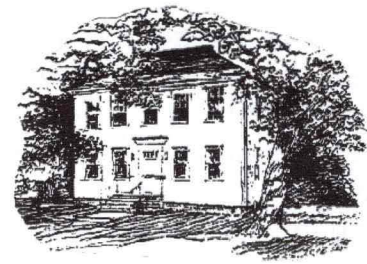


IMAGES

... *then and now*

From The Indian Hill Historical Society

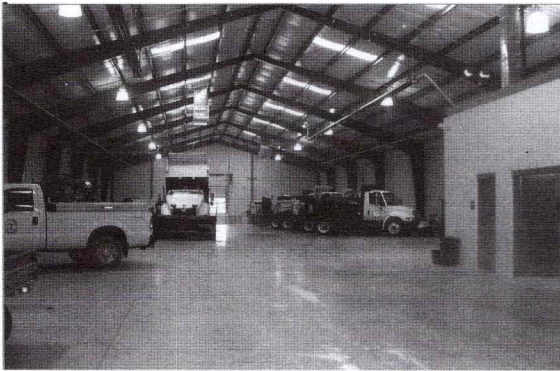


**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

The Public Works Facility

Located on State Route 126, the Public Works Facility has undergone major renovations recently. The building complex, adjacent to the Water Works, houses Indian Hill's Public Works Department, which currently has a staff of 35, plus 9 members of the Water Works Department.

The original 1940's public works office was located in Allandale, next to the first Ranger station. In the 1950s the department moved to a new structure at the current Camp Dennison site. As the Village grew, the number of employees increased, as did the amount of equipment necessary. In 1972 another new building was erected behind the 1950's structure. It had 10 stalls for vehicles, a work bay with an in-house lift, and a mechanics room that also served as a lunchroom. In 1992, an office addition was made to accommodate 3 supervisors and in 2000, the supervisors and receptionist moved to a trailer. By 2003, the Public Works Department had outgrown the existing facility – additional waste collection, the recycling program, more park maintenance, and greater snow removal responsibilities were all factors. The old building was cramped and deteriorating. Council agreed to build a new facility in 2004.



Input was received from public works personnel, and supervisors took tours of other public works departments. Working with Rick Tripp of MSA

Architects, plans were formulated to "build for today and tomorrow". There were two phases to the project, which was awarded to Schwitzer Construction after the bidding process. Ground was broken for Phase One in May, 2005. The 1950's building was razed, and in its place went an office complex, lunchroom/training facility, fitness center, and maintenance garage. During construction, public works personnel utilized the 1972 building. Phase One took 11 months, and in April 2006, the department moved in. Phase Two commenced in April 2006 and concluded in October 2006. It involved the demolition of the 1972 structure and the construction of the 80' x 250' equipment storage garage for 50-60 vehicles.

Today's 40,000 square foot complex is well-designed and meets the needs of the Public Works Department. At the entry, the receptionist guides visitors through the security system. From west to east are the supervisors' offices, separate locker rooms for men and women, the dual purpose lunchroom/training facility, fitness center, maintenance garage, parks garage, and equipment garage. All these are under one roof. The well equipped fitness center gets considerable use, and is open 24 hours daily to accommodate all Village employees. The lunch room converts to a classroom, where training sessions are provided (e.g. traffic control, snow and ice removal) to staff members and also to neighbors (Terrace Park, Madeira.) The new maintenance garage has 5 bays, whereas the old one had only one. The lift can accommodate even the garbage packer trucks, saving the time of sending them elsewhere for repairs.

Normal building hours are 7:30 – 4:00, but all employees have access cards, enabling them to enter for exercise or emergency response (tree down, winter storm). All members of the Public Works Department take pride in their outstanding reputation. Village residents can rely on these dedicated individuals. The new public works compound provides ample space for work and storage, more office privacy, and a sophisticated and efficient communication system. As Superintendent John Davis remarked, "The new facility is not only going to take care of us today, but for years to come."



Special thanks to John Davis for assistance with this article.