

## 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

The year started off with the retirement of City Clerk Ann Matera who had served the city faithfully for 34 years. Ken Russell was elevated to city clerk and new hire, Joy Bennett started as assistant clerk and Annette Brown as city treasurer. This allows the city to have separation of duties, with all to be trained to do whatever is needed to make the office run efficiently. Highlights of the year:

### Grants

- CLG Grant-Develop a preservation education curriculum for Caverna High School and the Cultural District Arts and Sciences Camp.
- CDBG-Applied for \$500,000.00 in conjunction with the Hart County Fiscal Court for a Film Studio in Hart Co.
- Homeland Security Grant-Received \$13,800.00 for Weather Siren Alert
- KLC Safety Grant-\$3,000.00 for sidewalk repairs
- Litter Abatement Grant-\$1,332.00
- USDA-RD Grant-\$50,000.00 Police Cruisers
- Heritage Festival-19 consecutive years celebrating the arts, culture and history of Horse Cave with the support of the Kentucky Folklife Program at Western Ky. University
- Continued improvements at the Maple Street Park
- Offered the Maple Street Park picnic shelter for private events
- Working in conjunction with Cave City for a regional Trail Town designation
- Working to document every burial (name and location) in both the Main Street and Guthrie Street Cemetery. (to be completed in 2018)
- Updated the Horse Cave Zoning Ordinance (original 1987)
- Completed the modernizing and documenting of previously annexed properties with legal descriptions and maps approved by the Ky. Secretary of State
- Working with the American Cave Museum as the fiscal agent to extend their underground tours to Sunset Dome, the largest room in the state of Ky.
- Active volunteer committee working to improve downtown
- Active Code Enforcement Officer and Board working to rid the community of nuisances and blight
- Large item drop off (spring/fall)
- Free weekly waste and brush pickup
- Offered free leaf vacuum for city residents
- Thomas House available as a community use facility for events

- Offered a second story window incentive program to buildings in the local Historical District through the Board of Architectural Review
- Support the Historic Walking Tour and Horse Cave Stories website with the printing of Horse Cave Trails brochures

## Public Works

This department is responsible for maintaining city, cemeteries, leaf pickup, mowing, snow removal, buildings and all the equipment in their department. By these employees doing the routine maintain to all their equipment and repairs to the buildings the city owns, it is a great savings to the city. This department had a total of 58 grave (Main Street and Guthrie Street) opening and closing this year.

## Police Department

### Training/New Employee

- Hired and sent a new police officer through the Department of Criminal Justice Training Center. Officer Chris Trulock not only completed the rigorous police academy with the highest awards, but also received the Coordinator's award.
- Retired K-9, Charlie to a wonderful home where he can enjoy much earned rest. Fully certified K-9 Sandy was put into service as a replacement and has already assisted in many searches and several arrests to date.

### Activity

- Vehicle accidents-43
- Non-injury accidents-207
- Traffic stops-539
- Drug arrests-109
- D.U.I. arrests-53
- CAD entries-3,896. "Computer automated data" where citizens call dispatch needing help, assistance or other information for police department.

### Grants

- USDA-RD grant for \$50,000.00 toward the purchase of four 2017 Ford Interceptor Police Cruiser's
- Working with Caverna School system to raise funds to purchase protective body armor for K-9 Sandy
- Homeland Security Grant to purchase ammunition, duty weapons, etc.

### Community Relations and Involvement

- Delivered Thanksgiving baskets to families in need
- Worked with The Way Church who sponsored giving \$100.00 to citizens of the community
- “Shop with a Cop” to purchase Christmas gift for families in need
- Donated to “Back Pack Program”

## **Fire Department**

With around twenty-one volunteer firemen, this department has made 536 runs to date, medical, fire, wrecks, etc. We also maintain a 5<sup>th</sup> class fire rating which is vitally important to citizens of Horse Cave as well of any property within five miles of either fire station to help keep insurance premium as low as possible. Other improvements this year:

- New “Jaws of Life”
- New turnout gear for firefighters
- New air packs to keep department in compliance
- New landscaping around the fire house
- “Fire Prevention Week” annual visits to Legrande and Caverna Elementary Schools
- Hart Co. Chamber hosted job fair at firehouse

I will continue to work to maintain the appearance of the city, promote businesses to locate in the empty buildings in the downtown area and pursue grants to improve the city. On behalf of the employees, city council and myself we are thankful for a great year and we wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mayor Randall Curry**