

# CITY OF FINDLAY

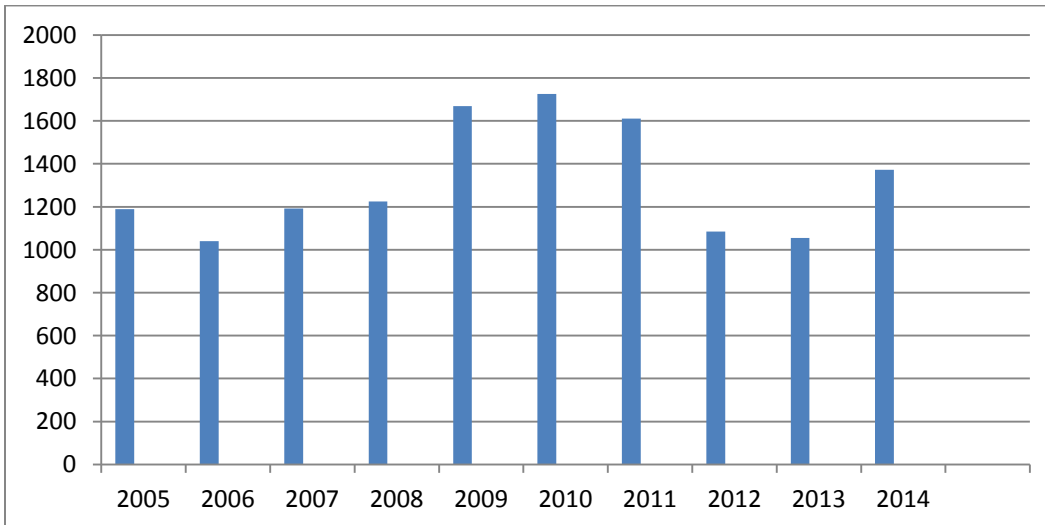
## NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT & ABATEMENT TEAM

### 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

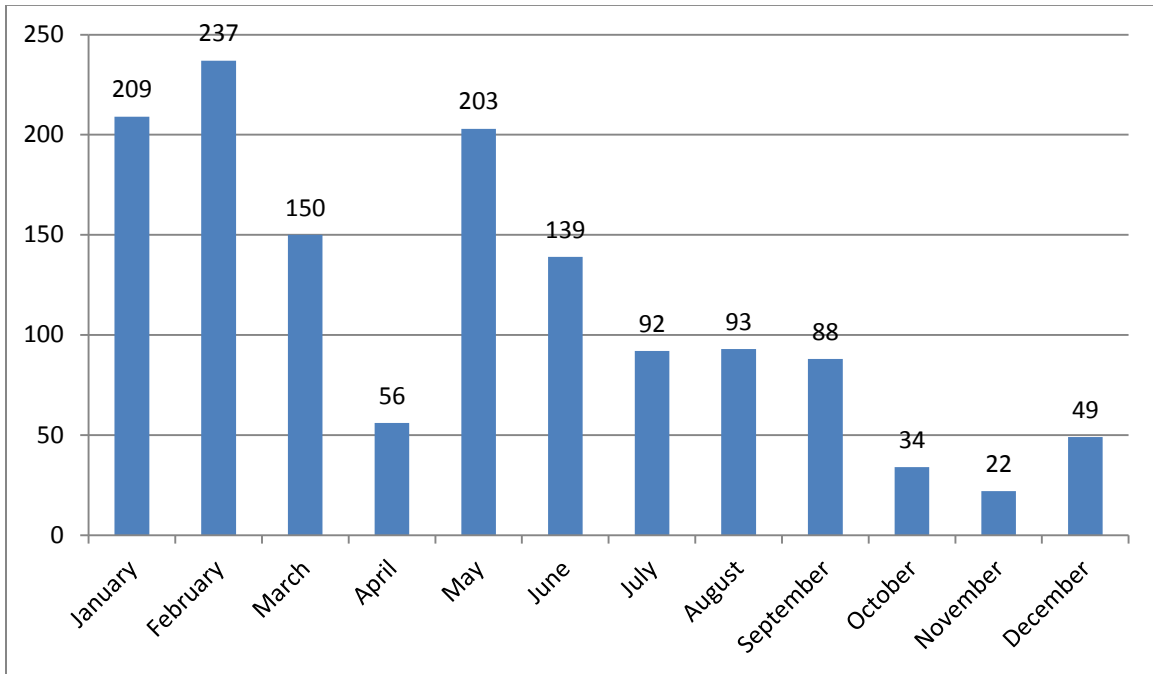
The Neighborhood Enhancement & Abatement Team (NEAT) has completed its tenth full calendar year of existence within the City. What began as a group of four full time and one part time employee has through attrition now become a department of one individual working diligently to respond to neighborhood concerns. These may include, but are not limited to, tall grass, dilapidated structures, overgrowth, right of way issues, trash, junk on premises, junk and/or abandoned vehicles, covered sidewalks and any sort of property issue. This one individual handles all operational aspects to keep the NEAT office running smoothly and attain compliance from property owners.

The staff of NEAT works to handle all citizen complaints in a timely fashion. Each matter that is referred to NEAT goes through a detailed process, including investigation, photographing, cataloguing of photos, computer entry, letters to property owners, and working with the property owners to achieve compliance. If matters are not handled by the property owner, NEAT will have the situations abated and then invoice the property owner in order to recoup the expense. Those property owners who choose not to pay the invoice received will find that amount assessed to the property taxes for the abatement process.

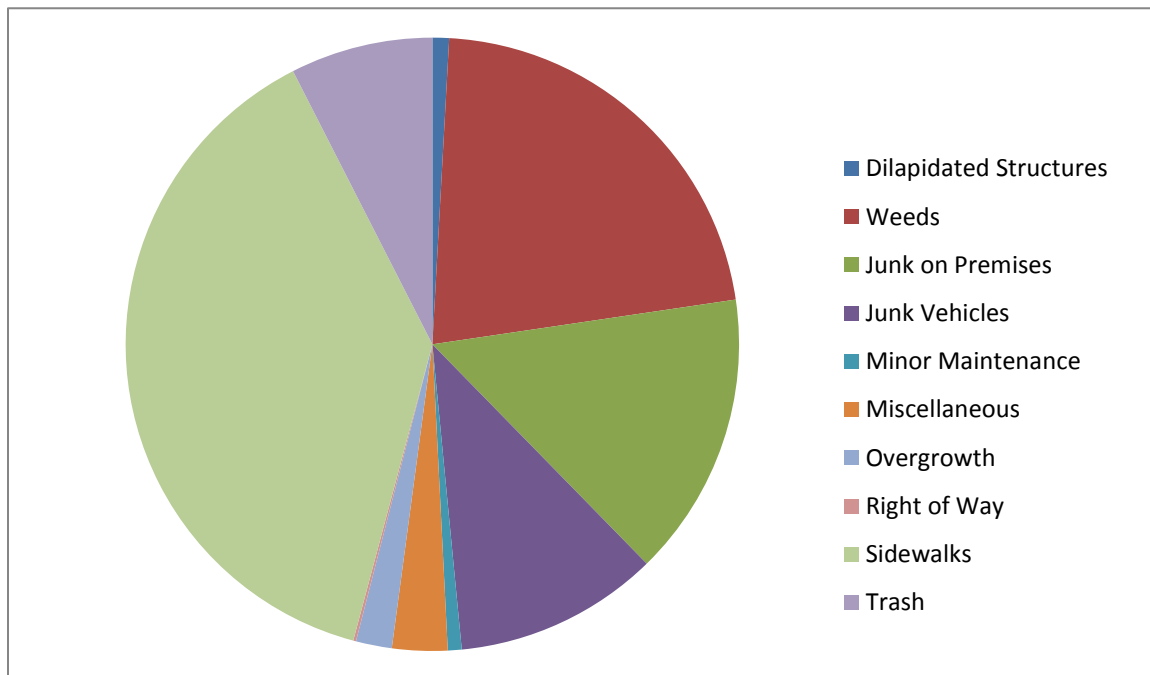
The case load for NEAT continues to be very steady. In 2014, 1370 new cases were reported. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest year for new cases and is above the average yearly reporting of 1179 new cases.



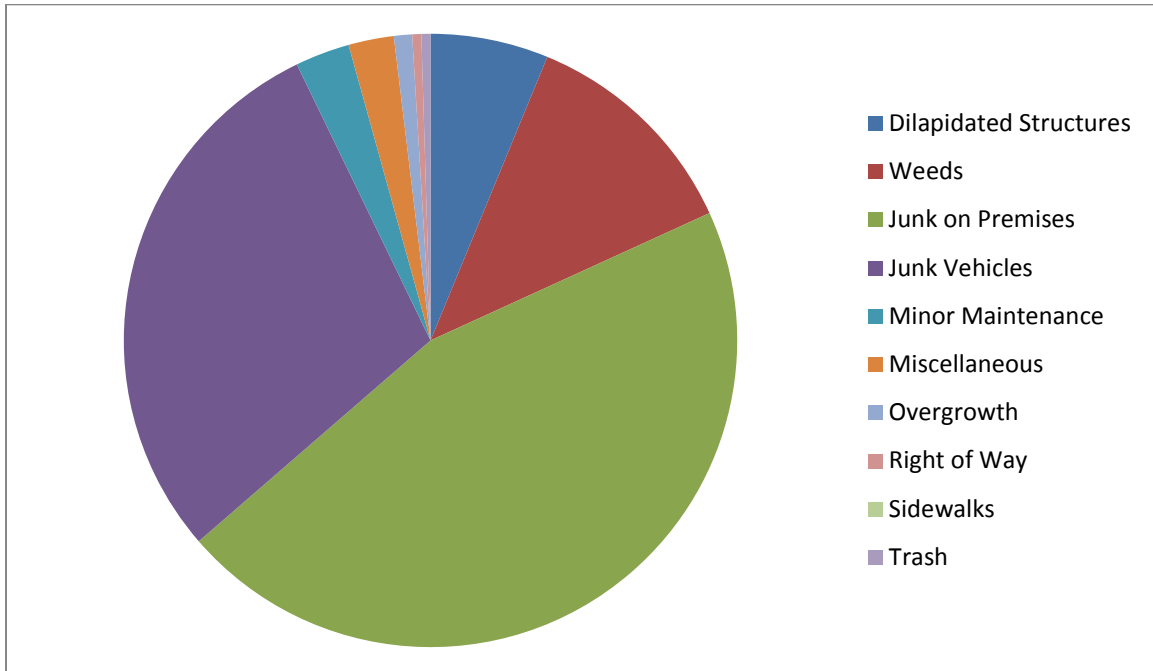
The steady volume results in an average of just over 114 new cases each month. The following chart shows the activity by month.



At the end of the year, the 1372 total new cases reported were broken down as follows: 12 Dilapidated Structures, 299 weed/high grass issues, 206 junk on premises, 148 junk and/or abandoned vehicles, 10 minor maintenance issues, 40 miscellaneous concerns, 26 overgrowth, 2 right of way, 526 sidewalk concerns and 103 trash complaints. These are illustrated percentage wise below.



At the conclusion of the year, 209 cases remained open. These are broken out as 13 dilapidated structures, 25 weed/high grass, 95 junk on premises, 61 junk and/or abandoned vehicles, 6 minor maintenance issues, 5 miscellaneous, 2 overgrowths, 1 right of way and 1 trash issue.



The Backyard Mission Trip was held again in conjunction with the Ministerial Association. This project is a highlight of each spring and has now branched out into the county and continues to grow bigger and better each year. In 2014, over 1300 volunteers worked on 220 projects throughout Findlay and Hancock County. The generosity of the community was evident from monetary donations that were made, food donated to feed the volunteers and the outpouring of aid and assistance offered to those with work that needed to be completed.



This entire project began in 2011 through a very simple idea from College First Church of God and has grown to a cumulative total of over 2700 volunteers who have assisted on over 415 projects throughout the area. These volunteers include athletic teams, service organizations, City and County personnel, student groups, families, church groups, neighborhoods and citizens who come together to assist others in the community. Many lasting friendships have been formed through this community outreach.



All types of projects are requested by property owners and include such things as painting, spreading mulch, changing light bulbs, installing handicapped ramps, small carpentry jobs, tree trimming, cleaning, and similar jobs. One group assisted a recent stroke victim in cleaning out an attic. The City of Findlay and the County also benefit from this project as projects are done for these entities as well as NEAT. For 2015, the goal is to have 215 projects to be worked on by 1500 volunteers. The staff of NEAT is very proud to be a member of the volunteer leadership team coordinating this event from its inception.



The Neighborhood Enhancement & Abatement Team stands ready and willing to assist with whatever needs are presented from the community. Gaining compliance is our ultimate goal. We are always willing to work with property owners to achieve satisfaction by all parties involved.