

Office of the City Manager Activities, Projects & Interactions

January 2024



January 2024

Letter from the City Manager

I am happy to report that 2024 is off to a great start here in Dublin, and we have much to celebrate and take pride in.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes and Vice Mayor Christina Alutto, who were elected to leadership positions by their peers on City Council at their organization meeting Jan. 8. I look forward to continuing to work with all members of Council as we evaluate and refine our goals for the year ahead.

As always, I am grateful to our hard-working employees for keeping the City running smoothly despite the extreme cold. I would also like to thank those who have worked to keep our roads clear and safe during several snow events in January. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. In fact, our innovative new weather station equipment gained news coverage from three different media outlets, showcasing our commitment to innovation and taking advantage of technological advancements.

It was great to see members of Council and the community at the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Service Series. For the second consecutive year, this initiative included an impact talk and service projects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, with more events to follow in April, September and December to keep sharing Dr. King's message year-round throughout Dublin.

In January, the City was honored with a gold-level Healthy Worksite Award from the Healthy Business Council of Ohio. This recognition reflects our commitment to employee wellness through comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs. Additionally, the Abbey Theater of Dublin won eight 2023 BroadwayWorld Columbus Awards. For the second consecutive year, the Abbey has been named Favorite Local Theatre, and Director Joe Bishara was honored for the Best Direction of a Musical.



As part of the regional comprehensive mobility initiative LinkUS, I was elected to serve as chair of the Transit Supportive Infrastructure Leadership Committee, which will review and approve program policies and procedures and the TSI Capital Improvement Budget and multi-year TSO Capital Improvement Program. My role on the Leadership Committee also includes participation on the LinkUS Executive Council, which will meet bi-monthly in 2024. The Executive Council includes LinkUS partners, principals and stakeholder group leaders and is responsible for key LinkUS policy and decisions. Through this involvement I will continue to ensure that Dublin's transportation and mobility objectives are effectively represented.

The above-mentioned examples demonstrate the tenets that are declared in our City of Dublin Culture Playbook: we are dedicated to service, better together and driven by excellence. I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our community throughout this new year.

Megan O'Callaghan

Megan O'Callaghan
City Manager

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Denotes innovative initiatives.

2023/2024 City Council Goals

1

Become the Most Connected Community in the U.S.

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 January meeting, field construction is set to begin Q2 of 2024. The website has had 2,195+ project page views, 1,000+ residents have signed up for updates, and a total of 180 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. Staff members plan to update Council on altafiber's progress and plans moving forward at the Feb. 26 Council meeting.

2

Realize the Metro Center Revitalization Vision

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

Status: The City's consultant team, Sasaki, EMH&T and SB Friedman met with City Council Jan. 29 as part of a work session and to take part in a panel discussion and public input session Jan. 30. The importance of Metro Center revitalization was highlighted as part of the roll-out of the Economic Development Strategic Plan adopted in October 2023.

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. Phase two amendments will begin early 2024 to provide additional staff-level approval criteria within the Code and clarify how the Code and Guidelines will be applied to background buildings. The Dublin Community Improvement Corporation approved its first round of applications for the newly reinstated Commercial Façade Improvement Program with additional applications under review.

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
Bright Road Corridor Improvements and the Emerald Parkway/Mount Carmel Roundabout	As part of the economic development agreement with Mount Carmel Health System, improvements are planned to ease congestion at two locations in east Dublin, the Bright Road Corridor and the main entrance to the Mount Carmel site along Emerald Parkway. Improvements are being coordinated with the new Mount Carmel Health System hospital in the southwest quadrant of the Sawmill and Bright roads intersection.	Right-of-way acquisition and negotiations are underway after acquisition authorization and appropriations were approved at the Nov. 27, 2023, City Council meeting. Plans are available for contractors to review. Bids are scheduled to open at the end of February with an anticipated bid acceptance at a March 2024 City Council meeting. Completion of the roundabout is planned for fall 2024. The Bright Road Corridor completion will follow in fall 2025.
COhatch Headquarters and Riverview Village Development	At the Sept. 11, 2023, City Council meeting, Council approved a real estate transfer and development agreement for the development of Riverview Village. Riverview Village will be home to COhatch's national headquarters, as well as a first of-its-kind coworking and entrepreneurship district in Historic Dublin.	The COhatch and City teams continue to meet on a weekly basis to coordinate efforts and timelines. The City's consultants have begun a traffic and parking study, and City staff members anticipate executing contracts for the rest of the public improvements in early February 2024. COhatch is nearing completion of a survey of the development parcels. In December 2023, COhatch submitted a concept plan application for the overall project and an application for the demolition of the background accessory structures. The applications were postponed at the request of COhatch to make some refinements to the plans. A resubmittal is expected by Feb. 14, with consideration by the Architectural Review Board at their March 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 is 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.	Due to the Advisory Committee being rescheduled, the CHNA report will now be presented to the committee and City's senior leadership team in February. 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
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.	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.	The Steering Committee, which includes community leaders and business partners, are helping to guide the Community Plan's updates and hold five meetings to review and provide feedback on a number of deliverables throughout the update process. The most recent meetings held Nov. 14 and Dec. 19 focused on land use, special area plans and transportation and mobility. A subsequent meeting was held Jan. 23, to review a preferred land-use scenario and initial modeling analysis for transportation, utilities and fiscal considerations. The consultant provided an update to City Council at the Jan. 22 meeting. Other 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.
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.	Staff members are developing 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 in Q1.
Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh	In 2022, Council directed \$3.1 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds for improvements to the Dublin Community Recreation Center (DCRC). Subsequently, staff members began working to identify an architect to update the improvement scenarios identified pre-pandemic, a task which was complicated by the high growth of inflation, especially in the construction industry. In July 2022, the City contracted with MSA Design to update the necessary improvements and associated costs for the DCRC. This project also incorporates the Mobility Hub to reduce costs associated with individual construction projects.	As the project enters phase 3 "Visioning," staff members and the consultant group will be working on dimensional renderings of key spaces and cost estimates. Staff members met with fourth and fifth graders from Eli Pinney Elementary to hear their ideas for the refresh. The students had developed ideas for the refresh as part of their gifted curriculum classes. The consultant and staff members are working to finalize a date for the third public engagement meeting.
City of Columbus Fourth Water Plant	The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities is building a fourth water plant and transmission mains to prepare for the growing need for clean, safe drinking water in Central Ohio.	Geotechnical borings and topographical surveys began in December 2023 and are expected to be completed in spring 2024. In December, staff members from the City of Dublin and City of Columbus met to review potential transmission main alignments. These will continue to be evaluated. The final design of the first transmission main is expected to start in spring 2024. Construction of that main is anticipated to commence in 2026 and be completed in 2028. Final design of the second transmission main is expected to begin in summer 2024 with construction beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029.

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.	As the final stage of the stakeholder interview process, City Council Members were interviewed in early January to help inform the recommendations for the sustainability plan. Staff members reviewed the first draft of the plan in mid-January and expect to receive an updated version Feb. 5. The anticipated completion of this project is Q1 2024.
Holiday Market Feasibility Study	At the recommendation of the Public Services Committee, City Council unanimously voted Oct. 9, 2023, to direct Staff to move forward with the second phase of a feasibility study to analyze a potential holiday market in Dublin.	Staff members are finalizing an RFP to issue early this year for a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for a potential holiday market in Dublin. The RFP will encompass the research conducted by Staff through discussions with community partners and meetings with the market managers in Carmel, Indiana; Philadelphia; and Baltimore. It will also include all information approved by City Council at the Oct. 9, 2023 meeting.
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.
Post Road Interchange	This project provides for U.S. 33/S.R. 161/Post Road interchange ramps and terminal intersections previously approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The project will provide the needed interchange capacity improvements.	Construction is underway and managed by ODOT. Reconstruction of both U.S. 33 bridges over Post Road/S.R. 161 and reconstruction/widening of Post Road/S.R. 161 are expected to be complete by June 2025. The westbound ramp of Post Road/S.R. 161 to U.S. 33 eastbound is closed through spring 2024. Traffic will need to use the Eiterman Road roundabout to access the U.S. 33 eastbound ramp. The new alignment of the U.S. 33 eastbound ramp to Post Rd./S.R. 161 eastbound has opened. Traffic will permanently use the Eiterman Road Roundabout to access Post Rd./S.R. 161 eastbound. The Hyland-Croy intersection will remain right-in, right-out only until late 2024.

Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
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 and Indian Run Falls parks; 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 consultants and Staff met at the west bank of the river to discuss potential concepts based on the layout. The consultants and staff members have begun to discuss design ideas from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There will be multiple public engagement sessions and stakeholder meetings beginning the first half of the year and continuing throughout 2024. This project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2024.
Speed Management	A new Speed Management Program was approved by City Council July 31. The updated Speed Management Program better addresses safety concerns and provides more tools that can be used throughout the City. The Speed Management Program provides a framework for a data-driven approach to speed management and context-sensitive solutions to address speeding based on national best practices. The program's goals and strategies strive to create safe and comfortable streets for all road users across Dublin, including people walking and rolling.	The Slow Down Dublin campaign is underway. The dashboard is live to show the locations of the mobile speed trailers and rotating driver feedback signs, enforcement and crash metrics, along with speed survey results. Speed safety cameras have been delivered and Dublin staff members will be training on their deployment and use of the equipment in February. Staff members are also preparing updated tactical urbanism materials incorporating feedback from CSAC at their December meeting.
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.	<p>The consultant is working on the 90% preliminary engineering report submission and setting up a public meeting. The selection of a consultant is underway for detailed design services. The auction for hotel furnishings concluded Jan. 17. The bid for demolition of 4130 Tuller Road closed Jan. 24. Bid acceptance is scheduled for the Feb. 5, 2024, City Council meeting</p> <p>View a complete list of projects.</p>

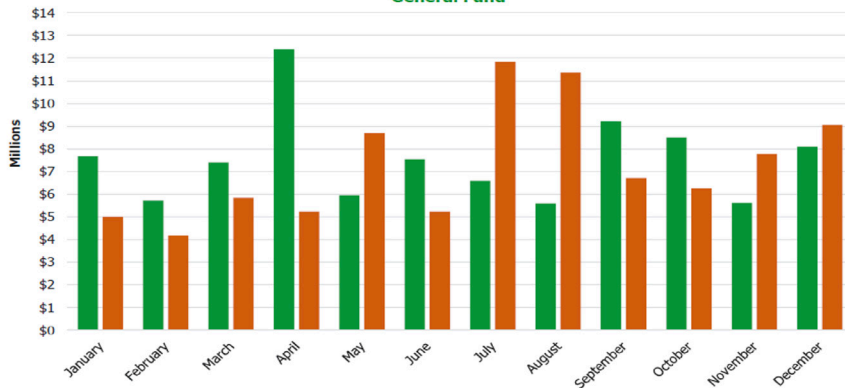
Finance

Highlights

General Fund Information

Total GF Revenue: \$90,248,326
Total GF Expenditures: \$87,149,821

2023 Revenue vs. Expenditures
General Fund



Highlights

General Fund Cash Balance: \$66,940,519

- 76.8% of actual expenditures
- \$23,365,608 in excess of 50% reserve level

Income Tax revenue was 2.7% above 2022 YTD levels, or \$2,821,983

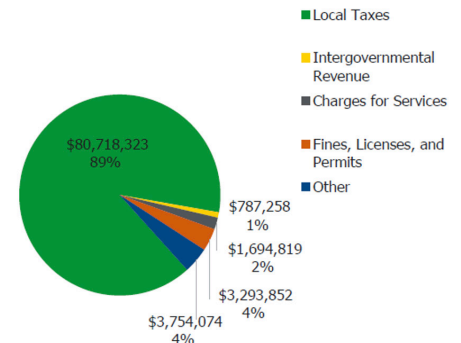
- Receipts are 6.1% or \$6,152,439 ahead of budget
- Comparing YTD December 2022 versus
- December 2023:
 - Withholding increased 2.50%
 - Net profit revenue increased 3.02%
 - Individual revenue increased 3.75%

Income Tax Collections

As of December 31, 2023, YTD income tax receipts totaled \$107,624,432, an increase of 2.7% over the same time in 2023. The 2023 budgeted income tax revenue is \$104,000,000.

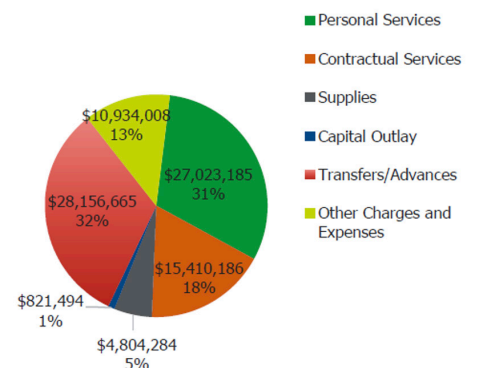


General Fund Revenue (by type) \$90,248,326



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Withholding	\$ 74,919,146	\$ 79,038,050	\$ 78,649,912	\$ 80,616,685
Net Profit	\$ 9,124,099	\$ 14,143,357	\$ 17,053,418	\$ 17,567,814
Individual	\$ 8,197,063	\$ 7,897,324	\$ 9,099,119	\$ 9,439,933
Total	\$ 92,240,308	\$ 101,078,731	\$ 104,802,449	\$ 107,624,432

General Fund Expenses (by type) \$87,149,821



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

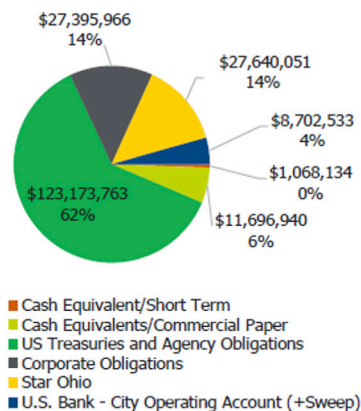
Finance Update

Fund Balance as of December 31, 2023

Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance
101 - General Fund	\$66,940,519	419 - TIF Thomas/Kohler	\$3,377,709	461 - TIF Tuller	\$3,097,071
201 - Street Maintenance and Repair	\$2,038,652	421 - TIF McKittrick Project	\$969,697	462 - TIF Nestle	\$251,903
202 - State Highway	\$506,562	425 - TIF Perimeter Center	\$1,848,311	463 - TIF Bridge Park Blocks B & C	\$988,485
225 - Recreation	\$2,437,756	426 - TIF Rings Road	\$852,482	464 - TIF Innovation	\$392,557
226 - Pool	\$257,456	431 - TIF Perimeter West	\$1,109,596	465 - TIF Riviera	\$735,059
231 - Permissive Tax	\$98,544	432 - TIF Upper Metro Place	\$1,218,850	466 - TIF Penzone	\$266,351
232 - Hotel/Motel Tax	\$2,542,363	433 - TIF Rings/Frantz	\$1,479,048	467 - TIF H2 Hotel	\$414,858
241 - Safety	\$2,433,564	436 - TIF Historic Dublin Parking	\$41,441	468 - TIF Bridge Park Block Z	\$426
242 - Law Enforcement	\$99,974	440 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 5	\$22,107	469 - TIF Block A	\$1,135
243 - Mandatory Drug Fine	\$2,922	441 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 8	\$5,189	474 - TIF Bridge Park Incentive Dist	\$32,680
244 - Wireless 9-1-1 System	\$787,684	442 - TIF Perimeter Loop	\$47,558	475 - TIF The Corners	\$279,763
251 - Enforcement and Education	\$77,808	443 - TIF Tartan West	\$993,774	591 - Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$1,772,524
252 - Mayors Court Computer	\$59,753	444 - TIF Shamrock Blvd.	\$114,391	610 - Water	\$12,837,338
261 - Cemetery	\$127,995	446 - TIF River Ridge	\$759,437	612 - Water Construction	\$1,332,198
262 - Accrued Leave Reserves	\$849,751	447 - TIF Lifetime Fitness	\$563,645	620 - Sewer	\$7,282,838
263 - Rings Unitrust	\$1,000,000	448 - COIC Improvement	\$0	623 - Sewer Construction	\$2,738,173
267 - OPIOID RELIEF FUND	\$45,036	449 - TIF Irelan Place	\$19,458	701 - Self Insurance - Employee Bens	\$5,785,851
299 - Occupancy Deposits	\$170,000	450 - TIF Shier Rings Road	\$55,172	703 - Self Insurance - Workers Comp	\$494,259
310 - General Debt Service	\$2,595,878	451 - TIF Shamrock Crossing	\$230,462	803 - Unclaimed Monies	\$147,496
311 - Econ Development Bond Retirmt	\$777,234	452 - TIF Bridge and High Street	\$283,751	804 - Visit Dublin Ohio	\$99,155
320 - S.A. Debt Service	\$17,659	453 - TIF Dublin Methodist Hospital	\$1,250,790	805 - Agency	\$3,682
322 - 2001 S.A. Debt Service	\$134,913	454 - TIF Kroger Centre	\$1,344,683	807 - C.O.I.R.S.	\$430,622
401 - Capital Improvements Tax	\$46,974,444	455 - TIF Frantz/Dublin Road	\$113,166	817 - Property Assessed Clean Energy	\$0
402 - Parkland Acquisition	\$4,860,754	456 - TIF Delta Energy	\$53	821 - Building Standards Surcharges	\$1,301
404 - Capital Improvement Constructi	\$4,536,147	457 - TIF Bridge Street	\$486,709	822 - Columbus Sewer Capacity	\$6,088
412 - TIF Woerner-Temple	\$223,826	458 - TIF Vrable	\$109,430	823 - New Community Authority	\$12,669
415 - TIF Ruscilli	\$721,084	459 - TIF West Innovation	\$6,173,704	831 - Law Enforcement Custodial Fund	\$404,280
416 - TIF Pizzuti	\$246,840	460 - TIF Ohio University	\$13,844	Total	\$204,858,343

Investment Summary as of December 31, 2023

Total market value: \$199,677,388



Grant Opportunities

In January, the City submitted three grant applications:

- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency: H2Ohio Rivers Initiative – Chloride Reduction Grant, \$75,000
- Ohio Department of Development: Ohio BUILDS Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program – Waterline Replacement – Phase VII, \$385,000
- Ohio Department of Development: Ohio BUILDS Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program – Sanitary Sewer Lining & Repair, \$750,000

Staff members learned at the beginning of January that four of the seven applications for the state FY2025-2026 Capital Budget and One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund were selected for the Columbus Partnership's prioritization list. Projects include:

- City of Dublin – Ballantrae Splash Pad Safety Renovations
- City of Dublin – Hyland Glen Historical Gateway
- The Beta District – Heritage Trail Extension Project
- The Beta District – V2X Deployment Program

Grants submitted in 2024: 3

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

Economic Development

Highlights

Business Retention & Expansion

- Business retention and expansion visits have begun for 2024 and the Economic Development team continues to communicate with our corporate residents about resources and assistance available through local, state and regional partners.
- Dublin-based Infoverity announced an expansion of its Dublin headquarters, including an investment of \$1.7 million for the development of new technology and workforce training, creating 65 more jobs with an average salary of \$107,000.



JobsOhio/One Columbus Leads

Two notable development sites in the West Innovation District are under consideration as [SiteOhio Certified Sites by JobsOhio](#). SiteOhio puts properties through a comprehensive analysis and guarantees that all utilities are to the property with adequate capacity, that due diligence studies have been completed, and that all state and federal entities have provided concurrence with the studies. This site preparation work is directly tied to our Economic Development Strategic Plan adopted in October 2023.

Company News

- [Cardinal Health reorganizes to highlight fastest-growing profitable business lines](#)
- [New owner, new direction for North High Brewing](#)
- [Crawford Hoying remains bullish on office and industrial projects despite economic challenges](#)



Strategic Initiatives

On Jan. 30, the City of Dublin hosted the kick-off event for the Metro Center Revitalization Visioning and Implementation project as part of the Envision Dublin Community Plan update. The event was held at Embassy Suites Dublin and was attended by over 130 interested stakeholders. It was recorded as a “Link Ahead” podcast.

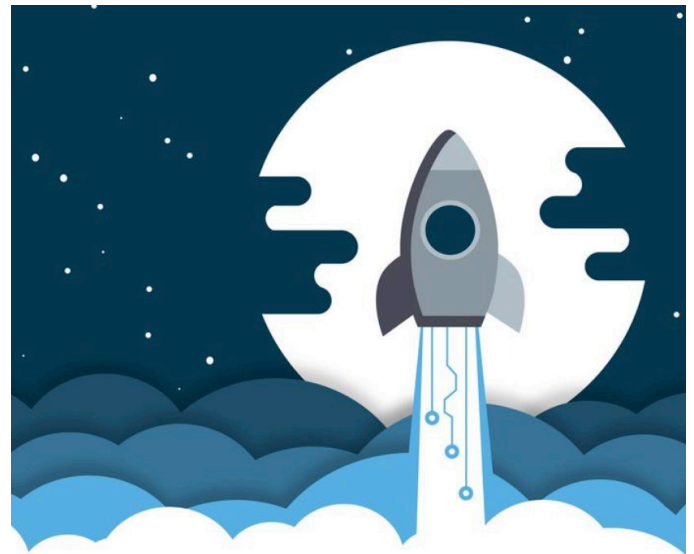
Economic Development



The Riverview Village mixed-use development



The Beta District Economic Development Project team continues to field business development inquiries and submit grant applications that align with its work. As previously noted in this report, the Beta District submitted grant applications for the Heritage Trail Extension Project and V2X Deployment Program.



Startup to Watch

Attraction & Marketing Projects

- [New plans submitted for mixed-use development at Dublin's Metro Center office park](#)
- [Proposed projects could reshape prominent areas of Dublin](#)



The City recently contracted the Montrose Group LLC to benchmark community improvement corporations (CICs) in Ohio and develop a strategic plan for the Dublin CIC. As part of their scope, City Council members participated in interviews with the consultant in late January to provide input on how they would like to see the CIC utilized and optimized. The CIC is planning to hold its first 2024 meeting Feb. 26.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Columbus *Business First* took a look back at the achievements of their “2023 Startups to Watch,” which included three Dublin-based businesses. It’s been exciting to watch the success of reAlpha, DASI Simulations and IncludeHealth. [Read more here.](#)

[Economic Development Performance Measures.](#)

Community Development

Boards & Commission Activity

Renewable Energy Equipment - Solar

City Council approved an amendment to the Zoning Code regarding solar equipment Dec. 11, 2023. The update's purpose is to increase the number of permits that could be approved to support sustainability and ensure high-quality aesthetic standards are maintained. The Community Planning & Development Department has been working collaboratively to review 25 permits that had been received between June and December. Nine were approved under the previous Code provisions. Eight permits submitted by applicants, prior to Code revisions, have been approved as a result of the adoption of the revised Code. Three permits submitted by applicants, prior to Code revisions, could also be approved with modifications and five will not meet the revised requirements and will be disapproved. Additionally, two permits have been submitted since the adoption of the revised Code in December, and they were both approved. Community Planning & Development will continue to monitor permit activity and report on progress monthly.

Regional Items of Interest

Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission (LUCRPC) reviewed four cases at the January meeting, one of which abuts the City of Dublin. This application was a rezoning in Jerome Township for 21 acres from planned development to another planned development to allow for automobile dealerships among other auto-oriented uses. The location is the southwest corner of Hyland-Croy and Weldon roads. Tammy Noble, senior planner, attends the LUCRPC as the City of Dublin's representative and provided comments in opposition to the application at the subcommittee and executive committee meetings. Planning and Transportation & Mobility Staff prepared a formal letter of opposition to be shared with Jerome Township Trustees.

Delaware County Regional Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval in November 2023 of a request for a rezoning for a Planned Residential District to permit 54 single-family units on 36 acres for an Epcon Community. The Concord Township Board of Zoning Commission is scheduled to review this application on Jan. 30, 2024. [Detailed information regarding this application can be found here.](#)

As part of the LinkUS initiative, Planning Director Jenny Rauch, along with Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes and Council Member Amy Kramb attended a discussion and presentation regarding equitable transit-oriented Development, what it means and how it can be integrated as part of the development of LinkUS. City Manager Megan O'Callaghan serves on the LinkUS Executive Council, which met Jan. 25.

[View more detailed information on regional items of interest.](#)

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

Boards & Commissions Activity

The Planning and Zoning Commission heard six cases in January, including a discussion regarding building materials. The Upper Metro Place Mixed-Use Building Concept Plan was approved for construction of a five-story mixed-use building consisting of 159 residential units, 7,680 square-feet of commercial space, 209 parking spaces, and associated site improvements. [Find a list of the January caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Administrative Review Team approved a minor project proposed by Z Cucina, involving exterior modifications, including a new canopy, at an existing tenant space in the Bridge Street District. [Find a list of the January caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Architectural Review Board heard three cases in January, two of which being informal reviews regarding two properties recently sold at auction on North Riverview Street. Find a list of the January caseload and upcoming cases, including the Riverview Village Concept Plan, [here](#). Additionally, the 2023 ARB Annual Report is complete, as required by Code, and is available on the newly-designed [Historic District web page](#).

The Board of Zoning Appeals adopted 2024 meeting dates at their January meeting. [Find a list of the January caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

Building Materials

Discussion regarding the use and analysis of building materials was initiated during the 2022 Joint Work Session between City Council and board and commission members. Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission expressed concerns with the longevity and installations of the building materials, particularly new materials and requested additional support to ensure the quality of materials proposed meet the desired community aesthetics. Commission members expressed an interest in acquiring additional building materials analysis to make an informed decision on the development projects within the City and access to a database of materials. Since that time, Staff hired an architectural consultant to provide professional architectural services and a supplemental review of materials. Most recently, Planning Staff shared a new database of materials approved within the City over the last 10 years. The intent is to provide a concise framework to help evaluate the quality and longevity of installed building materials and assess any proposed future installations of similar materials.

Compliance & Enforcement

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement officers processed 1,100+ cases in 2023, which is roughly equivalent to previous years. From April to June, approximately 200 grass and weed violations were processed. Using door hangers to communicate the specifics of a violation with a property owner has been successful in reducing the amount of time for the violation to be corrected. The GoDublin app has also been a valuable tool for residents to communicate directly with Code Enforcement regarding common complaints, particularly because it allows those submitting information to attach pictures of their concerns which provides greater clarity to the Code Enforcement officers. Code Enforcement continues to find that the opportunity to speak with homeowners is the most valuable way to fully understand issues and resolve complaints and violations.



Ongoing projects include:

- Code Enforcement officers continue to work with the planning technicians to verify that a certificate of zoning plan approval (CZPA) has been approved for individual sheds, patios, fences and driveway modifications. Information regarding when a CZPA or a permit is needed, and the review process can be found at <https://dublinohiousa.gov/applications-permits/administrative-permits/>. As residents prepare for springtime improvements, Staff will continue to proactively provide information to ensure any improvements follow the necessary approval steps.
- Short Term Rental (STR) registrations are open for 2024. Eight properties were registered in 2023 and must re-register each year, as this does NOT automatically renew for the next year. All homes that are intended to be rented on a short-term basis for transient/overnight occupancy must register on the City website for an annual permit. Corporate housing rentals with lease periods of 30 days or longer are exempt from the STR code. STRs in Dublin are limited to two, one-week rental periods within the calendar year.

Zoning & Code Compliance

Daily Zoning Inspections

- Thirty-eight daily zoning inspections were performed in December. These daily inspections ensure compliance with Zoning Code requirements for completed construction projects, including pool installations, decks, new homes and commercial additions.

Routine Landscape Inspections

- Twelve landscape inspections were performed in December. Landscape inspections identify missing, dead or dying plant material and other Code violations, and outline the steps to bring these properties into compliance.
- Fifteen follow-up inspections were performed in December. Follow-up inspections slow down during the winter months due to inhospitable planting conditions. Thirty-seven trees and 24 shrubs have been replaced on commercial sites as a result of these inspections. Among these is Emerald Town Center at 5601-5691 Woerner Temple Road, where 13 trees and 24 shrubs were replaced.

Building Standards

Certificate of Occupancy

51 Certificates of Occupancy were issued this month, including the following:

- Restoration Hardware Outlet – 6751 Dublin Center Drive
- Little Diggers – 6327 Sawmill Road
- Veterinary Emergency Group – 3800 Tuller Road



Restoration Hardware Outlet



Veterinary Emergency Group

Commercial and Residential Plan Review

Total plan review numbers were lower than average in December. Our highest review month in 2023 was May with 134 plan reviews. Overall plan review numbers are expected to hold steady as we continue into winter. We averaged 100 plan reviews per month in 2023.

Plan Review Turnaround Times

We are generally consistent at a commercial 10 +/- calendar day turnaround. In December the turnaround time was even faster at 9.45 days. Residential reviews were at a 3.17 calendar day turnaround for December. We are significantly better than our 14-calendar day target.

New Building Permits Issued (Requiring Plan Review)

The number of building permits issued (requiring plan review) dropped in December, ending the month at 27 permits. Over the past 12 months, the monthly average has regularly fluctuated at +/- 10%. In 2023, there were approximately 38 new building permits issued per month (that required plan review).

Total Square Footage of Building Permits

This number can vary considerably, depending on a large project (like the Bridge Park development) and the number of permits issued. February, September and October 2023 were very strong months with about 795,000 square feet permitted. December was a steady month at 69,753 square feet. The monthly average in 2023 was approximately 107,000 square feet per month. The total square footage number for permits issued in 2023 is approximately 1,284,000 square feet.

Inspections

December numbers were steady at 576, just 1% below 2023's monthly average. Our December numbers for this year are 7% lower than December 2022's corresponding numbers. In 2023 we completed 7,000 total building inspections.

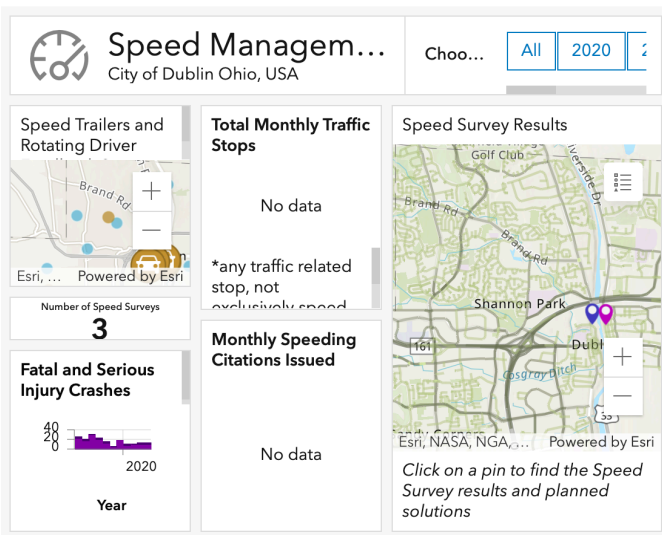
[View Building Standards Performance Measures.](#)

Transportation & Mobility


Highlights

West Dublin Rail Planning Study and Vision Plan

Federal Railroad Administration funding will enable MORPC, the Ohio Rail Development Commission, the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and other project partners to develop a plan that details what will be needed to enable the corridors to take shape. That includes information on state funding, operating costs and track improvements. MORPC is developing a request for proposals for these consultant services and hopes to have a consultant under contract by Q3 2024, with initial service development work to begin in Q4 2024. It is expected to take 12-18 months to complete.



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.](#)

Citywide Crash Data (vehicles and all vulnerable road users)

	Frequency	High Severity	Bike Ped
YTD	618	10	9
November	56	0	0

There were no bike/pedestrian or fatal/serious injury crashes reported in November 2023.

Electric Scooters

- Compared to 2022 ridership, there were a similar number of riders in 2023 but more trips taken for shorter distances. Staff members believe this is reflective of routine trips rather than recreational use.
- The “Winter Fleet” has been deployed in Bridge Park and Historic Dublin.
- The City of Columbus issued a request for qualifications from scooter operators. Six submissions were received but Columbus desires to select up to three operators in the spring. Staff members are monitoring this, as it could have implications for Bird’s operations in Dublin.

Dublin Connector

- 11,818 rides in 2023
- 209 unique riders in 2023
- 9,857 pounds of CO2 emissions saved total in 2023
- [View the Dashboard](#)

Average Annual Costs	\$203,201
Avg. Total Cost per Mile	\$7.06
Number of Riders	11,818
Number of Trips	8,284
Avg. Cost per Rider	\$17.19
Avg. Cost per Trip	\$24.53

[View the monthly mobility update.](#)

Public Service

Highlights

Horticulture & Forestry

- Staff members began assembling lists of plant orders for spring plantings, including trees, shrubs, perennials and seasonal annuals.
- Forestry crews removed and stump ground diseased/dying trees in preparation for spring replacements.
- Trees and brush were pruned for snowplow clearance in support of snow removal operations.
- Staff began scheduling contractual park mulching and tree work.
- The Coffman Park ice rink opened Jan. 16. Staff members began staffing the rink and the sled hill, as needed.

Sustainability

- In 2023, Dublin diverted 47% of solid waste from the landfill. The 2% increase over 2022 is credited to a full year of Styrofoam collection, increased messaging of pumpkin composting and the addition of Sustainable Saturday to capture textiles.
- Styrofoam collection boxes: 3.9 tons of Styrofoam was diverted from the landfill in 2023.
- GoZero composting: 51.51 tons of compost was collected in 2023 representing an 8% increase over 2022.
- Across the City's 21 electric vehicle charging stations, 43,659 gallons of gas were saved in 2023. This equates to approximately \$124,000 in cost savings shared between residents and the City.
- City staff members had an opportunity to visit the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill Jan. 10. The visit provided insights into ways Dublin can continue to partner with SWACO to extend the life of the landfill and SWACO's efforts to operate a sustainable landfill, including incorporating pollinator-friendly seeds into their grass seed mix.

Wildlife Management



Staff members are working to develop a dashboard of requests related to outdoor feeding of wild animals made through the GoDublin app.

The dashboard will enable Staff to view the address for a request and determine if there have been multiple requests associated with the same address. This will help to inform the appropriate response to the request.

Parks

- Crews are working through tasks identified by park inspections completed as part of the Asset Management program.
- Staff completed a warehouse inventory to inform 2024 purchases.
- Current pricing is being researched to update Cityworks material costs.
- Small equipment maintenance is being performed in preparation for spring and summer.
- Staff began working with Fleet on equipment orders.
- Crews are supporting snow operations by clearing shared use paths and parking lots.



Streets

- A new roadway information technology is being used to inform snow and ice control operations. Operations Administrator Gary Browning was featured in a Spectrum News and 10TV segment highlighting the innovative new system.
- The snow operations team responded to several minor snow accumulation events.
- ADA mat replacement is ongoing citywide for the replacement of damaged mats.
- Staff provided set-up and staffing for the Warm-up Columbus marathon event.



Asset Management & Quality Assurance

GoDublin

575 requests were submitted in December, down from 711 in November.

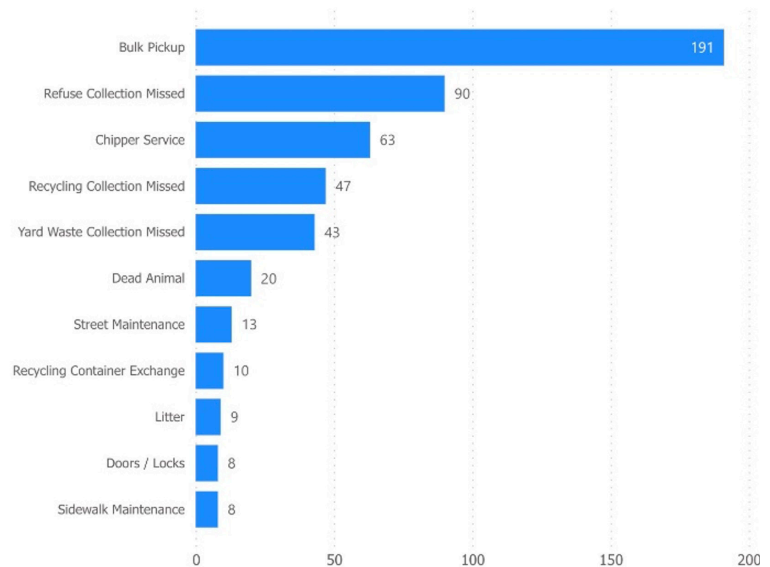
- Of those requests, 253 (44%) were initiated through the GoDublin app. The integration bug from last month has been resolved. By comparison, there were 529 requests in December 2022.

Top requests in December:

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

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

Top 10 Requests



Top 10 requests generally account for 80% of all requests per month.

Court Services - Highlights

- Received 243 traffic cases, seven operating a motor vehicle under the influence (OVI) cases and two criminal code enforcement cases.
- Received four juvenile traffic diversion cases and 17 adult traffic diversion cases.
- Collected \$39,820 in fines and court costs.
- Collected \$1,242 in restitution for victims of crime.
- Diversion participants completed 41.5 hours of community service work.

Parks & Recreation

Highlights


DCRC Memberships: 7,983

Adaptive Programming

Adaptive programming kicked off 2024 with Every Body Drum Fitness Class. This inclusive opportunity allows the class to combine drumming to music with cardio exercise that is accessible to all participants.



Senior Center

 The Monthly Tech Support Group has been re-introduced to the Dublin Community Senior Citizens (DCSC) group. On the first Wednesday of every month from 3 to 4 p.m., individuals can receive support with computers, phones, tablets, social media and more. This service is free to DCSC activity pass holders.



Abbey Theater

The Abbey Theater was named the recipient of eight 2023 BroadwayWorld Columbus awards:

- Best Choreography – Jamie Markovich – “Grease”
- Best Dance Production – “Grease”
- Best Direction of a Musical – Joe Bishara – “Grease”
- Best Ensemble – “Grease”
- Best New Play or Musical – “McQueen”
- Best Performer in a Musical – Angelina Powell – “Grease”
- Best Scenic Design – Iz Nichols – “Grease”
- Favorite Local Theatre

Next month, Original Productions and the Abbey Theater present “The Facebook Effect,” a world premier play by Dublin, Ohio, playwright Lauren Wilkens, running from Feb. 8 through Feb. 18.

Recruitment

Recruitment for the summer camp season is off to a strong start. Fifty-one camp Staff have confirmed that they will return this summer, which results in a 52% retention rate to date. Camp Staff have until Feb. 1 to share their intent to return. Recreation Services staff members anticipate a final retention rate of close to 65%. To date, 10 new camp Staff have been hired. Staff members will be attending several upcoming career fairs to continue recruitment efforts.

Police & Safety

Highlights

Critical Incidents & Major Crimes

- Patrol and Community Impact Unit (CIU) officers, as well as Delaware Tactical Unit members, arrested a suspect at Homewood Suites for felonious assault Dec. 9.
- School Resource Officers Eric Cochran and Scott Nicholson identified two suspects in a Dec. 18 shooting that took place in Hilliard as well as assisted the Hilliard Division of Police with the related arrests. [Watch Story](#)
- Detectives and CIU members investigated a Jan. 9 shooting at a residence on Avaleen Circle South; no injuries occurred. Police arrested and charged a suspect with felonious assault and recovered the firearm used in the incident.

Police Reports & Crime Trends

- Officers arrested a suspect and recovered two stolen vehicles on Perth Drive.
- Officers Phil Hetzel and Matthew Keehl investigated stolen vehicles from Donatos on Perimeter Drive and at Dublin Methodist Hospital, recovering the two vehicles and charging a suspect in both thefts.
- Officers identified and charged a suspect with public indecency near the Community South Pool.
- Officers Jeremy Reeb and Joseph Szabo arrested a suspect for property theft from Lowe’s in Dublin and from the Home Depot in Hilliard.

Safety Messaging

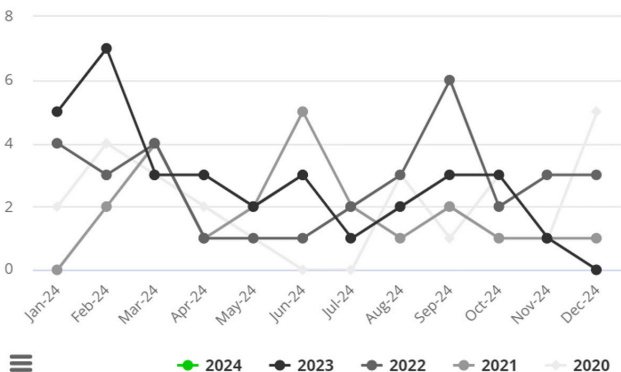
- Offered Lyft coupon codes as part of the New Year’s Safe Ride campaign.
- Shared Smart911 information.
- Shared human trafficking prevention information.
- Created Instagram reel to highlight motor vehicle theft prevention tips.
- Held a self-defense class at Dublin Justice Center Jan. 26.

Community Outreach & Engagement

- Officers participated in Operation Santa’s Sleigh, a caravan of first responder vehicles that drove past Nationwide Children’s Hospital to bring cheer to patients.
- Leadership shared the police department’s 2024 goals with the Chief’s Advisory Committee.
- Staff shared Dublin Police Department hiring information; applications close Feb. 14.
- The City thanked officers on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Statistics	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	2023 YTD
Part 1 Violent Crimes Reported	22	34	33
Theft Offenses	340	470	478
Thefts from Vehicles	163	248	210
Motor Vehicle Thefts	34	73	109
Burglaries/B&Es	42	37	50
Traffic Crashes	639	625	696
Serious Injury Crashes	13	15	15
OVI Related Crashes	31	19	21
OVI Arrests	102	94	184
Traffic Stops	5,816	4,697	7,475
Speeding Citations	1,489	442	1,541

Total Part 1 Violent Crimes Historically



Police Responses to Issues of Community Concern

Speed Management

- See graph for complete 2023 goal measures, including 7,475 traffic stops conducted and 1,541 speeding citations issued.
- Speed enforcement campaigns conducted
 - Dec. 7 on Muirfield Drive
 - Dec. 15 on Woerner Temple Road
 - Dec. 22 in Bridge Park and on I-270 that resulted in 40 traffic stops, two operating a motor vehicle under the influence (OVI) arrests and other charges
 - Jan. 11 on U.S. 33 that resulted in 20 traffic stops and 18 citations

Misc.

- Officer Scott Nicholson earned a life-saving award for his efforts to support a student in crisis.
- Officers Eric Boulware and Andrew Kinzel received the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award for exemplary OVI enforcement efforts to further the department’s strategic goal of improving traffic safety.

Human Resources

Highlights

Performance Evaluations

2023 Performance evaluations are underway. In January, employees and their managers sit down to discuss the previous year's goals, objectives, performance and accomplishments. Each employee completes a self-evaluation, which they review with their manager. Managers also provide direction and set goals for the coming year.

Culture Playbook Updates

A healthy and positive culture is the heartbeat of our team. We are excited that all employees will have the opportunity to engage in the "R" Factor training and enhance their knowledge of the Culture Playbook which defines who we are and what we value. The first group of employees to engage in this training will begin in February and monthly sessions will take place throughout 2024.

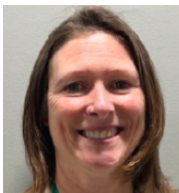
Annual Citywide Compliance Training

The 2024 City of Dublin Compliance Training for all full-time Staff began Jan. 8. The City is committed to ethical conduct and compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies. Training supports our City values and guiding principles and helps us meet our regulatory obligations. Assigned curriculum includes Cyber Security Curriculum; Technology Use Policy A.O. 9.2 Review; Fire Prevention Policy Review; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Curriculum; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion A.O. 2.76 Review; Drug-Free Workplace Training Curriculum; and Drug-Free Workplace A.O. 2.35 Review. Staff access training modules through Cornerstone, the City's learning management system.

Recent Hires



Melissa Jemai
Position: Auditor
Division: Taxation



Amber Tarantine
Position: Accounting Specialist
Division: Taxation

Recent Promotions



Ash Babbitt
Previous Position: Public Affairs Officer
Promoted Position: Deputy Director of Communications and Marketing



Kendel Blake
Previous Position: Management Analyst
Promoted Position: Assistant to the City Manager

Recruitment

- Civil Engineer II
- Economic Development Administrator
- Engineering Technician I – Engineering
- Human Resources Business Partner
- Operations Manager – NRECC
- Police Officer
- Senior Civil Engineer – Engineering



Roy Dotson
Previous Position: Facilities Systems Specialist
Promoted Position: Operations Administrator



Chris Will
Previous Position: Planner II
Promoted Position: Senior Planner

Outreach & Engagement

Highlights



MLK Civic Service Series

The 2024 MLK Civic Service Series began Jan. 15 with nearly 60 community members attending the volunteer day. Syntero led a community roundtable conversation on identifying and addressing the effects of social isolation among older adults and the need to continuously connect with them. Attendees then participated in a service project to make items for residents at long-term care facilities and delivering caring cards, crafts and other thoughtful items.

McDaniel Citizen U Recruitment

Citizen U 2024 applications opened Jan. 4. Within 10 days, the class for the interactive nine-week experience was filled with 26 residents. Interviews began in January and will continue into February. The weekly course begins March 27, 2024.

Young Professionals' Academy

Four new Young Professionals' Academy (YPA) students were oriented and trained. They began their service Jan. 30 with placements in Finance, Planning, IT and Communications & Marketing. YPA is a Dublin City Schools' program that offers semester-long internship/service-learning opportunities so students can gain knowledge and skills in various career paths.

Pathways to Success Night/Dublin City Schools

More than 600 people attended Dublin City Schools' first Pathways to Success event Jan. 10 at Emerald Campus. This provided students and parents an opportunity to meet organizations, companies, colleges and universities. Outreach & Engagement staff members shared service learning and volunteer opportunities for students to consider future career possibilities and ways to engage with their local government.

New Volunteer Onboarding

Twenty new City volunteers have been onboarded for regular, ongoing service in Recreation Services programs.

Bluebird Box Rebuilding Project

Ten volunteers were trained in January to repair and rebuild bluebird boxes with the City's parks system during the winter months.

Snow Angel Program Promotion

On Friday, January 19, Volunteer Coordinator Shannon Maurer appeared on WBNS-TV to promote the Snow Angel volunteer program. The program engages volunteers to help older adults in need and people with disabilities clear their driveways and walkways from snow after winter storms.

Nature Education and Wildlife Management

Ohio Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker sent a statewide 2023 accomplishment and 2024 initiative report. The City of Dublin was praised in the publication for its excellent management of wildlife and educational efforts. "Dublin has set a standard for wildlife management through education that has been recognized and modeled at the state level," according to the report. [The publication can be found here.](#)

Communications & Marketing

Highlights

January's Communication Strategy

- The City of Dublin's communication goals include increasing meaningful engagement with all Dublin audiences; supporting the City's Strategic Framework, including the Culture Playbook; and educating the public about new initiatives and ongoing services.
- January's strategic topics included New Year's celebrations; winter safety; Martin Luther King Jr. Day and MLK Civic Service Series events; Restaurant Week; and Metro Center Revitalization Community Conversation.
- [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 e-waste disposal at the Service Center.
- Promoted live Christmas tree recycling for the month.
- Informed residents of City Council's amendments to regulation requirements for renewable energy solar equipment.

Connected Dublin Communications

- Promoted the first Metro Center Revitalization Community Conversation.
- Promoted open applications for McDaniel Citizen University Class of 2024.
- Announced newly elected Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes and Vice Mayor Christina Alutto.
- Promoted newly installed weather stations utilized by SnowGo for more accurate monitoring.
- Continued Slow Down Dublin campaign.
- Continued sharing Dublin Connector rider stories.

February Lookahead

- Planned rollout of new text-alert notifications and AI-powered chatbot integrated with GoDublin.
- Ramping up St. Patrick's Day Parade communications such as traffic impacts.
- Planned observances of holidays such as Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day.
- Scheduling series of communications related to American Heart Month.



Resilient Dublin Communications

- Promoted the kickoff of the MLK Civic Service Series for 2024.
- Shared Dublin Link bridge-lighting updates for New Year's and MLK Jr. Day.
- Shared updates for the Riverside Crossing Park ice rink hours.
- Observed National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.
- Continued monthly mental health messages and encouraging residents to use Syntero2.

Internal Branding Initiative

- In support of the City of Dublin Culture Playbook, C&M hired a firm to develop and implement an environmental branding package that will help bring the Culture Playbook to life in our City facilities. A vision team of cross-functional stakeholders has been identified and includes representatives from each building who are diverse in tenure, roles, responsibilities, race and gender. The plan is expected to be developed by the end of Q2 with implementation to follow.



Link Ahead Podcast

- 17,519 listens (an increase of 655 listens since the December report)
- January topics included Public Service Director Jay Anderson explaining our snow clearing policies and Nature Education Coordinator Barbara Ray explaining our recently passed No Feed ordinance
- Upcoming guests include Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes and Tax Director Tammy Lehnert

Community Events

Highlights

Permitted Events

- Staff received permit applications for eight events, including the Memorial Tournament, the Dublin Market and the North Market Wine Festival.



General Updates

- Alison LeRoy, director of Community Events, attended the Network of Irish Cultural Centers of North America summit, hosted by Culture Ireland, at the New York Irish Consulate office. While there, she had meetings with Deputy Consul General Gareth Hargadon and Sharon Barry, the director of Culture Ireland.



Spooktacular and Tree Lighting

[Attached are the combined reports for Tree Lighting and Spooktacular.](#) The highlights for these events are included below:

- An estimated 7,200 people attended the Halloween Spooktacular, and an estimated 2,000 guests attended the Tree Lighting event.
- The Tree Lighting event returned to Coffman Park.

Legislative

Update

Political & Election Updates

2024 Filing Deadline

The deadline for partisan candidates for federal and state legislatures was Dec. 20.

2024 Ohio Primary Election

- The election will take place March 19.
- The deadline to register to vote is Feb. 20.
- Early/absentee voting begins on Feb. 21.

House Bill 344 – Block Local Governments from Using Replacement Levies

House Bill 344 which would block local governments from proposing “replacement” levies typically used to fund operations at townships, schools, libraries, mental health and addiction services boards, and others. According to the bill summary, HB 344 would do the following:

- Eliminate the authority of political subdivisions to levy replacement property tax levies, beginning with elections held on or after Oct. 1, 2024.
- Modify requirements governing when political subdivisions can file property tax complaints and counter-complaints.
- Expand a prohibition on political subdivisions appealing property tax complaint decisions to include appeals under an alternative statute.
- Impose a monetary penalty on subdivisions that fail to comply with property tax complaint filing requirements.

House Bill 68 - Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) and Save Women’s Sports Act

In mid-December, the Senate passed House Bill 68, 24-8. Governor DeWine vetoed the bill, noting that while he has similar concerns as the legislature regarding surgery on minors, he is “in favor of parents making these very difficult decisions, not the government.” He said the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services will be filing rules in lieu of the bill and signed an executive order banning gender transition surgery for minors.

Jan. 10, the House voted to override the governor’s veto in a vote of 65-28. The Senate completed the override of the governor’s veto in a 23-9 vote Jan. 24. The bill is set to become law in April. The American Civil Liberties Union has said it would file a lawsuit challenging the ban on gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors.

Issues 2 Updates – Recreational Marijuana

Discussions have been paused as the House works on the Capital Budget and One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund and the General Assembly prepares for primary elections.

Redistricting Ballot Initiative for 2024

- Referred to as the “Citizens not Politicians Amendment,” the proposal would: Create a Citizens Redistricting Commission, comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans and five Independents.
- Bar current and former politicians, candidates and lobbyists from serving on the new panel.
- Establish a screening panel consisting of two retired Democratic judges and two retired Republican judges to review applicants.
- The screening panel would hire a professional search firm to seek applications for the redistricting commission, create a pool of 90 qualified applicants, select 45 finalists – 15 Democrats, 15 Republicans and 15 independents, and randomly select six.

[View Tracked Legislation.](#)

Calendar

February 2024

<< < Today > >>

Search for events

Find Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 The Drums of War	29 Dublin City Council – Special Meeting 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 The Facebook Effect	9 The Facebook Effect	10 The Facebook Effect
11 The Facebook Effect	12 Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh Engagement Meeting	13 Community Services Advisory Commission	14	15 Chief’s Advisory Committee Planning & Zoning Commission The Facebook Effect	16 The Facebook Effect	17
18 The Facebook Effect	19	20	21 Architectural Review Board	22 Board of Zoning Appeals	23	24
25	26 Dublin City Council	27 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee	28	29	1	2
3	4 Dublin City Council – Work Session	5	6	7 Planning & Zoning Commission	8	9 St Patrick’s Day Parade Imagine a Dragon

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

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