

A New Addition to the Community

Soon, Wayne Township Fire Department (WTFD) will have a new facility located at 1100 Franklin Road which will allow for the provision of more effective and efficient emergency services to be provided to residents of the Villages of Waynesville and Corwin and Wayne Township.

Throughout our history, WTFD has mirrored the growth and development of our Community. Today's modern department has progressed from a citizen brigade of 1797 to the present department poised to enter the next stage in its development, the modernization of its housing of personnel and equipment. in housing of its equipment and personnel.

The new facility will be a 13,976 square foot building foot print with second and third floor mezzanines to accommodate mechanicals and training platforms. It will contain four drive-thru bays capable of staging two pieces of equipment in each bay. The facility is designed to accommodate all the training and response needs for today and as well as continue to meet the needs of the Department as it serves our Community into the future.

The facility will include six bunk rooms and a command officer's quarters to house those first responders who currently serve with our department, but are not residents of the community. This will also allow for the future transition to in-house part-time and full-time crews. This provides for quicker response times for emergency calls. It will also incorporate indoor and outdoor training for ladder drills, hose evolutions, confined space rescue, rappelling along with other training opportunities including a meeting/classroom for continuing education. It will provide a decontamination room and a controlled EMS supply room. This facility will also include a kitchen, dining and day room along with a physical training room to accommodate those members that may be working 12 or 24 hour shifts.

An administrative wing will be included for the day-to day-operations and functions of a current and future Fire & EMS Public Service Essential Services Facility.

Miami Street: Nowhere left to grow...

By 1993, Wayne Township Trustees put a second Fire Levy on the ballot for 1.8 mills to provide funds to purchase Capital items, such as large equipment, and to begin the process of establishing a new Fire Station.

Planning, funding and saving for the new station has been on-going for over twenty years. From the onset, Wayne Township developed a committee that acquired two different firms to look at the current station and provide a through needs assessment, evaluate the current location on Miami Street, do a site location study, and to look at the greatest potential growth and needs pattern for Wayne Township for next 20 years and beyond.

The results of these studies indicated that the current site had reached its capacity. Larger, modern equipment does not readily fit in the current bays. The spaces are cramped, both horizontally and vertically, along both sides and behind the equipment. Clearances between vehicles and between the vehicles and walls are barely wide enough for one person. Vehicles have to be pulled out of the bays and into the street in order for fire fighters to board them. All these issues lead to challenges for our brave men and women of the Department to respond as quickly as possible in an emergency. When seconds

count, the new facility will ensure that those preventable barriers have been removed for achieving an optimal response time. Additionally, after the emergency is over, backing such large vehicles into the tightly packed bays is not only hazardous to equipment and personnel, but also to vehicular traffic on Miami Street at the current station.

Additionally, if the current facility was to be altered, recent changes to the Ohio Building Code will trigger the need for extensive renovations pertaining to ADA compliance, updated mechanical systems, and enhanced fire safety measures—all in addition to the renovations that would be necessary to make the facility more functional. All of which would add to the cost and the time the facility would be out of commission- thus requiring the building of a new station at a new location during the construction period. After all, emergencies do not take a break just because the Fire House is being renovated.

For nearly 65 years, the current site at 165 Miami St. has served the Community by enabling the Wayne Township Fire Department to protect the property and well-being of its residents with passion and dedication. Unfortunately, the facility has nowhere left to grow. As the population of the Community continues to grow and equipment follows suit, the site has become cramped and inefficient. The Residents of Wayne Township deserve efficient, fiscally responsible and professional Emergency Services.

Looking Back, Looking Forward: from tragic beginnings to our proud, modern department

It was about 1875 when a brick combination firehouse and jail, known as *The Lock-Up*, was built on Tyler Street (presently 290 Chapman Street.) This was also believed to be the beginning of the organization of a fire department in Waynesville. In 1930, this organization would be the beginning of recorded fire records in Waynesville.

In late, or early 1886, Waynesville ordered a steam pumping engine from the Ahrens Manufacturing Company of Cincinnati, known as "Old Faithful", it was housed at *The Lock-up*. At approximately 10:30 A.M. on April 7, 1900. Waynesville had the unfortunate need to test the new pumping engine as the ominous sound of the fire bell startled the town and signaled the alarm of a fire. Due to a series of unfortunate events, including equipment failure and a perfect storm of fire conditions, the fire leveled the buildings along the West side of Main Street. Waynesville residents were eventually assisted by the Harveysburg Fire Department. The large hand-operated engine from Harveysburg was brought by a team of horses and operated by thirty men. The Pennsylvania Railroad configured a "Special" train in South Lebanon and sent it to Morrow.

This was a hard lesson to the Community that a dedicated fire department was necessary to ensure that the Community never sustained such another devastating blow. By the time the surrounding communities could respond, significant damage had already been sustained. Much of what we see today along this section of Main St. has been rebuilt since the time of that devastating fire.

Lessons Learned From the Ashes

With the lessons the 1900 great fire fresh in many minds, Waynesville was dealt yet another unfortunate blow. On April 21, 1921, the second story and rear portions of the Village Town Hall caught fire and was destroyed. The Community learned early on the vital importance of having a well-trained and devoted Fire Department.

In 1950, Mr. Orville Phillips, who served as a volunteer dispatcher for the department, donated the site near the corner of Main and Miami Streets to provide the Department with a suitable new location from which they would be able to grow and continue to serve expanding population. Construction began and the first phase of the current building (two bays) was occupied by 1952. The center bay was added in the mid 60's and the western most double bay was built in 1969.

In 1955 the operation of the Waynesville Fire Department was turned over to the Wayne Township Trustees. This change in operation was the beginning of the Wayne Township Fire Department which provided fire department services to ALL residents of Wayne Township and the Villages of Waynesville and Corwin. Not only did the Fire Department's service area expand greatly, but in 1972, just after construction started on Caesar Creek Dam, the department started providing ambulance service as it had previously been provided by Stubbs Funeral Home (now the Stubbs-Conner Funeral Home). Through these two decades, the facility expanded several times as the Department grew alongside the Community and its needs.

Further expansion was to follow, with the purchase of the lot at 122 South Main Street (now the South part of the Department parking lot) in 1985. In 1988, the lot at 155 Miami Street was purchased from George Edgington and subsequently made into a driveway and parking area for public safety vehicles. Prior to this volunteers parked on the street or in other business parking lots.

Three bays on the South side of the firehouse were added in 1990, to house service apparatus of the department, such as hazardous material control equipment, ambulance and a brush fire fighting vehicle.

The New Era

With today's Fire Department providing service to the Community by responding to 1,100 alarms each year for Fire and EMS calls and providing all other public service functions with the forty-five (45) dedicated volunteer / part-paid members. We also have an updated schedule of replacement equipment budgeted through 2030 to provide modernized fire engines, tankers, rescue truck, squads and other equipment to serve the needs of the Community and those personnel that respond to these emergencies. The last component that we are now addressing is the "Housing" of this modernized equipment and the "Housing" of our most important resource, our dedicated staff that always puts their best foot forward to serve this Community in the most professional manner possible.

This New station is dedicated to those individuals that have served us in the Past, the Present and into the Future.