

The Year in Review 2015

2015 started out with a bad weather, snow and ice for several weeks and really tasked our public works, fire department and police to keep the city operating and maintaining services to our citizens. These employees did an outstanding job with what we had to work with to keep the city operating.

One of the major projects we have been able to start was the Maple Street Park. This has been a vision for the community since the Main Street Program that started in 2000. The park is very unique because it is more creative, rather than the normal traditional parks we see mostly. We are about 80% completed and hope to finish by spring of 2016.

Other things accomplished this year:

- **Able to add picnic pavilion to the park that was rented multiple times for birthday parties, family reunions, church picnics and other smaller group settings**
- **Planted 50 trees in the park with a grant from KU using public works and inmate labor to plant these trees. Additional sponsorships of \$1,700.00 for benches, tree and other amenities have been received to enhance the park.**
- **ARC Flex-E Grant for a Mural Project, \$8,000.00**
- **KLC Litter Grant for 2016, \$1,123.16**
- **KLC Safety Grant Program, \$1,000.00**
- **Applied for and notified of receipt of the Ky. Humanities Council/Smithsonian Hometown Teams Traveling 'Exhibit on Main' for 2018. This is highly sought from many communities throughout the commonwealth and we are excited about being able to bring it to Horse Cave**

Downtown continues to be a struggle to fill empty store fronts. This is not isolated to just Horse Cave, but many cities across the state are seeing the same effects of the change in ways people shop and spend their money. With big box/chain stores, shopping centers and internet shopping, really has changed the face of shoppers. New businesses that have come to Horse Cave are:

- **Master Pawn**
- **Wrought Apricity**
- **A Walk Through Time**
- **Sims Studio and Art Shop has enlarged and moved to a larger location on Main Street.**

- **The Code Enforcement Board has been successful in enforcement and their efforts to maintain the integrity of Horse Cave. To date there has been approximately \$8,827.00 fines assessed and about \$6,000.00 in fines collected.**

- **The City Hall office upgrade that started early in the year was completed.**

- **Upgraded telephone system in city hall that allows for more utilization and better service for the citizens. The new system gives the office capability of receiving voice messages and caller ID to capture all calls for callbacks as needed.**

- **New laminate flooring installed in the city council chambers.**

- **Continued support for Horse Cave Arts and Science Camp with Caverna Schools, Horse Cave Heritage Festival and Deck the Halls: The Christmas Store**
- **Horse Cave Volunteer Fire Department continues to serve the fire district extremely well with dedicated firemen/firewomen that gives their time and efforts to do an outstanding job.**
- **The Horse Cave Fire Department Brush Truck, purchased new in 2014 will be paid in full early 2016.**
- **Purchased ten sets of new turnout gear for Fire Department to replace old turnout gear that has a ten year life.**
- **Horse Cave Police Department continues to serve and protect the citizens. Drug arrest and convictions is still a priority in order for the children, elderly and all the citizens to live in a safe community.**
- **Homeland Security Grant, \$6,312.00 to purchase new duty pistols HCPD.**
- **Homeland Security Grant, \$1,540.00 to purchase new holsters and duty body gear.**
- **Homeland Security Grant, \$1,440.00 purchase new ammunition.**

- **Homeland Security Grant, \$11,125.75 to purchase new tasers and cartridges.**
- **Homeland Security Grant, \$4,552.00 to purchase new protective body armor vest.**
- **Currently waiting on USDA-RD grants funding for newly updated police cruisers.**
- **HCPD continues to work with school system and community support.**
- **Donation of \$1,000.00 to Backpack Program**
- **Thanksgiving, able to assist 10 families to have a full course meal that otherwise would not have been available for these needy families**
- **Shop With A Cop. HCPD was able to help 8 children to have a Christmas that would have been difficult for their families to afford.**
- **Horse Cave continues to have a strong job market with over 2,300 jobs and growing, unemployment low than it has been in many years, and promise of more expansions with our local industries. Working with BRADD/WIOA, Hart County Chamber and other means to help get employees qualified for open positions.**

- **Continue to support our local industries in Horse Cave to be able to continue their quest to maintain quality jobs in our area.**
- **In early December, we lost a dear friend, Donnie Gale Edwards, that shared his time, talents and generosity, but more so his friendship will be miss by all of us that knew him and the work he did for Horse Cave.**

My goals are to continue to seek grants and other means to advance the City of Horse Cave in 2016. The ability to work with the county/regional governments, county officials and joining cities has enabled Horse Cave to move forward in many areas. There still is plenty of work to be done in many areas in the future. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2016.

Mayor Randall Curry