

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 27, 2024**

**Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer James Bahnsen; Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys, Amy Brown-Thompson and Steven Darnell; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Dan Neeley; EMA and Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei. Also present: Francis Martin, Barb Martin, Sherry Pymer, Butch Price, Jo Price, Kathleen Uhl, Betty Bennett, Kellie Smith, Anna Tobin, Ray Stemen, and Judy Stemen.

Virtual attendees: Josh Horacek, Tony Vogel, Park Russell, Beth Cottrell, Jessica Murphy, Toni Ashton, Ashley Arter, Lori Hawk, Shane Gilinski, Deborah, Jeff Barron, Tiffany Daniels, Lynette Barnhart, Austin Lines, Sarah Vonnahme, Britney Lee, Shelby Hunt, Melissa Connor, Brian Wolfe, Stacy Hicks, Jennifer Morgan, Safa Saleh, and Nicole.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Levacy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

**Listen and Learn – DD Awareness Month**

DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl, thanked the Commissioners for their support with the Board of Developmental Disabilities. Currently the Board serves 1,731 people in Fairfield County and their families, with clients being both adults and children. Dr. Uhl summarized the revenue and expenses of the Board in 2023, and added that the 10 year levy will expire next year and the Board of DD is working to get the levy renewal on the ballot in 2025.

Dr. Uhl also spoke on DD's strategic areas of focus which align closely with the county's strategic plan. Housing is a large focus by helping clients find affordable and accessible housing. Economic and workforce development is also a large area of interest as he reported that only 22.5% of people with disabilities are employed. Transportation accessibility continues to be a struggle for many people with disabilities.

Dr. Uhl was excited to announce the State Board of DD made funds available to county Boards of DD. Part of the grant the Board received will be given to the Board of Commissioners to use towards accessible transportation.

Lastly, Dr. Uhl stated that March is DD Awareness Month and Fairfield DD will be holding an event at Square Seven Coffee House on March 6<sup>th</sup>. They will also hold their 14<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Possibilities. He thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Davis appreciates Dr. Uhl for tying the mission of DD back to the goals of the county.

Commissioner Fix asked what the numbers of employment were in Fairfield County.

Dr. Uhl anticipates the employment of individuals with developmental disabilities is in the low 20% range

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 27, 2024**

Commissioner Fix asked if the increase in clients Fairfield DD serves can be attributed to the population growth.

Dr. Uhl stated it is a combination of things including more doctor referrals and an increase in population.

**RPC Floodplain Regulations Update; 9:30 a.m.**

Holly Mattei stated the purpose of the Floodplain Regulations Update is to stay compliant with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations so the county can continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is a voluntary program which is used to reduce flood insurance rates and is required for federal loans used in areas within mapped floodplains. Once the regulations are adopted, they must go through final approval with FEMA.

With no one in attendance stating their support or opposition to the floodplain regulation updates, the public hearing was closed at 9:27 a.m.

**Interview for Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities; 9:45 a.m.**

Applicant Kellie Smith began by stating her interest in serving on the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD). Ms. Smith has a 4-year-old child who is eligible for, and receives, early intervention services at Forest Rose School. She is interested in finding more resources for not only her child but other children with disabilities. She closed by speaking on her professional experiences.

Commissioner Fix thanked Mrs. Smith for her willingness to serve on the Board of DD.

Commissioner Davis thanked Kellie for her willingness to serve.

Commissioner Levacy looks forward to seeing Ms. Smith at the grand opening of the Starlight Center.

**Public Comments**

Ray Stemen of Lancaster offered his concerns for the actions of the federal government. He closed with a prayer.

Sherry Pymer of Walnut Township offered her concerns for Chinese owned solar companies conducting business on American farmland.

Sherry Pymer of Lancaster offered her concerns for American pharmaceutical companies, and the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Legal Update**

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson, stated the litigation against the county by the Mayor of Buckeye Lake was disposed of in the Ohio Supreme Court.

**County Administration Update**

- *The County Administration Update was provided by County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, unless otherwise noted.*

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 27, 2024**

**Week in Review**

*Energy Efficiency Program for Ohio Communities (EEPOC) Grant Projects*

On Feb. 22, 2024, the Ohio Department of Development announced \$8 million in federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) State Energy Program (SEP) funding has been awarded through the State's Energy Efficiency Program for Ohio Communities (EEPOC) to support energy efficiency retrofit upgrades in existing buildings across Ohio.

Fairfield County will receive a \$250,000 grant to complete LED lighting, Direct Digital Controls, and Building Automation Control Network upgrades for various building network integration projects. The projects are expected to yield 18 percent utility savings. The lighting will be accomplished in the Government Services building and the controls will be at the Workforce Center.

In addition, the City of Pickerington will receive a \$249,016 grant to complete lighting and Direct Digital Controls upgrades. The projects are expected to yield 20.38 percent in utility savings.

Commissioner Levacy asked if this would replace all the lighting in the Government Services Building.

Director Kochis stated it replaces all the interior lighting with energy efficient LED's.

**Highlights of Resolutions**

*Administrative Approvals*

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

*Resolution Review*

There are 14 resolutions on the agenda for the voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution approving 6 proclamations, one for March as DD Awareness Month, another for March as American Red Cross Month, and four others for Sunshine Week, Severe Weather Awareness Week, Weights and Measures Week, and World Water Day
- A resolution amending the resolution appointing Ryan Holstine to the ADAMH Board. Mr. Holstine was interviewed November 28, 2023, at the Berne Twp. Fire Department evening meeting. His appointment was to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, but the vacancy will now be available March 1<sup>st</sup>. The statute allows for a partial term if under two years, so this resolution amendment appoints Mr. Holstine from March 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>, and then another resolution will be needed to appoint him to a full four year term.
- A resolution regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfield County Family and Children First Council and Fairfield County Job and Family Services for financial and managerial oversight.
- A resolution approving a service agreement between the Sheriff's Office and Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the Dispatch radio console system.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 27, 2024**

**Budget Review**

- No update

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

- United Way Awards Banquet, February 28, 2024, 8:00 a.m., Olivedale Senior Citizens Center, 253 Boving Rd., Lancaster
- Indigent Defense Study Task Force, February 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Sq., Columbus
- STARLight Center Grand Opening, February 29, 2024, 1:30 p.m., 336 E. Locust St., Lancaster
- FAIRHOPE Hospice 40 Year Celebration, March 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., The Mill Event Center, 431 S. Columbus St., Lancaster

**Correspondence**

*Items Requiring Response*

*Informational Items*

- Press Release, Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities, February 14, 2024, "Fairfield DD Announces \$890K Grant to Promote Accessibility"
- Press Release, Office of the County Auditor, February 22, 2024, "Fairfield County Awarded Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting"
- Memo, Fairfield County Auditor, February 22, 2024, Subjects: Levy Fact Sheets; Tax Exemption for "Pre-Residential" Property; CAUV Applications; Family Dollar Settlement; and Pi Day/Community Day for Meals on Wheels
- Fact Sheet, Fairfield County Auditor, "Basil Joint Fire District Ballot Issue"
- Fact Sheet, Fairfield County Auditor, "Clearcreek Township Road and Bridge Improvements Ballot Issue"
- Fairfield County Auditor's Office: Wins of the Week, February 22, 2024
- Letters from Residents Regarding Industrial Solar Projects
- Letter from a Constituent Asking a Commissioner to Reaffirm Commitments to Israel

**Old Business**

Commissioner Fix encouraged everyone to review the most recent draft of the Land Use Plan. He will be meeting with Walnut Township and the Village of Millersport to do a final review of the Land Use Plan.

**New Business**

Director Mattei is looking forward to the final approval of the Land Use Plan.

Treasurer Bahnsen stated the final payment date for property taxes has passed but his office continues to receive and process payments.



**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 27, 2024**

Auditor Brown will be attending an upcoming CAAO meeting and congratulated her team on the financial achievement award the county received.

Director Vogel stated the Utilities department put a bid out for a generator at one of their wastewater plants.

Director Kochis said to expect storms later in the day.

Director Neeley stated the Clerk of Courts resolution is to get new equipment for the courts.

**Regular (Voting) Meeting**

The Commissioners continued to their Regular meeting. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer James Bahnsen; Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys, Amy Brown-Thompson and Steven Darnell; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Dan Neeley; EMA and Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei. Also present: Francis Martin, Barb Martin, Sherry Pymmer, Butch Price, Jo Price, Kathleen Uhl, Betty Bennett, Kellie Smith, Anna Tobin, Ray Stemen, and Judy Stemen.

Virtual attendees: Josh Horacek, Tony Vogel, Park Russell, Beth Cottrell, Jessica Murphy, Toni Ashton, Ashley Arter, Lori Hawk, Shane Gilinski, Deborah, Jeff Barron, Tiffany Daniels, Lynette Barnhart, Austin Lines, Sarah Vonnahme, Britney Lee, Shelby Hunt, Melissa Connor, Brian Wolfe, Stacy Hicks, Jennifer Morgan, Safa Saleh, and Nicole.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Levacy asked everyone to rise as able and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements**

Mr. Niceswanger stated there were two resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services that were duplicates. The duplicate resolutions had been removed and the agenda reflects those changes.

**Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2024**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, February 20, 2024, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2024**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Board of Commissioners and Board of Elections Meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 27, 2024**

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners:

- 2024-02.27.a      A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Proclamations
- 2024-02.27.b      A Resolution Amending Resolution 2023-12.05.e, Appointing Mr. Ryan Holstine to the Fairfield County ADAMH Board
- 2024-02.27.c      A resolution approving to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category relating to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fiscal Recovery Fund# 2876

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts – Legal Division**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Clerk of Court – Legal Division:

- 2024-02.27.d      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category (2318 Computer Fund)

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts – Title Division**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Clerk of Court – Title Division:

- 2024-02.27.e      A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category – Fund 2326

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

- 2024-02.27.f      A resolution to request appropriations for receipts for EMA 2890/8324 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 27, 2024**

**Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Job and Family Services:

- 2024-02.27.g      A resolution regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfield County Family and Children First Council and Fairfield County Job and Family Services for financial and managerial oversight.
- 2024-02.27.h      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018
- 2024-02.27.i      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018

Commissioner Fix thanked Family and Children First Council, and Job and Family services for their ongoing partnership.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court:

- 2024-02.27.j      A resolution authorizing the approval of an Amendment #1 to the FY24 Grant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission:

- 2024-02.27.k      A Resolution to Approve a Final Plat for the development at 9695 Basil Western Road. Final Plat
- 2024-02.27.l      A Resolution to Approve a Final Plat for the development at RES Canal Winchester I LLC Final Plat

Director Mattei stated the resolutions relate to the MedVet and DHL sites.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2024  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 27, 2024**

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2024-02.27.m        A resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and Motorola Solutions Inc.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Approval of the Payment of Bills**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

2024-02.27.n        A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

**Recess**

With no further business, the Board of Commissioners moved to recess at 9:45 a.m.

**Commission Connection Video – 10:30 a.m.**

**Executive Session**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Commissioners voted to go into Executive Session to discuss imminent litigation at 11:11 a.m. Commissioner Davis asked for the following persons to be in Executive Session: all three Commissioners, the County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, and the Assistant Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to regular session at 11:57 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix

**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:57 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix



**THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK**





# AGENDA

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners:  
Steven A. Davis  
Jeffrey M. Fix  
David L. Levacy

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

County Administrator  
Aundrea N. Cordle

Deputy County Administrator  
Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk  
Rochelle Menningen

**1. Review**

Purpose of Review Meeting: *To prepare for formal actions of county business, such as Commission resolutions, and to provide a time for county leadership to connect about matters of county business.*

**2. Welcome**

**3. Listen & Learn, DD Awareness Month**

DD Superintendent David Uhl, PhD

**4. RPC Floodplain Regulations Update; 9:30 a.m.**

Holly Mattei, RPC Interim Director

**5. Interview for Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities; 9:45 a.m.**

Kellie Smith

**6. Public Comments**

Purpose of Public Comments: *This is a time for voters and taxpayers (members of the public) to provide comments. There is a time limit of 3 minutes. While this is a time for comments to be provided, it is not a time for questions and answers. The Commission has a full agenda of county business.*

**7. Legal Update**

**8. County Administration Update**

- a. Week in Review
- b. Highlights of Resolutions
- c. Budget Review
- d. Recognitions/Thank-Yous
- e. Calendar Review/ Invitations Received
  - i. United Way Awards Banquet, February 28, 2024, 8:00 a.m., Olivedale Senior Citizens Center, 253 Boving Rd., Lancaster
  - ii. Indigent Defense Study Task Force, February 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Ohio Statehouse, 1 Capitol Sq., Columbus
  - iii. STARLight Center Grand Opening, February 29, 2024, 1:30 p.m., 336 E. Locust St., Lancaster
  - iv. FAIRHOPE Hospice 40 Year Celebration, March 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., The Mill Event Center, 431 S. Columbus St., Lancaster

SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT



# AGENDA

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners:  
Steven A. Davis  
Jeffrey M. Fix  
David L. Levacy

- v. Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, from 8-10 a.m. at the Life Church Vineyard, 5550 Lancaster-Newark Rd. NE, Pleasantville

County Administrator  
Aundrea N. Cordle

### f. Correspondence

Deputy County Administrator  
Jeffrey D. Porter

- i. Press Release, Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities, February 14, 2024, “Fairfield DD Announces \$890K Grant to Promote Accessibility”
- ii. Press Release, Office of the County Auditor, February 22, 2024, “Fairfield County Awarded Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting”  
Press Release, Office of the County Auditor, February 22, 2024, “Fairfield County Auditor Updates Levy Estimator Tool for March 19<sup>th</sup> Election Levies”
- iii. Memo, Fairfield County Auditor, February 22, 2024, Subjects: Levy Fact Sheets; Tax Exemption for “Pre-Residential” Property; CAUV Applications; Family Dollar Settlement; and Pi Day/Community Day for Meals on Wheels
- iv. Fact Sheet, Fairfield County Auditor, “Basil Joint Fire District Ballot Issue”
- v. Fact Sheet, Fairfield County Auditor, “Clearcreek Township Road and Bridge Improvements Ballot Issue”
- vi. Fairfield County Auditor’s Office: Wins of the Week, February 22, 2024
- vii. Letters from Residents Regarding Industrial Solar Projects
- viii. Letter from a Constituent Asking a Commissioner to Reaffirm Commitments to Israel
- ix. Wendel Center of Art Education, February – July 2024 class schedule, from the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio
- x. Fairfield County E-News Updates, February 2024 newsletter
- xi. Fairfield County Health Department 2023 Annual Report
- xii. Letter from a resident regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development and Land Use Plan
- xiii. Letter from Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix to a resident regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development and Land Use Plan
- xiv. Letter from the Ohio EPA, subject: Ohio EPA Grants Temporary Authorization
- xv. Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District, Fairfield Features newsletter, February 2024, volume 26, Issue 1
- xvi. Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction, Winter 2024 newsletter

Clerk

Rochelle Menningen

## 9. Old Business

## 10. New Business

- a. Updates from Elected Officials in Attendance

## 11. Regular (Voting) Meeting

SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT





# AGENDA

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Commissioners:**  
Steven A. Davis  
Jeffrey M. Fix  
David L. Levacy

**County Administrator**  
Aundrea N. Cordle

**Deputy County Administrator**  
Jeffrey D. Porter

**Clerk**  
Rochelle Menningen

**12. Recess**

**13. Commission Connection Video, 10:30 a.m.**

**14. Executive Session, 11:00 a.m.**  
*To discuss imminent litigation*

**15. Adjourn**

SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY ITEMS  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2024 TO February 25, 2024

Fairfield County Commissioners

- AA.02.16-2024.a An Administrative Approval Approving an Agreement Between MAPSYS Inc. and the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners for CRMS Support Services [Commissioners]
- AA.02.20-2024.a An Administrative Approval for the payment(s) of the United Health Care (UHC) invoice for the Fairfield County Self-Funded Health Benefits Program – Fairfield County Board of Commissioners [Commissioners]
- AA.02.22-2024.a An Administrative Approval for the payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval and have bills presented that are not more than \$75,000 per invoice. [Commissioners]
- AA.02.22-2024.b An Administrative Approval to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Ohio Airport Improvement Grant Program Matching Grant agreement. [Commissioners]
- AA.02.22-2024.c An Administrative Approval for authorizing a purchase agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners and Modern Office Methods [Commissioners]

Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development

- AA.02.20-2024.b An Administrative Approval authorizing agreement with Lamar Companies [Economic & Workforce Development]
- AA.02.20-2024.c An administrative authority to approve of the Area 20/21 WIOA Monitoring contract between PowerNotes LLC and the Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Department. [Economic & Workforce Development]

Fairfield County Family and Children First Council

- AA.02.16-2024.b Administrative Approval authorizing an Evaluation Cost Agreement between E.B. Evaluations, INC and Family and Children First Council for a Child and Adolescent General Psychological Evaluation [Family and Children First Council]

Fairfield County Human Resources

- AA.02.23-2024.a An administrative approval to amend the Fairfield County Compensation Plan schedule [Fairfield County Human Resources]

Fairfield County Utilities Department

- AA.02.16-2024.d An Administrative Approval for the service contract between Evoqua Water Technologies and Fairfield County Utilities. [Utilities]
- AA.02.22-2024.d An Administrative Approval for the NASPO ValuePoint Participating Addendum between Verizon Wireless and Fairfield County Utilities. [UTILITIES]

South Central Major Crimes Unit

AA.02.16-2024.c An Administrative Approval to authorize the Fairfield County Administrator to sign the South Central Ohio Major Crimes Unit JAG Pre Award Conditions [Sheriff - Major Crimes Unit]

**Quarters 2,3, & 4, 2021, Total 2022, Total 2023, & Quarter 1 2024 – American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds, as of 2.23.2024.**

From the \$30,606,902.00 received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$27,824,843.41 has been appropriated, \$19,562,342.13 expended, \$4,666,943.50 encumbered or obligated.

12Project/Category		As of 2/23/24 Appropriations	As of 2/23/24 Expenditure	As of 2/23/24 Obligation
<b>Public Health</b>				
R15a	Public Health, PPE	199.90	199.90	0.00
R16a	Public Health, Medical Expenses	206,838.33	206,838.33	0.00
R16b	Public Health, COVID Medial Costs County Benefits Program	399,949.66	399,949.66	0.00
R17a	Public Health, Vaccination Clinic and Related Expenses	66,362.57	66,362.57	0.00
R17b	Public Health, Capital Investments and Public Facilities of the County	3,490,552.26	3,402,130.19	88,422.07
R17c	Public Health, Capital Investment for Air Quality Improvements	56,674.00	56,674.00	0.00
R17d	Public Health, Capital Investment for Health Equipment, Mobile Morgue	49,498.87	49,498.87	0.00
R17e	Public Health, Capital Investment for Sheriff Cruiser to Respond to Increased Violence	54,250.98	54,250.98	0.00
R18a	Professional Communications on Behalf of the Board of Health	34,577.94	34,577.94	0.00
R18b	Public Health, Creation of a Community Health Assessment (CHA)	48,943.10	48,943.10	0.00
R19a	Public Safety Payroll Support	1,600,361.39	1,389,477.29	0.00
R19b	Public Health Payroll Support	185,406.39	185,406.39	0.00
R19c	Other Public Sector Payroll Support	290,060.11	216,766.09	0.00
R110a	Mental and Behavioral Health	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Public Health</b>		<b>6,483,675.50</b>	<b>6,111,075.31</b>	<b>88,422.07</b>
<b>Negative Economic Impacts</b>				
R210a	Emergency Assistance for Non-Profit Organizations, a Subgrant to the City of Lancaster	0.00	0.00	0.00
R210b	Emergency Assistance for Non-Profits, Subgrant The Lighthouse	120,000.00	120,000.00	0.00
R210c	Salvation Army	500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00
R210d	Habitat for Humanity	610,000.00	610,000.00	0.00

**Quarters 2,3, & 4, 2021, Total 2022, Total 2023, & Quarter 1 2024 – American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds, as of 2.23.2024.**

From the \$30,606,902.00 received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$27,824,843.41 has been appropriated, \$19,562,342.13 expended, \$4,666,943.50 encumbered or obligated.

<b>Project/Category</b>		<b>As of 2/23/24 Appropriations</b>	<b>As of 2/23/24 Expenditure</b>	<b>As of 2/23/24 Obligation</b>
R210e	ADAMH/LSS Housing Projects	3,000,000.00	748,622.88	2,251,377.12
R211a	Subgrant for Tourism, Support for the Fairfield County Fair	499,996.00	499,996.00	0.00
R211b	Aid to Tourism, Travel, Hospitality	18,278.01	18,278.01	0.00
R29a	Emergency Assistance Business Planning	146,829.87	146,829.87	0.00
R213a	Support for Agriculture and the Growing Community	35,000.00	35,000.00	0.00
R213b	Technical Assistance for Townships & Others	400,000.00	261,854.84	137,500.00
R213c	Contracts for Services to Support Residents Suffering Effects of the Pandemic	71,240.00	71,240.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Negative Economic Impacts</b>		<b>5,401,343.88</b>	<b>3,011,821.60</b>	<b>2,388,877.12</b>
R310a	Housing Support, Affordable Housing Strategic Plan	39,554.00	39,554.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Services Disproportionately Impacted Communities</b>		<b>39,554.00</b>	<b>39,554.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Premium Pay</b>				
R41a	Premium Pay, Premium Pay for Emergency Management Agency Workers	27,907.72	27,907.72	0.00
<b>Subtotal Premium Pay</b>		<b>27,907.72</b>	<b>27,907.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
R52a	Clean Water: Centralized Collection and Conveyance, Airport	598,480.00	444,480.86	93,929.68
R52b	Clean Water: Centralized Collection and Conveyance, Walnut Creek Sewer District	750,000.00	0.00	750,000.00
R56a	Clean Water, Stormwater	539,895.00	539,895.00	0.00
R511a	Drinking Water: Transmission/Distribution, Grant Hampton	894,729.11	800,318.61	0.00

**Quarters 2,3, & 4, 2021, Total 2022, Total 2023, & Quarter 1 2024 – American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds, as of 2.23.2024.**

From the \$30,606,902.00 received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$27,824,843.41 has been appropriated, \$19,562,342.13 expended, \$4,666,943.50 encumbered or obligated.

Project/Category		As of 2/23/24 Appropriations	As of 2/23/24 Expenditure	As of 2/23/24 Obligation
R511b	Drinking Water: Transmission/Distribution, Airport	102,000.00	100,805.00	0.00
R511c	Drinking Water: Transmission/Distribution, Greenfield	1,900,000.00	0.00	0.00
R511d	Drinking Water: Transmission/Distribution, Baltimore	613,000.00	0.00	613,000.00
R511e	Drinking Water: Transmission/Distribution, Pleasantville	834,000.00	456,309.05	377,690.95
R516a	Broadband, "Last Mile" Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Subtotal Infrastructure</b>		<b>6,232,104.14</b>	<b>2,341,808.52</b>	<b>1,834,620.63</b>
<b>Revenue Loss</b>				
R61a	SaaS and Technological Equipment	370,646.50	369,959.32	687.18
R61b	Recorder Document Scanning	337,984.72	337,984.72	0.00
R61c	Clerk of Courts Case Management	375,000.00	372,221.42	2,778.58
R61d	MARCS Tower Project	520,000.00	481,278.50	38,721.50
R61e	Dispatch Consoles	543,820.85	543,820.85	0.00
R61f	Fairfield Center Purchase	2,708,752.85	2,708,752.85	0.00
R61g	Fairfield Center Renovation	3,521,524.42	2,314,337.32	215,708.69
R61h	Community School Attendance Program	491,074.99	228,707.35	77,391.23
R61i	Workforce Center Expansion	0.00	0.00	0.00
R61j	Smart Growth	200,000.00	180,263.50	19,736.50
R61k	United Way and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00

**Quarters 2,3, & 4, 2021, Total 2022, Total 2023, & Quarter 1 2024 – American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds, as of 2.23.2024.**

From the \$30,606,902.00 received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$27,824,843.41 has been appropriated, \$19,562,342.13 expended, \$4,666,943.50 encumbered or obligated.

Project/Category		As of 2/23/24 Appropriations	As of 2/23/24 Expenditure	As of 2/23/24 Obligation
R61l	Auditor Historical Records Scanning	0.00	0.00	0.00
R61m	Engineer's Radios	80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00
R61n	Auditor Printers	4,357.66	4,357.66	0.00
R61o	Auditor Copiers	11,893.30	11,983.30	0.00
R61p	Bremen ADA Ramps	26,954.00	26,954.00	0.00
R517a	Beavers Field Utilities	20,896.18	20,896.18	0.00
<b>Revenue Loss</b>		9,237,995.47	7,706,516.97	355,023.68
<b>Administration</b>				
R71a	Administrative Expenses	402,262.70	323,658.01	0.00
<b>Subtotal Administration</b>		402,262.70	323,658.01	0.00
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$27,824,843.41</b>	<b>\$19,562,342.13</b>	<b>\$4,666,943.50</b>

*There are multiple projects under review in addition to the projects already approved.*

The county will be using a community visioning process to inform final decisions and prepare for the second tranche, as well as prepare for broad community goals, beyond the fiscal recovery program. We expect a report for the community strategic plan by the end of 2021. The county will be using the theme of Fairfield Forward for strategic planning. There are two main uses that stand out for Fairfield County's fiscal recovery:

1. Responding to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

As we think about the first purpose, we are required to:

- Identify a need or negative impact of the public health emergency,



OhioGuidestone  
WHERE NEW PATHS BEGIN



JOIN US  
FOR AN  
**OPEN HOUSE** at the STARLight CENTER  
**Thursday, February 29**

Come celebrate as we leap into the future of mental health and substance use care for our community.

**336 E. Locust Street, Lancaster**

**1:30 p.m. - Ribbon-cutting**

**4:30-6 p.m. - Community Open House**

Enjoy refreshments, community, tours and an extra day of the month.

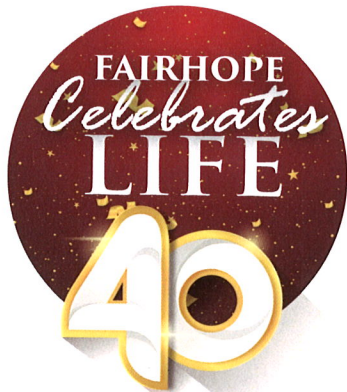
The STARLight Center, the first of its kind in Fairfield County, will provide a safe and welcoming environment with 24-7, fully staffed medical professionals. It will be able to treat eight adults struggling with mental health issues and 12 battling substance use who need immediate help. The STARLight Center fulfills a levy promise to the community.



# You're Invited

Hope you can make it. Kristin

# 40



Thursday  
**March 21, 2024**  
5:30pm - 8:30pm

The Mill Event Center  
431 S. Columbus Street • Lancaster

**Virtual Auction - Live Auction - Silent Auction \*Event Only**



fairhopehospice.org  
740-654-7077

**Tickets \$40 per person**



SCAN ME

### Benefiting the FAIRHOPE Memorial Fund

FAIRHOPE Hospice & Palliative Care's Memorial Fund is used to provide end-of-life care to terminally ill patients who otherwise could not afford care and assists with other special patient needs. FAIRHOPE provides care where you need it, when you need it.

DETACH AND MAIL

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets \$40 per person

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ people

Please make checks out to: FAIRHOPE Hospice & Palliative Care

Charge my credit card for \_\_\_\_\_ people

Purchase tickets online at <https://fairhopehospice.ejoinme.org/tickets>

Please list name(s) of attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Email Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_


Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CV2 \_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE if you would like to use this credit card information to register you for the virtual auction

# SILENT AND LIVE Auction

## How To:

<p><b>VIRTUAL AUCTION</b> New or Returning bidders</p> <p>To register for the online auction visit: <a href="https://fairhope2024.ggo.bid/bidding/package-browse">https://fairhope2024.ggo.bid/bidding/package-browse</a></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click <b>GET STARTED</b> or Log In</li> <li>• Choose <b>CREATE AN ACCOUNT</b> Enter your email address Verify your email address.</li> <li>• Click the link to <b>FINISH REGISTRATION</b></li> <li>• Enter your information</li> <li>• Click <b>CREATE</b></li> <li>• Click <b>START BIDDING</b> Browse Packages until bidding opens</li> </ul> <p><b>Bidding OPENS</b> <u>Tuesday March 19, 2024</u> at 8:00am!</p> <p><b>Bidding Ends</b> <b>Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup></b> at 8:00pm</p> <p><b>HOW TO BID</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose a Package</li> <li>• Click <b>BID NOW</b></li> <li>• Enter a bid amount and <b>SUBMIT</b></li> </ul> <p><i>If you have been outbid, a text message will be sent to you. Increase your bid by following "How to Bid" steps above.</i></p>
<p><b>LIVE AUCTION</b> <i>ONLY AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT</i></p> <p>To attend the in-person event, purchase your tickets here: <a href="https://fairhopehospice.ejoinme.org/tickets">https://fairhopehospice.ejoinme.org/tickets</a> or fill out the form enclosed and mail back to FAIRHOPE Hospice, 282 Sells Rd, Lancaster, OH 43130</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon arriving at the event, go to the Registration Table to collect your <b>LIVE AUCTION Paddle</b>.</li> <li>• Each attendee is assigned a number associated with their name.</li> <li>• During the <b>LIVE AUCTION</b>, raise your paddle to bid.</li> <li>• See registration table at the close of the auction to make your payment on winning packages.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IN-PERSON SILENT AUCTION</b></p> <p>These packages are only up for bid for <b>attendees at the event</b></p>	<p>This bidding is done by writing in your bids on the <b>SHEET</b> associated with each package. To bid on these items, <b>WRITE</b> your bid and your name on the lines assigned to each package! See registration table at the close of the auction to make your payment on winning packages.</p>

## CONCLUSION OF AUCTION

If you have won a package(s) and you DID NOT attend in person, your items can be picked up at FAIRHOPE's Anita M. Turner Center, 282 Sells Road, Lancaster on Monday March 25th from 8:00am - 4:00pm. If you need to make other arrangements, please email [giving@fairhopehospice.org](mailto:giving@fairhopehospice.org)

If you won a package(s) and you DID attend in person, make your way to the registration table to pay and collect your item(s)!



# SAVE THE DATE



*Wear*  
**BLUE**  
on April 10

You're invited to join us and other community members as we wear **BLUE** and gather together to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect.



*Together, we can build great childhoods and a successful future for the children in our community.*

Reception and networking will be from 8-8:30 a.m. Presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m.



## Child Abuse Prevention Month **BREAKFAST**

Wednesday, April 10

8-10 a.m. • Life Church Vineyard

5550 Lancaster-Newark Rd. NE Pleasantville, OH 43148

#OhioWearsBlue  
02/27/2024

#WearBlue4Kids  
023



David A. Uhl, Superintendent

**Board Members**

Sharon Scruggs, President  
Bob Competti, Vice President  
Matt Wideman, Secretary  
Pamela Barkley  
Jessica Roth  
Derek Upp

**Contact Information:**

Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities  
Anne Mikan  
740-652-7220  
[communications@fairfielddd.com](mailto:communications@fairfielddd.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Fairfield DD Announces \$890K Grant to Promote Accessibility**

LANCASTER, OHIO, February 14 --- Dr. David Uhl, Superintendent of the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Fairfield DD), is pleased to announce the agency has been awarded a grant of \$890,000. "We are excited for the opportunity to invest these funds in Fairfield County as we work to bring about a more vibrant community. This funding will enable us to expand opportunities without putting a strain on our local taxpayers" said Dr. Uhl.

The funds will impact Fairfield County in the areas of supported connections, accessible communities, universally accessible changing tables, and unserved/underserved communities. "We will be making announcements in the coming weeks about how these funds will be invested and what organizations we are partnering with to make the greatest impact possible for our community," said Dr. Uhl.

"These investments are truly going to make a difference for people with developmental disabilities and their families by giving them more access to the communities where they live," said Governor Mike DeWine. "People with developmental disabilities deserve opportunities, a reliable workforce, and an accessible state to live, learn, work, and succeed in."

As part of the 14.9 million ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding, the money will be dispersed across 67 counties throughout the state to better serve Ohio residents and their families who have a developmental disability.

**Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities**

Administrative Offices  
795 College Avenue  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 652-7220  
(740) 687-7250 (fax)  
(800) 750-0750 TTY

Pickerington Office  
7140 Reynoldsburg-Baltimore Rd.  
Pickerington, Ohio 43147  
(740) 652-7235  
(614) 835-2700  
(614) 835-2702 (fax)

Services & Supports  
717 College Avenue  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 652-7230  
(740) 756-7857 (fax)

Forest Rose School  
739 College Avenue  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 652-7225  
(740) 681-5731 (fax)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**Fairfield County Awarded Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**

**Lancaster, Ohio** - Fairfield County Auditor, Dr. Carri L. Brown, learned today that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded Fairfield County with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award is based on the production of the annual comprehensive financial report for the year ended December 31, 2022. The report has been judged by an independent panel to meet high standards for financial reporting.

The annual comprehensive financial report is found here: <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/fc-financial-reports-ACFR-PAFR.html>

Brown stated, “The GFOA Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment. Thank you to the County Auditor’s team, the State Auditor, elected officials and department heads of Fairfield County, and to GFOA, all of whom have worked hard to produce the report, provide data, develop guidance, or interpret standards.”

A copy of the GFOA press release, the Award for Financial Reporting, and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

If anyone has any questions about this report or financial reporting for Fairfield County, please contact Auditor Carri Brown at [carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov).

###

Follow Your Auditor’s Office On **Social Media!**



[linkedin.com/company/fairfield-county-auditor](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fairfield-county-auditor)



@FairCoAuditor



@FairCoAuditor



@FairfieldCountyAuditor



co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor



realestate.co.fairfield.oh.us



Newsletter





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**Fairfield County Auditor Updates Levy Estimator Tool for March 19<sup>th</sup> Election Levies**

**Lancaster, Ohio** – The Fairfield County Auditor’s Office is pleased to announce the availability of an updated tax levy estimator tool on the Auditor’s Real Estate website. A tutorial on how to use the updated online tool is attached.

County Auditor Carri Brown stated, “If a property owner would like to estimate the amount of tax associated with new millage that is on the ballot for approval, this tool can be helpful in that property owner’s evaluation of the issue.”

For the Tuesday, March 19, 2024, primary election, Fairfield County residents in Walnut Township, the Basil Joint Fire District (Liberty Township and the Village of Baltimore), Clearcreek Township, and Violet Township will see proposed levy issues on their ballots. General fact sheets about the issues are on the County Auditor’s website in addition to the levy estimator tool.

Estimates calculated with the online tool are based on known information.

For more information or questions regarding the levy estimator tool, please contact the County Auditor’s Office at (740) 652-7020 or (740) 652-7030.

###

Follow Your Auditor’s Office On **Social Media!**



linkedin.com/company/  
fairfield-county-auditor



@FairCoAuditor



@FairCoAuditor



@FairfieldCountyAuditor



co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor



realestate.co.  
fairfield.oh.us

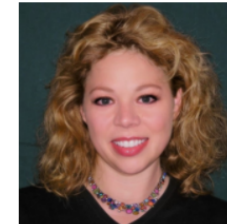
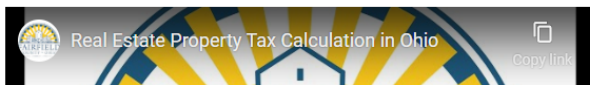
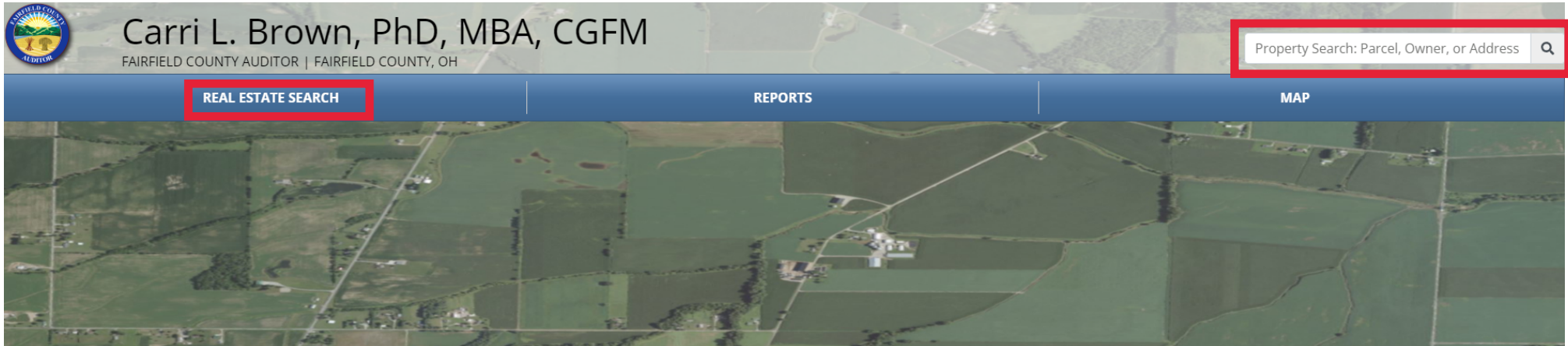


Newsletter

SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT

## Accessing and Using the Levy Estimator

1. The Levy Estimator can be accessed on the Fairfield County Real Estate website located at <https://realestate.co.fairfield.oh.us>. The Levy Estimator is available beginning 12 days after the Board of Elections certifies ballot items through the elections the levy will be included in. *Levies are updated as they are certified by the Board of Elections.*
2. Start by searching for a parcel in the top right hand corner or by clicking Real Estate Search on the top menu bar. You can search by parcel number, owner name, or address.



### Contact Us

**Fairfield County Auditor**  
210 E Main St  
Room 201  
Lancaster, OH 43130

**Auditor's Office**  
**Real Estate Assessment - GIS & Mapping**  
108 N High St  
Lancaster, OH 43130

Auditor: (740) 652-7020  
Real Estate: (740) 652-7030  
GIS: (740) 652-7055  
Map Room: (740) 652-7060

Auditor: (740) 652-7029  
Real Estate: (740) 687-6781  
Map Room: (740) 681-5596

[Email the Auditor's Office](#)

## Accessing and Using the Levy Estimator

- Once you are on the parcel information page, there is a menu of options in the middle of the screen. You may choose Levies to access the Levy Estimator.

Carri L Brown, PhD, MBA, CGFM  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR | FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OH

Log In Search search...

Layers Map Search Sales Search Sales List Results Sales Results Report Home Tax Estimator Tax Distribution **Levies**

Information

Summary

Parcel Number 0410480700

- Once you are on the levies screen, the taxing authority, levy purpose, mills, and other information will be displayed. Finally, on the far right, the total increase or decrease will be displayed for the active parcel.

Layers Map Search Sales Search Sales List Results Sales Results Report Home Tax Estimator Tax Distribution Levies

Levies

Authority	Violet Township	Election Date	11/8/2022
Use	Senior Services & Facilities	Beginning Tax Year	2023
Levy Type	Renewal	Number of Years	5
Proposed Mills	0.2		
Tax Current		Tax Proposed	Tax Incr/(Decr)
\$9.72		\$9.72	\$0.00

Authority	Pickerington LSD	Election Date	11/8/2022
Use	Bond	Beginning Tax Year	2022
Levy Type	Additional	Number of Years	37
Proposed Mills	2.8		
Tax Current		Tax Proposed	Tax Incr/(Decr)
\$0.00		\$205.83	\$205.83

Information

Fairfield County, OH  
108 N High St  
Room 110  
Lancaster, OH 43130  
[https://realestate.co.fairfield\\_oh.us/](https://realestate.co.fairfield_oh.us/)

- If no levy is on the ballot that applies to the parcel, a message will be displayed stating no levies apply to this parcel at this time.

## Levies





GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

2/20/2024

**For more information contact:**  
**Michele Mark Levine, Director/TSC**  
**Phone: (312) 977-9700**  
**Fax: (312) 977-4806**  
**Email: [mlevine@gfoa.org](mailto:mlevine@gfoa.org)**

(Chicago, Illinois)—Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to **Fairfield County** for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

*Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.*



The Government Finance Officers Association of  
the United States and Canada

*presents this*

## AWARD OF FINANCIAL REPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

*to*

**Carri L. Brown, PhD, MBA, CGFM**

Auditor

Fairfield County, Ohio



*The Award of Financial Reporting Achievement is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to the department or individual designated as instrumental in the government unit achieving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. A Certificate of Achievement is presented to those government units whose annual financial reports are judged to adhere to program standards and represents the highest award in government financial reporting.*

Executive Director

*Christopher P. Morrill*

Date: 2/20/2024



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of  
Achievement  
for Excellence  
in Financial  
Reporting

Presented to

**Fairfield County  
Ohio**

For its Annual Comprehensive  
Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2022

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director/CEO



To: Fairfield County Commissioners & Staff  
From: Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor  
Date: February 22, 2024  
Subjects: Levy Fact Sheets; Tax Exemption for “Pre-Residential” Property; CAUV Applications; Family Dollar Settlement; and Pi Day/Community Day for Meals on Wheels

### Levy Fact Sheets

Four fact sheets have been prepared about ballot issues. The fact sheets include answers to the standard questions that are posed by the media and the public. They are for proposed issues for Violet Township, Clearcreek Township, the Basil Joint Fire District, and Walnut Township. All fact sheets will be posted on the County Auditor’s webpages, and all were provided to the entities prior to publication.

### Tax Exemption for “Pre-Residential” Property

Updates to the Ohio Revised Code Sec. 5709.56 were included in the state budget bill (HB33) last year. The new tax exemption was proposed by the Ohio Home Builders’ Association and sponsored by Rep. Jim Hoops and Senator George Lang. The new law exempts from property tax the value of unimproved land subdivided for residential development in excess of the fair market value of the property from which that land was subdivided, apportioned according to the relative value of each subdivided parcel. The exemption is authorized for up to **eight** years, or until construction begins or the land is sold. The exemption does not apply to land included in a tax increment financing, or TIF, project. The law ensures development property no longer used as farmland is ineligible for the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program.

### CAUV Applications

CAUV applications are due March 4. A second notice will be mailed on March 11.

### Family Dollar Settlement

Similar to the settlement of Dollar General, the state’s settlement with Family Dollar will result in donations in Fairfield County to the Community Action and Lutheran Social Services food pantries.

### 3.14 Pi Day/Community Day for Meals on Wheels

We are celebrating Pi Day by supporting Meals on Wheels with their fundraiser, selling pies. Rachel Elsea is also volunteering for the MOW Community Day.

#### CONTACT US!

Settlements/Admin – (740) 652-7020 • Real Estate - (740) 652-7030  
co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor • X FairCoAuditor • f FairfieldCountyAuditor • @FairCoAuditor • fairfield-county-auditor

## **Basil Joint Fire District Ballot Issue** **(Liberty Township & Village of Baltimore)**

- **The Basil Joint Fire District is placing a 4.5 mill *additional* levy on the ballot March 19, 2024.** This *additional* levy is for **fire protection** and is *continuing*. Collections for the *additional* levy, if passed, will begin in 2025.
- Basil Joint Fire District has **current** fire protection millage passed at 12 mills: This is continuing. Reduction factors are applied to this millage. In other words, a difference exists between the rate authorized by the voters and the actual mills charged. This "*effective millage rate*" reflects how original voted mills are decreased to account for increasing prices in the real estate market. While passed at 12 mills, current millage is collected at approximately 7 mills. The *current* millage provides an estimated \$2,535,000 annually. For a property owner with a home valued at \$100,000, the annual tax currently is \$221. For a property owner with a home valued at \$300,000, the annual tax currently is \$663.
- **For a property owner with a home valued at \$100,000, the annual tax for the *additional* levy proposed on the ballot March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, would be \$158.** For a property owner with a home valued at \$300,000, the annual tax for the additional levy would be \$474.
- **If voters pass the proposed *additional* levy, an estimated additional \$1,554,033 will be collected annually.**

**Do you have questions about plans for proceeds of the additional levy for fire protection?**

Please reach out to Basil Joint Fire District:

Basil Joint Fire District  
410 Washington Street  
Baltimore, Ohio 43105  
Office Phone: (740) 862-8596

### **CONTACT US!**

Settlements/Admin – (740) 652-7020 • Real Estate - (740) 652-7030

## Clearcreek Township Road and Bridge Improvements Ballot Issue

- **Clearcreek Township is placing a 0.5 mill *replacement levy* on the ballot March 19, 2024.** This *replacement levy* for **road and bridge (snow) improvements** is for a period of 5 years. Collections for the replacement levy, if passed, will begin in 2025.
  - A road improvement (snow) levy will have its last collections in 2024 if it is not replaced. The effective rate for that levy is now .185169, although it was passed at .5 mills. Reduction factors have been applied based on increasing market values or property. This levy has an estimated tax of about \$6 annually for a home valued at \$100,000. For this levy, the township anticipates collecting \$18,667 in 2024.
- **For a property owner with a home valued at \$100,000, the annual estimated tax for the *replacement levy* would be about \$18.**
- **If voters pass the proposed *replacement*, an estimated \$56,000 will be collected annually.**
- Each of these estimates is based on current assessed valuations of real estate.

### Do you have questions about plans for proceeds of the replacement levy for road and bridge (snow) improvements?

Please reach out to Clearcreek Township:

Clearcreek Township  
11060 Main Street SW  
Stoutsville, Ohio 43154  
Office Phone: (740) 474-4300

#### CONTACT US!

Settlements/Admin – (740) 652-7020 • Real Estate - (740) 652-7030



## Your Fairfield County Auditor's Office: **WINS OF THE WEEK**

February 22, 2024

Our brains are wired to respond to rewards. Celebrating the completion of small accomplishments leads to the completion of larger goals. And there is evidence in research to support this... According to research by Teresa Amabile from Harvard Business School, tracking small achievements enhances motivation for larger goals...

- ★ This week, we received great news about being honored with the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada Award of Financial Reporting Achievement. The Certificate of Achievement in Excellence of Financial Reporting for the year ended December 31, 2022, will be included in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Thank you to the County Auditor's team, particularly Angel Horn, the State Auditor, particularly Nancy Brunton, all leadership of Fairfield County departments and component units, and the GFOA for their hard work in preparing or evaluating financial reports and standards.

Please see the attached certificates.

- Collectively, we are planning a short presentation for the **Housing Coalition**, based on their request. We have thought about ways to make the presentation interesting for this audience. We also received a request to conduct a presentation for the County Landlord Association.
- Thanks to the whole team for **parking on the street to save parking space for jurors** on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>! We know the courts were very appreciative.

- ★ Thanks to Bev Hoskinson and Jen Dickerson for bringing full functionality to the Enterprise Resource Planning Disaster Recovery plan.

- ★ Thanks to Nick Dilley and the GIS team for creating a map to help Violet Township. They did this very quickly – with same day service! The resulting article in the media was improved with the inclusion of a map.

- ★ A Board of Revision meeting was held on February 21. During this meeting, it was reported that as of today, all but one case is with resolution in sight - prior to a formal hearing. The deadline for complaints is April 1 this year. We have been conducting outreach so that citizens know of their options to file complaints. We expect about 20 more from schools, and we will see how many more we have this year! What a manageable outcome!

- ★ Good job to the GIS team for resolving testing for the E911 system!

### CONTACT US!

Settlements/Admin – (740) 652-7020 • Real Estate - (740) 652-7030

co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor • FairCoAuditor • FairfieldCountyAuditor • FairCoAuditor • fairfield-county-auditor

02/27/2024

035





## Your Fairfield County Auditor's Office: **WINS OF THE WEEK**

**February 22, 2024**

- Thanks to the team for installing **workstation updates**. Many positive comments have been received from staff.
- Carri treated **new employees** to lunch on Wednesday. It was so nice to have the time to connect. They also had some great ideas for Payroll to show appreciation. Thanks for sharing those ideas!
- On Thursday, we held a **meeting with City of Lancaster officials regarding a potential change to a TIF agreement**. We are learning more about TIF agreements and how they work.
- Also on Thursday, Carri attended a **financial planning meeting with the City of Lancaster Schools**.
- The Payroll team continues to **provide information to Athens County** as they continue to train new staff.
- The Financial Systems team is **on track** with internal deadlines for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and the REA team is on track with the sexennial update plans.
- ★ **With *Weights and Measures*, we are working on a way to prepare outreach materials about skimmers at gas station pumps. We are also celebrating national Weights and Measures Week. Thanks to Patrick Brighton and Carter Corcoran for their hard work.**
- **Kit Burley** received a nice thank you note from Logan-Hocking Middle School officials for her good customer service and follow-up!
- Thanks to **Josh Harper** for resolving a customer service issue and helping his team.
- ★ **Thanks to *Meagen Bowland* for volunteering to serve as a point of contact with the State Treasurer for a new technology to transfer Housing Trust fees to the state. This is a voluntary process for central Ohio counties. The pilot will help other counties use the new technology.**
- Thanks to the **Payroll Department** for their thoughtful approach to a SWOT analysis.

### **Did you know March is CGFM Month?**

Throughout the state, we are thanking all of our current CGFMs who serve government by demonstration competency in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, and budgeting at the state and local levels.

If anyone is interested in becoming a *Certified Government Financial Manager*, please see Carri.

#### **CONTACT US!**

Settlements/Admin – (740) 652-7020 • Real Estate - (740) 652-7030

[co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor](http://co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor) • FairCoAuditor • FairfieldCountyAuditor • FairCoAuditor • fairfield-county-auditor

02/27/2024

036



David Levacy, Commissioner  
Jeff Fix, Commissioner  
Steve Davis, Commissioner  
210 East Main Street, Room 301  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Bill Yates, Trustee  
Terry Horn, Trustee  
Doug Leith, Trustee  
11420 Millersport Road  
Millersport, Ohio 43046

Dear Commissioners and Walnut Township Trustees,

I am writing to say I am in support of the Eastern Cottontail Solar project in Fairfield County for many reasons, one being the positive benefits this project would have on our local and statewide environment.

We must bring clean, non-polluting development into our communities and state, especially those that can help us meet a growing energy demand.

Not only would the development of Eastern Cottontail ensure that Fairfield preserves farmland for future generations, it would also maintain the robust wildlife habitat better than a housing development or other infrastructure that may be placed on the land.

Renewable energy projects like Eastern Cottontail Solar are an important part of the future of Ohio's economy and environment. The economic, community, infrastructure, and health benefits this project will bring our state are significant.

I urge your support of the Eastern Cottontail Solar Project.

Name: *Ken Leith*

Address: *105 E MAIN ST  
BALTIMORE, OHIO*

cc: Ohio Power Siting Board

*43105*

David Levacy, Commissioner  
Jeff Fix, Commissioner  
Steve Davis, Commissioner  
210 East Main Street, Room 301  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Bill Yates, Trustee  
Terry Horn, Trustee  
Doug Leith, Trustee  
11420 Millersport Road  
Millersport, Ohio 43046

Dear Commissioners and Walnut Township Trustees,

I am a resident of Fairfield County in favor of the proposed Eastern Cottontail Solar project.

Eastern Cottontail will be a clean, quiet neighbor to our county while bringing the advantages of expanding our tax revenues and producing energy necessary to power our homes and businesses. Many municipalities, including our schools, will profit greatly from the creation of this project.

This is a win-win for local taxpayers, reducing the burden of raising taxes through levies and ensuring the school has a robust revenue stream for years to come.

**I am proud to be a part of supporting economic development that will have a lasting, positive impact on the education of our children within Fairfield County.**

This project is a great opportunity to show support for the development of Fairfield in a responsible way that benefits our community.

I urge you to support Eastern Cottontail Solar.

Name: *Cody Chapman*

Address: *13330 Shell Beach rd  
Thermille OH*

cc: Ohio Power Siting Board

Feb. 14, 2024

We live in Amanda Township. The peace and quiet is very healthy and comforting for our family and animals.

We value nature and the scenic views are breathtaking!

If solar panels are so important, why not build them in areas where sun light is more accessible. The desert, the bad lands, or even on buildings in the big cities.

Plus, farm land is more important for growing crops!

Sincerely -  
Amy Hoover  
11231 Stout Rd. SW  
Amanda, Ohio 43102

David Levacy, Commissioner  
Jeff Fix, Commissioner  
Steve Davis, Commissioner  
210 East Main Street, Room 301  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Bill Yates, Trustee  
Terry Horn, Trustee  
Doug Leith, Trustee  
11420 Millersport Road  
Millersport, Ohio 43046

Dear Commissioners and Walnut Township Trustees,

I am a resident of ~~Fairfield~~ *Perry* County in favor of the proposed Eastern Cottontail Solar project.

Eastern Cottontail will be a clean, quiet neighbor to our county while bringing the advantages of expanding our tax revenues and producing energy necessary to power our homes and businesses. Many municipalities, including our schools, will profit greatly from the creation of this project.

This is a win-win for local taxpayers, reducing the burden of raising taxes through levies and ensuring the school has a robust revenue stream for years to come.

**I am proud to be a part of supporting economic development that will have a lasting, positive impact on the education of our children within ~~Fairfield~~ *Perry* County.**

This project is a great opportunity to show support for the development of Fairfield in a responsible way that benefits our community.

I urge you to support Eastern Cottontail Solar.

Name: *Richard A Bundock*

Address: *3686 St. Rt. 345 NE,  
New Lexington, OH. 43764*

cc: Ohio Power Siting Board

David Levacy, Commissioner  
Jeff Fix, Commissioner  
Steve Davis, Commissioner  
210 East Main Street, Room 301  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Bill Yates, Trustee  
Terry Horn, Trustee  
Doug Leith, Trustee  
11420 Millersport Road  
Millersport, Ohio 43046

Dear Commissioners and Walnut Township Trustees,

I am a resident of Fairfield County in favor of the proposed Eastern Cottontail Solar project.

Eastern Cottontail will be a clean, quiet neighbor to our county while bringing the advantages of expanding our tax revenues and producing energy necessary to power our homes and businesses. Many municipalities, including our schools, will profit greatly from the creation of this project.

This is a win-win for local taxpayers, reducing the burden of raising taxes through levies and ensuring the school has a robust revenue stream for years to come.

**I am proud to be a part of supporting economic development that will have a lasting, positive impact on the education of our children within Fairfield County.**

This project is a great opportunity to show support for the development of Fairfield in a responsible way that benefits our community.

I urge you to support Eastern Cottontail Solar.

Name:

DALE ESTEP

Address:

206 E Columbus ST  
PLEASANTVILLE OHIO 43148

cc: Ohio Power Siting Board

**From:** Laura Cooper <[Laura.Cooper.688649126@sendgrassroots.com](mailto:Laura.Cooper.688649126@sendgrassroots.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:00 AM  
**To:** Cordle, Aundrea N <[aundrea.cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:aundrea.cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)>  
**Subject:** [E] Reaffirm your commitment to America's closest ally, Israel.

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Commissioner David Levacy ,

Israel is once again under attack.

On October 7th, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group controlling Gaza, launched an unprecedented surprise attack on Israel.

Since the attack began, reports have confirmed at least 1,200 Israelis have been murdered, including 40 babies. 240 people were kidnapped, with over 120 still being held in captivity. 5,400 people have been wounded, with hundreds in critical condition, and more than 10,000 rockets have been fired against Israeli towns and civilians.

As your constituent, I am asking you to reaffirm your commitment to the U.S.-Israel relationship, Israel's right to defend itself, denounce Hamas terror, and to help us bring home all the hostages held by Hamas in Gaza.

The United States and Israel share an unbreakable bond based on shared values. A secure and thriving Israel is paramount to America's national security. From cooperation on technological and medical advancements, to security collaboration, a thriving, multidimensional U.S.-Israel partnership benefits Americans from all walks of life.

Israel is under constant threat, both from terrorists such as Iran's proxies Hamas and Hezbollah, and from those who undermine Israel's right to exist. The attacks of October 7 destroyed any assumptions that Hamas' had a pragmatic interest in governing Gaza – its sole goal is the elimination of Israel and the Jewish people. As such, calling for a ceasefire gives Hamas credit and authority it no longer deserves. Calls for a ceasefire are not reasonable or realistic, nor is it the only way to guarantee that Palestinian civilians will be protected. Existing efforts to allow for food, water, medicine, and other essential assistance to flow into Gaza and to the people who need them must be bolstered.

This latest string of violent attacks highlights the precarious situation Israel faces and the need for America to stand with Israel against the many challenges she faces. The vital relationship between the U.S. and Israel must be celebrated and closely safeguarded, both in times of peace and crisis. Your support for the Jewish state is of paramount importance to millions of Americans across this country.

Thank you for supporting a safe and secure Israel.

Sincerely,  
Laura Cooper



# WENDEL CENTER for Art Education

02/27/2024

Fairfield County Commissioners  
Or Current Resident  
210 East Main St Room 301  
Lancaster OH 43130



www.decartsohio.org

740.681.1423

043

**Watercolor classes for all skill levels!**  
**AGES 17-ADULT**



## Explore Watercolor

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 5:30-7:00PM

\$85/\$76 member per session | Lisa Schorr, instructor

Designed for artists who are at the beginning of their watercolor journeys or are reconnecting with this art medium and need to review the basics, this 5-week session includes all supplies.

## Watercolor 101

Wednesdays | 12:00-1:30PM

Session A: February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13

Session B: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24

Session C: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5

Session D: June 12, 19, July 3, 10, 17, 24

\$75/\$68 member per session | Lisa Schorr, instructor

Designed for individuals who are toward the beginning of their watercolor journey, this class further explores the basics of painting using this medium. Topics covered in this course include composition, color and painting techniques. Watercolor supplies are provided.

## Watercolor Wednesdays

Wednesdays | 3:00-5:00PM

Session A: February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13

Session B: March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24

Session C: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5

Session D: June 12, 19, July 3, 10, 17, 24

\$75/\$68 member per session | Lisa Schorr, instructor

Improve your watercolor skills by learning about composition, color and painting techniques in this fun Wednesday class designed for advanced students. Each week, students will begin a new painting from a photograph or a still life. Students should bring their own watercolor supplies.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

February - July 2024



# DIO SESSIONS

## Painting | GRADES 1-5



Monday, February 4, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
\$230/\$27 member  
Tuesday, February 5, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
\$25/\$45/\$40 member

immerse themselves in the fundamentals of art creation. of painting basics, students will cultivate new skills and with the ultimate goal of gaining a strong foundation for their

## ndamentals | GRADES 1-5

Monday, February 4, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Tuesday, February 5, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
\$25/\$45/\$40 member



per session | Dallas Gossett, instructor

step into the foundational principles of drawing in this class, al topics like the elements of art, composition, proportion, olume, light and shadow, value and texture. By exploring visual j their observational skills, students will learn how to effectively

## ht | GRADES 6-12

Monday, February 4, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Tuesday, February 5, 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
\$25/\$45/\$40 member



per session | Dallas Gossett, instructor

the power of artistic expression while exploring various mediums ng, ceramics and more. With the guidance of a skilled instructor, ew techniques as they bring their artistic visions to life.

For more information, please contact the Center for Art Education at 740.681.1423 or go to [www.decartschoolio.org](http://www.decartschoolio.org)

is online for additional class information, teacher bios, information about the Center's programs and exhibitions. lies will be provided unless otherwise indicated.

## Portrait Photography with Tariq Tareq

AGES 16-ADULT

Sunday, February 25 & March 10, 1:00-4:00PM  
\$150/\$125 member | for both sessions

Award-winning photographer Tariq Tareq will share tips to capturing stunning portrait photographs in these two Masterclass sessions. Learn about the elements of composition, storytelling and lighting to create captivating and meaningful portraits.

## Baby Monet

AGES 6 MONTHS-3 YEARS WITH ADULT

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 | 10:00-11:00AM  
\$65/\$58 member | Dallas Gossett, INSTRUCTOR

Stimulate your child's artistic senses through hands-on activities with various art mediums like clay, paint, paper and textures. Enjoy quality time with your little Monet in a supportive and engaging environment that fosters parent-child bonding through artistic expression and exploration.

## Kids & Cameras

AGES 10-15 • smartphone required

Saturday, March 9 | 12:00-1:30PM

\$25/\$20 member | Bev Johnston, INSTRUCTOR

In this hands-on class, discover the art of capturing stunning photos using your cell phone, mastering artistic compositions and editing techniques like a professional, all while using your own device. Unlock the potential of your smartphone's camera and unleash your creativity in this engaging workshop. *Bring your own smartphone.*

## Elevated Cell Phone Photography

AGES 16-ADULT • smartphone required

Saturday, March 16 | 12:00-1:30PM

\$25/\$20 member | Bev Johnston, INSTRUCTOR

In this hands-on class, discover the art of capturing stunning photos using your cell phone, mastering artistic compositions and editing techniques like a professional, all while using your own device. Unlock the potential of your smartphone's camera and unleash your creativity in this engaging workshop. *Bring your own smartphone.*

## Beading Extravaganza

AGES 16-ADULT

Sunday, April 14 | 1:00-3:00PM

\$75/\$68 member | Lara Roketenetz, INSTRUCTOR

Learn how to weave a Monarch wing necklace in this enchanting class while learning Monarch butterfly and gardening facts. You'll also learn tricks and tips for creating these unique pieces, and will go home with enough supplies to make a matching pair of earrings. No experience is necessary, though reading glasses are recommended.

## Artistically Embellish Your Denim

AGES 17-ADULT

Saturday, May 4 | 1:00-3:00PM  
\$35/\$30 member | Lisa Schorr & Dallas Gossett, INSTRUCTORS

Unleash your inner fashion designer in this hands-on workshop where you'll transform a pair of jeans or a jean jacket into a personalized masterpiece using fabric paint, beads, embroidery floss and fabrics. Express your creativity and style as you craft a unique clothing item that reflects your individuality. Bring a pair of jeans or jean jacket.

## Photography Tinting

AGES 15-ADULT

Saturday, May 18 | 1:00-3:00PM  
\$25/\$20 member | Lisa Schorr, INSTRUCTOR

Embark on a creative journey that will breathe new life into your cherished memories. Bring 3-5 photos, whether in color or black and white, and watch them undergo a stunning transformation using pigments that will bring them to life on special paper.

# DACO SUMMER CAMPS

## Summer Camp session 1 • Ages 6-10

Monday-Friday, June 10-14 | 10:00AM-12:00PM

\$98/\$89 member | Lisa Schorr & Dallas Gossett, INSTRUCTORS

Join us for an exciting summer camp that explores the captivating life cycle of Monarch butterflies and bees. In this camp, we'll explore their significance in our ecosystem and their vital role in securing our food sources while engaging in immersive activities like reading informative books, painting butterflies, crafting bee condos and nurturing a butterfly garden. Please send T-shirt size upon registration.

## Summer Camp session 2 • Ages 11-16

Monday-Friday, June 24-28 | 1:00-3:00PM

\$98/\$89 member | Lisa Schorr & Dallas Gossett, INSTRUCTORS

Attention passionate artists! Dive into a week of creative exploration starting with crafting your personalized ceramic paint palette. In the following days, you'll immerse yourself in a paper-making session, delve into the art of creating your own watercolor paints and filling your palettes with vibrant hues in a watercolor painting session.





## County Spotlight

### COMMISSION CONNECTION - COMMISSIONER FIX VISITS BERNE UNION

Commissioner Jeff Fix had the opportunity to meet with Superintendent Jon Parker to discuss the new Berne Union School and County Land Use Plan. You can watch the video through the link below.



### FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES - PROTECTIVE SERVICES SELECTED AS ONE OF EIGHT COUNTY AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT PRACTICE IN ACTION TOGETHER

Fairfield County Job and Family Services - Protective Services was selected as one of eight county agencies to implement Practice in Action Together (PACT). PACT is a new shared practice model that's been identified as a key component



for modernizing Ohio's children services agencies. Read a quote from Sarah Fortner, Deputy Director of Protective Services at JFS - Protective Services below, and read the full news release [here](#).

*“The purpose of PACT is to elevate healing and build relationships. Moving forward with this practice will strengthen our collaborative decision making with families and our shared hope for success,” said Sarah Fortner, Deputy Director of Protective Services at Fairfield County Job and Family Services – Protective Services. “Our overall goal is to provide the best services, support, and outcomes for the families and children we serve. My hope is that implementing this behavior-driven approach to practice will ultimately lead to equity for our families, workers and community.”*

---

## SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS - ONLINE SAFETY

In alignment with our monthly theme, Safety and Preparedness, we want to take a moment to highlight the importance of online safety with the below video. Online safety is an important issue for parents, teens and anyone who uses mobile apps or the internet. Awareness in the online environment is key. The video below, presented by the Fairfield County Sheriff's office, Fairfield County Prosecutor's office and the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, helps identify red flags and what to avoid to stay safe online.

We encourage you to watch below and discuss with your children.



---

## HEALTHY AGING PROGRAMS

The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners recently awarded funding to seven organizations within Fairfield County to support older adults.

Healthy Aging Grants were distributed to counties to bolster critical aging supports for things such as food and housing assistance, as well as internet access and digital literacy. A total of 85 counties within Ohio received Healthy Aging Grant funds, with each county



receiving a base amount of \$100,000 and additional funds attributed to the number of county residents ages 60 and older. Fairfield County was awarded a total of \$359,409.

The Ohio Department of Aging provided these grants to each recipient to address social determinants of health and to foster improved quality of life for older Ohioans in Fairfield County. The funds will support people so that they may remain in their homes and be connected to their communities, preserve their personal assets and promote a healthy, independent, active lifestyle. Healthy Aging Grants provide expansion of evidence-informed/evidence-based programs and services in alignment with Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging.

Moreover, these funds will be leveraged to aid households and the communities' recovery from the most recent COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, including supporting older Ohioans disproportionately impacted, many of whom continue to struggle with health and economic consequences. Healthy Aging Grants resolve to address the longstanding health and economic disparities, which amplified the impact of the pandemic in many Ohio counties.

The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners approved funds for all seven agencies seeking funding to fund projects that support food insecurity, housing issues, digital literacy training and internet access, home repairs, case management services and more. Fairfield County Job and Family Services is assisting with completing the grant reporting and monitoring requirements.

The Senior Hub, Salvation Army, New Horizons Mental Health, United Church Homes, United Way, Center for Independence, and the Fairfield County Health Department all received grants to support older adults within the community in various ways.

---

## LANCASTER-FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY



Inspiring Change for People  
with Disabilities

Calling all individuals, employers and families in Lancaster and Fairfield County! OCALI, a disability service dedicated to inspiring change, promoting access and linking research to real life for people with disabilities, has been working closely with Destination Downtown Lancaster. Their goal is to foster discussions around accessibility and belonging for all in our community, with a specific lens on people with disabilities and neurodivergence. They are seeking feedback from the community via the survey below. Please share with others so that robust feedback can be received as we strive to make Fairfield County an even more supportive community for all individuals and families. We thank you for your time and feedback!

[Take the Survey](#)

## Community Corner

### THE SENIOR HUB - PI DAY

Looking to support The Senior Hub? Their annual Pi Day fundraiser takes place on March 14. You can order delicious pies for pick up or delivery using [this form](#), or become a Pi Day sponsor and have your company logo added to the pie box!

Learn more on their website [here](#).





---

## ON WITH AUNIE: TIM HUBBELL, OUTREACH SPECIALIST AT LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES FAITH MISSION OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Check out the latest episode of *On with Aunie*. Episode 7 features Tim Hubbell, Outreach Specialist at Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Faith Mission of Fairfield County. Gain insights into community outreach and the incredible work that LSS Faith Mission of Fairfield County is doing in our community! Don't miss it, watch now below.



## Fairfield Forward

---

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners will consider the Fairfield County Comprehensive Plan should it be approved and recommended to the Commissioners during an upcoming public meeting of the Regional Planning Commission. The meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Fairfield County Workforce Center located at 4465 Coonpath Road NW, Carroll.



If approved, the Comprehensive Plan will be recommended to the Fairfield County Commissioners to consider in a public meeting on March 19, 2024, at 9 a.m. at the Fairfield County Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Commissioners' Hearing Room.

September 2023 public hearing to allow more time and discussion prior to finalizing it.

Read the updated plan [here](#).

---

## ROAD CLOSURES AND UPCOMING PROJECTS

Stay up-to-date on the latest road closures and upcoming projects on the Engineer's page using the link below.



[Engineer Page](#)

---

## SOAR AWARD

Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit (LFPT) was awarded with the Safe Operations Award/Recognition (SOAR) by the Ohio Transit Risk Pool! LFPT was recognized for their unwavering commitment to providing a low cost of risk to those who use public transit. Keep up the great work!



---

## OHIO LOVES TRANSIT WEEK

February 11-17 was Ohio Loves Transit Week. During this week, we highlight the positive impact public transportation has on the daily lives of the riders. Representatives from Fairfield County, the City of Lancaster, Fairfield County 211, and State Rep Jeff LaRe all had the opportunity to catch a ride on one of the many buses operated by Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit.



## Job Openings

Check out the current job openings in Fairfield County!

[Social Service Worker 2 - Screener | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

[Corrections Officer | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

[Utilities Field Maintenance Supervisor | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

[Multi-System Youth Program Manager | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

[Social Service Worker 2 - Protective Services | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)

# Important Dates & Events

Mark your calendars for these important dates in the county!

## Office Closures

March 29 - Half Day, County Offices Close at Noon

## Your County Commissioners



[Steve Davis](#)



[David L. Levacy](#)



[Jeff Fix](#)

# SERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.



Fairfield County Commissioners | 210 E. Main Street, Lancaster, OH 43130

[Unsubscribe](mailto:bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov) [bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!



Fairfield County  
Health  
Department

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

---

**Fairfield County Health Department**





## From the Commissioner:

---



Dr. Mark Aebi, who served as Health District Medical Director for the past 29 years, retired on December 31, 2023. He also served as the Fairfield County Health Commissioner from 2011-2021. Dr. Aebi helped the department manage the H1N1 pandemic in 2009-10 and the COVID-19 pandemic which arrived in 2020. We wish Dr. Aebi all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Steven Kapetansky, MD, assumed the role as FCHD Medical Director on January 1, 2024.

Highlights from the past year include:

- Our WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program moved into new space at our offices at Sheridan Drive, Lancaster. WIC also saw their Farmers Market voucher program reach new heights, providing families with access to fresh, local foods.
- FCHD received a Project Dawn, Overdose Death Prevention Program, grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Our health educators provided information on overdose prevention and treatment programs and distributed over 1,500 naloxone kits to members of the public, businesses, and first responders.
- The 2023 Fairfield County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement plans were finalized. These documents help us identify the health challenges in our communities and prioritize strategies to address those challenges.
- FCHD hosted a scrap tire collection event in Amanda, where used tires were collected for proper disposal or recycling.
- FCHD continued our commitment to building healthy communities by expanding our Health Promotion programs that prevent disease and injury and promote healthy lifestyles.

I visited almost every township and village during 2023, and I look forward to continuing to work with local elected officials and residents across the county to support their efforts to make Fairfield County a place where residents live in healthy and safe communities and where they are empowered to make informed decisions that allow them to achieve their optimal health potential.

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner





# Board of Health



Steven Kapetansky, MD, MPH



Brian Oliver



Tina Childers



Teresa Wood, PhD, RN



Michele Morrone, PhD, REHS

# Health Department Leadership



R. Joseph Ebel, MS, MBA, REHS  
Health Commissioner



Rachel Moresea, REHS  
Director of Environmental  
Health



Gale Neville, RN, MSN  
Director of Nursing



Jamie Ehorn, BBA  
Director of Administrative  
Services



Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC  
Director of WIC

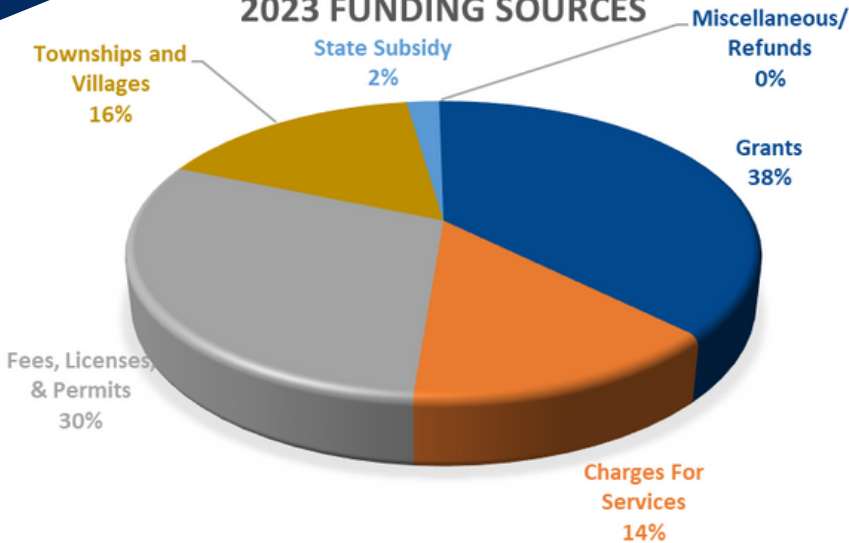


Baylie Blevins, BS  
Director of Health Promotion

# 2023 Financial Report

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director of Administrative Services

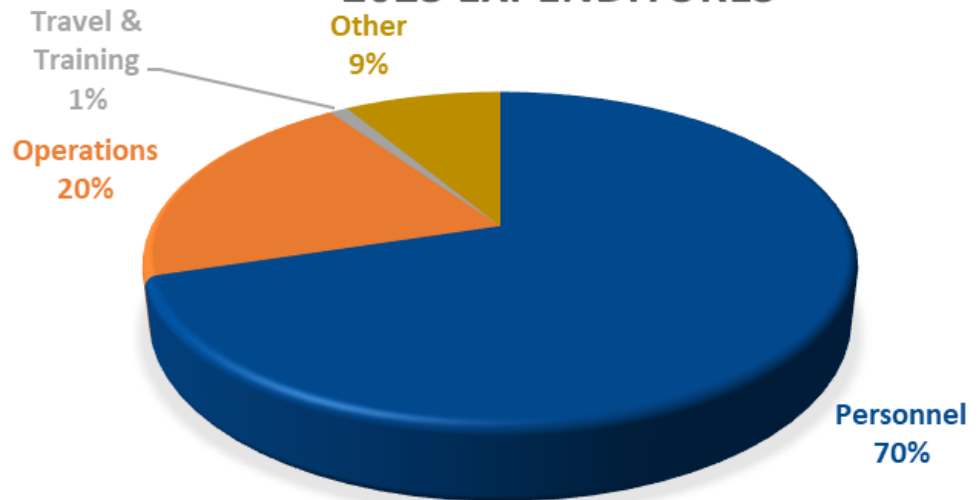
## 2023 FUNDING SOURCES



Funding Sources	2023
Grants	\$ 1,532,910
Charges For Services	\$ 565,992
Fees, Licenses, and Permits	\$ 1,234,428
Townships and Villages	\$ 667,621
State Subsidy	\$ 82,414
Miscellaneous/Refunds	\$ 10,912
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,094,278</b>

## 2023 EXPENDITURES

Expenditures	2023
Personnel	\$ 2,548,581
Operations	\$ 734,482
Travel and Training	\$ 36,191
Other	\$ 311,926
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,631,179</b>



### Administrative Services Team:

Jamie Ehorn, BBA | Director  
 Kelly Brown | Account Specialist  
 Teresa Goddard | Clerical Specialist

Roxanne Harmon | Account Specialist  
 Kelly Donley | Account Specialist  
 Pauletta Krieger | Vital Statistics Registrar

# Vital Statistics Report

Pauletta Krieger | Vital Statistics Registrar

2023 Vital Statistics		
Births for Fairfield County Residents	2022	2023
<b>Total Births</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>1717</b>
Mother's age under 18	10 (0.6%)	12 (0.07%)
Mother's age 18 to 19	60 (3.5%)	52 (3.03%)
Deaths of Fairfield County Residents	2022	2023
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>1692</b>	<b>1554</b>
Deaths by Accident	113	115
Deaths by Alzheimer's Disease	60	48
Deaths by Cancer	327	319
Deaths by Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	104	72
Deaths by COVID-19	115	23
Deaths by Diabetes	51	51
Deaths by Heart Disease	297	304
Deaths by Homicide	5	2
Deaths by Stroke	75	83
Deaths by Suicide	22	27
All Other Causes	450	510
Top Baby Names	2023	
<b>Boys</b>	Oliver (15); Hudson (12); Owen (10); Henry (9); Theodore (8)	
<b>Girls</b>	Amelia (14); Sophia (9); Harper and Charlotte (8); Ava, Hazel and Olivia (7)	

# PHN: Public Health Nursing

Gale Neville | Director of Nursing

## Public Health Nursing Outreach

Fairfield County Health Department (FCHD) nursing staff provide a variety of educational presentations for the public. Onsite clinics offer individuals, families, and local businesses the opportunity to receive vaccinations, information, and services which promote health and wellness.

## CMH: Children with Medical Handicaps

This program is a health care program through the Ohio Department of Health which links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers, assists with costs associated with the medical condition identified, and has access to a Public Health Nurse to assist them through the process.

FCHD assisted **280** families throughout Fairfield County with CMH services in 2023.

## Help Me Grow (HMG)

In partnership with the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, FCHD conducts regular home visits to families with children birth to three-years- old who may be experiencing special health care needs. Speech, occupational, and physical therapy evaluations are conducted. Early intervention processes are used to support entry into pre-school.

## Tuberculosis Unit

FCHD is the appointed TB Unit for Fairfield County. This program provides TB skin testing which screens for TB. Screenings are required for many reasons such as school programs, employment, and medications. FCHD can obtain orders for testing and make referrals to physicians for immigrants moving to Fairfield County. FCHD provides case management for people who have active TB, ensures medication compliance, monitors for side effects of medications, do investigations, and screenings of close contacts to prevent the spread of disease.

## Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant

FCHD has been part of the "Get Vaccinated Ohio" grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for many years.

This grant focuses on improving immunization rates in Fairfield County while removing barriers that could prevent children from getting vaccinated. FCHD administered **2,244** vaccines in 2023.

## Infections Disease Investigation and Control Program

Health departments are required to monitor and investigate reportable diseases. In Ohio reportable diseases are usually reported by, laboratories, physicians or their offices, hospitals daycares, and schools, however anyone aware of a reportable disease can make a report.

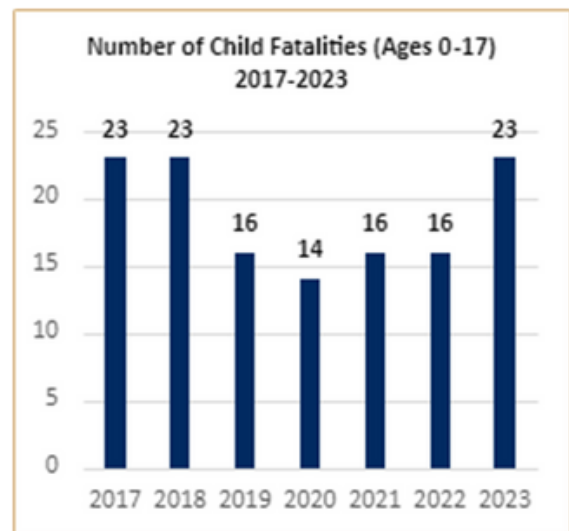
The Infectious Disease Program is also responsible for COVID-19 data and surveillance. In addition, guidance to the community, long-term care facilities, schools, and daycares is provided.

## STI (Formerly STD) Clinics

FCHD has partnered with Family Health Services of East Central Ohio to provide a free, walk-in STI clinic. The clinic takes place every Second and Fourth Mondays of each month at our office located at 1550 Sheridan Dr. Suite 100 Lancaster, Ohio 43130. This clinic is open to anyone in need of or wanting testing.

## Child Fatality Review Board

In 2000 the Ohio General Assembly created the Child Fatality Review Board (CFR). The board is chaired by the Health Commissioner and comprised of representatives from various community agencies. The mission of the board is to reduce the incidence rate of preventable childhood deaths. The CFR Board meets to review and assess all county-wide childhood (birth - 17) deaths and create a report annually for the National Childhood Death Registry and the Ohio Department of Health.



## Public Health Nursing Team:

Gale Neville, RN, MSN | Director

Kimberly Yeager, RN, BSN | Infectious Disease Coordinator

Judy Tata-Scali, RN, BSN | Maternal-Child Health Coordinator

Aerial Duchon, RN, BSN | Immunization Coordinator

02/27/2024



# **EH: Environmental Health**

Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director of Environmental Health

## **Food Safety**

FCHD provides education as well as inspections of all food service and retail food establishments including: restaurants, grocery stores, mobile food services, food vending machines, and temporary food establishments.

In 2023, a Gold Medal Food Program was started to recognize outstanding food facility operators in Fairfield County for creating and maintaining safe environments for people to eat with their friends and families.



## **Rabies Control**

All reported animal bites are investigated by FCHD to determine if the animal has or is exhibiting signs of the rabies virus. FCHD encourages all pets be vaccinated and ensures all animals are quarantined and further action is taken when necessary.

## **Mosquito Control**

Annually, FCHD environmental health specialists spray for, collect, identify and test mosquitoes at various sites throughout the county. All mosquitoes are tested for various diseases including West Nile Virus. FCHD collected **1,025** mosquitos during the 2023 season and sprayed **386** miles.

## **Recreational Safety**

FCHD inspects and issues permits to all county campgrounds, residential camps, public pools and spas in an effort to protect the public from injury, the potential for disease transmission, and provide a safe and healthy recreational environment.

## **Plumbing**

FCHD inspects and permits for all new homes and commercial buildings, existing home additions, and existing commercial building remodels.

## **Lot Splits**

The Fairfield County Health Department will perform on-site evaluations of existing deeded lots to determine whether the lot can be developed for commercial or residential use. There were **48** lot split s completed in Fairfield County in 2023.

## **MS4 Program**

As part of the U.S. EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the nation's water resources from polluted storm water runoff, FCHD conducts Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) inspections on discharging aeration systems in Violet Township, Liberty Township (sections 6 and 30R), and the Village of Lithopolis.

## **Water Pollution Control Loan Fund**

FCHD receives funds from the Ohio EPA through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to help low to moderate-income families repair or replace failing septic systems. FCHD helped **6** families with complete system replacements in 2023.

## **Solid Waste**

FCHD is charged with regulating and facilitating the collection, storage, and final disposal of all solid waste in Fairfield County through the Ohio EPA Solid Waste Program.

## **Body Art Safety**

Body art facilities are monitored and licensed to ensure safe and sanitary conditions. Body art establishments include businesses that offer tattoos, piercings, permanent makeup/cosmetics, and microblading.

## **Household and Small Flow Sewage Treatment Systems**

FCHD investigate all sewage nuisance complaints as well as inspects and issues permits for all new residential and commercial small flow septic systems and existing systems that require alteration or repair to ensure proper design and installation.

## **Private Water Systems**

To ensure safe drinking water, FCHD samples, inspects, and issues permits for homes served by a private water system including wells, cisterns, hauled water storage tanks, springs, and/or ponds.

## **School-Based Program**

FCHD performs annual school facility inspections to help county school districts improve the environmental health of their buildings.

### **Environmental Health Team:**

Rachel Moresea, REHS | Director  
Jennifer Valentine, REHS | EHS Supervisor  
Shelia Wolfe, REHS | EHS Supervisor  
Breanna Boudinot | Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Claire Donley | Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Nick McConaughy | Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Kelsey Nein | Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Dennis Oliver | Plumbing Inspector  
Katie Wasky | Environmental Health Specialist  
McCray Wooten | Environmental Health Specialist in Training  
Cindy Sharpe | Clerical Specialist  
Marissa Daugherty | Clerical Specialist

# **EH: Environmental Health Inspections and Visits**

Jennifer Valentine, REHS | Sheila Wolfe, REHS

## **Environmental Health Inspections for 2023**

	Political Subdivision	Camp grounds	Public Pools	Mobile Home Parks	Animal Bites	Food Inspections	Sewage Permits	Well Permits	Nuisance Complaints	Complaints Abated	Total
Townships	Amanda	0	0	0	8	8	7	7	0	0	30
	Berne	2	5	5	10	25	10	15	3	3	78
	Bloom	1	4	0	17	7	35	30	1	1	96
	Clearcreek	0	0	2	10	6	13	9	0	0	40
	Greenfield	0	3	1	8	34	26	22	1	0	95
	Hocking	0	1	0	4	13	10	8	0	0	36
	Liberty	2	1	0	10	13	17	21	0	0	64
	Madison	0	0	0	0	2	7	6	0	0	15
	Pleasant	0	2	0	6	17	21	20	4	3	73
	Richland	0	0	0	4	7	2	2	0	1	16
	Rushcreek	0	0	0	8	9	10	13	0	0	40
	Violet	0	3	0	40	98	9	25	0	0	175
	Walnut	1	0	2	8	18	8	31	1	1	70
	Lancaster	1	19	0	96	845	1	0	0	0	962
Villages	Amanda	0	0	0	2	20	0	0	0	0	22
	Baltimore	0	1	0	4	74	0	0	0	0	79
	Bremen	0	2	0	0	23	0	0	2	1	28
	Carroll	0	0	0	1	31	0	0	0	0	32
	Lithopolis	0	0	1	0	22	0	0	0	0	23
	Millersport	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	51
	Pleasantville	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	9
	Rushville	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	7
	Stoutsville	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	1	0	11
	Sugar Grove	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Thurston	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
	West Rushville	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
	Buckeye Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	02/27/2024 <b>7</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b> <sub>058</sub>	<b>2049</b>



# Health Promotion & Planning

Baylie Blevins, BS | Director of Health Promotion

## Community Education and Outreach

To continue to promote health, wellness and safety, FCHD collaborated with multiple county organizations including but not limited to Pickerington Schools, Lancaster City Schools, Bremen Elementary, Destination Downtown Lancaster, United Way, ADAMH, Canal Winchester Chamber, and Fairfield County ECA. FCHD participated in **40** community-based health events in 2023.

## Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation

FCHD continued efforts to reduce dependence on nicotine and support cessation efforts through the ODH Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation grant. A media campaign that encouraged residents to call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line reached over **37,000** people. FCHD conducted **10** outreach events in 2023 that included a youth nicotine dependence training to Millersport School Administrators.



## Division Highlights

- FCHD disseminated more than **9,000** free COVID-19 home test kits to Fairfield County schools, businesses, and residents in 2023.
- FCHD established a workgroup to address nicotine and vaping use in youth of Fairfield County.
- To promote healthier eating habits and increase access to fresh vegetables and fruits to the community, FCHD has created a committee to start the planning for a community garden.
- FCHD is working to increase public access to naloxone by strategically placing Naloxone Boxes through the County.

## Cribs for Kids

FCHD promoted safe sleep practices for infants and newborns and distributed **192** “crib kits” containing a cribette, fitted sheet, and sleep sack to parents throughout the county.

## Project DAWN

The Fairfield County Health Department is part of the Project DAWN opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution network. Through this program, anyone in Fairfield County can receive a free Project DAWN Naloxone kit and training. FCHD works closely with the Fairfield County ADAMH Board and Project F.O.R.T. to distribute naloxone and training to best prepare the community. FCHD gave out a total of **1,598** Project DAWN kits and **101** of those kits were given to first responders. FCHD has provided training and naloxone to local schools, mental health and recovery centers, and private businesses throughout the county.

## Promoting Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health

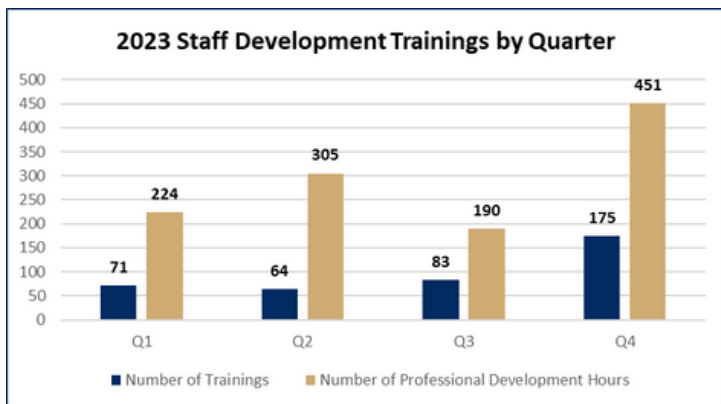
With funding from the Ohio Center for Excellence in Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion, FCHD partnered with county organizations including Lancaster City Parks, Fairfield County Parks, Geneva Hills, Destination Downtown Lancaster, Lithopolis Methodist Church, and Pickerington Parks to place suicide prevention messaging benches and street signs.

## Healthy Eating and Active Living Program

In 2023, FCHD established the Healthy Fairfield County Coalition with a mission to ensure Fairfield County is healthy by promoting healthy eating and active living and a purpose to increase healthy eating and active living opportunities throughout the county. A result of the HEAL grant was placing healthier snacks in the vending machines and promoting drinking water first. FCHD conducted a safety walk audit in collaboration with community partners. FCHD engaged the community to determine what Healthy Eating or Active Living strategy they would like us to prioritize; they chose a community garden, which we will work on implementing in 2024. In preparation for that, we created a community engagement plan for the next grant year.

# Health Promotion & Planning

Baylie Blevins, BS | Director of Health Promotion



## Quality Improvement

FCHD is consistently seeking both internal and external feedback on processes to ensure our functions are serving the public and our staff as best as possible. FCHD conducts quality improvement projects using the Lean Six Sigma process. There are 20 staff members trained in the Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt and 8 staff members trained in Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

FCHD staff participated in over **1,100** hours of professional development activities.

## Public Health Accreditation

FCHD received national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2020. To maintain the standards for certification, FCHD is expected to ensure staff are adequately trained, services are delivered effectively, and quality assurance is guaranteed. FCHD has begun the reaccreditation process and it will be completed in 2025.



## Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers

The MRC is a group of non-medical and medical volunteers who assist in both emergency and regular activities. The Fairfield County MRC has **76** volunteers who spent **253** hours supporting public health efforts in 2023. Volunteers participated in emergency preparedness trainings, CPR certification classes, COVID-19 kit distribution and emergency response exercises.



## Safe Communities Program

The Safe Communities program is a data-driven initiative to save lives and reduce injury by increasing seat belt usage, increasing impaired driving awareness, increasing motorcycle safety awareness, coalition building with community partners, and traffic fatality review. This program is implemented in collaboration with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the National Highway Safety Administration.

## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

FCHD is responsible for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Cities Readiness Initiative programs. This allows staff to engage community partners in response to public health emergencies in an effort to maintain business continuity, manage mass care events, and facilitate response to pandemics and other events that could impact the general public. There were **23** emergency preparedness activities conducted in 2023.

### Health Promotion & Planning Team:

Baylie Blevins, BS | Director  
Riley Ernst, MPH | Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Mitchell McGuire, MPH | Epidemiologist  
Megan Baker, BS, RA | Health Educator  
Bethany Carson, MS, OCPSA | Health Educator  
Hannah Josefczyk, BS, CHES, OCPSA | Health Educator

02/27/2024

# Epidemiology Report

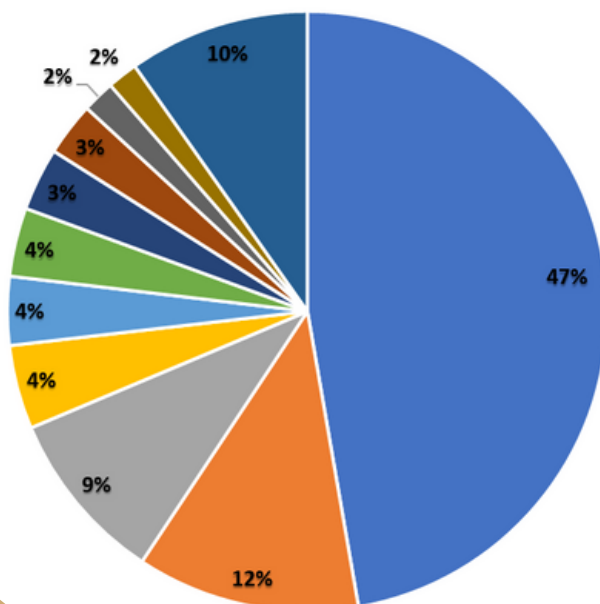
Mitchell McGuire, MPH | Epidemiologist

The Fairfield County Health Department investigated **973** reported disease cases in 2023, excluding COVID-19 investigations. Chlamydia remained the most frequently reported disease accounting for **47%** of all cases. Gonorrhea and Hepatitis C cases were the next most frequently reported diseases. (Note: Not all diseases are required to be reported to local health departments. In Ohio, there are about 90 diseases that are considered reportable infectious diseases.)

## 2023 Infectious Diseases Report (Excluding COVID-19 Investigations)

Flu	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2023 Cases	2023 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Hospitalized Flu Cases	8	66	16	58.3
STDs	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2023 Cases	2023 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Chlamydia	338	401	460	282.4
Gonorrhea	91	140	117	71.8
Hepatitis (A-C)	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2023 Cases	2023 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Hepatitis A	4	0	0	0
Hepatitis B - chronic	28	44	28	17.2
Hepatitis C - chronic	106	137	91	55.9
Top 5 Diseases 2022	2021 Cases	2022 Cases	2023 Cases	2023 Incidence Rate (per 100,000)
Chlamydia	338	401	460	282.4
Gonorrhea	91	140	117	71.8
Hepatitis C - chronic	106	137	91	55.9
Syphilis	35	23	44	27.0
Lyme Disease	7	30	36	22.1

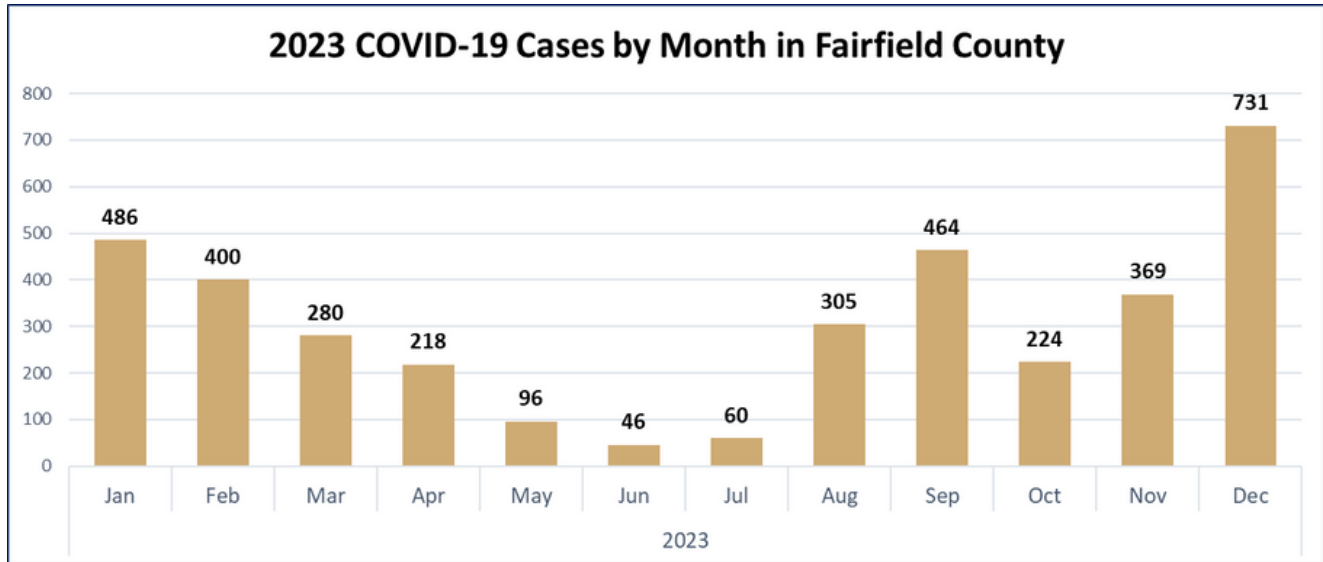
Fairfield County Top 10 Infectious Diseases 2023



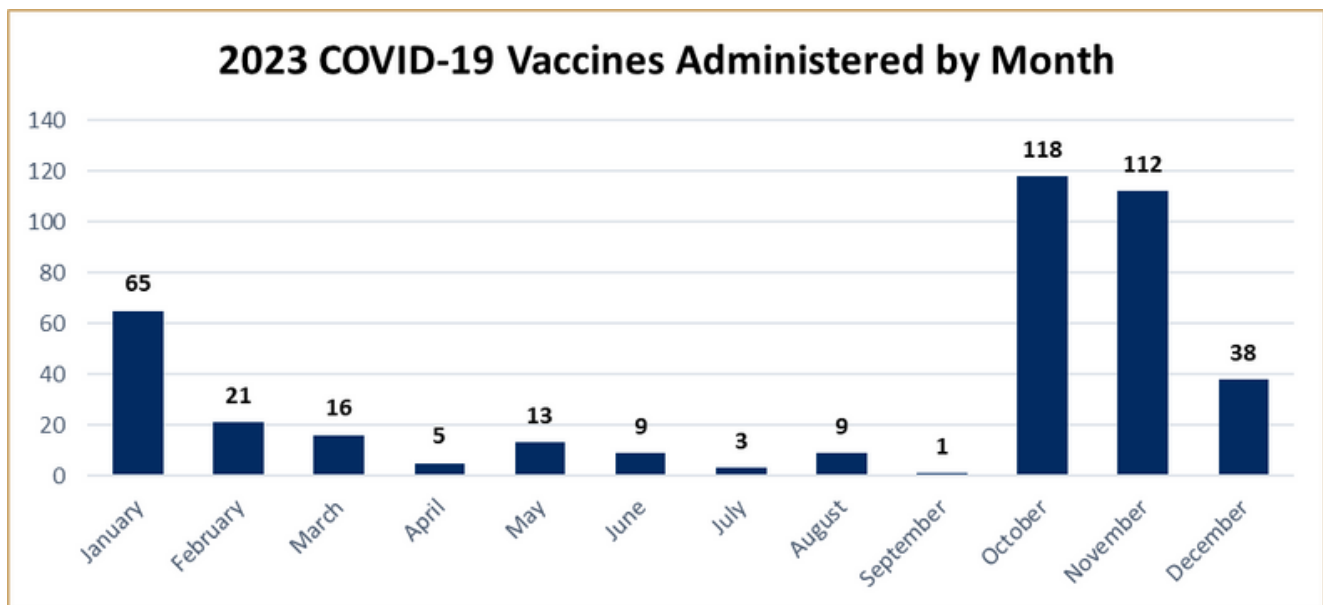
- Chlamydia - 47%
- Gonorrhea - 12%
- Hepatitis C (Chronic) - 9%
- Syphilis - 5%
- Lyme Disease - 4%
- Salmonella - 4%
- Campylobacteriosis - 3%
- Hepatitis B (Chronic) - 3%
- Streptococcus pneumoniae - 2%
- Influenza-associated Hospitalization - 2%
- Other - 10%

# 2023 COVID-19 Update

Mitchell McGuire, MPH | Epidemiologist



In 2023, there were **3,679** COVID-19 cases for Fairfield County residents. The highest months of reported COVID-19 cases were January and December of 2023, with a total of **1,217** reported positive cases. There were **23** Fairfield County resident deaths that were attributed to COVID-19. **410** COVID-19 vaccinations were administered by the FCHD Nursing Staff in 2023, including both Moderna and Pfizer. As a measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19, FCHD distributes free at-home tests to members of the public. FCHD distributed approximately **9,000** COVID-19 at-home test kits throughout 2023. These test kits are still available to be picked up at FCHD.





# WIC: Women, Infants, and Children

Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC | Director of WIC

## WIC Overview

WIC is a nutrition education program. WIC provides nutritious foods which promote good health for pregnant women, women who just had a baby, breastfeeding moms, infants, and children up to age five.

## Nutrition Program

FCHD provides nutrition education and healthy foods which promote overall wellness. After enrollment, WIC clients can receive information on healthy eating, referrals to specialty health care professionals, and general parenting education at the two countywide locations in Lancaster and Pickerington.

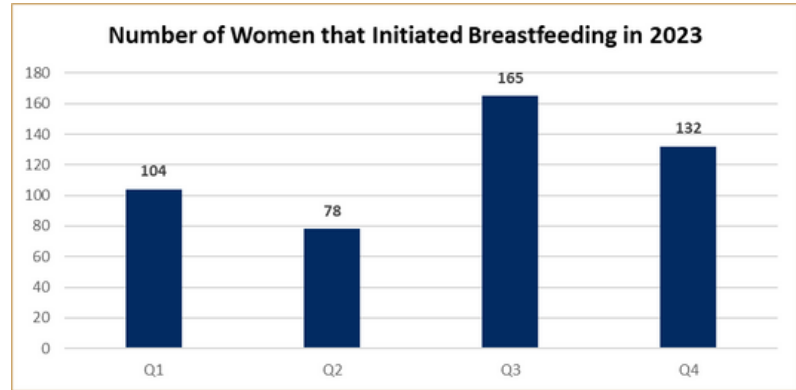
Fairfield County had \$2,235,380.30 in WIC food benefits redeemed to support healthy families in Fairfield County in 2023.

## Farmer's Market Coupons

FCHD promotes healthy eating by partnering with local Farmer's Market vendors and offering fresh fruit and vegetable options for WIC clients. 1,014 Farmer's Market Coupons were issued and 592 were redeemed totaling \$2,960.00.

## Breastfeeding Program

FCHD provides breastfeeding education and consultation to women who are pregnant or recently gave birth. Certified Lactation Consultants, Specialists, and breastfeeding peer helpers support new moms as they embark on the journey of breastfeeding.



## The Connection

In 2023, WIC began an education program called The Connection for in office learning, nutrition promotion through online learning, as well as sending out a Quarterly Resource Newsletter.



## WIC Team:

- Mary Smith, LSW, DTR, CLC | Director
- Cheryl Hopkins, RD, LD, CLS | WIC Dietitian
- Jordan Miller, MS, RDN, LD, CLS | Breastfeeding Coordinator and Dietitian
- Kaleigh Pulsinelli, BFA | Breastfeeding Peer Helper
- Lucinda Robinson, CLC | WIC Nutrition Assistant
- Denise Roudabush | WIC Nutrition Assistant
- Kari Saunders, MS, RD, LD | WIC Dietitian

# FCHD in the Community



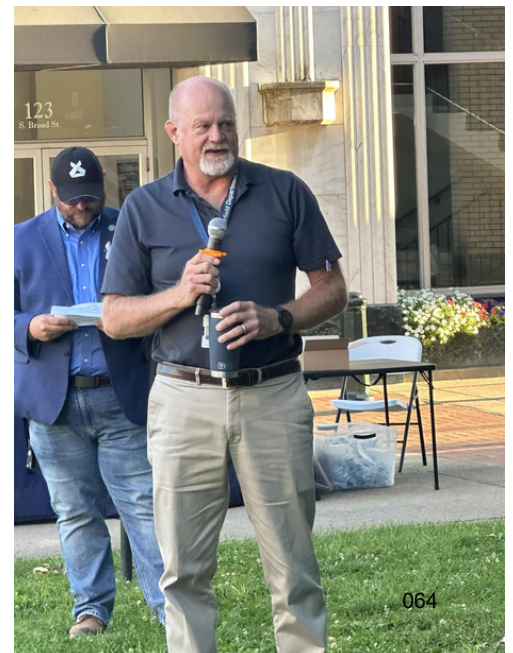
FCHD conducted a walk audit of East Main Street. We reviewed the safety conditions of local sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, and more as part of our efforts to promote active transportation across Fairfield County.



The Board of Health Monthly meetings went on the road in 2023! In March the meeting was held at the Millersport Elementary School.



Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, spoke at Overdose Awareness Day in Downtown Lancaster.



Delivering a 988 bench to the Village of Pleasantville. FCHD placed 15 Suicide Prevention 988 throughout Fairfield County.



# FCHD in the Community

WIC nutrition coordinator, Cheryl Hopkins for being recognized as a 2023 Firefly Award recipient from our friends at FACFC.



Our all staff training day was held at the Wagnall's library and ended with a trip to the Rock Mill Bridge.

FCHD staff participated in a United Way Day project to support the Harcum House.



The health department booth at the 2023 Fairfield County Fair.



Fairfield County  
**Health  
Department**

1550 Sheridan Dr. Ste.100  
Lancaster, OH 43130

February 19, 2024

Dear Commissioners Leary, Davis and Fitz

I write because I do not use the internet. Who are Regional Planning? They aren't elected at least I never voted for them. In information I have on the County Land Use Plan, Stakeholders were interviewed. Who are they? Mayors, Trustees? Were the real stakeholders ever interviewed. The Land owners, were farm families ever asked "What are your dreams for your land?" It seems that farmland is coveted by many. I was taught coveting was wrong.

I know the plan has in several places talked about saving farmland but does it really want to? In a Key theme you state Land remains a finite resource, Agriculture must remain resilient, yet on another page 35% of Fairfield County is currently available to accommodate new development. That last statement condemns farmland. Many think open fields are wanting to be developed. Those open fields are resting, or absorbing nutrients for a new crop. Fairfield County has a \$99+ million revenue from the farms.

Why is it so important for Regional planning and stakeholders <sup>to</sup> think about business of developing land that does not

belong to them? If you believe agriculture is to be preserved then lets do that.

Have you taken into account the cost of community services, regarding farmland, industrial & residential usage?

Please can you tell us, as taxpayers, the cost of this Land Use Plan? We have a right to know, are we paying for this? The taxpayers?

Sincerely  
Larry & Janet McNeely



February 23, 2024

Mr. and Mrs. Neeley

Thank you for your letter dated February 19, 2024, regarding the County's updated Comprehensive Economic Development and Land Use Plan. As I've been the Commissioner working most closely with this project, I've asked my fellow Commissioners for the opportunity to respond to you.

To answer your questions:

**“Who are Regional Planning?”** The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is made up of members from each Township and Village in the County as well as some representation from the business community and all three of the County Commissioners. You're correct in that you did not vote for them to be on the RPC, but you did vote for your Township Trustees and your County Commissioners who sit on the RPC, so indirectly, you did vote for them. Regional Planning Commission structure is established by State Law.

**“Who are the Stakeholders?”** The group we hired to do this plan, a company called Planning Next, interviewed Trustees from each Township and members of the Council or Mayors from each Village in the County, as well as the County Commissioners. After that there was a “Steering Committee” established that was open to all with specific invitations provided to Township Trustees and Village Mayors that met regularly with Planning Next. In addition, there were two public meetings that hosted more than 350 people in total with an opportunity for input and comment as the plan came together. The plan was also on display in our county offices with opportunity for comment (and on-line for those who chose to access the plan in that manner).

In addition, I and individuals from the County Engineer's office, our Utilities Department, Soil & Water Conservation, Regional Planning, Economic & Workforce Development, and the Health Department had one-on-one public meetings in every Township and every Village throughout the fall – and we met with the Farm Bureau (twice) and the School Superintendents. In total I believe more than 1000 people attended one or more of those meetings.

To be clear, no one is **“coveting”** anyone's land and ultimately the person who owns the land has the final say as to what happens with that land. The Townships and Villages (not



the County Commissioners) are responsible for zoning, but the zoning only impacts the use of the land should that land be sold. So, while not coveting the land we do want to make sure that when a farmer sells to a developer (and that does and is going to continue to happen) that the development that occurs there is in line with the goals of the Township or Village within which that land resides. Thus, the need for the land use plan.

**You ask if we really want to save the land.** The answer is an unmitigated YES! At every meeting I talk about the two basic concepts of the plan, which are to “preserve the land and protect the taxpayers.” We preserve the land by building with density, rather than one home on every two to five acres as most Townships are currently zoned. If you build 100 homes at 1 home every two acres you quickly use up 200 acres of land. If you build that same 100 homes in a “residential subdivision” at 4 homes/acre, you use only 25 acres – saving 175 acres of farmland.

And we protect the taxpayers with that same density, having the developers pay for the infrastructure (roads and pipes) they need instead of you and me. In addition, we are working with the Townships and Villages to help them create tax overlays on the new developments that will have the new residents (or businesses) paying a different set of taxes than the current residents, so they are offsetting the costs that they bring with them when they move in.

I want to re-emphasize that the only land that will be developed is land that is sold by someone to a developer. If no-one wants to sell, no development occurs.

**“Why is it so important for Regional Planning and stakeholders to think about the business of developing land that does not belong to them?”** The answer to this is the real crux of the matter. Development is coming to Fairfield County. We can’t stop it. We’re trying to avoid what happened in Pickerington/Violet Township (where I live) where there was no plan, no cooperation, just developers pitting the city against the township. Guess who wins when that happens? The Developer. Not the taxpayers. By working with all the Townships and Villages to help them create their own land use plans, update their zoning, evaluate their water and sewer capacity, and many other things, and most importantly WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH EACH OTHER, we are putting together a tool box that they can use to be prepared for the growth that we know is coming, manage that growth, and ultimately take advantage of it to PRESERVE THE LAND AND PROTECT THE TAXPAYERS (there it is again).

**“Have you taken into account the cost of community services regarding farmland, industrial, and residential usage?”** Indeed, we have which is why (as referenced above) we are working with the Townships and Villages to create new taxing districts only on the new developments that will more than offset the incremental cost of community services that they bring with them when they move in. Protecting the taxpayers.

**“Please can you tell us, as taxpayers, the cost of this land use plan? Are we the taxpayers paying for this.”** So the answer to this is yes in that I assume that you pay some type of Federal Taxes. This plan was funded by the “American Rescue Plan” money sent by the Federal Government to Fairfield County in 2022. Of the combined \$36 million sent to the County in ’21 and ’22, \$150,000 of that was spent to create this plan. And please know that we took this on at the request of the Townships and Villages who, when asked to create their own land use plans, said that they did not have the expertise or the money to do it themselves. So, the county agreed to take this on and a small portion (less than one half of one percent) of the Federal “American Rescue Plan” money was put towards this plan.

In closing I would say that we are doing the right things for the right reasons and that having a plan is better than letting things happen “as they may.” I would also encourage you to talk with your Township Trustees. Doug Leith, Terry Horn, and Bill Yates have all been involved in the process and Mayor Matheny and the Millersport Village Council have been involved as well.

Finally, I am happy to come visit with you in person to discuss this further and answer any other questions you may have. Please simply give me a call (614) 668-3881 and we can set up some time to have that conversation.

Thank you again for taking the time to put your concerns on paper and providing me with the opportunity to explain why this land use plan is so important to the future of Fairfield County.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fix

Fairfield County Commissioner

Copy:

Aundrea Cordle – County Administrator

Steve Davis – County Commissioner

Dave Levacy - County Commissioner

Doug Leith – Walnut Township Trustee

Terry Horn – Walnut Township Trustee

Bill Yates - Walnut Township Trustee

Gary Matheny – Mayor of Millersport



# Fairfield County Board Member Application

Name of Board: Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Circle One:  New Appointment  Reappointment

Name: Kellie Smith Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E- \_\_\_\_\_ Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a resident of Fairfield County: 20 years

Occupation: Behavioral Health Specialist Employer: Ohio Guidestone

Highest Level of Education Completed (please circle one):  
High School - Associates Degree -  Bachelor's Degree - Graduate School

Have you ever served on a board before: Yes -  No  
If yes, please indicate the board(s) previously or currently serving on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you related to any Elected Official, Department Head, or County employee: Yes -  No  
If yes, please indicate who:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense: Yes -  No  
(A conviction will not necessarily prohibit you from an appointment. Each conviction will be judged on its own merits with respect to time, circumstance, and seriousness based on the board appointment for which you are applying.)  
If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the board (additional space is provided on the second page). Please highlight specialized interested or experiences that you feel make you qualified to serve.

My daughter, Sophie, is in preschool at Forest Rose. She has a rare genetic condition that causes her developmental delay. The community at Fairfield County DD and Forest Rose have been a tremendous help to us and we feel so fortunate to have them. I would love to give back by being a part of the board.

**MAILING LIST NOTIFICATION**  
**Fairfield County**

**OHIO EPA GRANTS TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION**

Notice is hereby given that on February 20, 2024, the Director of Ohio EPA granted the request for temporary authorization from Cirba Solutions US, Inc. (Cirba) pursuant to OAC Rule 3745-50-51(F) and a Class 2 modification, which is currently under review, at its facility located at 265 Quarry Road, Lancaster, OH 43130. The EPA Identification Number for this facility is OHD 071 654 958.

This action authorizes Cirba to make use of the new storage unit, re-allocate battery quantities and chemistries, and other operational changes that will allow for efficient recycling operations to continue, for construction of the expansion to progress on-schedule (scheduling upsets would be extremely costly), for customer contracts to be met, and to expedite the hiring and training process. To grant this temporary authorization, Ohio EPA determined that the application is complete and meets appropriate standards and that the applicant has a history of compliance with relevant environmental laws and demonstrates sufficient reliability, expertise, and competency. This authorization is subject to all rules, regulations, and specified conditions.

You are hereby notified that this action of the Director of Ohio EPA (Director) is final and may be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission pursuant to Section 3745.04 of the Ohio Revised Code. The appeal must be in writing and set forth the action complained of and the grounds upon which the appeal is based. The appeal must be filed with the Commission within thirty (30) days after notice of the Director's action. The appeal must be accompanied by a filing fee of \$70.00 made payable to "Treasurer, State of Ohio." The Commission, in its discretion, may reduce the fee if by affidavit it is demonstrated that payment of the full amount of the fee would cause extreme hardship. Notice of the filing of the appeal shall be filed with the Director within three (3) days of filing with the Commission. Ohio EPA requests that a copy of the appeal be served upon the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Environmental Enforcement Section. An appeal may be filed with the Environmental Review Appeals Commission at the following address:

Environmental Review Appeals Commission  
30 East Broad St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

A copy of the appeal must be served on the Director within 3 days after filing the appeal with ERAC.

# Fairfield Features



February 2024  
Volume 26 Issue 1

The Fairfield Features is published by the Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District  
831 College Avenue, Suite B, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 (740) 653-8154

## FAIRFIELD SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZE

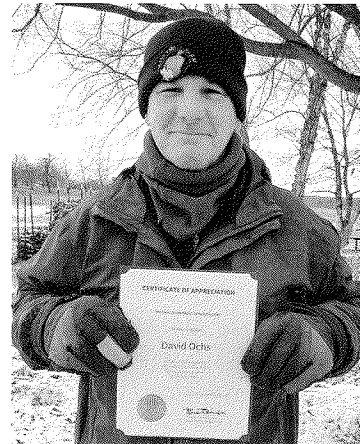
On January 11, 2024, the Fairfield SWCD Board of Supervisors selected the following officers for 2024: Doug Tenney - *Chair*, Gregg Pontius - *Vice-Chair*, Amber Hoisington - *Secretary*, Linda Claypool - *Treasurer/Fiscal Agent* and Cheyenne Erb - *Member*.

The regular monthly Board meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Fairfield County Ag Center. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Please contact our office for information on any changes to the schedule.

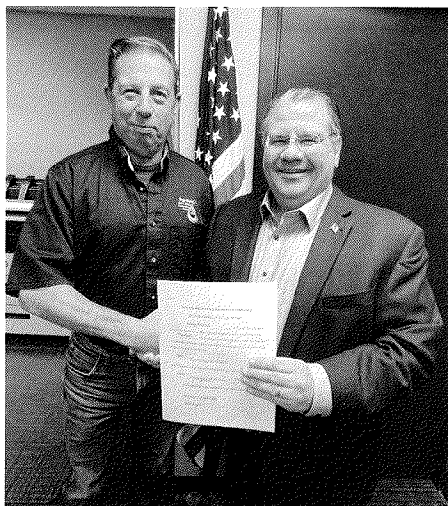
### THANKS DAVID!

We would like to thank David Ochs for his service on our Board of Supervisors. He served on our board for a 3-year term and held positions of Member and Treasurer-Fiscal Agent.

David is pictured with a Certificate of Appreciation from ODA and FSWCD for his service.

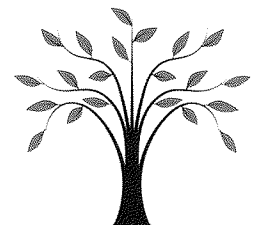


### SUPERVISOR SWORN IN



Board member Gregg Pontius was sworn in by State Senator Tim Schaffer prior to the January 11, 2024, SWCD Board meeting. He began his second 3-year term on January 1.

Newly elected board member Cheyenne Erb was unable to attend the January Board meeting and will be sworn in at the next meeting.



Spring is almost here! It's time again for the Tree Seedling Sale. See inside for descriptions and order form.



# WET BACKYARDS

Residents frequently contact Fairfield Soil and Water or their local municipality when rainfall results in ponding water, drainage problems, or inaccessible portions of property. Many times, corrective action can help address safety concerns, structural damage, or inappropriately maintained drainage infrastructure resulting from one or more of the following:

## Gutters and Downspouts

Just a half inch of rain falling on a 1,000-square-foot roof will yield 300 gallons of water. Properly installed gutters should keep water away from your foundation, as wetness or erosion near walls and driplines can be damaging and cause shifting, settling, cracks, and leaks. Possible causes include clogged or undersized gutters, downspouts discharging too close to your foundation or failing tile if piped underground.

**SOLUTION:** Clean downspouts at least once a year, monitor for overflow or ponding water, and ensure the discharge point (including sump pump) is as far away as possible (at least 5'-6', but check your local code and comply) away from your foundation. Your runoff should not be a nuisance to your neighbors, or empty onto a sidewalk where ice forms in winter. If your home relies on a sump pump to keep water out of your basement, it may be advantageous to have a backup on standby or at least a secondary power source in case of a power outage.

## Climate Change

Many long-time residents become concerned when observing standing water in areas where it had not ponded in the past. The last decade has been our wettest on record, and Ohio's springs continue to be warmer and wetter than average, with winters warming twice as fast as summers. With less ice and snowpack to retain water longer, runoff is immediate. However, Ohio still suffers drought. In 2019, 80% of Ohio was severely dry with the hottest September on record. Local rainfall data information can be found at <https://maps.cocorahs.org/>.

**SOLUTION:** Residents may conserve water for later summers with a rain barrel or cistern and should have underground drainage systems in place prior to wet seasons. Studies show that female mosquitoes prefer to lay eggs in water that collects or is stored in manmade containers. Breeding occurs within 10-14 days in stagnant water, including clogged gutters, open rain barrels, bird baths, buckets, etc. Practice regular cleaning and if necessary, use mosquito dunks. Local plumbing, zoning code, and HOA regulations should be checked.

## Soil and Landscape Characteristics

Some areas in Fairfield County have clay-heavy, poorly drained soils, and about 85% of the land in Ohio is affected by a seasonally high-water table. Newer subdivision lots generally do not have quality topsoil left after grading and construction. Instead, homeowners find themselves with heavy, hard subsoil as a poor foundation for grass establishment and other plantings that help slow and filter runoff. Your landscape modifications and those of your neighbors that include additions, mature shrubs, or soil movement tend to change drainage patterns, too, often directing water to foundation walls. Finally, those living near streams or ravines may clear plants and trees for an unobstructed view or easy access, but this threatens property and water quality with erosion, and intensifies runoff. Less trees result in less water removed from soil through the process of evaporation.

**SOLUTION:** Aeration, soil amendment, and mulching grass and fall leaves on lawns help build up oxygen-rich organic matter over time that retains more water and supports deep plant roots. Encouraging water-tolerant plants can sometimes be a resolution for periodic wet spots that do not support turfgrass. Grading or additional subsurface drainage may be necessary if elevations allow. Always ensure a positive grade away from your house's foundation, and practice stream stewardship where appropriate.

## Subsurface Drainage

Much of our drainage can be subsurface tiles. If the plumbing in your house is broken, you get it fixed or deal with a leak. Subsurface drain tiles are the plumbing that keeps your house foundation and yard dry, so even though you don't see it, repairs or replacement should still be made. Surface inlets, such as catch basins or hickenbottom risers should be kept clear of debris. For more information, see:

- **What is Tile** document on our website at <https://fairfieldswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/What-is-tile.pdf>. It also explains how you can look through aerial imagery on Google Earth, if you are interested.
- Also, on our website [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org) homepage there is a video of our interview with OSU-Extension to discuss field tile. Tile discussion is around 4:30-10:00 and after 17:00.
- a blog at <https://fairfieldswcd.org/not-all-plumbing-is-inside/>
- a contractor list at <https://fairfieldswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/General-contractors-list.pdf>, if you are in need of a contractor. Certainly, you don't have to use one of them. It lists their contact info, what type of work they do and equipment. We warrant warranty expressed or implied for the contractors on the list.

All About Contractors with Nikki Drake



# WET BACKYARDS (continued)

## Ohio Drainage Law

Water should enter and leave your property where it did prior to any construction activities. Changing the flow of water in a manner that causes damage to an upstream or downstream neighbor may result in legal liabilities of a civil matter. If neighbors can't amicably come to resolution of an issue, you can take the matter to court for a judge to make a ruling. More information is on our website at <https://fairfieldswcd.org/residential-resources/urban/>, scroll down to Ohio Drainage Laws and look through bullets: Ohio's Drainage Laws, Tile and Easements, and Water Rights & Reasonable Use.

## Other Information

We have a Rural Land Ownership Guide at <https://fairfieldswcd.org/rural-land-ownership-guide/> that gives more details specific to Fairfield County, especially site selection. Keep in mind, Fairfield County has many areas of natural springs and artesian wells. Often, we hear someone wants to build a pond to alleviate flooding in their yard. We discourage this as a pond may compound the problem, you should fix the issue instead. Be sure to keep septic systems in good working order and the drainage area around it sufficient (Fairfield Dept. of Health regulates, for information go to <https://www.myfdh.org/Environmental-Division/FDH-Household-Sewage-Treatment-Systems.html>). Franklin Health Dept. may be your contact, if you are to the northwest.

## What Can Fairfield Soil and Water Do?

There are no "drainage police", we don't have any authority to make someone correct a drainage issue.

In addition to the above information, we can provide:

- topographic/soils map which shows the way the land falls and soil descriptions, you can also access soil maps and information from Web Soil Survey online <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>
- review of historic engineering plans and 20+ aerials we have dating back to 1930s, can also look at Google Earth (instructions on how you can use in the What is Tile document - link above).
- petition can be made to the county commissioners to create a tile or ditch project as a last resort, but unless the majority of neighbors affected agree to it, a project may not proceed.



---

## WINTER AND SPRING POND MANAGEMENT TIPS

- Aquatic vegetation will continue to produce oxygen throughout the winter, even under ice, as long as sunlight can get through. Extended periods of snow-covered ice may lead to oxygen shortages and potential fish kills, but this can be reduced by safely removing the snow from portions (or all) of the pond's surface.
- During the winter, the water in the pond will go through a stratification process where the warmer water collects in a layer on the bottom of the pond with cooler water near the surface. In the spring this stratification mixes in what's called a turnover. Rapid turnovers, sometimes called pond "flips," are often caused by a heavy, warm rain event and may be detected when the water suddenly turns muddy from sediment being pulled upward off the pond bottom and suspended. In these cases, a sudden oxygen crash may occur resulting in a widespread fish kill, with larger fish, and fish species with higher dissolved oxygen requirements most at risk of suffering losses.
- Submerged vegetation and algae will begin new growth in early spring as water temperatures start climbing and days become longer. Physical removal of residual filamentous algae can begin as soon as surface ice melts, and proactive chemical treatment in early spring when water temperatures are 50-60F will help maintain control throughout the summer. Other aquatic plants can be addressed as they appear. If you have questions on aquatic plant ID or want guidance on treatment options, please contact Lauren Vires, Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District Wildlife Specialist at (740) 415-3905.

# 2024 SEEDLING TREE SALE

## NATIVE SHRUBS, SMALL TREES, FRUIT BEARING



**Allegheny Serviceberry**  
 Mature Height: 15'-35'  
 Mature Width: 15'-20'  
 Growth Rate: M  
 Light Required: S, P, SH  
 Soil Moisture: D, M  
 Soil pH: A

**Comments/Uses:** multi-trunk understory tree, showy white flowers that drop edible berries



**Buttonbush**  
 Mature Height: 5'-12'  
 Mature Width: 4'-15'  
 Growth Rate: M  
 Light Required: S  
 Soil Moisture: W  
 Soil pH: N

**Comments/Uses:** round shape, tolerates very wet soil, cluster white flowers that attract pollinators



**Elderberry**  
 Mature Height: 6'-13'  
 Mature Width: 5'-12'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: W  
 Soil pH: A, N

**Comments/Uses:** dark edible berries, showy white flowers, attracts wildlife & birds



**Heritage Red Raspberry**  
 Mature Height: 4'-5'  
 Mature Width: 3'-4'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S  
 Soil Moisture: M  
 Soil pH: A, N

**Comments/Uses:** self-pollinating variety known to produce several crops, one in midsummer and a larger second in fall



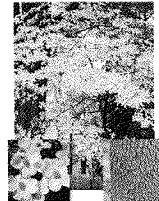
**Duke Blueberry**  
 Mature Height: 3'-5'  
 Mature Width: 3'-4'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S  
 Soil Moisture: M  
 Soil pH: A

**Comments/Uses:** large, quarter-size berries that ripen in June, self-pollinating, recommended to plant two or more



**Persimmons**  
 Mature Height: 40'-50'  
 Mature Width: 25'-30'  
 Growth Rate: M-S  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: M, W  
 Soil pH: N

**Comments/Uses:** edible fruit, fragrant white flowers, wildlife and pollinators



**White Flowering Dogwood**  
 Mature Height: 20'-30'  
 Mature Width: 20'-25'  
 Growth Rate: M-S  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: M  
 Soil pH: A

**Comments/Uses:** beautiful white flowering tree, with scarlet red berries and leaves in fall



**Winterberry**  
 Mature Height: 3'-12'  
 Mature Width: 3'-12'  
 Growth Rate: S-M  
 Light Required: S, P, SH  
 Soil Moisture: M, W  
 Soil pH: A

**Comments/Uses:** round, male & female will produce showy red berries, not safe for human or pet consumption

## NATIVE LARGE TREES



**Burr Oak**  
 Mature Height: 60'-90'  
 Mature Width: 40'-80'  
 Growth Rate: S  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: D, M  
 Soil pH: A, N, B

**Comments/Uses:** syrup, timber, wildlife and pollinators



**Butternut**  
 Mature Height: 40'-60'  
 Mature Width: 30'-50'  
 Growth Rate: S  
 Light Required: S  
 Soil Moisture: M  
 Soil pH: N

**Comments/Uses:** wildlife habitat (bat roosting in flaking bark), and timber



**Red Maple**  
 Mature Height: 40'-70'  
 Mature Width: 30'-50'  
 Growth Rate: M  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: W  
 Soil pH: A

**Comments/Uses:** lovely fall foliage, wildlife and timber



**Red Oak**  
 Mature Height: 50'-60'  
 Mature Width: 50'-60'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S  
 Soil Moisture: D, M  
 Soil pH: N

**Comments/Uses:** tolerates dry conditions, timber, and landscaping



**River Birch**  
 Mature Height: 40'-70'  
 Mature Width: 40'-60'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: M, W  
 Soil pH: N

**Comments/Uses:** reputation as tough species, ornamental or street tree, thrives in moist soils, showy bark



**Shagbark Hickory**  
 Mature Height: 75'-100'  
 Mature Width: 40'-70'  
 Growth Rate: M-S  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: M  
 Soil pH: A, N

**Comments/Uses:** wildlife, large tree at maturity, long-lived and offers deep shade

## NATIVE LARGE CONIFER TREES



**Tamarack**  
 Mature Height: 40'-80'  
 Mature Width: 12'-20'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S, P  
 Soil Moisture: M, W  
 Soil pH: A

**Comments/Uses:** deciduous conifer with reddish spring cones, decay resistant, wildlife habitat



**White Pine**  
 Mature Height: 60'-80'  
 Mature Width: 20'-40'  
 Growth Rate: F  
 Light Required: S  
 Soil Moisture: M  
 Soil pH: A, N

**Comments/Uses:** timber, windbreak, wildlife

Get in touch with your roots and order your trees today. Trees can be ordered online through our partner's website, [www.LickingSWCD.com](http://www.LickingSWCD.com)

**Growth Rate:** F = fast, 12"+ per year, M = medium 6"-12" per year, S = slow 2"-6" per year  
**Light Required:** S = sun, P = part sun/shade, SH = shade  
**Soil Moisture:** D = dry, M = medium, W = wet  
**Soil pH:** A = acidic (6.5 or less), N = normal pH range (6.5-7.5), B = basic/alkaline (7.5+)

# 2024 SEEDLING TREE SALE ORDER FORM

Indicate quantity of saplings or packs in area provided for each variety.					
Native Shrubs, Small and/or Fruit Tree Species		Sapling (2'-4')	Pack of 5 (12"-18")	Pack of 25 (12"-18")	Total # of Packets x price
		\$12.00	\$15.00	\$45.00	
Allegheny Serviceberry					
Elderberry					
Persimmon					
Winterberry					
White Flowering Dogwood					
Buttonbush					
Heritage Red Raspberry			Root Cuttings 8-12"		
Duke Blueberry			Root Cuttings 10-16"		
Native Large Broadleaf Tree Species		Pack of 5 (12"-18")	Pack of 25 (6"-12")	Pack of 100 (6"-12")	Total # of Packets x price
		\$15.00	\$40.00	\$110.00	
Shagbark Hickory				N/A	
River Birch					
Red Maple					
Butternut					
Bur Oak					
Red Oak					
Native Large Conifer Tree Species		Pack of 5 (12"-18")	Pack of 25 (6"-12")	Pack of 100 (6"-12")	Total # of Packets x price
		\$15.00	\$35	\$80	
White Pine					
Tamarack					
Additional Items	Cost	Total # x price	Additional Items	Cost	Total # x price
Wildflower Seeds	\$5.00		Marking Flags	\$0.20	
Erosion Seed Mix	\$5.00		Dibble Bar	\$95.00	
Watering Rings	\$12.50		Geotextile	\$2.00/linear foot	
Marking Paint	\$9.00		Manage Pond Book	\$20.00	
Tree Tube/Stake	\$7.50				
**Starting in 2022 State Auditor requires Soil & Water to collect tax. Non-profits and farms must provide tax exempt form with order.				Subtotal:	
<b>Order Deadline: Friday, March 15   Pick Up: Friday, April 19</b>				Sales Tax** (6.75%)	
(Please print)				Complete Total:	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*You will receive a reminder by email to pick up your order*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Date	_____
Rec#	_____
Ck#	_____

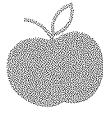
**Remit with payment to: Fairfield SWCD, 831 College Ave., Suite B, Lancaster, OH 43130**

**Visit our partner online at [www.lickingswcd.com](http://www.lickingswcd.com) for online ordering (online orders will be charged Licking County's tax rate of 7.25% regardless of which county you pick up in).**

The online catalog does not allow the removal of tax, so if you are tax exempt, please use this printed order form and submit to Fairfield SWCD with tax exempt form.



# Hugus Fruit Farm



Old Rushville Road  
Rushville, OH 43150  
740-536-9590  
HugusFruitFarm.com

*Fresh from Our Orchard to Your Hands*

In Season: Peaches - Plums - Pears - Apples - Cider



## Agricultural Drainage

Tile Installation (Trenching & Plowing)  
Waterway Construction (Grading/Dirt Blowing)

## Seeding Services

CRP ♦ Commercial  
Residential ♦ Erosion Control

**RUFF**  
AGRI-SERVICES, LLC

Circleville, Ohio  
1-800-372-2438

www.ruffarms.com    mruff@ruffarms.com

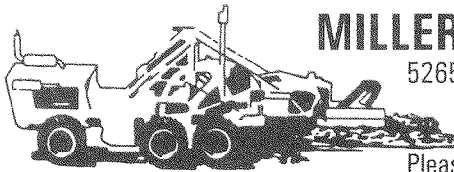


FARM AND CROP INSURANCE  
www.bickleinsurance.com | 740-536-7425

Michael Sweeney  
VP of Bickle Farm Solutions

Jenny Cox  
Communications Director

Alisha Hawkins  
Crop Account Manager



## MILLER DITCHING

5265 Richland Road, N.E.  
740-468-3587  
Cell 740-808-4860  
Pleasantville, Ohio 43148



It Pays to Plant Ruff's Seeds  
SEED CORN - GRASS SEED  
SOYBEANS - OATS - WHEAT

## RUFF'S SEED FARMS

Amanda, Ohio 43102    Phone 740-969-2600

## FALER FEED STORE, INC.

*Sweet Peet, Grass Seed and Fertilizer, Bird Seed, Lawn and Garden Supplies, Bulk Garden Seeds*

4360 Cedar Hill Road  
Lithopolis, Ohio 43136    See us on Facebook at Faler Feed    614-837-4494

We give

We help rural residents build,  
farms grow and businesses expand.

## FARMERS CREDIT.

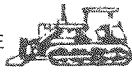


Call (855) 838-9965 or  
go to e-farmcredit.com

7835 Lancaster Newark Rd.,  
P.O. Box 68, Baltimore, OH 43105



PONDS & WATERWAYS - DITCH WORK  
FENCE ROWS CLEARED  
DITCHING MACHINE - FARM DRAINAGE  
WETLAND DEVELOPMENT



## KULL EXCAVATING

LOGJAM REMOVAL    740-225-2501    TILE WORK  
GRAVEL HAULING    LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED    LIME DELIVERY



Walnut Creek Seeds, LLC.  
SIMPLE. SUSTAINABLE.

Carroll, OH 330-475-6352    www.WalnutCreekSeeds.com

Cover Crop Seeds for Soil Health and Profitability

Agriculture - Forages - Gardens - Custom Mixing - Seed Cleaning

**This ad space  
is available**

## Millersport Agri Service

*The Hoover Family*

Agricultural Equipment • Grain Storage • Handling & Drying Systems  
10221 Lancaster-Newark Road • Millersport, OH 43046  
Phone/Fax 740-467-2424    www.millersportagriservice.com



## SEALS CONSTRUCTION INC.

"WE CRUSH IT...WE SELL IT"



• Trucking    614-836-7200    • Topsoil  
• Recycled Aggregates    • Custom Crushing

www.SealsCoInc.com  
www.SealsCoInc.net    10283 Busey Rd. Canal Winchester, OH 43110    info@sealscoinc.com



GRADING    WATERWAYS    FARM  
PONDS    DITCH WORK    DRAINAGE

FREE ESTIMATES

2225 Old Logan Road  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
Cell: 740-503-4079

## C & C Farms and Excavating, Inc.

32091 Beechcamp Road - Logan, Ohio 43138

740-385-8395 - ccfarm1@juno.com

SITE WORK - FARM DRAINAGE - WATERWAYS  
PONDS and SPECIALIZED MOWING



LAW OFFICE OF  
**CARRIE LOTT**  
LLC

2130 W. FAIR AVENUE, LANCASTER  
740.652.1701



Carrie Snoke Lott, Title Agent

## CEDAR HILL BLANKETS

Distributor of Erosion Control Blankets  
G-Pins - Installation Tools

Greg Waidelich    740-969-4295  
1915 Cedar Hill Road    Amanda, OH 43102

## K&K Lime & Fertilizer Spreading & Hauling



Aaron Kull 740-225-2501  
Seth Kull 740-225-3298

Fairfield County



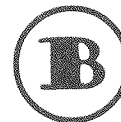
Follow us on Facebook @  
Fairfield County Antique Tractor Club  
www.fairfieldcountytractorclub.com

Annual show August 16, 17 & 18, 2024

Antique Tractor Club

Fairfield County Fairgrounds

**Beveridge  
Trailers  
& Trucks**



4510 Westfall Road  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
740-969-2814  
email: beveridgetrailers@gmail.com

## Pappy's Feed Store

Livestock and domestic animal feed and supplies

Kalmbach, Tribute Feeds. LG Seed Dealer

701 N. Walnut St., Baltimore OH    740-400-4268



## BENEFITS OF SOIL TESTING FOR GARDENS AND FLOWERBEDS

*By Carrie Brown, Agriculture & Natural Resource Educator with OSU Extension;  
and Lauren Vires, Wildlife & Education Specialist at Fairfield SWCD*

Putting in the time and effort to cultivate a garden or flowerbed is hard work. The satisfaction of eating that first juicy tomato or watching the pollinators buzz about your flowers can make it all worth it. One of the easiest things you can do to improve your efforts is to test the soil you're working with.

The foundation of any garden or flowerbed is the soil in which it grows. Soil provides essential nutrients and the environment where roots can take hold and find water. A soil test can provide information on the availability of essential nutrients such as phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), zinc (Zn) and for an additional fee it can give you the status of other trace nutrients such as iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), and copper (Cu). These nutrients are important for the plant's growth, development, productivity, creation of cell structures, energy storage, ability to photosynthesize, and more.

Soil test results will also give you insights on the soil's pH. Soil pH affects the availability of nutrients. For example, below a pH level of 6.0 some nutrients become more unavailable such as phosphorus (P), and some become more available such as iron (Fe). Plants also have a certain pH range in which they can grow the most successfully. Many flower and garden produce species grow best in soils with a pH range of 6.1 to 6.9, whereas something like **blueberries** require more acidic soils in order to thrive.

Overall, the information you gain from a soil test can help you make informed decisions about managing your garden or flowerbed. Using your soil test results to develop a targeted approach to apply fertilizer that fits your needs without being wasteful can save you money and prevent excess nutrients from washing away and entering our waterways. Knowing your soil's pH can help guide your decision on which plants may be a best fit for your plot. If you already have plants growing, and they begin to show signs of health issues, a soil test can help in the diagnosis of the problem and solution.

While soil testing can be done in any season when the soil is workable, you should allow plenty of time to receive and evaluate your soil test results. Actions taken to improve your soil fertility may have seasonality. While fall is the best time of the year to apply lime to raise soil pH, spring is the preferred time of the year for sulfur application to lower pH. Soil should be sampled to root depth, which typically means 5 to 8 inches for trees, shrubs, flowerbeds and vegetable gardens, and 3 to 4 inches for lawns. Organic matter on top of the soil should not be included in soil test samples. Samples can be taken with a specialized tool called a soil probe or something as simple as a soil knife or garden spade. You should strive to collect multiple samples in order to represent the entire area you are evaluating. These samples are then air-dried, crushed, and mixed together. A small amount of soil, about 1 pint in volume, is sent as a representative sample to the testing lab. Separate soil tests can be pulled when evaluating different types of plant cultivation (i.e., turfgrass, vegetable gardens, trees/shrubs, etc.) or in areas you suspect will require different fertility treatments.

Soil bags, input forms, and step-by-step instructions are available through your local Fairfield County OSU Extension office to assist those interested in having their soil analyzed. A 'basic' analysis, which includes discovery of P, K, Ca, Mg, Zn, pH and buffer pH, costs \$6.50 per sample (which includes the bag and laboratory analysis) if you choose to package and mail your own samples from home. The Extension office can assume the responsibility for processing, postage and mailing the samples at the cost of \$16.70 per sample. Additional tests such as organic matter or trace elements are available for an extra fee. Results are typically received by the office within two weeks, and we will then reach out to you to review the findings and discuss recommendations based on your own gardening goals.

Interested in learning more? Contact Fairfield County OSU Extension at 740-653-5419 or email Carrie Brown at [brown.2766@osu.edu](mailto:brown.2766@osu.edu).

### SAVE THE DATE

The Fairfield SWCD, along with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, will be participating in the DEA National Rx Take Back Day (Drug Collection Event) on **Saturday, April 27th** from **10 a.m.—2 p.m.** at the Walnut Twp. Fire Department located at 2435 Blacklick-Eastern Road NE in Millersport, OH.

Please check our website at [fairfieldswcd.org](http://fairfieldswcd.org) at a later date for more information.

02/27/2024

### HAVE AN ORPHAN GAS OR OIL WELL?

The ODNR Orphan Well Program was established in 1977 to plug abandoned oil and natural gas wells. Ohio's program is recognized as one of the most well-funded and organized in the nation. Proper plugging of orphan wells is necessary to protect public health and safety, conserve natural resources, and allow the efficient development of Ohio's oil and gas resources. General Questions or to report an orphan well, call (330) 308-0007 or email [OrphanWellProgram@dnr.ohio.gov](mailto:OrphanWellProgram@dnr.ohio.gov) 080

# FAIRFIELD SWCD COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fairfield SWCD will award up to three \$1,000 college scholarships for any graduating high school seniors that plan to study Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation, or Environmental Education. The scholarship can be used for the pursuit of two-year or four-year degree programs as well as a technical college. Applicants must be residents of Fairfield County and can be home-schooled. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of application.

Applications for this scholarship can be acquired at the SWCD office or through the Fairfield SWCD website at [fairfieldswcd.org/educational-services/scholarship](http://fairfieldswcd.org/educational-services/scholarship). Along with the application, an official high school transcript, 400 word essay and two letters of recommendation are required. One recommendation needs to come from a teacher at the applicant's school; the other should be from a person in the local community (neither can be a relative). Eligible applicants will be required to interview to be eligible for the scholarship, with a decision made by the end of the current school year.

Scholarship funds will be distributed in two payments of \$500. The first payment will be issued once the recipient submits proof of full-time enrollment for the fall semester. The final payment will be issued after successfully completing the first semester of college and the submittal of grades to the SWCD office showing the recipient achieving at least a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Checks will be made payable to the student and can be used for tuition, room and board, books, or other educational expenses. Deadline to apply is March 31st.

-----  
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.  
-----

## DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

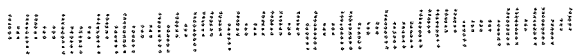
Linda Claypool  
Cheyenne Erb  
Amber Hoisington  
Gregg Pontius  
Doug Tenney

## DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Nikki Drake  
Jonathan Ferbrache  
Molly Gilleland  
Christina Holt  
Chad Lucht  
Josh Troyer  
Lauren Vires

## NRCS PERSONNEL

Torrance Corbin  
Jacob Eldridge  
Dave Libben



4313083879 0008

4095  
FAIRFIELD CO. COMMISSIONERS  
210 E MAIN STREET #301  
LANCASTER OH 43130

Please Don't Trash Me — Pass Me!  
I'm recycled and recyclable!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

831 COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE B, LANCASTER, OH 43130



FAIRFIELD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
181

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Lancaster, Ohio  
Permit No. 235

2024/07/27

# OJACC

## Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

Over 35 Years Promoting and Supporting Effective Community Corrections

### Mission:

To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety.

www.ojacc.org

### Officers:

Pres: Linda Janes

1st VP: Ro-Ellen Sinkewich

2nd VP: Molly Gauntner

Sec.: Amy Klumpp

Treas.: Melissa Pierson

### Table of Contents:

President's Message....	1
OJACC Officers .....	2
OJACC Website.....	3
MonDay Update .....	4
36th Annual Conf .....	6
Policy Change .....	7
OJACC Awards .....	8
Ed Latessa Tribute.....	10
Skeen Awards.....	11
Ad & Save the Date....	12
Unlocking Potential ....	13
Membership.....	14

02/27/2024

### President's Message

By: Linda Janes, OJACC President

Thank you for entrusting me to serve as president of OJACC. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of Mike Randle, Kysten Palmore, Jim Slagle and many other esteemed leaders of OJACC.

Hopefully, all of you had a happy holiday season and are having a productive start to the New Year.

I recently returned to Ohio from the American Correctional Association's Winter Conference in Washington, DC. It was delightful to see so many OJACC members there! The conference was terrific and featured some new elements, such as a concurrent Education in Corrections Symposium and a trip to the Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum.

Whether at a corrections conference, a behavioral health treatment event, or in my office at Alvis, I am struck by the fact that corrections professionals share so many common challenges. These include, but are not limited to: not having enough staff, how to work with clients who have significant and varied treatment needs, differences in the way generations approach work, and dealing with scarce resources.

I am grateful to have an association like OJACC to turn to in such times. OJACC brings people together to create and support solutions. OJACC members share the common goal of enhancing public safety and we share a commitment to working together. OJACC's mission is "To bring together stakeholders to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety." OJACC membership includes representation from all segments of the criminal justice system including: judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, probation, prisons, CBCFs, residential reentry programs, social service providers, and others.

The way OJACC brings different segments of the justice system together reminds me of looking into a kaleidoscope, where pieces rotate and come together to form something beautiful. A variety of colors and shapes are needed for the kaleidoscope to work.

OJACC is a kaleidoscope of unique perspectives and experiences coming together. Our strength lies in our diversity. In the same way that there isn't a single book on parenting correctly, there isn't a single strategy to improve community safety. None of us have all the answers but each of us has a valuable perspective.

This is an exciting time to be a corrections professional! The COVID-19 Pandemic will continue to provide us with learning opportunities that would not otherwise exist.



Linda Janes,  
C.O.O., Alvis Inc.

## Submissions:

The OJACC Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections. Subscription is free to all members.

The OJACC Newsletter encourages submission of articles relating to community corrections. Articles must be relatively brief, and OJACC reserves the right to edit articles for space considerations and to select which articles to publish.

Points of view expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of OJACC.

OJACC accepts paid advertising.

## Article Submission & Advertising:

Gayle Dittmer  
Executive Director  
OJACC  
P.O. Box 79  
New Albany, OH 43054  
(740) 420-6444  
dittmergr@gmail.com

We can look at the significant reductions in jail and prison populations across the country during the pandemic and see what worked – and what did not work – to enhance community safety while reducing the number of people in custody. The pandemic also showed us how important it is for all of us to connect to one another.

I look forward to working with you and welcome your thoughts regarding the ways OJACC can best bring diverse voices and perspectives together to discuss and promote ways to provide effective programming for the individuals we serve and increase public safety.

## Announcing the 2024-2025 OJACC Officers

At the December 1, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting the following officers were elected for 2024-2025:

**President – Linda Janes**, Chief Operating Officer, Alvis, Inc.

**First Vice President – Ro-Ellen Sinkewich**, Senior Director of VOA Ohio & Indiana

**Second Vice President- Molly Gauntner**, Oriana House Vice President of Programs, Cuyahoga County

**Secretary – Amy Klumpp**, Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board – Felony Drug Court

**Treasurer – Melissa Pierson**, Chief Operating Officer Franklin County Office of Justice Policy & Programs



Together, they provide many years of ideal diverse experience to lead OJACC in the achievement of its mission *to promote and support effective community corrections in Ohio!*

## OJACC Newly Designed Website and Social Media Sites

The newly designed OJACC Website is up and running! This new website has been designed to keep you up to date on the work of OJACC as we promote and support effective community corrections.

We continue to enhance the "Members" section of the website. If you are an OJACC member and do not have access to the members sections, please contact [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com).

Conference participants will have the opportunity to register for conferences through the website, and participants will receive a code to access conference materials on the website. There is also the capability to apply for membership through the website <https://www.ojacc.org/membership-join/>

OJACC Facebook and Instagram pages have also been created. These sites can be accessed by clicking on the icons in the website's top right-hand corner. We hope you will find this site helpful and informative.



259 Days  
16 Hours  
03 Minutes  
08 Seconds  
Until

The 37th Annual OJACC Conference

NEW LOCATION: Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center  
October 10th - 11th, 2024



### OJACC Recent News and Posts

OJACC Conference

WELCOME to the newly

OJACC Newsletter - Fall 2023



Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

## OJACC Trustees

Assoc. of Local Reentry Coalitions  
Assoc. of Muni/Cty Judges of Ohio  
Buckeye State Sheriffs' Assoc.  
CorJus, Inc.  
Corp. for Supportive Housing  
County Commrs. Assoc. of Ohio  
Juvenile Justice Coalition  
National Youth Advocate Program  
Ohio Assoc. of Court Admin.  
Ohio Assoc. of Crim Def. Lawyers  
Ohio Assoc. of Juvenile Ct Judges  
Ohio Chief Probation Officers Assn.  
Ohio Common Pleas Judges Assn.  
Ohio Community Corrections Assn.  
Ohio Municipal Attorneys Assn.  
Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Assn.  
Ohio TASC Assn.  
Ohio Victim Witness Assn.  
Specialty Dockets  
Supreme Court of Ohio  
U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services

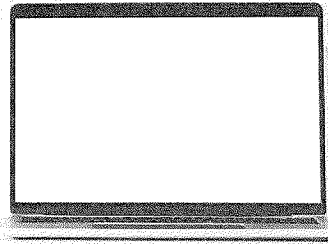
## Ex Officio:

Office of the Ohio Attorney General  
Office of the Ohio Public Defender  
Ohio Dept. of Dev. Disabilities  
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Servs.  
Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services  
Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction  
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services  
Ohio Judicial Conference  
Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services



# Data Corner

To advocate for meaningful, uniform data collection and sharing, Data Corner highlights the importance of data and efforts where data has been utilized successfully.



MonDay strives to identify and offer clinical services that complement our core CBT program. Several years ago, we recognized the need to augment a gap that existed in our clinical services to provide treatment for our residents with mental health issues. However, we needed data to support our request for additional funding for services. Thus, we began our collaboration with Wright State University's Substance Abuse Resources & Disability Issues (SARDI). WSU SARDI secured a multi-year grant from SAMSHA in 2016, which was renewed in 2020 for an additional five years. The grant study is designed to identify determinants that are barriers to reducing recidivism for those re-entering society after incarceration. WSU peer support staff provide recovery assistance, and additional case management services to our residents post-release and collect data at baseline (looking at the time prior to incarceration), six months, and twelve months post-release from MonDay.

There is a plethora of research identifying co-occurring disorders (substance abuse and mental health issues, like trauma) as significant factors in the lives of the criminal justice-involved population. If left untreated, co-occurring disorders have profound impacts on their ability to sustain a life of recovery. Co-occurring disorders often require specific interventions to address the unique needs of the individual. One may be motivated to change while in treatment, but sustaining it upon release can be daunting when facing negative external stimuli that often lead to relapse. Peer Support (individuals who have lived experience and are certified) is an intervention that can assist individuals upon release to sustain their motivation as they transition back into the community. Peer support has gained recognition as a meaningful service that is critical in the recovery process.

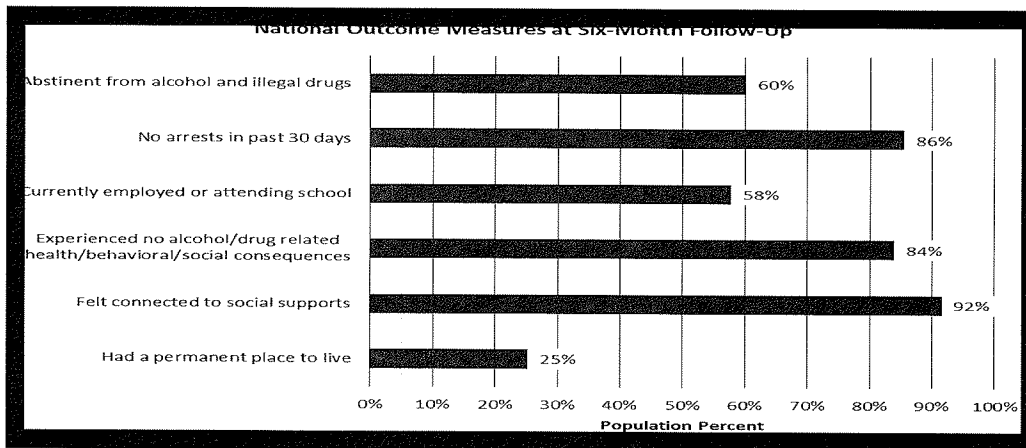
Over the years, the WSU study provided the data to justify to our local ADAMHS Board the need to fund three separate clinical services: Peer Support (created two Peer Support Specialist positions) to assist our residents during the critical post-release transition; Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) program to specifically address trauma; and Mindfulness by hiring a Mindfulness Coordinator to provide services that address co-occurring disorders.

The following is a concise summary highlighting the clinical services mentioned.

## **WSU SARDI MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAM**

In November, WSU's team provided an update on the data outcomes; overall, it is rather encouraging. It covered several outcome measures: substance use reduction, mental health issues, and case management services. One of the graphs shared illustrates the impact that treatment has on substance abuse harm reduction and the importance of returning citizens having a solid peer support recovery system in place upon release. Notably, stable housing is an issue that continues to confound our efforts to reduce the likelihood of one recidivating. Some of the project's required National Outcome Measures are described below:

**Figure 1:** Overall, individuals enrolled in the ORP project were doing well at the six-month follow-up. At the time of the follow-up interview, the majority of individuals had abstained from alcohol and illegal drug use (60%), had no arrests within the past 30 days (86%), were employed or attending school (58%), experienced no alcohol or drug-related health, behavioral or social consequences (84%), and felt that they were connected to social supports via family, friends, and support groups (92%). While at follow-up, only 25% of individuals had a permanent place to live (i.e., their own apartment, room, or house), an additional 39% of individuals were living at someone else's apartment, room, or house.



### EMDR PROGRAM STUDY

Dr. Bashir, WSU Chair of Department of Human Services, supervises MonDay’s EMDR services which started in 2020. Dr. Bashir’s initial program findings have been published in the ***Journal of Addiction and Offender Counseling* Sept. 2023**: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaac.12123>

The findings indicate that EMDR is a promising clinical intervention for the justice-involved individuals exposed to trauma:

*“In conclusion, this study validates EMDR therapy’s effectiveness in reducing post-traumatic symptoms in incarcerated populations. The study also found that EMDR therapy is equally successful across genders and races, suggesting that it could be a viable treatment option for a diverse population of incarcerated people. Although these findings are encouraging, more research on EMDR therapy is required that critically evaluates gender and racial differences in response to EMDR. Furthermore, more research is needed to assess the effect of EMDR therapy on recidivism in jailed populations. The current study did not directly quantify recidivism, but it is hoped that future research would investigate this subject. Other criteria, such as the type of offense, length of incarceration, and frequency of incarceration, need to be investigated further to provide a more complete picture of the use of EMDR therapy in this situation.”*

### MINDFULNESS PROGRAM

#### **Montgomery County ADAMHS Wins Grant from Ohio’s SOS 3.0 (Press Release)**

*“Ohio continues to make good progress in our effort to stem the tide of opioid addiction, but our work is far from over,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “While the rate of unintentional overdose deaths is slowing, our work must continue. This funding will help us save lives and promote stronger, healthier communities.”*

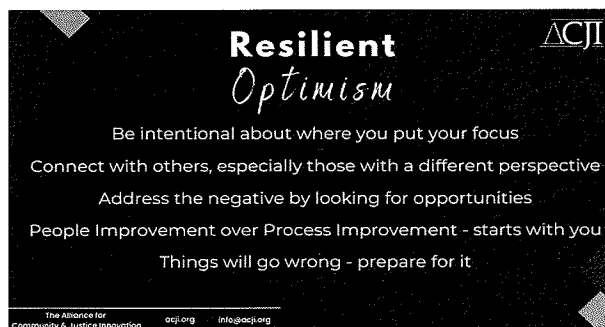
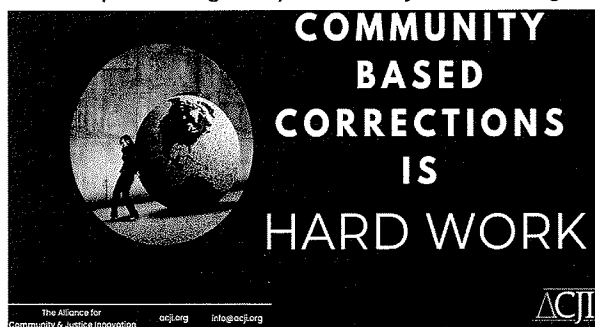
*The funding provides programs and services for individuals needing mental health support or experiencing a substance use disorder. One of those programs is Path of Freedom Mindful Meditation class at the MonDay Community Correctional Institution. “Since I began teaching these classes at MonDay, I have been amazed at the overall success and the positive response residents have expressed to me,” said Laurie Johnson, Mindfulness Clinician. “These positive results are observed in all groups, male or female, regardless of age, race, or level of criminological history. It is hard to explain the pride I feel as an instructor of this class when I see how relaxed and at peace residents are while practicing meditation.”*

These are just a couple of the many noteworthy program services we are engaged in facilitating daily that complement our core CBT treatment modalities. If you would like a copy of the recent WSU SARDI outcome data shared with MonDay, or additional information about the other services highlighted, please contact Mike Flannery, Director, at: [flannerym@mcoho.org](mailto:flannerym@mcoho.org) or (937) 496-3002.

## OJACC Hosts 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

The Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) held its 36th annual conference: “Work Well, Be Well,” at the Crowne Plaza Hotel North in Columbus, Ohio, on October 12th and 13th, 2023.

Dr. Alexandra Walker from the Alliance for Community Justice Innovations provided the opening general session: “*Resilient Optimism: Staying Engaged During Challenging Times*,” sharing with participants how to build hope and ignite passion by embracing what it meant to fail forward in our work.



Dr. Walker also presented the workshop, “*From Data Deserts to Data Floods: De-Mystifying Fidelity*”, providing valuable information to simplify the process of fidelity so that real-time information can be utilized to determine impact.

Thursday afternoon, Karen Vadino used her very humorous approach to explain “*Resiliency: The Art of Living Well*.” Experiencing difficulties, especially in our field, is unavoidable. Karen helped participants identify needed resources that sustain well-being, which is what resiliency is all about.

The Friday morning general session featured Dr. Reginald Wilkinson from Connect the Dots, LLC. Dr. Wilkinson was an integral part of the history of evidence-based practice implementation in Ohio and is a long-time friend of community corrections. Dr. Wilkinson led participants through the progress of the field of community corrections toward the goal of evidence-based practices and the importance of continuing the pursuit of this goal.

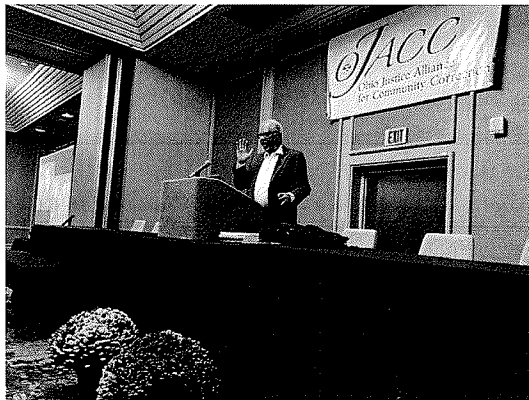
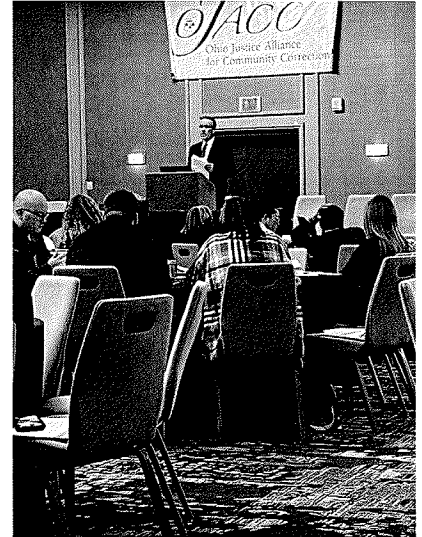
The conference closed with a general session presented by Dr. Jennifer Bogner, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, on “*Overview of Traumatic Brain Injury and Prevalence in Persons Involved in the Criminal Justice System*.” Dr. Bogner identified the prevalence of those with brain injuries involved in the criminal justice system and provisions of cognitive accommodations that can enhance the ability to engage in programs to improve the ability to function in the community, leading to reduced recidivism.

Many workshops were also offered to improve our community corrections work to help change behavior and reduce recidivism. Thank you to our conference committee, who worked diligently to provide a highly informative conference.

Thank you also to our exhibitors/sponsors who help to keep our conference registration rates lower for participants and provide valuable information on products and services in efforts to help improve community corrections services:

Aramark – Special thanks to Aramark for sponsoring the conference luncheon.  
Alkermes Adventfs.com American K9 Detection Services  
The Counseling Center ezJustice from StepMobile Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions  
Indivior Intoxalock Oriana House, Inc.  
The Phoenix Center Rise Up Recovery SecureManage

Mark your calendar for the **2024 OJACC Conference to be held on October 10th and 11th, 2024**. After 16 years at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the conference will move to a **NEW LOCATION – The Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadow Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 (Columbus Area)**



## **Policy Change Allows Access to Medicaid Coverage for Transitional Control and Treatment Transfer Participants**

Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), introduced an important policy change in November that allows Ohioans who are completing their terms in ODRC-contracted halfway houses to access Medicaid-covered medical, mental health, and substance use treatment services. The policy became effective on November 1 and enables those who are eligible to access important healthcare services beyond those limited to inpatient hospital stays.

ODRC's Transitional Control or Treatment Transfer programs facilitate an individual's transition from the state correctional system to the community while residing in a monitored halfway house environment. ODM and ODRC collaborated with the Ohio Community Corrections Association and halfway house providers to design and implement the policy change for those participating in the programs.

Transitional Control participants are deemed eligible by the Ohio Parole Board and may participate up to 180 days prior to the expiration of their prison sentence. Treatment Transfer participants can receive substance use disorder treatment through community treatment providers for up to 365 days prior to the expiration of their prison sentence to help reduce substance use relapse and recidivism for felony non-violent offenses.

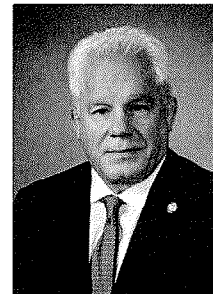
It is important to note that this policy change is separate from the Medicaid Pre-Release Enrollment Program (MPREP). MPREP is for eligible incarcerated individuals who, before they are released from prison, are assigned a case manager by their Managed Care Organization who is responsible for assisting with the development of a transition plan (i.e., scheduling doctor's appointments in the community, providing access to transportation, connecting the member to other community services, etc.).

All eligibility questions related to Transitional Control or Treatment Transfer can be directed to an individual's county Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS). They can find their CDJFS by selecting their county from the dropdown at [medicaid.ohio.gov/dropdown](https://medicaid.ohio.gov/dropdown).

## OJACC 2023 Achievement Awards & Dr. Ed Latessa Tribute Presentation at Annual Conference

OJACC is honored to recognize individuals each year at the annual conference who have shown dedication to the improvement of community corrections. The 2023 OJACC Achievement Award recipients and comments from their nominators are identified below.

**Ohio State Representative Phil Plummer, received the *Representative C.J. McLin Award*, which is presented to an elected official in Ohio who has worked towards the improvement of community corrections.**



Nomination information: Representative Plummer is an Ohio 135th General Assembly member representing House District 39, the Dayton area. Rep Plummer puts the concerns of Ohioans first, as he has throughout his career as Montgomery County Sheriff and now as a State Representative. Whether he is supporting the work of the Alzheimer's Association, calling on state and federal leaders to update hazardous material transportation safety, protecting social security benefits for Ohioans, advocating for domestic violence support programs, or ensuring the success of the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program, Rep Plummer demonstrates his steadfast commitment to our state and its citizens.

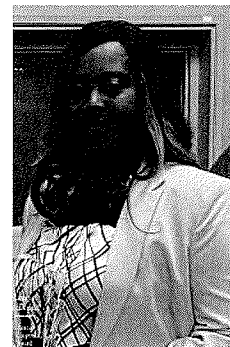
Rep Plummer sits on the Criminal Justice Committee and is a champion for community corrections. He is a forerunner, as sheriff and as a state representative, in supporting our programs that recognize people whose involvement in the criminal justice system is rooted in behavioral health problems such as addiction, mental health conditions, or trauma.

Rep Plummer devotes himself to making our communities healthier and safer for everyone.

This award is presented to Rep Plummer in honor of the C.J. McLin Award, who served Daytonians for 22 years in the House of Representatives.

**Lanaya McDonald, ODRC Bureau of Community Sanctions Assistant Chief, received the *Dr. Bennet J. Cooper Award*, which is presented to a correctional administrator or policymaker who has shown a lifetime commitment to the improvement of community corrections.**

Nomination information: Director Chambers-Smith tasked Lanaya to Revitalize and resurrect the Ohio Correctional and Court Services Association (OCCSA), coordinate a state-wide Audit and Leadership Summit, and increase the number of ODRC staff as trained and accredited auditors for the American Correctional Association (ACA). This effort put OCCSA back on the national stage. As part of this task, Lanaya assumed the position of OCCSA President, created a new board of officers, and swiftly hit the ground running. Under Lanaya's leadership and in a very short period of time, the board was selected and swiftly coalesced and committed to furthering the mission and future of OCCSA. Lanaya and the Board worked collaboratively to successfully execute a well-attended and high-caliber Summit that resulted in elevating the external perception of the association and 26 ODRC staff becoming trained ACA-Accredited auditors, allowing them to audit prisons in other states and bringing that experience and knowledge back to Ohio.



Additionally, during the height of COVID, Lanaya was instrumental in coordinating and expanding access to virtual learning opportunities for individuals who are incarcerated in ODRC prisons to improve the reentry process and reduce recidivism. This initiative has endured to this day due to its demonstrated success. Additionally, Lanaya was appointed to oversee the ODRC housing initiative with the goal of reducing homelessness for individuals leaving Ohio prisons. Lanaya continues to educate and advocate for these efforts across the state.

Lanaya is a resourceful and collaborative professional who does not hesitate to take on challenges. Her unwavering commitment to the growth and excellence of rehabilitation in corrections and reentry is exceptional.



Under Lanaya's leadership, Ohio's presence is once again known at the national level, for Ohio's chapter of ACA and OCCSA will once again have a seat at the table.

**Molly Gauntner, Oriana House, Inc. Vice President of Correctional Programs in Cuyahoga County, received the *Dr. Simon Dinitz Award*, which is presented to a community corrections practitioner who has contributed to improving community corrections in Ohio.**

Nomination information: Molly has dedicated over 29 years to outstanding contributions to the field of community corrections through her work in adult felony and misdemeanor courts in Cuyahoga and Franklin Counties and is currently the Vice President of Correctional Programs in Cuyahoga County with Oriana House. She has worked in various capacities, including Chief and Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Director of State Community Corrections Act grant-funded diversion programs, Co-Coordinator of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Court, Cognitive Skills Facilitator, and Substance Use Case Manager. Molly has been a trailblazer for evidence-based practices. In her roles in probation, she assessed needs related to evidence-based practices and implemented new, science-based approaches to probation. Molly engaged national experts and changed the landscape of probation interventions for officers and probationers served.



Molly has passion and the ability to work with others. She was able to find funding to implement and add services to the probation population and found innovative ways to extend IDAT funds for much-needed services. Just about anyone who has worked with Molly would likely agree that when she puts her mind to something, it gets done. Through her tireless advocacy efforts through the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association (OCPOA), the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC), and her time on OJACC's Adult Community Corrections Collaborative, as well as many other boards and committees,

Molly has lent her expertise and voice to help the entire field of community corrections. This experience and commitment to the continued improvement of community corrections makes Molly Gauntner an ideal candidate to receive the Simon Dinitz Award for 2023.

**Veronica Perry, Medina County Court of Common Pleas Chief Probation Officer, received the *James Wichtman Award*, which is presented to an OJACC Board Member who has shown dedication to the mission of OJACC.**

Nomination information: When Veronica Perry joined the OJACC Board of Trustees in 2020, she graciously accepted the challenge of chairing the then Newsletter Committee. Through Veronica's leadership, that committee was expanded to the Public Outreach Committee, which includes the newsletter and the enormous project of creating a newly designed website and establishing a social media presence for OJACC. Her can-do, forward-thinking attitude led to the success of this project. Veronica also co-chairs the OJACC Community Corrections Collaborative, a group of community corrections associations that work with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to represent the mutual interests of state-funded adult community corrections for the overall effectiveness and efficiency of adult community corrections. Veronica's vast background and experience in probation, advancement of evidence-based practices, and ability to work with others to find effective solutions make her extremely valuable in this position.



Beyond Veronica's work with OJACC, she serves as the Chief Probation Officer for the Medina County Court of Common Pleas. She is also active in the Ohio Chief Probation Officers Association, chair of the OCSS Governance Committee, as well as many other boards and committees.

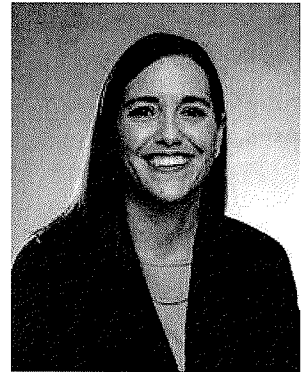
Veronica is a true leader and innovator in community corrections. Her hard work, dedication, and commitment to promoting and supporting effective community corrections make her a natural choice for the James Wichtman Award.

**Dr. Ed Latessa Tribute Presentation**  
**OJACC 2023 Conference Recipient: Dr. Myrinda Schweitzer Smith**

In 2022 the OJACC Board of Trustees created the Dr. Ed Latessa Tribute Presentation. Dr. Latessa was a true friend to OJACC throughout our history, and we felt it important to honor him in a meaningful way. Each year a session is identified at the annual conference that focuses on the work of Dr. Latessa, who transformed the field of community corrections through research/evaluation and communicating the results to make sure we understood what it took to make our field successful.

The featured presenter for the 2023 OJACC Conference was Dr. Myrinda Schweitzer Smith.

Dr. Myrinda Smith has more than ten years of leadership history at the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) with 25 years of corrections experience. UCCI was the vision and passion of former Director of the School of Criminal Justice, Dr. Ed Latessa. The institute's overarching goal is to provide resources and support to the field of corrections in an effort to create safer communities and stop the cycle of recidivism. While Dr. Smith has led day-to-day operations at UCCI for some time, her career began as a residential treatment counselor at a facility for adjudicated youth. She then earned an MA from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, and spent the next six years as a therapist providing correctional interventions for juveniles and adults in the justice system. It is then that Mindy's focus shifted from providing direct



services herself to training and coaching others who provide those services. Dr. Pat VanVoorhis hired Mindy as a full-time staff for UCCI in 2006, where she immediately began helping corrections professionals implement strategies (many of which she herself used in the field) to learn a person's criminogenic risk and needs and respond with effective intervention. During her tenure as a UCCI staff, Mindy earned her PhD in Criminology from the University of Cincinnati. Mindy's professional growth during this time was fostered by her mentor and friend, Dr. Ed Latessa, who nurtured her drive to help people tap into their talents to impact the field they both love positively. Now as Executive Director, she's excited to expand UCCI's strategic vision by evolving UCCI's ability to translate research into practice, challenging the status quo of effective correctional interventions. In her own words, Dr. Smith is driven by "helping people to be their best selves and improving the lives of ALL those who are touched by the criminal justice system."



*Our Mission: To bring together stakeholders to  
promote and support effective community correc-  
tions that enhance public safety.*

## The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's 2023 Clifford Skeen Awards

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) held the 29th annual Clifford Skeen Awards Ceremony on October 12, 2023, during the annual Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) conference at the Crowne Plaza North in Columbus.

This award is given in honor of the late eight-term Ohio Representative Clifford Skeen, who sponsored the Community Correction Act passed by the Ohio Legislature in 1979. This act aimed to reduce the number of non-dangerous offenders being sent to state prisons. Representative Skeen was instrumental in obtaining increased funding for many community corrections initiatives. The Clifford Skeen Award was initiated in 1993 to demonstrate commitment to community corrections as a viable alternative to incarceration.

Ohio is proud of its community corrections programs. The ODRC, in partnership with local corrections agencies, has assisted in developing professional and safe community sanctions. These sanctions allow the offender to be treated in the community while saving scarce prison and jail space for the violent offender.

The selection committee comprised former Cliff Skeen Award recipients and a Bureau of Community Sanctions representative. After conducting individualized interviews of Ohio's top-scoring programs in each category, the committee recommended the award recipients. The panel selected the following programs as the 2023 Clifford Skeen Award recipients:

**Community-Based Correctional Facility: Northwest Community Corrections Center**

**Halfway House: Oriana House/Terrence Mann Residential Center**

**Prison Diversion Program: Shelby County Common Pleas Court**

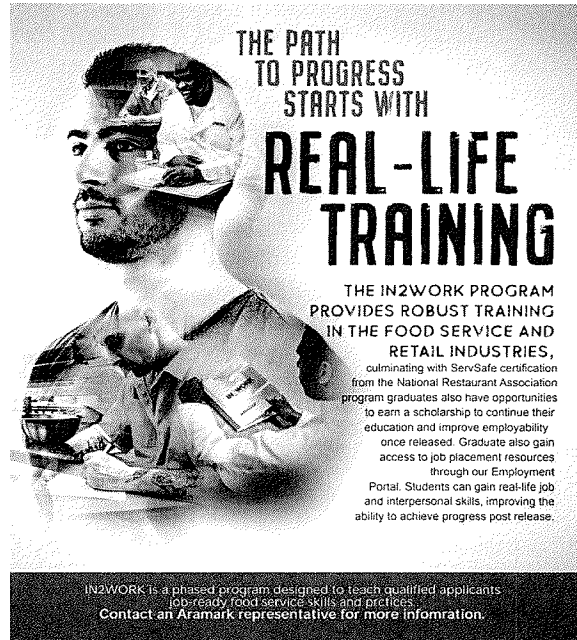
**Jail Diversion Program: Marion Municipal Court**

The Department's vision for community corrections is that of a collaborative and cooperative partnership between state and local agencies. The Clifford Skeen Awards highlight our successes in this vitally important area. The award ceremony is just one opportunity for the Department to recognize local programs for the outstanding work they do on a daily basis to provide alternatives to prisons and jails and ensure safe communities. If you would like additional information about the Clifford Skeen Awards or community correction programs, please contact Chris Galli, Chief of the Bureau of Community Sanctions, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, at 614-728-9990 or [Christopher.Galli@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:Christopher.Galli@odrc.state.oh.us). OJACC congratulates the 2023 Clifford Skeen Award Winners!



02/27/2024

Thank you to Aramark for sponsoring the OJACC Conference Luncheon



**THE PATH TO PROGRESS STARTS WITH REAL-LIFE TRAINING**

THE IN2WORK PROGRAM PROVIDES ROBUST TRAINING IN THE FOOD SERVICE AND RETAIL INDUSTRIES, culminating with ServSafe certification from the National Restaurant Association program graduates also have opportunities to earn a scholarship to continue their education and improve employability once released. Graduate also gain access to job placement resources through our Employment Portal. Students can gain real-life job and interpersonal skills, improving the ability to achieve progress post release.

IN2WORK is a phased program designed to teach qualified applicants job-ready food service skills and practices. Contact an Aramark representative for more information.

aramark | IN2WORK

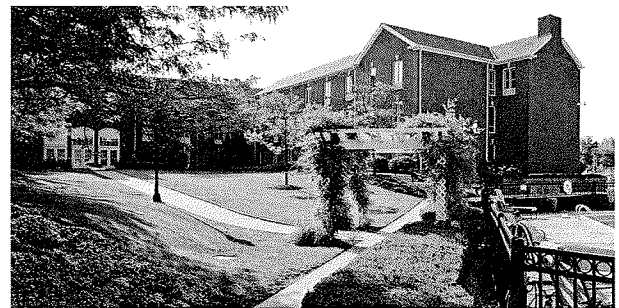
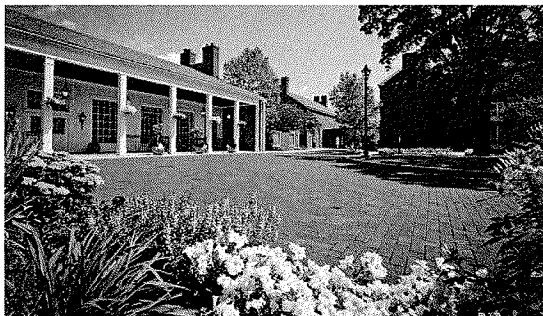
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2024 OJACC Annual Conference**

**October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**At the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center**

**100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 (Columbus Area)**



*OJACC*  
Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections

*For over 35 years, OJACC has brought together Ohio's criminal justice stakeholders, including judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, pre-trial and probation officers, law enforcement officials, corrections officials from adult and juvenile systems, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, and victims' representatives to promote and support effective community corrections that enhance public safety. Few other states have achieved this type of umbrella organization which represents Ohio's collaborative efforts that have led to Ohio's place as a leader in Community Corrections.*

**Together we:**

- *Work with state agencies, legislators, and other stakeholders on policy/issues affecting community corrections.*
- *Hold a biennial board retreat to focus the efforts of the organization and guide our mission.*
- *Host a biennial legislative reception with OJACC member organizations to educate legislators on issues vital to the improvement of community corrections. OJACC also takes positions throughout the year on pending legislation affecting community corrections and provides input on the development of legislation.*
- *OJACC's Adult Community Corrections Collaborative, comprised of associations providing state-funded community corrections services, works with the ODRC for the overall improvement of these services and highlights benefits and cost savings of community corrections.*
- *Hold an annual conference and/or virtual learning opportunities for personal development/networking to educate and inform service providers and stakeholders on issues of importance to community corrections and provide tools to enhance services. Individuals and agencies are also recognized through achievement awards.*
- *Provide newsletters throughout the year highlighting evidence-based practices, promising practices, and issues important to the field of community corrections.*

**Please consider membership in OJACC to help support these efforts.**

**2024 OJACC Membership Application**

Agency/Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Agency Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership (Please Check One)**

- \_\_\_ **Individual Membership \$30** - Allows an individual in the field of criminal justice or interested citizens to join. Individuals representing private for-profit corporations are excluded from this category. Includes discounted conference registrations.
- \_\_\_ **Government or Private Agency** – Allows governmental or private, not-for-profit agencies to join. Examples of private agency members are halfway houses, private correctional agencies, and child-caring agencies. Examples of Governmental Agencies include state agencies, courts, CBCFs, and probation departments. Includes discounted conference registrations for up to 5 staff from the agency. **Five members from the agency receive a \$25 discount for annual conference fees. For agencies with a budget of less than \$500,000, membership is \$165, and for agencies with a budget of \$500,000 or greater, membership is \$275.**
- \_\_\_ **County Membership** – Allows *county commissioner, judge, prosecutor, chief probation officer, and sheriff* from a county to join. These offices may designate an employee from that office to represent them but are specific to the listed positions. **Five members from the county receive a \$25 discount for annual conference fees. For counties with a population under 150,000, membership is \$165, and for counties with a population of 150,000 or greater, membership is \$275. Includes discounted conference registrations for up to 5 staff from county membership agencies.**

**Make check payable to Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections and mail to PO BOX 79, New Albany, Ohio 43054**

**Or Charge Membership to:**     Visa     Master Card

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Address on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 #s from back \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**OJACC Federal Tax ID Number: 31-1255020**

**For questions, contact [dittmergr@gmail.com](mailto:dittmergr@gmail.com) or 740-420-6444**



## Unlocking Potential: The Value of Community Corrections in Ohio

By: Veronica Perry, Medina County Director of Probation



In the ever-evolving landscape of community corrections, the heartbeat of transformative reentry practices echoes loudly in the state of Ohio. Here, the script of rehabilitation is being rewritten, and as professionals dedicated to guiding individuals through the delicate dance of returning to society after incarceration, Ohio's community corrections are at the forefront of innovation and effectiveness.

In Ohio's narrative, community corrections isn't just a process; it's a dynamic force breaking down barriers and building bridges between incarceration and successful reintegration into society. It's a recognition, a powerful acknowledgment that those leaving the criminal justice system don't just face hurdles; they navigate an obstacle course, from the quest for employment to the struggle for stable housing, all while confronting the formidable specter of stigma attached to a criminal record.

In the arena of reentry, community corrections professionals are the conductors, weaving strategies that resonate with success. It's not merely about ticking boxes; it's about composing a transformative plan that reduces recidivism rates and harmonizes with the safety of our communities. This isn't just a job—it's a commitment to sculpting lives into stories of redemption and resilience.

Key players emerge, each carrying a pivotal role. Policymakers are crafting the narrative, correctional officials coordinate the flow, and community organizations build the backdrop. Workforce development agencies and employers are the supporting actors providing the essential props and cues. It's a collaborative project where everyone's performance is critical, contributing to the success of reentry initiatives in Ohio.

As community corrections professionals in the Buckeye State, it's not just imperative but inspiring to recognize the value of our work. We are the engineers of change, the navigators guiding individuals through uncharted waters. The holistic approach we embrace is the compass leading the way through the complexities of unique needs and challenges each individual brings to the table.

Ohio stands tall in the vast landscape of community corrections. Our commitment to evidence-based practices isn't a mere trend; it's the cornerstone of our success. A glimpse into our comprehensive array of reentry practices reveals the utilization of tools such as the ORAS, cognitive-behavioral interventions, employment assistance, facilitation of housing support, substance abuse, and mental health treatment, and the creation of avenues for community engagement and support. These services represent merely a fraction of the extensive support we collectively provide.

The collaborations we foster with local stakeholders are the elements intertwining to create a network of support. In focusing on individualized support, we're shaping destinies.

Ohio has taken center stage, not merely as a participant but as a leader. Our ongoing commitment, passion, and unwavering belief in the power of rehabilitation position us as leaders in Ohio and throughout the nation. As we continue to fine-tune our practices, we continue to shape lives and contribute to the creation of safer, more resilient communities.

The community corrections professionals in Ohio are crafting a tale of transformation and triumph. Let our efforts resonate within the corridors of justice and in the hearts of those we guide toward a brighter, reimagined future.

Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections  
P.O. Box 79  
New Albany, Ohio 43054

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Columbus, Ohio  
Permit No. 1457

T00755

STEVEN A. DAVIS  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
210 E MAIN ST  
LANCASTER OH 43130-3879



## Save the Date

OJACC 37th Annual Conference

October 10 & 11, 2024

Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center

Lewis Center, Ohio





# Fairfield County Board Member Application

Name of Board: Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Circle One:  New Appointment  Reappointment

Name: Kellie Smith Date of Birth: 05/17/1974

Address: 15412 Birch Rd, Dayton, OH 45424

Phone: 937-233-1234 E-   Mail Address:

How long have you been a resident of Fairfield County: 20 years

Occupation: Behavioral Health Specialist Employer: Ohio Guidestone

Highest Level of Education Completed (please circle one):  
High School - Associates Degree -  Bachelor's Degree - Graduate School

Have you ever served on a board before: Yes -  No  
If yes, please indicate the board(s) previously or currently serving on:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you related to any Elected Official, Department Head, or County employee: Yes -  No  
If yes, please indicate who:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense: Yes -  No  
(A conviction will not necessarily prohibit you from an appointment. Each conviction will be judged on its own merits with respect to time, circumstance, and seriousness based on the board appointment for which you are applying.)  
If yes, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please state your reasons for wanting to serve on the board (additional space is provided on the second page). Please highlight specialized interested or experiences that you feel make you qualified to serve.

My daughter, Sophie, is in preschool at Forest Rose. She has a rare genetic condition that causes her developmental delay. The community at Fairfield County DD and Forest Rose have been a tremendous help to us and we feel so fortunate to have them. I would love to give back by being a part of the board.





# Fairfield County Board Member Application

I have lived in Lancaster most of my life and I am a Fairfield Christian Academy alum. I currently work as a Behavioral Health Specialist for Ohio Guidestone in Lancaster, so I know the area and available resources well. I am passionate about advocating for individuals with special needs and I am committed to this community and it's overall success. I am the Ohio Family Support Coordinator for the SATB2 Foundation which is the specific foundation for my daughter's diagnosis. I have experience in with fundraising, advocacy, and general knowledge of the world of special needs and what it is like to be a parent with these specific blessings and challenges. I will also be starting my master's of social work degree this coming August. I plan to focus on supporting families affected by special needs and will also work as a LISW for individual counseling. I believe it is a privilege to be a part of this community and love such special people! I want the world to see it that way as well and if I can have any hand in helping, I would be honored.

Thank you for your thought and consideration into my application.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Your signature acknowledges that the information which appears on this form and true and factual to the best of your knowledge.

 Signature	Verified by PDFfiller 02/09/2024	02/08/2024 Date
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------

Thank you for your interest in serving. Please return the completed form to:

The Fairfield County Commissioners  
 Attn: Bennett Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk  
 210 East Main Street, Room 301  
 Lancaster, Ohio 43130

or email the completed form to [bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:bennett.niceswanger@fairfieldcountyohio.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Bennett Niceswanger at the email address listed above or at (740) 652-7090.







## Fairfield DD Vision:

Our dream is to build a community that  
**recognizes the value of every person.**

## Fairfield DD Mission:

Fairfield DD exists to bring about a **vibrant community** where people lead lives of **greater independence** and make **meaningful contributions**.

# Fairfield DD Values:

At our core, we lead by modeling **fiscal responsibility, collaboration, and innovation.**

We aspire to **empower others and establish a brand of excellence, and accountability.**

# Fairfield DD At A Glance...By The Numbers

Total Number of  
People Served in  
Fairfield County

**1,731**



# Fairfield DD At A Glance...By The Numbers

Total Revenue /  
Expense 2023

**Revenue: \$24,071,957**

**Expense: \$19,865,745**



# Fairfield DD At A Glance...By The Numbers

## Team Members

**Dedicated Team Members: 158**

**2023 Turnover Rate: 7.6%**

## What Fairfield DD Does

**Provide Service (very few direct services)**

**Coordinate Service**

**Fund Services**

# Strategic Areas of Focus:

## Fairfield County:

- **Social Services**
- **Housing**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Economic Development**
- **County Operations**

## Fairfield DD:

- **Social Services**
- **Housing**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Economic Development**
- **County Operations**

**Strategic Areas of Focus:**

**Social Services**

- Coordination**
- Availability of Services**

## Strategic Areas of Focus:

### Housing

- Inaccessible Layout**
- Assistance with Maintenance**
- Not Enough Affordable Housing**



**Strategic Areas of Focus:**

**Economic Development**

**Equitable / Sustainable Growth**

**Strategic Areas of Focus:**

**County Operations**

**Inspired Workforce**

## Strategic Areas of Focus:

### Workforce Development

**22.5% of people with a disability are employed**

## Strategic Areas of Focus:

Workforce Development

**-Transportation Accessibility**

**-Affordable Transportation that  
Operates at Times Needed**

# An Important Announcement...





Fairfield DD Strategic Partner  
Lancaster Fairfield Public Transit

\$100,000

# National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



**March 2024**





# GUEST BARISTA EVENT

SQUARE 7 COFFEE HOUSE

MARCH 6 10:00-11:30 AM

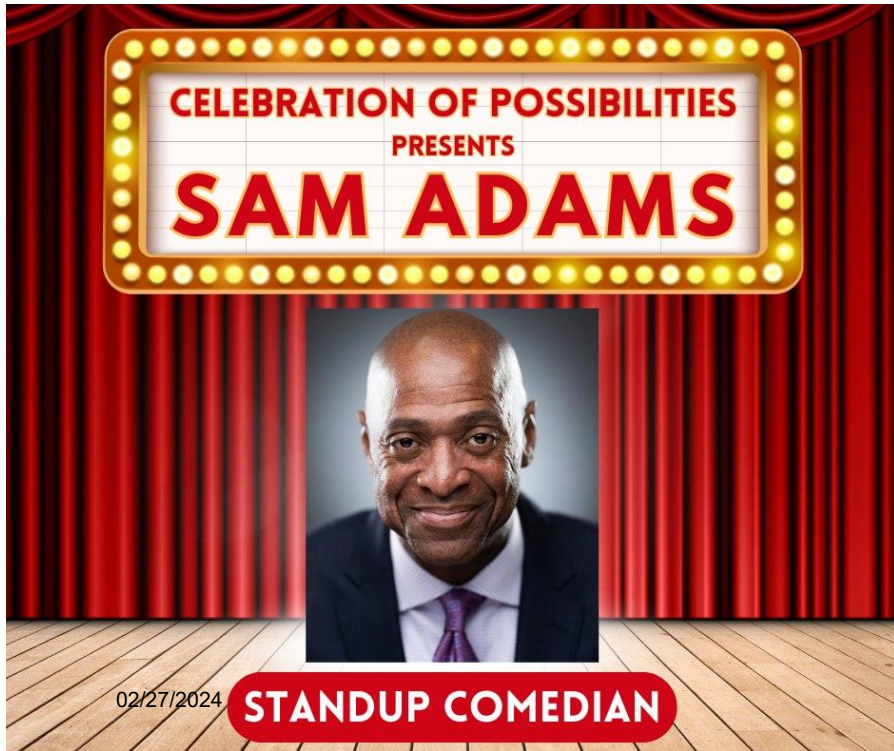
150 W. Main Street  
Lancaster, Ohio



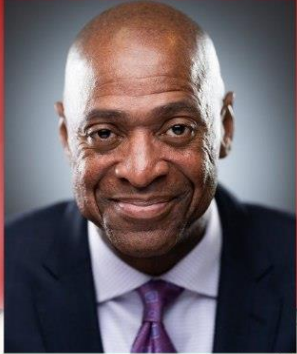
# ★ 14th Annual Celebration of Possibilities

March 20, 2024 @6:00pm

Hosted by **Friends  
of  
Fairfield DD**



CELEBRATION OF POSSIBILITIES  
PRESENTS  
**SAM ADAMS**



02/27/2024 **STANDUP COMEDIAN**

A promotional graphic for a standup comedy performance by Sam Adams. It features a marquee sign at the top with the text "CELEBRATION OF POSSIBILITIES PRESENTS SAM ADAMS". Below the sign is a portrait of Sam Adams, a Black man in a suit and tie, smiling. The background is a red stage curtain. At the bottom left, there is a date "02/27/2024" and a red button with the text "STANDUP COMEDIAN".



**WHAT'S YOUR  
SUPER  
POWER?**



**Family  
Event**

Pickerington Regional Office  
March 19th 6:00 <sup>118n</sup>pm

A promotional graphic for a family event. It features a young girl in a white superhero costume with a red cape and a red mask, looking upwards. To her right is a red starburst graphic with the text "WHAT'S YOUR SUPER POWER?". Below the graphic is the text "Family Event". At the bottom right, it says "Pickerington Regional Office March 19th 6:00 <sup>118n</sup>pm".







# Updates to the Fairfield County Special Purpose Flood Damage Prevention Regulations

---

Regional Planning Commission

February 27, 2024

# Overview

---

- ❖ The Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission has been working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to draft updated **Special Purpose Flood Damage Prevention Regulations** for 2024.
- ❖ These updates were done to stay compliant with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, so that the **County can continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**.
- ❖ ORC 307.37 & 307.85 provide authority to County's for regulating floodplain to participate in NFIP

# Public Hearings

---

- ❖ Public hearings of the ordinances will be held at 9:30 AM during the Fairfield County Commissioners meetings, on:
- ❖ Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

# Participation in the NFIP

---

- ❖ NFIP is a voluntary program (Partnership between Federal government & community)
  - ❖ Participation requires communities adopt & enforce floodplain management regulations in the form of a community ordinance/resolution.
  - ❖ Participation in the NFIP makes flood insurance available to the residents & businesses within a community.
- ❖ Flood insurance is required for federal loans (insured or otherwise) or other federal financial assistance to purchase, repair, improve or rehabilitate buildings within the mapped floodplain.
- ❖ Federal flood insurance only available if the community:
  - ❖ Adopts regulations that meet federal criteria
  - ❖ Regulates all development in mapped floodplain

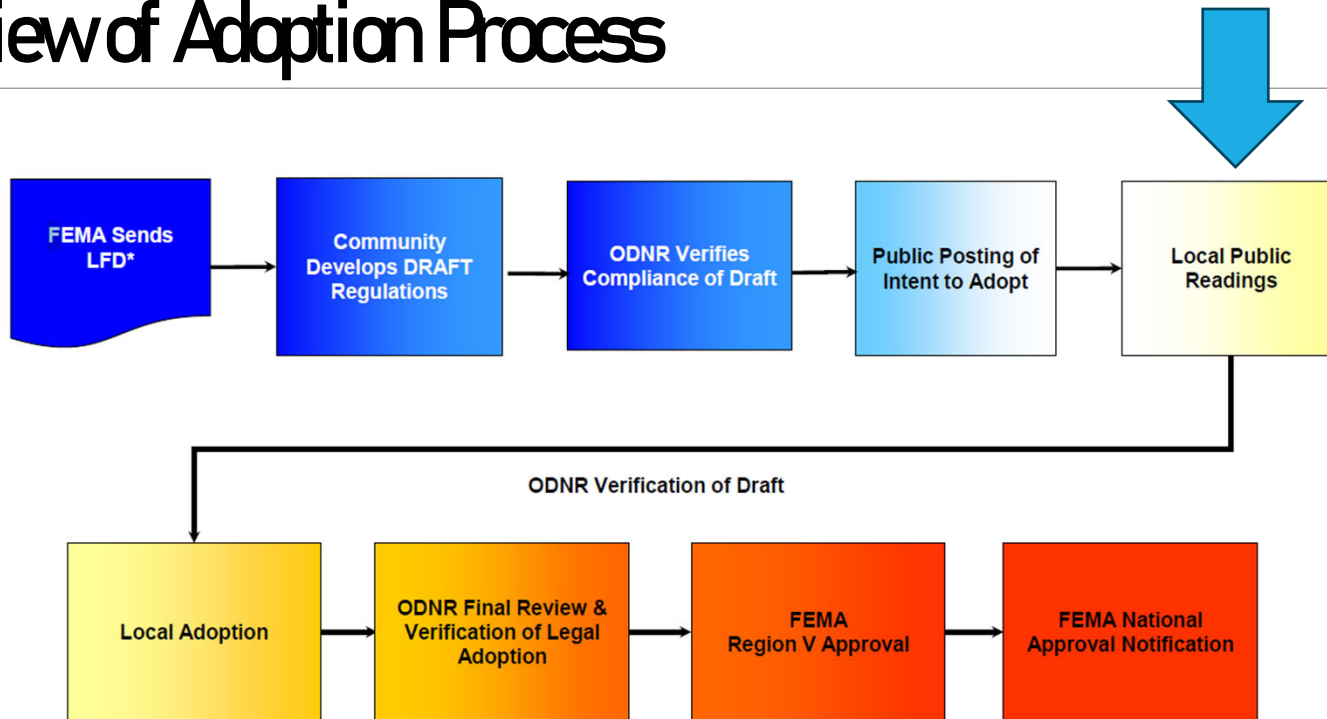
# ODNR Workshop Information

---

- ❖ Provide assistance in maintaining compliance with NFIP criteria
- ❖ Clarify Floodplain Manager role & responsibilities
- ❖ Provide overview of NFIP standards
  - ❖ Legal adoption process criteria
- ❖ Regulations update process & expectations
  - ❖ Requirements for compliant regulations
  - ❖ Higher Floodplain Management Standards
- ❖ Provide educational materials
- ❖ Expedite ODNR review of updated regulations
  - ❖ Meet with ODNR to compile compliant draft of regulations



# Overview of Adoption Process



\*Communities must have COMPLIANT regulations adopted & effective during 6 months from LFD

# Revisions

---

- ❖ Updated various sections of the County’s regulations to reflect the current state model.
- ❖ **5.1 Appeals Board Established:** The Subdivision Regulations Committee of The Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission is hereby appointed to serve as the Appeals Board for these regulations...
- ❖ **6.3 Violations and Penalties:** Violation of the provisions of these regulations or failure to comply with any of its requirements shall be deemed to be a strict liability offense, and shall constitute a fourth degree misdemeanor.

**THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK**



**THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK**



**THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK**





**THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK**

