safety meetings with Kahler administration. Participation in trainings at the schools for active shooter and fire safety. Held the Annual Open House during Fire Prevention Week.

Worked local businesses both new and existing with fire safety including but not limited to inspection of hood testing, sprinkler and alarm testing, and inspections. Answered questions and requests for information related to fire safety and codes.

Participating in the State sponsored smoke detector give away / instillation program that started in October.

Equipment Maintenance and Testing

All vehicles annual service completed, including but not limited to Oil and filter changes, preventive maintenance, pump testing, aerial ladder testing and repairs as needed. Annual testing including but not limited to SCBA's, Ground ladders, hydraulic and electric extrication equipment, gas monitors, compressed air cylinders and breathing air compressors.

Training

Annual trainings included, Haz-Mat, ground ladders, forcible entry, multiple EMS topics, and SCBA's. Other training in driving, pump operations, aerial operations, hose line deployment, search and rescue, extrication, firefighter safety, hydrant connections, water supply, and ropes and knots just to name some.

A training was done with Lake Hills Fire Department on water supply and tender operations for non-hydrant areas. Training included vehicle placement, dump tank operations, hose line placement and shuttling of water.

Training was done at several houses ready for demolition, including, search and rescue, firefighter rescue, use of the thermal imagers in zero visibility, hose line advancement, ventilation, accountability and incident command.

Responses

Total — 1,734
Man Hours — 9,967
Average personnel — 5.77
False Alarms — 140
Mutual Aid — 45
CO Alarms — 26
Gas Leaks — 26
Investigations — 38
Haz-Mat — 3
Wash-Down — 2
Dispatch Errors — 4
Utility — 8
Other — 11

Fires

Structures — 12
Car — 6
Brush — 2
Other — 27

Medical Calls

Ambulance — 1,147
MVA — 108
Transports — 11
Citizen Assists — 140



DYER POLICE DEPARTMENT



2019

Year in review: The Police Department oversees many areas within the town structure. The department is responsible for the following services: Police, Records, Crossing Guards, Code Enforcement, and Animal Control. The police department is staffed by 31 sworn officers, 3 civilian full-time staff members, 1 part-time staff member and 6 crossing guards. In 2019 the PD handled over 10,000 calls for service. Dyer officers participate in many task forces and assignments such as SWAT, Homeland Security, Major Crimes Task Force, K-9, School Resource Officer, Lake County Drug Task Force, and Traffic Enforcement.

In 2019, Dyer Experienced Lower Crime Rates!!

Below is our official crime reports as submitted. It reflects overall lower crime rates compared to 2018. These low crime rates are the key element to achieving the safe town status. In 2019 we saw a reduction in reports for Burglary and Robbery. We had a slight increase in Assaults and Stolen Auto's (10 vehicles stolen from Auto Auction). Dyer has enjoyed a Top 5 ranking for safest town for many years and the PD believes the excellent relationship with the community plays a large part in keeping our community safe.



Uniform Crime Reporting

Classification	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Homicide	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Robbery	2	3	5	6	2	6	3	6	3
Assault	74	37	43	43	41	45	32	38	44
Burglary	32	26	17	14	20	16	22	12	7
Theft	288	248	167	169	161	150	96	122	51
Stolen Auto	17	18	13	5	8	15	19	13	22*
Total	417	334	245	237	232	232	172	192	127

* 10 Vehicles stolen from Auto Auction

Statistics

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Calls for Service	10636	9755	9666	9758	9384	10145	10123	10481	10078
Arrests/Offenses	789	651	525	524	763	909	637	585	571
Accidents	385	415	422	496	479	515	512	495	442
Citations	2093	2344	2709	2171	1817	2542	2850	2612	2764
Warnings	1681	1988	2676	3712	2697	4726	4711	5431	5814
Training Hours	1457	1393.75	1628.25	2085.75	4000.75	2033.5	3014	2696.5	4175
Traffic Stops	-	4343	5716	5979	4885	7272	7305	8155	8510
Homeland Security Checks	-	2206	7086	5620	8377	7767	4242	3649	3170
Ordinance Violations	167	279	500	598	591	658	450	472	392

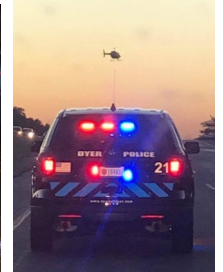
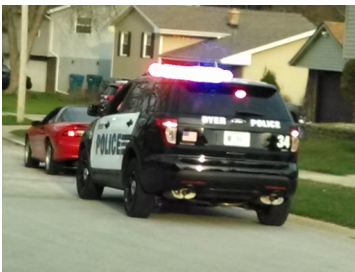
Community Policing

Community Policing Division: This division includes Code Enforcement, (2) School Resource Officers, and a Community Service Officer. During the course of the day this division will handle a wide range of calls such as animal problems, bike patrol, community events, school issues, code enforcement, and D.A.R.E. Our K-9 "Kolt", a black lab, is partnered with School Resource Officer Brian Kissinger. They are assigned to our Schools (Kahler, Protsman, and Bibich). Cpl. Jerry Patrick is also assigned as a School Resource Officer for the Lake Central School Corporation. This past year the Division hosted several events such as National Night Out Against Crime and Women's Self Defense classes. Weekly, they conduct Senior Outreach Program calls to registered seniors living on their own. They have also assisted in many of the community functions including Summer Fest, Parks Programs, Youth Sports Groups, and Chamber of Commerce Events just to name a few. During the summer when school is out the School Resource Officers also utilize Bike Patrol to interact with the community.



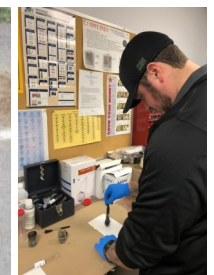
Patrol Division

Patrol Division: The patrol division is staffed by 21 uniformed officers. They provide round the clock patrol coverage on three different 8 hour shifts (Days, Afternoons, Midnights). Patrol responds to emergency and non-emergency calls and is responsible for traffic enforcement, crash investigations, neighborhood patrol, criminal arrests, booking and transporting prisoners among many other daily assignments. In 2019, the Division responded to over 10,000 calls for service. K-9 Igar retired in August and K-9 Rocco started patrolling in December.



Investigations

Investigations Division: This team of 3 investigators is on call 24/7 and is responsible for evidence collection and investigations of all crimes occurring in town. These are general case detectives and investigate reports ranging from financial crimes to homicides. The division investigated over 400 cases in 2019. The investigators are also members of the Northwest Indiana Major Crimes Task Force which primarily investigates Homicides in Northwest Indiana. This Division also has a Tactical Officer assigned to the division that focus on crime reduction and proactive patrolling.



Department of Public Works

2019 Improvements

With newer technologies being available and older equipment continuing to age, replacements and upgrades are continually addressed at the Department of Public Works.

Listed below are the some of the major projects that were completed last year.

Brine System for Anti-Icing of Streets

Each winter season, the roads have the potential of becoming slippery with freezing rain and snow. The use of brine, which is a solution of salt and water, is an effective way of pre-treating the roadways prior to a potential dangerous event.

The Department of Public Works purchased a brine making machine, storage tank and delivery systems for seven trucks this past year. With this purchase, we have the potential to address hazardous road conditions due to winter precipitation before it occurs and effectively apply salt when an event is in progress. This combination reduces salt usage and how long road conditions will be poor.

Replacement Pick-Up Trucks and Replacement Televising Truck with New Equipment

Two pick-up trucks and a new televising truck were purchased last year to replace older vehicles and equipment. The previous televising truck, which used camera equipment to identify issues in the sanitary and storm water collection systems, was over 25 years old and had issues with its older technology. This replacement addressed those concerns and will be a useful tool in future sanitary line replacements and repairs.

Replacement Street Signs

New street signs were installed at all intersections over the past eight months. These larger green signs, typically installed over a stop sign, will assist motorists with navigating their way around our Town.

Secondary Clarifier and RAS Pumping Improvements

The skimming system and distribution gates for the secondary clarifiers at the wastewater plant were replaced last year due to age. In addition, the sludge pumping system was modified in order to control and monitor the return flow from each clarifier separately. Lastly, remote monitoring was installed for the system in order to make changes from mobile devices.

News and Highlights

- ◆ Last year, the Public Works staff consisted of **27** full-time and **2** part-time employees.
- ◆ Standard hours worked for the department last year: **55370**
- ◆ Overtime hours necessary for emergencies: **3,830**

Primary areas of time allocation

- ◇ Operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant
8,001 hours
- ◇ Operation and maintenance of the water booster station and distribution system
6,286 hours
- ◇ Operation and maintenance of the sanitary collection system
4,021 hours
- ◇ Operation and maintenance of streets and parkways
6,587 hours
- ◇ Operation and maintenance of the storm water collection system
4,447 hours
- ◇ Leaf pickup, chipping, mowing, landscaping and branch removal
4,899 hours
- ◇ Snow plowing and salting of streets, sand parking areas
2,114 hours

2020 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

All collections are from 9:00am - 2:00pm

April 4: Crown Point Lake County Fairgrounds
889 Court Street, Crown Point

April 25: Gary, Hudson Campbell Center
455 Massachusetts, Gary

May 30: Hobart Public Works
340 South Shelby, Hobart

June 6: Whiting Public Works
1915 Front Street, Whiting

July 25: Munster Public Works
508 Fisher Street, Munster

August 22: Highland Public Works
8001 Kennedy Avenue, Highland

September 12: Lake County Highway Department
18211 Wicker Ave., Lowell

October 3: Griffith Public Works
134 South Colfax, Griffith

***October 24: Hammond Public Works**
601 Conkey Street, Hammond



***Shredding will be available at the Hammond collection ONLY with a limit of 4 paper grocery bags per car) (SHRED EVENT IS FROM 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM ONLY)**

Dyer FOP #169 **Policeman's Ball** **Halls of St. George** **905 E. Joliet Street** **Schererville, IN 46375**

March 14th, 2020
5:00 pm—12:00 am

-Dinner-Dancing-Open Bar-Together
Band Black Tie Optional Elegant Event

Tickets can be purchased on the Dyer FOP
Facebook page, Dyer Police Station or from
any FOP member.



DYER POLICE DEPARTMENT **OFFICER SPOTLIGHT**

Officer Ryan Boss:

Serving Since: January, 2015

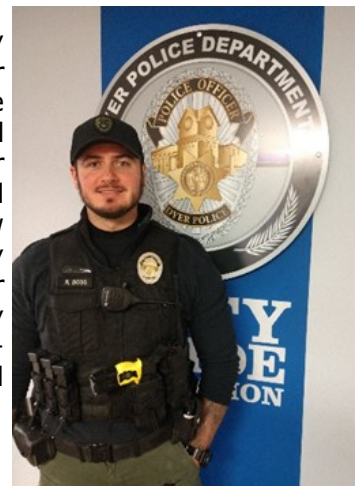
Badge #: 58

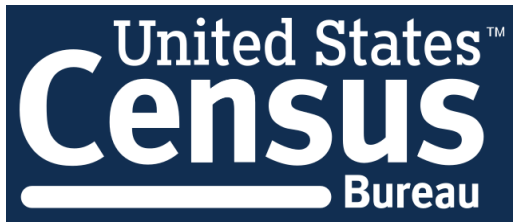
High School: Lake Central High
 School Class of 2009

College: University of Illinois- Chicago UIC
 Majored in Psychology
 Minor in Criminology

Experience:

Recruited by UIC to play college baseball. After college returned to the Tri-Town area and was hired by Dyer PD in 2015. Attended Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Class of 15-33. Officer Boss is currently assigned to the Detective Bureau as a Tactical Officer.





What is the Census? The Census is a count of **EVERY** person who lives in the United States and its territories. Beginning the end of March you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. The Census is not concerned if you rent or own, everyone must be counted!

What will be asked? You will be asked a few simple questions like age, sex, and the number of people living in

your home including children.

Why the Census Matters: Congress uses census data to allocate funds under federal grant programs. With the census only occurring every 10 years, funds can get misallocated for an entire decade resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars per missed resident.

How to respond: Every home will receive an invitation to respond either online, by phone.

What Happens to Your Answers? Your personal information is kept confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes.

Historical Speaker

Please join us for our monthly guest speaker, Zack Bevins. He will be presenting on Vietnam on February 18th at 7:00 pm.



March 17th at 7:00 pm we will be hosting guest speaker Danny Russel. He will be speaking on Daniel Boone. Please contact (219) 865-6108 to be connected to the Historical Society's one and only Kathy Powers.

Code Corner

Section 6-124 of the Town Code states:

"It shall be the duty of every person, firm, or corporation owning, occupying, or using any real estate in said Town to shovel and remove all snow and ice from the Public Sidewalks...within a reasonable time from the accumulation thereof, and to keep said sidewalks free from snow and ice."

Monthly Meeting Calendar

February 17	-----	Town Hall Closed—President's Day
February 18	7:00 PM	Historical Speaker
February 19	6:00 PM	Stormwater Board Meeting
February 20	6:00 PM	Police Commission Meeting
February 24	6:00 PM	Utility Board Meeting
February 24	7:00 PM	Plan Commission Meeting
February 25	6:00 PM	Park Board Study Session
February 27	6:00 PM	Town Council Study Session
February 27	6:30 PM	Redev. Commission Study Session
March 2	7:00 PM	Board of Zoning Appeals
March 10	6:00 PM	Park Board Meeting
March 12	6:00 PM	Town Council Mtg. / Study Session
March 12	6:30 PM	Redevelopment Comm. Meeting
March 16	7:00 PM	Plan Commission & Study Session
March 17	7:00 PM	Historical Speaker
March 18	6:00 PM	Stormwater Board Meeting
March 19	6:00 PM	Police Commission Meeting
March 23	6:00 PM	Water Board Meeting
March 24	6:00 PM	Park Board Study Session
March 26	6:00 PM	Town Council Study Session

Meetings subject to change, Call (219) 865-6108 for confirmation.