



#### **Town Council**

Jeff Dekker, President  
Joe Cinko, Vice President  
Cathy Lareau  
Mary Tanis  
Debbie Astor

#### **Clerk-Treasurer**

Patricia A. Hawrot

#### **Town Manager**

Tom DeGiulio

#### **Town Departments**

##### **Town Council &**

##### **Town Manager's Office**

865-6108

##### **Clerk Treasurer's Office**

865-2421

##### **Department of Public Works**

865-4222

##### **Police Department**

865-1163

##### **Fire Department**

865-4226

##### **Parks & Recreation Department**

865-2505

## Town Council's Office

Dear Residents,

As we welcome 2017, we wanted to take an opportunity to look back on what we were able to accomplish this past year. Much of our activities are not very exciting, but still critical to our operation and your daily lives. We don't want you to think about how well your utilities work every day. We hope all your contacts with the Police and Fire Department are for non-emergency situations.

When you drive during bad weather, we want positive thoughts about road conditions, not road rage. When you take your children or grandchildren to a Dyer park, you should enjoy your experience.

If we are doing our jobs, you may take all these positive things for granted, however, we never do. All of the Town employees understand that their jobs are to try to ensure that you enjoy the results of their efforts as a positive reason for living in Dyer.

These things do not just happen by themselves. It takes effort by many elected officials, appointed Boards, and employees to make our organization operate. The Town Council and others must think about problems before they happen. History has illustrated many times that ignoring a real problem will usually lead to more serious and costly problems over time. We must be vigilant and plan for improvements. The failure to properly maintain or environmental conditions or timely replacement often leads to unsatisfactory results. Having said this, municipalities and their residents only have a certain amount of financial resources.

2016 was a transitional year for Dyer. The Town Council and three utility boards spent over a year addressing their long-term operational and capital needs, and how to finance them fairly and equitably. As a result, they adopted:

- A local excise tax on vehicles that is projected to generate \$500,000 per year for roads and sidewalks.
- A 13.5% increase in water rates. This will fund \$1.0 million in capital improvements each year over the next four years.
- A 4% increase in sanitary rates to help fund \$2.836 million in improvements and needed repairs to both the collection and treatment systems.
- The Storm Water Board wrestled for months before recommending a \$7.76/EMU increase from \$11.00 to \$18.76. Residential units typically use one unit per month. This increase will help to support an average of \$833,000 per year in repairs and improvements.

Now that we have passed the user fees, we must now put these resources to good use and follow through on our plans.

In 2016, the Town spent in excess of \$2.3 million fixing roads. That is a lot of money, but unfortunately, it is not enough. Our current estimates of just infrastructure needs for sidewalks, streets, water, storm and sanitary approaches \$20.0 million. This does not include treatment facilities. Parks fights a similar battle with neighborhood parks and the long-term development of Central Park.

Dyer has so many available opportunities over the next several years. We will do our best to give you the service and quality of life that you deserve. We plan to be busy in the next few years. We hope you enjoy the progress.



# DYER POLICE DEPARTMENT

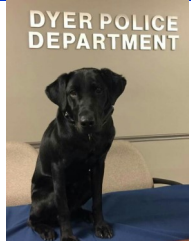


## 2016

**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 30 sworn officers, 4 civilian staff members and 5 crossing guards. Dispatch services were consolidated by a state mandate in 2015. Please call 911 to report any emergency and non-emergency incidents that involve Police/Ambulance/Fire/Code Enforcement/Utility Problem/Animal Problem.

### Community Policing

**Community Policing Division:** This division was launched in January and includes Code Enforcement, School Resource Officer, and Community Service Officer duties. 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. The newest member is “Kolt” a black lab. He is partnered with School Resource Officer Kissinger. He is very popular at the schools and is also a certified explosives detection dog.



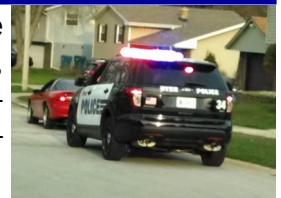
### Investigations



**Investigations Division:** This team of 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 homicide. The division has investigated more than 430 cases this year. The investigators are also members of the Northwest Indiana Major Crimes Task Force which primarily investigates Homicides in Northwest Indiana.

### Patrol Division

**Patrol Division:** The patrol division is staffed by 19 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.



### Statistics

Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Calls for Service.....	9755	9666	9758	9384	10145
Arrests/Offenses.....	651	525	524	763	909
Accidents.....	415	422	496	479	515
Traffic Tickets.....	2344	2709	2171	1817	2542
Traffic Warnings.....	1988	2676	3712	2697	4726
Training Hours.....	1393.75	1628.25	2085.75	4000.75	2033.50
Traffic Stops.....	4343	5716	5979	4885	7272
Homeland Security Checks.....	2206	7086	5620	8377	7767
Ordinance Violations.....	279	500	598	591	658

# Department of Public Works

## Achievements (2016)

### Street Department

- ◆ Chipped branches and removed leaves through out Town
- ◆ Removed 665 tons of solid waste from DPW
- ◆ Removed 200 tons of road debris from streets
- ◆ Continued to mow and maintain rights of ways
- ◆ Continued maintenance of detention/retention ponds
- ◆ Continued mosquito abatement
- ◆ Assisted with preparation of Town-wide events
- ◆ Coordinated all aspects of road projects
- ◆ Continued maintenance program on street lights

### Water Distribution

- ◆ Repaired 20 water main breaks
- ◆ Continued valve locating and exercising programs
- ◆ Continued fire suppression and backflow preventative maintenance programs

### Storm Water Collection System

- ◆ Continued preventative maintenance program
- ◆ Maintained site per IDEM MS4 program

### Sanitary Collection System

- ◆ Continued preventative maintenance program
- ◆ Clean and televise sanitary lines that need maintenance
- ◆ Continued analyzing continual inflow and infiltration problems in specified sections of the Town

### Water Treatment

- ◆ Pumped 540,000,000 gallons of water for 2016
- ◆ Conducted all required testing
- ◆ Continued monitoring of Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfections Byproducts analysis required by EPA

### Wastewater Treatment

- ◆ Treated 780 million gallons of wastewater
- ◆ Removed approximately 2100 tons of sludge for land application
- ◆ Conducted all required testing

### Building Services

- ◆ Continued maintenance of all Town buildings

## Personnel Statistics

- ◆ Last year, the Public Works staff consisted of 32 full-time and one part-time employees.
- ◆ Standard hours worked for the department last year: 66760.0
- ◆ Overtime hours necessary for emergencies: 3392.75
- ◆ Primary areas of time allocation:
  - Wastewater treatment plant operations and maintenance at 10901 hours
  - Water distribution operation and maintenance at 6450 hours
  - Leaf pickup, chipping, mowing, landscaping, branch removal at 3972 hours
  - Park maintenance and services required 2018 hours of time
  - Snow plowing and salting streets needed 2468 hours of attention
  - Sanitary and storm water sewer maintenance at 9145 hours



**SUPPORTS**

**STREETS - WATER - SANITARY - STORM - BUILDING SERVICES - VEHICLE MAINTENANCE - PARK MAINTENANCE**

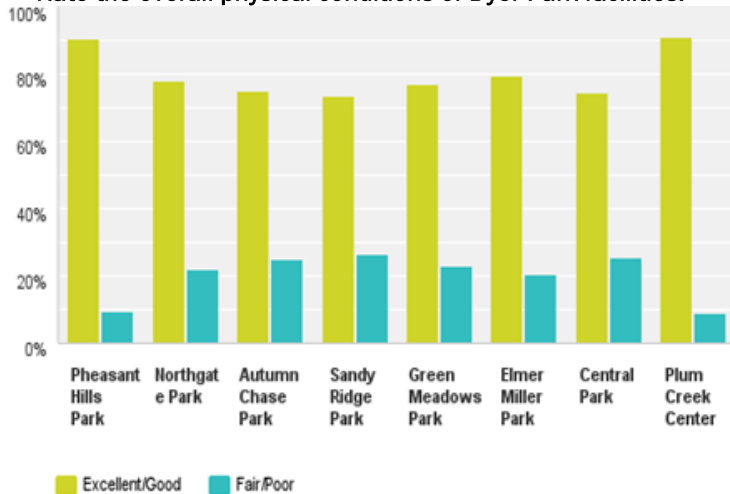
# Parks and Recreation

## Community Assessment Survey

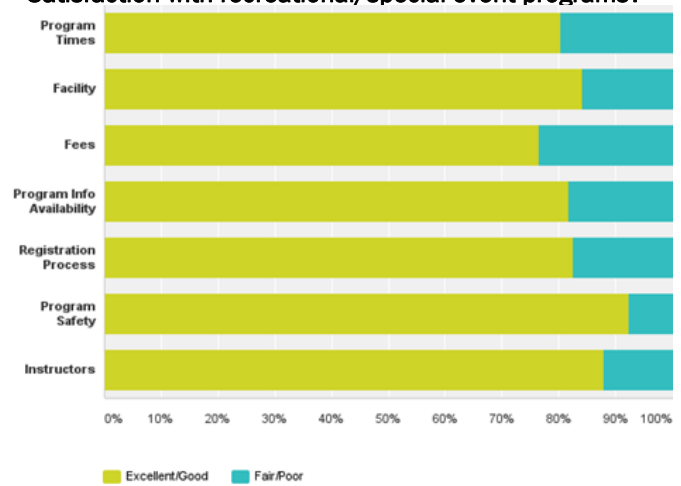
The Dyer Park Board conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey this past June. This survey was mailed out within the June utility bill, along with being available on the Town’s website. The Community Needs Assessment Survey was important for the Dyer Park Board, as resident feedback assisted the Park Board in preparation for the 2017-2021 Parks Master Plan. The goal of this survey was to gather information on what is important to the residents and provide essential valuable information that will assist when applying for appropriate grants. Overall, 602 households returned their survey either by mail, drop off, or online. If you are interested in learning the full survey results, visit the Town’s website at [www.townofdye.com](http://www.townofdye.com), or visit the Parks and Recreation office at the Town Hall. Highlights from the Community Needs Assessment results are as follows:

When given choices on what residents considered to be important, improving existing walking paths (67%) and improving neighborhood parks (68%) were the two most important among Dyer residents. Throughout the survey, walking paths and improving neighborhood parks was a common theme, showing the high volumes of usage these amenities received within the parks. General conditions of park facilities were rated excellent/good with Pheasant Hills and Plum Creek Center having the highest rating, close to 90%.

**Rate the overall physical conditions of Dyer Park facilities:**



**Satisfaction with recreational/special event programs?**



Residents were asked to rate their satisfaction with recreational/special event programs. The majority of residents were satisfied with all recreational programs with program safety being the highest, 92%, and program instructors at 87%. Of all 602 households who returned their Community Needs Assessment, 74% stated that their needs were being met by the Parks and Recreation Department.

As the Dyer Parks and Recreation Department continues to plan for the future, the Community Needs Assessment Survey information will be used to fully maximize recreation opportunities, continuing building relationships, and invest properly back into the parks.

## Park Bond

For the first time since 2006, the Dyer Parks and Recreation Department has been issued a 2016 Park Bond to make necessary improvements among the current parks of Dyer. The \$1,130,000 Park Bond was closed on November 17th. The Park Board is considering the following improvements, but will not be able to complete each one with the 2016 bond. The improvements that are not completed this year will be considered in the future.

- Phase I improvements to Hearthstone Park including drainage, playground with poured-in-place surface, small parking lot, and walking path.
- Phase I improvements to Eberly Park including drainage, walking path, and playground with a poured-in-place surface.
- Pheasant Hills park improvements to include walking paths and related amenities in conjunction with Storm Water Management Board improvements.
- Improvements to Sheffield Estates Park, Lincoln Park, Elmer Miller Park including playground equipment with poured-in-place surfaces and walking paths.
- Miscellaneous equipment to be installed in various parks such as park signs, benches, picnic tables, portable restroom enclosures, bleachers for ball fields, security features for permanent restrooms, and technology and security improvements at the Plum Creek Center.



## Fire Department

We responded to an average of 120-140 calls per month in 2016. The Fire Department visited the grade schools and one preschool during fire prevention week. We had several groups come through the station over the year, including but not limited to Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, day cares, and civic groups. We participated in several activities with the veterans, local churches, and schools and provided first aid at town festivals. We also held our annual open house for fire prevention in October. The Fire Department also welcomed four new fire fighters this year.

## Plan Commission

Scott Cearing, President  
 Jeff Dekker, Vice President  
 Pat Carroll, Executive Secretary  
 Dave Hein, Staff Member  
 Tom Schneider, Member  
 Thad Stutler, Staff Member  
 Tom Brown, Member

The Plan Commission took the following actions in 2016:

- Made a favorable recommendation to the Council for the rezoning of 1319 Calumet Ave from RD to B2 for the express purposes of municipal business being conducted there. Approved First and Secondary Plats and approved the site plan for this property.
- Approved an amendment to the Rule of Procedure of the Commission which requires petitioners to post a sign on their property that is requiring a public hearing.
- Approved First and Secondary Plats for three lots in Briar Ridge.
- Made a favorable recommendation to the Town Council to rezone 1307, 1323, and 1339 Joliet St. to B3 Restricted that there shall be permitted up to 30,000 square feet of indoor storage, no outdoor storage, no gravel parking lot, and the entire complex should be fenced.
- Approved the site plan for Keenan Liquors.
- Approved the site plan for Costanza Storage.
- Made a favorable recommendation to the Council for the rezoning of 1001 Calumet Ave. to B2 with the following restrictions: use for the purpose of a Medical Complex with a separate Oncology Center.
- Approved primary plat for Village Circle West: 81-lot single-family home development.  
 Approved secondary plat for Village Circle West: 41 lots, single-family homes.

## BZA

The Board of Zoning Administrators

Scott Cearing, Chairman

Randy Desalvo, Vice-Chairman

Paula Johns, Executive Secretary

Scott Jefferson, Member

Tom Schneider, Member

Sue Grelewicz, Recording Secretary

The Board took the following actions in 2016:

- Granted a rear yard setback variance for Tom Lewallen.
- Granted a Development Standards variance for the size of a garage at 1412 Harrison Ave.
  - Denied a petition for relief of height of a garage and the side yard setback for same garage.
- Granted a special exception to operate a church in the Sheffield Ave. Corridor.

### Public Hearings: West Lake Corridor

There will be three public hearings presented by NICTD to allow for comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. These meetings will be in an open house format. Residents may attend any of the three meetings.

- Dyer: Jan. 17, Protsman Elementary School, 6-8 PM
- Hammond: Jan. 18, Washington Irving Elementary School, 6:30-8:30 PM
- Munster: Jan. 19, Centennial Park, 6-8 PM

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are available for review online at [www.nictdwestlake.com/deis.html](http://www.nictdwestlake.com/deis.html) and at the following locations:

- Hammond Public Library, 564 State St., Hammond
- Lake County Public Library, Dyer-Schererville Branch, 1001 W Lincoln Hwy, Schererville
- Lake County Public Library, Munster, 8701 Calumet Ave., Munster
- NICTD Administrative offices, 33 E US Hwy 12, Chesterton, IN 46304

### 2017 Leadership

#### Town Council

Jeff Dekker, President  
 Joe Cinko, Vice President  
 Cathy Lareau, Member  
 Mary Tanis, Member  
 Debbie Astor, Member

#### Redevelopment Commission

Mary Tanis, President  
 Debbie Astor, Vice President  
 Joe Cinko, Member  
 Jeff Dekker, Member  
 Cathy Lareau, Member

