

**Roundtable Meeting #52 - 2023**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**November 7, 2023**

**Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Center located at 12933 Stonecreek Dr., Pickerington, OH. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk Rochelle Menningen, Communications & Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, JFS Director Corey Clark, Financial Systems Director Bev Hoskinson, Chief Deputy Treasurer Michael Kaper, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, JFS Deputy Director Heather O'Keefe, Coroner's Administrator LuAnn Davidson, Communications Officer Rachel Elsea, Parks Deputy Director Chad Lucht, OSU Extension Area Leader Shannon Carter, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Health Commissioner Joe Ebel, HR Deputy Director Abby Watson, Soil and Water Director Nikki Drake, Facilities and EMA Director Jon Kochis, ADAMH Director Marcy Fields, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Interim RPC Director Holly Mattei, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Amy Brown-Thompson, Deputy Director of Communications and HR CJ Roberts, Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Terre Vandervoort, Prosecutor Kyle Witt, and Sheriff Alex Lape.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Administrator Cordle spoke on the meeting dates for 2024, including the roundtables, evening meetings, State of the County, and other meetings.

**Departmental Updates**

Director Szabrak provided a presentation on grant writing assistance. Hicks partners provides assistance to county agencies to apply for grants. To date, they have helped the county acquire over \$1.8 Million.

Director Szabrak moved on to speak about the Land Use Plan meeting the county is conducting with villages and townships. There originally was lots of push back and skepticism.

Commissioner Fix stated that they are making progress to change people's minds regarding the Land Use Plan.

Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, provided an update on human resources related items. The health insurance claims are at an all-time high this year. He encouraged everyone to see the doctor regularly in order to avoid large medical claims due to conditions that went untreated. There were additional updates to the employee wellness center.

Health Commissioner Ebel asked if there has ever been consideration towards offering an incentive to offer employees to take their spouses insurance.

Commissioner Davis stated the county has looked into those issues in the past.

Director Neely provided an update on the changes related to IT. The unified communications plan is nearing completion but there have been some delays from the original provider. He encouraged everyone to complete their cybersecurity training.

Commissioner Davis found the training to be refreshed from previous years.

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Judge Vandervoort stated they have agreements with several schools in the county to provide accommodations to students with behavioral issues. They will be meeting with Economic and Workforce Development to discuss options available to students who cannot complete high school.

Clerk of Courts Meyer spoke about his appreciation for the Budget Hearing process. He thanked the HR team for their assistance with several staff retirements, and Mr. Kochis and his team for their assistance with his office. He added that the number of titles being processed is slowly increasing.

Nikki Drake referred to the update provided and highlighted many of the events in the update, including Soil and Water's 80 year anniversary.

Area Leader Carter stated one of the Fairfield County 4H students was featured on the news. They also had a great Junior Fair which is a great way to end the year.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Kaper stated that over 98% of the second half of 2023 taxes were collected and spoke about working with Hicks Partners on grant projects.

Deputy Director Springer stated that ODNR has some projects in Fairfield County through the H2Ohio program. County Parks has received grant funding in the past from this program. Their partners with the US Fish and Wildlife Service have acquired some funding to be used on projects in Fairfield County as well and will not cost the county any money. They continue to see additional visitors to the county parks which was triggered by the pandemic and continues today.

Commissioner Davis expressed thanks to the Parks District for leasing the former Parks Office back to the county to be used as the new location of the Visitation Center.

Sheriff Lape stated that in 2019 the Sheriff's Office had one corrections officer and that they started hiring and now have 43, which makes up a third of his staff. He added that the Sheriff's Office has been able to maintain efficient staff and is continuing to refine jail policies and procedures and work on accreditation and staying 100% state compliant. He also spoke about a collaboration with Judge Vandervoort for an assessment team and added that they have school resource officers in every school except Walnut.

Prosecutor Witt is hiring a new juvenile attorney who recently passed the bar. His office will begin working with BOE to resolve any ballot issues. Lastly, the Prosecutor's Office has some significant trials coming up in the next coming weeks.

Commissioner Davis thanked Prosecutor Witt for his contribution to public safety.

Lisa McKenzie stated that real estate transactions have slowed down but her office is still processing the images so people will be able to access from their laptops or phones.

**State Capital Budget and Community Fund Information**

Gerard Basalla with Columbus Partnership provided an update on the State Capital Budget and Community Fund. Advocacy is a large part of the budget in order to get funds from the community pot of money. He encouraged the county to meet with the legislators to update them on the community needs.

Administrator Cordle asked if non-profits could be the recipients of funds from the capital budget.

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Mr. Basalla stated that non-profits are eligible for funding.

Mr. Basalla added that the central Ohio region is an eleven county region and each county needs to succeed for the region to succeed.

**Department Updates Continued**

Bev Hoskinson stated the real estate abstract was submitted and accepted in one day by the Ohio Department of Taxation. The Auditor's Office will also leverage Tyler reporting services to replace Crystal Reports and will be posted to departments sometime mid-winter.

Rachel Elsea stated the Auditor's will be doing the virtual dog show again this year. On February 7<sup>th</sup> they will hold a leadership summit for Ohio County Auditors.

Jeremiah Upp stated that there are a lot of things going on in the county and that his office is getting a lot of questions. He spoke about the funding for Basil-Western Road at King's Crossing, the Engineer's annual budget, and the Transportation Improvement District (TID). ODOT is still working on the design for the 33 Pick Rd interchange and the TID has talked to District 6 about Taylor Rd.

Interim Director Mattei stated RPC has been through several staffing changes in the last year. The two new employees serve in the planner roles. They have been talking with developers and agencies to meet deadlines and move projects along. They have also been working on drainage issues and rezoning.

Commissioner Fix thanked Holly and her staff for the positive change that has occurred in Regional Planning this year.

Health Commissioner Ebel stated that the Health Department has the flu, new COVID, and RSV vaccinations. He spoke about getting out to other areas and building relationships and added that the November Board of Health meeting is on Tussing Road in Pickerington.

Deputy Director O'Keefe provided updates on Family and Children First Council. She invited everyone to the Council annual meeting to discuss some exciting topics as they relate to Family and Children First Council.

Director Kochis stated that 455 employees have not updated their personal information in ESS, which allows the county to send out emergency information.

Director Vogel stated the road shows have demonstrated the need for water and sewer planning in some of the villages. His main focus is to plan for the future to get the townships and villages up to speed with their systems.

Commissioner Davis believed Utilities prepared well for any possible outcome.

Coroner's Administrator Davidson spoke about investigators using iPads for case documentation, allowing them to send information directly to law enforcement. She also spoke about a ride-along for investigators, many who are medical students, and about the ability to use maps from the Auditor's Office for funeral directors and investigators.

Bart Hampson thanked everyone for their assistance during the budget hearing process. He encouraged everyone to check their end of year appropriations to make sure they have enough money to get through the end of the year.





# 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

### Elected Officials and Department Heads Roundtable

November 7, 2023 ~ 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
The Fairfield Center (formerly Ohio University-Pickerington), 12933 Stonecreek Drive NW

#### *Purpose Statement:*

The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to facilitate the review, discussion, and analysis of topics with relevance for Fairfield County elected officials and department heads. It is a time to provide information, network with peers, and plan.

### AGENDA

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Welcome   | County Commissioners<br><i>Steven A. Davis</i><br><i>Jeffrey M. Fix</i><br><i>David L. Levacy</i> |
| 2. State Capital Budget and Community Fund Information | The Columbus Partnership  |
| 3. County Administration Updates                       |   |
| a. End of 2023 and 2024 Dates                          | Aunie Cordle  |
| i. Commission calendar                                 |   |
| ii. CRMS and Resolution Training 1/24/24 from 9-11     |   |
| iii. Listen and Learn Opportunities                    |   |
| b. Economic and Workforce Development Update           | Rick Szabrak  |
| i. Grant Writing Assistance with Hicks Partners        |   |
| ii. Comprehensive Plan                                 |   |
| iii. Workforce Center Updates                          |   |
| c. Human Resources Update                              | Jeff Porter   |
| i. Benefits Update                                     |   |
| ii. Performance Evaluation                             |   |
| d. Information Technology Update                       | Dan Neeley  |
| i. Multi-Factor Authentication                         |   |
| ii. Unified Communication project                      |   |
| iii. Cyber Security testing and training               |   |
| 4. Departmental Updates                                | All Participants  |

### Next Roundtable is April 2, 2024 from 1-4 at the Ag Center

If you have suggestions for topics to address during the next Roundtable, please contact Aunie Cordle, [Aundrea.Cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Aundrea.Cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

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# Roundtable Index

## Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

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18	Information Technology
19	Job and Family Services
20-23	OSU Extension
24-26	Soil & Water Conservation District
27	Treasurer's Office

## **Fairfield County Commission Dates - 2024**

### **Commissioners' Meetings: TUESDAY at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise indicated**

*Reorganization Meeting: January 8, 2024*

January 9, 2024	June 25, 2024
January 16, 2024	July 9, 2024
January 23, 2024	July 16, 2024
January 30, 2024 7:00 p.m.	July 23, 2024
February 6, 2024	July 30, 2024
February 13, 2024	August 6, 2024 7:00 p.m.
February 20, 2024	August 13, 2024
February 27, 2024	August 20, 2024
March 5, 2024	August 27, 2024
March 12, 2024	September 3, 2024
March 19, 2024	September 10, 2024
March 26, 2024	September 17, 2024
April 2, 2024	September 24, 2024
April 9, 2024	October 1, 2024
April 16, 2024	October 8, 2024
April 23, 2024	October 15, 2024
April 30, 2024 7:00 p.m.	October 22, 2024
May 7, 2024	October 29, 2024
May 14, 2024	November 5, 2024
May 21, 2024	November 12, 2024
May 28, 2024	November 19, 2024 7:00 p.m.
June 4, 2024	November 26, 2024
June 11, 2024	December 3, 2024
June 18, 2024	December 10, 2024

### **NO MEETING JULY 2, 2024**

### **Roundtable: TUESDAY 1-4 P.M.**

- April 2, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Agricultural Center
- July 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Workforce Center
- November 5, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Fairfield Center

### **Budget Hearings: TUESDAY 11-4**

- October 8, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- October 22, 2024
- October 29, 2024

### **Leadership Conference:**

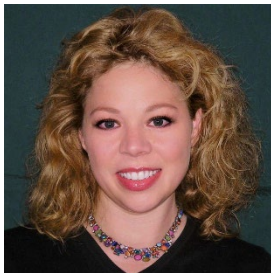
- Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

### **State of the County:**

- Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

# AUDITOR'S LEDGER:

## News from the County Auditor's Office



### From the Desk of County Auditor Carri Brown

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is quickly approaching and our days will soon be getting shorter. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage we've been blessed with this year and keep an eye out for all the creative scarecrows on the Fairfield County Scarecrow Trail!

In this edition of *Auditor's Ledger*, we are sharing our 2023 Year in Review document, featuring an article from our BOR Administrator, Linda O'Toole, Esq., about the Board of Revisions process, and introducing Making Numbers Count: a new in-service for individuals who support the financial and payroll processes of the county.

In November, we celebrate National Accounting Month and honor our local Veterans for their service and sacrifice. We're sharing a new map of the month for November, as well as a couple previous maps that seem to get a lot of interest this time of year. Next month, you'll have the opportunity to vote on your favorite map! Finally, we are sharing some photos that capture the good times had at the Fairfield County Fair.

If you missed a previous issue of our newsletter, you will find all of them posted online. We encourage you to visit our websites for ongoing updates and important information:

- [General County Auditor Information](#)
- [Real Estate Assessment Information](#)

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carri L. Brown".

Carri Brown, PhD, MBA, CGFM  
County Auditor

## News From the Auditor's Office

## Year In Review

Last year, the Fairfield County Auditor's Office released its first Year in Review report highlighting key projects and services provided throughout the year. We are excited to release that latest Year in Review document, with updated data for 2023.

This document allows the public to see the many roles the Auditor's Office has in county government from the assessment of property, to serving as the Chief Financial Officer, to administering various state programs.

View the **2023 Year In Review.**

KNOW?			KNOW?		
70%	21,203+	15,400+	Top 50+ County has the most subscription volume	1 Day	30+
Complaints processed accurately	Subscribers issued	Subscribers with manual validation	3,815	Public records requests processed on average	Press releases issued
			Search results returned	137	
				KCR	
				Items requested	

Date creation of October 2023



## Board of Revision

The Fairfield County Board of Revision (BOR) reviewed and decided 117 BOR cases this year in a record-setting timeframe. The BOR began hearing cases pertaining to the 2022 tax year on April 2, 2023 and concluded the hearing season on May 31, 2023. The team did all of this while adjusting to statutory changes, which specifically affected case filings by Boards of Education.

[Read the full article](#)

## Making Numbers Count Financial Inservice

The Auditor's Finance Office is pleased to announce ***Making Numbers Count Financial Inservice*** for all individuals who support the financial and payroll processes of the county. This event will take place on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The Inservice will cover year-end reminders as well as internal control manual updates. Awards of Excellence will be announced and presented to county financial staff. We are excited to share valuable updates and information intended to support those who are responsible for financial reporting, accounts payable, and payroll functions.

## GIS Day

GIS Day is an annual event celebrating geographic information systems-based technologies. GIS Day is November 15 this year!

Check out the [GIS Day Story Map](#) to learn more about the Fairfield County GIS Department and how you can get involved.

## Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

A Proclamation Recognizing  
November 15, 2023, as Geographic Information Systems Day

WHEREAS, it is the pleasant responsibility of the Fairfield County Commissioners to recognize people, organizations, and occasions of outstanding achievement and significance; and

WHEREAS, geographic information systems (GIS) technology allows us to see and model complex relationships and patterns to develop good responses and services; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to promote GIS awareness, education, and technical training so that we can use this rapidly developing technology to its full potential; and

WHEREAS, Fairfield County acknowledges those that have chosen GIS as their profession or as part of their discipline to improve the lives of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, having a day of GIS activities open to citizens and government leaders will help promote STEM education and inspire others to a higher calling to use technology for good; and

WHEREAS, Fairfield County is committed to utilizing GIS to inform decision making and better serve its residents and make useful geographic information open and easily available to the public, as a platform for innovation supporting public safety, real estate assessment, utilities, mapping, surveying, planning, and more.

NOW THEREFORE, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, does hereby formally declare its respect and recognition of:

November 15, 2023, as GIS Day

We call upon everyone in Fairfield County to observe this day to increase recognition, respect, and support for accounting and finance professionals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names and caused the seal of the County of Fairfield to be affixed to this Proclamation on the 31st Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two-Thousand and Twenty-Three.

  
Steven A. Davis, Commissioner      David L. LeVay, Commissioner      Jeffrey M. Flix, Commissioner

## Community Connections



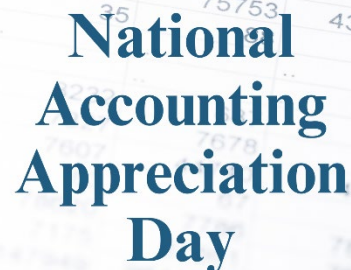
Follow Your Auditor's Office On  
**Social Media!**

Did you know we have over 3,000 followers across our four social media platforms? If you're not one of those 3,000, you should join and follow!

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)

## Accounting Day

November is National Accounting Month and November 12<sup>th</sup> is National Accounting Appreciation Day this year. The Commissioners recognized more than 50 Fairfield County financial and accounting staff, as well as all community stakeholders who serve in accounting roles, during the October 31st Commission meeting.

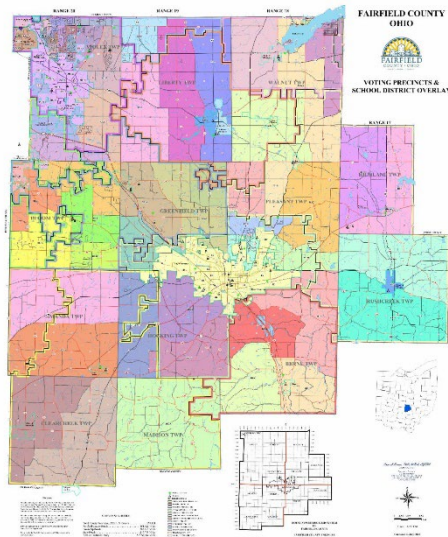


**National  
Accounting  
Appreciation  
Day**

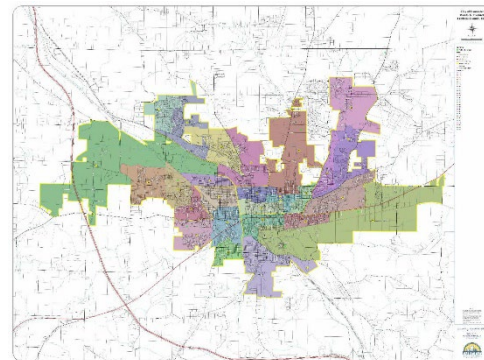


## Map of the Month - November

November 7th is Election Day so it's only fitting that the Map of the Month features precincts throughout Fairfield County. This month we have a precinct map of Fairfield County as well as a map of the City of Lancaster. If you are not sure where your polling location is, you can use the Board of Election's Polling Location Search feature found [here](#).



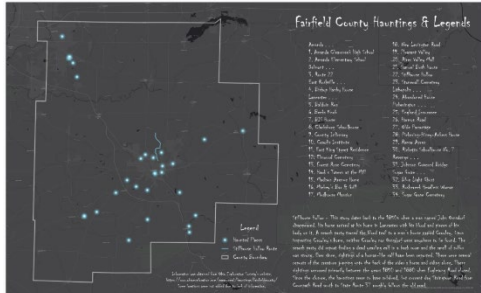
The map of Fairfield County precincts also includes an overlay of school districts. View a more detailed and zoomable version of the map [here](#).



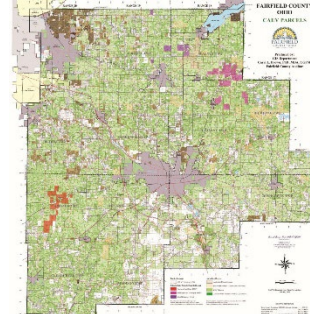
The City of Lancaster map includes the six wards of the city and their precincts. The zoomable version of the map can be found [here](#).

## Maps of Interest

Our maps of the month are quite popular, and we often hear from community members asking about them. Below are links to two past maps that we get frequent requests for, and you can find all of the maps by visiting [our website](#).



[The Haunted sites in Fairfield County](#)



[CAUV Parcels & Proposed Solar Projects](#)

### Vote for your favorite!

Next month's newsletter will have a link to vote for your favorite Map of the Month for 2023.

## Happy Veterans Day

In honor of Veterans Day, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize our community's veterans for their selfless service to our country. We hope you feel deeply appreciated for your service and the impact you have made on so many lives. Thank you, veterans!

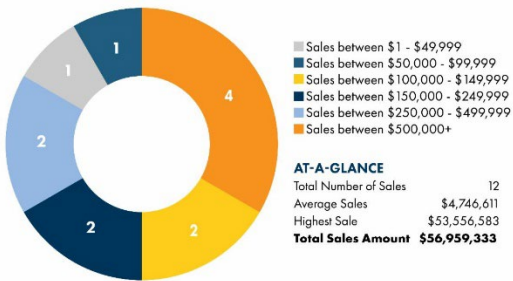


## Did You Know?

The graphs below represent Commercial/Industrial and Residential/Agricultural Property Sales in Fairfield County during the month of September. The highest September Commercial/Industrial Sale was \$56,959,333. The highest Residential/Agricultural Sale was \$84,474,826. There were 12 Commercial/Industrial Sales and 281 Residential/Agricultural Sales.



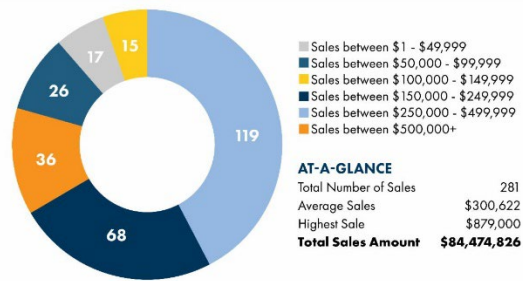
### SEPTEMBER COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES SALES REPORT



Commercial and Industrial Properties Sales  
Report



### SEPTEMBER RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES SALES REPORTS



Residential and Agricultural Properties Sales  
Reports

## Get to Know Our Team

### Trail of Scarecrows

Time is running out to vote for your favorite scarecrow in Fairfield County. While there are a lot of great creations, we think our Pink Lady is the best and hope you vote for her!

[\*\*VOTE NOW!\*\*](#)



### Fairfield County Fair

Our team had a great time at the Fairfield County Fair this year!

## Frequently Used Forms

Most of the County Auditor forms can be found on our website. Special thanks go out to Angel Horn, Deputy Auditor, for updating our vendor forms.

[Search Forms](#)

### November Dates of Interest

- Nov. 7 – Election Day
- Nov. 10 – Offices Closed in Honor of Veterans Day
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
- Nov. 23 & 24 – Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

## SAVE THE DATE

GIS Day – Nov. 15

Fairfield County Auditor's Office | [Website](#)



Fairfield County Auditor's Office | 108 North High Street, Lancaster, OH 43130

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## 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

Commissioners Finance Department  
Bart Hampson Budget Director

### Department updates:

- 2024 Budget
  - 2024 Budget Hearings have concluded.
    - Budget changes will be completed in ERP by close of business November 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Level 4 budget entry access ends on November 20, 2023, for non-general fund departments.
    - Final time to make changes in Enterprise ERP Budget Entry.
- 2023 Year End
  - Review your purchase orders.
  - Check your payroll appropriations.
  - Vacation payouts 12/1/2023.
- ARPA
  - The third quarter State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) report has been completed.
  - Total 66 total projects.
  - Four projects pending.
  - Six projects being evaluated.
- Drainage Maintenance District
  - Working with the Engineer and Auditor office to finalize reporting and processes.

**Bart Hampson, MSM**  
Budget Director

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# OFFICE OF THE CORONER

*L. Brian Varney, M.D., Coroner*

## Roundtable Update

**November 7, 2023**

The Coroner's Office is finalizing the transition to the use of iPads for scene and case documentation. This system will be in place by the end of 2023 and will allow our investigators to efficiently enter data and maintain/access shared files that are crucial to the investigative process. Thanks are extended to Jon Kochis and the IT Department for their assistance in this transition.



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## Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Update

November 3, 2023

### Workforce Updates:

- Almost 200 high school seniors attended Discovery Days at the Workforce Center to be introduced to careers in manufacturing, healthcare, and skilled trades
- There were 96 students that were enrolled into pre-apprenticeship and industry recognized credentialing programs at the Workforce Center
- More than 50 of those students are currently participating in training covering safety and industry basics
- We now have four career navigators working with high school students across the county to help them complete the Career Readiness Endorsement. They work with students on creating resumes, mock interviews, bringing in speakers from local businesses, and touring local employers to build excitement for local careers.
- The Workforce Center, through Hocking College, received a \$56k grant to purchase equipment for a pre-nursing program.
- Adam Sedlacko, workforce specialist, is leaving the
- Our 5-County Area Workforce Board, which Fairfield County administers, was awarded a \$200k Business Resource Network grant that will go toward funding pre-apprenticeship programs and a pilot program helping a local manufacturer with transportation of employees.
- The Workforce Center is working on some building projects. The parking lot was paved and expanded to add more than 100 parking spots. The Engineering Technology lab is being expanded and an architect is finalizing plans to build out the lab in partnership with Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering.
- A certified production technician program was started through Ohio University to train potential manufacturing employees. It is part of the high school senior pre-apprenticeship program but it was also rolled out for eight individuals on probation facilitated through the municipal courts and all eight completed the program with one being hired by a local manufacturer.

### Economic Development Updates:

- Building of the new DHL project on Basil Western Road has begun. It's a 750k sq ft building and a \$58 million investment in the county that will add more than 200 jobs to the community.
- There are two other projects along Basil Western Road that are moving ahead and will contribute another 200 jobs to the community.
- The finalization and approval of the Comprehensive Plan has been extended into 2024. We have been meeting with townships and villages around the county to get buy in. The focus is to help meet housing needs in the county, diversify the employment base, and preserve farmland. This can be accomplished through density of homes and identifying parcels in the county that are the most ready to be developed due to infrastructure and utilities.
- Economic Development Update will be December 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the Fairfield County Workforce Center. There will be a speaker from Google to discuss data centers and AI and a speaker from One Columbus to review what the future of the region will look like. Registration is free and can be made through the Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce.



The emergency notification system

Sign up for alerts via landline, cell phone, TTY, email, and fax.

County employees should update information in ESS to receive alerts.

EMA is currently working on the Emergency Operations Plan, and planning for the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

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Facilities:



Job and Family Services Visitation Offices at the Fairfield Center

Capital Projects for 2024 will include:

Deferred maintenance

Paving of parking lots

Workforce Center engineering lab



FCFC is working on a three-year strategic plan with Angela Krile of Krile Communications. This process has already started and has already shown itself to be very beneficial to the council. The staff and Manager of the council are thankful to the commissioners for providing the funding for this process.

The Multisystem youth (MSY) has served 49 families and their children during the first quarter of the year. The MSY program no longer has a wait list and is accepting new referrals. We are currently looking at the Service Coordination Mechanism and will be updating it soon.

Help Me Grow EI is currently serving 284 children and their families. This program's number has increased substantially over the years.

The TREK Program (previously Community Based Attendance Program) has been meeting with community partners to enhance the program. We have closed 11 cases successfully and 1 unsuccessfully this school year.

Perinatal Cluster is rapidly growing. The Perinatal Leadership group is taking a survey on how it can best serve the community. If anyone would like to be on this committee, please reach out to Laurie Clark or Tiffany Wilson.

Parent education is currently offering classes in Pickerington at the new Fairfield center and in Lancaster at Connexion West. If anyone has parental education needs, please reach out to Brandy Heeter.

Tiffany Wilson  
Manager  
Fairfield County Family and Children First Council



# HUMAN RESOURCES *Update*

Round Table

11.07.2023



*Please see the reverse side for a medical plan design comparison!*

## *Exciting Changes...*

- The Wellness Clinic will continue to offer no-cost services from a new facility later this year. Please watch for communications about the new site.
- The Employee Assistance program is provided at no-cost to employees, paid for solely by the employer and is being improved with a new vendor, Curalinc.
- For 2024 we will continue to offer the Virgin Pulse Wellness Program and the Health Reimbursement Arrangement.

## 2024 Rates

United Healthcare Medical Plan	Employee Bi-Weekly Deduction (26 pay periods) 15% cost share	Employer Contribution (26 pay periods) 85% cost share
Employee	\$59.44	\$336.82
Family	\$141.63	\$802.59

Delta Dental Dental Plan	Employee Bi-Weekly Deduction (26 pay periods) 15% cost share	Employer Contribution (26 pay periods) 85% cost share
Employee	\$2.75	\$15.55
Family	\$6.34	\$35.92

VSP Vision Care Vision Plan	Employee Bi-Weekly Deduction (26 pay periods) 15% cost share	Employer Contribution (26 pay periods) 85% cost share
Employee	\$0.54	\$3.03
Family	\$1.47	\$8.36



## ◆ Wellbeats

Wellness

### *Holiday Challenge!*

**Nov. 27 - Dec. 31**

All participants will receive a gift!

11/07/2023

## *Annual Employee Performance Evaluations*

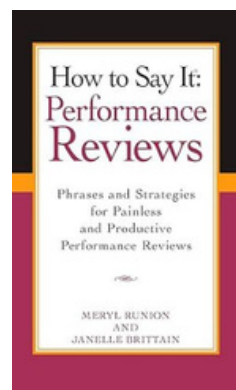
- This year the merit increase increments are as follows:
  - Partially Meets – 1%
  - Meets – 3%
  - Exceeds – 5%
- Performance Evaluation Summary Report is DUE December 15

## *Need a Performance Evaluation Refresher?*

Join virtually Wednesday, November 15, 10-11a.m. to review best practices or ask questions.

**\*Be on the lookout for a meeting invite!**

**CHECK OUT  
THIS BOOK!**  
Available on Amazon!



## *Upcoming PDL Changes!*

Notices will be mailed to **impacted plan members** by Dec. 1. No drugs eliminated, largely tier changes.

## MEDICAL PLAN DESIGN COMPARISON 2023 vs 2024

Fairfield County's medical plan with UnitedHealthcare will see some plan design changes for 2024.

By way of background, the medical plan has not changed since 2019. Looking at the market, the current plan design and costs, it was determined changes needed to be made for the upcoming 2024 benefit year.



For your convenience, [summary of the changes are listed in green for 2024.](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [HR@Fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:HR@Fairfieldcountyohio.gov).

United Healthcare 2023			UnitedHealthcare 2024	
Plan Benefits	In-Network	Out-of-Network	In-Network	Out-of-Network
<b>Calendar Year Deductible</b> Individual/Family	\$300/\$600	\$650/\$1,300	\$500/\$1,000	\$1,000/\$2,000
<b>Plan Pays</b>	85%	70%	80%	60%
<b>Calendar Year Out-of-Pocket Maximum</b> Individual/Family	\$2,250/\$4,500	\$3,750/\$7,500	\$4,000/\$8,000	\$8,000/\$14,000
<b>MEMBER COPAYMENT(S)</b>				
<b>Primary Care Office Visit</b>	\$15 copay	30% after deductible	\$15 copay	40% after deductible
<b>Virtual Visits</b> <i>Amwell, Doctors on Demand, Teladoc, Optum Virtual Care, Walmart Health Virtual Care</i>	\$0 copay	\$0 copay	\$0 copay	\$0 copay
<b>Specialist Office Visit</b>	Premium Program Provider: \$15 Network: \$30	30% after deductible	Premium Program Provider: \$15 Network: \$30	40% after deductible
<b>Preventive Care Services</b>	No charge	30% after deductible	No charge	40% after deductible
<b>Urgent Care Facility</b>	\$20 copay	30% after deductible	\$20 copay	40% after deductible
<b>Emergency Room (Medical Emergency)</b>	\$200 copay	\$200 copay	\$250 copay	\$250 copay
<b>Inpatient Services/Surgery</b>	15% after deductible	30% after deductible	20% after deductible	40% after deductible
<b>Outpatient Services/Surgery</b>	15% after deductible	30% after deductible	20% after deductible	40% after deductible
<b>Prescription Drugs</b>	<b>Retail (up to 30-day supply)</b>	<b>Mail Order (up to 90-day supply)</b>	<b>Retail (up to 30-day supply)</b>	<b>Mail Order (up to 90-day supply)</b>
<b>Tier 1/Generic</b>	\$4 copay	\$10 copay	\$10 copay	\$25 copay
<b>Tier 2/Preferred Brand Name</b>	\$25 copay	\$50 copay	\$30 copay	\$75 copay
<b>Tier 3/Non-Preferred Brand Name</b>	\$50 copay	\$100 copay	\$75 copay	\$187.50 copay
<b>Tier 4/Specialty</b>	\$150 copay	\$300 copay	25% up to \$250 (30-day supply only)	



## 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

## IT Update, November 7, 2023, Roundtable

### Projects:

- Unified Communications – AKA telephone system replacement. Final number port is in progress with last departments DD/Sheriff/DR Visitation/IT. Project completion goal end of 2023.
- Multifactor Authentication – 100% deployed – cleanup occurring with enrollment of individual persons. Project completion goal end of November 2023
- Server Cluster Infrastructure – Primarily behind the scenes. Significant County investment in technology infrastructure. Server migrations occurring after hours. Project completion goal end of March 2024
- Core Switch – Fully behind the scenes. Significant County investment in technology infrastructure. Project completion goal end of November 2023

### Service Desk:

- Lead by Jimmie Gordon and staffed by Josh Newman, Greg Irvine and Eugene McCollough.
- Eugene McCollough joined the team on 10/2.

### Fun Fact:

- Over 56,000 emails received by our organization in a typical 7 day span

## **JFS Department Update**

**Presenter: Corey Clark, Director**

- We are approximately halfway through the year-long process of redetermining Medicaid eligibility on every case in Fairfield County. This project, referred to as “Unwinding” or “Return to Normal”, is the result of Pandemic Medicaid mandates that prohibited anyone from losing Medicaid during the Federal Public Health Emergency. Fairfield County has exceeded the State requirement of completing 90% of eligible cases each month. We are averaging about 600 case redeterminations per month.
- The annual Job Fair was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and was a big success. There were 101 job seekers (up from 30 last year) and 71 employers who participated in the event. We received very positive feedback from attendees and know of at least two individuals who received job offers on the spot!
- Our CPS department is piloting a new statewide reporting portal called TEAM Ohio. This portal allows mandated partners to make referrals for abuse and neglect online instead of by phone and is available 24/7. Nationwide Children’s Hospital and all Lancaster Elementary Schools are currently accessing the portal with additional partners joining in the near future.
- Our Protective Services Department has successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the responsibilities for entities involved in assessing and investigating child abuse and neglect in our community. The MOU partners include the Board of Commissioners, Fairfield Area Humane Society, the Harcum House, local law enforcement, Juvenile Court, Coroner, and Prosecutor’s Office. A formal signing event is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Commissioners’ Hearing Room.

# THE EXTENSION CONNECTION

## Highlights from OSU Extension in Fairfield County

November 2023

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR

### Fairfield County Junior Fair

- 84 members graduated from the Cloverbud program and will be project members next year.
- 3941 projects from youth in 4-H and FFA were entered at the fair.

### Panorama

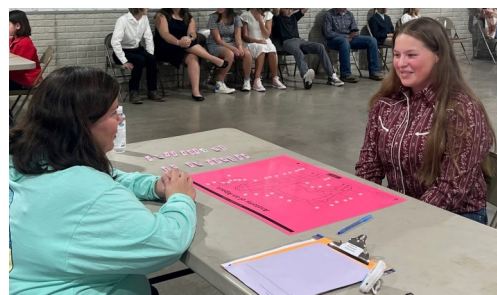
- The 2023 Fairfield County Junior Fair Queen was crowned during the Junior Fair Panorama. Lily Dennis (Junior Fair Queen) and her court: Lacie Bachman (1st Attendant), Gabrielle Rosier (2nd Attendant) spent the week greeting fair goers, working shows, and promoting the Fairfield County Fair.
- Two Outstanding 4-Hers were recognized for their exceptional 4-H careers
- 35 FFA members were recognized as recipients of their American Degree, State Degree, or Top Placing Proficiency Award.

### Skillathon

- 161 volunteers facilitated 553 hands-on Skillathon stations which allowed 4-H and FFA members to demonstrate what they have learned about their animal(s).

### 4-H'ers Helping Neighbors Fight Hunger sponsored by Farm Credit

With September being National Hunger Awareness Month, Fairfield County Junior Leaders 4-H Club organized and encouraged local 4-H clubs and the Fairfield County Master Gardeners to give back to community through a food drive. Ten 4-H Clubs donated 518 pounds of non-perishable food items and the Master Gardener donated 76 items too! The Fairfield County Junior Leaders split their 567 donated items between Maywood Mission, Columbus Blessing Boxes Project, and the Vineyard Church to help our neighbors in need. Special thanks to Farm Credit Mid-America for their generous support of this community giving project by donating cash prizes for those clubs donating the most total pounds of food.



[fairfield.osu.edu](http://fairfield.osu.edu)



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION  
11/17/2023

*We Sustain Life*

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a non-discriminatory basis. For more information:



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY 4-H



## 2023 Summer Projects

- 296 members completed 425 miscellaneous/still projects and participated in Summer Project Judging in mid-July. Additionally, 18 projects from 15 youth were judged during late summer judging.
- 14 youth participated in the Pledge Speaking Event
- 4 youth participated in the Demonstration Contest
- 200 youth and their families were invited to attend *Summerfest* held at Ohio University - Lancaster on Saturday, August 12th in recognition of their summer project judging accomplishments.



## Ohio State Fair

- 117 livestock were entered by Fairfield County 4-H/FFA youth for the 2023 Ohio State Fair.
- 112 projects from 104 youth were selected to compete at the Ohio State Fair Non-Livestock Project Judging. Members received 9 clock trophies, 23 Outstanding of the Day awards, 2 mock interview state winners, 1 top female award in electricity!



## SNAP-ED UPDATES

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION



SNAP-Ed Program Assistants are back in the schools this fall teaching about the basics of nutrition and trying healthy foods. They are currently working with about 550 students at Tallmadge and Gorsuch West Elementaries. Later this fall, they will also be working with about 125 students in the Head Start program.

During the summer, the team completed two Cooking Matters Programs for adults. Each program is a 6-week series teaching cooking basics, nutrition, and shopping skills.

Adult lessons with Senior citizens were taught at six different senior housing sites in the county. Additionally, an adult lesson was provided for veterans.

Healthy Snack events held at Fairfield County Fair included Fruit Smoothies with the use of the smoothie bike and Creamy Pumpkin Dip. Both events were a big hit with the many people who stopped to enjoy a treat, watch the activity, or grab some healthy recipes in the AgMazing Building.



The SNAP-Ed Program Assistants are continuing work to provide healthy messages on the bike path through partnership with Lancaster Parks and Recreation. Posters change quarterly in a kiosk along the bike path. Those posters include an easy nutritious recipe, healthy tips on various topics such as physical activity, drinking water, and tips to having healthy celebrations. And, there is also a kid's section with one of the Discover MyPlate food group characters.

Our partnership with WIC is expanding to provide nutrition videos to clients who come to get their benefit cards reloaded.

# AG & NATURAL RESOURCES



In August we celebrated Local Foods Week in style by holding a week-long celebration that paid tribute to local agriculture! From craft beer and local proteins to vineyards and backyard

gardening, we explored a variety of operations around the county. In total, over 120 participants joined us for food, fun, and education. According to program evaluations, attendees appreciated the variety of locations and provided positive feedback for future years. As stated by one participant, "Touring a facility to see all the background activities - such as Combustion Brewery - really drives home the labor intensity of a product."



Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an incoming invasive insect with the potential to negatively impact some agricultural specialty crops, especially vineyards, as well as be a residential nuisance. Carrie Brown is a member of the SLF Outreach Team and recently helped to orchestrate a unique educational event...at the OSU vs. Penn State football game. Since Pennsylvania is already dealing with large infestations of SLF, it seemed like the perfect location to spread awareness...and maybe even squash a few hitchhikers. Teaming up with Master Gardener Volunteers and members of the OSU Entomology Department, we spent the day conversing with tailgaters and game-goers, handing out SLF ID cards, SLF temporary tattoos, and inviting the public to visit the Bug Mobile, a mobile zoo/classroom/laboratory. Carrie was even featured on NBC4 describing the event and the importance of SLF outreach. The link to the interview: <https://youtu.be/gWsRpjdlz2g?si=4iuuytxm86f0Q8uV>.



Additional educational opportunities included Go Wild – A Nature Fair! (Coyote Run in Pickerington) and Lancaster Farmers Market.



# MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

## Lithopolis Honey Fest!

Eight Master Gardeners enjoyed the day talking about all things Spotted Lanternfly while volunteering at the Lithopolis Honey Fest in early September. The children loved coloring over 75 wooden cut out flowers in their favorite pollinator colors. The weather was perfect and it was a great day to engage with folks “in the garden” at Wagnalls.

## Smeck Farm Harvest Festival

Lots of questions and good conversation occurred at the first ever Master Gardener Outing at the Smeck Farm Harvest Festival on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We loved watching the children engage in our Sunflower coloring activity. Members of the Fairfield County Antique Tractor Club had families in the field harvesting potatoes, pumpkins, Indian Corn, popcorn and sweet corn plus sunflowers! It was a fun 2-day event in the Fetter Hood Barn located at Smeck Park with 4-H members talking about their Alpaca projects, Fairfield SWCD and their wildlife hide collection and local Beekeepers!

## Congratulations to the Master Gardener Learning Never Ends Project Team

The Fairfield County Master Gardener Project Team at Learning Never Ends was recently award the Community and Backyard Local Foods Award at the State Master Gardener Volunteer Conference on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Three Fairfield County Master Gardener Volunteers, Jane Eberly, Patty Turner and Mary Kessler have been involved in the project for many years. The 10 participants in the Learning Never Ends Green Machine Garden project located at 148 Union Street in Lancaster, learn hands-on education, gardening, recycling, & conservation. This MGTV project is so much more than teaching the program participants about growing their own food and enjoying the beauty of a garden, it is a true labor of love.



## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



### Cooking & Eating Healthy

98 adults in Fairfield County participated in classes in 2023 related to nutrition or food preparation, such as: slow cooking, pressure cooking, cooking with honey, healthy snacks, meal planning and gluten free eating. 95% of program participants reported learning new information from the program, and 70% planned to use the information they learned in the program. In addition, 108 adults attended classes to learn how to safely preserve food and 24

canner lids were tested to confirm pressure gauge accuracy. Program sites and partners included: Fairfield District Library, Pickerington Library, Keller Market House, Family YMCA of Lancaster & Fairfield County, and the Fairfield Center for Independence.

OSU Extension partnered with Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County to offer Matter of Balance, an 8-session program designed to improve balance to manage falls and increase activity levels for older adults. The program enables participants to achieve significant goals. They gain confidence by learning to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risk at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance. Twelve participants completed the 8 week program and 60% reported a reduction in their fear of falling while 80% reported increases in strength and balance.

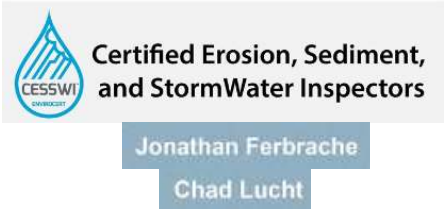




Staff change:  
Tommy Springer to Parks, Lauren Vires new



CONGRATULATIONS to the following CPESC Certified Professionals who have earned their CESSWI certification through the CESSWI Transition Plan.



OFSWCD 2022 Area 5  
Employee of the Year  
Christina Holt



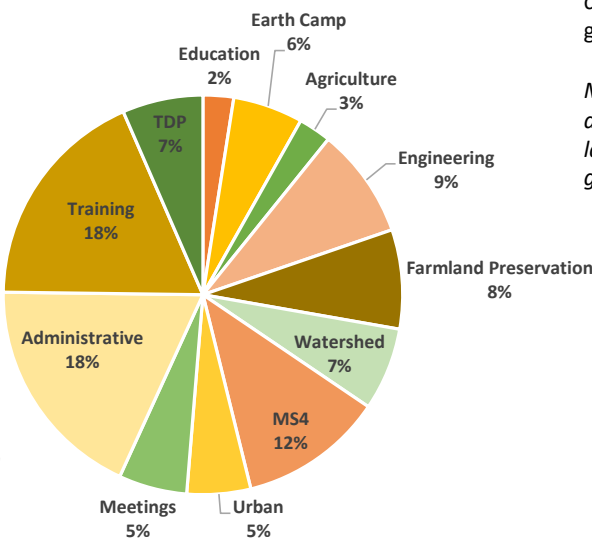
Chris had no exceptions on the 2021-2022 AUP audit performed.

ODA Summer Intern (pilot) Margaret Roberts

Margaret was able to gain experience for upcoming college courses and resume. She is now in her final year and on track to graduate in May. Interest = geospatial data/GIS mapping

*My geographic field methods professor has told me that I walk fast and am exceptionally good at holding a rod level, which makes me laugh and think of you. I do very much appreciate the skills and good habits instilled this summer.*  
-Margaret

ODA Intern  
5/22/23 - 8/11/23  
445.7 hours





### Aggressor Shooter Training by Dave Marple - Fair County Sheriff office



Nikki Drake (Lanc-Fair Co Chamber Vice-Pres.) at local business meeting with US Congressman Troy Balderson regarding local concerns. Nikki serves on chamber board as agriculture liaison.

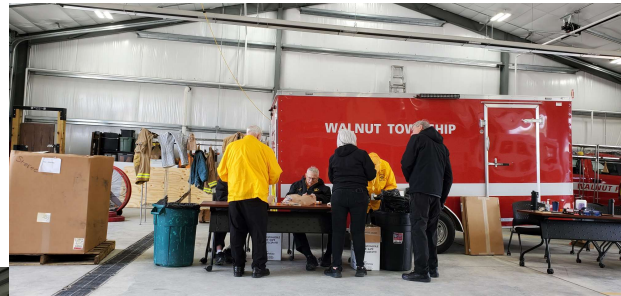
### Contact with Legislators



Nikki & Jonathan Ferbrache voiced concerns at Fair Co Farm Bureau's meeting with Senator Tim Schaffer.



### DEA Takeback Days



Drug collection/electronics recycling events with Fairfield Co. Sheriff, Walnut (Buckeye Lake watershed) Twp. in the spring & Violet Twp. in the fall on DEA Takeback Day (since 2010)



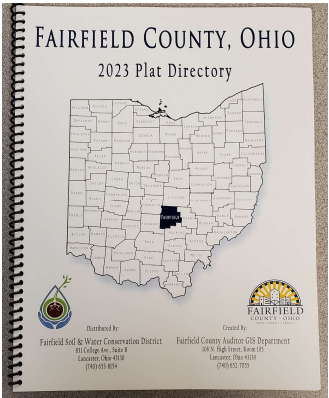


Established  
September 7, 1943

Annual Meeting/80-year Celebration



2023 Plat Book  
Partner-Co. GIS



Fair



Fairfield Co. Visitors Bureau  
Trail of Scarecrows



Pond Clinic with OSU Extension



Tree Sale





# OFFICE OF TREASURER

James N. Bahnsen, Treasurer

## November 2023 Roundtable Departmental Update

### Treasurer's Office/Land Bank

1. The Treasurer's Office recently wrapped up the second half 2023 tax collection on behalf of the county. For the 2022 tax payable in 2023 period 69,446 parcels had a tax due as of January 1, 2023, in a total amount due of \$276,899,566.50. Of that total tax due, \$272,831,443.63 (roughly 98.5% of the total billed tax) was collected. A third billing for the year, for those taxpayers who did not pay their tax bills prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half tax due date, has also been completed. We are currently reviewing the list of delinquent tax parcels for potential tax lien sale to TaxEase, a third-party tax lien certificate purchaser.
2. The State of Ohio announced funding for a number of Land Bank related grant programs under its July 2023 – June 2025 State budget. Included in the budget is additional funding for both demolition projects and Brownfield related projects. We are currently in the process of assembling the lists of potential projects and will submit our applications after the first of the year. Our current list of potential projects includes possible demolitions on behalf of the Lancaster Port Authority, ADAMH, the County Parks District, the Village of Baltimore and numerous blighted, vacant residential properties. The application period will remain open until mid-January, if you have a potential demolition project and have not spoken to Michael Kaper, please do so in the next few weeks.
3. The Land Bank continues to partner with Habitat for Humanity on various builds throughout Fairfield County, donating lots and providing a \$50,000 grant. The current Habitat build on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Lancaster is on a Land Bank donated site. The next Habitat project in Lancaster is slated to include a house built by Habitat in partnership with the Fairfield Career Center. That house will be transported by trailer to a site on Arney Avenue and placed on a foundation.
4. The Land Bank is currently completing one of our largest, and costliest, demolitions to date at the former Essex building (which was recently re-dubbed the Shumaker building by the new developer). The building previously housed Fairfield Industries. Our contribution was to handle the demolition of a boiler room and adjacent storage building, which will eventually provide room for off-street parking. The money was awarded to the Land Bank by the State under the previous budget's Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program.

S E R V E • C O N N E C T • P R O T E C T

## End-of Year CRMS and ERP Reminders

December 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Last Day to enter Resolutions Requiring Prosecutor Review in CRMS; Blanket Carryover PO List Due	2
3	4 Last Day to Enter Carryover PO's in ERP	5	6	7	8 Last Day to Enter Financial Resolutions in CRMS; Last Day to Change Existing PO's	9
10	11	12 Last Scheduled Commissioners' Meeting for 2023	13 Check Batches Due for Last Check Run of the Year	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 All Carryover Invoices Due by Noon	28	29 Inventory Count; No ERP Entries Until Year End is Completed	30
31						