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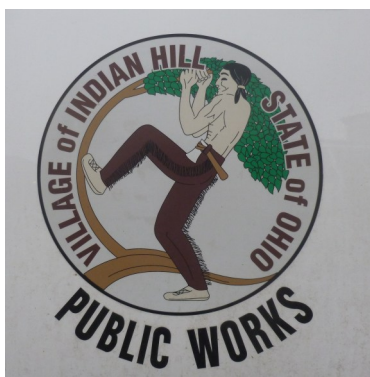
...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

The Workings of the Public Works Department



The Public Works Department is essential to the Village of Indian Hill. It has 32 full time employees and a few part timers. These men and women are a team of professionals dedicated to service, excellence, and preserving the character of the Village. Originally known as the Service Department when it was formed in 1941, its name changed to the Public Works Department in 2002. Members of the Public Works have more direct contact with local residents than any other administrative department. The department has three major divisions with varying responsibilities; and each division is managed by a supervisor under the direction of the Public Works Superintendent.

The Streets Division takes care of all road repair, maintenance of all rights-of-way, drainage and drainage structures, and emergency services. Men wearing florescent vests can be seen doing asphalt repair, rebuilding roadside berms, cleaning up rights-of-way where trees and limbs have fallen, replacing guard rails and cables, taking down low hanging limbs, removing trees that block passage, mowing roadsides, trimming brush, controlling invasive weeds, insuring that street signs and markings are up to date and painted on a regular basis, and monitoring the entire roadway

system in the Village. This division also services and repairs all Village vehicles and plays a major part in snow and ice removal during the winter.

The Parks Division maintains the spaces of the Green Areas – all 2700 acres of them. This includes removing hazardous trees, maintaining 150 miles of bridle trails, doing the upkeep on the seven primary Village facilities, the ten parks, and all athletic fields. These employees have planted many thousands of daffodil bulbs, prepared for special events hosted by the Camargo Hunt (such as installing and repairing horse jumps), planted trees, and kept the Village beautiful.

At the Collections Division, the focus is on waste and recycling. Working in teams of three, the men collect household garbage weekly and recycling fortnightly. This service is provided to all residents. They are also responsible for “special pickups” when large quantities of waste or bulky items need disposal as well as picking up bagged yard waste or brush piles. These latter services must be prearranged, and there is a fee for them.

The Public Works Department professionals keep Village roads passable during winter weather events. With incredible efficiency, working in 12 hour shifts, 2 crews with 6 trucks manage to plow, salt, brine or otherwise treat the streets. These are divided up into 6 routes of between 9 and 15 miles. Indian Hill always has the “cleanest roads in town” due to the dedicated people who clear its byways.

With the thought of always improving, new equipment has been purchased and new practices have begun recently. Swap loader trucks allow different apparatuses to be attached to the same chassis, and a larger loader truck makes delivery from the salt storage dome more rapid during snow storms. “Special pickups” have expanded to include refrigerators. Toters are offered for sale to residents to facilitate waste and recycling collection. For more efficient operations, some work in the Village has been contracted out- i.e. grass mowing of some parks and blacktop patching on some roads. In house operations have expanded. Fields are fertilized and facilities are treated for pests by trained Public Works employees. Special projects like refurbishing Livingston Lodge and creating CAGIS maps of bridle trails preserve Village history and make access to Green Areas easier. The Village website provides updates on Public Works activities and allows online scheduling.

Residents can assist Public Works personnel by bagging all waste, converting from garbage cans to toters, and adhering to suggestions on the website. The Public Works Department provides an amazing array of services for the Village and its residents. The dedication and courtesy of the people there make them a widely respected and vital part of the Village community.

