

Office of the City Manager Activities, Projects & Interactions

December 2023



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December 2023

Letter from the City Manager

With 2024 upon us, I would like to thank Dublin City Council and our City employees for a fantastic 2023. Together, we achieved many successes, advanced Council's visionary goals, implemented innovative new initiatives and strategically planned for our future, all while continuing to provide world-class city services. We had a busy year, and I am proud of all we accomplished.

December saw the end of a successful leaf collection season, a record-breaking pumpkin composting collection and holiday events and observations aplenty! We also celebrated the one-year anniversary of Safe Space Dublin, a community safety initiative led by the Dublin Police Department that promotes designated havens of safety, security and support for residents and visitors in their time of need.

The City earned the Auditor of State Award with Distinction from the Ohio Auditor of State's office. Only 4% of audits annually receive this award, which honors excellence in financial reporting and fiscal stewardship for local governments and school districts.

The City's strategic purchase of the Vivo Living property on Tuller Road was finalized, making way for the development of the Tuller Road to Emerald Parkway over I-270 Crossing. Currently, I-270 forms a barrier between the Bright Road neighborhood and the Bridge Street District. Design is underway on this crossing, which will improve safety, provide better mobility for all modes of travel, and ease traffic on Sawmill Road. We are working to secure state and federal funding, and a timeline for construction will follow.

December also brought the exciting announcement that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration will provide \$500,000 each to four rail corridors in Ohio. This paves the way for two corridors through Central Ohio, which could include a stop in Dublin thanks to Council's foresight in supporting the West Dublin Passenger Rail Station study. The study positions Dublin as a feasible and desirable station location as the new rail infrastructure is designed.

Because of our many planning efforts in 2023, we are positioned to achieve significant milestones in 2024. The Envision Dublin Community Plan update is on track to be completed in early spring.



Residents will begin getting access to fast, reliable broadband as the Fiber to Every Home project advances. Efforts to revitalize Metro Center will continue to the next phase, aided by extensive public engagement efforts.

I am also looking forward to furthering our workplace culture initiative, guided by our new Culture Playbook. It represents a year's worth of collaboration among City employees across work units and tenures. We started with a workforce survey, held five focus groups and then assembled 24 stakeholders, including Mayor Jane Fox and Council Member Christina Alutto, to help us take that input and define our beliefs, behaviors and desired outcomes. The Culture Playbook was shared with all City staff members at the End of Year Employee Celebration in early December and will continue to be rolled out and implemented throughout the next year through a robust internal communication and engagement process.

As stated in our City of Dublin Culture Playbook, we are driven by excellence, better together and dedicated to service. I am thankful for Council's continued support and vision. I look forward to many more great things ahead in the new year.

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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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 December meeting, field construction is set to begin Q2 of 2024. The website has had 2,000+ project page views and a total of 124 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. altafiber and Dublink Development Company LLC are actively working on the lease agreement that will allow altafiber to utilize the Dublink multi-conduit system.

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, EMH&T and SB Friedman, met with Metro Center stakeholders Dec. 5-6 to discuss the future of the district. Stakeholders included City Council Members, property and business owners and property management representatives. The stakeholder input will provide important insight into opportunities and help inform subsequent steps for the project, which include a work session with City Council Jan. 29 and a panel discussion and public input session Jan. 30. The importance of Metro Center restoration was highlighted as part of the roll-out of the Economic Development Strategic Plan Oct. 23. Staff members continue to work with property owners to develop a concept to present informally to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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: City Council approved modifications to the Historic District Code and Historic Design Guidelines Dec. 11 that address how demolition criteria is applied to the historic properties. The Dublin Community Improvement Corporation approved its first round of applications for the newly reinstated Commercial Façade Improvement Program Dec. 4. Additional applications are under review. One of the City's Economic Development administrators will focus efforts on downtown and serve as the primary City resource and liaison.

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 are creating a committee of stakeholders, including Visit Dublin Ohio, a Council Member and key City Staff to draft a new RFP with revised language and evaluate proposals.

Key Project Updates

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
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.	The COhatch and City teams have continued to meet on a weekly basis to coordinate efforts and timelines. City staff members anticipate executing contracts for transportation improvements in early January 2024. COhatch is pursuing soil boring services to ensure the constructability of the proposed new building and has retained a firm to survey the development parcels. On Dec. 7, COhatch submitted a concept review application for the overall project and an application for the demolition of the background accessory structures. Both applications will be considered by the Architectural Review Board at their Jan. 24, 2024, meeting.
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 has been working on 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. CDC will review designs at a meeting early in 2024.
Community Health Needs Assessment	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.	The CHNA report was presented to the internal Dublin team and has been revised based on feedback from that discussion. The report will be presented to the Advisory Committee and the City's senior leadership team in January. During the Advisory Committee meeting, a process will be conducted to identify the priority community health needs, which will guide the strategic planning efforts. Staff members anticipate presenting the final report and objectives to City Council for acceptance in early spring 2024.

Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p>Envision Dublin Community Plan Update</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>Steering Committee</p> <p>The Steering Committee, which includes community leaders and business partners who are helping to guide the Community Plan's updates, has held four meetings to review and provide feedback on initial deliverables. The most recent meetings held Nov. 14 and Dec. 19 focused on transportation and mobility as we start to move forward with the Thoroughfare Plan and Mobility Plan. A subsequent meeting is scheduled for Jan. 23, to review a preferred land-use scenario and initial modeling outcomes. The consultant will provide an update to City Council at the Jan. 22 meeting.</p> <p>Future public meetings in 2024 include a City Council work session Jan. 29 and a panel discussion with public input session Jan. 30, both focused on the Metro Center Implementation, and a public meeting in March 2024 to review the draft land-use plan.</p>
<p>EV Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan</p>	<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>The consultant is working with Staff to develop a comprehensive plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure based on EV adoption rates, industry best practices and data from Staff. The final working group meeting was held Dec. 15. The project completion date is expected to be in early 2024.</p>
<p>Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh</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.</p>	<p>The second community engagement meeting for the DCRC Refresh Master Plan took place Dec. 6. City staff members and consultant representatives presented feedback from the community during the first public input meeting, focus groups held at the DCRC and through the online Tell Dublin survey. An emphasis was placed on the need to refresh the current facility. While some community feedback has expressed a desire to expand the facility, further feasibility studies would be needed to evaluate potential future expansion or projects, as noted in the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The third public engagement meeting will take place Feb. 12.</p>
<p>City of Columbus Fourth Water Plant</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>Potential alignments are being evaluated. Geotechnical soil borings and topographical surveys began in December 2023 and are expected through March 2024. Final design is expected to start this summer. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2028.</p>

Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
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.	Stakeholder interviews were held Dec. 11. Business leaders; community partners, including MORPC, COTA and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District; and students of all ages from Dublin City Schools were interviewed to help inform the sustainability plan. Additionally, as a way to gather more feedback from the business community, a survey was emailed to business leaders who were not part of the stakeholder interview. Staff members are working to schedule interviews with City Council members in early January. The anticipated completion of this project is Q1 2024.
Holiday Market Feasibility Study	At their February 2023 meeting, Public Services Committee (PSC) members directed Staff to consult with potential community partners, including Visit Dublin Ohio, the Downtown Dublin Strategic Alliance and the Crawford Hoying Foundation to help determine if Phase II of a feasibility study for a holiday market is necessary.	At the Feb. 8 PSC meeting, the committee instructed Staff to consult with community partners about a potential holiday market in Dublin. Staff members also met with the market managers of markets in Carmel, Indiana; Philadelphia; and Baltimore. These conversations helped staff members better understand the necessary scope for Phase II of the feasibility study. At the Sept. 19 PSC meeting, the committee voted to recommend a Phase II feasibility study to City Council. At the Oct. 9 City Council meeting, Council unanimously voted to direct Staff to move forward with the second phase of the feasibility study. Staff members plan to issue the RFP in early Q1 2024 to align with the availability of the potential respondents.
Mobility Hubs	The design of the Dublin Community Recreation Center Mobility Hub includes site improvements, such as solar power, wayfinding signs, canopies, bike racks and a CoGo Bike Share station.	After bidding this project three times using different formats, staff members began engaging with industry partners to determine next steps. Based on their recommendations, staff members are pursuing construction of the DCRC Mobility Hubs as part of the Dublin Community Recreation Center refresh.
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 scheduled to be substantially complete in June 2025. The U.S. 33 eastbound ramp to Post Road/S.R. 161 eastbound remained closed through the end of December. 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 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; kayak launch site; connectivity to Dublin Springs Park and Indian Run Falls Park; adventure elements; walking trails; 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 contract has been executed and work began in December of 2023. The timing of the work will be coordinated with the COhatch Riverview Village development. Staff members are finalizing the dates for public input, which will likely take place in the spring.
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 promotional efforts began in October with the launch of the Slow Down Dublin campaign. The updated web page includes information on how residents can request yard signs, stickers and magnets; team up with an officer for a ride along and/or borrow a speed laser; and register a speed complaint. Residents can also find the dashboard with the locations of the mobile speed trailers and rotating driver feedback signs, enforcement and crash metrics, along with speed survey results. Staff members engaged residents on Cacchio Lane in September and October to gather feedback about area speed concerns and thoughts on speed cushions. The survey received approximately 120 responses. Staff members are evaluating the results to determine next steps. In furtherance of the goals of the Speed Management Program, City Council approved legislation in September establishing a business district for the purposes of generating local control for speed limits and enforcement of u-turning vehicles. Enforcement began on Oct. 30 and is ongoing. At the December meeting, CSAC members discussed the locations and layout options for potential tactical urbanism projects.
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.	Staff members anticipate receiving preliminarily engineering plans in early January. Detailed design is scheduled to begin in 2024 through Q1 2025, with construction to follow. The City of Dublin closed on Vivo Living on Dec. 8th as part of the necessary acquisitions to advance this project. View a complete list of projects

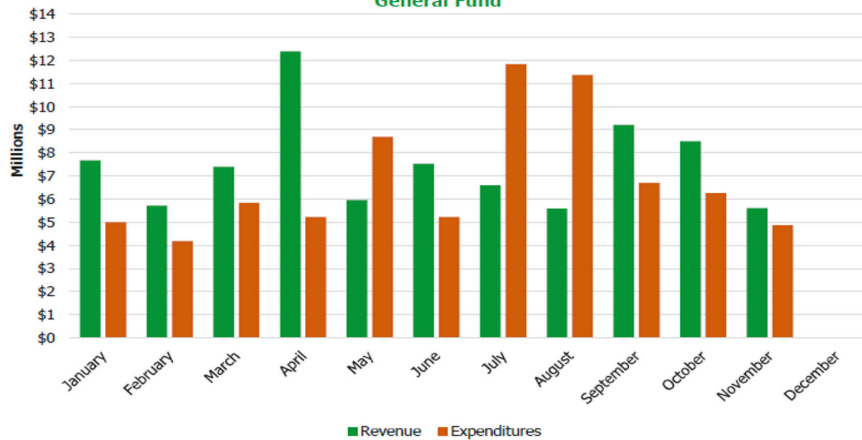
Finance

Highlights

General Fund Information

Total GF Revenue: \$82,162,433
Total GF Expenditures: \$75,013,347

2023 Revenue vs. Expenditures
General Fund



Highlights

General Fund Cash Balance: \$71,400,124

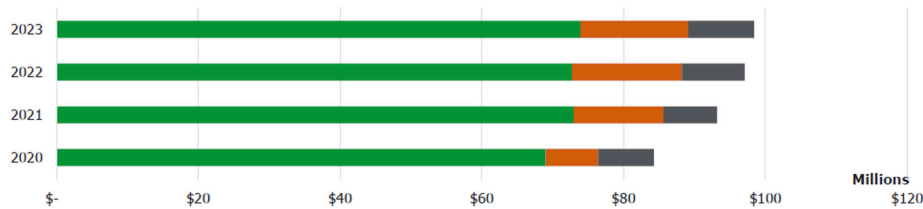
- 65.4% of budgeted expenditures
- \$16,794,669 in excess of 50% reserve level

Income Tax revenue was 1.3% above 2022 YTD levels, or \$1,291,630

- Receipts are 4.7% or \$4,376,805 ahead of budget
- Comparing YTD November 2022 versus November 2023:
 - Withholding increased 1.72%
 - Net profit revenue decreased -2.19%
 - Individual revenue increased 4.30%

Income Tax Collections

As of November 30, 2023, YTD income tax receipts totaled \$98,376,805, an increase of 1.3% over the same time in 2023. The 2023 budgeted income tax revenue is \$104,000,000.



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Withholding	\$ 69,012,093	\$ 72,952,450	\$ 72,687,638	\$ 73,937,910
Net Profit	\$ 7,403,219	\$ 12,682,251	\$ 15,540,249	\$ 15,200,490
Individual	\$ 7,847,991	\$ 7,525,372	\$ 8,857,288	\$ 9,238,405
Total	\$ 84,263,304	\$ 93,160,073	\$ 97,085,175	\$ 98,376,805



Director of Finance Operations Jaime Hoffman accepted the Auditor of State Award with Distinction from Scott Brown, Regional Liaison with the Ohio Auditor of State's office at the Nov. 27 City Council meeting.

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

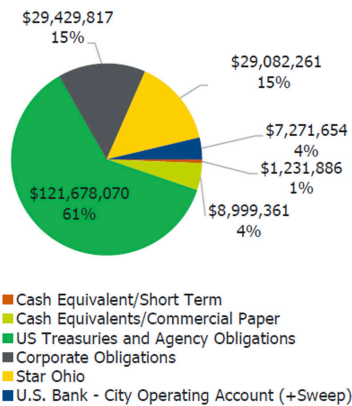
Finance Update

Fund Balance as of November 30, 2023

Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance
101 - General Fund	\$71,399,696	419 - TIF Thomas/Kohler	\$3,368,906	461 - TIF Tuller	\$3,097,071
201 - Street Maintenance and Repair	\$2,167,680	421 - TIF McKittrick Project	\$967,173	462 - TIF Nestle	\$251,247
202 - State Highway	\$688,723	425 - TIF Perimeter Center	\$1,871,032	463 - TIF Bridge Park Blocks B & C	\$437,255
225 - Recreation	\$1,650,271	426 - TIF Rings Road	\$852,482	464 - TIF Innovation	\$392,557
226 - Pool	\$173,943	431 - TIF Perimeter West	\$1,418,219	465 - TIF Riviera	\$735,059
231 - Permissive Tax	\$239,109	432 - TIF Upper Metro Place	\$1,218,850	466 - TIF Penzone	\$266,351
232 - Hotel/Motel Tax	\$2,710,529	433 - TIF Rings/Frantz	\$1,979,048	467 - TIF H2 Hotel	\$414,858
241 - Safety	\$980,094	436 - TIF Historic Dublin Parking	\$41,333	468 - TIF Bridge Park Block Z	\$426
242 - Law Enforcement	\$99,714	440 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 5	\$22,107	469 - TIF Block A	\$1,135
243 - Mandatory Drug Fine	\$2,915	441 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 8	\$5,189	474 - TIF Bridge Park Incentive Dist	\$32,680
244 - Wireless 9-1-1 System	\$774,880	442 - TIF Perimeter Loop	\$92,558	475 - TIF The Corners	\$279,763
251 - Enforcement and Education	\$77,506	443 - TIF Tartan West	\$1,393,774	591 - Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$1,765,882
252 - Mayors Court Computer	\$57,779	444 - TIF Shamrock Blvd.	\$214,391	610 - Water	\$12,671,329
261 - Cemetery	\$96,600	446 - TIF River Ridge	\$859,437	612 - Water Construction	\$1,429,258
262 - Accrued Leave Reserves	\$235,520	447 - TIF Lifetime Fitness	\$563,645	620 - Sewer	\$6,859,427
263 - Rings Unitrust	\$1,000,000	448 - COIC Improvement	\$0	623 - Sewer Construction	\$1,969,831
267 - OPIOID RELIEF FUND	\$45,036	449 - TIF Irelan Place	\$22,458	701 - Self Insurance - Employee Bens	\$5,363,673
299 - Occupancy Deposits	\$194,500	450 - TIF Shier Rings Road	\$55,029	703 - Self Insurance - Workers Comp	\$211,719
310 - General Debt Service	\$2,243,771	451 - TIF Shamrock Crossing	\$230,462	803 - Unclaimed Monies	\$141,182
311 - Econ Development Bond Retirmt	\$1,327,329	452 - TIF Bridge and High Street	\$283,751	804 - Visit Dublin Ohio	\$119,613
320 - S.A. Debt Service	\$17,659	453 - TIF Dublin Methodist Hospital	\$1,247,530	805 - Agency	\$2,027
322 - 2001 S.A. Debt Service	\$134,913	454 - TIF Kroger Centre	\$1,341,178	807 - C.O.I.R.S.	\$430,980
401 - Capital Improvements Tax	\$46,225,713	455 - TIF Frantz/Dublin Road	\$113,166	817 - Property Assessed Clean Energy	\$626
402 - Parkland Acquisition	\$4,860,754	456 - TIF Delta Energy	\$53	821 - Building Standards Surcharges	\$2,122
404 - Capital Improvement Constructi	\$2,668,757	457 - TIF Bridge Street	\$486,709	822 - Columbus Sewer Capacity	\$22,324
412 - TIF Woerner-Temple	\$223,826	458 - TIF Vrabie	\$109,430	823 - New Community Authority	\$16,547
415 - TIF Ruscilli	\$719,206	459 - TIF West Innovation	\$5,173,704	831 - Law Enforcement Custodial Fund	\$391,190
416 - TIF Pizzuti	\$246,840	460 - TIF Ohio University	\$13,844	Total	\$202,514,854

Investment Summary as of November 30, 2023

Total market value: \$197,693,049



Grant Opportunities

In December, the City submitted three applications to our House 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 Program: \$1,559,600

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

- V2X Development Program: \$400,000
- Heritage Trail Extension: \$1,756,368
- Comprehensive EV Charging Station Infrastructure: \$6,800,000

Grants awarded in December:

- Community Waste Reduction Grant (SWACO) - To expand the combined trash and recycling bins to Emerald Fields Parks | \$35,000
- Faust Ditch Drainage Improvement Project (Ohio Public Works Commission) - To mitigate flooding that occurs in and around the area | \$522,950

Grants submitted in 2023: 19

Grants awarded in 2023: 7 projects for a total of \$11,899,121

- 6 awarded to Dublin totaling: \$1,547,672
- 1 awarded to Franklin County (Including Dublin as a partner) totaling: \$10,351,449

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

Economic Development

Highlights

Business Retention & Expansion

- The Economic Development team completed 217 business retention and expansion (BRE) visits for 2023. The team nearly achieved their goal of reaching 225 BREs.
- The pipeline of development inquiries from real estate developers, commercial brokers and other businesses interested in making investments in Dublin remains strong and heads into 2024 with great momentum.



Events

Economic Development Director Jeremiah Gracia moderated NAIOP Central Ohio's annual Lunch with Legends at The Exchange Dec. 13. It was attended by approximately 75 people. Attendees heard from three of Central Ohio's premiere real estate industry leaders on lessons learned in business and in life throughout their careers, and what they believe the future holds for the Central Ohio development community.

Company News

- [RXO opens new freight brokerage office in Dublin](#)
- [More AI drive-thrus coming to Wendy's as early results are faster and more accurate](#)
- [Tucci's in Dublin investing \\$2.5M in expansion to double seating, sales](#)

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

The Economic Development Team and COhatch Dublin hosted a meet and greet with all COhatch Boost Scholars Dec. 7. The Boost Scholarship program focuses on local start-ups with an emphasis on minority and women entrepreneurs. There were 15 Boost Scholars businesses that attended the event, and the Economic Development team provided them with an overview of the benefits of being a Dublin-based business and all the services the Dublin Economic Development team provides.

Workforce Development

The Economic Development team met with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) at Columbus State Community College. MEP is a full-service solution provider for Central Ohio manufacturers. Economic Development connected ICU Medical with MEP, which has resulted in a partnership and utilization of the training programs at Columbus State.

Economic Development



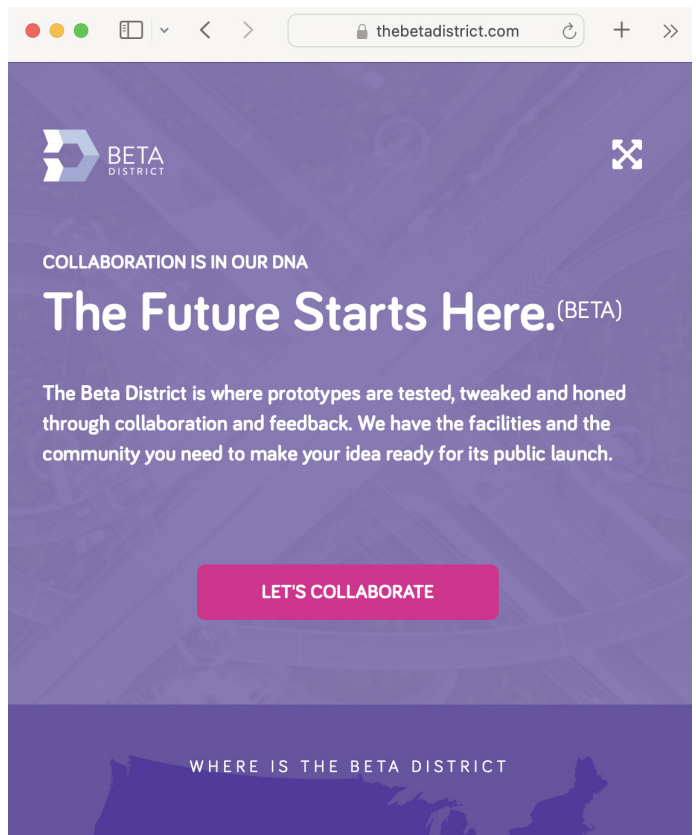
The Dublin CIC met Dec. 4 to take the following actions:

- Appoint Director of Economic Development Jeremiah Gracia to the board of directors
- Elect CFO/Director of Finance Matthew Stiffler as treasurer
- Elect Management Analyst Kendel Blake as secretary
- Approve the above logo
- Submit necessary documentation to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization
- Establish a budget for 2023 and 2024
- Adopt the Commercial Façade Improvement (CFI) Program Guidelines
- Award CFI grants - four grant applications were reviewed, of which three were awarded the matching grant, including:
 - 36-28 North High Street - \$23,400 for the restoration of a historic wall
 - 40 North High Street - \$15,712.08 for the restoration of a historic wall; landscaping to remove honeysuckle and shrubs; removal of invasive trees; and to remove and redirect the sewer line
 - 91 South High Street - \$25,000 for site demolition, parking lot repairs, pedestrian friendly/ADA infrastructure upgrades and exterior building improvements

The City is partnering with the Montrose Group, LLC to develop a strategic plan to determine how to best leverage the CIC.



The Beta District Council of Governments met Dec. 6 and discussed many items including several grant opportunities and the 2024 budget. The Beta District Marketing Committee provided an update on advertising and public relations efforts, which resulted in more than 4.5 million total impressions and reached more than 50 businesses and organizations throughout the year. Billboards along U.S. 33 earned more than 3.6 million impressions over six months and digital advertising led to a 2,200% increase in website users from June to October. The 2024 marketing budget was approved. Key priorities included continued paid advertising, improved sales lead conversion, and supporting the Midwest U.S., Japan Association Conference, which will be held in Columbus this September.



Community Development

Boards & Commission Activity

Solar Code Changes

Since the adoption of regulations regarding renewable energy equipment for solar June 12, Planning Staff received 28 applications for the installation of solar panels for residential properties and one application for a non-residential property. Planning and Building Standards are working collaboratively to review applications and ensure compliance with the adopted regulations, primarily focused on locational and aesthetic requirements. After several months of reviewing permits, it was identified that the aesthetic requirements incorporated into the updated code have created significant challenges in the approval of solar installation and resulted in more permits denied than under the previous code. Staff initiated an amendment to the Code to address these challenges, which were approved by City Council Dec. 11 as an emergency measure. The amendment took effect immediately to allow those permits that could be approved prior to the end of 2023 to take place and meet timing requirements for tax incentives. One additional application has been approved since the approval of the amendments.

Development Applications

Consistent with the economic development agreement with COhatch and the sale of the 17, 27 and 40 N. Riverview Street properties, the Architectural Review Board is going to be busy in the upcoming months. Staff has been meeting with COhatch on a weekly basis, and pre-submittal discussions have occurred with the North Riverview St. owners. The new property owners of 17 and 27 N. Riverview St. have indicated the properties will remain residential. The new owner of the property at 40 W. Bridge St. is still considering options at this time, with a potential request to rezone to historic core.

Several large residential projects have been submitted for consideration by the Planning and Zoning Commission, including Avery Crossing, Farms at Cosgray and Amlin Crossing. The Beacon Senior Community (formerly known as Bright Road Senior Housing) is also in for review.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Nov. 9

- [Towns on the Parkway, Section 3 Preliminary Plat](#)
- [Towns on the Parkway, Section 3 Final Plat](#)
- [Penzone Base One Amended Final Development Plan](#)
- [Historic District Code Update](#)

Dec. 7

- [Penzone Live/Work - Concept Plan - Approved](#)
- [The Overlook at Tartan Ridge - Amended Final Development Plan - Approved](#)
- [Monterey Drive Proposal - Informal Review - Complete](#)

Jan. 4

- [Farms at Cosgray - Informal Review](#)
- [Shihab Law - Final Plat](#)

Administrative Review Team

Nov. 9: canceled

Dec. 14

- [Sycamore Ridge Dog Park - Minor Project Review](#)

Architectural Review Board

Nov. 15

- [Kne Residence Informal Review](#)
- [Tucci's Master Sign Plan](#)
- [16-22 N. High Street Informal Review](#)
- [119 S High Outbuilding Demolition](#)

Dec. 13

- [The Apothecary & Uncorked Final Development Plan](#)
- [119 S. High St. Demolition](#)

Board of Zoning Appeals

Nov. 16: canceled

Dec. 14: canceled

Jan. 25

- [The Village at Inverness ROW Improvements](#)

Compliance & Enforcement

Code Enforcement

Dublin has more than 275 street miles covering approximately 25 square miles, and almost 18,000 distinct parcels in three different counties. All City divisions share information regarding code enforcement concerns that they have observed, and the Code Enforcement team alerts other divisions when we see possible issues related to their scope. Such cross-functional communication, combined with concerns raised by residents and businesses, allows for a quick resolution of most recorded incidents. Even if a concern does not meet the criteria of a code violation immediately, we have the opportunity to observe a property and make note of a developing problem.

Colder weather typically signals a drop off in exterior concerns, which allows attention to be given to other issues such as premise condition and property maintenance. In November, there was an increase in total cases from 56 in 2022, to 92 this year. We observed increased sign violation cases compared to past months caused by election season, at 68, due to sweeps of temporary signage and non-compliant election signage.

There also was an increase in vehicle storage cases from last year. The upcoming winter months allow time to work within the department on areas of focus for 2024.

Within the City of Dublin, we have seen an increase in the number of home-based businesses, especially during COVID restrictions. When a concern is received from a neighbor or an HOA representative, each is assessed relative to Code 153.073 on a case-by-case basis. Most do not meet the criteria for a home occupation permit to be necessary, and those that do file for a two-year permit. This specifies rules to maintain, including no exterior signage and limits on the storage of materials and vehicles.

Ongoing projects include:

- The resolution of cases that have been turned over to the legal department for citations/charges filed in Mayor's Court.
- Trash/debris on a commercial property that needs to be addressed with both the landlord and the tenant to remediate.
- Conducting exterior inspections of vacant structures to ensure security and exterior maintenance compliance with City codes.

Zoning & Code Compliance

Daily Zoning Inspections

- Forty-one zoning inspections were performed during November. These inspections ensure compliance with zoning codes for completed construction projects including pool installations, decks, new homes and commercial additions.

Routine Landscape Inspections

- Eight landscape inspections were performed in the month of November. Landscape inspections identify missing, dead or dying plant material as well as other zoning code violations.
- Twenty-two follow-up inspections were performed during the month of November. Late autumn sees a large uptick in these follow-ups to ensure plants are being installed during planting season. Forty-six trees and 59 shrubs have been replaced on commercial sites as a result of these inspections.

Building Standards

Certificate of Occupancy

Fifty-six Certificates of Occupancy were issued this month, including the following:

- Hammer & Nails – 5869 Frantz Road
- Towns on the Parkway – Building 2, John Shields Parkway
- Dublin Scioto High School – Kindness Cafe



Hammer & Nails



Towns on the Parkway

Commercial and Residential Plan Review

Total plan review numbers were steady in November. Numbers have decreased approximately 1% compared to the October monthly numbers. Our highest month this year was 134 plan reviews in May. Overall plan review numbers are expected to stay fairly steady, as we move into winter. We are averaging 105 plan reviews per month this calendar year.

Plan Review Turnaround Times

We are generally consistent at a commercial 10 +/- calendar day turn-around. November was better than that, at 8.62 days. Residential reviews are at a 4.74 calendar day turn-around this month. We are significantly better than our 14 calendar day target.

New Building Permits Issued (Requiring Plan Review)

Building permits issued numbers (that required plan review) were above average in November at 44 permits. Numbers can regularly fluctuate +/- 10% each month. The monthly average, over the last 12-month period, is approximately 39 new building permits issued per month (that required plan review).

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 in February, September and October 2023, with a total of approximately 795,000 square feet. Square footage in November was one of our steady months at 83,869. Our monthly average over the last 12 months is approximately 107,000 square feet per month. Over the past 12-month period, the total square footage number, for permits we have issued, is approximately 1,283,000.

Inspections

October numbers were strong at 611 inspections and were 5% above average so far this year. Our November numbers for this year are 7% lower than corresponding numbers for November 2022.

Transportation & Mobility

Highlights

Bird Electric Scooters

- 3,953 unique riders since January – 8% increase in November
- 7,237 rides since January – 8% increase in November
- 14,488 miles traveled on scooters since January – 7% increase in November
- 2.04 metric tonnes of CO2 saved since January – 5% increase in November

In December, it was announced that Bird Scooters had filed for bankruptcy. The company has assured staff members that there will be no interruption in service, with 43 scooters currently deployed.

Dublin Connector

- 10,920 rides since January
- 204 unique riders since January
- 9,665 pounds of CO2 emissions saved year to date
- View the [Dublin Connector Dashboard](#).

Passenger Rail Funding Award

The Midwest Connect Corridor, with a potential stop in Dublin, is one of the four routes included in a recent federal funding approval by the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) dedicated to the planning phase of new passenger rail service in Ohio. The City's West Dublin Rail Planning Study and Vision Plan is underway to prepare for a potential multi-modal passenger rail station located on an approximately 100-acre City-owned property, which is along the Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh route. This effort is being coordinated with the Envision Dublin initiative.



Citywide Crash Data (vehicles and all vulnerable road users)

	Frequency	High Severity	Bike Ped
YTD	565	10	9
October	76	3	0

There was one fatal crash and two serious injury crashes reported in October. The fatal crash was on the ramp from U.S. 33 to northbound I-270. The westbound driver struck a concrete support. No other vehicles were involved. The first serious injury crash occurred at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Martin Road. A southbound vehicle struck a vehicle making a left turn from Martin Road to Riverside Drive. The second serious injury crash occurred in the roundabout at S.R. 161 and Riverside Drive. A northbound three-wheeled motorcycle failed to yield to an eastbound vehicle in the roundabout.

LinkUS

City Manager Megan O'Callaghan is the chair of the Leadership Committee of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure program within the overall LinkUS program. The Leadership Committee will ultimately recommend the proposed Capital Improvements Program to the COTA Board for consideration and adoption. Additionally, Transportation & Mobility Director Jeannie Willis is a member of both the Technical Coordinating Committee and the NW Quadrant Working Group, which are the committees of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure LinkUS program that are actively working on developing the policies and potential projects for the Capital Improvements Program for recommendation to the Leadership Committee.

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. The full dashboard can be found here: <https://dublinohiousa.gov/speed-management/>

Public Service

Highlights

Horticulture & Forestry

- Crews finished planting trees, perennials and shrubs in City parks and completed fall street tree plantings.
- Crews worked on stump grinding of trees removed this fall.
- Pruning continued to be completed on street trees by staff members and City contractors.
- Staff members prepared the ice rink at the Coffman Park Pavilion and sledding hills at Ballantrae and Scioto parks for safe use this winter.



Sustainability

- Styrofoam collection boxes: 3.64 tons of Styrofoam has been recycled so far in 2023.
- GoZero composting: 48.1 tons of compost have been collected to date in 2023.
- Pumpkin composting: A total of 39.31 tons of pumpkins were diverted from the landfill in 2023. This is a 5.47-ton increase over 2022.
- Across the City's 21 electric vehicle charging stations, 40,768.85 gallons of gas have been saved so far in 2023.
- As part of the Recycle Right campaign, the City partnered with SWACO to educate residents on more eco-friendly habits for the holiday season through the Green Your Holidays webinar Dec. 12.
- The Dublin Community Recreation Center was home to a drop-off bin to collect candy wrappers for recycling following Halloween. Nearly three pounds of candy wrappers were diverted from the landfill and sent to be reused as doggy bags for local animal shelters.

Parks

- Playgrounds are being mulched as needed
- Off-season repairs to park furniture, split rail and chain-link fences will continue through the winter.
- Crew members completed the aeration of the sports fields
- Grading work was completed on five ball diamonds
- Cattail removal and clean-up at the Dublin Community Pool South pond was completed.



Streets

- Citywide leaf collection wrapped up Dec. 13 on schedule. Nearly 1,550 tons of leaves were collected through the program this year, approximately a 1% increase over 2022.
- Crews conducted a dry run of snow routes to test the SnowGo system and ensure plows were prepared for the first snow event Dec. 18.

Wildlife Management

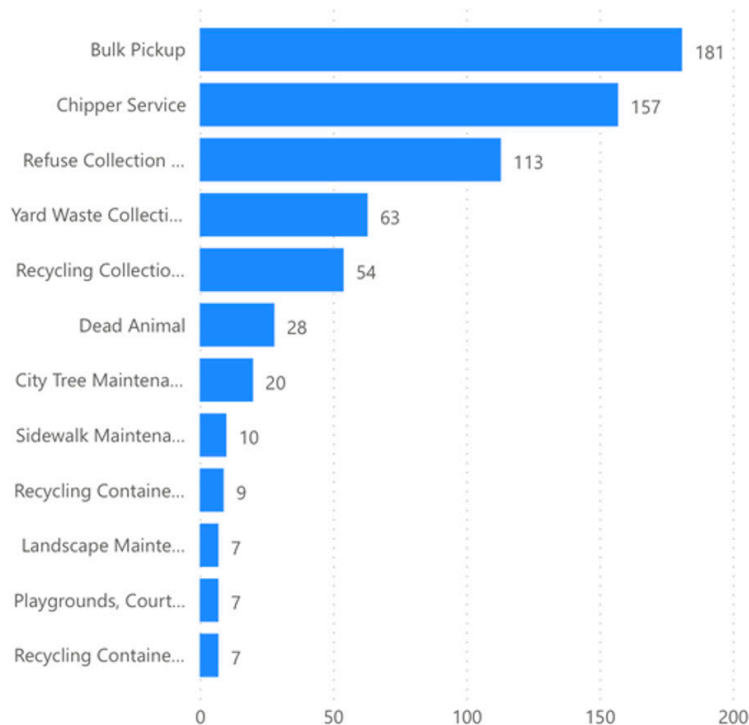
Staff members attended the Dec. 13 meeting of the Worthington Deer Task Force to remain informed on the region's approach to wildlife management. The GoDublin app was updated to include a reporting mechanism for feeding wildlife. Dublin's Nature Education Coordinator Barbara Ray will meet with residents to provide educational material and information on the negative impacts of feeding wildlife.

As part of the communications for the Outdoor Feed Ordinance, Barbara was a guest on the Link Ahead podcast for an episode to be released in January. Staff members began tracking requests related to the outdoor feeding of wild animals in December.

Asset Management & Quality Assurance

Top Service Requests by Month City of Dublin, Ohio USA

Top 10 Requests



GoDublin

- 711 requests were submitted in November, down from 924 in October.
- Of those requests, 224 (32%) were initiated through the GoDublin app. However, during this period, many requests were entered manually due to an integration problem.
- By comparison, there were 700 requests in November 2022.

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

Inspections

- Park inspections are underway as part of the Asset Management program. Routine inspections are used to create work plans for maintenance work.

Court Services - Highlights

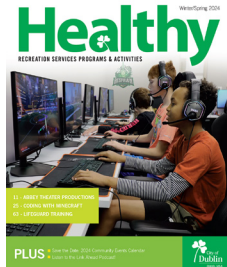
- Received 254 traffic cases, 11 operating a motor vehicle under the Influence (OVI) cases and four criminal/code enforcement cases.
- Received two juvenile criminal diversion cases, four juvenile traffic diversion cases and 16 adult traffic diversion cases.
- Collected \$38,196 in fines and court costs.
- Collected \$340 in restitution for victims of crime.
- Diversion participants completed 116 hours of community service work.

Parks & Recreation

Highlights

DCRC Memberships: 7,702

The [Winter/Spring Healthy](#) guide was released Dec. 5. Program registration opened Dec. 12 for residents and school district residents and Dec. 19 for non-residents.



Winter Programming

The Dublin Community Recreation Center held several holiday programs including holiday family movie night, a gingerbread creations event, adaptive gingerbread creations, holiday super bingo for seniors and the Dublin Community Senior Center Holiday Celebration. The Holiday Adaptive Extravaganza featured holiday-themed performances Dec. 10.



Abbey Theater

The Abbey Theater received 42 nominations in the 2023 BroadwayWorld Columbus Awards program, including Favorite Local Theatre.

After very successful performances of “Elf, Jr.” in December, the Abbey Theater will produce “The Drums of War,” Jan. 19-28. This world premiere play is written by retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice and novelist Herb Brown. “The Drums of War” brings to life Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and the dying, but magnificent, Harry Hopkins as they forge the alliance which turned the dark winter of Hitler into glorious summer.



Recruitment

Recruitment for 2024 part-time positions is underway. The campaign kicked off Dec. 1. Camp staff members have been contacted to provide their intent to return for the 2024 camp season. Supervisors have expressed an 81% response rate with 51% intending to return. This is consistent for this time of year as supervisory staff members determine their summer plans and employment needs.

Police & Safety

Highlights

Critical Incidents & Major Crimes

- Officers are investigating a fatal traffic crash that occurred Dec. 4 on Muirfield Drive at Whittingham Drive.
- Detective Dave Aronovic investigated reports of fires occurring at the Sanctuary at Tuttle Crossing and charged a suspect with aggravated arson.

Police Reports & Crime Trends

- Police are adjusting patrols based on thefts from vehicle trends at Lifetime Fitness and the Residences at Scioto Crossing.
- The Community Impact Unit executed a search warrant with Columbus Police and Delaware County Sheriff's Office after a multi-month drug trafficking investigation. Investigators seized several hundred pounds of marijuana, THC products, hallucinogenic mushrooms and \$200,000 in currency.
- Detective Mike Laws assisted the Cherokee, Oklahoma, Police Department with an investigation involving the dissemination of matter harmful to juveniles and leading to charges for the suspect.

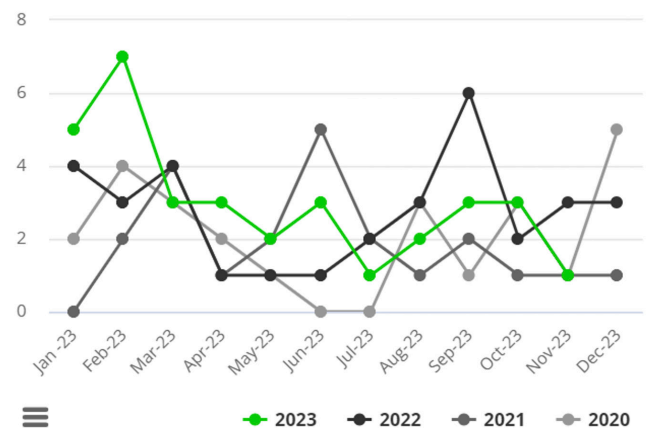


Community Outreach & Engagement

- Dublin Police, Powell Police and Dublin City Schools partnered on Heroes and Helpers event at Target on Sawmill Parkway Dec. 2.
- Fill-A-Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive at the Dublin Justice Center, held Dec. 2, collected more than 500 gifts and donations in collaboration with Get Behind The Badge charity.
- Dublin Police school resource officers joined with Dublin City Schools and Feed the Kids Columbus Dec. 19 to provide students in need with meals during the holiday season.
- Dublin Police and Dublin City Schools supported AEP Ohio and The Starfish Assignment in their annual coat drive supplying coats to children across Central Ohio.

Statistics	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	2023 YTD
Part 1 Violent Crimes Reported	21	31	33
Theft Offenses	310	425	449
Thefts from Vehicles	145	228	205
Motor Vehicle Thefts	26	54	103
Burglaries/B&Es	42	34	44
Traffic Crashes	583	576	644
Serious Injury Crashes	12	14	11
OVI Related Crashes	26	18	20
OVI Arrests	94	84	166
Traffic Stops	5,546	4,351	6,815
Speeding Citations	1,471	430	1,374

Total Part 1 Violent Crimes Historically



Safety Messaging

- Drug Take Back event at Dublin Justice Center took place Dec. 16.

Police Responses to Issues of Community Concern

- Speed Management: Speed enforcement campaign was conducted Nov. 30 on Riverside Drive from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Officers performed 26 traffic stops and issued 21 citations.
- Shannon Black-Dotson, of Syntero-Dublin started in the role of public safety services liaison partnering with Dublin Police to connect individuals in need with local, county and state resources.

Human Resources

Highlights



End of Year Employee Celebration

The City of Dublin sent 2023 off in style! Our annual End of Year Celebration was quite the event – with food, games, prizes and fun – and a time to share appreciation for all the excellent work done all year!



Citywide Launch of the Culture Playbook







On Dec. 7, at the End of Year Employee Celebration, City Manager Megan O'Callaghan presented the [Culture Playbook](#) to Staff. All employees received a “Better Together” long sleeve t-shirt and two versions of the Culture Playbook complete with pages for notes. Throughout 2024, all employees will have the opportunity to engage in the “R” Factor training.



Quarterly Leader Retreat

On Dec. 14, the Senior Leadership quarterly retreat was held at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Staff heard from President and CEO Rita Soronen on the impactful work the foundation is doing to dramatically increase the number of adoptions of children waiting in North America's foster care systems. As the final retreat of the year, staff members engaged in a service project which included packing 250 care packages for children in the foster care system. Additionally, staff discussed year-end accomplishments and goals for 2024, along with a deeper discussion of the Culture Playbook initiative and the implementation plan for all Staff.


Recent Hires

	Employee Name	Position	Division
	Micole Champion	Administrative Support II	Planning
	Joshua Reinicke	Civil Engineer II	Engineering
	Hunter Dietz	Police Officer	Police
	Jack McCrory	Police Officer	Police
	Alexander Romer	Police Officer	Police
	Karla Sullivan	Police Officer	Police

Recruitment

- Civil Engineer II
- Community Events Coordinator
- Economic Development Administrator
- Engineering Technician I - Engineering
- Maintenance Worker – Engineering/Utilities
- Senior Civil Engineer – Engineering
- Transportation Program Manager

Recent Promotions

	Employee Name	Previous Position	Promoted Position
	Roy Dotson	Facilities Systems Specialist	Operations Administrator for Facilities Management
	Michael Mocsiran	Pool Manager	Aquatics Operations Coordinator

Outreach & Engagement

Highlights



MLK Civic Service Series

On Sunday, Dec. 3, more than 50 volunteers came together for a final project of the year honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Volunteers assembled 250 care packages for families served by the Dublin Food Pantry, and then made 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to surprise City crews. Included with the treat were scores of cards and notes of appreciation thanking them for their hard work.

Teen/Senior Buddies

On Monday, Dec. 11, 19 teens gathered with local senior citizens to be paired up for the Teen Buddy program. This one-to-one match enables seniors to learn about being connected via technology, share stories and have companions to help prevent isolation. It also allows teens an opportunity to volunteer their time to form a lifelong and lasting relationship with a fellow community member. This program was launched during COVID as a phone/face time volunteer program. Since then, more than 120 people have participated in the Teen Buddy program.

CyraCom Language Translation Rollout

The front desks of the DCRC, City Hall, Development and Service Center are now equipped with iPads and instructions on instant, one-on-one language interpretation.

K.I.D.S.

Rounding out the year for Kids in Dublin Service was a Dec. 21 intergenerational visit with residents of Dublin Glenn Memory Care for festive fun, caroling and companionship. The K.I.D.S. program offers children in grades K-5 the experience of volunteerism, teaching the simple act of reaching out to others. The program is active year-round.

Forever Dublin

As families come together for the holidays, Forever Dublin referrals have begun to increase. In December, a total of eight families/seniors were in need of resources and referrals related to Aging in Place. Each referral receives any wraparound services necessary for their individual case.



Safe Space First Anniversary Breakfast

On Friday, Dec. 9, Outreach & Engagement hosted a breakfast for Dublin Police and agencies enrolled in or interested in Safe Space Dublin, which celebrated its one-year anniversary. More than 40 people attended the celebration. Representatives from the FBI were the guest speakers, discussing their ongoing monitoring, education and protection of civil rights in the region.

Communications & Public Information

Highlights

December's Communication Strategy

- The City of Dublin's communication goals include increasing meaningful engagement with all Dublin audiences, supporting the City's Strategic Framework, and educating the public about new initiatives and ongoing services.
- December's strategic topics included holiday greetings, winter safety and promoting our local parks and ice rinks.
- Review the results from [December's overall communication metrics](#) and [City Council's communications efforts](#).
- Review the complete [Contact City data here](#).

Sustainable Dublin Communications

- Promoted Styrofoam recycling availability.
- Communicated reminders of the end-of-fall leaf collection.

Connected Dublin Communications

- Continued promoting the Dublin Connector through rider stories.
- Promoted the second DCRC Refresh public meeting.
- Showcased the results of the free Wi-Fi test at Coffman Park; over 150 connected devices during peak usage.
- Continuing Slow Down Dublin campaign.
- Highlighted City Manager Megan O'Callaghan's visit to Indian Run Elementary School, teaching the next generation about our City and local government service.
- Congratulated former Mayor Michael Close on his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

January Lookahead

- Prepared for snow event communications, as needed
- Beginning solar eclipse communications with the community
- Metro revitalization public meeting communications
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day including continuing Dublin's Civic Service series
- Planned rollout of innovative new texting notifications and AI-powered chatbot available through text and on the City's website

Resilient Dublin Communications

- Provided Tree Lighting live updates and highlighted City Council Members and community photos.
- Highlighted Mayor Jane Fox swearing in newly hired NRECC Technicians and Court Clerk.
- Promoted Dublin Police Drug Take Back events.
- Posted Fill-a-cruiser reminders and photos showcasing the City and the community coming together.
- Promoted a "Where to Care" Guide on International Volunteer Day.
- Shared bridge lighting updates for Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.
- Provided Safe Ride codes for the Ugly Sweater Crawl and New Year's Eve.
- Promoted winter safety through safety kit guides and theft prevention awareness videos.
- Promoted Safe Space Dublin's first anniversary.
- Announced opening of Riverside Crossing Park Ice Rink.

Link Ahead Podcast

- 16,864 listens (an increase of 1,321 listens since the November report)
- Topics included highlighting Dublin's resilience with newly hired Economic Development Director Jeremiah Gracia and a compilation episode reviewing the topics covered throughout the year.

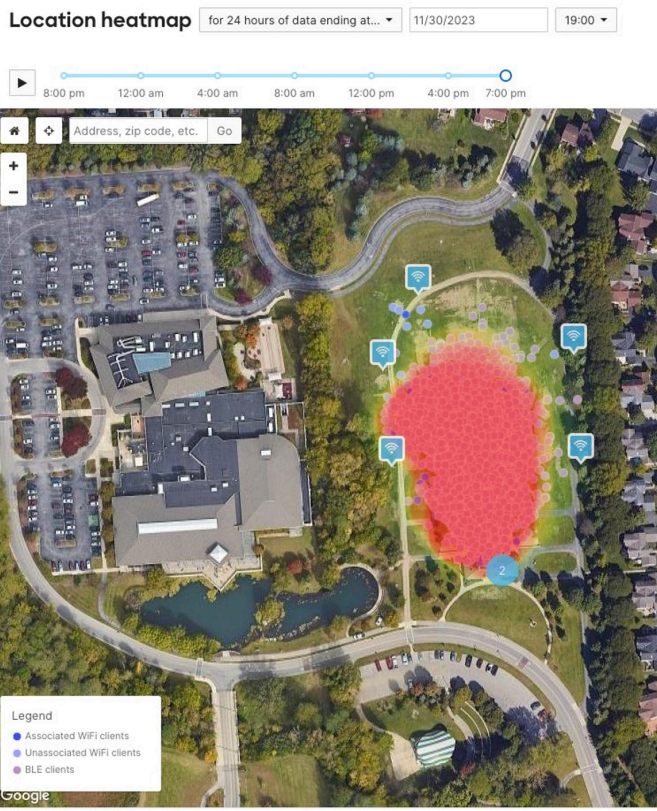


Community Events

Highlights

Permitted Events

- Both Bridge Park and the Historic Dublin Business Association held multiple holiday-themed activities in December including the Ugly Sweater Crawl and Holly Days.
- The Wreaths Across America Event was held in the Dublin Cemetery Dec. 16.
- There were four permitted events in December, including two tier-2 events and two tier-1 events.



Tree Lighting

- At the Tree Lighting event, the City's Information Technology team conducted a test run of newly installed Wi-Fi units at Coffman Park. During the event, over 150 devices took advantage of the free Wi-Fi.

Dublin Irish Festival

- Brian Kelleher was announced as the 2024 Honorary Chair. He retired from Jones Lang LaSalle and currently serves as board director of Riverside Bank of Dublin. Kelleher and Riverside Bank of Dublin have been sponsors of the Dublin Irish Festival since the bank opened in 2021. A longtime Dublin Irish Festival volunteer, he and his wife Barbara Rae have one daughter Ellie, who is a graduate student at the University of Dayton.
- [The Economic Impact Study for the 2023 Dublin Irish Festival is attached.](#) Noteworthy findings include:
 - The total economic impact of the Festival is estimated at \$12 million – a \$3.5 million increase over 2018.
 - The equivalent of 145 full-year jobs are supported by the Festival.
 - Local residents spent nearly an additional \$2 million on goods, supplies and services. (This amount is not included in economic impact study.)
- The [2023 Dublin Irish Festival Annual Report was released and is attached.](#) Highlights include:
 - 78,000 people attended the Festival.
 - 51% of those were from outside of Central Ohio.
 - Revenues increased 12% over 2022.
 - 96% of attendees rated the Festival as “terrific” or “good.”
 - \$105,900 was raised by community organizations through the Sharing O’ the Green Program.
 - The value of cash and food donated to the Dublin Food Pantry was \$47,714.

St. Patrick's Day

- Asch and Kate Mikhail, owners of Sunny Street Café in Dublin, were selected as the 2024 Grand Leprechauns and will preside over the parade. Mikhail's are active in the Dublin community, supporting the Dublin Food Pantry, Dublin AM Rotary and Dublin City Schools. In 2018, they received the Dublin Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year Award for their efforts in giving back to the community.

Legislative

Update

Political & Election Updates

2024 Filing Deadline

Partisan Candidates for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Ohio Senate and Ohio House had until Dec. 20, 2023 to file petitions.

2024 Ohio Primary Election - March 19, 2024

Issues 2 Updates – Recreational Marijuana

The House and Senate are both currently working on different legislation that would alter the original language in the voter-approved Issue 2.

Senate Version – Sub. House Bill 86 (Rep. LaRe)

The Senate has incorporated their provisions into Sub. House Bill 86 and passed the bill off of the Senate floor on December 6, with a vote of 29-2. The two “no” votes came from Sen. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) and Sen. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg). In order to become effective, the House will need to vote to concur on the Senate’s changes. A concurrence vote has not yet been scheduled and Speaker Jason Stephens has indicated that the House will not be concurring. Should the House not concur, the bill will go to conference committee where both chambers can work out their differences. Governor DeWine has indicated that out of the various proposals, he is most supportive of Sub. House Bill 86.

Highlights of Sub. House Bill 86

- Sets excise tax at 15% - an increase from the voter-approved initiative to set the rate at 10%.
- Sets the number of permissible plants per household at six – a decrease from the voter-approved limit of 12.
- Allows Ohioans to possess up to 2.5 ounces of plant material and 15 grams of extracts – this is the same as the voter-approved initiative.
- Allows for expungement for individuals previously convicted of marijuana-related crimes that will be decriminalized – this was not included in the voter-approved initiative.
- Allows municipalities to prohibit or limit the home growth of marijuana – this was included in the voter-approved initiatives.
- Allows employers to terminate or decline hiring individuals who use marijuana – this was not included in the voter-approved initiative.
- Allows counties, with voter approval, to levy a 3% excise tax to support local arts, culture and entertainment.

House Version – House Bill 354 (Rep. Callender)

- The House version, House Bill 354 (Rep. Callender), was introduced shortly after the passage of Issue 2 and is at the beginning stages of the legislative process. House Bill 354 has had numerous hearings in the House Finance Committee in December and will need to be voted out of committee and off the House floor before the Senate can begin considering the bill. Bill sponsor Jamie Callender (R-Concord) has said that his version aligns more closely with what Ohioans voted on.

Highlights of House Bill 354

- Sets excise tax at 10% - this is the same as the voter-approved initiative.
- Levies a 10% tax on the gross receipts of licensed cultivators – this was not included in the voter approved initiative.
- Sets the number of permissible plants per household at 12 – this is the same as the voter-approved initiative.
- Allows Ohioans to possess up to 2.5 ounces of plant material and 15 grams of extracts – this is the same as the voter-approved initiative.

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.

Status of Ballot Initiative

- 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 David Yost’s office for approval before they can move forward. As of Dec. 19, they were still collecting signatures.

[View Tracked Legislation](#)

Calendar

January 2024

<< < Today > >>

Search for events

Find Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4 Planning & Zoning Commission	5	6
7	8 Dublin City Council	9 Community Services Advisory Commission	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Veterans Committee Chief's Advisory Committee Planning & Zoning Commission	19	20
21	22 Dublin City Council	23 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee	24 Architectural Review Board	25 Board of Zoning Appeals	26	27
28	29 Dublin City Council – Work Session	30 Metro Center Revitalization – Community Conversation	31	1 Planning & Zoning Commission	2	3
4	5 Dublin City Council	6	7	8	9	10

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

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