

Office of the City Manager Activities, Projects & Interactions

February 2024



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February 2024

Letter from the City Manager

February was an active month in Dublin, filled with both preparation and progress. With the recent celebration of the President's Day Holiday, I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy some rest and relaxation with family and friends.

Heading into the holiday weekend, our SnowGo team demonstrated extraordinary efforts in snow removal, handling seven inches of snow that fell in rapid fashion. Their dedication ensured that our streets remained safe and accessible for residents and visitors.

As we enter the final stages of the Envision Dublin Community Plan Update process, a joint advisory meeting was held, bringing together Council's four advisory committees: the Chief's Advisory Committee, Community Inclusion Advisory Committee, Community Services Advisory Committee and Veterans Committee. This collaborative session gathered perspectives and insights from this diverse group of community stakeholders, which informed the Feb. 26 update to City Council.

The NW 33 Council of Governments (COG) held its first meeting of 2024 and elected new leadership. Congratulations to Union County Administrator Bill Narducci on being elected Chair and Marysville City Manager Terry Emery, who was elected Vice Chair. I look forward to working with my fellow COG members as we collaborate on important issues, initiatives and opportunities impacting The Beta District.

The COG was honored to receive the Ohio City & County Management Association (OCMA) Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for our collaborative efforts in The Beta District. The OCMA also recognized the City of Dublin with a Placemaking Award for our work on Riverside Crossing Park. This award highlights innovative ways that communities create unique public spaces. The awards were presented at the 2024 OCMA Annual Conference in Columbus.

In furtherance of regional collaboration, I was pleased to participate in a panel discussion for the LinkUS Workforce Advancement Stakeholder Group. LinkUS is an initiative to bring rapid transit solutions and world-class transportation options to Central Ohio as we prepare for significant population growth in the region. Dublin is grateful to be included in one of the first rapid-transit corridors, which indicates the demand for fast, reliable transportation to and from our area.



LinkUS and the Amtrak passenger rail investments will dramatically improve accessible and affordable transportation in our region. It's important that Dublin continues to take a proactive approach to these initiatives, which are vital to economic development, workforce retention and quality of life.

Members of Dublin's senior leadership team participated in a training session called "Space to Lead," in which we discussed effective time management. Guided by expert facilitators from Leverage HR, we delved into practical strategies to enhance productivity and leadership effectiveness.

We finalized plans for the Greenest, Grandest St. Patrick's Day parade on March 9 and the State of the City address March 14. These events provide valuable opportunities for community engagement and reflection on the progress and future direction of our city.

In summary, February was a month marked by collaborative efforts, strategic initiatives and community celebrations in the City of Dublin. As we continue to work together towards our shared goals, let's carry forward the spirit of innovation and resilience that defines our city. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making February a success, and let's look forward to an equally productive and rewarding month ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan O'Callaghan". The script is fluid and cursive.

Megan O'Callaghan
City Manager

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Denotes innovative initiatives.

2023/2024 City Council Goals

1

Become the Most Connected Community in the U.S.

Phase III: Broadband to the Home Project

Status: altafiber is currently gathering field data for phase 1 right-of-way permits. All fiber distribution hub field location reviews were completed in December. As of the February meeting, field construction is set to begin Q2 2024. Concurrently, altafiber has leased space at 6685 Dublin Center Drive to have a physical location for residents to answer questions and sign up for service, satisfying a term in the Master Network Agreement. They should take possession of the property at the same time construction begins. The website has had 2,390+ project page views, 1,100+ residents have signed up for updates, and a total of 235 residents have notified altafiber of having a dog fence and/or sprinkler. This information will help altafiber coordinate how they enter a resident's yard when laying fiber to make the least amount of impact on the resident. Staff and altafiber are actively working on a resident communication plan. altafiber and Dublink Development Company LLC are actively working on the lease agreement that will allow altafiber to utilize the Dublink multi-conduit system. Staff and altafiber representatives updated Council on altafiber's progress and plans moving forward at the Feb. 26 Council meeting.

2

Realize the Metro Center Revitalization Vision

Reposition the Metro Center legacy office park by implementing the vision and goals of the Dublin Corporate Area Plan. Develop a design and implementation framework that creates a distinctive identity, encourages dynamic reinvestment, provides a vibrant mix of uses in a walkable environment, and promotes sustainable design principles. Identify opportunities for public and private partnerships for catalytic projects that transform the Metro Center area consistent with the framework.

Status: The City's consultant team, Sasaki and EMH&T are developing implementation scenarios for Council's consideration based on the feedback gained from the work session with City Council Jan. 29 and the input provided at the public meeting Jan. 30. There will be another update presented to City Council in late April, followed by a detailed review of scenarios at the May work session.

3

Strengthen the Stewardship and Vitality of our Historic District Core

Explore dedicated day-to-day management and establish definitive goals on what the Dublin community aims to preserve – environment, structures, era and architecture. Explore dedicated management and support options and structure that would allow “someone” to wake up every day with the focused mission and tools of delivering on the goals of the district.

Status: Staff has begun working on the phase two amendments to the Code and Guidelines to provide additional Staff-level approval criteria within the Code and clarify how the Code and Guidelines will be applied to background buildings. The two amendments will be presented to the Architectural Review Board at a special meeting on Apr. 17. The Dublin Community Improvement Corporation approved its second round of applications for the newly reinstated Commercial Façade Improvement Program, awarding \$50,000 to 30 & 32 S. High St. and \$25,000 to 45 N. High St.

4

Develop Dublin's “Destination of Choice” Next-Generation Community Events Vision

Develop a local and regional community events program and management roadmap. Leverage Dublin parks and facilities to create a connected, comprehensive and fiscally sustainable vision that drives vitality, engagement and entertainment.

Status: Staff members have evaluated the City's current event tempo, operating and funding model; researched, visited and analyzed event operating, funding and management models in other cities; and brought forward new events and policies regarding next-generation community events for Council's consideration. Staff members reviewed two proposals and determined that they did not achieve the scope of services within the request for proposal. Staff members have revised and reissued an RFP with responses due March 22. Staff members are forming a committee of stakeholders comprised of Visit Dublin Ohio, a Council Member and key City Staff to review responses. [The RFP can be found here.](#)

Key Project Updates

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Bright Road Corridor Improvements and the Emerald Parkway/Mount Carmel Roundabout	As part of the economic development agreement with Mount Carmel Health System, improvements are planned to ease congestion at two locations in east Dublin, the Bright Road Corridor and the main entrance to the Mount Carmel site along Emerald Parkway. Improvements are being coordinated with the new Mount Carmel Health System hospital in the southwest quadrant of the Sawmill and Bright roads intersection.	The consultant is routing the plans for the City of Columbus' signatures. Utility coordination is ongoing. Right-of-way acquisition and negotiations are underway after acquisition authorization and appropriations were approved at the Nov. 27, 2023, City Council meeting. This project is being coordinated with the design of the roundabout at the Emerald Parkway and Mount Carmel Health System main access point. Pedestrian crossing enhancements, in accordance with Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines, have been added to the plans. The bid opening will take place March 11, 2024. Staff members are targeting to bring the bid before City Council in late March/early April for approval. Completion of the roundabout is planned for fall 2024. The Bright Road Corridor completion will follow in fall 2025.
COhatch Headquarters and Riverview Village Development	At the Sept. 11, 2023, City Council meeting, Council approved a real estate transfer and development agreement for the development of Riverview Village. Riverview Village will be home to COhatch's national headquarters, as well as a first of-its-kind coworking and entrepreneurship district in Historic Dublin.	On Feb. 13, COhatch submitted an updated concept plan for consideration by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) and City Council. The plan includes the retention and renovation of all landmark structures on the site, mostly within their existing footprints. The structures on the west side of North Riverview Street would be converted to private office suites, while the red house on the east side is still proposed for restaurant use. A new 15,000-square-foot COhatch building would be constructed south of the restaurant and public spaces would be provided throughout the site. The concept plan is scheduled to be considered by ARB at its March 27, 2024, meeting. Regular meetings between COhatch and City Staff and consultants are ongoing to ensure coordination with the planning for the surrounding street improvements and Riverside Crossing Park.
Community Gateway Signs	City Council approved an initial design concept in March 2022 for new community gateway signs at key entrances to the City, following a recommendation from the Community Development Committee. To properly recognize the many accolades and achievements the City of Dublin has earned, City Council requested these be incorporated as an additional sign or modified original design. Staff members are creating a revised community gateway sign design to accommodate the various site conditions and incorporate such accolades.	City Council referred this topic to the Community Development Committee (CDC) at the Nov. 13 meeting. Staff members are currently reviewing concepts provided by the consultant and will bring options to the CDC at a meeting in spring 2024.

Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Community Health Needs Assessment	<p>The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a systematic process involving the community to identify, analyze and prioritize community health needs as well as plan to act upon unmet community health needs. Guiding this effort is the Advisory Committee, which includes the City, Washington Township, each of the four major health systems, mental health care providers, Dublin City Schools and a variety of social service organizations that serve Dublin residents.</p>	<p>The CHNA Advisory Committee met Feb. 9 to review the CHNA draft report and to participate in a workshop to identify the priority community health needs. These initial priority health needs will be reviewed by City Staff members and updates to Council will follow. Working groups will be identified for each priority health need to determine strategies and timelines to address the needs. These working groups will be comprised of Advisory Committee members and community partners. All data collected to date, along with the priority health needs, strategies and action steps, will be combined to produce the CHNA final report in early spring.</p>
Envision Dublin Community Plan Update <p>The Envision Dublin Community Plan will be a roadmap for the City to direct future growth and development over the next 20 years.</p>	<p>The Envision Dublin process is currently focused on land-use modeling, in conjunction with transportation and mobility and utility service modeling, which has been informed by the work of the Steering Committee. The committee has also focused its efforts on the development and initial recommendations of the special area plans. The modeling efforts and special area plan development will result in a preferred land-use scenario and detailed recommendations for the area plans that will be incorporated into the final Community Plan, which is targeted for completion in June 2024.</p>	<p>The consultant provided an update at the Feb. 26 City Council meeting, giving the public another opportunity to engage with the project. The Steering Committee continues to help guide the Community Plan's updates with the most recent meeting held Feb. 27, which focused on land-use scenarios and an introduction to the mobility plan. Other public meetings that have occurred includes a presentation and engagement opportunity with members of the Chief's Advisory Committee, Community Inclusion Advisory Committee, Community Services Advisory Committee and the Veterans Committee, and an update to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Additional public meetings will be held to review the draft land-use plan and special area plans in April.</p>
EV Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan	<p>Develop a comprehensive plan researching and recommending the types and appropriate placement of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for both electric vehicles (EV) and e-bikes.</p>	<p>Staff members are developing a comprehensive plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure based on EV adoption rates, industry best practices and data from the City. The final draft report is under review. The project completion date is expected in Q1.</p>
Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh	<p>In 2022, Council directed \$3.1 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds for improvements to the Dublin Community Recreation Center (DCRC). Subsequently, staff members began working to identify an architect to update the improvement scenarios identified pre-pandemic, a task which was complicated by the high growth of inflation, especially in the construction industry. In July 2022, the City contracted with MSA Design to update the necessary improvements and associated costs for the DCRC. This project also incorporates the Mobility Hub to reduce costs associated with individual construction projects.</p>	<p>As the project enters phase 3 "visioning," staff members and the consultant group will be working on dimensional renderings of key spaces and cost estimates. Staff members met with fourth and fifth graders from Eli Pinney Elementary to hear their ideas for the refresh. The students developed ideas for the refresh as part of their gifted curriculum classes. The third public engagement meeting is scheduled for March 13 at the DCRC.</p>

Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
City of Columbus Fourth Water Plant	The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities is building a fourth water plant and transmission mains to prepare for the growing need for clean, safe drinking water in Central Ohio.	Geotechnical borings and topographical surveys began in Dec. 2023 and are expected to be completed in spring 2024. The transmission alignments reviewed during the Dec. 2023 meeting between the City of Columbus and City of Dublin continue to be evaluated. The final design of the first transmission main is expected to start in spring 2024. Construction of that main is anticipated to commence in 2026 and be completed in 2028. Final design of the second transmission main is expected to begin in summer 2024 with construction beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029.
Dublin Sustainability Plan	In connection with the Envision Dublin Community Plan, the Dublin Sustainability Plan will be a guiding document to advance the City's sustainability efforts. Asakura Robinson, an award-winning planning and urban design firm, is providing consultant services for this project. EcoDublin, the City's internal Sustainability Committee, meets biweekly with the consultant.	An updated draft of the Dublin Sustainability Plan, which incorporated feedback from the EcoDublin team, was received in early February. The draft was reviewed by the City's senior leadership team throughout Feb. Staff members anticipate bringing the Plan before City Council for review in Q1 2024.
Holiday Market Feasibility Study	At the recommendation of the Public Services Committee, City Council unanimously voted Oct. 9, 2023, to direct Staff to move forward with the second phase of a feasibility study to analyze a potential holiday market in Dublin.	The RFP for consultant services to conduct a feasibility study for a potential holiday market in Dublin was issued on Feb. 20, 2024. The link to the RFP was shared with firms identified through the City's research on the topic and several firms suggested by Visit Dublin Ohio. The deadline for responses is March 8, 2024. The RFP can be found here.
Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study	The City engaged Webb Mgmt to conduct a feasibility study to complete a proposed business plan, potential site locations and pro forma for a potential performing arts center.	Webb Mgmt conducted Phase I and II of the Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study and presented their report to Dublin City Council Aug. 28. Staff members returned to the Community Development Committee (CDC) for further discussion Oct. 17, at the recommendation of City Council. Following a review of the information provided by Webb Mgmt, the CDC recommended to City Council to accept the Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study. Council accepted the report and determined that the discussion of next steps would take place as part of upcoming work sessions and Council's retreat in 2024.

Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Post Road Interchange	This project provides for U.S. 33/S.R. 161/Post Road interchange ramps and terminal intersections previously approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The project will provide the needed interchange capacity improvements.	Construction is underway and managed by ODOT. Reconstruction of both U.S. 33 bridges over Post Road/S.R. 161 and reconstruction/widening of Post Road/S.R. 161 are expected to be complete by June 2025. The westbound ramp of Post Road/S.R. 161 to U.S. 33 eastbound is closed through spring 2024. Traffic will need to use the Eiterman Road roundabout to access the U.S. 33 eastbound ramp. The new alignment of the U.S. 33 eastbound ramp to Post Rd./S.R. 161 eastbound has opened. Traffic will permanently use the Eiterman Road roundabout to access Post Rd./S.R. 161 eastbound. The Hyland-Croy intersection will remain right-in, right-out only until late 2024.
Riverside Crossing Park Master Plan	Master planning of Riverside Crossing Park is set to include consideration of many elements, including river access; a kayak launch site; connectivity to Dublin Springs and Indian Run Falls parks; adventure elements; walking trails; a Japanese style garden; updates to the great lawn for festivals; revisiting the promenade in conjunction with festivals being held on the great lawn; and other supporting elements.	The consultants and staff members met at the west bank of the river to discuss potential concepts based on the layout and ideas from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There will be multiple public engagement sessions and stakeholder meetings throughout 2024. The dates for the public engagement session are being worked out and will coincide with public engagement related to the Riverview Village and COhatch HQ project.
Speed Management	A new Speed Management Program was approved by City Council July 31. The updated Speed Management Program better addresses safety concerns and provides more tools that can be used throughout the City. The Speed Management Program provides a framework for a data-driven approach to speed management and context-sensitive solutions to address speeding based on national best practices. The program's goals and strategies strive to create safe and comfortable streets for all road users across Dublin, including people walking and rolling.	The Slow Down Dublin campaign is underway. The dashboard is live to show the locations of the mobile speed trailers and rotating driver feedback signs, enforcement and crash metrics, along with speed survey results. Speed safety cameras were deployed in Feb. The cameras are located on Muirfield Drive near Whittingham Drive, Emerald Parkway near Emerald Campus and southbound Riverside Drive entering the 25-mph zone near Bridge Park. Staff members are preparing updated tactical urbanism materials, incorporating feedback from Community Services Advisory Commission at their Dec. meeting, and plan to bring a recommendation forward at a City Council meeting this spring.
The Emerald Connector (Tuller Road/ Emerald Parkway Over 270 Crossing)	This project provides for an evaluation of a new crossing over I-270 from Tuller Road to Emerald Parkway. This work will continue to develop bridge and intersection details, mobility features, utility infrastructure and aesthetic elements. View a complete list of projects.	Staff members are reviewing the 90% submission and setting up a public meeting. Detailed design was included in the Winter Consultant Services Bulletin. The preferred consultant provided a fee proposal Feb. 13, 2024. The bid acceptance for the demolition of the existing structure at 4130 Tuller Road was approved at the Feb. 5, 2024, City Council meeting. Ahead of the demolition, the Dublin Police Department conducted new hire practical training scenarios, and the Delaware Tactical Unit also trained there. The demolition permit was approved by the Administrative Review Team on Feb. 28, with demolition to follow.

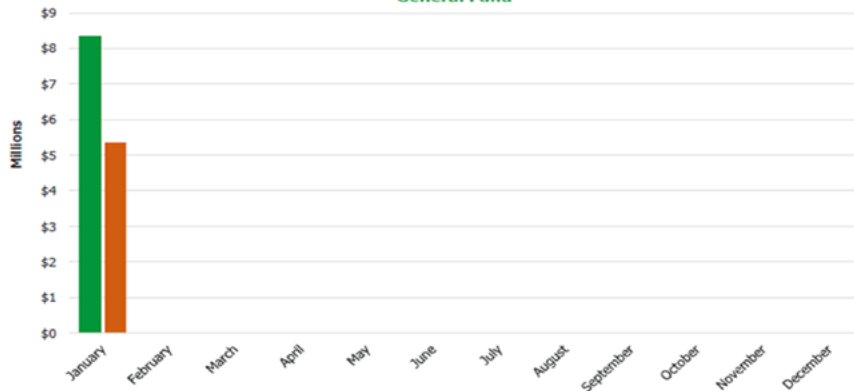
Finance

Highlights

General Fund Information

Total GF Revenue: \$8,345,223
Total GF Expenditures: \$5,321,486

2024 Revenue vs. Expenditures
General Fund



Highlights

General Fund Cash Balance: \$69,911,172

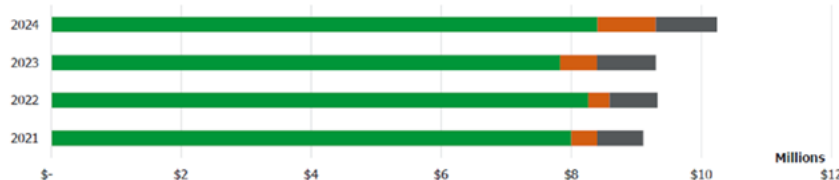
- 71.3% of actual expenditures
- \$20,851,012 in excess of 50% reserve level

Income Tax revenue was 10.1% above 2023 YTD levels, or \$936,069

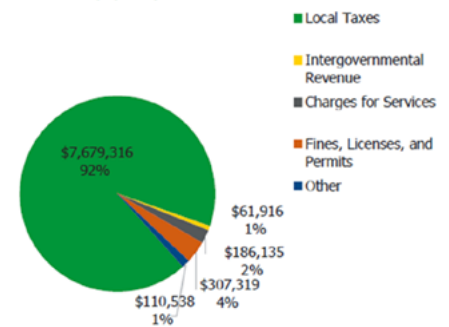
- Receipts are 11.8% or \$1,076,463 ahead of budget
- Comparing YTD January 2022 versus January 2023:
 - Withholding increased 7.29%
 - Net profit revenue increased 58.15%
 - Individual revenue increased 4.08%

Income Tax Collections

As of January 31, 2024, YTD income tax receipts totaled \$10,237,688, an increase of 10.1% over the same time in 2024. The 2024 budgeted income tax revenue is \$106,000,000.

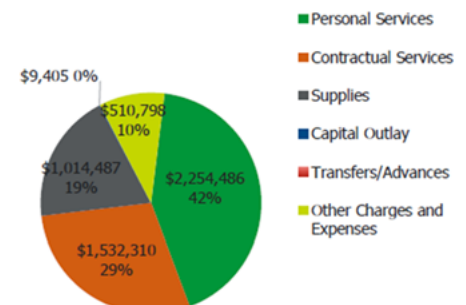


General Fund Revenue (by type) \$8,345,223



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Withholding	\$ 8,006,465	\$ 8,267,924	\$ 7,838,125	\$ 8,409,906
Net Profit	\$ 397,263	\$ 326,605	\$ 563,325	\$ 890,906
Individual	\$ 706,543	\$ 734,031	\$ 900,168	\$ 936,875
Total	\$ 9,110,271	\$ 9,328,560	\$ 9,301,618	\$ 10,237,688

General Fund Expenses (by type) \$5,321,486



For comprehensive details of revenues and expenditures, see the January [Revenue](#) and [Expense](#) Reports.

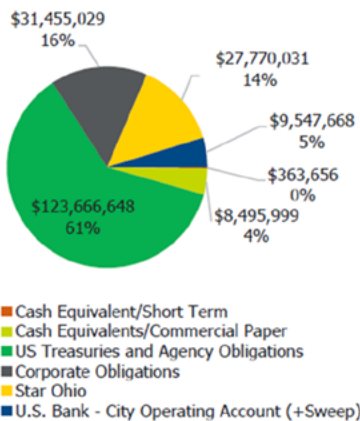
Finance Update

Fund Balance as of January 31, 2024

Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance
101 - General Fund	\$69,911,172	419 - TIF Thomas/Kohler	\$3,382,640	462 - TIF Nestle	\$252,271
201 - Street Maintenance and Repair	\$1,932,213	421 - TIF McKittrick Project	\$971,113	463 - TIF Bridge Park Blocks B & C	\$989,604
202 - State Highway	\$518,423	425 - TIF Perimeter Center	\$1,796,810	464 - TIF Innovation	\$392,557
225 - Recreation	\$2,316,235	426 - TIF Rings Road	\$852,482	465 - TIF Riviera	\$735,059
226 - Pool	\$247,031	431 - TIF Perimeter West	\$977,350	466 - TIF Penzone	\$266,351
231 - Permissive Tax	\$108,100	432 - TIF Upper Metro Place	\$1,218,850	467 - TIF H2 Hotel	\$414,858
232 - Hotel/Motel Tax	\$2,296,479	433 - TIF Rings/Frantz	\$1,479,048	468 - TIF Bridge Park Block Z	\$426
241 - Safety	\$1,002,786	436 - TIF Historic Dublin Parking	\$41,502	469 - TIF Block A	\$1,135
242 - Law Enforcement	\$70,120	440 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 5	\$22,107	474 - TIF Bridge Park Incentive Dist	\$32,680
243 - Mandatory Drug Fine	\$2,927	441 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 8	\$5,189	475 - TIF The Corners	\$279,763
244 - Wireless 9-1-1 System	\$730,115	442 - TIF Perimeter Loop	\$47,558	591 - Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$1,780,591
251 - Enforcement and Education	\$78,022	443 - TIF Tartan West	\$993,774	610 - Water	\$12,844,367
252 - Mayors Court Computer	\$31,479	444 - TIF Shamrock Blvd.	\$114,391	612 - Water Construction	\$1,164,815
261 - Cemetery	\$121,269	446 - TIF River Ridge	\$759,437	620 - Sewer	\$7,320,202
262 - Accrued Leave Reserves	\$836,149	447 - TIF Lifetime Fitness	\$563,645	623 - Sewer Construction	\$2,673,784
263 - Rings Unitrust	\$1,000,000	449 - TIF Irelan Place	\$19,458	701 - Self Insurance - Employee Bens	\$5,413,587
267 - OPIOID RELIEF FUND	\$46,425	450 - TIF Shier Rings Road	\$55,253	703 - Self Insurance - Workers Comp	\$478,548
299 - Occupancy Deposits	\$184,000	451 - TIF Shamrock Crossing	\$230,462	803 - Unclaimed Monies	\$147,516
310 - General Debt Service	\$1,935,955	452 - TIF Bridge and High Street	\$283,751	804 - Visit Dublin Ohio	\$0
311 - Econ Development Bond Retirmt	\$777,234	453 - TIF Dublin Methodist Hospital	\$1,252,616	805 - Agency	\$16,858
320 - S.A. Debt Service	\$17,659	454 - TIF Kroger Centre	\$1,346,646	807 - C.O.I.R.S.	\$427,565
322 - 2001 S.A. Debt Service	\$134,913	455 - TIF Frantz/Dublin Road	\$113,166	821 - Building Standards Surcharges	\$3,846
401 - Capital Improvements Tax	\$47,758,035	456 - TIF Delta Energy	\$53	822 - Columbus Sewer Capacity	\$21,308
402 - Parkland Acquisition	\$4,860,754	457 - TIF Bridge Street	\$486,709	823 - New Community Authority	\$0
404 - Capital Improvement Constructi	\$3,635,665	458 - TIF Vrible	\$109,430	831 - Law Enforcement Custodial Fund	\$403,970
412 - TIF Woerner-Temple	\$223,826	459 - TIF West Innovation	\$6,116,876	Grand Total	\$204,158,858
415 - TIF Ruscilli	\$722,137	460 - TIF Ohio University	\$13,844		
416 - TIF Pizzuti	\$246,840	461 - TIF Tuller	\$3,097,071		

Investment Summary as of January 31, 2024

Total market value: \$201,299,031



Grant Opportunities

Staff began a four-month Local Infrastructure Hub Grant Application Bootcamp. Sponsored by the National League of Cities and Bloomberg Philanthropies, this program-specific training from leading experts will provide assistance on developing a data-driven application, writing a compelling grant narrative, navigating capital stacks, understanding federal administration priorities, and more.

Staff members across several divisions are also tracking the All Ohio Future Fund which supports local communities with project-ready economic development sites. This \$750 million fund provides an opportunity for sites located in Dublin's West Innovation District. Eligible costs for local communities include public roadwork, water/wastewater and related infrastructure, utility-gap funding to connect to gas/electric utilities; or relocate utilities on-site (with end-user identified), and other one-time site enhancements.

Grants submitted in 2024: 3 applications for a total of \$1,210,000 requested

[View the Grant Tracker for a comprehensive list of grant opportunities.](#)

Economic Development

Highlights

Business Retention & Expansion

- Business Retention and Expansion visits continue for 2024.
- The Economic Development Team is updating database information to have up-to-date contact information for our corporate residents.



JobsOhio/One Columbus Leads

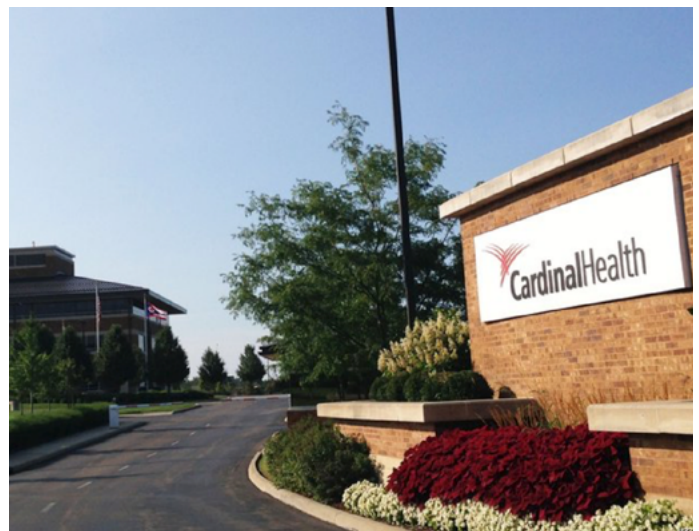
The Economic Development team submitted additional information for the SiteOhio certification program administered by JobsOhio. The next step in the certification process requires a site visit before being certified by the state of Ohio as shovel-ready for development.

Strategic Initiatives

On Feb. 23, Community Planning and Economic Development Staff presented to the Greater Dublin Realty Association on the Metro Center Revitalization Visioning and Implementation project.

Travel & Training

Economic Development Director, Jeremiah Gracia, attended the annual summit of economic development leaders from across the globe in Phoenix. The topics of discussion were focused on infrastructure, foreign direct investment, partnerships and collaboration, and leadership development. The conference also allowed an opportunity to learn more about the [deployment of Waymo](#), the world's first fully autonomous ride-sharing service, in Phoenix.



Company News

- [Kinetics Noise Control Keeps Quiet in Dublin](#)
- [Cardinal Health to acquire Cleveland health IT company for \\$1.2B](#)
- [Cardinal Health reabsorbs finance analytics functions outsourced to NY public company](#)
- [Nationwide leases Lewis Center data center to Expedient](#)
- [Dasi Simulations closes on \\$5M convertible note round](#)

Economic Development



The Dublin CIC met Feb. 26 and took the following actions:

- Elected Andy Keeler as Chair
- Elected John Reiner as Vice-Chair
- Elected Chris Amorose Groomes as President
- Updated progress of its strategic planning process led by Montrose Group LLC
- Entered into an agreement with Avant Communications for Dublink Transport Referrals
- Amended the Articles of Incorporation and adopted a Conflicts of Interest Policy in order to complete the 501(c)(3) application
- Awarded Commerical Facade Improvement Grants – two grant applications were reviewed and approved, including:
 - 30-32 S. High St. - \$50,000 for removing non-contributing structures, facade materials and invasive trees, improving landscaping, replacing windows, doors, gutters and roofing, and restoration of a historic stone wall.
 - 45 N. High St. - \$25,000 for painting and construction of a new porch on the front facade of the structure, facing North High Street.



The Beta District was recognized by the Ohio City & County Management Association with the “Intergovernmental Cooperation Award.” This award recognizes outstanding programs developed through strategic partnerships. The NW 33 Council of Governments is pursuing \$35 million in funding through the Ohio Department of Development’s Innovation Hubs grant program. The proposal would pursue funding for a Connected Vehicle Innovation Hub known as CHIME (Connected Hub of Innovation in Mobility and Electrification). The funding will be used to establish a location for CHIME in The Beta District, purchase capital equipment, support the recruitment/hiring of staff, and build the appropriate technical ecosystem to support CHIME R&D activities.



Events

- IEDC Leadership Summit – Feb. 3 - 6
- MORPC Data Day – Feb. 7
- JASCO’s Panel Discussion on Mobility & Transportation. Speakers included representatives from Kamakura Living Lab, Smart Columbus and Honda Research Institute USA – Feb. 7
- Columbus Business First Power Breakfast – Feb. 15
- NAIOP Battling the Doom Loop: Strategies for Addressing Office Reuse – Feb. 21
- Mount Carmel site tour – Feb. 26
- Dublin Chamber Economic Forecast at OhioHealth – Feb. 27



Terry Emery, Bill Narducci and I accepted the OCMA Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for The Beta District.

Community Development

Boards & Commission Activity



Renewable Energy Equipment - Solar

City Council approved an amendment to the Zoning Code regarding solar equipment Dec. 11, 2023. The update's purpose is to increase the number of permits that could be approved to support sustainability and ensure high-quality aesthetic standards are maintained. The Community Planning & Development Department has reviewed seven permits since the adoption of the revised Code in Dec., and four have been approved. Community Planning & Development will continue to monitor permit activity and report on progress monthly.

3D Modeling Demonstration - ARB

Initial discussions regarding the ArcGIS 3D modeling applications began at a joint work session with City Council and Board and Commission members in Aug. 2022. It was suggested that this software could be beneficial for the Architectural Review Board (ARB) to imagine building massing and detailing during the development review process, particularly for demonstrating how building massing and scale appear in 3D compared to elevations and plans. The Board expressed interest in the project, and the Planning Staff worked with GIS Staff for successful implementation.

The software is currently used for ARB cases, as envisioned. In Nov. last year, it was used for an upcoming development proposal at 16-22 N. High St., and Staff produced still images at the informal review. Most recently, at the Feb. ARB meeting, Staff presented 3D walkthroughs to better understand massing and scales in context with the adjacent buildings within the Historic District for the same project.

[Watch a video of this tool being utilized on its first case at this link, select "Case #23-136ARB & Case #23-135ARB-CP".](#)

Boards & Commissions Activity

The Planning and Zoning Commission heard two cases in Feb., along with two Staff-generated projects. Midwestern Auto Group was heard informally regarding expanding their campus across Perimeter Drive for new Volvo and Volkswagen dealerships and associated uses. The Commission was not supportive, and a number of residents shared their concerns. Amlin Crossing returned to the Commission for a fourth time, taking a step back to an informal review with a revised concept, based on feedback from their tabled preliminary development plan rezoning request last year. [Find a list of the Feb. caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Administrative Review Team was canceled due to lack of requests. [Find a list of the Feb. caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Architectural Review Board heard five cases including a redevelopment concept plan for 16-22 N. High St., where approval for a new, mixed-use building was sought on Blacksmith Lane. Staff recommended approval with conditions for both the concept plan and associated demolition of outbuildings and non-historic additions. [Find a list of the Feb. caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Board of Zoning Appeals heard two requests. One was for a new veterinary clinic on Liggett Road, where side setbacks need variances to accommodate county lines. [Find a list of the Feb. caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

Historic District Office Hours

Since December, staff have held monthly office hours in the district at both COhatch and the Chamber. For December, we had over 20 residents who were mostly interested in talking about the proposed park master plan for the west side of the river. In Jan., we had 5 residents who asked about their own minor projects. In Feb., no residents attended the office hours.

Compliance & Enforcement

Regional Items of Interest

Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission reviewed seven cases at its February meeting, one of which abuts the City of Dublin. This application was a rezoning in Jerome Township for 20 acres from a low-density residential district to medium-density residential district to bring an existing residential area into compliance with applicable development standards required by the Jerome Township Zoning Code. It is not expected to generate more development but rather to allow homeowners additions and modifications to properties without a variance process. The application was initiated by Jerome Township and is located on the east side of U.S. 33, south of Brock Road.

The application to rezone 21.730 +/- acres from a Planned Development District (PD) to a Planned Development District (PD) for Coughlin Kia was reviewed by the Jerome Township Planning Commission in January. The Commission forwarded the application to the Jerome Township Trustees who reviewed and approved the request at their February 20, 2024 meeting.

Delaware County Regional Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval in January for an extension for Liberty Trace Section 4, a single-family plat for 23 lots.

[For more detailed information on regional items of interest, follow this link.](#)

Zoning & Code Compliance

Daily Zoning Inspections

- Twenty-six daily zoning inspections were performed in January. These daily inspections ensure compliance with zoning codes for completed construction projects including pool installations, decks, new homes and commercial additions.
- Three of these inspections were on commercial sites: minor alterations at 5175 Post Road and 4475 Bridge Park Ave. and a new commercial building at 5837 Frantz Road.

Routine Landscape Inspections

- Nine landscape inspections were performed in January. Landscape inspections identify missing, dead or dying plant material and other zoning code violations.
- No follow-up inspections were scheduled for January.

Code Enforcement

Dublin has more than 275 street miles covering nearly 25 square miles, and almost 18,000 distinct parcels in three different counties (80% are in Franklin County). All City departments share information regarding code enforcement concerns that they have observed, and we alert other departments when we see any potential situation related to their areas. This interactive workforce, combined with concerns raised by residents and businesses, allows for resolution of most incidents as quickly as possible. Even if a concern does not meet the criteria of a code violation immediately, we can observe a property and proactively resolve a developing problem.

Ongoing projects include:

- Warmer weather around the corner signals the kick-off of grass and weed season. Other than sign violations, which are year-round, yard complaints are the most common. City Code Section 153.076 D requires that all properties be kept mowed and maintained at a maximum height of six (6) inches between March 1 and Oct. 31 of each calendar year.
- If voluntary compliance is not attained, the City will mow the property and the mowing invoice will be forwarded to the property owner, along with a service charge of \$355 for the first mowing. After the initial mowing, the City will continue to maintain the property as needed, and the property owner will be invoiced along with a service charge of \$245 for each subsequent mowing.
- Spring is also the time that Code Enforcement works closely with homeowner and civic associations to review property maintenance and property condition issues that have become more apparent over the winter months. This can include maintenance issues that have been more visible without green cover. We also address exterior material storage issues that are visible from the right-of-way or adjacent properties. Property owners are regularly directed to take advantage of the free City chipper service by calling 614.410.4780 or to schedule trash bulk pick-up at 614.410.4750. These can also be accessed through the GoDublin app.

Building Standards

Certificate of Occupancy

Forty-two certificates of occupancy (C of O) were issued this month. C of Os of interest this month:



Towns on the Parkway Building #1



America's Best Contacts

Commercial and Residential Plan Review

Total plan review numbers were lower than average this month (58). Our highest month in the past year was 134 plan reviews in May 2023. Overall plan review numbers are expected to stay fairly steady as we move through winter. We are averaging approximately 100 plan reviews per month, over the last 12 months.

Plan Review Turnaround Times

We are generally consistent at a commercial 10 +/- calendar day turn-around. This month is near average, at 10.81 days. Residential reviews are at a 3.18 calendar day turn-around this month. We are significantly better than our 14 calendar day target!

New Building Permits Issued (Requiring Plan Review)

Building permit issued numbers (that required plan review) have increased this month, from last month, with 38 permits issued this month. Numbers can regularly fluctuate +/- 10% each month. The monthly average, over the last 12-month period, is approximately 38 new building permits issued per month (that required plan review), so we are right about average for the month.

Total Square Footage of Building Permits

This number can vary considerably when a very large project (like a Bridge Park project) is issued. We had very strong months last February and June, with a total of approximately 482,000 square feet. Square footage this month was one of our steady months at 64,871 square feet. Our monthly average, over the last 12 months, is approximately 106,000 square feet per month. During the last 12-month period, the total square footage number, for permits we have issued, is approximately 1,272,000 square feet.

Inspections

January numbers were fair, and are 18% below average, for the last 12-month period. Our January numbers for this year are 3% lower than January 2023's corresponding numbers, so they remain consistent year over year. In calendar year 2023, we completed 7,000 building inspections.

Transportation & Mobility

Highlights

Ohio Loves Transit

Dublin celebrated Ohio Loves Transit week, held annually the second week of February, by encouraging transit ridership through social media outlets. Dublin published a post of support and recognition to encourage transit ridership and appreciation.



LinkUS

City Manager Megan O'Callaghan remained engaged in the regional LinkUS initiative, serving on a workforce panel Feb. 12. As part of the Leadership Committee for the Transit Supportive Infrastructure program within the LinkUS program, she chaired the most recent Committee meeting on Feb. 27.

Speed Management Enforcement Dashboard



As part of the Slow Down Dublin campaign, the City launched a dashboard that is available to the public to display fatal and serious injury crashes, monthly speeding citations issued and total monthly traffic stops. [View the dashboard.](#)

Citywide Crash Data

(vehicles and all vulnerable road users)

	Frequency	High Severity	Bike Ped
2023 Total	667	14	12
December	49	4	2

December Fatal and Serious Injury or Pedestrian Involved Crashes:

1. Two southbound vehicles on Muirfield Drive, south of Whittingham Drive, sideswiped each other. One vehicle was in the inside lane and the other was in the outside lane. The driver in the outside lane was not wearing a seatbelt. After the vehicles collided, the driver in the outside lane departed the roadway to the right, hitting a tree and overturning, resulting in a fatal injury.
2. A westbound driver on Post Road went straight through the Emerald Parkway intersection, failed to control the vehicle, departed the roadway and struck a landscape wall, resulting in a serious injury. Alcohol is suspected to have played a role.
3. A southbound driver on I-270 departed the left side of the roadway striking a concrete barrier, resulting in serious injury. Drugs are suspected to have been involved.
4. A driver making a right turn from John Shields Parkway to Riverside Drive struck two westbound pedestrians in the north crosswalk resulting in serious injuries. The driver turned right onto Riverside Drive on a solid green light without yielding to the pedestrians, who had a walk signal.
5. A driver making a southbound turn left from Franklin Street to North Street struck a northbound pedestrian in the east crosswalk. The driver fled the scene. The pedestrian's hand was hit, resulting in a minor injury.

[View the monthly mobility update](#) | [View the Dublin Connector Dashboard](#)

Public Service

Highlights

Horticulture & Forestry

- Greenery from historic district planters were removed to make way for spring bulbs to emerge.
- Staff members started the maintenance mowing of naturalized prairie areas in preparation for spring native seeding.
- Requests for quotes were sent out for late winter/spring tree work and landscape maintenance projects.
- Hiring and interviews for seasonal staff is ongoing.
- Staff members are submitting spring tree orders.
- Staff members are evaluating trees that may be impacted by the 2024 Sidewalk Maintenance Program to determine potential options, which could include meandering.
- Tree seedlings are being started for the 2024 Arbor Day event.

Sustainability

- Styrofoam collection boxes: To date in 2024, 1,020 pounds of Styrofoam have been diverted from the landfill.
- GoZero composting: 5.6 tons of compost have been collected so far in 2024
- Across the City's 21 electric vehicle charging stations, 7,092 gallons of gas have been saved so far in 2024. This equates to a greenhouse gas savings of 42,721 kg.
- City staff members began planning for Earth Month to coordinate all the efforts being executed in different divisions. Communications & Marketing is working to update the website with the many programs planned for April, including an Earth Day planting and Arbor Day event.

Wildlife Management



Staff members developed a dashboard of requests related to outdoor feeding of wild animals made through the GoDublin app and entered in Cityworks. The dashboard enables staff members to view the addresses for requests and determine if multiple requests have been entered that are associated with the same address. This will help to inform the appropriate response to the request. [View the dashboard.](#)



Parks

- Staff members installed a new combined BigBelly unit at Avery Park South, which includes trash and recycling receptacles along with a solar-powered trash compactor.
- Crew members are conducting rail repairs on the observation decks at Indian Run Falls Park.
- Fountain work is ongoing for the U.S. 33/Avery Road ponds.
- Staff members have been working in the Riviera stream corridor to perform debris removal.
- Playground mulching was completed at Llewellyn Farms Park and Darree Fields.



Streets

- Staff members replaced Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant mats on Avery Road, Coffman Road and Adventure Drive.
- Staff members performed berm operations on Glick Road, Post Road and Rings Road.
- Employees staffed the Warm-up Columbus marathon event.
- Snow operations continued with snow events #7 and #8. Crew members worked around the clock to treat the roads for potential ice accumulation and clear the 7+” of snow during the Feb. 16 event and 2” during the Feb. 24 event.

Asset Management & Quality Assurance

Inspections/Maintenance Work

- Working on the concrete sidewalk lifting pilot program as an additional tool for the sidewalk maintenance program. The pilot will address approx. 50 locations this summer.
- Preparing the light pole painting program based on 2023 inspection data.
- In partnership with Engineering, AMQA staff members are updating the pavement striping and marking inventory and will be performing inspections in the coming weeks to assist with that program.
- Completed the bidding process for the Downtown Brick Sidewalk Maintenance program and entered into contract with the lowest and best bidder.
- Preparing a storm structure maintenance program in partnership with Engineering.

GoDublin

598 requests were submitted in January, up from 575 last month.

- Of those requests, 344 (57%) were initiated through the GoDublin app. By comparison, there were 746 requests in January 2023.

Top requests in January:

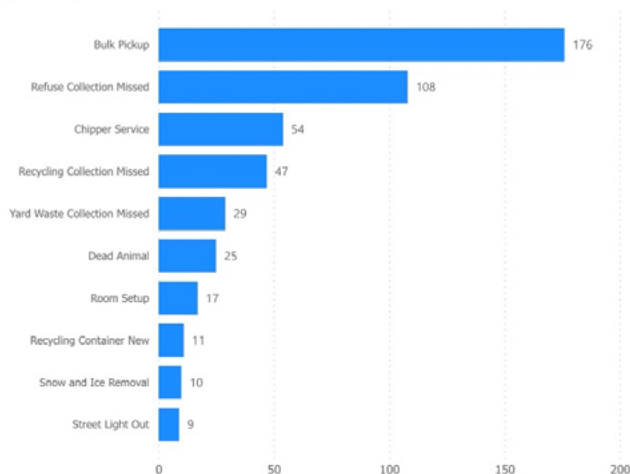
- Bulk Pickup
- Refuse Collection Missed
- Chipper Service
- Recycling Collection Missed
- Yard Waste Collection Missed

The Top 5 request types did not change from last month. Top 10 requests generally account for 80% of all requests per month.

To view the condition assessment for each of the city's assets, visit <https://infrastructure-dublinohio.hub.arcgis.com>. All of Dublin's assets are currently meeting or exceeding the established goals as the City strives for continuous improvement.

Top Service Requests by Month
City of Dublin, Ohio USA

Top 10 Requests



Court Services - Highlights

- Received 346 traffic cases, nine operating a motor vehicle under the influence (OVI) cases and 31 criminal/code enforcement cases.
- Received 33 adult traffic diversion cases.
- Collected \$52,021 in fines and court costs.
- Collected \$1,642 in restitution for victims of crime.
- Diversion participants completed 75.5 hours of community service work.

Parks & Recreation

Highlights

DCRC Memberships: 7,927

- The DCRC saw 42,893 visits in January, the second highest number of check-ins in a single month since March 2019.
- [View the DCRC Annual Report](#)



Riverside Crossing Park received the OCMA Award for Placemaking

AEDs in Parks

The City of Dublin has or will install seven new AEDs in six of the City's most popular parks. The project, totaling just over \$25,000, was funded by the City of Dublin, Washington Township and through a generous grant awarded by the Aladdin Shriners. City Council also recognized February as Heart Month at the Feb. 5 Council Meeting.

Programs and Events

The Camp Fair was held Feb. 28. This event provided parents an opportunity to talk with camp staff members to best prepare for registration and the summer season. For the first time ever, camp supervisors and specialty camp vendors were onsite to engage with families and direct them to the best opportunity for their campers.

Recreation Services partnered with Autism Society of Central Ohio to host a night of Bingo for all ages and abilities to participate. This game night was held Feb. 23, with more than 100 family members participating in the program.

Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Awards

The Adaptive Extravaganza received third place in Adaptive Programs & Events at the recent Ohio Parks and Recreation Association awards presentation. The program was formed as an internal partnership between adaptive recreation programming and the theater supervisor, with the intention of having an accessible theater program designed specifically to include individuals of all abilities in every aspect of a theatrical production experience. During this program, individuals with disabilities who seek to perform were invited to sing, dance or perform in any way they chose in a safe space, which welcomes them to express themselves and share their talents with the Dublin community.



Summer Staff Recruitment

Recruitment for summer seasonals continues, with a focus on camp and aquatic staff. There were 67 camp staff confirmed to return for summer 2024, which puts the retention rate at 72% for the year. To date, 22 new camp staff have been hired for this summer. Intent-to-return letters were sent to aquatics and are due March 3. All summer aquatics positions are now open for applicants for the season.

Abbey Theater

The Abbey Theater hosted four sold-out shows for Grizzell Middle School of "Beauty and the Beast, Jr." in mid-January. 830 tickets were sold for the eight performances of "The Drums of War," a world premier play by Herb Brown, a retired Ohio Supreme Court Judge, playwright and novelist. The play took place in late January.

The dragon is back in town! Well ... not really. "Imagine a Dragon," a funny, heartfelt fantasy musical for families and young audiences will be presented at the Abbey March 9-10.

Police & Safety

Highlights

Critical Incidents & Major Crimes

- Jan. 25, Dublin Police officers investigated a stolen vehicle at the Twins Auto of Dublin dealership which led to witnesses for that crime sharing that a shooting had also happened at the nearby Red Roof Inn; police charged both parties.
- Officers responded Feb. 9 when a teenager fell off the back of a vehicle in Amberleigh.

Police Reports & Crime Trends

- Officer Patrick Wentz's investigation of a traffic stop helped recover dozens of key fobs from stolen vehicles around the state.
- Sgt. Dave Gatterdam and Officer Nick Moreland earned kudos from two residents for their professional service and commitment to traffic safety.
- Detective David Aronovic completed an investigation that led to police charging five suspects with the theft of the two vehicles.

Safety Messaging

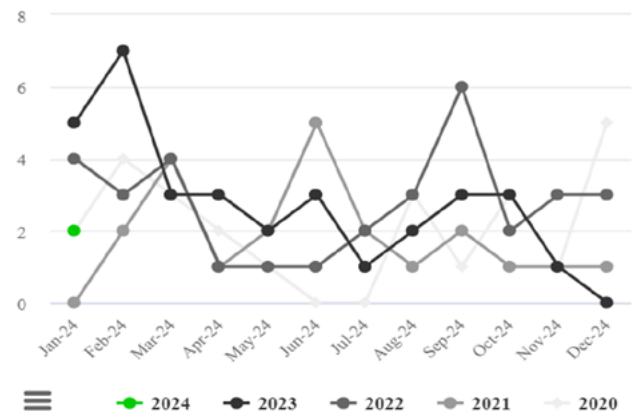
- Safe Ride: Offered Lyft coupon codes for Super Bowl weekend to discourage drinking and driving.
 - Created [Instagram reel](#), playing into Taylor Swift/Super Bowl trend
 - Reel [appeared on ABC6](#)
- Highlighted National School Resource Officer Day with an [Instagram reel](#).

Community Outreach & Engagement

- Dublin Police Department hosted an award ceremony for members Feb. 13.
 - 2023 Officer of the Year Recipient:** Officer Jeremy Reeb
 - Nominees: Detective Dave Aronovic, Officer Jeremy Reeb
 - 2023 Leadership Award Recipient:** Sergeant Nate Hysell
 - Nominees: Sergeant Dave Gatterdam, Sergeant Nate Hysell
 - 2023 Civilian of the Year Recipient:** Property Technician Kevin Keiffer
 - Nominees: Property Technician Kevin Keiffer
 - 2023 Volunteer of the Year Recipient:** Andrea Pilutti
- Nominees: Andrea Pilutti
- Chief Páez met with local clergy members about Safe Space Dublin.
- Investigators Joel Hall and David Jaeger presented to Dublin ACT (Adolescents and Community Together) Coalition about drug activity and prevention awareness.
- Shared Dublin Police Department hiring information; applications closed Feb. 14.
- Chief Páez spoke about inclusion and safety at the Ohio Chinese Festival and Lunar New Year celebration hosted at Coffman High School.

Statistics	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	2024 YTD
Part 1 Violent Crimes Reported	4	5	2
Theft Offenses	35	24	30
Thefts from Vehicles	21	12	17
Motor Vehicle Thefts	7	2	6
Burglaries/B&Es	4	5	5
Traffic Crashes	46	41	69
Serious Injury Crashes	0	1	0
OVI Related Crashes	1	2	2
OVI Arrests	2	17	17
Traffic Stops	163	681	878
Speeding Citations	20	43	272

Total Part 1 Violent Crimes Historically



Police Responses to Issues of Community Concern

Speed Management

- Speed enforcement campaigns conducted
 - Feb. 1 on I-270
 - Feb. 14 on Brand Road and Frantz Road
- Speed safety camera pilot began; shared information with residents.

Mental Health

- Sgt. Andrew Clark and Officer Mathew Keehl were thanked for their assistance during a January 2023 call for service about a vulnerable time. The person shared that after their one-year anniversary of being sober, "I wanted them to know that they saved someone's life that day."
- Officers and Public Safety Services Liaison Shannon Black Dotson (via the Syntero-Dublin partnership) connected an elderly veteran with mental health services.

Misc.

- WOSU interviewed police about a vehicle donation from the City Columbus that Dublin will repair and then donate to the Delaware Tactical Unit, a police partnership agency.

Human Resources

Highlights

Culture Playbook Updates

“R” Factor training began in February with approximately 65 employees completing the Performance Pathway and the “R” Factor Mechanics & Application. This 8-hour training will take place each month over the course of two days ensuring all full-time employees will have the opportunity to learn more about the City’s Culture Playbook and the “R” Factor.



Recent Hires



Lisa Dillon
Position: HR Business Partner
Division: Human Resources



Marc Dilsaver
Position: Transportation Program Manager
Division: Transportation & Mobility



Luke Fleming
Position: Economic Development Administrator
Division: Economic Development



Stephen Rusterholz
Position: Event Coordinator
Division: Community Events



Kenneth Sturgeon
Position: Communications Technician
Division: Police Communications



Robert Wright
Position: Tax Manager
Division: Taxation

Recent Promotions



Marcella Bowers
Previous Position: Communications Supervisor
Promoted Position: Communications Manager



Jeffrey Myers
Previous Position: Assistant Forester
Promoted Position: City Forester

Retirement



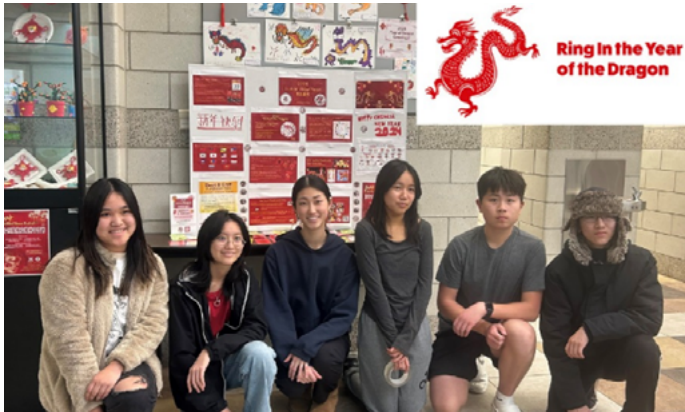
Kathleen Evans
Position: Police Officer
Division: Police Operations

Recruitment

- Accounting Manager - Finance
- Chief Innovation and Technology Director – IT
- Director of Information Technology – IT
- Engineering Technician I – Engineering
- Senior Civil Engineer – Engineering
- Operations Manager – Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center
- Police Officer – Police

Outreach & Engagement

Highlights



Dublin volunteers from the Ohio Contemporary Chinese School placed a display at the Dublin Community Recreation Center to celebrate the Lunar New Year

Board Leadership

Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Maurer has been re-elected to serve as board secretary and Public Relations chair for the Volunteer Administrators' Network of Central Ohio.

K.I.D.S.

The Kids in Dublin Service program (K.I.D.S.), which aims to start children in grades K-5 on a path of volunteer service, spent Feb. 16 at National Church Residences at Avondale engaged in volunteer service projects with residents. A total of 18 volunteered and 10 residents engaged with the youth volunteers.

MLK Civic Service Series

On Leap Day, Feb. 29, Outreach & Engagement hosted "Leap Into Service" as part of the ongoing MLK Civic Service Series. The evening event featured a Volunteer Expo with volunteer representatives from all city-wide programs, along with information on boards and commissions and area nonprofit organizations. The event's Impact Talk and project were conducted by [Clover Coffee representatives](#) who discussed the importance of inclusive employment. Attendees then wrote messages of support on coffee sleeves which will be used by the company's pop-up shops in future months.

Engaging Corporate Group Volunteers

Outreach & Engagement has assembled an internal team to plan and implement increased corporate volunteerism. Included divisions are Economic Development, Public Service, Engineering, Innovation & Analytics, Recreation Services, Police and Asset Management & Quality Assurance. Internal project forms will be published on DubNet for divisions to request service. While all inquiring companies are referred to Community Service Day as an option for service, City plans for 2024 include weekday projects for Grounds of Remembrance, small park beautification, North Fork/South Fork Indian Run water quality data projects, native plantings, Community Gardens and ongoing tree circumference measurement. Outreach & Engagement will continue to facilitate team-building aspects to corporate days of service that align with a company's goals.

Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District

Staff from Outreach & Engagement, Engineering, Communications & Marketing and Office of the City Manager met with Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District (FSWCD) staff members to plan for increased engagement on water quality initiatives, backyard habitat corridor understanding and areas where the City and FSWCD can combine and collaborate on education and resources. The City plans to include FSWCD at various events and include volunteer engagement in mutual healthy water initiatives.

National Wildlife Federation

Nature Education Coordinator Barbara Ray met with staff from approximately 55 communities from around the country on the success of Dublin's Certified Community Habitat status, sharing best practices and hosting a Q&A on the topic.

Communications & Marketing

Highlights

February's Communication Strategy

- The City of Dublin's communication goals include increasing meaningful engagement with all Dublin audiences; supporting the City's Strategic Framework, including the Culture Playbook; and educating the public about new initiatives and ongoing services.
- February's strategic topics included St. Patrick's Day Parade new date; State of the City RSVP; Lunar New Year; Black History Month; American Heart Month; and Super Bowl Safe Ride.
- Review the results from [January's overall communications metrics](#) and [City Council's communications efforts](#).
- [Review the complete Contact City data here.](#)

Sustainable Dublin Communications

- Promoted SnowGo services during the President's Day weekend winter weather alert
- Shared service impacts the President's Day holiday
- Shared nature education tips about birds as spring gets close; this is part of the series Dublin's Backyard with Barbara Ray.

Connected Dublin Communications

- Released Link Ahead podcast with Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes
- Shared Why I Serve video with Rebecca Call to promote boards and commissions volunteer opportunities
- Celebrated Ohio Loves Transit Day by featuring the Dublin Connector
- Coordinated with The Columbus Dispatch for story regarding Ohio's Amtrak expansion and Dublin's potential station
- Shared an update showing City Manager Megan O'Callaghan participating in a panel discussion at the LinkUS Workforce Advancement Stakeholder Group

March Lookahead

- Planned rollout of new text-alert notifications and AI-powered chatbot integrated with GoDublin
- Share St. Patrick's Day Parade communications and general St. Patrick's Day messaging including Safe Ride discount code
- Continue promoting Slow Down Dublin with a video, State of the City engagement table and speed management campaign messaging
- Scheduling series of communications related to the State of the City.

Resilient Dublin Communications

- Announced AEDs coming to Dublin parks in partnership with Washington Township Fire Department, which is perfect timing with February being American Heart Month
- Promoted Safe Ride discount code for the Super Bowl weekend to encourage safe driving
- Celebrated National School Resource Officers Day by producing an Instagram Reel featuring SROs
- Featured community celebrations surrounding Lunar New Year and Black History Month

Internal Branding Initiative

- TENFOLD, the consultant hired to develop the City's internal branding plan, held a vision session to gain insights from a team of cross-functional stakeholders, including representatives from each building who are diverse in tenure, roles, responsibilities, race and gender. The internal branding plan is expected to be developed by the end of Q2, with implementation to follow.



Dublin is ready for rail! The City is developing a vision plan for the placement of the West Dublin Passenger Rail Station, a state-of-the-art, multi-modal passenger rail station located on an approximately 100-acre, City-owned site. ...see more



Link Ahead Podcast

- 18,286 listens (an increase of 767 listens since the January report)
- February topics included Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes and her vision for Dublin and Tax Director Tammy Lehnert talking about tax season and encouraging e-filing with the City.
- Upcoming topics and guests include the Metro Place Revitalization and Joe Bishara discussing the Abbey Theater

Community Events

Highlights

USA Today Voting

The Dublin Irish Festival has once again has been nominated to be one of the Top 10 Cultural Festivals in the United States. Voting is open through mid-March. Last year, the Dublin Irish Festival placed third in the country. [Participants can vote daily at this link.](#)

Sponsorship Update

Staff members have confirmed the following sponsors to date for 2024:

Organization Name	Sponsorship Amount Committed
OhioHealth	\$7,500
Nationwide Children's Hospital	\$1,000
Goldfish Swim School	\$1,000
Primrose School of Dublin	\$750

In-kind Goods & Services:

Organization Name	Sponsorship Amount Committed
Columbus Radio Group/Sunny 95	\$20,500
J. Liu	\$1,500
Tim Hortons	\$750

Independence Day Parade and Celebration:

Organization Name	Sponsorship Amount Committed
OSU Wexner Medical Center – Dublin	\$21,500
Crown Automotive Group (NEW)	\$5,000
Nationwide Children's Hospital	\$1,000

Dublin Irish Festival:

Organization Name	Sponsorship Amount Committed
OSU Wexner Medical Center – Dublin	\$25,500
Wendy's	\$20,000
Crown Automotive Group	\$15,000
Riverside Bank of Dublin	\$15,000
IGS Energy	\$12,500
Nationwide Children's Hospital	\$12,500
Cardinal Health	\$10,000

Spooktacular:

Organization Name	Sponsorship Amount Committed
Nationwide Children's Hospital	\$1,000

Permitted Events

- The first permitted event of 2024 was held Feb. 4 in Metro Center. The Warm Up Columbus race had more than 500 participants cross the finish line.
- Community Events received four community event permit applications in February.

Total Solar Eclipse

The City of Dublin is in the path of totality for the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse. Dublin will experience approximately 90 seconds of total darkness at 3:11 p.m. Below is a summary of the efforts Dublin is taking to prepare for this once in a lifetime event. More information on the events, safety notices and traffic impacts can be [found on the City's website.](#)

- Dublin staff members have been involved in emergency management meetings and internal meetings preparing for the eclipse since 2022.
- Dublin is focusing efforts on planning to manage additional traffic that may come to and through Dublin as one of the only Central Ohio cities located within the path of totality.
- Staff members are also supporting Visit Dublin Ohio's "Dublin in the Dark" VIP event on the top of the library parking garage.
- Dublin will host community viewing events at Coffman Park and Riverside Crossing Park and has purchased 2,500 glasses to distribute to the community at these events.
- School's Out camp participants and residents will receive the 500 educational boxes provided by COSI.

Legislative

Update

Supreme Court Ruling on Tax Refunds for Work From Home During Pandemic

In a 5-2 decision, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that that a state law that allowed municipalities to collect income tax from nonresidents during the COVID-19 pandemic was constitutional.

The ruling was an interpretation of legislation that was passed by the General Assembly to allow cities to collect income taxes. Even if employees lived outside the city where the business was based.

Proposed Legislation by the Senate Housing Committee

In late January, Senator Michele Reynolds (R-Canal Winchester), Chairwoman of the Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing, announced that the committee will be issuing a report in March, with introduced legislation to follow in April. Sen. Reynolds expects the legislation to be an omnibus measure touching on a host of issues, including zoning, property taxes, density, transparency, accessibility, and affordability.

Joint Committee on Property Taxation Review & Reform

On February 7th, the Joint Committee on Property Taxation Review & Reform met to hear testimony from Ohio's business community.

See [Tracked Legislation](#) for a summary of the testimonies.

Issues 2 Updates – Recreational Marijuana

Discussions on Issue 2 have been paused as both chambers prepare for their upcoming primaries, in addition to working on the Capital Budget/One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund.

[See Tracked Legislation for a breakdown of the bills that the legislature worked on prior to the holidays.](#)

Calendar

March 2024

<< < Today > >>

Search for events

Find Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26 Dublin City Council	27	28 Summer Camp Fair	29	1	2
3	4 Dublin City Council – Work Session	5	6	7 Planning & Zoning Commission	8	9 St Patrick's Day Parade Imagine a Dragon
10 Imagine a Dragon	11 Dublin City Council	12 Community Services Advisory Commission	13	14 State of the City	15 Our Town	16 Our Town
17 Our Town	18	19	20	21 Veterans Committee Chief's Advisory Committee Our Town	22 Our Town	23 Our Town
24 Our Town	25	26 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee	27 Architectural Review Board	28 Board of Zoning Appeals	29	30
31	1 Dublin City Council – Work Session	2	3	4	5	6

Advisory Committees

Permitted Events

Boards & Commissions

Council Meetings

City/Community Events

Abbey Theater

<https://dublinohiousa.gov/calendar/>