

# Office of the City Manager Activities, Projects & Interactions

March 2024



# March 2024

## Letter from the City Manager

I am pleased to present the latest City Manager Report, providing an overview of the recent developments and initiatives in our wonderful city. As we reflect on a very busy and lively March, I'm mindful of what an honor and a privilege it is to serve this vibrant community.

Once again, Dublin's Greenest, Grandest St. Patrick's Day Parade was a success, drawing participants and spectators from near and far. The parade showcased our rich cultural heritage and our community spirit. I extend my appreciation to all who contributed to the success of this cherished tradition, from organizers and supporters to volunteers and participants.

That event was followed by our annual State of the City address, which featured a community reception, several informative engagement stations and a program that featured a mix of videos and speakers who spoke to our 2023 accomplishments and 2024 initiatives. The theme was "Our Exceptional Community," and Dublin residents presented various topics. I received overwhelmingly positive feedback from residents and stakeholders who enjoyed many aspects of the event, including the variety of speakers, conversational presentations, upbeat and celebratory atmosphere and the Independence Day headliner announcement.

March also marked the launch of the Everything Dublin store, a one-stop online destination for merchandise related to our beloved city. This partnership between the City and Visit Dublin Ohio provides a way for residents, visitors and employees to show their Dublin pride. Whether you're a longtime resident or a visitor, I encourage you to explore EverythingDublin.com for unique shirts, stickers and other swag.

In recognition of our commitment to solar energy and sustainability, Dublin has been honored with the SolSmart Bronze Award. This prestigious accolade underscores our dedication to environmental stewardship and renewable energy initiatives, including City's Council's December 2023 code amendment that relaxed and clarified restrictions on renewable energy equipment. This policy change paves the way for a greener, more sustainable future in Dublin.



We continue to prioritize strategic planning, with the Envision Dublin Community Plan update and Dublin Sustainability Plan both nearing completion. The Metro Center Revitalization project is underway, with the team finalizing three concepts that will be presented to City Council and the public in April. Additionally, demolition of a former hotel on Tuller Road is underway in preparation for the future Emerald Connector vehicular bridge over I-270.

On March 27, I joined council members at the Ohio University Medical Education Building for a reception welcoming the University's new president, Lori Gonzalez. Dr. Gonzalez became Ohio University's 23rd President in July 2023 and expressed her commitment to the Dublin Campus and her appreciation for the community.

I am proud to report that our city remains safe, welcoming and inclusive, reflecting the values that define us. As we move forward, I am committed to embracing innovation, diversity and collaboration, ensuring that Dublin continues to set the standard for community excellence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan O'Callaghan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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:** At the Feb. 26 Council meeting, staff and an altafiber representative presented a project status update that included a construction phase plan map that may be viewed here <https://dublinohio.usa.gov/most-connected/>. altafiber has submitted the first phase one right-of-way permits and Engineering is working through the approval process. Construction will begin in April 2024. In addition to continued collaboration on the resident communication plan, altafiber will be mailing general information postcards and distributing door hangers as construction begins. The website has had 3,280 + project page views (with 650 occurring after the Feb. 26 Council meeting), 1,450+ residents have signed up for updates and a total of 552 residents have notified altafiber of having a dog fence and/or sprinkler system. This information will help altafiber coordinate how they enter a resident's yard when laying fiber in order to make the least amount of impact on the resident. altafiber and Dublink Development Company LLC have executed a lease agreement that will allow altafiber to utilize the Dublink multi-conduit system.

## 2 Realize the Metro Center Revitalization Vision

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

**Status:** The City's consultant team, Sasaki and EMH&T are developing implementation scenarios for Council's consideration based on the feedback gained from the work session with City Council Jan. 29 and the input provided at the public meeting Jan. 30. Staff will provide an update to City Council April 22, followed by a detailed review of scenarios at the May 13 work session.

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

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

**Status:** Staff has begun working on phase two amendments to the Code and Guidelines to provide additional stafflevel approval criteria within the Code and clarify how the Code and Guidelines will be applied to background buildings. The amendments will be presented to the Architectural Review Board at a special meeting April 17. The Dublin Community Improvement Corporation approved its second round of applications for the newly reinstated Commercial Façade Improvement Program. A new Economic Development Administrator was recently hired and will focus efforts on our downtown and serve as the primary City resource and liaison.

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

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

**Status:** Staff members have evaluated the City's current event tempo, operating and funding model; researched, visited and analyzed event operating, funding and management models in other cities; and brought forward new events and policies regarding next-generation community events for Council's consideration. A selection committee will meet to evaluate five responses received in response to the Holiday Market Feasibility Study RFP in the coming weeks. With regard to the RFP for potential firms to partner to develop an events program and management roadmap, staff members revised and reissued the RFP with responses due March 22. A committee of stakeholders comprised of key City staff, Visit Dublin Ohio and the Downtown Strategic Alliance, and a Council Member will meet in the coming weeks to evaluate the four responses received.

# Key Project Updates

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>Bright Road Corridor Improvements and the Emerald Parkway/Mount Carmel Roundabout</b></p>	<p>As part of the economic development agreement with Mount Carmel Health System, improvements are planned to ease congestion at two locations in east Dublin, the Bright Road Corridor and the main entrance to the Mount Carmel site along Emerald Parkway. Improvements are being coordinated with the new Mount Carmel Health System hospital in the southwest quadrant of the Sawmill and Bright roads intersection.</p>	<p>The consultant is routing the plans for the City of Columbus' signatures. Utility coordination is ongoing. Right-of-way acquisition and negotiations are underway after acquisition authorization and appropriations were approved at the Nov. 27, 2023, City Council meeting. This project is being coordinated with the design of the roundabout at the Emerald Parkway and Mount Carmel Health Systems main access. PROWAG pedestrian crossing enhancements have been added to the plans. The bid opening took place March 12. Four bids were received. Bid acceptance took place at the March 25 City Council meeting. Completion of the roundabout is planned for fall 2024. The Bright Road Corridor completion will follow in fall 2025.</p>
<p><b>COhatch Headquarters</b></p>	<p>At the Sept. 11, 2023, City Council meeting, Council approved a real estate transfer and development agreement for the development of COhatch's corporate headquarters. The headquarters development will be a first-of-its-kind coworking and entrepreneurship district in Historic Dublin.</p>	<p>On March 27, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) reviewed and recommended to City Council approval with conditions of the concept plan previously submitted by COhatch. The plan includes renovation and conversion of the three houses on the west side of North Riverview Street into private office suites and the red house on the east side into a restaurant. It also includes the construction of a new 15,000 square foot COhatch building south of the restaurant, along with public spaces throughout the site. The concept plan is expected to be presented to City Council for approval at the April 22 meeting. ARB also approved the demolition of three background outbuildings along North Blacksmith Lane. Regular meetings between COhatch and City Staff and consultants are ongoing to ensure coordination with the planning for the surrounding street improvements and Riverside Crossing Park.</p>
<p><b>Community Gateway Signs</b></p>	<p>City Council approved an initial design concept in March 2022 for new community gateway signs at key entrances to the City, following a recommendation from the Community Development Committee. To properly recognize the many accolades and achievements the City of Dublin has earned, City Council requested these be incorporated as an additional sign or modified original design. Staff members are creating a revised community gateway sign design to accommodate the various site conditions and incorporate such accolades.</p>	<p>City Council referred this topic to the Community Development Committee (CDC) at the Nov. 13 meeting. Staff members are currently reviewing concepts provided by the consultant and will bring options to the CDC at the April meeting.</p>

# Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>Community Health Needs Assessment</b></p>	<p>The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a systematic process involving the community to identify, analyze and prioritize community health needs as well as plan to act upon unmet community health needs. Guiding this effort is the Advisory Committee, which includes the City, Washington Township, each of the four major health systems, mental health care providers, Dublin City Schools and a variety of social service organizations that serve Dublin residents.</p>	<p>The CHNA Advisory Committee met Feb. 9 to review the draft report, and identified four priority health needs. City staff members are working to identify members for the working groups that will address these priority health needs. The working groups will meet several times over the next few months to develop strategies, action steps and timelines to address the priority areas. The report is anticipated to be reviewed by City Council in Q3 2024.</p>
<p><b>Envision Dublin Community Plan Update</b></p> <p>The Envision Dublin Community Plan will be a roadmap for the City to direct future growth and development over the next 20 years.</p>	<p>The Envision Dublin process is currently focused on land-use modeling, in conjunction with transportation and mobility and utility service modeling, which has been informed by the work of the Steering Committee. The committee has also focused its efforts on the development and initial recommendations of the Special Area Plans. The modeling efforts and Special Area Plan development will result in a preferred land-use scenario and detailed recommendations for the area plans that will be incorporated into the final Community Plan, which is targeted for completion in June 2024.</p>	<p>The consultant provided an update at the Feb. 26 City Council meeting, giving the public another opportunity to engage with the project. The Steering Committee continues to help guide the Community Plan's updates with the most recent meeting held Feb. 27, which focused on land-use scenarios and an introduction to the mobility plan. The Steering Committee held a meeting on March 26 to review the Preferred Land Use Plan, draft Special Area Plans an analysis and a recommendation related to Transportation &amp; Mobility, Utilities and Fiscal Analysis. The plan can be determined as substantially complete following the Steering Committee's review process. A final public engagement session is scheduled for April 2 to review these same topics, prior to the Steering Committee reviewing the final Envision Dublin Plan document and the start of the formal public adoption process.</p>
<p><b>EV Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan</b></p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive plan researching and recommending the types and appropriate placement of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for both electric vehicles and e-bikes.</p>	<p>Staff members are developing a comprehensive plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure based on EV adoption rates, industry best practices and data from the City. Staff members anticipate receiving the 90% submission of the report in April and bringing it forward to City Council for review in Q3 2024.</p>
<p><b>Dublin Community Recreation Center Refresh</b></p>	<p>In 2022, Council directed \$3.1 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds for improvements to the Dublin Community Recreation Center (DCRC). Subsequently, staff members began working to identify an architect to update the improvement scenarios identified pre-pandemic, a task which was complicated by the high growth of inflation, especially in the construction industry. In July 2022, the City contracted with MSA Design to update the necessary improvements and associated costs for the DCRC. This project also incorporates the Mobility Hub to reduce costs associated with individual construction projects.</p>	<p>The DCRC Refresh continues to progress through phase three. Staff members and MSA Design have distilled and analyzed all the feedback received to produce renderings for review. These renderings were presented for public feedback at the March 12 meeting of the Community Services Advisory Commission, the third public engagement meeting March 13 and were on display in the exhibition area at the State of the City address. The consultant is working to develop cost estimates, schedules and phasing plans. Staff members plan to bring the project to City Council in May.</p>

# Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>City of Columbus Fourth Water Plant</b></p>	<p>The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities is building a fourth water plant and transmission mains to prepare for the growing need for clean, safe drinking water in Central Ohio.</p>	<p>Dublin and Columbus city staff members are meeting in April to review and discuss the preliminary alignments for the water transmission mains proposed to come through Dublin from the fourth Columbus water treatment plant in Rathbone (intersection of Dublin and Home Roads). Columbus will provide Dublin a presentation on the alignment study process, including alignment evaluation guidelines, comparison analysis, risk analysis and cost estimates leading to the preferred alignment. Columbus evaluated several routes and narrowed it down to three recommended routes. One option primarily uses Muirfield Drive. Another is along Avery Road, and a third would follow Hyland-Croy Road.</p> <p>The final design of the first transmission main is expected to start spring 2024. Construction of that main is anticipated to commence in 2026 and be completed in 2028. The final design of the second transmission main is expected to begin in summer 2024 with construction beginning in 2027 and ending in 2029.</p>
<p><b>Dublin Sustainability Plan</b></p>	<p>In connection with the Envision Dublin Community Plan, the Dublin Sustainability Plan will be a guiding document to advance the City’s sustainability efforts. Asakura Robinson, an award-winning planning and urban design firm, is providing consultant services for this project. EcoDublin, the City’s internal Sustainability Committee, meets biweekly with the consultant.</p>	<p>The updated draft of the Dublin Sustainability Plan is being finalized by City leadership to ensure that the goals and recommendations are forward-thinking, innovative and attainable. To allow time for the consultant to amend the Plan based on feedback from senior leadership, the Plan is now scheduled to be reviewed by City Council at the May 20 meeting.</p>
<p><b>Holiday Market Feasibility Study</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The RFP for consultant services to conduct a feasibility study for a potential holiday market in Dublin was issued Feb. 20. Multiple consultants requested additional time to provide a response. The deadline for firms to submit a response was amended to March 22. A selection committee will meet to review the five responses received in the coming weeks.</p>
<p><b>Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study</b></p>	<p>The City engaged Webb Mgmt to conduct a feasibility study to complete a proposed business plan, potential site locations and pro forma for a potential performing arts center</p>	<p>Webb Mgmt conducted phase one and two 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 at the Nov. 13, 2023 meeting and determined that additional discussion would take place as part of future work sessions and the retreat. City Council will be discussing the topic of a potential performing arts center, including the economics and timing, at the 2024 Council Retreat.</p>

# Key Project Updates (Continued)

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<p><b>Post Road Interchange</b></p>	<p>This project provides for U.S. 33/S.R. 161/Post Road interchange ramps and terminal intersections previously approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The project will provide the needed interchange capacity improvements.</p>	<p>Construction is underway and managed by ODOT. Reconstruction of both U.S. 33 bridges over Post Road/S.R. 161 and reconstruction/widening of Post Road/S.R. 161 is expected to be complete by June 2025. The westbound ramp of Post Road/S.R. 161 to U.S. 33 eastbound is closed through spring 2024. Traffic will need to use the Eiterman Road roundabout to access the U.S. 33 eastbound ramp. The new alignment of the U.S. 33 eastbound ramp to Post Rd./S.R. 161 eastbound has opened. Traffic will be routed to 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. The Post Preserve Boulevard intersection has been permanently converted to right-in, right-out.</p>
<p><b>Riverside Crossing Park Master Plan</b></p>	<p>Master planning of Riverside Crossing Park is set to include consideration of many elements, including river access; a kayak launch site; connectivity to Dublin Springs and Indian Run Falls parks; adventure elements; walking trails; a Japanese style garden; updates to the great lawn for festivals; revisiting the promenade in conjunction with festivals being held on the great lawn; and other supporting elements.</p>	<p>The consultants and staff members met at the west bank of the river to discuss potential concepts based on the layout and ideas from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There will be multiple public engagement sessions and stakeholder meetings throughout 2024. The City is working to schedule public engagement on this project. Some engagement will coincide with the COhatch Headquarters project, while additional public input will be held regarding the park at large. Staff members are targeting completion in Q1 2025.</p>
<p><b>Curbside Management</b></p>	<p>This project creates a curbside management plan to define an overall plan for the valuable and flexible public space in areas such as Bridge Park and Historic Dublin. To better manage the important asset, a clear, consistent, and implementable framework for prioritizing goods and people movement is needed. A thoughtful framework will improve urban goods delivery while reducing conflicts between trucks, motor vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and micro-transit. The goal is to reduce friction between competing uses by analyzing existing conditions; exploring best practices; developing a series of policies and implementable recommendations; and designing pilot demonstration(s) to address the most pressing urban curbside management challenges.</p>	<p>Staff members are evaluating the loading zones on Longshore Street in Bridge Park to improve curbside operations and reduce double parking conflicts. Staff members are using data from Automotus, a technology parking company included as a partner in the pilot project phase of the Curbside Management Plan, to analyze parking behaviors and durations to determine appropriate wording for the signs and enforcement. Staff members will be working with Fybr in the next few months to place sensors detecting occupancy, duration and double-park violations. This information will be shared with the Police Department. An update on the Plan is anticipated to go before the Public Services Committee in May, with project completion scheduled for Q3 2024.</p>
<p><b>The Emerald Connector (Tuller Road/ Emerald Parkway Over 270 Crossing)</b></p>	<p>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> <p><a href="#">View a complete list of projects.</a></p>	<p>Staff members are reviewing the 90% submission. Detailed design and consultant selection was completed as part of the Winter Consultant Services Bulletin. The preferred consultant provided a fee proposal Feb. 13, 2024. The bid acceptance for the demolition of the existing structure at 4130 Tuller Road was approved at the Feb. 5, 2024, City Council meeting. Ahead of the demolition, the Dublin Police Department conducted new hire practical training scenarios, and the Delaware Tactical Unit also trained there. The demolition permit was approved by the Administrative Review Team on Feb. 28, with demolition underway.</p>



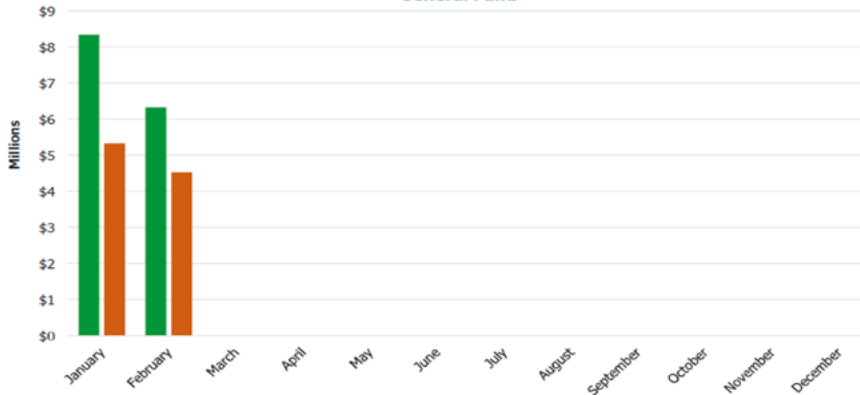
# Finance

## Highlights

### General Fund Information

Total GF Revenue: \$14,680,888  
 Total GF Expenditures: \$9,872,819

2024 Revenue vs. Expenditures  
 General Fund



### Highlights

General Fund Cash Balance: \$71,878,833

- 73.3% of actual expenditures
- \$22,818,173 in excess of 50% reserve level

Income Tax revenue was 12.3% above 2024 YTD levels, or \$1,954,333

- Receipts are 14% or \$2,194,721 ahead of budget
- Comparing YTD February 2023 versus February 2024:
  - Withholding increased 7.6%
  - Net profit revenue increased 62.69%
  - Individual revenue increased 13.40%

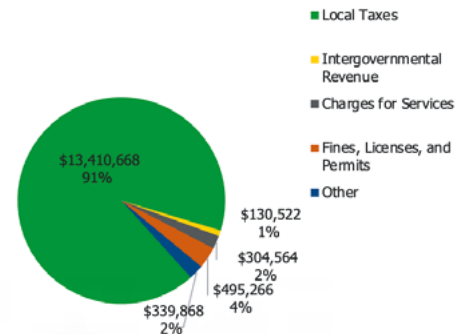
### Income Tax Collections

As of February 29, 2024, YTD income tax receipts totaled \$17,880,891, an increase of 12.3% over the same time in 2024. The 2024 budgeted income tax revenue is \$106,000,000.

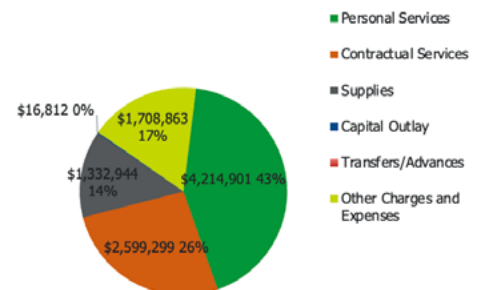


	2021	2022	2023	2024
Withholding	\$ 13,851,398	\$ 14,110,353	\$ 13,652,290	\$ 14,689,516
Net Profit	\$ 611,517	\$ 771,092	\$ 1,242,181	\$ 2,020,948
Individual	\$ 844,339	\$ 888,555	\$ 1,032,088	\$ 1,170,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,307,253</b>	<b>\$ 15,770,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,926,558</b>	<b>\$ 17,880,891</b>

### General Fund Revenue (by type) \$14,680,888



### General Fund Expenses (by type) \$9,872,819



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

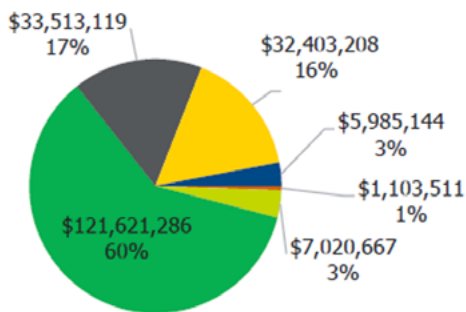
# Finance Update

## Fund Balance as of February 29, 2024

Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance	Fund	Month End Cash Balance
101 - General Fund	\$71,878,333	419 - TIF Thomas/Kohler	\$3,390,530	462 - TIF Nestle	\$252,860
201 - Street Maintenance and Repair	\$1,878,660	421 - TIF McKittrick Project	\$973,378	463 - TIF Bridge Park Blocks B & C	\$991,913
202 - State Highway	\$533,732	425 - TIF Perimeter Center	\$1,789,926	464 - TIF Innovation	\$392,557
225 - Recreation	\$2,062,254	426 - TIF Rings Road	\$852,482	465 - TIF Riviera	\$735,059
226 - Pool	\$234,976	431 - TIF Perimeter West	\$979,795	466 - TIF Penzone	\$266,351
231 - Permissive Tax	\$119,190	432 - TIF Upper Metro Place	\$1,218,850	467 - TIF H2 Hotel	\$414,858
232 - Hotel/Motel Tax	\$2,353,834	433 - TIF Rings/Frantz	\$1,479,048	468 - TIF Bridge Park Block Z	\$426
241 - Safety	(\$249,608)	436 - TIF Historic Dublin Parking	\$41,598	469 - TIF Block A	\$1,135
242 - Law Enforcement	\$70,351	440 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 5	\$22,107	474 - TIF Bridge Park Incentive Dist	\$32,680
243 - Mandatory Drug Fine	\$2,933	441 - TIF Emerald Parkway Phase 8	\$5,189	475 - TIF The Corners	\$279,763
244 - Wireless 9-1-1 System	\$731,916	442 - TIF Perimeter Loop	\$47,558	591 - Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$1,786,730
251 - Enforcement and Education	\$78,229	443 - TIF Tartan West	\$993,774	610 - Water	\$12,853,200
252 - Mayors Court Computer	\$34,415	444 - TIF Shamrock Blvd.	\$114,391	612 - Water Construction	\$864,374
261 - Cemetery	\$107,661	446 - TIF River Ridge	\$759,437	620 - Sewer	\$7,615,074
262 - Accrued Leave Reserves	\$830,908	447 - TIF Lifetime Fitness	\$563,645	623 - Sewer Construction	\$2,665,960
263 - Rings Unitrust	\$1,000,000	449 - TIF Irelan Place	\$19,458	701 - Self Insurance - Employee Bens	\$5,609,115
267 - OPIOID RELIEF FUND	\$46,425	450 - TIF Shier Rings Road	\$55,382	703 - Self Insurance - Workers Comp	\$437,717
299 - Occupancy Deposits	\$204,000	451 - TIF Shamrock Crossing	\$230,462	803 - Unclaimed Monies	\$145,721
310 - General Debt Service	\$1,941,041	452 - TIF Bridge and High Street	\$283,751	804 - Visit Dublin Ohio	\$51,554
311 - Econ Development Bond Retirmt	\$777,234	453 - TIF Dublin Methodist Hospital	\$1,255,538	805 - Agency	\$13,236
320 - S.A. Debt Service	\$17,659	454 - TIF Kroger Centre	\$1,349,787	807 - C.O.I.R.S.	\$425,908
322 - 2001 S.A. Debt Service	\$134,913	455 - TIF Frantz/Dublin Road	\$113,166	821 - Building Standards Surcharges	\$2,135
401 - Capital Improvements Tax	\$48,925,816	456 - TIF Delta Energy	\$53	822 - Columbus Sewer Capacity	\$3,044
402 - Parkland Acquisition	\$5,229,551	457 - TIF Bridge Street	\$486,709	823 - New Community Authority	\$10,135
404 - Capital Improvement Constructi	\$3,495,625	458 - TIF Vrable	\$109,430	831 - Law Enforcement Custodial Fund	\$411,830
412 - TIF Woerner-Temple	\$223,826	459 - TIF West Innovation	\$6,116,876	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$206,261,109</b>
415 - TIF Ruscilli	\$723,821	460 - TIF Ohio University	\$13,844		
416 - TIF Pizzuti	\$246,840	461 - TIF Tuller	\$3,097,071		

## Investment Summary as of February 29, 2024

Total market value: \$201,646,934



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

## Grant Opportunities

In March, the City submitted the Emerald Connector to Senator Sherrod Brown’s office for the Congressional Discretionary Fund in the amount of \$7,000,000. Staff is awaiting Congressman Mike Carey’s application to formally submit the Emerald Connector to his office as well.

## Grants awarded in March:

- Recycle Ohio Grant (Ohio EPA) - To pilot improvements to recycling operations at the Service Center | \$32,843

## Grants submitted in 2024: 3

## Grants awarded in 2024: 1 for a total of \$32,843

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

# Economic Development

## Highlights



### Business Retention & Expansion

An economic development agreement was approved with Sarnova for the purchase of a building for their corporate headquarters. Sarnova is a specialty medical sales, service and distribution company. The project expects to retain 192 existing employee positions within the City. In addition, the company expects to create 15 new employee positions, for a total of 207 employees within the City by Dec. 31, 2028.

### JobsOhio/One Columbus Leads

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

### Rev1 Ventures Partnership

Rev1 Ventures staff presented at the March 25, 2024 City Council meeting to provide an update on outcomes of the 2023 high-tech entrepreneurial services contract. Staff is exercising the first one-year term renewal option in the contract with Rev1 Ventures, for 2024. This investment is supported by the 2023 Economic Development Strategic Plan that calls for fostering sustainable partnerships that catalyze value-added collaborations. Find Rev1's [2023 Community Report for Dublin here.](#)



Ready Alliance Group



Douglas Capital Partners

### Company News

- [Ready Alliance Group is set to open a distribution center at the new VanTrust facility in Dublin](#)
- [Three of the largest Central Ohio family-owned businesses are located in Dublin: Stanley Steemer, Meeder Investment Management and Dublin Building Systems](#)
- [Douglas Capital Partners acquired \\$25 million in Central Ohio real estate as part of its portfolio](#)

# Economic Development



2024 State of the City

## Events

- MODE Annual Meeting – March 1
- NAIOP Property Tax Abatements: How to Use Them Effectively and Avoid Common Pitfalls – March 13
- Dublin State of the City – March 14
- Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education Conference – Jenna Goehring spoke on a panel – March 15
- MORPC State of the Region – March 15
- MODE Program – Jenna Goehring facilitated a business retention and expansion program for regional economic development practitioners – March 22



Doug McCollough participated in the USA - TAIWAN City Leader Conversation as a panelist at the ICF Smart21 Conference.

## Innovation

Economic Development continues to update its website with more useful tools for businesses, developers and site selectors. The Economic Development Division utilizes site capacity studies to study undeveloped sites throughout the City. These studies create a site layout plan to showcase development opportunities to spark interest for development. In addition to the new mapping tool on the Economic Development website, Economic Development, Planning and GIS are working together to use 3D imaging to display the site capacity studies on available sites throughout the City.



In March, the Dublin CIC executed an agreement with Avant Communications for Dublink Transport Referrals. Both Dublink Transport data center partners are active partners with Avant and utilize their services as a referral partner. Board Member Jeremiah Gracia, Treasurer Matt Stiffler and Secretary Kendel Blake participated in benchmarking interviews with Staff from local CIC's in the region as part of Montrose Group's strategic planning effort. The results of the benchmarking efforts along with a review of the CIC's bylaws will be presented at the next CIC meeting April 22.

# Community Development

## Boards & Commission Activity

### Renewable Energy Equipment - Solar

The City of Dublin was awarded the SolSmart Bronze designation for its commitment to make it faster, easier and more affordable to go solar. This designation is in recognition of all the hard work and leadership the City has shown to reduce soft costs and encourage solar energy growth at the local level.

Since the Dec. 11, 2023 code amendments, a total of 16 permit applications have been submitted with 14 approved and two not approved. The two that have not been approved do not meet the color requirement or the configuration requirement. The applicants have been provided feedback regarding whether modifications can be made to meet the requirements, but it is challenging to address color requirement without major alterations. Overall, from staff's perspective, the amendment has helped address the concerns raised earlier this year with an approval rate of 88% for these permits submitted since the amendment.

### Regional Items of Interest

Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission met March 14 and heard five cases. The cases included three plats and two text modifications. The text modifications were for Mad River Township and Salem Township, which are not in close proximity to the City of Dublin. Two of the plats were for the Mitchell Highlands subdivision (Sections 3 and 5), which are in Jerome Township off Industrial Parkway and Dewitt Road. The two plats approved the creation of 51 lots in total.

Delaware County Regional Planning Commission reviewed the Avasar LLC rezoning request from Farm Residential (FR-1) to Planned Commercial Development (PCD) to allow for an agritourism business just north of Dublin Road and SR 42. The request was recommended for conditional approval. Concord Township requested a meeting between all member-elected officials and the Commission to ensure that member goals are being adequately represented in Staff reports and the Commission's votes. The executive committee will arrange this meeting to occur in the next 60 days.

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

### Boards & Commissions Activity

The Planning and Zoning Commission heard two cases in March. The Bailey's Master Sign Plan was approved following updates to the sign package in January. Lightbridge Academy's request was considered informally by the Commission for a new daycare facility in the northwestern lot of The Corners development. The Commission was supportive of the use, stating the use fits the intent of the development. The next step for the application is a Final Development Plan with Text Modifications to permit daycare use of the site. [Find a list of the March caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Architectural Review Board heard five cases including the Concept Plan and Demolition requests for Riverview Village. Staff and the Board noted that COhatch is largely preserving the historic houses and keeping the original character of North Riverview Street intact. Demolition requests were for outbuildings along North Blacksmith Lane that are within the existing right-of-way. Staff provided an ArcGIS 3D model of the project along with residential requests to the south. [Find a list of the March caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Board of Zoning Appeals heard three Variance requests. Two requests were for fences not meeting location and design requirements. The third request was for a new single-family home being built along Riverside Drive that did not meet building siting and residential appearance standards. [Find a list of the March caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

The Administrative Review Team heard one case in March. J. Hilburn Stylist Studio was approved for exterior modifications within the Bridge Park development. [Find a list of the March caseload and upcoming cases here.](#)

### Historic District Office Hours

Since December, Staff has held monthly office hours in the district pursuant to Council Goal 3. In December, we had strong attendance of residents and business owners who were mostly interested in talking about the proposed park master plan for the west side of the river. Since the first meeting, resident participation has declined and staff is reevaluating the need for these office hours. Staff began the meetings in December to determine if such a resource would be utilized by those in the Historic District, as Architectural Review Board has observed an uptick in cases being heard.

# Compliance & Enforcement

## Code Enforcement

Vehicle storage complaints (RVs/boats/trailers in driveways) are reported year-round but are more commonly reported in spring and fall as the owners transition from storage arrangements. Recreational vehicles and boats can be on site for a limited period before and after use for maintenance and loading/unloading, with prior notification to Code Enforcement. Visitors can park an RV in a driveway for 72 hours but cannot sleep in the vehicle. Other common vehicle complaints involve location. All vehicles must be parked on a hard surface. The one area that Code Enforcement cannot address is vehicles parked on the street, which are referred to the Dublin Police Department non-emergency number: 614.889.1112.

## Ongoing Projects

Within the City of Dublin, we have seen an increase in the number of home-based businesses, especially in the last three years. When a concern is received from a neighbor or a homeowners association representative, each is assessed independently based on Code 153.073. While many do not meet the code criteria for a Home Occupation Permit to be necessary, those that do file for a Two-Year Permit that specifies rules to maintain, including no exterior signage and limits on storage of materials/vehicles.

## Zoning & Code Compliance

### Daily Zoning Inspections

Twenty daily zoning inspections were performed during February. These daily inspections ensure compliance with zoning codes for completed construction projects, including pool installations, solar panels, decks, new homes and commercial additions.

These inspections include commercial alterations at 35 North High Street and 6671 Village Parkway and a new commercial building at 4998 Rings Road.

### Routine Landscape Inspections

Fifteen landscape inspections were performed in February. Landscape inspections identify missing, dead or dying plant material as well as other zoning code violations.

No follow-up inspections were scheduled for February.

# Building Standards

## Certificate of Occupancy

Thirty-four Certificates of Occupancy (C of O) were issued this month. C of Os of interest this month:

## Plan Review Turnaround Times

Building Standards is generally consistent at a Commercial 10 +/- calendar day turn-around. This month is better than average at 9.38 days. Residential reviews are at a 5.96 calendar day turn-around this month. This is significantly better than our 14 calendar day target.



Penzone, 6671 Village Parkway



Tucci's, 35 N. High Street



The Corners – Building C, 5837 Frantz Road

# Transportation & Mobility

## Highlights

### Speed Management



Operations and management of the speed safety cameras installed last month are in the initial stages as staff members are evaluating and exploring how the cameras function for the optimal benefits for the community. A blinker speed limit sign was installed the week of March 4 on Riverside Drive to heighten driver awareness entering the Bridge Park area and to encourage speed compliance. Staff members are preparing updated tactical urbanism materials, incorporating feedback from CSAC's December meeting, and plan to bring a recommendation forward to City Council in Q2 2024. The dashboard, which displays fatal and serious injury crashes, monthly speeding citations issued and total monthly traffic stops, can be viewed. [View the dashboard.](#)

### Electric Scooters

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

- 166 unique riders since January – 150% increase in February
- 266 total rides since January – 153% increase in February
- 345 miles traveled since January – 153% increase in February
- 0.05 metric tonnes of CO2 saved since January – 150% increase in February

### LinkUS

Staff members continue to engage with the region regarding the LinkUS program. City Manager O'Callaghan represents the interests of Dublin and other suburbs on the Executive Council. At its March meeting, the Committee discussed outreach activities around Central Ohio. O'Callaghan shared that LinkUS was featured at Dublin's State of the City event through an engagement station, video and testimonial from a Dublin resident. Ms. Willis attends the Northwest Technical Working Group meetings. The group met in March to begin drafting the 2026-2030 5-year CIP for Transit Supportive Infrastructure. Included are seven projects in Dublin, ranging from preliminary engineering to construction, included for funding in 2026.

### Citywide Crash Data

(vehicles and all vulnerable road users)

	Frequency	High Severity	Bike Ped
2024 Year-to-Date	64	0	0
January	64	0	0



### Awards

The Department of Engineering recently received two awards. The Division of Capital Projects and Kokosing were honored at the Flexible Paving Conference by receiving a Flexible Pavements of Ohio Quality Paving Award for the work on Avery-Muirfield Drive as part of the 2023 annual street maintenance program.

The Division of Transportation & Mobility received a model practice designation for the Speed Management Program as part of the recent American Public Works Association reaccreditation process. This honor indicates that the Speed Management Program is an industry best practice and should be duplicated in other municipalities.

[View the Dublin Connector Dashboard](#)

# Public Service

## Highlights

### Horticulture & Forestry

- Staff members mowed remaining natural areas to prepare them for spring.
- Spring plant material was installed in the planter boxes at City buildings, Riverside Crossing and in Historic Dublin.
- Park gardens were cleaned up in preparation for spring.
- Staff members treated early emerging scale on crabapple trees on Coffman Road, Dublin Road, Emerald Parkway and Roycroft Court.
- Pre-emergent herbicide was applied to greenspace gardens and cemetery beds.
- Staff members removed the ice rink liner at the Coffman Park Pavilion.

### Sustainability

- Styrofoam collection boxes: To date in 2024, 1,512 pounds of Styrofoam have been diverted from the landfill.
- GoZero composting: 10 tons of compost have been collected so far in 2024.
- Across the City's 21 electric vehicle charging stations, 11,754 gallons of gas have been saved to date in 2024. This equates to a greenhouse gas savings of 70,802 kg.
- In recognition of the City's commitment to make it faster, easier and more affordable to install solar panels, the City was awarded SolSmart Bronze designation.
- Plans were finalized for Sustainable Saturday, which will be held at the Service Center, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. May 4, providing a one-stop drop-off for household hazardous waste, documents to be shredded, unused pills, Styrofoam packaging materials, e-waste, clothing, linens and other small house items.

### Streets


- Provided set-up and event staffing support for the St. Patrick's Day parade, including safety measures such as barricades and road closures.
- Trash and litter were removed from I-270 and U.S. 33.
- Staff members replaced Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb mats at the Dublin Community Recreation Center, Coventry Woods Drive and Brand Road, and Scioto High School.
- City salt barns were restocked with 1,800 tons of salt.



### Parks

- Provided set-up and event staffing support for the St. Patrick's Day parade.
- Staff members removed old wood benches from Downtown Dublin and installed 29 new benches.
- Top rails were repaired or replaced at Indian Run Falls Park.
- Staff members began mowing athletics fields and performing infield maintenance, including infield grading.
- Staff performed annual inspections on park furniture, shelter house picnic tables and park benches. Repairs were performed, as needed.

### Wildlife Management

 Upon review of the updated code language for Section 91.12 of the City's codified ordinances, it was determined that there was a narrow conflict with Section 91.06 regarding cats as companion animals. The first reading of the revised code language that removes the conflict from Section 91.12 was heard by City Council at the March 25 meeting. The second reading will take place April 22.

Staff members continue to monitor all reports of potential code violations, excluding any related to feeding of cats, and responding to such reports with educational materials. A dashboard is being used to help view the addresses for requests and determine if multiple requests have been entered that are associated with the same address to inform the appropriate response. [View the dashboard.](#)



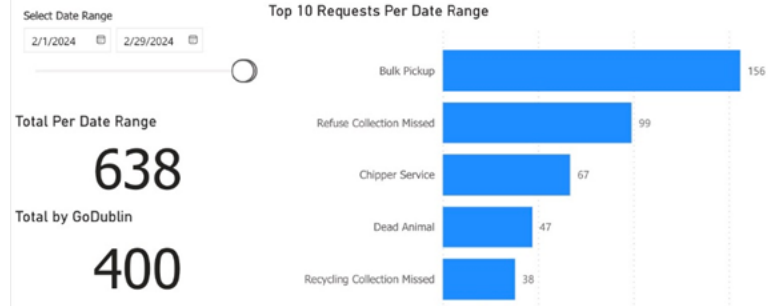
# Asset Management & Quality Assurance

## Inspections/Maintenance Work

- Staff members are working on the concrete sidewalk lifting pilot program as an additional tool for the sidewalk maintenance program. The pilot will address approximately 50 locations this summer.
- Staff members are preparing the light pole painting program based on 2023 inspection data.
- In partnership with Engineering, Asset Management & Quality Assurance (AMQA) staff members are updating the pavement striping and marking inventory and will be performing inspections in the coming weeks to assist with the program.
- AMQA is preparing a storm structure maintenance program in partnership with Engineering.
- Staff is preparing the 2024 Pavement Preventive Maintenance Program, as well as a revised 2025-2029 Street Maintenance Program based on recent pavement data.
- Downtown Brick Sidewalk Maintenance Program began March 18 and will address 13 locations in Historic Dublin.



## Cityworks Request Data by Date Range



### GoDublin

Six hundred and thirty-eight requests were submitted in February, an increase from 538 last month. Of those requests, 400 (63%) were initiated through the GoDublin app. By comparison, there were 674 requests in February 2023.

### Top requests in January:

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

Dead animal pickup reentered the top five request types this month replacing yard waste collection missed. The top 10 requests generally account for 80% of all requests per month.

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

## Court Services - Highlights

- Received 303 traffic cases, seven operating a motor vehicle under the influence (OVI) cases and seven criminal/code enforcement cases.
- Received four adult criminal diversion cases, 33 adult traffic diversion cases and six juvenile traffic diversion cases.
- Collected \$54,648 in fines and court costs.
- Collected \$309 in restitution for victims of crime.
- One staff member attended the Central Ohio Association of Mayor's Court Clerks monthly meeting.

# Parks & Recreation

## Highlights

**DCRC Memberships:** 8,053

### Programs and Events

The spring/summer [Healthy Programs and Activities Guide](#) was released digitally March 5 and is the largest guide to date totaling 116 pages.

Summer camp registration began March 14 for all eight-week priority registration and continued with weekly registrations March 15. For the first time since the pandemic, the full inventory of camp offerings was available, increasing the enrollment capacity. The increased capacity enabled registration to remain open for hours rather than filling up within minutes, as occurred the past few years.

Adaptive programming partnered with All R Friends to host an adult St. Patrick's Day Dance March 12. Participants enjoyed light refreshments, a DJ and dancing with friends.

### Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Awards

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

### Summer Staff Recruitment

Recruitment for summer continues to focus on camp leadership and aquatic service manager positions. Camps are showing a 72% retention rate for the year. Thirtytwo new camp Staff have been hired, which puts camp positions at 75% filled for the season. Aquatics is recording a 77% retention rate for lifeguards and pool managers returning for the summer. To date, we have 134 confirmed lifeguards – 10 are new hires. Aquatics continued to conduct interviews during March to fill remaining spots for summer operations.

### Abbey Theater

The Abbey Theater hosted four sold-out shows for Karrer Middle School of "Newsies, Jr." in mid-February, followed by four sold out shows of "Imagine a Dragon" March 9-10.

"Our Town" premiered March 15 and ran through March 24. Thornton Wilder's timeless, Pulitzer Prize-winning drama of life set in the mythical village of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, is an American classic with universal appeal. The simple story of a love affair between two young neighbors asks timeless questions about the meaning of love, life and death. It was recommended for ages 10 & up.



# Police & Safety

## Highlights

### Critical Incidents & Major Crimes

- First and second shift officers responded March 1 to a false alarm at Nestlé Quality Assurance Center on Eiterman Road where a worker inadvertently triggered the active shooter warning system.
- Officers responded to a person experiencing a mental health crisis on March 5 that shut down neighborhood roads near Tara Hill Drive. The individual was connected with resources. Communications & Marketing asked the public to avoid the area at the time of the incident, which happened during Coffman High School's dismissal.
- All police sergeants alongside the Delaware Tactical Unit trained at the former Vivo complex during a simulated barricaded subject situation March 1. The training was shared publicly for awareness.

### Police Reports & Crime Trends

- Officer Ignacio Pizano investigated a drug distribution offense at Embassy Suites Feb. 17. Charges are pending.
- Officers are investigation student sales of vape pens to classmates in Dublin high schools.

### Safety Messaging

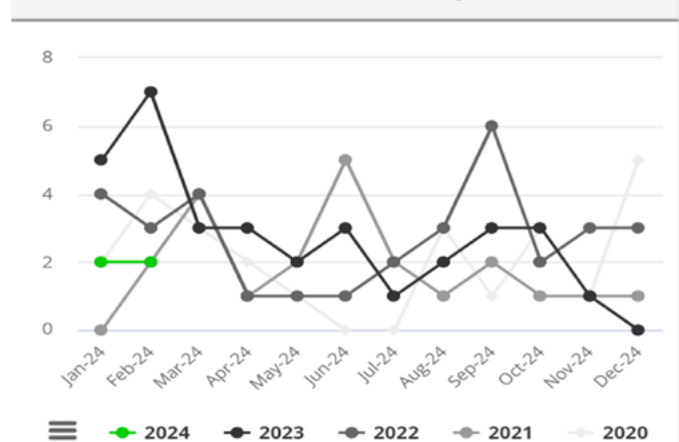
- [Safe Ride program: Offered Lyft coupon codes for St. Patrick's Day festivities to discourage drinking and driving.](#)
- The promotion Reel appeared on ABC6.
- ABC6 interviewed Sgt. Dave Gatterdam about St. Patrick's Day Parade safety.

### Community Outreach & Engagement

- Chief Páez and Deputy Chief Greg Lattanzi visited the Estates at Scioto Crossing homeowners association to share a recent crime update for the area.
- Officers visited Northwest Presbyterian Church's English language program to share public safety reminders and demonstrate the drone unit.
- Officers staffed a booth at a University of Cincinnati law enforcement career fair.
- Police hosted a March 5 self-defense class for the public.
- Chief Páez presented 2023 Police Department accomplishments and 2024 programs during the State of the City presentation.
- Office Paul Burks and Dublin Jerome High School student Grace Lee shared their connection that came about via the School Resource Officer program during the State of the City.
- The Department shared Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center hiring information; applications close April 14.
- Information was posted regarding deputy chief police hiring qualifications; applications close April 15.
- A video highlighting women officers was shared during Women's History Month.

Statistics	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	2024 YTD
Part 1 Violent Crimes Reported	7	12	4
Theft Offenses	66	62	56
Thefts from Vehicles	38	25	24
Motor Vehicle Thefts	9	7	10
Burglaries/B&Es	8	15	12
Traffic Crashes	83	76	126
Serious Injury Crashes	2	1	3
OVI Related Crashes	2	3	3
OVI Arrests	5	28	31
Traffic Stops	362	1218	1699
Speeding Citations	39	79	482

Total Part 1 Violent Crimes Historically



### Police Responses to Issues of Community Concern

#### Speed Management

- Speed enforcement campaigns were conducted:
  - March 7 on Riverside Drive
  - March 26 on I-270
- NBC4 interviewed Sgt. Dave Gatterdam about the Slow Down Dublin campaign.

#### Traffic Safety

- Information Technology installed traffic cameras at intersections and shared information with residents.

#### Public Safety Technologies

- City officials, Dublin Police and Washington Township Fire Department members met with Paladin to discuss self-piloting drones.

#### Policing Standards

- Chief Justin Páez took part in a March 21 press conference with Gov. Mike DeWine's office about the Dublin Police being a pilot department for the State of Ohio's Office of Criminal Justice Services law enforcement accreditation standards.

#### Misc.

- Crime Analyst Tom Hirschy was spotlighted for his 30-year anniversary with Dublin Police.

# Human Resources

## Highlights



### Additions to our Exceptional Team

The Q1 Meet and Greet onboarding for new employees was held in early March. Twelve new members gathered for team-building and to learn about our culture and how we are Driven by Excellence, Better Together and Dedicated to Service.

### National Employee Appreciation Day

March 1 was National Employee Appreciation Day, but in Dublin we celebrate our Exceptional Team every day.



### St. Patrick's Employee Appreciation Celebration

The Human Resources Department's employee appreciation program received a model practice designation during the recent American Public Works Association reaccreditation process. This recognition highlights AO 2.26 as a policy that should be duplicated in organizations across the country. As part of the employee recognition program, the City recently celebrated St. Patrick's Day by celebrating and appreciating the employees who make Dublin an Exceptional Community. On March 15, employees were invited to participate in the St. Patrick's Day festivities with grab-n-go breakfast and were encouraged to take a selfie or a team picture in their favorite green or Dublin apparel.



### Recent Hires



**John Burchett**  
**Position:** Operations Administrator  
**Division:** Facilities & Fleet Management



**Josh Miller**  
**Position:** Civil Engineer II  
**Division:** Engineering

### Recruitment

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

# Outreach & Engagement

## Highlights



### Citizen U

Citizen U 2024 kicked off March 27. A total of 22 residents will spend nine weeks getting an inside look at the dedicated effort it takes to maintain Dublin's world-class services. The immersive, hands-on experience enables participants to learn about the City's operations, strategic initiatives and efficient service delivery.

### Culture Corner

The Culture Corner Volunteer Team, made up of the Muslim Teen Leadership Group, volunteered to create a display at the DCRC to celebrate Ramadan. The display will remain through Eid al-Fitr (April 10). Produced by City of Dublin volunteers, the Culture Corner's purpose is designed to create a sense of community pride and awareness for the cultural celebrations of Dublin's diverse residents.

### Language Translation Services



Now that on-demand language translation services have been implemented at City Hall, the DCRC, the Development Building and Service Center, staff members have begun to work with the Justice Center front desk staff to explore ways this service can be centralized for Police and Mayor's Court operations.

### Office Team Recognition

The City's Office Team volunteers gathered for a recognition lunch March 18 as a thank you for their volunteer service performing administrative tasks for City Staff. The volunteers regularly assist with data entry, mailings, phone calls and supply organization. The team also assists with partner projects like the Chamber of Commerce's Community Champion Awards and Community Service Day.

### St. Patrick's Day Volunteer Support

A total of 85 volunteers stepped up to provide more than 250 volunteer hours to assist the St. Patrick's Day parade March 9. Roles included safety marshals, information tent attendants, balloon carriers, banner carriers, balloon characters, accessible seating area attendants and assisting with the Grand Leprechaun Luncheon.

### Nature Education

Nature Education Coordinator Barbara Ray attended the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Diversity Conference where biologists, scientists and experts in conversation areas present programs and updates about species and stewardship in Ohio.

### General Updates

Outreach & Engagement Staff has spent much of March focusing on preparation and communication for Earth Month, Citizen U, National Volunteer Week, Bring Your Kids to Work Day and the OHIO Dublin Speaker Series all set to take place in April.

# Communications & Marketing

## Highlights



### March's Communication Strategy

- March's strategic topics included promoting State of the City RSVPs and St. Patrick's Day Parade new date; launching the new EverythingDublin.com website and the new Dublin Irish Festival website; announcing Independence Day Celebration entertainment; and supporting Women's History Month.
- Review the results from [February's overall communications metrics](#) and [City Council's communications efforts](#).
- Review the complete [Contact City data here](#).

### Sustainable Dublin Communications

- Shared National Groundwater Awareness Week and World Water Day messages in partnership with Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Partnered with SWACO to share their Recycle Right campaign
- Shared financial health video from the State of the City
- Started communications about Earth Month
- Created a March Madness bracket that encouraged downloads of the GoDublin app and asked followers to vote for their favorite City services

### Connected Dublin Communications

- Hosted the 2024 State of the City at the Exchange at Bridge Park March 14. More than 300 residents, business leaders, Central Ohio officials and volunteers attended this event. City Manager Megan O'Callaghan was joined on stage by City Council, Dublin residents, community partners and public servants to report on the City's accomplishments, financial outlook and what's in store for 2024.
- Promoted Envision Dublin meeting taking place April 2
- Promoted the Dublin Global Institute for the Study of Intelligent Communities Smart Cities Workshop taking place April 19
- Shared LinkUS updates and video from Central Ohio Transit Authority

### Resilient Dublin Communications

- Promoted Safe Ride discount that spanned from the St. Patrick's Day Parade to St. Patrick's Day
- Shared Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week messaging encouraging residents to use tools like Smart911 and Franklin County alerts for updates
- Announced the City of Dublin will welcome Martina McBride as our Independence Day Celebration entertainment
- Announced the bands that will perform at the Dublin Irish Festival and released a discount on early-bird ticket sales
- Featured community celebrations surrounding Ramadan, Holi and Easter

### April Lookahead

- Host the spring Neighborhood Leadership Meeting April 15
- Share Earth Month communications and general sustainability messaging
- Promote the community viewing events and safety messaging for the 2024 total solar eclipse
- Continue promoting Slow Down Dublin with a video featuring our new sloth mascot
- Highlight the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center Staff during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
- Promote the City's Sustainable Saturday and the Dublin Chamber's Community Service Day, which are both May 4, including information on how people can participate in both

### Link Ahead Podcast

- There were 18,833 listens (an increase of 547 listens since the February report).
- March topics included the Metro Center Revitalization visioning public meeting panel discussion and a condensed audio version of the State of the City.
- Upcoming guests include Council Member Andy Keeler and a representative from Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio to talk about Earth Month

### Internal Branding

A vision team of cross-functional stakeholders has been engaging with the consultants, and their feedback is being incorporated into the design proposal. The plan is expected to be developed by the end of Q2 with implementation to follow.

# Community Events

## Highlights



### St. Patrick's Day

The St. Patrick's Day Parade took place March 9. Despite the weather predictions and rain before the parade, the event was dry with a temperature of 50 degrees. The estimated attendance was 9,000. Sunny Street Café owners Kate and Asch Mikhail were honored as the Grand Leprechauns at the annual luncheon held at J. Liu.

### Sponsorship Update

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

#### St. Patrick's Day

- Shyre Realty \$1,000

#### Independence Day

- Renewal by Andersen \$5,000
  - G&J Pepsi \$2,500
- In-kind
- Sunny 95 \$20,250
  - Pepsi \$1,500

#### Dublin Irish Festival

- The Memorial Tournament \$15,000
  - State Farm \$5,000
  - Five Farms \$2,500
  - Orange Theory \$600 NEW
- In-kind
- Fado \$9,000
  - Cheryl's Cookies \$1,200
  - O'Neil Tent \$27,887
  - Cleveland Cavaliers \$3,000
  - Columbus Clippers \$3,000
  - Columbus Radio Group (Sunny 95) \$42,000



### Independence Day

At the State of the City Presentation, it was announced that Martina McBride will headline the 2024 Independence Day Celebration. Reserved tables will go on sale in May.

### Dublin Irish Festival



On March 18, the Dublin Irish Festival announced the 2024 lineup, ticket sales began and a new Festival website was launched. Community Events Director Alison LeRoy [appeared on Good Day Columbus](#) to promote the lineup announcement and encourage ticket sales.

### Permitted Events

- Two annual Easter-related events were issued permits in March. The Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast was held in Coffman Park March 23. The Dublin Cross Walk was held March 29. Participants of the event walked from the east plaza at Riverside Crossing Park to the Dublin Community Church.
- Community Events received four community event permit applications in March. Three of these are new events, including a kid's vendor market, OSU liver health community event and Private School Pups 5K run/walk.

### 'Dublin in the Dark'

The City of Dublin encourages people to watch the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8 safely — whether from their own backyard, a local establishment or in a park.

The City will be hosting family-friendly viewing gatherings with a DJ and strolling entertainment from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Coffman Park South Fields and at Riverside Crossing Park.

# Legislative

## Update

### Issues 2 Updates – Recreational Marijuana

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

Below is a breakdown of the bills that the legislature worked on at the end of 2023:

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

The Senate has incorporated their provisions into Sub. House Bill 86 and passed the bill off the Senate floor on December 6th, with a vote of 29-2. In order to become effective, the House will need to vote to concur on the Senate's changes. A concurrence vote has not yet been scheduled and Speaker Jason Stephens has indicated that the House will not be concurring. Should the House not concur, the bill will go to conference committee where both chambers can work out their differences. Governor DeWine has indicated that out of the various proposals, he is most supportive of Sub. House Bill 86.

#### Highlights of Sub. House Bill 86

Sets excise tax at 15%

- An increase from the voter-approved initiative to set the rate at 10%.

Sets the number of permissible plants per household at 6.

- A decrease from the voter-approved limit of 12.

Allows Ohioans to possess up to 2.5 ounces of plant material and 15 grams of extracts.

- This is the same as the voter-approved initiative.

Allows for expungement for individuals previously convicted of marijuana-related crimes that will be decriminalized.

- This was not included in the voter-approved initiative.

Allows municipalities to prohibit or limit the home growth of marijuana.

- This was included in the voter-approved initiative.

Allows employers to terminate or decline hiring individuals who use marijuana.

- This was not included in the voter-approved initiative.

Allows counties, with voter approval, to levy a 3% excise tax to support local arts, culture, and entertainment.

#### House Version – House Bill 354 (Rep. Callender)

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

### Highlights of House Bill 354

Sets excise tax at 10%

- This is the same as the voter-approved initiative.

Levies a 10% tax on the gross receipts of licensed cultivators.

- This was not included in the voter-approved initiative.

Sets the number of permissible plants per household at 12.

- This is the same as the voter-approved initiative.

Allows Ohioans to possess up to 2.5 ounces of plant material and 15 grams of extracts.

- This is the same as the voter-approved initiative.

### Redistricting Ballot Initiative for 2024

#### Background

Referred to as the “Citizens not Politicians Amendment” and is being worked on by Former GOP Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor and others.

The proposal would:

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

#### Status of Ballot Initiative

On Oct. 12, 2023, the Ohio Ballot Board unanimously found that the proposal constituted a single issue.

- On Oct. 25th, Citizens not Politicians realized that the summary language included the wrong date for when congressional and state legislative plans must be finished. Because of this mistake, the group will need to collect another 1,000 signatures and resubmit the language to Ohio Attorney General Yost’s office for approval before they can move forward.
- They have until July 3, 2024 to collect the required number of signatures.

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# Calendar

April 2024

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2 Envision Dublin Public Meeting	3 Food Truck Wednesdays	4	5	6
7	8 Total Solar Eclipse Dublin City Council	9 Community Services Advisory Commission	10 Food Truck Wednesdays Public Water and Sewer Extension Public Meeting 3	11 Planning & Zoning Commission	12	13
14	15	16	17 Food Truck Wednesdays	18 Chief's Advisory Committee Planning & Zoning Commission	19	20
21	22	23 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee	24 Food Truck Wednesdays Architectural Review Board	25 Board of Zoning Appeals	26	27
28	29 Dublin City Council – Work Session Dublin City Council	30	1 Food Truck Wednesdays	2 Planning & Zoning Commission	3 Historic Dublin Walking Tours	4 Sustainable Saturday
5 Coffman Homestead Open House	6 Dublin City Council	7	8 Food Truck Wednesdays	9	10	11

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

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