

# Office of the City Manager Activities, Projects & Interactions

April 2024



# April 2024

## Letter from the City Manager

There's no place like Dublin in the spring, and April was truly a memorable month in our city. It was filled with excitement, progress, preparation and togetherness.

One of the highlights was the once-in-a-lifetime total eclipse on April 8, which brought residents and visitors together in our parks and open spaces to witness this awe-inspiring phenomenon. Dublin was one of the few cities in the country to be in the path of totality, and the two City-sponsored community viewing events at Riverside Crossing and Coffman parks were well-attended and celebratory. The eclipse provided a unique opportunity for us to connect with nature and each other, and the weather could not have been any better for a day of sky-gazing.

Celebration continued as we marked Earth Month, Arbor Day, Public Safety Telecommunicator Week and National Volunteer Week honoring the dedication of those who serve our community in various capacities.

We were honored to host Consul General of India in New York, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, who met with Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes, other City officials and Federation of Indian Associations leaders. Dublin is proud to be home to the largest percentage of Indian residents in Ohio.

The City Council Retreat April 4 and 5 was productive and served to help refine our City goals. We look forward to Council's consideration and adoption at an upcoming meeting. Our quarterly Senior Leadership Retreat April 18 provided an opportunity to discuss strategic initiatives and priorities, including regional transportation projects and the deployment of Fiber to Every Home.

The City leadership team participated in our annual emergency preparedness session April 22, which featured speakers from the American Red Cross, American Electric Power and Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) from Franklin and Logan counties. Particularly insightful was the contribution from Logan County's EMA director, who shared firsthand experiences and lessons learned from her agency's response to the devastating tornado March 14. Her insights were invaluable for our team as we continually refine and strengthen our own emergency response strategies.

The demolition of the former Cloverleaf Suites Columbus hotel was completed, making way for the advancement of the Emerald Connector over I-270. Preparations are underway, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation, for a public engagement process for the design of the future bridge, which will enhance connectivity in this vibrant area of our city.



In matters of regional collaboration, we engaged with members of the Central Ohio Regional Transit Authority (COTA) to provide Dublin perspectives on the proposed LinkUS regional transit infrastructure initiative emphasizing the importance of transportation connectivity for our community.

Additionally, Dublin joined 13 other Ohio cities in a lawsuit aimed at reversing the state's ban on flavored nicotine products and upholding home rule principles. We achieved a victory on April 19, when a Franklin County judge issued a temporary restraining order on the state law allowing cities to regulate the sale of tobacco products.

Looking ahead to May, we are excited for Sustainable Saturday, which offers a one-stop drop-off at the Dublin Service Center for document shredding, household hazardous waste, expired medications and other recyclable materials, aligning with our commitment to sustainability. The event on May 4 dovetails with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Day providing opportunities for our residents to clear out their own homes and engage in spring spruce-up activities throughout the community on the same day.

Finally, preparations are underway for the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. Signs, oversized golf balls and golf-themed activities will soon be popping up around our city, and Dublin will be looking as beautiful as ever as we prepare to once again be in the international spotlight.

It is truly a great time of year in our exceptional City, and I look forward to connecting and engaging with each of you during the many spring and summer activities that are on the horizon.

*Megan O'Callaghan*

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.

**Status:** Construction has begun in the Post Preserve Boulevard and Coffman Road areas. altafiber's first round of permits have been approved by Engineering and the next round is being reviewed. The construction phase planning map may be viewed here: <https://dublinohiousa.gov/most-connected/>. In addition to continued collaboration on the resident communication plan, altafiber has mailed general information postcards and is distributing door hangers as construction begins. The website has had 4,163+ project page views, 1,770+ residents have signed up for updates and a total of 855 residents have notified altafiber of having a dog fence and/or sprinkler system. This information will help altafiber coordinate how they enter a resident's yard when laying fiber in order to minimize impact on the resident.

## 2 Realize the Metro Center Revitalization Vision

**Status:** Staff provided an update on the project status to City Council at the retreat on April 5 and the Community Development Committee April 16. The City's consultant team, Sasaki, SB Freidman and EMH&T, is developing three implementation scenarios for Council's consideration at their May 13 work session. A second round of stakeholder interviews will inform the development concepts shared with Council at the work session.

## 3 Strengthen the Stewardship and Vitality of our Historic District Core

**Status:** Staff members provided an update on the status of the goal to City Council at their retreat April 5, with the overall outcome that this goal has been achieved with the work completed and in progress. Staff presented the recommended approach for the phase two amendments to the Code and Guidelines to the Architectural Review Board at a special meeting April 17 with the goal of returning to ARB in June with draft language.

## 4 Develop Dublin's "Destination of Choice" Next-Generation Community Events Vision

**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. A selection committee will meet to evaluate five responses received in response to the Holiday Market Feasibility Study Request for Proposal in the coming weeks. With regard to the RFP for potential firms to partner to develop an events program and management roadmap, Staff members revised and reissued the RFP with responses due March 22. A committee of stakeholders comprised of key City staff, Visit Dublin Ohio Staff and a representative from the Downtown Dublin Strategic Alliance will meet May 9 to evaluate the four responses received. The committee will schedule interviews to take place this month with the shortlisted finalists.

# Key Project Updates

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>Bright Road Corridor Improvements and the Emerald Parkway/Mount Carmel Roundabout</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Utility coordination is ongoing. Right-of-way acquisition and negotiations are underway after acquisition authorization and appropriations were approved at the Nov. 27 City Council meeting. This project also constructs the roundabout at the Emerald Parkway and Mount Carmel Health System main access. The pre-construction meeting occurred April 30 with construction to begin May 6. Completion of the roundabout is planned for fall 2024. The Bright Road Corridor completion will follow in fall 2025.</p>
<p><b>COhatch Headquarters</b></p>	<p>At the Sept. 11 City Council meeting, Council approved a real estate transfer and development agreement for the development of COhatch’s proposed Riverview Village and corporate headquarters. The development will be a first-of-its-kind coworking and entrepreneurship district in Historic Dublin.</p>	<p>On April 22, City Council reviewed and approved COhatch’s concept plan that was recommended by the Architectural Review Board. The plan includes renovation and conversion of three houses on the west side of North Riverview Street into private office suites and the red house on the east side into a restaurant. It also includes the construction of a new 15,000-square-foot COhatch building south of the restaurant, along with public spaces throughout the site. An update regarding the Riverside Crossing Park West improvements and the adjacent roadway and streetscape updates were provided to Council. Regular meetings between COhatch, City Staff and consultants are ongoing to ensure coordination with the planning for the surrounding street improvements and Riverside Crossing Park.</p>
<p><b>Community Gateway Signs</b></p>	<p>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 (CDC). 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 partnered with a design firm to create a revised community gateway sign design to accommodate the various site conditions and incorporate such accolades.</p>	<p>City Council referred this topic to the Community Development Committee at the Nov. 13 meeting. The CDC reviewed concepts provided by the consultant and requested the consultant develop mock-ups of the sign aesthetic elements. The CDC recommended the concepts be brought back to City Council with their feedback included. Staff members anticipate bringing this topic back to City Council in the coming months once the mock-ups are available.</p>

# Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>Community Health Needs Assessment</b></p>	<p>The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a systematic process involving the community to identify, analyze and prioritize community health needs and plan to act on 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 draft report was presented to senior leadership March 28 for feedback and discussion. City staff members worked to identify members for the working groups that will address the four priority health needs and sent invitations to the identified individuals. The four working groups will focus on 1. health care navigation, 2. transportation, 3. youth behavioral health and substance abuse, and 4. community connections. The working groups will meet several times over the next few months to develop strategies, action steps and timelines to address priority areas. The draft report will be presented to City Council on May 20 and the final report is expected to be reviewed by City Council in Q3 2024.</p>
<p><b>Envision Dublin Community Plan Update</b></p> <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 Steering Committee conducted their last meeting April 30 with a review of the draft Envision Dublin Plan document, prior to the Plan starting the public review process. A final public engagement session was held April 9 to review the draft Preferred Land Use Plan, Special Area Plans and Transportation &amp; Mobility recommendations. A detailed overview and discussion was conducted with the Planning and Zoning Commission April 11 and Architectural Review Board April 17. A joint work session was held April 29 with City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission to preview the draft Plan document based on the Steering Committee's work. The start of the formal public adoption process is scheduled to begin May 23 with the Planning and Zoning Commission, which will review and make a recommendation to City Council.</p>
<p><b>EV Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan</b></p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive plan researching and recommending the types and appropriate placement of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for both electric vehicles 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. Staff met internally to discuss the 90% submission of the report April 15 and plans to bring the final version forward to City Council for review in Q3 2024.</p>
<p><b>Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh</b></p>	<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>The DCRC Refresh continues to progress through phase three. Staff members met with MSA Design April 12 to review draft cost details and discuss phasing strategies to help inform the final recommendations for City Council. Staff members plan to bring the project to City Council on May 6.</p>

# Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>City of Columbus Fourth Water Plant</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Dublin and Columbus City staff members met in April to review and discuss the preliminary alignments for the water transmission mains proposed to come through Dublin from the fourth Columbus water treatment plant in Rathbone (at the intersection of Dublin and Home Roads) to connect to the Columbus water distribution system in the Blazer Parkway area. Columbus' consultant team reviewed their evaluation of each of the route options with regard to engineering, environmental guidelines, water pressure requirements, risk analysis, property impacts and costs. Columbus evaluated several routes and seems to be honing in on alignments for the first and second mains. One option primarily uses Muirfield Drive, another is along Avery Road and a third would follow Hyland-Croy Road.</p> <p>Columbus has scheduled an Advisory Committee meeting with Staff of impacted jurisdictions May 8. Columbus staff and their consultant team will brief Council on the alignment study process at the May 20 City Council meeting. They also indicated they are planning a public meeting in late June in Dublin.</p> <p>Columbus Staff shared that final design will begin this summer, with construction planned to start in 2027 and end in 2030. (Columbus is still working on the construction schedule.) Dublin Staff are reviewing Dublin's five-year Capital Improvements Program to look for opportunities where we might leverage and coordinate infrastructure improvements.</p>
<p><b>Curbside Management</b></p>	<p>This project creates a curbside management plan to define an overall plan for the valuable and flexible public space in areas such as Bridge Park and Historic Dublin. To better manage the important asset, a clear, consistent and implementable framework for prioritizing goods and people movement is needed. A thoughtful framework will improve urban goods delivery while reducing conflicts between trucks, motor vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians and micro-transit. The goal is to reduce friction between competing uses by analyzing existing conditions; exploring best practices; developing a series of policies and implementable recommendations; and designing pilot demonstration(s) to address the most pressing urban curbside management challenges.</p>	<p>Staff members are working on a proposal with Fybr to place sensors detecting occupancy, duration and double-parking violations along North High Street. Efforts are being coordinated with the Police Department. Staff is also working with Derq to plan equipment and connectivity locations to begin collecting parking data along Riverside Drive and Bridge Park Avenue. Staff members are evaluating the loading zones on Longshore Street in Bridge Park to improve curbside operations and reduce double-parking conflicts. Staff members are using data from Automotus, a technology parking company included as a partner in the pilot project phase of the Curbside Management Plan, to analyze parking behaviors and durations to determine appropriate wording for the signs and enforcement. The project completion is scheduled for Q3 2024, followed by a presentation to City Council.</p>
<p><b>Dublin Sustainability Plan</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Additional comments were provided to the consultant and the City is waiting to receive the final draft. The plan will provide forward-thinking, innovative and attainable goals. The Plan is now scheduled to be reviewed by City Council at the June 3 meeting.</p>

# Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Webb Mgmt conducted phase one and two of the Performing Arts Feasibility Study and presented their report to City Council Aug. 28. Staff members returned to the Community Development Committee (CDC) Oct. 17 for further discussion. 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 at the Nov. 13 meeting and discussed the topic of a potential performing arts center, including the financing and timing, at the 2024 City Council Retreat. Council determined that this project would not be pursued at this time. IT is an aspirational goal that could e considered at a later date..</p>
<p><b>Post Road Interchange</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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 is 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 Road./S.R. 161 eastbound has opened. Traffic will be routed to the Eiterman Road roundabout to access Post Road./S.R. 161 eastbound. The Hyland-Croy intersection will remain right-in, right-out only until late 2024. The Post Preserve Boulevard intersection has been permanently converted to right-in, right-out.</p>
<p><b>Riverside Crossing Master Plan</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The consultants and staff members met at the west bank of the river to discuss potential concepts based on the layout and input received from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. An update on this project and initial concepts being considered for the park will be presented to City Council at the May 6 meeting. The City is working to schedule public engagement opportunities for this project, Staff members are targeting completion in Q1 2025.</p>
<p><b>The Emerald Connector (Tuller Road/ Emerald Parkway Over 270 Crossing)</b></p>	<p>This project will provide a new crossing over I-270 from Tuller Road to Emerald Parkway. The project will include mobility features, utility infrastructure and aesthetic elements</p> <p><a href="#">View a complete list of projects.</a></p>	<p>American Structure Point began detailed design in April. The bid acceptance for the demolition of the existing structure at 4130 Tuller Road was approved at the Feb. 5 City Council meeting. Demolition is underway and will be completed in May to allow time for grading and seeding. Staff members provided minor comments on the 90% submission of the preliminary engineering report. A public engagement plan is being developed.</p>



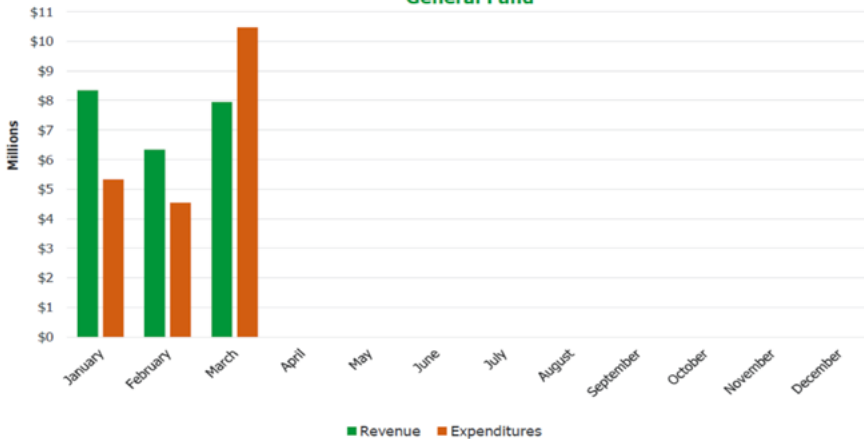
# Finance

## Highlights

### General Fund Information

Total GF Revenue: \$22,622,258  
 Total GF Expenditures: \$20,343,500

2024 Revenue vs. Expenditures  
 General Fund



### Highlights

General Fund Cash Balance: \$69,219,263

- 66.1% of actual expenditures
- \$16,821,603 in excess of 50% reserve level

Income Tax revenue was 11.3% above 2024 YTD levels, or \$2,797,787

- Receipts are 13% or \$3,172,449 ahead of budget
- Comparing YTD March 2023 versus March 2024:
  - Withholding increased 10.10%
  - Net profit revenue increased 21.58%
  - Individual revenue increased 9.38%

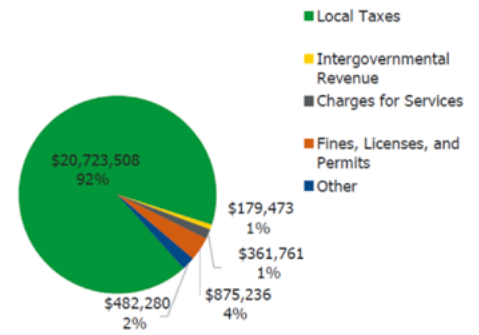
### Income Tax Collections

As of March 31, 2024, YTD income tax receipts totaled \$27,620,456, an increase of 11.3% over the same time in 2024. The 2024 budgeted income tax revenue is \$106,000,000.

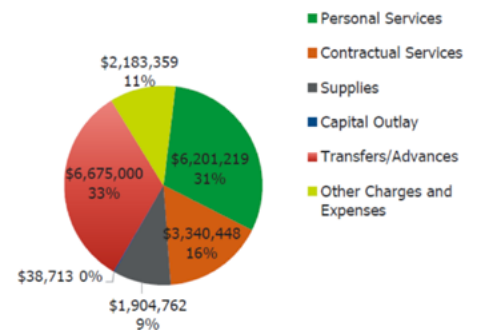


	2021	2022	2023	2024
Withholding	\$ 20,577,786	\$ 21,405,667	\$ 20,506,420	\$ 22,577,463
Net Profit	\$ 1,533,130	\$ 2,449,735	\$ 2,637,590	\$ 3,206,799
Individual	\$ 1,311,588	\$ 1,426,887	\$ 1,678,659	\$ 1,836,195
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,422,503</b>	<b>\$ 25,282,289</b>	<b>\$ 24,822,669</b>	<b>\$ 27,620,456</b>

General Fund Revenue (by type)  
 \$22,622,258



General Fund Expenditures (by type)  
 \$20,343,500



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

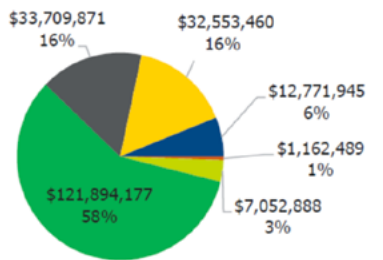
# Finance Update

## Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024

Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance
101 - General Fund	\$69,219,263	419 - TIF Thomas/Kohler	\$3,396,862	462 - TIF Nestle	\$253,332
201 - Street Maintenance and Repair	\$1,991,867	421 - TIF McKibrick Project	\$975,196	463 - TIF Bridge Park Blocks B & C	\$993,765
202 - State Highway	\$551,032	425 - TIF Perimeter Center	\$1,793,279	464 - TIF Innovation	\$392,557
225 - Recreation	\$3,797,126	426 - TIF Rings Road	\$852,482	465 - TIF Riviera	\$735,059
226 - Pool	\$365,988	431 - TIF Perimeter West	\$981,625	466 - TIF Penzone	\$266,351
231 - Permissive Tax	\$128,734	432 - TIF Upper Metro Place	\$1,218,850	467 - TIF H2 Hotel	\$414,858
232 - Hotel/Motel Tax	\$2,505,945	433 - TIF Rings/Frantz	\$1,479,048	468 - TIF Bridge Park Block Z	\$426
241 - Safety	\$4,454,604	436 - TIF Historic Dublin Parking	\$41,676	469 - TIF Block A	\$1,135
242 - Law Enforcement	\$63,533	440 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 5	\$22,107	474 - TIF Bridge Park Incentive Dist	\$32,680
243 - Mandatory Drug Fine	\$2,939	441 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 8	\$5,189	475 - TIF The Corners	\$279,763
244 - Wireless 9-1-1 System	\$645,229	442 - TIF Perimeter Loop	\$47,558	591 - Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$1,790,296
251 - Enforcement and Education	\$78,500	443 - TIF Irelan West	\$993,774	610 - Water	\$12,907,637
252 - Mayors Court Computer	\$37,320	444 - TIF Shamrock Blvd.	\$114,391	612 - Water Construction	\$716,649
261 - Cemetery	\$160,693	446 - TIF River Ridge	\$759,437	620 - Sewer	\$7,617,645
262 - Accrued Leave Reserves	\$827,383	447 - TIF Lifetime Fitness	\$563,645	623 - Sewer Construction	\$2,492,744
263 - Rings Unitrust	\$1,000,000	449 - TIF Irelan Place	\$19,458	701 - Self Insurance - Employee Bens	\$5,353,265
267 - OPIOID RELIEF FUND	\$48,060	450 - TIF Shier Rings Road	\$55,485	703 - Self Insurance - Workers Comp	\$429,803
299 - Occupancy Deposits	\$235,500	451 - TIF Shamrock Crossing	\$230,462	803 - Unclaimed Monies	\$145,721
310 - General Debt Service	\$1,944,665	452 - TIF Bridge and High Street	\$283,751	804 - Visit Dublin Ohio	\$38,727
311 - Econ Development Bond Retirmt	\$777,234	453 - TIF Dublin Methodist Hospital	\$1,257,883	805 - Agency	\$12,331
320 - S.A. Debt Service	\$17,659	454 - TIF Kroger Centre	\$1,352,308	807 - C.O.I.R.S.	(\$681,638)
322 - 2001 S.A. Debt Service	\$134,913	455 - TIF Frantz/Dublin Road	\$113,166	821 - Building Standards Surcharges	\$2,997
401 - Capital Improvements Tax	\$52,106,512	456 - TIF Delta Energy	\$53	822 - Columbus Sewer Capacity	\$73,061
402 - Parkland Acquisition	\$5,284,506	457 - TIF Bridge Street	\$486,709	823 - New Community Authority	\$10,760
404 - Capital Improvement Constructi	\$3,495,625	458 - TIF Vrable	\$109,430	831 - Law Enforcement Custodial Fund	\$411,830
412 - TIF Woerner-Temple	\$223,826	459 - TIF West Innovation	\$6,097,655	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$212,124,821</b>
415 - TIF Ruscilli	\$725,173	460 - TIF Ohio University	\$13,844		
416 - TIF Pizzuti	\$246,840	461 - TIF Tuller	\$3,097,071		

## Investment Summary as of March 31, 2024

Total market value: \$209,144,831



- Cash Equivalent/Short Term
- Cash Equivalents/Commercial Paper
- US Treasuries and Agency Obligations
- Corporate Obligations
- Star Ohio
- U.S. Bank - City Operating Account (+Sweep)

## Statewide and Federal Grant Funding Opportunities

In April the City submitted applications to our Senate representatives for State FY2025-2026 capital funding, including:

- Ohio Facilities Construction Commission: Cultural and Sports Facilities Building Fund for the Hyland Glen Historical Gateway | \$625,000
- Department of Natural Resources: Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Fund for the Brand Road Pedestrian Tunnel Flooding Mitigation Safety Improvements | \$468,000
- Department of Natural Resources: Parks and Recreation fund for the Ballantrae Splash Pad Safety Renovations | \$1,396,000

The One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund (OTSCIF) is a new fund created in the last state operating budget. The fund includes \$700 million from excess cash surplus from the last fiscal year which ended June 30. The City submitted two applications including:

- Historic Dublin Riverfront Revitalization | \$4,245,000
- Smart Mobility Hub Expansion Program | \$844,500

In addition, the City led the development of applications for the Beta District including:

- V2X Deployment Program | \$400,000
- Heritage Trail Extension Project | \$1,756,368
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment | \$6,800,000

Similarly to Senator Sherrod Brown's Congressional Discretionary Fund application, the City submitted the Emerald Connector to Congressman Mike Carey's office for the Community Project Funding in the amount of \$7,000,000.

Grants/Funding Opportunities submitted in 2024: 13

Grants/Funding Opportunities awarded in 2024: 1 for a total of \$32,843

[For a comprehensive list of grant opportunities, see the Grant Tracker.](#)

# Economic Development

## Highlights



### Business Retention & Expansion

An economic development agreement has been introduced to retain and expand operations for Cenovus Energy for their U.S. headquarters. The project expects to retain 105 existing employee positions within the City. In addition, the Company expects to create one 120 new employee positions, for a total of 225 employees within the City by December 31, 2031.

### JobsOhio/One Columbus Leads

The Economic Development team continues to work through the SiteOhio certification program administered by JobsOhio. A site visit is scheduled for May 30 and is a necessary step before certification by the State of Ohio as shovel-ready for development.



The NW 33 Innovation Corridor Council of Governments (COG) held its regular bimonthly meeting April 3. The COG is pursuing several grant opportunities, including an Ohio Senate One-Time Strategic Community Investment Funding grant and the Ohio Department of Development's Innovation Hubs program grant. The COG held a special meeting April 29 to finalize the Innovation Hub application. The COG is also participating in planning discussions for the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference, which is being held in Columbus Sept. 8-11. Efforts are underway to ensure The Beta District has a presence at the conference.



Startup pitch event presented by COhatch and the City of Dublin. Three businesses pitched their concepts with Apricity Robotics selected as the winner.

### Company News

- [Dublin Grows Upward: The Bridge Street Corridor Calls for Urban Development](#)
- [Cenovus Energy subsidiary Husky Marketing to add 115 jobs in Dublin](#)
- [Dublin City Schools could buy building on Cardinal Health campus](#)
- [Dublin office demand increasing, new reports show](#)

# Economic Development



The City of Dublin hosted the Dublin Institute Smart Cities Workshop, a day of insights from Columbus communities. Approximately 40 people attended the event.

Director of Economic Development Jeremiah Gracia participated on a panel moderated by Economic Development Administrator Kirby Dearth at the Dublin Institute Smart Cities Workshop on April 19. More than 40 attendees participated in a day of insights and engagement.

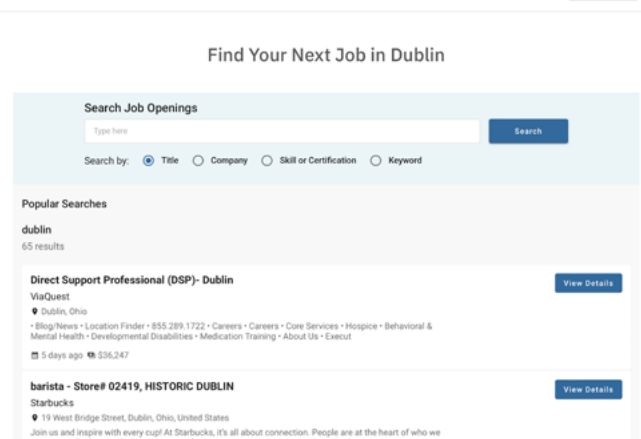


## Events

- Business Roundtable with U.S. Rep. Mike Carey – April 2
- Federation of Indian Associations – April 4
- Rev1 Meet the Companies – April 10
- Hidaka Annual Cherry Blossom Hanami & Appreciation Luncheon – April 12
- TechLife Columbus Tech Takeover Event – April 15
- COhatch Pitch Event – April 18
- Intelligent Community Forum Event (Economic Development Director Jeremiah Gracia spoke on a panel) – April 19
- Dublin Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Luncheon – April 24
- Japan-America Society of Central Ohio Gala – April 25
- Delaware State of the County – April 30



As part of our ongoing engagement work with The Montrose Group LLC, we have completed interviews and benchmarking of other Central Ohio CICs. A summary of that work was presented at the April 22 CIC board meeting. This information will help inform strategic plan recommendations for the Dublin CIC by July 1, 2024.



## Innovation

Economic Development continues to update its website with more tools useful to businesses and the regional workforce. Economic Development has enlisted the services of Chumura to allow job seekers to search for jobs using an online search tool.



[Economic Development Performance Measures.](#)

# Community Development

## Boards & Commissions Activity



### Boards & Commissions Activity

The Planning and Zoning Commission heard three cases in April and received an update on the progress of the Envision Dublin Community Plan. The Emerald Parkway apartments case portrayed a concept plan for approximately 280 apartment units, 25,000-square-feet of commercial space and associated site improvements. This case was tabled by the applicant at the April 18 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. The Irish Village informal review allowed the Commission an opportunity to provide feedback on a future development including a mix of uses. The 5.85-, 5.04- and 0.98-acre sites are zoned R-1 (restricted suburban residential district) and TF (technology flex district). They are located southwest of the intersection of Woerner Temple Road and Avery Road. [Find a list of the April caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Architectural Review Board held two meetings in April focusing on three division lead projects April 17 and four development cases April 24. Representatives for 40 E. Bridge St. submitted an informal review request to receive feedback from ARB regarding the remodel and construction of an addition to the existing home in the Historic District. [Find a list of the April caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Board of Zoning Appeals heard one variance request to review and approve the construction of a patio for a property in Wyandotte Woods. [Find a list of the April caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Administrative Review Team did not meet in April. [Find a list of upcoming cases here.](#)

### Regional Items of Interest

In April, the Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission reviewed three plats and a zoning amendment. The Jerome Township zoning amendment is for two parcels totaling 12.64 +/- acres. The parcels are located on the west side of Hyland-Croy Road and just south of Glacier Ridge Metro Park. The proposal would rezone the acreage from rural residential district (RU) to a planned development district (PD). The City of Dublin's Staff liaison voted against the proposal because it exceeds the maximum density permitted by the Community Plan. However, it was approved with eight recommendations one of which identified a need to discuss access to the proposed development with the Division of Transportation & Mobility. The proposal will be presented to the Jerome Township Planning and Zoning Commission followed by the Board of Trustees.

The Delaware Regional Planning Commission (DRPC) voted to approve three final plat extensions for Pulte Homes in various locations. In the past few months, extensions have been granted to five Pulte final plats for market and economic reasons. A rezoning for 1.36 acres in Orange Township was conditionally approved. The rezoning was from farm residential (FR-1) to planned commercial (PC) along U.S. 23. A preliminary plat for one lot on 39.45 acres was approved in Orange Township allowing 120 single-family residential condominium units on Lewis Center Road. A special meeting was held on April 16 to establish a standardized approach for review. The group established criterion that will determine if recommendations are made to townships, noting that they will provide an earlier opportunity to communicate recommendations to township representatives.

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

[View Community Planning & Development Performance Measures.](#)

# Compliance & Enforcement

## Code Enforcement

City Code Section 153.076(D) requires that all properties be kept mowed and maintained at a maximum height of six inches between March 1 and Oct. 31. If voluntary compliance is not attained, the City will mow the property and the mowing invoice will be forwarded to the property owner. Weed abatement is restricted to noxious varieties only. Most wildflower gardens/landscaping features are also allowed if maintained.

## Ongoing Projects

Short-term rental registrations are currently open for 2024 with eight properties registered in 2023. Registrations are submitted annually and limit guest lodging to two one-week rental periods per calendar year. Aside from the returning registrants this spring, there are new applications undergoing review either ending in a new registration or the rental listing is voluntarily removed from the market by the property owner. We search listing services periodically for unregistered properties, as well as investigating complaints from neighbors. Please note that homes rented for periods of longer than 30 days at a time (corporate or transitional housing) are exempt from the short-term rental code.

## Zoning & Code Compliance

### Daily Zoning Inspections

Forty-three daily zoning inspections were performed in March. These daily inspections ensure compliance with zoning codes for completed construction projects, including pool installations, solar panels, decks, new homes and commercial new builds and additions. These inspections include a minor exterior alteration at 6776 Longshore St. and new accessory structures at Dublin Scioto High School.

### Routine Landscape Inspections

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

# Building Standards

## Certificate of Occupancy

Forty-five certificates of occupancy (C of O) were issued this month. C of Os of interest this month are pictured at right.

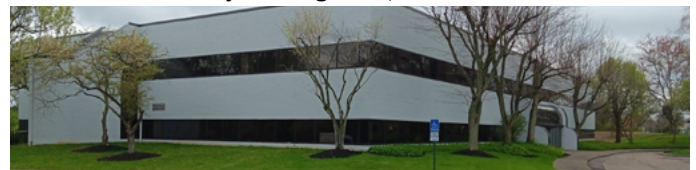
## Inspections

March numbers were strong with 578 inspections, and are 2% above average for the last 12-month period. Our March numbers for this year are 1% higher than March 2023's corresponding numbers picking up slightly year over year. In 2023, we completed 7,000 building inspections.

[View Building Standards Performance Measures.](#)



Towns on the Parkway Building 5 & 6, 4163 and 4183 McCune Ave.



Vista Community Church, 5626 Frantz Road



Dublin Scioto Softball Building, 4000 Hard Road

# Transportation & Mobility

## Highlights



### Speed Management

Transportation & Mobility is collaborating with Police to summarize metrics for the new 25 mph speed limit along Riverside Drive. The average ticketed speed is approximately 45 mph and the number of citations is between 40 and 90 per month. Staff is evaluating the speed safety cameras and working with the vendor to refine the placement and data collection process. Tactical Urbanism will be brought to City Council for consideration in May.

The dashboard, which displays fatal and serious injury crashes, monthly speeding citations issued and total monthly traffic stops can be viewed here. [View the dashboard.](#)

### Citywide Crash Data (vehicles and all vulnerable road users)

	Frequency	High Severity	Bike Ped
2024 Year-to-Date	116	3	2
February	52	3	2

February Fatal and Serious Injury or Vulnerable Road User Crashes:

1. A pedestrian crossing University Boulevard near the OSU Medical Center was struck by an eastbound left-turning vehicle. The pedestrian was not in a crosswalk. The crash resulted in a minor injury.
2. A westbound motorcycle on U.S. 33, west of Avery-Muirfield Drive, rear-ended a passenger vehicle. The rider was separated from the motorcycle which resulted in a serious injury.
3. A passenger fell off the rear bumper of an SUV traveling south on Autumnwood Way resulting in serious injury.
4. A driver was traveling west on I-270 near U.S. 33 and rear-ended a vehicle that was stopped in traffic resulting in a serious injury.

### Electric Scooters

Given winter 2024 is the first-time skeleton winter operations occurred in Dublin, there is no year-over-year data to compare.

- 340 unique riders since January – 105% increase in March
- 646 total rides since January – 143% increase in March
- 1,048 miles traveled since January – 204% increase in March
- 0.16 metric tonnes of CO2 saved since January – 300% increase in March



### Mobility Boulevard News

Glow pavers were installed near Dublin Chamber of Commerce, 129 S. High St., to provide an interesting pedestrian feature and a new parking area for micro-mobility. Staff is hopeful that this pilot project could be useful in other areas.

### Traffic Flow Optimization

Transportation & Mobility continues to implement the TNL traffic flow optimization pilot project in order to more efficiently time traffic signals based on real-time traffic conditions. The project also allows for prioritization of bikes and pedestrians at our traffic signals. Phase 1, Rings Road at Blazer Parkway and Atrium Parkway, and at Blazer Parkway at Parkcenter Avenue, is operational from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Phase 2, which comprises the Frantz Road corridor, is currently in the field-testing stage and is anticipated to go live mid-May.

The nearby TNL FlowCube at Riverside Drive and Bridge Park Avenue captured a pedestrian volume of nearly 2,000 during the solar eclipse April 8, which is significantly higher than a typical day.

[View the Dublin Connector Dashboard](#)

# Public Service

## Highlights



### Horticulture & Forestry

- Staff members planted replacement and new trees, shrubs and perennials in the parks.
- Spring cleanup in park landscape beds was completed.
- Staff members prepared for the Earth Day plantings by ordering prairie plants and trees and arranging educational programs for the public to enjoy. The Earth Day event was held at Kaltenbach Park April 20.
- The Forestry web page on the City's [website was updated to feature an interactive map](#) and information regarding the 2024 Street Tree Pruning program.
- The Arbor Day event was held in Hawk's Nest Park April 27.
- Stump-grinding is ongoing in preparation for spring tree planting.
- Spring street tree planting is ongoing.

### Streets

- Staff members assisted with high-water impacts citywide during the rain events in early April.
- Staff members installed bases for speed cameras and driver feedback signs.
- Staff members assisted with the installation of speed camera poles.
- Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant mats were replaced at Brand Road and Coventry Woods Drive.
- Staff members installed concrete pads at Avery Park, Ballantrae Park and the Coffman Park pickleball courts.
- Staff members completed trash and litter removal on I-270 from Sawmill Road to Tuttle Crossing Boulevard.
- Asphalt repairs were completed on Baronsmore Court, Trails End Drive and Norn Street.
- Curb repairs were completed on Grandview Drive.

### Parks

- Began mowing operations within the City parks.
- Two robotic mowers were programmed and tested at Avery Park.
- Spring turf weed treatments are ongoing within the parks.
- Staff members are securing quotes for the lower fountain in Riverside Crossing Park for grout joints repair.
- Crew members turned on the City's irrigation systems.
- Contractual lighting repairs were performed on the Coffman Park tennis courts.
- Infield ball diamond grading was completed at Emerald Fields and Darree Fields.
- The lightning detection system was activated in community parks. Repairs to the Avery Park system have been completed.



### Sustainability

- Styrofoam collection boxes: To date in 2024, 2,076 pounds of Styrofoam have been diverted from the landfill.
- GoZero composting: 14.43 tons of compost have been collected so far in 2024.
- Across the City's 21 electric vehicle charging stations, 17,042 gallons of gas have been saved to date in 2024. This equates to a greenhouse gas savings of 102,657 kilograms.
- Staff members partnered with SWACO to host a solar glasses recycling drop-off at each community viewing event and collected used glasses from City staff members. Approximately 30 pounds of glasses were collected.
- Dublin's green programming was on display this Earth Month. Staff members from Horticulture, Forestry, Outreach & Engagement, Recreation Services, Solid Waste and more worked together to plan nearly a dozen sustainability-related activities for residents.
- The City's first-ever fully electric truck was delivered April 5 and supports the City's goal of being carbon neutral.





# Asset Management & Quality Assurance

## GoDublin

Seven hundred and forty-nine requests were submitted in March, an increase from 638 last month. Of those requests, 493 (66%) were initiated through the GoDublin app. By comparison, there were 862 requests in March 2023. Top requests last month:

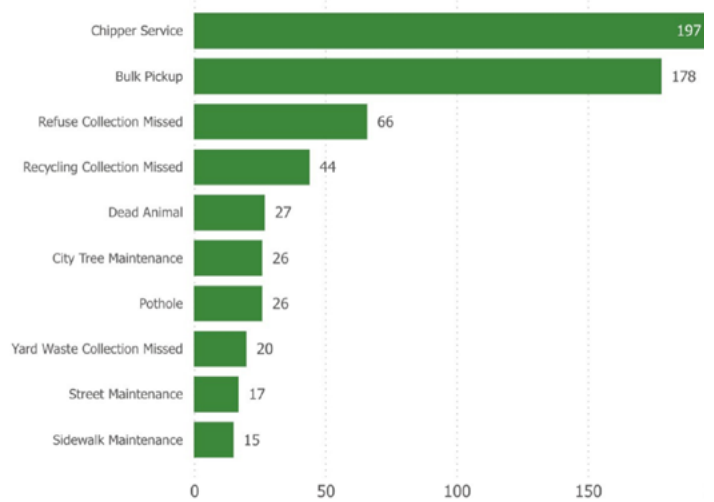
- Chipper Service
- Bulk Pickup
- Refuse Collection Missed
- Recycling Collection Missed
- Dead Animal

Chipper Service returned to the top of the requests in March. The 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 10 Request Types**  
for selected criteria



## Inspections/Maintenance Work

- The concrete sidewalk-lifting pilot program was established as an additional tool for the sidewalk maintenance program. The pilot kicked off in April.
- The light pole painting project began in April.
- Staff members are updating the pavement striping and marking inventory and will be performing inspections in the coming weeks to assist with the program.
- Staff members are preparing the 2024 Pavement Preventive Maintenance Program, as well as a revised 2025-2029 Street Maintenance Program based on recent pavement data, collected in March.
- The downtown brick sidewalk maintenance program began March 18 and will address 13 locations in Historic Dublin.

## Court Services - Highlights

- Received 307 traffic cases, 11 operating a motor vehicle under the influence (OVI) and seven criminal/code enforcement cases.
- Received 33 adult traffic diversion cases, one juvenile traffic diversion case and two juvenile criminal diversion cases.
- Collected \$50,497 in fines and costs.
- Collected \$532 in restitution for victims of crime.
- One staff member attended the Ohio InterCourt Conference and one staff member attended the Central Ohio Mayor's Court Clerk Association monthly meeting and training session.
- Diversion participants completed 26 hours of community service work.

# Parks & Recreation

## Highlights

**DCRC Memberships:** 8,027

### Outdoor Pool Season Passes

More than 1,000 outdoor pool season passes were sold in the first week of April to Dublin and Dublin School District residents. Sales to date are behind last year's, but as of April 29 we have sold 3,310 season passes. At the end of April there was further social media outreach because the resident discount ended on April 30. Outdoor pools open Saturday, May 25.

### Coffman Park

A new cover was recently installed at the Coffman Park Amphitheater. The new cover enhances the appearance of the amphitheater for rentals and use at the Dublin Irish Festival.

### Summer Staff Recruitment

Recruitment for summer is nearly complete. To date, 40 new camp staff members have been hired, bringing the total camp Staff confirmed for this summer to 98, which is almost 90% of the camp Staff needed for full operations. Camp Staff training kicks off April 21 with the first supervisor training. Aquatics has filled all positions (except Service Manager – Concessions) needed for a successful summer operation. Management's focus has shifted from recruitment to training and preparing to open the outdoor pools.

### Abbey Theater

The Abbey Theater entertained 344 people across seven presentations of "Our Town," March 15-24.

"Van Gogh's in the Attic," a co-production with Original Productions Theatre, took the stage for seven performances April 5-14. This production was featured in the [Columbus Dispatch](#) and on [WBNS 10tv](#). Up next at the Abbey is "A Walk in the Woods," running May 17-19.

### Programs and Events

Adult programming held its first local trip of the year to the Ohio Theatre April 5 for the Columbus Symphony's dress rehearsal. There were 20 participants in attendance. There are four more spring trips planned for the Traveler's Club. The program is open to anyone 40 years of age and older. The next trip is to COSI to see the Titanic exhibit May 1. The adult programming team also collaborated with the wellness group to offer Healthy By Choice programs in the arts presented by a DCRC instructor. The classes were meditative ceramics and an art flight sampler.

The Dublin Community Senior Citizens (DCSC) have 136 new members this year, bringing the total of 55+ DCSC activity passes to 597 so far this year.

In partnership with the Abbey Theater, adaptive programming is holding rehearsals for the inclusive musical "Could You Hug a Cactus?" Participants rehearse with a team of theater and adaptive staff members and will perform the show in the Abbey Theater June 9.

Kayaking operations on the Scioto River are open now weather permitting. [Please find out more about Sunrise Kayaking and book a reservation here!](#)

### Golf Club of Dublin

The golf season is underway at the Golf Club of Dublin. Per the memorandum of understanding with KemperSports, the City facilitates a monthly meeting between Staff from Kemper and representatives from the Ballantrae Community Association's Golf Course Committee. The 2024 improvements are underway. The kitchen recently reopened with a new menu after renovations. Asphalt repairs around the cart barn and other smaller repairs will take place in the coming weeks. New golf carts were purchased and the bunker renovations are nearly complete. Residents took advantage of the early spring weather in March. The resident membership discount accounted for over 35% of all golf rounds by members last month.

# Police & Safety

## Highlights

### Critical Incidents & Major Crimes

- March 25, officers responded to a shooting in a Bridge Park apartment taking one person into custody that evening; no one was injured. Officers charged the person with two felonies related to the discharge of a firearm. One vehicle on Longshore Street was damaged by the gunfire.
- Three drivers were involved in an April 3 crash on Glick Road at Muirkirk Drive. A driver pulled in front of a landscaping truck, which hit a third vehicle. The truck driver was transported to the hospital and the driver of the first vehicle died April 5 from his injuries.
- Flock camera system identified a vehicle associated with a felony sexual assault warrant; officers arrested the suspect.

### Police Reports & Crime Trends

- Officers charged a suspect with corrupting another with drugs following an overdose at Embassy Suites.
- Officers collaborated with Columbus Division of Police, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the FBI as part of a vehicle theft investigation focused on a group of people stealing high-end vehicles throughout Central Ohio. Police arrested two suspects on receiving stolen property and criminal tools charges.

### Safety Messaging

- Shared total solar eclipse safety reminders
- Celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
- Shared theft prevention video about burglary and breaking and entering
- Promoted Drug Take Back service as part of Sustainable Saturday
- Shared Smart911 information during National 911 Month

### Misc.

- Officers Reece Berry, Guy Cullison and Joshua Weber completed the Dublin Police field training officer program and have been assigned to their shifts.
- City leaders, including Washington Township Fire Department, met for an annual review of the Emergency Operations Plan. They engaged with representatives from Red Cross, Franklin County EMA, Logan County EMA and AEP about the organizations' emergency planning and recent crisis management.

### Community Outreach & Engagement

- Deputy Chief Greg Lattanzi and PIO Rebecca Myers presented to the Central Ohio Public Information Network about crisis communications planning during the Dublin Irish Festival.
- During the March and April Chief's Advisory Committee meeting, command staff shared police critical incident response to recent incidents, the department's 2023 Non-Bias-Based Policing Administrative Review and other annual analyses, and information on a potential reunification tool for vulnerable residents.
- Members of the New Hope Church and Dublin Community Church thanked officers for providing traffic security during their Good Friday Crosswalk event.
- Officer Paul Burks met with residents during the Laguna Mexican Street Food anniversary and cultural event.
- Police participated in the April 15 Spring Neighborhood Leaders meeting, sharing an update on Slow Down Dublin, crime statistics and theft prevention.
- Chief Justin Páez met with the Discover Clergy Group about Safe Space Dublin.
- Students learned about investigation techniques alongside detectives during Bring a Kid to Work Day.
- Officers attended the Wyandotte Woods HOA meeting to talk about theft prevention.

### Police Responses to Issues of Community Concern

#### Speed Management

- Speed enforcement campaigns were conducted:
  - April 12 on I-270 and U.S. 33 resulting in 18 stops
- Q1 speed enforcement on Riverside Drive
  - Tuller Road to Martin Road (25 mph zone near Bridge Park)
  - 504 stops and 216 citations

#### Traffic Safety

- Year-to-date, the Community Impact Unit traffic team has completed 1,331 traffic stops and investigated 56 traffic complaints.

#### Public Safety Technologies

- Knightscope Inc. hosted a Robot Roadshow for police to test and try new technology such as autonomous security robots.
- Officers recovered a stolen vehicle using a Flock camera-assisted alert.

#### Policing Standards

- Strongsville Police Department and Whitehall Division of Police contacted Dublin Police about the agency's involvement in the statewide law enforcement accreditation pilot program.

#### Special Event Security

- Officers provided security for two City events related to the Total Solar Eclipse managing traffic flow throughout Dublin.

# Human Resources

## Highlights



### 2024 Bring a Kid to Work Day

The City is engaging our younger generation by giving them hands-on opportunities to learn more about local government. More than 15 kids participated in this day, divided into two age groups: kindergarten-5th grade and grades 6-12. This allowed for grade-level tailored learning experiences. City kids, grandkids and nieces/nephews were invited to attend.

### Senior Leader Retreat

On April 18, the Senior Leadership Team met at BMI Credit Union for their quarterly retreat. City Manager Megan O’Callaghan reviewed Strategic Initiatives and Council Goals with the team. Tiffany Wood from Spark Impact Consulting spent the day with the team reviewing the Culture Playbook and incorporating tactical examples of utilizing the the 5 C’s of Communication: critique, collaborate, clarify, care, celebrate.

### April R Factor Training

On April, two additional cohorts completed the R Factor training. All full-time employees will completed R Factor training by the end of 2024, with the majority completing the sessions before July.

### Better Together: 7th Inning Tax Stretch Potluck

On April 16, Staff at City Hall hosted a surprise potluck in honor of Taxation to celebrate and thank them for being an exceptional team during Tax Week. Janan Hay, HR coordinator, led the team in a group stretch. After lunch, a quick game of Whiffle Ball was enjoyed. We are proud of this self-initiated team event that demonstrated the best of the City’s internal culture: Driven by Excellence, Better Together and Dedicated to Service.



### NextGen Leadership Academy Graduates

Congratulations to Team Dublin’s Erin Santa, Gina Martinez, Josh Adkins, Kyle McKee and Mitch Ament, who graduated from the Dublin Chamber of Commerce 2024 Leadership Academy.

### Recent Hires



**Marisah Ali**  
**Position:** HR Business Partner  
**Division:** Human Resources



**Daniel Barr**  
**Position:** Engineering Tech I  
**Division:** Engineering

### Retirement



**Vickie Hassell**  
**Position:** Accounting Specialist  
**Division:** Finance

### Recruitment

- Accounting Manager
- Chief Innovation and Technology Officer
- Director of Information Technology
- Engineering Technician I
- Construction Manager
- Police Officer

# Outreach & Engagement

## Highlights

On April 5, City of Dublin Heritage Interpreters received a tour of the Great Circle from the Ohio History Connection. Sarah Hinkleman, site manager of Newark Earthworks, expanded the group's knowledge of the Hopewell culture with information on how the preservation and understanding of these places has changed. Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks was contemporary in its use and construction to Dublin's Ferris-Wright Earthworks.

Director of Outreach & Engagement Christine Nardecchia hosted Syntero's Catalyst for Positive Change Awards held April 12 at the Fawcett Center. The annual event recognizes teens from Syntero's service region for outstanding community service and for exemplifying Syntero's values.

On April 12, a volunteer team of 25 Teen Buddies led their own leadership volunteer project: a prom night for residents at Dublin Retirement Village. This intergenerational volunteer program began during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to grow and remain active.

Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Maurer and Outreach & Engagement Coordinator Sarah Esala presented April 16 on effective teen volunteer engagement at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Dublin Branch.

CyraCom online language translation was implemented April 17 at the Justice Center making it the final building to receive this service. The Dublin Police Department and Mayor's Court can now offer needed translation services on demand.



One hundred twenty-five volunteers spent the morning of April 20 at Kaltenbach Park and Community Center celebrating Earth Day with a large planting project. City Horticulture staff led volunteers and conducted a question-and-answer session on various horticultural topics.



Two hundred people attended the second Ohio University Dublin Speaker Series program April 24 focused on "The Art of Aging with a Healthy Brain." The series' second event was hosted at the Abbey Theater of Dublin following the kickoff in fall 2023 on the OU Dublin campus. Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and College of Arts and Sciences' Graciela Muniz-Terrera and Julie Suhr were the presenters.

Cenovus Energy served the City April 23 with a corporate volunteer project working with Forestry to prepare more than 100 trees for the Arbor Day celebration and tree giveaway.

The City celebrated National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, by sharing a video message of gratitude from City Manager Megan O'Callaghan to City of Dublin volunteers. Staff members who collaborate with volunteers were also appreciated with snack packs as a thank you for their effective work in volunteer engagement.

All community garden plots (a total of 25) have been rented by community members. Nature Education Coordinator Barbara Ray serves as a point of contact for all gardeners and held an information night for all 2024 gardeners to kick off a successful growing season.

# Communications & Marketing

## Highlights



### April'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.
- April's strategic topics included promoting Earth Month and the total solar eclipse activities; introducing the Slow Down Dublin sloth mascot on social media; celebrating our volunteers and NRECC staff for Volunteer and National Public Safety Telecommunicators weeks.
- [Review the results from March's overall communications metrics](#) and [City Council's communications efforts](#).
- [Review the complete Contact City data here](#).

### Sustainable Dublin Communications

- Promoted Earth Month activities, including a community planting event for Earth Day and a tree planting at Hawk's Nest neighborhood park on Arbor Day.
- Partnered with SWACO to share their Recycle Right campaign during Earth Month.
- Shared Tax Day messaging and promoted e-filing.
- Announced the March Madness-themed campaign "Services Madness" winner, Community Events, while promoting the GoDublin app to request other City services.

### Connected Dublin Communications

- Hosted the spring Neighborhood Leadership meeting at the Council Chamber April 15. More than 50 neighborhood leaders attended to hear the latest City updates from Council, City Manager Megan O'Callaghan and City Staff.
- Announced construction of the first phase of the Fiber to Every Home initiative.
- Promoted the April 19 Dublin Institute Smart Cities Workshop.

### Resilient Dublin Communications

- Promoted the community viewing of the April 8 total solar eclipse while also sharing messages on how to view the eclipse safely.
- Shared storm messaging during the April 1 heavy rains and encouraged residents to use tools like Smart911 and Franklin County alerts for storm-related updates.
- Published an Instagram reel that featured tips on how residents can keep their homes safe.
- Continued promoting Slow Down Dublin with a video featuring our new sloth mascot.
- Featured community celebrations surrounding Eid al-Fitr and the Cherry Blossom Festival.

### May Lookahead

- Share communications and information about the Memorial Tournament.
- Share information about the Peace Officers Memorial and Memorial Day ceremonies.
- Promote events including Sustainable Saturday May 4, Bike Roadeo May 11, Experience Public Works Day May 18 and a dedication of the Pump Track at Emerald Fields May 20.

### Link Ahead Podcast

- 19,658 listens (an increase of 825 listens since the March report)
- April topics included Earth Month with our partners at SWACO and a conversation with Council Member Andy Keeler
- Upcoming topics and guests include New Americans with Judge Edmund Sargus and the Abbey Theater's 2024 season with Theater Supervisor Joe Bishara

### Internal Branding

In support of the City of Dublin Culture Playbook, the City's Communications & Marketing division is working with a firm to develop and implement an environmental branding package that will help bring the Culture Playbook to life in our City facilities. A vision team of cross-functional stakeholders has been engaged and offered feedback. The plan is expected to be developed by the end of Q2 with implementation to follow.

# Community Events

## Highlights



### Dublin in the Dark

Dublin experienced the solar eclipse April 8 at two public viewing areas. An estimated 19,600 people were in downtown Dublin and another 6,700 at Coffman Park. The restaurants in Downtown Dublin reported record sales for a Monday afternoon. Traffic across the City was heavy at times but in general, there were no major traffic disruptions. Dom Tiberi reported live on CBS affiliate, WBNS 10TV, from Riverside Crossing Park for most of the day.

### Sponsorship Update

Community Events Staff confirmed the following sponsors in the last month:

#### Independence Day

In-kind

- O'Neil Tents \$1,500
- SuperGames \$3,050

#### Dublin Irish Festival

- Cenovus \$10,000 NEW
- Hone Genius Exteriors \$7,500 NEW

In-kind

- City Scene \$10,000
- Columbus Fury \$3,000 NEW
- Old Bag of Nails \$7,500

#### Spooktacular

- FST Logistics \$1,000 NEW

### Independence Day

- Staff implemented a new policy of limiting the number of kids zone wristbands available and encouraging residents to purchase them prior to the events. This policy was created to reduce lines and overcrowding in the area.



### Dublin Irish Festival

- The Dublin Irish Festival was voted by readers of [USA Today as No. 4 on its list of the 10 Best Cultural Festivals in the United States.](#)
- The 2024 Dublin Irish Festival Committee kick-off meeting was held April 8. Honorary Chair Brian Kelleher presided over the meeting.

### Permitted Events

- There were four tier 1 events and three tier 2 events held in April, including the PurpleStride pancreatic cancer walk April 27 in Coffman Park's south field.
- The first large soccer tournament of the year, Club Ohio Nike Challenge Cup, took place April 27-28 at Darree Fields.
- The shelter house and pavilion rental season began April 1. Rentals will continue through Oct. 31.

### Events Scheduled for May

- May 19 – Private School Pups 5k Run/Walk beginning at 9 a.m.
- May 20 – Dublin Coffman Senior Parade beginning at 7 a.m.
- May 20 – Dublin Jerome Senior Parade beginning at 8 a.m.

# Legislative

## Update

### Proposed Legislation by the Senate Housing Committee

The Senate has released four bipartisan bills all sponsored by Columbus area Senator Michele Reynolds (R-Canal Winchester) and Senator Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus). Sen. Reynolds had previously planned an omnibus bill encompassing several recommendations but said that given the large number the committee decided to introduce several bills and hope other legislators will tackle some of the recommendations. Sen. Reynolds also indicated that not every recommendation will require legislation and that they're working with the Department of Development for alternative pathways.

Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) told reporters that the 23 recommendations would not occur in the next few months given the number of sessions remaining in this General Assembly, and that some may be introduced over multiple GAs.

The introduced bills are as follows:

- Senate Bill 243: Declares the legislature's intent to enact legislation addressing local zoning regulations that impede housing development.
- Senate Bill 244: Authorizes local governments to create residential stability zones where homeowners may qualify for a partial property tax exemption.
- Senate Bill 245: Revises laws governing eviction, real estate representation agreements, residential building code enforcement and real property transfers.
- Senate Bill 246: Renames the Department of Development as the Department of Housing & Development.

As indicated by the senators, there is nothing confirmed that indicates these will be completed by the end of the calendar year, but committee hearings on them are anticipated.

### Issue 2 Updates – Recreational Marijuana

During the State of the State, Governor Mike DeWine encouraged the legislature to respect the will of voters, but exercise their power to place guardrails on marijuana. Specifically, he suggested outlawing public consumption, especially in areas that are frequented by children. In December, the Senate passed their proposal to make changes to Issue 2 sending it to the House for final approval. The House has not advanced any legislation that would make changes to what was passed by voters. Speaker Jason Stephens has told reporters that the rules process would take place before another hearing is scheduled for marijuana-related legislation. The Department of Commerce has begun the rules process and is anticipating dispensary licensing applications to open early this summer.

### Redistricting Ballot Initiative for 2024

Referred to as the "Citizens not Politicians Amendment" and is being worked on by former GOP Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and others.

The proposal would:

- Create a Citizens Redistricting Commission, comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans and five independents, to take up mapmaking.
- Bar current and former politicians, candidates and lobbyists from serving on the new panel tasked with drawing district maps that "correspond closely to the statewide partisan preferences of the voters of Ohio."
- Establish a screening panel consisting of two retired Democratic judges and two retired Republican judges to review applicants for the redistricting commission. Appointment of the judicial panel would be overseen by the Ballot Board.
- The screening panel would then seek out a professional search firm to seek applications for the redistricting commission, create a pool of 90 qualified applicants, interview the candidates and select 45 finalists – 15 Democrats, 15 Republicans and 15 independents. Of those 45, six would be randomly selected to serve on the redistricting commission at a public meeting.
- The initial members of the group would fill out the remaining slots via majority vote at a subsequent public meeting.

On Oct. 12, the Ohio Ballot Board unanimously found that the proposal constituted a single issue. On Oct. 25, Citizens not Politicians realized that the summary language included the wrong date for when congressional and state legislative plans must be finished. Because of this mistake, the group will need to collect another 1,000 signatures and resubmit the language to Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's office for approval before they can move forward.

- They have until July 3, 2024, to collect the required number of signatures.

### HB 304 State and Municipal Government Commission

HB 304 creates the State and Municipal Government Commission, consisting of 13 members. It requires the Commission to make recommendations to state and municipal leaders on municipal authority, policy and funding implications of proposed state policies. It also requires the Commission to submit a biennial report to the General Assembly.

The bill was introduced in the House Oct. 18, 2023, and includes the following proposed duties for the Commission:"

- Meet at least twice a year upon ten days' written notice provided by the chairperson;
- Analyze and report on proposed state and municipal policies and rules that would impact municipal home rule authority;
- Enhance collaborative opportunities between state and municipal leaders;
- Discuss and consider state and municipal government revenue sharing, grant programs and other matters related to the fiscal health of municipal corporations.

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# Calendar

May 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Friends of CASA 5K	29	30	1 Food Truck Wednesdays Administrative Committee	2 Planning & Zoning Commission	3 Historic Dublin Walking Tours	4 Sustainable Saturday Community Service Day The Dublin Market at Bridge Park
5 Coffman Homestead Open House	6 Dublin City Council	7	8 Food Truck Wednesdays Waterline Replacement Project – Phase VII	9	10	11 OMS Lacrosse Tournament Cirque du Chomp The Dublin Market at Bridge Park Bike Roadeo Event
12 OMS Lacrosse Tournament	13	14 Community Services Advisory Commission	15 Food Truck Wednesdays	16 Veterans Committee Chief's Advisory Committee The Dublin Night Market	17	18 Ohio State Cup Soccer Tournament Experience Public Works Day The Dublin Market at Bridge Park
19	20 Emerald Fields Bike Pump Track Dedication Dublin City Council	21 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee	22 Food Truck Wednesdays	23 Planning & Zoning Commission 2FGR DSACO Run for Down Syndrome	24 Wayne Williams Memorial Baseball Tournament	25 Wayne Williams Memorial Baseball Tournament Columbus Pet Run & Walk The Dublin Market at Bridge Park
26 Wayne Williams Memorial Baseball Tournament Naomi's 5K	27 Wayne Williams Memorial Baseball Tournament Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony	28	29 Food Truck Wednesdays Architectural Review Board	30 Board of Zoning Appeals FORE!Miler	31 Historic Dublin Walking Tours	1 The Dublin Market at Bridge Park

- Advisory Committees
- Permitted Events
- Boards & Commissions
- Council Meetings
- City/Community Events
- Abbey Theater

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