

City of Kenton

Office of the Mayor, Lynn A. Webb

111 W. Franklin St. Kenton, OH 43326

419-674-4850

mayor@cityofkenton.com



2020 A YEAR IN REVIEW

How time flies! 2020 could be the name of a new rollercoaster at Cedar Point. A year that started off for the city of Kenton with a new administration, several new council members, creation of a Public Information Office, the start of Phase 1 of The Downtown Revitalization Project, and the implementation of a new trash system. Within each city department the goals for the year were intense and challenging. With what we thought was a clear vision, we could not have anticipated what was about to infect our city, state, nation, and entire globe. Throughout the rest of the year the ride continued, the highs were celebrated, and the lows of loss and tragedy were impactful. With the support of city council, a new position was created, Public Information Officer. Communication and transparency, we believe, are important in building a solid relationship with our community. A new website was designed, City of Kenton Facebook page created, and an alert system (WENS) via text, email and phone calls were implemented.

Phase 1 began and without few delays was completed in the fall of 2020. On time and slightly under budget. The completion was the beginning of Infrastructure replacement. Water, storm, and sewer lines were replaced, along with new curbs and gutters. On to Phase 2!

The importance of play and outdoor activities pressed the Parks and Recreation Department to take on some long, awaited maintenance issues. Saulisbury Park and France Lake saw much needed improvements to the campground. New electric, larger sites, and upgrades to the restroom and showers. The Kenton Municipal Pool also was privileged to a makeover of new paint of the pool floor and bathhouse. The summer months were perfect for attendance and community businesses sponsored several free days for the community. Private pool parties were also a huge hit in the summer of 2020, with most weekends, and some weekday evenings booked consistently. Wharton Park saw the expansion of the disc golf course, from 9 holes to 18. Power of community, and the initiative of private citizens were paramount to the rapid completion of the new course.

The Public Works Department for the city also engaged in a lot of activity.

The Downtown Revitalization Project required the department to work closely with Driven Construction. Several night digs replaced shutoffs, around the downtown area, and long- awaited valves at the SBHPP / Durez Plant on 68 South. A new trunk line at the water treatment plant was also replaced by Driven Construction with the assistance of our Public Works crew. During the summer, the street department diligently repaired the alleys throughout the city, along with crack sealing many of the main streets. The wastewater treatment plant had to take on several large and extensive repairs to the main rotors. Our water department implemented new software and took on the billing of the new trash program.

City of Kenton

Office of the Mayor, Lynn A. Webb

111 W. Franklin St. Kenton, OH 43326

419-674-4850

mayor@cityofkenton.com



Kenton Police Department and the Kenton Fire Department also had a year that not only tested their abilities but also their resolve. Both departments showed that we as a community are blessed to have, The Finest! As with any rollercoaster the thrills and excitement are memorable, but so are the moments of gripping fear and uncertainty. As you approach the first hill and excitement rises, the bottom drops out! COVID-19 honestly took our breath. With all the unknowns and uncertainty, we looked for precedents, there were none to be found. Schools closed and events were cancelled. As summer approached, we slowly began to open. The class of 2020 at Kenton High School could not have their usual celebration. For the first time the city held a senior cruise to celebrate the class of 2020. It was spectacular. The summer treated us well. The Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance brought back a blast from the past, Friday night cruise around the square, once a month during the summer months. Although COVID-19 still lurked and challenged our small businesses their fight, flexibility, and creativity were a testament to the never quit attitude and the support of community. The second drop came out of nowhere. A punch to the gut. A child was lost. Quentin Ellcessor age 4, was missing. Kenton police, fire, and water rescue showed that their leadership in our safety departments are THE FINEST! The outcome was not what we had hoped. Quentin showed us we can come together. Let us never forget.

In the final turn of our coaster ride, we wave goodbye to those who have retired and welcome the many new team members. Proud and thankful they chose to serve our community. As the ride of 2020 comes to an end, our hope rises again and passion for our community continues to grow. We look to the first hill of the ride now named 2021 and together we yell, "Let's go again!"



Lynn A. Webb

Mayor, City of Kenton