

The Village of Newark announces the retirement of Jeff DeCann and Bob Howard.



Jeff Decann joined the Village staff in June 1992 after working for the Village of Lyons. His water, sewer and highway experience proved to be a terrific asset and it soon became obvious that Jeff was a leader. He served under many Village DPW managers, working his way up to becoming one himself.

Jeff was not one to shy away from hard work. He could be found working on equipment or down in a hole, performing leak repairs. Jeff was also instrumental in the South Main Street reconstruction water and sewer upgrades as well as the Wood Lane storm drain and waterline installation project. He easily handled major leaks this past year on other aging transmission and distribution lines. Jeff, with his vast knowledge of Newark water and sewer systems, will be difficult to replace.

Having worked for the Village of Newark for over 28 years, Jeff has decided to retire. He and his wife, Becky, will continue to reside in his long-time home in Newark with hopes of living a simpler, stress-free lifestyle consisting of hiking, hunting and of course, working. Eventually, the DeCanns plan to build a home on their property in the mountains.

Mayor Taylor stated that, "Jeff's familiarity with infrastructure history, his hands-on hard-working approach and his in-depth knowledge will be greatly missed."

Former Mayor Peter Blandino added that, "Jeff DeCann has been an excellent employee for the Village of Newark. I had the pleasure to work with Jeff for over 17 years and watch him grow in experience, knowledge and understanding of our complicated water and sewer Systems. Jeff is a leader and has the respect of his DPW Employees. Jeff is an absolute asset to the Village of Newark and his knowledge will be missed. As a previous Mayor of the Village, I truly wish Jeff well in any of his future endeavors."

Animal Control Officer Robert "Bob" Howard will be retiring after 24 years of service. Bob is recognized for his unconditional dedication, day or night, his benevolence towards residents and dogs, and his frankness. Bob will always be remembered as fair. He was committed to seeking the best resolution for all parties and animals he came in contact with. Bob's well-deserved future plans include working around his home, continuing to engineer and build items in his shop, and taking life slowly.

Bob had always had the needs and concerns of animals at heart, initialing becoming a state certified wildlife rehabilitator and licensed nuisance wildlife control operator. Bob started as the Village of Newark Animal

Control Officer in June of 1995, and took over the Town of Arcadia Animal Control Officer duties in 1996, serving all local residents who had dog issues and concerns. In 1998, then District Attorney, Wayne County Judge Richard Healy, appointed Bob as one of Wayne County's first Animal Cruelty Investigators. Bob has carried out these duties for the last 24 years without fanfare. He is a much appreciated friend and devoted employee. He will be missed.

Newark Police Chief Mark Thoms stated, "Bob has done an often thankless job for the residents of Newark, Arcadia and Wayne County with commitment and devotion to his craft. His dedication to seek out resolutions for the best interest of the animals and the residents, understanding each situation was unique. If a dog was in the pound, Bob would seek out prospective pet owners to adopt the dog into a new family."

Wayne County Judge Richard Healy commented, "I have worked closely with Bob as District Attorney for over 20 years. His dedicated work as an Animal Cruelty Investigator displayed his hardworking commitment to the welfare of all animals in Wayne County."

Mayor Taylor stated, "Over the years Bob has been dedicated to this difficult and sometimes dangerous job, rescuing dogs from abandonment or unsafe and unsanitary conditions."

The Village of Newark wishes both of these gentlemen well and thanks them for their many years of service and commitment to the Village.