

Office of the City Manager Activities, Projects & Interactions

September 2023



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September 2023

Letter from the City Manager

It's hard to believe, but October 1 marks one year since I became your City Manager. I hope you agree that we have made many strides, advanced many important initiatives and strengthened the City's core purposes of governance and service delivery. I wanted to take a moment to share some important updates and introduce you to some key developments on the horizon.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Council for approving the 2024-2028 Capital Improvements Program, which includes 148 projects over five years. Key projects include the Parks & Recreation master plan, the Emerald Parkway/Mount Carmel roundabout, the Eiterman Road relocation and a new crossing over I-270 from Tuller Road to Emerald Parkway. It also allocates significant funding for maintenance so that we may continue to upkeep our infrastructure and facilities at a high level.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jeremiah Gracia as our new Economic Development Director. Jeremiah is a respected figure both in our community and throughout the region. His return not only brings with it the wealth of knowledge and relationships he cultivated during his nine-year tenure in our city but also the invaluable experience and leadership he has gained during his time in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We are excited about his contributions as we remain committed to advancing the economic growth and prosperity of our city.

In furtherance of economic opportunities and international relations, Councilman John Reiner, Director of Communications Lindsay Weisenauer and I had the privilege of representing Dublin by joining a delegation of more than 40 people from the Columbus Region - at the Midwest U.S. -Japan Association Conference. During our trip to Japan, we also had the opportunity to visit several businesses and our Friendship City, Mashiko.



The exchange of ideas and collaboration with our Japanese counterparts was invaluable, and we look forward to further enhancing these relationships in the future.

Additionally, the City of Dublin was honored to participate in the 2023 Japan-America Grassroots Summit, jointly organized by the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) and its Tokyo-based counterpart. The Summit aims to strengthen the peaceful relationship between the United States and Japan by fostering grassroots friendships through a one-week cultural exchange program for all ages. The City participated in the opening ceremony and provided a two-day program for our visitors.

I am also delighted to report that we recently achieved a successful auction of three homes on North Riverview Street, marking a significant step in the revitalization of the area. That effort coupled with City Council's approval of the development agreement with COhatch for Riverview Village, will bring new life and economic opportunities to our Historic District along the Scioto River.

Thank you for your continued support. Please enjoy the updates we have provided on the following pages.

Megan O'Callaghan

Megan O'Callaghan
City Manager

Index

Council Goals	1
Key Project Updates	2
Finance	5
Economic Development	7
Community Development	9
Transportation & Mobility	12
Public Service	13
Asset Management	14
Parks & Recreation	15
Police & Safety	16
Court Services	17
Human Resources	17
Outreach & Engagement	18
Communications & Public Information	19
Community Events	20
Legislative	21
Calendar	22

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. Some of the phase 1 Fiber Distribution Hubs (FDH) have been field reviewed by Dublin staff and altafiber. As of the August meeting, field construction is set to begin Q2 of 2024. Since the announcement of this agreement, more than 1600 residents have signed up for project notifications from altafiber. This is the highest amount of engagement altafiber has had in this stage of a project.

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 received great responses from the Metro Center Request for Proposals (RFP) issued August 11th. Staff is in the process of reviewing and evaluating proposals to create a shortlist of teams to interview, shortlisted firms will be notified October 2nd. Interviews are expected to be held October 12/13th with a final consultant selection the following week. Staff continues to work with the property owners along Frantz Road to develop a concept to present informally to the Planning & Zoning Commission. These efforts, in part, will be in concert with the Envision Dublin Community Plan Update presently underway.

3

Strengthen the Stewardship and Vitality of our Historic District Core

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

Status: Staff members, with consultant support, held an informational discussion Sept. 13 to provide additional clarification about the Historic District Code and Guidelines and the overall review process to gain a clearer understanding of the topics raised by the residents.

Concurrently, staff presented the initial draft modifications regarding the demolition language to the Architectural Review Board at the September meeting. City divisions have worked with the Dublin Community Improvement Corporation to reinstate the Commercial Façade Improvement Program. A City webpage with resources for Historic Dublin residents and business owners is being updated and will be available in early October.

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: Over the past year, the City has conducted numerous efforts in advance of this goal. In advancement of Goal #4, staff members have evaluated the City’s current event tempo, operating and funding model; researched and analyzed operating models used by cities both domestically and internationally; visited cities both domestically and internationally to experience different events and discuss funding and management models used by other cities with their staffs; and brought forward new events and policies regarding next-generation community events for Council’s consideration.

To streamline the process for permitted events, Council approved by motion an updated Park Use Policy for South Coffman Park and Riverside Crossing Park. This policy will help leverage Dublin’s parks and facilities to connect the community through permitted community events. The policy will also allow for fee-based activities to occur in the parks, removing prior restrictions on such events. The Communications & Public Information team began marketing the updates in July.

Based on Council’s refinement of this goal in May, staff members drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) and researched potential firms to share the RFP with. The RFP was advertised on Sept. 29 and responses are due Oct. 19. The RFP can be found here: <https://dublinohiousa.gov/bids-and-requests-for-proposals/>

Key Project Updates

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
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. In order 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 the creation of a revised community gateway sign design to accommodate the various site conditions and incorporate such accolades.	Staff members met with the consultant Sept. 18 for a conceptual design work session. The purpose of the work session was to review several concepts of entry signs and provide feedback on the goal of choosing a preferred design. Staff members plan to request City Council refer this topic to the Community Development Committee at the October 23 City Council meeting.
Community Health Needs Assessment	The Community Health Needs Assessment 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.	More than 450 responses were received on the statistically valid survey, which exceeds the goal of 400. A community survey was also conducted in mid-September to allow for increased public input and engagement. These surveys will both be used to inform the project. The poll will be the last step in data gathering. The final report is anticipated to be completed by late October.
Envision Dublin Community Plan Update The Envision Dublin Community Plan will be a roadmap for the City to direct future growth and development over the next 20 years. Recent activities include:	Public Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Survey: A total of 570+ responses were received. The survey was accessible through July 31, 2023. A summary of the survey results is underway and will be posted to the Envision Dublin website upon completion and used to guide the Community Plan Update. Engagement and promotions: Efforts to boost participation have included Planning staff attending key community events, social media engagement, sandwich boards with a QR code leading to the plan's website placed in various City locations, flyer distribution at key locations, staff stations at the Dublin Market and with the Mobility Concierge throughout the summer and an Envision Dublin presence in the Independence Day parade. 	Public Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 40 residents and business owners attended a Special Area Plans Open House held Aug. 29 to provide input and feedback on the six Special Area Plans within the Community Plan. Feedback from the Sept. 28 Dublin Sustainability Plan public input session was also gathered, including a mapping exercise for connectivity. Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee is made up of community leaders and business partners who provide key input for the Envision Dublin process and help guide the Community Plan's updates. The committee has held three meetings to review and provide feedback on initial deliverables with the most recent meeting held Aug. 30 regarding visioning and key recommendations. The next meeting is scheduled Nov. 13.

Key Project Updates Continued

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
EV Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan	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.	The project team developed low, medium and high future projection scenarios of EV parking infrastructure, including Level 1, Level 2 and DC fast charging. The second of two staff working group meetings occurred Sept. 26. The anticipated completion date is Q1 2024.
Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh	In 2022, Council directed \$3.1 million of ARPA 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.	Staff members have secured a new agreement with MSA Design to develop a Recreation Center Improvements Master Plan. This project aligns with the City Council's direction to pursue a comprehensive analysis for the renovations of the DCRC. The master plan project kicked off this month and is anticipated to be completed in Q1 2024. This process includes extensive staff engagement and stakeholder interviews. The project includes three phases: an existing conditions assessment, master plan studies and stakeholder workshops, and renderings of a potential final product. Each phase includes a community engagement meeting tailored to the state of the project at the time. The project kickoff meeting was held Sept. 20.
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 February 8, 2023 meeting of the PSC, 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 around the country. These conversations helped staff members better understand the necessary scope for second phase of the feasibility study. Staff members returned to the PSC at its Sept. 19 meeting to update them on the findings of these conversations. The PSC voted to recommend a phase 2 feasibility study to City Council.
Mobility Hubs	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.	Staff re-bid the project for a third time using an architectural format rather than a transportation format. The bid was advertised Aug. 24 and opened Sept. 21. The bid received was over the engineer's estimate, so staff members are determining next steps.

Key Project Updates Continued

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION		STATUS
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 on Aug. 28. City Council provided feedback and direction regarding revisions and additional information requested for the report. The initiative remains with the Community Development Committee (CDC) for further consideration. Staff members anticipate bringing this item back to the CDC at its October meeting.
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 scope of the contract was expanded to include elements on the east side of the river, based on feedback from the City Council as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. The master planning process will begin in the late fall of 2023 with a target completion of Q4 2024. The contract is being finalized and will include public input on the project.
Dublin Sustainability Plan	In connection with the community plan, Envision Dublin, 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. The City's internal sustainability committee, EcoDublin, meets biweekly with the consultant.		The consultant team finalized the greenhouse gas inventory assessment to inform goals for the Dublin Sustainability Plan. A community input session was held Sept. 28 to provide residents with another opportunity to engage with sustainability planning efforts. The consultant team is scheduled to meet with Houseal Lavigne in October to ensure the sustainability work is informing the community plan and the plans are aligned. These discussions will continue through the remainder of both planning processes. The anticipated completion of this project is Q1 2024.
Speed Management	A new Speed Management Program was approved by City Council at its July 31 session. 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.	<p>Staff members are proceeding with developing promotional materials for the public and will begin efforts to develop up to three tactical urbanism projects. An updated Speed Management and Enforcement dashboard is currently under design and will be posted to the City's website in Q3. The Q3 supplemental request included funding for the purchase of speed safety cameras.</p> <p>Staff members began engaging residents on Cacchio Lane the week of Sept. 18 to gather feedback about area speed concerns and thoughts on speed cushions. Target resident areas include Belvedere and Riviera neighborhoods. Tactics include postcard mailers, an online survey, social media, HOA communications, the Dublin Jerome High School parent newsletter and yard signs where speed cushions might be placed. The signs have a QR code to scan for the survey. Input will be collected and evaluated to determine next steps.</p> <p>City Council approved legislation Sept. 11 to establish a business district for the purpose of generating local control for speed limits and enforcement of u-turning vehicles. The new signs are anticipated to be posted Oct. 12. Educational enforcement will begin Oct. 13. Full enforcement will begin Oct. 30. A map showing the sign layout for the north end of the speed zone along Riverside Drive can be found in Appendix 1.</p>	

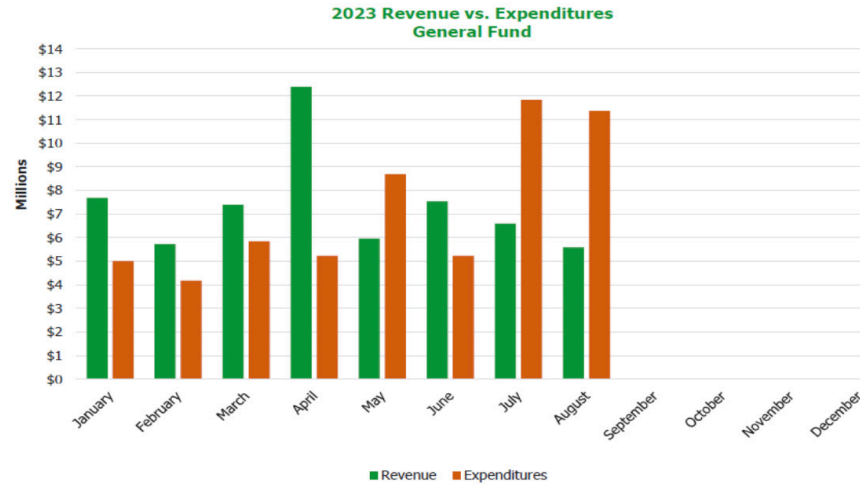
[For a complete list of projects, please reference Appendix 2.](#)

Finance

Highlights

General Fund Information

Total GF Revenue: \$58,835,176
Total GF Expenditures: \$57,184,997



Highlights

General Fund Cash Balance: \$65,679,674

- 61.2% of budgeted expenditures
- \$12,011,719 in excess of 50% reserve level

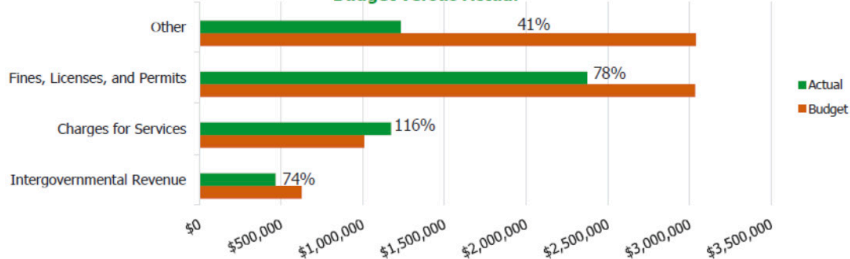
Income Tax Revenue:

- Income tax revenue was 0.3% above 2022 YTD levels or \$203,638
- Receipts are 3.6% or \$2,468,169 ahead of budget

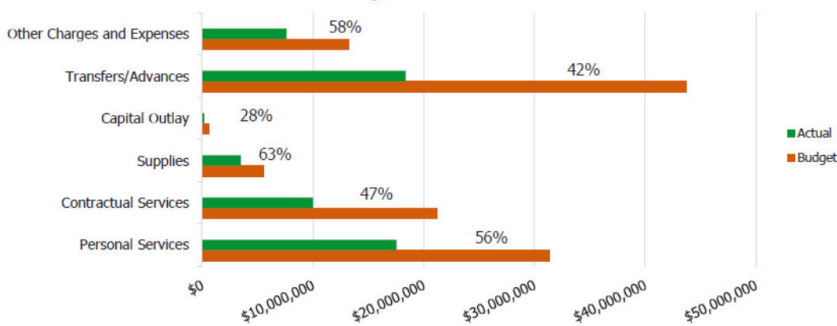
Comparing YTD June 2022 versus June 2023:

- Withholding increased 1.27%
- Net profit revenue decreased -5.75%
- Individual revenue increased 2.95%

General Fund Revenue (by type) Excluding Local Taxes Budget versus Actual

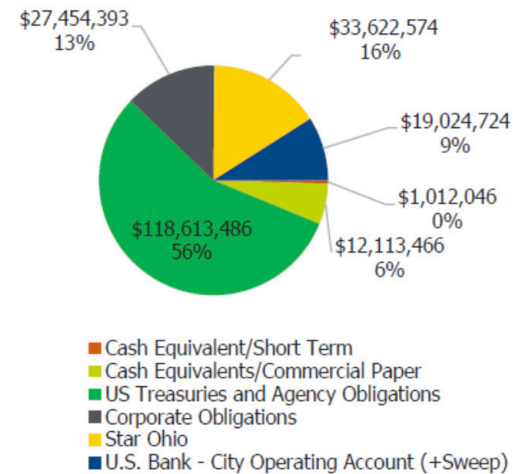


General Fund Expenses (by type) Budget versus Actual



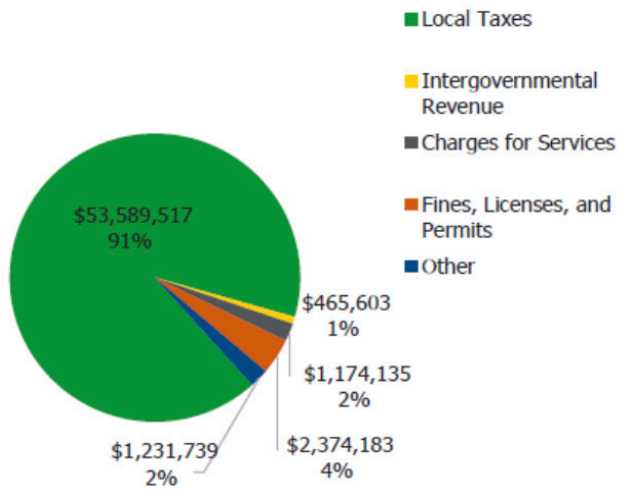
Investment Summary as of August 31, 2023

Total market value: \$211,840,689

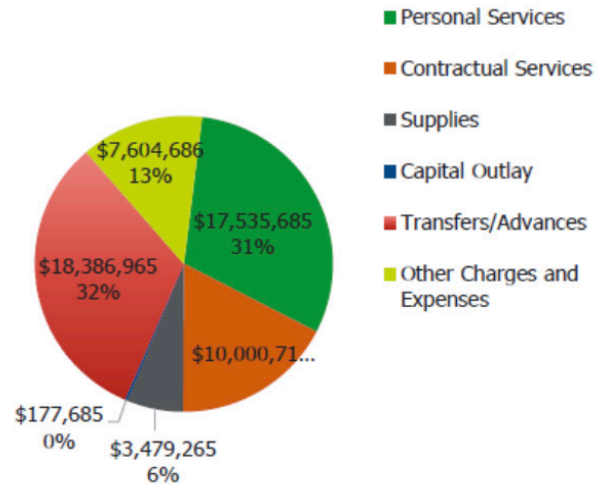


Finance Update

General Fund Revenue (by type) \$58,835,176

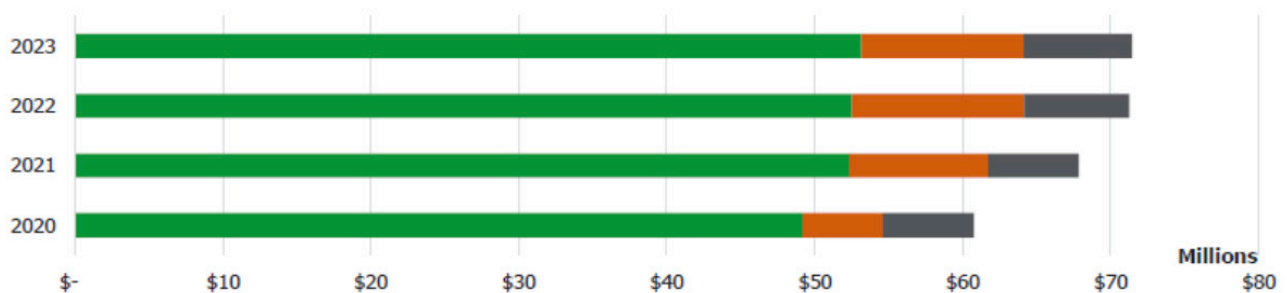


General Fund Expenses (by type) \$57,184,997



Income Tax Collections

As of August 31, 2023, YTD income tax receipts totaled \$71,452,691, an increase of 0.3% over the same time in 2023. The 2023 budgeted income tax revenue is \$94,000,000.



		<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u>		<u>2022</u>		<u>2023</u>
Withholding	\$	49,178,621	\$	52,335,180	\$	52,513,517	\$	53,177,932
Net Profit	\$	5,445,720	\$	9,408,798	\$	11,650,195	\$	10,980,285
Individual	\$	6,138,317	\$	6,098,995	\$	7,085,341	\$	7,294,474
Total	\$	60,762,658	\$	67,842,973	\$	71,249,053	\$	71,452,691

Economic Development

Highlights



New Leadership

- The City announced the hiring of Jeremiah Gracia as the new director of Economic Development. Jeremiah previously served as an economic development administrator for the City from 2011 to 2020 before working as the economic development director for Grand Rapids, Mich. Welcome back, Jeremiah!

Attraction & Marketing Projects

- Columbus Underground Feature: Meet Dublin's WSBA
- Connecting the Supply Chain: Dublin Drives Big Ideas Forward
- Planning for next Dublin Talent Connect hiring event (occurring in October)

JobsOhio/One Columbus Leads (2)

- Biochemical Manufacturing and R&D | 48 jobs; \$19 million in investment
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing | 100 jobs; \$300 million in investment

Local Business Retention and Expansion Leads (4)

Business Retention & Expansion

- Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) visits were strong this month.
- The Economic Development Team has been meeting with businesses in the Dublin Entrepreneurial Center (DEC), resulting in an uptick in BRE numbers for the month.
- The Economic Development Team has continued conducting field research on office vacancies in the City's business districts.

Workforce Development

- As the Economic Development team meets with businesses, a common theme in workforce conversations has been the anticipation of the Dublin Talent Connect event in October. Dublin businesses appreciate the City's sponsoring of the event to help promote resources and connections with talent in Central Ohio.

Strategic Initiatives

Economic Development is drafting an implementation strategy to integrate goals and actions from the TEconomy and Newmark reports. This workplan will illustrate the tactics and measures to be used by the team in daily activities. Staff is also coordinating with division directors to ensure Operating budget funding requests take into account implementation of strategies. Staff members continue to work with Newmark and TEconomy in order to finalize and present strategies to City Council for adoption in October.

Economic Development



Innovation & Entrepreneurship

City Council approved the development agreement with COhatch for the Riverview Village project Sept. 11. Riverview Village will be COhatch's new National Headquarters and a one-of-a-kind co-working and entrepreneurship community, which will encompass start-ups, small businesses, freelancers, nonprofits and hybrid companies representing all innovative aspects of the future of remote and hybrid work.



The BETA District

- The marketing efforts aimed at building brand awareness and driving business leads continued in September, featuring a digital marketing campaign, LinkedIn engagement and two billboards along the U.S. 33 Smart Mobility Corridor.
- Council Member John Reiner, City Manager Megan O'Callaghan and Director of Communications & Public Information Lindsay Weisenauer, along with representatives of The Beta District and One Columbus, attended the 2023 Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 7-14. As part of this mission, the team visited several Japanese companies, including Hidaka Seiki, Honda, Micware and Toyodenso, as well as the Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO). [A memo on the trip is included as an Appendix 3.](#)



Community Development

Boards & Commission Activity

Update Renewable Energy Equipment - Solar

On June 6, 2023, City Council adopted regulations regarding renewable energy equipment for solar (Ordinance 70-22) that addressed installation of solar equipment on both residential and commercial properties. Since the passage of the Ordinance, the City of Dublin has received 19 applications for the installation of solar panels, exclusively for residential properties. Planning and Building Standards staff are working collaboratively to review applications and ensure compliance with the adopted regulations, primarily focused on locational and aesthetic requirements. Of the 19 permits, four permits have been approved and all of those permits include the installation of solar panels in conjunction with an overall roof replacement. The remaining permits are pending the provision of additional information to ensure solar equipment is installed in a rectangular shape to avoid complex and non-symmetrical configurations and the color of the equipment is similar to the roof color. These two Code provisions have been the most challenging for potential applicants to meet and are the subject of the first case for an upcoming Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.

Architectural Review Board

Complete

Sept. 20

- Site Tour

Sept. 27

- Coffman House Sidewalk
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/arb/23-080>
- Alternative Materials Discussion
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/arb/23-081>
- Historic Code and Guidelines Updates

Architectural Review Board Process Improvements

Staff members are working to improve the process for applicants. Efforts underway include:

- Hosting owner educational sessions Sept. 13 and Oct. 11
- Including owners on all project correspondence with architects, engineers, and contractors
- Working with Communications & Public Information (CPI) to create a Historic District page on the City's website by early October
- Creating FAQs for that website to provide greater clarity
- Exploring office hours for staff in the district (details to be determined)
- Continuing to upload projects on behalf of homeowners/one-time applicants
- Meeting with CPI on a regular basis to discuss these issues and others

Planning & Zoning Commission

Complete

Sept. 7

- Topiary Park - approved
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-065>
- Dublin Rehab Hospital - approved
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-057>
- Shihab Law Office FDP and PP - approved
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-150>
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-020>
- Woodsprings Suites Informal - withdrawn
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-084>

Sept. 14

- Citywide Driving Tour

Sept. 21

- Riviera Section 4-2, Reserve AFDP
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-089>
- EASE Logistics
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-046>
- Amlin Crossing PDP and PP
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-066>
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/pzc/23-064>

Upcoming

- 10/5/23 - Walking Tour – Bridge Street District

Administrative Review Team

Sept. 14: canceled

Board of Zoning Appeals

Complete

Sept. 28

- Trubiano Residence/Solar Panels
<https://dublinohiousa.gov/bza/23-094>

Compliance & Enforcement

Zoning & Code Compliance

Areas of Focus

Inspections were performed along Muirfield Drive at commercial sites between Tara Hill and Sells Mill. These sites are being well maintained, but letters were sent to residents about a few missing landscape items for several properties. Follow-up inspections are scheduled for late fall.

Shell Gas Station – 201 West Bridge St.

In coordination with Code Enforcement, letters were sent Sept. 6 to the property owners and property management for deficiencies onsite. This list includes the repair of potholes in the parking lot, damaged dumpster screening, dead and dying landscape, weeds, litter and bare spots on the ground. A reinspection of the site is scheduled for Oct. 9.

Routine Landscape Inspections

Twelve follow-up inspections of voluntary compliance letters sent in late winter 2023 were conducted in the month of August. The majority of these are located along Emerald Parkway south of Shier Rings Road. Ten complied voluntarily, and the two remaining were sent a second letter with compliance required by Dec. 1. The 10 sites that complied have replaced 67 trees and 18 shrubs.

Highlights of these inspections include 5500 Glendon Court, where 22 trees were installed to replenish missing parking lot island trees and perimeter tree requirements; and 5900 Parkwood Place, where 17 trees were installed to replenish dead or dying trees, all of which are parking lot island trees.

Code Enforcement

August saw an increase in total cases from 50 in 2022 to 92 this year. There was a significant increase in premise condition cases for a total of 39 in August, more than double that of last year.

In the last six-month period, with more than 600 cases opened, the team experienced steady engagement with residents reporting code enforcement concerns through GoDublin.

How Potential Cases are Identified

- 25% received through GoDublin. Residents can attach photos to their complaint and provide an option for contact information for follow up or redirection.
- 25% begin with a call to Planning, referrals from other City departments, direct phone calls/emails to Code Enforcement or through HOA contacts. If contact information is shared, it is communicated with the resident through the resolution of the issue.
- 50% is generated from field observations. Our officers travel between 500 and 600 miles each week to investigate complaints and patrol and visually assess neighborhoods and commercial developments. It is not uncommon for a case to already be opened on a property when a complaint is received from an outside source, which is an important message to share with the resident.

When a case is opened, a determination of a code violation can either be made immediately or may require additional investigation. The team contacts the resident or property owner with an initial Notice of Non-Compliance to start the process of abating the issue. This can be a quick knock on the door or an informational door hanger to begin the conversation, but it often involves sending letters by both regular and certified mail explaining the violation and providing a timeline for the violation to be corrected. More than 85% of cases are resolved in fewer than 30 days. If the timeline is not met, a Notice of Violation is issued, which can be followed by legal action. Because communication and compliance is the City's primary goal, this step involves a very small percentage of cases within Code Enforcement.

Building Standards

Commercial & Residential Plan Review

Total plan review numbers increased in August. Numbers have increased 34% compared with the July monthly numbers. The highest month this year was 134 plan reviews in May, with 133 in August. Overall plan review numbers are expected to stay strong through the end of summer. Building Standards is averaging 111 plan reviews per month, so far this calendar year.

Plan Review Turn-Around Times

The team is consistent at an approximate commercial 10-calendar-day turnaround. August had a 12.77 day turnaround. Residential reviews were at a 8.03 calendar day turnaround in August. Commercial numbers have slipped a bit due to some vacations with staff members and a few large projects that can take up plan review time. These turnaround times have achieved the team's 14-day calendar day target.

Certificate of Occupancy

38 certificates of occupancy issued. Including Dublin Food Pantry, Fox in the Snow and Higher Ground Montessori.



Fox in the Snow



Dublin Food Pantry

New Building Permits Issue

Building permit issued numbers (that required plan review) increased in August, compared with July numbers. Numbers can regularly fluctuate approximately 10% each month. Permit numbers are up 32% compared with July's numbers. May was the highest monthly number of permits issues so far this calendar year with 48. The monthly average, over the last 12-month period, is approximately 40 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 is issued. September and October 2022 and February 2023 were strong months with a total of approximately 795,000 square feet. Square footage in August was an average month at 110,014 square feet. The monthly average over the last 12 months is approximately 135,000 square feet.

Inspections

August numbers remained strong and are the highest so far this year with 681, an increase of 6% from July's numbers. August numbers for this year are slightly lower than last August's corresponding numbers.

Transportation & Mobility

Highlights

Bird Scooters

- 2,933 unique riders since January - a 32% increase in August
- 5,440 rides since January - a 36% increase in August
- 10,962 miles traveled on scooters since January - a 28% increase in August
- 1.55 metric tonnes of CO2 saved since January - a 28% increase in August

Dublin Connector

- 8,363 rides since January
- 165 unique riders since January
- 3,702 pounds (about twice the weight of a Clydesdale horse) of CO2 emissions saved YTD
- [For a detailed breakdown of Dublin Connector ridership, see Appendix 4.](#)

Connected Vehicle Study Expanding to Dublin

DriveOhio is expanding its vehicle technology study to Dublin residents. Eligible drivers can receive no-cost vehicle safety equipment and could earn up to \$180. Through this research study, participants will provide important safety information to benefit other communities across Ohio and the nation.

Mobility Concierge - Schedule & Themes

September was the final month of the mobility concierge program for 2023. Transportation & Mobility staff members will continue to engage the community in various ways to highlight and educate transportation options in Dublin.

[The monthly mobility update can be found on Appendix 5.](#)

Crash Data

	Frequency	High Severity	Bike/Ped
YTD	368	6	8
July	51	0	2

There were two pedestrian-bike crashes in July. The first was a motorized bike crash on the shared use path on the north side of State Route 161 near the Riverside Drive intersection where the rider lost control, went over a curb and fell into the roadway resulting in minor injury. Ebikes are considered vulnerable road users and, as such, are recorded as pedestrians. The second involved a motorcycle negotiating a curve while exiting I-270 to U.S. 33, running off the road to the left and ending in the ditch, resulting in a possible injury. No other vehicles were involved in either of these crashes.

Dublin Irish Festival Mobility

Transportation & Mobility and Community Events staff members worked together to offer new mobility options for visitors to get to and from the Dublin Irish Festival (DIF). These options were promoted online, through the DIF app and in the onsite guide.

The Dublin Connector operated special hours during the Festival. Nine rides were taken to and from the Festival, saving 14.2 pounds of CO2 emissions. The expanded operating zone allowed for Bird e-scooters to access Coffman Park from anywhere in the city. Scooters were parked at bike parking. The weekend of the Festival, 114 unique users travelled 462 miles in 221 rides. 0.14 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions were saved through Bird scooter use.

Bike parking at the Festival was consistently packed. A record number of 1,080 bikes were parked in 2023, a 116% increase over the 2022 amount.

The City of Dublin once again offered a rideshare discount through Lyft during the weekend of the Festival. Nearly 250 people took advantage of the \$10 discount on their ride.

Public Service

Highlights

Forestry

- Street tree pruning continues both in-house and contractually.
- Dead tree removal and stump grinding is ongoing in preparation for fall tree planting.
- Private tree inspections for homeowners from the City's certified arborist continue to be an increasingly popular service for residents.

Sustainability

- Styrofoam Collection Boxes: 2.63 tons of Styrofoam has been recycled so far in 2023
- GoZero Composting: 35.26 tons
- The City of Dublin received the Gold Level award as part of the Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities program. Dublin is one of the first communities in Ohio to achieve the highest-level award. Staff members attended a ceremony Sept. 18 to accept the award on behalf of the City.
- Transportation & Mobility staff members participated in the MAG Electric Vehicle Showcase in celebration of National Drive Electric Vehicle Week. Staff members will be sharing information on the City's EV Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan project and the many investments Dublin has made in advancing electric vehicle usage
- Document Destruction Day is Sustainable Saturday, on Oct. 14. In addition to old documents, the City invites visitors to bring their Styrofoam packaging materials and gently used textiles. Help contribute to the over 2.5 tons of Styrofoam already recycled by the Dublin community. Textiles will be used to help support the care and rehabilitation of wildlife at the Ohio Wildlife Center. Clothing will be donated to Goodwill.
- Across the City's 21 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, 27,865 gallons of gas have been saved so far in 2023.
- 532 unique drivers across the City's 21 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations have contributed to nearly 125,000 kilograms of saved greenhouse gas emissions.

Horticulture

- Seasonal planting displays were changed from the summer plant material to the fall plant material in mid-September.
- Fall park plant material arrived in late September. Planting will begin in early October and continue through November.
- Winter greenery for planters in Historic Dublin, Riverside Crossing Park and at City buildings was ordered and will be picked up the week prior to Thanksgiving.
- Staff members continue to mulch, prune, perform weed control and water new plantings in the parks.
- Bike path pruning projects are ongoing.

Parks

- Turf repairs and seeding were completed in Coffman Park.
- Right-of-way lawn areas in Historic Dublin along High Street were reseeded.
- The Village of Coffman Park neighborhood boardwalk was repainted.
- The Dublin Community Recreation Center west board fence was repainted.
- Staff members continue to perform routine maintenance assignments within the parks to prepare for fall.

Streets

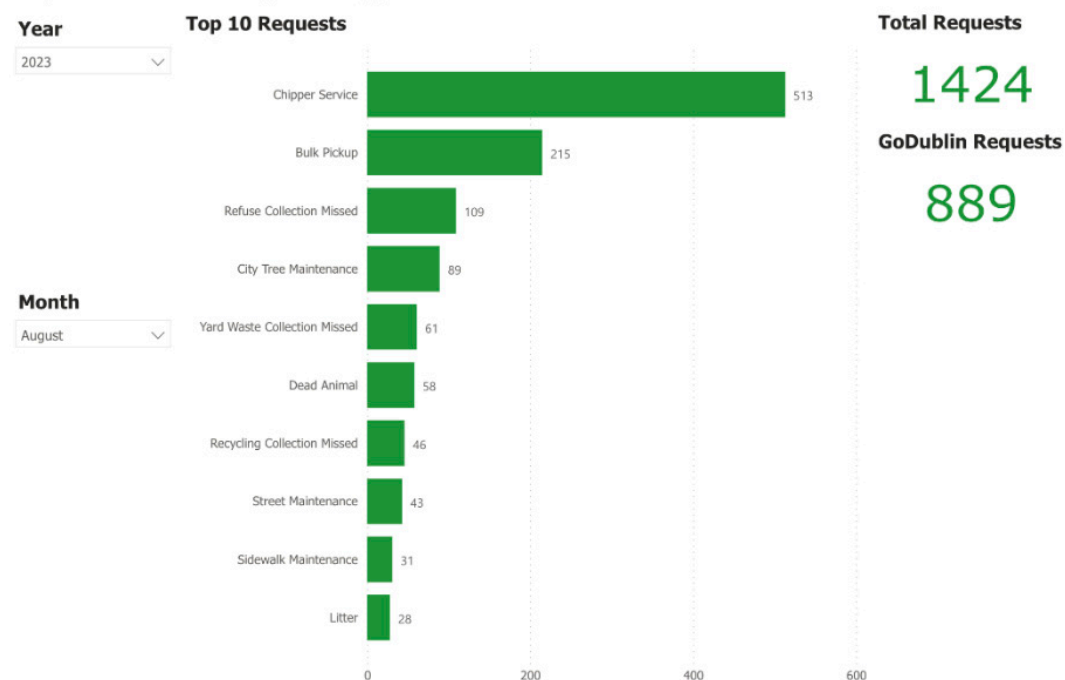
- Crews prepared trucks and plows for the SnowGo Rodeo held Sept. 20.
- Leaf trucks and leaf vacuum machines were tested in preparation for leaf collection, which begins the week of Oct. 9.
- Staff continue to progress through the brick sanding maintenance program. Locations scheduled next are John Shields Parkway at Longshore Street, Riverside Drive at Tuller Ridge, Tuller Road at Riverside Drive and Banker Drive at Moony Street.

General Updates

- During the annual SnowGo Rodeo, crews practiced their snow-fighting skills and truck maneuverability in preparation for winter snowfall. Staff members also tested the operational readiness of the SnowGo system by embarking on a dry run of all snow routes.

Asset Management

Top 10 Service Request Types



GoDublin

- 1,424 requests were submitted in August, down from 1,578 in July. Of those requests, 889 (62%) were initiated through the GoDublin app.
- By comparison, there were 1,407 requests in August 2022.
- Top requests in August:
 - Chipping service
 - Bulk pickup
 - Refuse collection missed
 - City tree maintenance
 - Yard waste missed
- 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>

Parks & Recreation

Highlights

September Memberships

- DCRC memberships: 7,586
- Fall programs and activities are ongoing and can be found in the latest edition of the Healthy Guide

DCRC Annual Shutdown

[A video recapping the 2023 shutdown can be found here.](#)

While the plan had been to replace the indoor track, the installer identified a potential issue that needed further review during site preparation. Recreation staff members worked with the City's Risk Manager and contracted with Lawhon and Associates to conduct air quality testing to ensure there was no risk while new plans to replace the track are being developed. Testing indicated that the air quality levels are within normal standards.

Staff members oversaw the sale of old fitness equipment through GovDeals, while managing the purchase of new equipment from 14 vendors. The City utilized nearly \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan funds for these upgrades, which included:

- 38 new cardio machines
- 12 new strength machines
- 108 new dumbbells ranging from 5 to 120 pounds
- 244 new weighted plates ranging from 5 to 45 pounds
- 10 new short-weighted bars ranging from 20 to 110 pounds
- 40 new sets of steps/risers
- 40 new sets of barbell bars and plates
- 7 new Pilates Reformers
- 1 new Power Plate
- New rubber flooring in the squat rack and free weight area
- New lockers for outside of Classroom C
- New electrical outlets for Echelon bikes
- New mirror graphics on windows looking into the gym
- New speakers for Studio 1
- New carpeting on the fitness floor
- Removal of carpeting on fitness floor walls and pillars.
- Patching and painting where carpet was removed.

Final Outdoor Pool Season Numbers

	Pool Passes Sold	South Pool Daily Passes Sold	North Pool Daily Passes Sold
2022	\$405,413.70	\$44,372	\$78,359
2023	\$456,168.10	\$42,469	\$72,394
% Change	12.52%	-4.29%	-7.61%

Summer Camps

The DCRC closed out a successful summer camp season that offered a variety of camps for all ages. Targeted staff recruitment campaigns helped increase camp capacity in 2023. Increased rates helped to cover higher wages for camp staff and inflationary increases for operational costs.

Recreation staff members are hopeful that the first full complement of camp offerings since COVID-19 will be possible in 2024.

	Enrollments	Revenue
2021	1,476	\$415,546
2022	1,362	\$504,891
2023	1,709	\$800,000

Abbey Theater

Evolution Theatre presented the Tony Award-winning two-part play, *The Inheritance*. Columbus Underground published a review on Sept. 12 that can be found [here](#). *The Inheritance* was directed by Joe Bishara and features Recreation Coordinator Euan Baker. *The Inheritance* was also featured during an [interview with Joe on WOSU](#) and on the [10TV CBS Sunday morning show](#).

Fall Park Improvements

Renovations to the Kiwanis Riverway boardwalk began Sept. 18. Construction also began on the new boulder path to the Scioto River from Riverside Crossing Park. Both projects will take approximately three months to complete, weather permitting.

Police & Safety

Highlights

Critical Incident & Major Crimes

- Officers responded to the Sonesta hotel on reports of a robbery and arrested a woman accused of robbery and kidnapping
- Officers used an indoor drone to safely connect an Amberleigh resident in crisis with mental health resources

Police Reports & Crime Trends

- Officers arrested two suspects at the Sonesta hotel. They were charged for stealing a vehicle and other active warrants and the vehicle was recovered.
- Detective Steve Borton charged a suspect with breaking into the Toy Barn and stealing keys.
- Detective Dave Aronovic charged three people with burglary, breaking and entering (B&Es), grand theft and conspiracy. Offenders are suspected of having committed burglaries and B&Es nationwide with numerous agencies investigating.

Community Outreach & Engagement

- The 2023 class of the Citizens' Police Academy continued to meet
- City elicited public responses on social media about local police work for Thank an Officer Day
- Officer Scott Brown received the Diversity Leader Award from the Asian American Commerce Group of Columbus
- A candidate was identified to fill the Public Safety Social Services Coordinator role, a partnership between Dublin Police and Syntero
- Officers participated in the Hindu celebration Raksha Bandhan; community members thanked police officers and government officials for connecting with the broader society
- Police leadership met with the Muirfield HOA to present safety trends

Safety Messaging

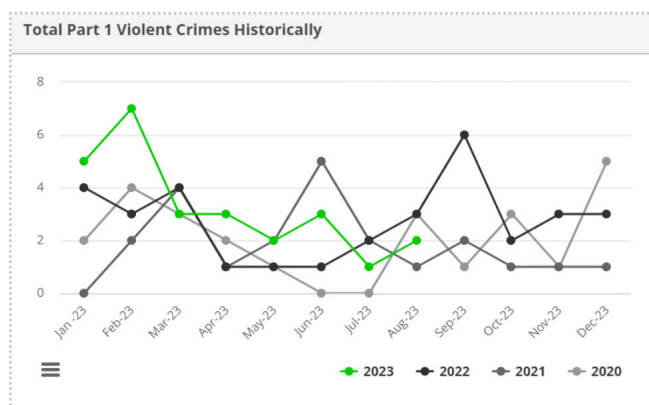
- Promoted Smart911 and ALERT Franklin County notification systems; explained weather watch versus warning to residents as part of National Preparedness Month
- Shared Safe Space Dublin reminders and Dublin Suicide Prevention Pledge during Suicide Prevention Month, including the lock box program
- Collaborated with Transportation & Mobility on speed management rollout
- Look-ahead: Halloween and trick-or-treat safety

Police Responses to Issues of Community Concern

- Discussed youth mental health resources with the Chief's Advisory Committee
- Speed management: held speed enforcement campaign on Muirfield Drive on Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- Officers Popson and Moreland completed their first full month as Community Impact Unit (CIU) traffic officers focused on speed management:
 - Officer Moreland conducted 141 stops resulting in 85 citations
 - Officer Popson conducted 107 stops resulting in 71 citations

Misc.

- Lieutenant Alex Carlson selected as the Community Impact Unit Lieutenant
- Officer Shane McPhillips completed the agency's Field Training Officer program
- Officer Zach Ford received the department's life-saving award for applying a tourniquet to a resident



Statistics	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	2023 YTD
Part 1 Violent Crimes Reported	17	20	26
Theft Offenses	223	290	353
Thefts from Vehicles	107	152	170
Motor Vehicle Thefts	15	33	62
Burglaries/B&Es	28	29	36
Traffic Crashes	404	406	456
Serious Injury Crashes	7	10	8
OVI Related Crashes	19	10	15
OVI Arrests	70	57	113
Traffic Stops	3,997	3,305	4,959
Speeding Citations	1119	321	784

Court Services - Highlights

- Received 305 traffic cases, three Operating a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence (OVI) cases and eight criminal/code enforcement cases
- Received three juvenile criminal cases, six juvenile traffic diversion cases and 30 adult traffic diversion cases
- Collected \$48,949 in fines and court costs
- Collected \$360 in restitution for victims of crime
- One staff member attended the American Probation and Parole Association's Annual Training Institute

Human Resources

Highlights



2023 Employee Olympics: The City hosted the annual Employee Olympics on Sept. 21 at the Coffman Park Pavilion. Employees were encouraged to attend or participate in a variety of events, including a basketball shooting contest, fishing derby, name that tune, open games, parks trivia, pickleball, yoga, euchre tournament and "The Amazing Race," which featured minute-to-win-it puzzles.

Employee Onboarding: The City recently held a meet-and-greet event for the 22 full-time staff members hired in 2023. The group met to connect with new colleagues, learn more about Dublin and make meaningful connections for a successful start to their careers with the City of Dublin.

Culture Playbook Update: Following the two-day August "R" Factor (Response Factor) workshop with Focus 3, the communication plan continues to be developed and executed. As the Culture Playbook is finalized, the original team who met in February (the stakeholders team that comprised employees at all levels) will reconvene in October. Following that review, all directors will come together to review the final document before it is communicated to the entire Dublin team. The citywide roll out will occur at the End of the Year Celebration in early December.

Recent Promotions

Employee Name	Previous Position	Promoted Position
Taylor Golden	Court Clerk	Diversion Officer
Tammy Lehnert	Tax Manager	Director of Taxation
Heidi Rose	Civil Engineer II	Senior Civil Engineer

Recent Hires

Employee Name	Division	Position
Stetson Canter	Fleet Technician I	Facilities & Fleet Management
Jeremiah Gracia	Director of Economic Development	Economic Development
Justin Kuhn	Engineering Project Inspector	Engineering
Chance Nickles	Maintenance Worker	Public Service
Emanuel Ubochi	Maintenance Worker	Facilities & Fleet Management

Recent Retirement

Employee Name	Division	Retired
Jay Somerville	NRECC	Sept. 8 31 Years

Recruitment

- Administrative Support II
- City Forester
- Civil Engineer II – Design & Construction
- Civil Engineer II – Transportation and Mobility
- Civil Engineer I – Engineering (Utilities)
- Communications Technician
- Human Resources Business Partner
- Maintenance Worker – Engineering/Utilities
- Police Officer
- Records Supervisor
- Recreation Program Coordinator – Aquatics
- Recreation Program Supervisor – Aquatics

[Visit Dubnet to see all the Recent Promotions, Hires & Retirements](#)

Outreach & Engagement

Highlights

The Dublin Market at Bridge Park

The City's presence at the Dublin Market at Bridge Park wrapped up Sept. 30. SWACO representatives and solid waste employees (Sept. 16) as well as nature education employees (Sept. 30) hosted booths with exceptional outreach numbers, answering resident questions and raising awareness on food composting, recycling and wildlife education. Staff will meet to discuss this program's continuation in 2024. Outreach & Engagement, Planning, Dublin Police, Transportation & Mobility, the Dublin Irish Festival, solid waste and nature education employees all hosted booths during the 2023 summer market.

Language Translation Services

Front desk and front-line staff from the Development Building, City Hall, the Service Center and Recreation Services gathered for an initial training on expanding customer service by offering language translation services for City business. Staff members are developing a guide to enable key staff to schedule online translators, live, in-person translators (including American Sign Language) and instant-connect translators via phone.

Heritage Interpreters at Ferris Wright Park & Earthworks

By early September, Heritage Interpreters had hosted open house education visits for more than 300 visitors, with more open houses, educational sessions and staff group tours to be scheduled later this fall. Recruitment, training and preparation for the 2024 season is underway.



OU Speaker Series Kickoff

Staff has supported the Ohio University Dublin Campus in their development of a Dublin Speaker Series produced by Ohio University. "Live Longer, Live Stronger," a presentation by Dr. Brian Clark and Dr. Leslie Consitt, launched the inaugural event on Sept. 27 at the Dublin Integrated Education Center. To promote lifelong learning and a higher education presence in Dublin, the City provided promotional efforts, planning assistance and sponsored refreshments for the first event. A total of 65 attended.

Kids in Dublin Service

Interest in the K.I.D.S. program for grade K-5 volunteers remains active. Sept. 30, K.I.D.S., the Dublin Arts Council and Dublin Retirement Village collaborated to host a park cleanup, art visits and intergenerational nature exploration.

Forever Dublin

Following a late summer video ("Am I a Senior?") promoting the services and connections of Forever Dublin, aging in place referrals increased dramatically, receiving resource and referral calls for help needed with the following topics: homecare/home assistance (most common), home improvement (accommodating interior for aging), faith community connections, technology-use training and assisted living directory sharing.

Communications & Public Information

Highlights

August's Communication Strategy

- The City of Dublin's communication goals include increasing meaningful engagement with all Dublin audiences and supporting the City's Strategic Framework.
- September's strategic topics included the launch of the "Slow Down Dublin" speed management campaign, the DCRC annual shutdown, Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month, National Preparedness Month and the start to Halloween Spooktacular communications.

Link Ahead Podcast

- 14,668 listens (an increase of 557 listens since the August report)
- A few of the recent topics: Respawn Lounge at the DCRC, Dom Tiberi talks OSU football and Maria's Message, Art in Public Places with the Dublin Arts Council

Sustainable Dublin Communications

- Promoted the Dublin Sustainability Plan Workshop event
- Announced Dublin's acceptance of the Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Award
- Launched "[Dublin's Backyard with Barbara](#)" YouTube series with the first video aimed at deer management education
- Started fall leaf collection communications

Connected Dublin Communications

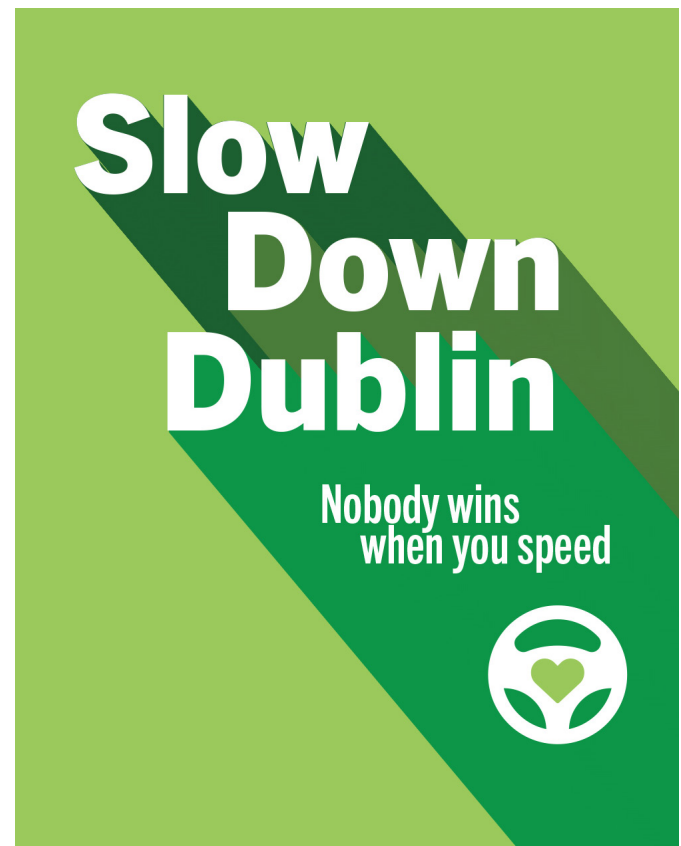
- Continued Fiber to Every Home updates; more than 1600 residents have signed up for updates on this project so far
- Launched the "Slow Down Dublin" speed management campaign to encourage safer driving in Dublin
- Prepared communications for upcoming CoGo bike share program launch
- Sharing information about DriveOhio Connected Vehicle study, helping to recruit participants
- Provided updates on Dublin's Friendship City relations with Mashiko, Japan

Resilient Dublin Communications

- Promoted Safe Space Dublin initiative during Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month
- Promoted Smart911 as part of National Preparedness Month
- Shared diverse community recognitions and events, including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the Mid-Autumn Festival, as well as the JASCO Grassroots Summit

October Lookahead

- Halloween Spooktacular
- Fall leaf collection
- Pumpkin composting
- Launch "Chat and Texts from Dublin" campaign via GoDublin



[Monthly CPI Measurements - Appendix 6](#)
[Council Communications - Appendix 7](#)

Community Events

Highlights



Permitted Events

- The Rotary Classic Car Show, which received a Hotel/Motel Tax Grant, was held Sept. 3. More than 100 classic vehicles registered for the event.
- The Ohio Premier Soccer Invitational occurred the weekend of Sept. 15 and brought hundreds of hotel stays. This event received a Hotel/Motel Tax Grant.
- The Walk to Defeat ALS took place in Coffman Park and raised more than \$256,000.
- The Historic Dublin Market was held for the second year in the Darby Street Lot and provided an opportunity to showcase local artists and entrepreneurs. The event also served as a fundraiser for nonprofits that specialize in helping women in the community.
- September was the busiest month of the year with 24 permitted events occurring, including 17 tier-2 events and seven tier-1 events.



General Update

- Applications opened in September for organizations to be involved in the Spooktacular Trunk or Treat Trail, planned for Oct. 19-20. There are 40 available slots for companies and organizations for the two-day event. Reservations for guests to access the Trail will open in October for City and Dublin City Schools district residents only.
- [The Independence Day Celebration report can be found in Appendix 8. The report includes event outcomes and cost recovery.](#)



Dublin Irish Festival

- Festival attendance dipped slightly from 2022 with a final total of 78,000 attendees.
- While expenses and revenues are still being collected, it is expected that gross revenues will increase by more than 10% over 2022. The final annual report for the Festival is expected in November.

Legislative

Update

Political & Budget Updates

Issue 1

Issue 1 appeared on the Aug. 8 special election ballot and was rejected by Ohioans with a vote margin of 57% to 43%.

- Issue 1 was the result of the legislature's passage of Senate Joint Resolution 2 (McColley, Gavarone).
- If it had passed, Issue 1 would have required 60% of voters to vote in favor of changing the Ohio Constitution.
 - It would have also required signatures from all 88 counties, compared with the current requirement of half of Ohio's counties.
 - It would have eliminated the 10-day period to collect more signatures if backers failed to initially meet the signature requirement.

Legislative Timeline

- The Ohio House of Representatives is scheduled to return to session Oct. 18.
 - There are four confirmed session dates and three "if-needed" dates for the remainder of the year.
 - Committees started meeting in mid-September.
- The Ohio Senate returned to session Sept. 13.
 - There are 10 confirmed session dates for the remainder of the year, although some might be canceled.

November Election

Abortion

- Abortion will appear on the November ballot.
- The effort to get the abortion initiative on the ballot exceeded the requirements by collecting 495,938 valid signatures from 55 counties.

Recreational Marijuana

- Recreational marijuana will also appear on the November ballot.
- During the initial petition filing with the Secretary of State's office, the signature collectors were 679 signature short. During the 10-day cure period, supporters gathered nearly 7,000 signatures that have been officially verified by the secretary of state.

Redistricting

- The Ohio Redistricting Commission met Sept. 13.
- According to Secretary of State Frank LaRose, the deadline for new state legislature maps was Sept. 22.

[View Tracked Legislation, please see Appendix 9.](#)

Calendar

October 2023

<< < Today > >>

Search for events

Find Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Administrative Committee	4 Food Truck Wednesdays	5 Planning & Zoning Commission	6	7 Ohio University PA 5K
8 Sundays at Scioto	9 Dublin City Council	10 Community Services Advisory Commission	11 Food Truck Wednesdays Public Services Committee Historic District Code Discussion Follow Up	12 The Dublin Night Market Planning & Zoning Commission	13	14 Running of the Bullies 5K Document Destruction Day is Now Sustainable Saturday
15	16 Dublin City Council – Work Session	17 Community Development Committee	18 Food Truck Wednesdays	19 Spooktacular Chief's Advisory Committee	20 Spooktacular	21
22	23 Dublin City Council	24 Finance Committee Community Inclusion Advisory Committee	25 Food Truck Wednesdays Boo & Brew at Bridge Park Architectural Review Board	26 Board of Zoning Appeals	27	28 Lifetime 5K
29	30	31 Trick or Treat	1 Food Truck Wednesdays	2	3	4
5	6 Dublin City Council – Work Session	7	8 Food Truck Wednesdays	9 Planning & Zoning Commission	10	11

Advisory Committees

Permitted Events

Boards & Commissions

Council Meetings

City/Community Events

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