

Special Meeting #30 – 2024
Elected Officials and Department Heads Roundtable
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 16, 2024

Roundtable Meeting

The Elected Officials and Department Heads met at 1:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Center, 12935 Stonecreek Dr., Pickerington, OH. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order, and the following persons were in attendance: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy, Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Abby Watson, Park Russell, Joe Ebel, Miranda Gray, Shannon Carter, Stacey Bergstrom, Heather O'Keefe, Ashley Fahner, Bev Hoskinson, Tony Vogel, Joshua Horacek, Jeremiah Upp, Tiffany Wilson, CJ Roberts, Nikki Drake, Chad Reed, Jon Kochis, Luann Davidson, Bart Hampson, Laura Smith, Michelle Carper, Jim Bahnsen, Michael Kaper, Daniel Neeley, Austin Lines, and Amy Brown-Thompson.

Welcome

Commissioner Levacy welcomed everyone and spoke about the Fairfield Center and the agencies housed at that center.

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for attending the Roundtable and sharing information from their perspective departments.

County Administration Updates

P.O.W.E.R.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, introduced an idea for a networking and relationship building initiative for Fairfield County employees. The initiative would be called P.O.W.E.R. (Purposefully Offering Women Empowerment Resources.) Opportunities to connect in the workplace do not always present themselves and statistics show that employees that do not have meaningful working relationships look for employment elsewhere. We are looking to have three meetings a year. This is an opportunity to strategically plan for the working relationships of individuals that will eventually fill our rolls. Ms. Cordle stated that she did not have opportunities such as this when she was in various roles with the county over the last 30+ years.

Heather O'Keefe spoke about a steering committee and making the concept available to those that would not normally have the opportunity.

Stacey Bergstrom stated that as she reflected on her 18 years of working for the county, she was excited to think about joining the steering committee and brainstorming ideas.

Ashley Fahner spoke about the impactful relationships she has made that have contributed to her success to date.

Abby Watson added that the concept exists with the Young Professionals of Fairfield County group.

Ms. Cordle replied that there are several resources available in the community, but this initiative is one we could strategically form for county employees.

Joe Ebel spoke about demographics at the Health Department and added that many of the staff move on to other jobs due to lack of advancement opportunities.

Luann Davidson added that it would be helpful to offer public speaking skills since she feels some employees fear moving into leadership roles because they do not believe they have interpersonal and public speaking skills.

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Bev Hoskinson stated that work relationships are vital to internal working environments.

Sheriff Lape added that law enforcement has been a male dominated profession until recent years and that there are several women in the Sheriff's Office in key positions of responsibility. The female staff bring great ideas, and a few teach within the department.

Ms. Cordle replied that the county is fortunate to have internal resources that could provide content for the group.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the importance of succession plans and providing employees a path forward.

Commissioner Davis asked for a distinction between P.O.W.E.R. and the NACO Leadership Academy.

Ms. Cordle replied that the foundational component is not leadership, but rather networking. We can develop this how we want to develop it. We welcome those that want to be part of the steering committee. This is female focused, but again open to everyone. Send me an email if you would like to be a part of the steering committee or have feedback on the program.

Human Resources Update

Deputy County Administrator, Jeffrey Porter, provided several Human Resources updates.

Ethics, Cybersecurity, and Unlawful Harassment, and New Fraud Reporting Training

Mr. Porter stated that the county and HR want to ensure everyone is on the same page. Every year we have required training. Cybersecurity training will take place in the Fall. New this year is the Fraud Reporting training which must be taken by all employees by the end of September. The Fraud Reporting training takes 7-10 minutes and must also be completed by new employees within 30 days of the start of employment. After the initial Fraud Reporting training, everyone must repeat the training every four years.

Ms. Hoskinson stated that the Auditor of State (AOS) will permit a group viewing of the training and it is extremely important that you keep a tracking log of those completing the training as the AOS will ask for the log during audits.

Mr. Porter stated that the training could be provided and documented at orientation.

Updated Personnel Policy Manual (PPM)

Mr. Porter stated that the PPM, and its changes, were sent out to every single employee. Acknowledgement of the PPM must be done in ESS. Thanks to Bev Hoskinson, Bart Hampson, and their staff for their assistance on the credit card policy. Changes have been made to the payout process and you can now make that determination once a year.

Employee Recognition Event

Mr. Porter stated that the Employee Recognition Event would be held August 6th, at 11:00 a.m., at Alley Park. We will have food trucks and are asking everyone to please carpool. Please remember to RSVP to attend. This year the recognition items will be a little different as every group can make their own selection.

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Health Benefits Renewal

Mr. Porter stated that this is an off year renewal since the county has a multi-year agreement with UHC. UHC has gone out to providers and negotiated contracts. This means the reimbursement rates are going up and that means higher costs for us in the future. We got an initial renewal figure of 12.9% and are working to bring that figure down. Symetra has agreed to a three-year renewal with no increases, and we are trying to keep all the same insurance providers.

Ms. Cordle thanked Mr. Porter and his team for their work on the renewal rates. Last year the initial renewal rate was 14.9%. Every year we face increasing costs, but we are working to maintain a high level of benefits.

Mr. Porter stated that UHC had moved their customer service offshore and the county has worked with them to move its service back to being U.S. based. UHC is giving the county a credit and all members will have a new card and concierge service for dealing with all healthcare benefits.

Commissioner Levacy stated that when county staff sees a problem it is addressed.

Information Technology Update

IT Director, Daniel Neeley, provided an IT update.

New IT Management Solution

Mr. Neeley spoke about the new IT Management Solution and stated that the biggest difference is behind the scenes and that the solution you get will not be in part but will be the total solution. Mr. Neeley thanked Mr. Kochis and the Sheriff's Office for the Active Aggressor Training provided at the Administrative Courthouse.

Ms. O'Keefe asked if the password reset impacts those on the state's network and Mr. Neeley replied that it does not.

Commissioner Levacy asked about the timeframe of the requirement to change passwords every ninety days.

Mr. Neeley stated that there will be an initial password change followed by a change every ninety days.

Commissioner Davis asked if the process would look the same across all devices.

Mr. Neeley stated that when you make a change, you will be prompted to apply that to other devices.

2025 Budget Schedule and Parameters

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, provided a budget update.

October Budget Hearings

Mr. Hampson spoke about the 2025 Budget Meetings and added that the level 3 budget entry access ends in about six weeks. Level 4 budget entry will end December 2nd. When working on budgets, health insurance figures should be kept at 5% until updated information is received. We

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continue to work on ARP projects, which are about 65% complete. We are also working on the thirty-three Drainage Maintenance Districts and Mr. Hampson thanked everyone who helped with the Transit transfer.

Senior and Veteran Assistance Program (SAVA)

Utilities Director, Tony Vogel, spoke about the Senior and Veteran Assistance Program (SAVA). The ORC allows County Commissioners to give a utility discount. The SAVA program provides a discount to homeowners 65 years or older with an Ohio Homestead Exemption and to veterans receiving the exemption. Qualifying applicants will receive a 10% discount on their Fairfield County utility bills. The Commissioners passed the discount by resolution 2024-06.18.o. There is a SAVA application form that can be obtained by contacting the Utilities Department.

Ms. Cordle stated that the form is being sent out with utility bills; and Meals on Wheels and Veterans Services is helping to get the information out.

Mr. Vogel added that the Auditor’s Office has updated their homestead website with the information.

Ms. Hoskinson stated that as applicants for the Homestead exemption come into the office, staff will advise them of the utility discount.

Transit Update

Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak, spoke about Transit, how it removes barriers to entering the workforce, how it helps meet employer needs, and how it can serve the entire county. He stated that the county has ported over the 41 Transit employees and spoke about Transit’s budget and leadership team, including Director, Aaron Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy stated he wanted to join transit to help people in his community. He spoke about Dakota Miller, Courtney Martin, and Michelle McCrady of the leadership team and about deviated fixed routes and looped routes. There are 157 stops including those in the City of Lancaster and in Pickerington. The ride fare is inexpensive at \$.50 and \$.10 to transfer. All loop routes touch base on Wheeling Street and transfers are also made there. Transit has on-demand response rides which are a scheduled service at \$2 and, if available, \$5 for same day rides. With this service we do over 100,000 trips per year. Elderly and disabled persons receive half priced fares. Transit entered a Memorandum of Understanding with JFS to provide their non-emergency transportation trips. The Transit Office is located on Lawrence Street, and we have a garage with bays, a certified mechanic, and 22 buses. We have a bus and two vans that will soon be added to the fleet. Besides admin staff, Transit has a safety coordinator, schedulers, dispatchers, and drivers.

Mr. Szabrak stated that Transit uses 85,000 gallons of gas annually and drove over 641,000 miles in 2023. ODOT has paid for a planning study and a grant was applied for to complete an employer study. Transit will rebrand and we are going to put this out to the public, narrow it to three selections, and then there will be a vote on the name. We want to change the mindset of what transit is. It is not just a social service, and we are going to do an awareness campaign. We will work on more strategic routes, better bus stops to better serve people, and better use of technology. We are excited to ramp up and move forward.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the low to moderate income map provided in the presentation and noted that there are a lot of low to moderate income families that are not currently being served by Transit. Many employers are stating they are having trouble getting and maintaining

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employees. The price of used vehicles has increased making it harder to purchase one. There are many that are trying to save money to purchase a car to share with someone else. By moving the contracts from JFS to Transit, ODOT provides 50 cents of every dollar. Getting people to work who want to work is our message but all who need rides are considered.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about Rick's added responsibilities and how they have increased over the last 8 years he has been with the county.

Judge Smith stated that one of the most common excuses she hears regarding nonpayment of child support is that they do not have transportation. When Transit has flyers available, it would be good to have them available for court.

Mr. Kennedy thanked everyone that had participated in the Transit transfer of governance.

Departmental Updates

CJ Roberts stated that Probate/Juvenile Court is continuing to work on school truancy issues.

Dan Neeley spoke about the number of servers in the county's IT environment and thanked everyone for their cooperation and partnership with IT.

Bart Hampson had no additional updates.

Joe Ebel stated that the Health Department filled the position for a Home Educator Nurse and added that households were assisted with repairs due to Healthy Aging funding from the Commissioners.

Aundrea Cordle stated that assisting households would not be an easy feat and thanked the Health Department.

Tony Vogel stated that the Utilities Department has four projects they are completing in house, including a security system to tell us what is going on, a new generator, a lift station, and infrastructure in Violet Township.

Tiffany Wilson stated that FCFC has two new Service Coordinators and added that FCFC no longer has the program regarding safety equipment for children.

Miranda Gray with the ADAMH board spoke about the ARP Venture Place project and added that only one bid was received and that the bid was too high. ADAMH is doing the project in conjunction with grant funding through OMAS and the Commissioners.

Aundrea Cordle asked ADAMH to speak with Mr. Kochis for information on the experience the county has had with some contractors.

Miranda Gray added that Ohio Guidestone is fully staffed at the Starlight Center and ADAMH will be providing services there. She spoke about the homelessness program and an additional person for case management work.

Jon Kochis stated that Facilities had provided an update at the Commissioners' meeting earlier in the day and there are many ongoing projects. If you have questions for the Facilities Department, please reach out. He added that EMA is hosting a safety preparedness event at the Twisters movie at the drive-in on July 26th and thanked Mr. Vogel for helping with the airport projects.

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LuAnn Davidson thanked Child Protective Services for assistance on some complicated and heartbreaking cases and added that Dr. Varney sent the Chief for some advanced training.

Michelle Carper stated that the BMV has moved their title office and that there have been 892 driver's exams at the Fairfield Center to date.

Heather O'Keefe stated that August is Child Support Awareness month and asked everyone to wear green on August 7th. She also spoke about the Team Ohio portal for child abuse and neglect reports.

Jeremiah Upp stated that the Engineer's Office is busy and added that the office brought in over \$8M in grant monies. He spoke about the realignment of Basil-Western and Refugee Road and about planned turn lanes, traffic lights, and a multi-use path along Refugee Rd.

Joshua Horachek, Magistrate for Common Pleas, stated that the annual jury draw occurred earlier that day and that there were 9000 individuals selected for jury duty.

Abby Watson spoke about an upcoming September meeting/training for performance evaluation and the First Amendment audit training.

Judge Smith stated that Domestic Relations Court is in the process of updating records and spoke about future electronic filing. She thanked Ms. Cordle and the Prosecutor's office for their assistance with the court recording contract.

Bev Hoskinson stated that a governance committee was formed for the ERP financial program and that that committee first met the previous week. She added that Tyler Technologies would be coming to the county on August 8th and 9th that the Auditor's Office would have an October in-service titled "Making Members Count." The county has an aging population in its workforce and the Auditor's Office is creating a curriculum to pass that knowledge down. She thanked the Sheriff's Office for providing Active Aggressor Training for Administrative Courthouse staff.

Aundrea Cordle stated the training was a "what if" scenario and added that the Sheriff and his team has done this training in other buildings.

Sheriff Lape stated that his office was happy to provide the training and that you could reach out to him or Corporal Hedrick with questions regarding training.

Park Russell stated the Veterans' Services Office entered an agreement last March with Meals on Wheels to help veterans and their spouses, and over 400 have received assistance. There are up to 15 cancers recognized from the Gulf War and over 12 different non-cancerous health issues, so please share our office information so that we may help file claims for those affected. We also help with Camp Lejeune cases, which include spouses and their children. The first day of the County Fair is free to all who have served in the military.

Treasurer Bahnsen suggested that everyone assist aging parents by helping them sign up for the Homestead exemption and verifying they have paid their taxes. He also stated Treasurer Office across the stated have had inconsistencies with Tyler Technologies.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the General Fund and departments affected by that fund. The Treasurer and his staff managed the investments to optimize the increase in interest rates and therefore there has been a change in investment revenue from what was once \$600,000 to over \$8M. Interest rates will not remain elevated, so Treasurer Bahnsen and his team are now taking

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investments out five years and locking in high interest rates. There have been some great decisions from that office, and the Commissioners thank you.

Chad Reed stated that the Park District's Fiscal Administrator is retiring next Spring. He spoke about the H2O Grant for Two Glaciers Park and about the county's many parks, their size, and upcoming events at those parks.

Sheriff Lape spoke about working with the Parks District and painted rocks. If you find a painted rock, you can bring it to the SO and get a prize. National Night Out is a partnership we are doing with Lancaster and the State Highway Patrol. The Luke Bryan concert and the Fairfield County Fair are both coming up and will keep the Sheriff's Office busy. Contact Elizabeth Maple to coordinate CPR training and Corporal Hedrick for Active Aggressor Training

Nikki Drake spoke about being the chamber president and the amount of people nominated each year from the county for the Athena award. Soil and Water's summer intern from 2023 was hired in May and the office has another job posting. She stated that they have a board of five members that are elected by the public.

Austin Lines stated that the Prosecutor's Office is doing a lot of amazing things.

Michael Kaper spoke about working for the Treasurer's Office and the Land Bank. The Land Bank has had the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio (Habitat) and we attended a celebration for a ribbon cutting for a Habitat home that was the fourth built on property given by the land bank. There is also an opportunity for Habitat to build a house in Fairfield Beach, on Land Bank property, along with 5-6 additional homes proposed over the next couple of years on Land Bank lots.

Amy Brown-Thompson spoke about the Prosecutor's Office being very busy and added that the office is fully staffed for the first time since June of 2022.

Shannon Carter with OSU Extension spoke about the agricultural programs being offered at the Ag Center.

Rick Szabrak stated that DHL is a couple of months away from opening and will have 200 available jobs. He spoke about a 40,000 sq. ft. medical building in Pickerington and about regular meetings with villages and townships regarding planning, development, and zoning. The Workforce Center has had summer camps to build interest in several disciplines and the center also graduated 83 students in June. There are six school districts with students attending the Workforce Center compared to the previous three. Anyone interested in becoming a phlebotomist, go to the Workforce Center's website. There will be a free program in August to train people to lay broadband cables. Mr. Szabrak also introduced Economic Developments' summer intern.

Aaron Kennedy stated Transit was in its third week with the county and added that Transit is hiring a scheduler

Aundrea Cordle stated that the State of the County is August 27th and added that if a department had a specific project they would like to market, let her know, as the county is working with Krile Communications for these types of promotions.

Commissioner Davis stated that if anyone would like to get together to chat about their leadership role, he would be happy to do so.



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

Roundtable - Elected Officials/Department Heads

July 16, 2024 ~ 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Fairfield Center, 12935 Stonecreek Dr., Pickerington

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

 2. County Administration Updates
 - a. P.O.W.E.R Group

Aunie Cordle
 - b. Human Resources Update

Jeff Porter
 - i. Ethics, Cybersecurity, and Unlawful Harassment and new Fraud Reporting Training
 - ii. Updated PPM
 - iii. Employee Recognition Event
 - iv. Health Benefits Renewal
 - c. Information Technology Update

Dan Neeley

 - i. New IT Service Management Solution
 - d. 2025 Budget Schedule and Parameters

Bart Hampson

 - i. October Budget Hearings
 - e. Senior and Veteran Assistance Program (SAVA)

Tony Vogel
 - f. Transit Update

Rick Szabrak and Aaron Kennedy
-
3. Departmental Updates

All Participants

ADJOURN

Next Roundtable is November 5, 2024, from 1-4 at the Workforce Center

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

SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT

Roundtable Index

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

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16-17	Park District
18	Soil & Water
19	Treasurer
20-27	Health Department Mid-Year Report
28-37	JFS Update and Newsletter

Real Estate Summit

SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED



September 26, 2024

FAIRFIELD CENTER • 12933 STONECREEK DRIVE, PICKERINGTON, OHIO 43130

AUDIENCE

All are welcome! Those who work with Veterans are especially encouraged to attend, including:



Realtors



Local, State, and Federal Officials



Bankers & Businesses



Real Estate Appraisers



Veterans



Those interested in the **Mass Appraisal Process of the County Auditor**

TOPICS

- Benefits; Ohio's Homestead Program
- VA loan process
- Conveyance of property procedures
- Mass appraisal process in Ohio; What's new?
- County Auditor's Real Estate Assessment webpages
- Housing options for Veterans in Fairfield County

SCHEDULE

8 a.m.	Welcome/Networking	Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor Veterans: Dave Levacy, County Commissioner Dr. Varney, County Coroner Jim Bahnsen, County Treasurer
8:15 a.m.	Communication Skills for Realtors & Officials who Work with Veterans	Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor Lillian Zarzar, Consultant Representatives of the VA Clinic
8:45 a.m.	Tools for Informing Fairfield County Veterans of Benefits Available	Justin Messinger, Assistant Director, Fairfield County Veteran Services Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor Lisa McKenzie, County Recorder
9 a.m.	VA Loans for Homes, the Process	Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor Representatives of the Veterans Administration
9:15 a.m.	Conveyance of Property - Procedures of the County Auditor	Josh Harper, Real Estate Assessment Manager Linda O'Toole, Esq., Board of Revision Administrator
9:30 a.m.	The Mass Appraisal Process - What is New?	Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor Linda O'Toole, Esq., Board of Revision Administrator Appraisers of the County Auditor's Office
10 a.m.	The County Auditor's Real Estate Website - Tips and Tricks to Help	Dave Burgei, Real Estate Director Linda O'Toole, Esq., Board of Revision Administrator
10:15 a.m.	Specific Housing Options in Fairfield County for Veterans	Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor Representatives of Lutheran Social Services
10:30 a.m.	Questions & Answers	All Participants

2.5 hours of CE approved for real estate & professional licensing - no charge!

CONTACT US!



To: Elected Officials and Department Heads

From: Dr. Carri L. Brown, County Auditor

Date: July 5, 2024, for the July 16, 2024, Roundtable Meeting

Subject: What is new with the County Auditor's Office

Popular Annual Financial Report Issued

The Fairfield County Auditor is pleased to issue the Popular Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2023. Popular Annual Financial Reports are short summaries of the County's financial activities. These reports aim to inform the public about the County's financial condition, without excessive detail or the use of technical terms. Some items of interest include the list of top tax-payers and employers within the county. The PAFR can be helpful with the preparation of grants, as well.

The cover of the Popular Annual Financial Report has historically featured a project of the Fairfield County Parks District. The most recent feature is of Two Glaciers Park, which was first acquired in three parcels with support of Clean Ohio grant funds. You can find this most recent PAFR at <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/fc-financial-reports-ACFR-PAFR.html>

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report Issued

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2023, has also been issued. The ACFR provides Fairfield County citizens, investors, and other users with financial information in a format that enables them to gain a true understanding of the County's financial affairs. The 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report received an unmodified opinion from the Ohio Auditor of State and is expected to conform to the requirements of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program of the Government Finance Officers Association. Thanks to all elected officials, departments heads, and employees for their collective efforts in gathering information for this comprehensive report.

You can download, view, and print the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2023, and for other years at: at <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/fc-financial-reports-ACFR-PAFR.html>

Lot Split Program Request for Information Posted

The County Auditor has posted a request for information for a program that will use technology to improve the process of lot splits. The goal is to improve the customer and stakeholder experience. The RFI will result in learning about the market and identifying an on-line program for the review and approval of minor subdivision, or lot splits, engaging all the review agencies in the process. Thanks to the committee who has been working on this project. A new program is expected prior to the end of the year.

Job Shadowing & Grant Reporting Modules

The Finance team has been busy connecting with multiple departments to assess the capabilities of grant reporting modules and to share information with job shadowing. Thanks to the leaders of DD, JFS, ADAMH, and many others for participating in work groups to improve organizational knowledge and the stakeholder experience with enterprise resource planning.

By the Numbers

2025	The next sexennial update of property valuation – for collections in 2026
800	Number of tax maps created for the county
8,500	Number of participants in the Homestead Program
12,000	Number of legal descriptions reviewed annually, with same day service
\$100 M	The value of new construction in the county in 2023
7,000+	Number of conveyances of property annually
26,000	Number of checks issued annually
20	New technical credentials earned by County Auditor employees in 2024



CONTACT US!

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

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Roundtable Department Update Commissioner Finance, Bart Hampson

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Updates

1. Recent and Current Projects

ARP Projects – 68 projects with 65% complete.

ARP Second Quarter Report – In-Work.

DMD – Currently have 33 districts with 60% started.

Lancaster Public Transportation Transition complete.

2. Budget

2025 Budget Meetings have been held.

Level 3 – Budget Entry Access Ends August 28th, 2024, for General Fund Departments.

Level 4 – Budget Entry Access Ends December 2nd, 2024, for non-General Fund Departments.

Health Insurance – Hold a 5% increase until more information is available.



Legal Department

Civil/Criminal/
Court of Appeals Division
(740) 652-7360

Domestic Relations Division
(740) 652-7357

Records Division
(740) 652-7358

Branden C. Meyer
FAIRFIELD COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

Hall of Justice ▪ 224 E. Main Street ▪ Lancaster, Ohio 43130



**Administrative and
Fiscal Department**

(740) 652-7356

Title Department

Lancaster Title Office
(740) 652-7540

Pickerington Title Office
Driver's Exam Station
(614) 835-2610

Clerk of Courts Update: July 2024

Pickerington BMV Moves to Fairfield Center

The Pickerington BMV has relocated to their new office at the Fairfield Center complex. The BMV is now located in the space between the Sheriff's substation and the Title Office.

Clerk of Courts Pickerington Title Office Driver's Exam Station

The Clerk of Courts signed an agreement with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to open a Driver's Exam Station at the Pickerington Title Office at the Fairfield Center located at 12945 Stonecreek Drive, Pickerington. Recently passed legislation allows for the BMV to contract with third parties such as Clerks of Court to provide this service.

Driver's Tests can be scheduled online at www.FairfieldCountyClerk.com. The fee for a full test is \$40 or \$20 for a partial test (a partial test would be either maneuverability or road test). Same day/walk-in testing is \$50 for full test or \$25 for a partial test. The tests can be scheduled Tuesdays-Fridays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays between 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

June 2024

DATE	TOTAL TESTS	ROAD TEST - PASS	ROAD TEST - FAIL	MANEUVER - PASS	MANEUVER - FAIL	FULL TEST	PARTIAL TESTS	TOTAL PASS	TOTAL FAIL	EQUIP FAILURE
June 1, 2024	7	7	0	6	1	7	0	6	1	0
June 4, 2024	15	12	1	13	2	13	2	13	2	0
June 5, 2024	10	9	0	8	0	7	3	10	0	0
June 6, 2024	13	8	4	7	5	11	2	6	7	0
June 7, 2024	11	9	2	9	2	11	0	9	2	0
June 10, 2024	7	7	0	6	0	6	1	7	0	0
June 11, 2024	10	7	1	9	1	8	2	8	2	0
June 12, 2024	13	12	1	9	2	11	2	10	3	0
June 13, 2024	10	6	3	7	2	8	2	8	2	0
June 14, 2024	12	8	2	6	4	8	4	7	5	0
June 15, 2024	4	4	0	2	1	3	1	3	1	0
June 18, 2024	16	14	1	15	0	15	1	15	1	0
June 20, 2024	12	8	1	12	0	9	3	11	1	0
June 21, 2024	11	10	1	9	2	11	0	9	2	0
June 22, 2024	6	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	0
June 25, 2024	11	9	1	8	2	9	2	9	2	0
June 26, 2024	12	11	0	9	1	9	3	11	1	0
June 27, 2024	8	8	0	7	1	8	0	7	1	0
June 28, 2024	15	13	1	13	2	14	1	12	3	0
June 29, 2024	5	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	0
TOTALS	208	173	19	166	28	179	29	172	36	0

As of July 9, there have been 892 tests given since the program began on March 6.



OFFICE OF THE CORONER

L. Brian Varney, M.D., Coroner

Fairfield County Coroner's Office Roundtable Update

Our office has recently investigated some very challenging cases involving child fatalities. During these unfortunate times we are reminded how much we appreciate the collaborative efforts with Child Protective Services and law enforcement. Thanks to the partner agencies that worked closely with us as we processed these cases.

Chief Hardway recently attended specialized investigative training and will be imparting knowledge to the coroner's team at our next department meeting.



SERVE • CONNECT • PROTECT



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

Roundtable Department Update

EMA – Jon Kochis

July 16, 2024, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Fairfield Center, 12935 Stonecreek Dr., Pickerington

Updates

1. Recent and Current Projects
 - Grants for Barrier Trailers and Deployable Cameras
 - MARCS Tower
 - Planning for events
 - July 4th Celebrations
 - Debris Management SOP
 - Train Incident SOP

2. Upcoming Projects
 - “Twisters” at Skyview
 - Festivals and Concerts
 - Threat Assessment for Agencies



County Engineer Update for July 2024 Roundtable

Construction season is in full swing at the Engineer's Office. Our crews are working on numerous projects throughout the county. We are also in the process of constructing a new salt barn that will hold approximately 150% of the total salt needed for the year. Thank you to the Commissioners Office for funding this important project. Mike Arter retired in June after 32 years with Fairfield County. Mike handled many different jobs at the engineer's office including right-of-way permits, house numbering, road inspections and surveys. Congratulations Mike on your retirement! You will be missed.

Transportation Improvement District (TID)

The Engineer has been working closely with the TID to secure grants and funding for numerous roadway projects throughout Fairfield County. The Basil Western Rd Improvement Project between Hill Rd and Amanda Northern Rd. is currently in stage 1 design with right-of-way acquisition beginning soon. The Refugee Rd Improvement Project is currently constructing phase II which includes the realignment of Pickerington Rd. at Refugee Rd., turn lanes and signal upgrades. Recent TID grant awards include:

- \$370,000 from Ohio Jobs and Commerce for the Basil Western Rd/DHL Project
- \$1 million from the Ohio Department of Development for the Basil Western Rd/DHL Project.
- \$2.5 million from Congressman Balderson's Office as part of earmark funding. Those funds will be used for the design and reconstruction of Refugee Rd.
- \$3 million from Congressman Carey's Office as part of earmark funding. These funds will be used as a local match for a lane addition, between Fairfield County and I-270, in conjunction with ODOT.
- \$1.2 million from State Safety funds. These funds will be used for the Refugee Rd Multi-Use Path.

Roadway Projects

Resurfacing (15.30 miles) -

- Basil Western Rd. (Hill Rd. to Carroll-Northern Rd.)
- Pleasantville Rd. (SR158 to SR37)
- Carroll Eastern Rd. (Carroll Corp Limit to SR158)
- Coonpath Rd. (33A to Election House Rd.)
- Carroll Northern Rd. (Basil Western (south) to Basil Western (north))
- Hamburg Rd. (US33 Overpass to Lancaster Corp Limit)

Microsurfacing (50.08 miles) -

- Basil Western Rd. (VIO 22 Bridge to Carroll Northern Rd.)
- Winchester Rd. (Lithopolis Winchester Rd. to Village of Carroll Corp Limit)
- Lake Rd. (Bremen Corp Limit to US22)
- Sheridan Dr. (Beechwood Dr. to Rainbow Dr.)
- Rainbow Dr. (SR37 to Sheridan Dr.)
- Hamburg Rd. (US33 Overpass to Lancaster Corp Limit)

Crack Seal (2.95 miles) -

- CR33A Lancaster-Logan Rd. (Lancaster Corp Limit to Tarkiln Rd.)

Chip Seal (33.78 miles) -

- Revenge Rd.
- Hopewell Church Rd.
- Crooks Rd.
- Stoney Hill Rd.
- Delmon Rd.
- Savage Hill Rd.
- Bauman Hill Rd.
- West Point Rd.
- Lake Rd.
- Sugar Grove Rd.
- Hurst Hill Rd.
- Sharp Rd.
- Blue Valley Rd.
- Old Logan Rd.

Bridge Projects

- BER-32 Old Logan Rd.
- BLO-20 Alspach Rd.
- LIB-29 Havensport Rd.
- RUS-30 Tent Church Rd.
- VIO-05 Stemen
- WAL-05 Geiger Rd.
- WAL-33 Bickle Church Rd.

Our office continues to work with all township trustees to improve township roads through force account repairs and contractual services. We recently worked with Greenfield Township Trustees to bid, and award, 2 projects. We are currently working with Hocking Twp Trustees to ensure necessary repairs are made on Wiley Road as part of the Google Data Center Project.

Finally, a huge thank you to my entire team. From the road workers to the administrative staff, it takes an entire team to keep the roads, bridges, and development moving forward, and operating, in Fairfield County. There's no way I could do it without each, and every one of them.

Jeremiah Upp, P.E., P.S.
Fairfield County Engineer



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Roundtable Department Update

Facilities – Jon Kochis

July 16, 2024, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Fairfield Center, 12935 Stonecreek Dr., Pickerington

Updates

1. Recent and Current Projects
 - Fairfield Center BMV
 - Workforce Engineering Lab
 - Hall of Justice Access Control
 - Hall of Justice Carpets
 - Courthouse Roof
2. Upcoming Projects
 - Colonnade
 - Security Cameras and Access Control
 - Salt Barn
 - Workforce Admin and Medical Labs
 - Jail Security Barrier
 - Courthouse Bathrooms
3. Staff
 - Tristyn Varney, Patrick Shay



FAIRFIELD COUNTY
**Family &
Children First**
COUNCIL

The Family and Children First Council (FCFC) is excited to announce the addition of two new Service Coordinators to the Multi-System Youth Program: Audra Wolf and Dennis Surbaugh. Both Audra and Dennis bring a wealth of experience and dedication to the Council. With the addition of Audra and Dennis, the MSY program is focusing on streamlining and enhancing processes to better service the community.

FCFC continues to partner with the Fairfield County Board of DD (FCBDD) and Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) to provide Early Intervention services to families in Fairfield County. In SFY 2024, The EI Program was found to be 100% in compliance. FCFC would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners. We look forward to another year of successful collaboration! Fairfield County EI is currently serving 249 children and their families, and that number continues to grow. To meet the increasing needs of our community, LFCAA has added an additional Service Coordinator to the team.

The Perinatal Cluster Program continues to experience rapid growth. The Perinatal Cluster Coordinator is currently managing a caseload of 54 mothers, each with complex needs. Initially focused on making referrals, the Cluster Coordinator is now directly involved with writing numerous Plans of Safe Care to ensure a safe environment for mother and infant.

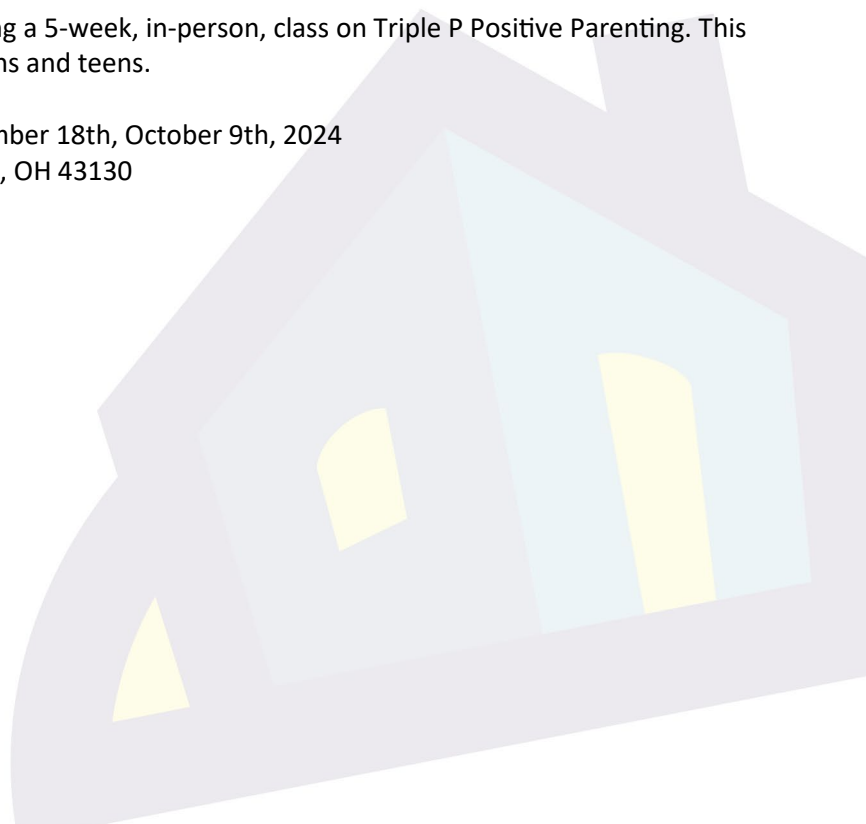
The FCFC Parent Education Coordinator will be facilitating a 5-week, in-person, class on Triple P Positive Parenting. This course is designed for parents and caregivers of pre-teens and teens.

In-Person-Wednesday's-6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Dates: August 21st, August 28th, September 4th, September 18th, October 9th, 2024

Location: Agriculture Center- 831 College Ave. Lancaster, OH 43130

Tiffany Wilson
Manager
Fairfield County Family and Children First Council





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Clerk

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IT Update, July 16, 2024, Roundtable

Projects:

- **OneDrive profile migration** – Already migrated 50% of accounts with success, which includes 16 depts./offices. Project completion goal end of 3rd quarter 2024
- **Enterprise Service Management Solution** – AKA ticket system for teams across the county to manage requests for service, i.e. IT or Finance. IT Ticketing is live as of 7/1/2024. Add'l teams being prepped to migrate, project completion goal 3rd quarter 2024
- **Primary Firewall Replacement** – The device that sits between our computers and the internet. Now hardware and internet connection redundant. Completed the cutover end of May 2024.
- **Assorted Projects** – Adopted Major Crimes into our network, finalized migration of MCJDC primary application, prepared for Transit department adoption, keeping ALL endpoints current with security patches and updates.

Service Desk:

- Lead by Jimmie Gordon and staffed by Greg Irvine, Eugene McCollough and Xavier Smith. Along with the rest of the IT staff, **We're here to help!**
- Resolved 1,354 tickets in 2nd calendar quarter 2024 slight decrease in same calendar quarter in 2023
- Xavier joined in early May 2024 and is point of contact for procurement.

Fun Fact:

- Since Ruchie joined the team in March of 2022, **124 servers** in the environment have been decommissioned/removed/replaced!

Highlights in Fairfield County

July 2024



Master Gardener Intern Presentation
May 24, 2024

Agriculture and Natural Resources & Master Gardener Volunteer Program

The ANR Team received state recognition when they were announced as winners of the Ohio Chapter of National Association of County Agricultural Agents communications award contest for an assortment of work done in Fairfield County. Awards included:

- 1st place - 2023 Local Foods Week promotional work
- 1st place - MGV quarterly newsletter
- 2nd place - 88.9FM radio show recording on phenology
- 2nd place - Presentation on native plants

33 new Master Gardener Interns successfully completed the 7-week MGV training program this Spring and are excited to start giving back to their community!

Carrie attended the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professional (ANREP) Conference in Hershey, PA as State ANREP President. While there, she co-presented a plant & pest diagnostics workshop and exhibited a poster on small woodland management.

Carrie and Connie were invited to Wilmington College to present for the Ohio Agricultural Educators professional development conference. Topics included the OSU Phenology Calendar and how to communicate with and provide outreach to your community.

On June 27th, we held two sessions of Grill Smart, a program taught and adapted by OSU Extension Beef Field Specialist, Garth Ruff, from the Barbecue Science class that is offered annually on OSU campus. The program takes participants all the way from meat selection to properly serving a perfectly grilled masterpiece.



Carrie Brown, Woodland Management Research,



Grill Smart, June 27, 2024

Family and Consumer Sciences

Real Money Real World was conducted at five Fairfield County schools in 2024, reaching over 500 students with hands-on financial literacy program. Real Money Real World includes an interactive spending simulation that provides the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those made by 27-year-old adults. This program features partnerships of the Extension office, schools, and the business community.

Wellness programs were offered through a variety of family and consumer science topics including Winter wellness, Beating the Winter Blues, Meal Planning, Mindful Breathing, and Live Healthy Live Well with many community partners, including Young Professionals of Lancaster, Wagnalls Library, Fairfield District Library, Job and Family Services and Lancaster High School.



Real Money, Real World



4-H Youth Development

2024 Fairfield County 4-H Community Club Program Update

952 traditional members – these members are 8 & in 3rd grade to 18 years old that take individual projects on a wide variety of topics.

202 Cloverbud members – these members are 5 and in Kindergarten to 8 years old and participate in hands-on, group activities.

241 advisors - adult volunteers who are 18 years and older that complete an application process and interview as well as attend annual trainings .

55 traditional and/or specialty clubs—these clubs meet at farms, local businesses, and homes across the entire county.

Cloverbud Camp– June 8, 2024

Fairfield County 4-H Camp

39 members attended Day Camp at Alley Park June 4-6, 2024

62 members attended Cloverbud Camp at Alley Park on June 8, 2024

112 members attended Junior Overnight Camp at Tar Hollow

June 30–July 3, 2024

61 members attended Senior Overnight Camp at Tar Hollow July 7-10, 2024

Fairfield County 4-H Achievement Award Winners

The 2024 Ohio 4-H Achievement Awards were presented in June at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus, Ohio. Six youth from our county received state 4-H honors: Julia Luallen (State Achievement in Clothing and Textiles), Brin Leigh Hoisington (State Achievement in Leadership), Silas Kohler (State Achievement in Dairy), Evelyn Hill (State Achievement in Health & Safety), Brianna Downey (State Achievement in Horses), and Kendall Wild (State Achievement in Environmental Science). Congratulations!

4-H Summerfest is August 18, 2024, at 7pm, Liberty Center. Help us celebrate the success of our 4-H members and their project completion!

Achievement Banquet



Legacy Dinner, June 13, 2024



Cooking Matters for Teens

SNAP-Ed

SNAP-Ed hosted a 6 lesson *Cooking Matters* for Teens series to teach teens ages 13-17 about the basics of cooking and nutrition. Each participant received hands on opportunities to prepare food, learn about basic nutrition information, and how the food they eat impacts them now and in the future. This program was made possible by support from the George and Dollie L. Zimpfer Memorial Fund of the Fairfield County Foundation in collaboration with the Youth Advisory Committee.

Other programs for the summer include.

- Veterans Nutrition classes at the Fairhaven Veterans Shelter
- YMCA Jr. Camp Counselors program
- Connection West
- Senior Programs at Walnut Creek Village Apartments, Mt. Pleasant Place, Windsor Apartments, and Pickfair, and Seton Senior Housing.
- Healthy Food Tasting Events at Vineyard Church Food Pantry, St. Marks Food Pantry and Salvation Army Food Pantry, and The Salvation Army Food Pantry.
- Participated in the Jobs and Family Services event in May, Family Fun Fest
- Set up display at the Lancaster Farmer's Market with an opportunity to taste veggies
- Participated in the Healthy Fairfield County Coalition – attended Healthy Communities meetings and activities to plan and promote the Community Garden.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm
fairfield.osu.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

FAIRFIELD COUNTY PARK DISTRICT



UPDATES

2024

Stebelton Park at Rock Mill

Staff and volunteers recently built new buckets for the waterwheel. A walkway was also replaced. Currently, the forebay, which holds pumped water before it flows over the wheel, is being replaced. We intend to offer milling demonstrations this year.

Mambourg Park

We have completed a development plan for nature center exhibits, work will start on permanent exhibits in 2025.

Smeck Park

We are currently working on trail extensions. These will add approximately 1 additional mile to bring the total trail mileage to about 3 miles.

The Fairfield County Antique Tractor Club has planted crops in the fields – popcorn, maize, gourds, fifteen varieties of pumpkins, potatoes, and sunflowers.

Smeck Park, and our staff, hosted 50 county students in grades 3-5 at Earth Camp. This is a free, 3-day camp, held annually with help from Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District and Community Action Recycling and Litter Prevention.

UPDATES

continued

Habitat Improvements

A native pollinator garden was recently added to Mambourg Park thanks in part to OSU's pollinator education program.

The Fairfield County Foundation donated native trees which were planted at Mambourg, Zeller, and Lockville Canal Parks, and the park district office.

Staff and volunteers continue to manage invasive species throughout the park district.

H2Ohio

We are in the permitting and planning phases of our wetland project at Two Glaciers.

We have applied for H2Ohio funding for Sensory Trail to repair the streambank and create a small wetland.

Wahkeena Nature Preserve

Dam and driveway repairs are underway. Costs of these are being covered by Ohio History Connection (dam) and Ohio Association of Garden Clubs (driveway).

Wahkeena's field trip schedule was fully booked this spring – 412 students from 15 schools spent a day at the preserve. Field trip activities include a pond study, a discovery hike, and nature center exploration.

Save the Dates

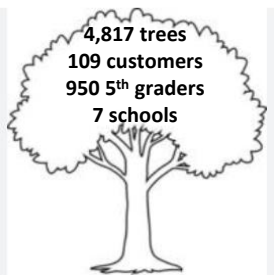
September 14-15

Harvest Celebration!

September 28

Go Wild! A Nature Fair





2024 Tree Sale

H2Ohio



Governor DeWine's water quality/nutrient reduction program expanded statewide this year. We signed up **13 farmers for 8,144 acres** and will be writing nutrient management plans for crop years 2025-2026.



Staff change:
 Engineering Technician Josh Troyer last day will be 7/26/24 going to Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District as GIS & Technology Systems Coordinator

Job posting to replace position at www.fairfieldswcd.org



April Drug Collection & Electronics Recycling Event w/ Fairfield County Sheriff & Walnut Twp. Fire

31 cars
1777 lbs electronics
38 lbs drugs

We recently finished a grade stabilization structure at the end of a grassed waterway. This is our first time utilizing an insta-turf product versus riprap for a chute. First picture shows it just completed and 2nd is a comparable rock chute at another location installed years ago. Over the last several years, riprap has been harder to purchase in the quantities needed. We will continue to monitor this new chute as our federal partner USDA-NRCS is looking into whether it will become an acceptable practice for CRP or EQIP cost-share. Grade stabilization structures prevent erosion where there is an elevation drop at a stream bank.





OFFICE OF TREASURER

James N. Bahnsen, Treasurer

July 16, 2024 Roundtable Departmental Update

Treasurer's Office

1. We are currently in the midst of our 2nd Half 2023 (due in 2024) tax collection period. For those property owners who did not pay the full year tax due during the 1st half collection bills were sent the latter half of June 2024. The due date is July 18, 2024. Payments can be made by mail, at our office in the Courthouse and at our drive-through location at 135 W. Chestnut in Lancaster.
2. County Treasurer Jim Bahnsen has agreed to lead a group of County Treasurer's from throughout the State of Ohio to discuss with Tyler Technologies what opportunities there might be to improve the uniformity of the Tyler services offered to County Treasurers. Tyler Technologies handles a large proportion of systems-related processing throughout the State of Ohio. Understanding what is offered and how those services are utilized by other Counties should help Fairfield County improve the efficiency of the system.

Land Bank

1. The Land Bank has been working to increase the cooperation between the Land Bank as owner of vacant lots and partners such as Habitat for Humanity and Community Action who have the expertise to build new, affordable housing options. Habitat for Humanity recently completed a house on a lot donated by the Land Bank on 6th Avenue in Lancaster. Habitat is also working with the Eastland/Fairfield Career Center to build modular houses using student assistance, the first of which will be installed on a former land bank lot on Arney Avenue in Lancaster.
2. Our Land Bank Mini-Grant program continues to fund projects throughout the county, with recent partners including the Villages of Thurston and Pleasantville.
3. The Land Bank is currently awaiting word from the State of Ohio on various grants for demolition and Brownfield remediation throughout Fairfield County. We have applied for funding to handle demolitions for both ADAMH and the Parks District, as well as the Lancaster Port Authority and the Village of Baltimore.

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

From the Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, REHS, MS MBA :



The first half of 2024 has been seen new programs, new staff, and our continued commitment to work every day to help residents live long, healthy lives.

We welcomed new staff, including Mackenzie Kaminiski (Epidemiologist), Riley Ernst (Emergency Planner), Shannon Mentzer (Public Health Nurse, and Crystal Warner (Public Health Nurse).

We have launched our Newborn Nurse Home Visiting Program, Welcome Home, to provide no cost home visits to new parents to help with

questions about caring for a newborn, breastfeeding, safe sleep, and making referrals to programs like Help Me Grow, Early Head Start, WIC, Cribs for Kids, and medical and mental health services in the county. This program is being supported by the Fairfield County Foundation, Fairfield County United Way, and the Fairfield County ADAMH Board.

Through a \$70,000 Healthy Aging Award approved by the County Commissioners, we were able to help 7 households repair or replace their failing sewage treatment systems. This, in addition to our 2024 \$150,000 Ohio EPA grant, allows us to help income qualifying homeowners of all ages repair or replace their failing sewage systems.

We also received a grant this year to provide fall prevention equipment, like grab rails, to the Violet Township Fire Department to help prevent household injuries for vulnerable residents in their community.

The Fairfield County Health Department is always looking for ways bring additional federal, state, and local grant funding into our community to help our residents reach their full health potential.

Stay in touch with us online!



@fairfieldco1550

@fairfield_health



facebook.com/
FDHealth

@fairfieldhealth



facebook.com/
FairfieldCountySC

fairfieldhealth.org





Lancaster Community Garden

FCHD is excited to announce Lancaster's new community garden at the Lancaster Camp Ground! The garden contains six garden beds that have been rented out by community members, as well as one garden bed being used for educational purposes by the county's Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program.

WIC is using their garden bed to educate children on how to plant produce, care for a garden, and eat healthier. They plan to offer the extra produce from their garden bed to community members once the plants are grown. Signage posted next to their bed indicate what produce is planted and when it is ready to harvest.

This garden was made possible through generous donations from community partners, as well as the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) program that FCHD participates in through the Ohio Department of Health. HEAL is a program that aims to increase healthy eating and active living opportunities. The community garden was created as part of FCHD's efforts to increase access to fresh food in the Fairfield County, as the most requested HEAL initiative by the community in 2023.

Cribs for Kids

FCHD continued to promote safe sleep practices for infants and newborns and distributed **72 free "crib kits"** containing a cribette, fitted sheet, sleep sack, and educational materials from January-June of 2024. For more information on how to see if you are eligible for a crib, contact kaleigh.pulsinelli@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



AARP Community Challenge



AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Grants to make communities livable for people of all ages

FCHD received funding to engage adults 50 years and up in conducting bike path audits. The goal of the program is to ensure bike paths and walking paths are safe for older adults to use and feel comfortable to get physical activity. The bike path audits will be conducted in Lancaster and will be completed by September 2025. The results of the audits will be communicated to Lancaster City to guide future improvements. Contact baylie.blevins@fairfieldcountyohio.gov for more information.

Welcome Home

Contact: gale.neville@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Newborn Home Visiting

FCHD has successfully started a Newborn Home Visit program to provide new parents with extra support after baby is born. This program will allow a public health nurse to provide education to the caregiver on how to take care of themselves and the baby. FCHD has received 15 referrals and made 6 home visits to support families in our community!



The program is done in partnership with the Fairfield County Foundation, Fairfield County ADAMH Board and the United Way of Fairfield County.



For questions or more information call Shannon Mentzer, RN at 740-652-7169 or email: shannon.mentzer@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Older Adult Falls Prevention

Contact: baylie.blevins@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

FCHD has recently launched an Older Adult Falls Prevention Program. Through this program, FCHD is collaborating with the Violet Township Fire Department's Community Paramedic Program to assess older adult's homes for falls risk. Older adults will then be able to receive free grab bars, anti-slip mats and/or be referred to attend a Matter of Balance class. Matter of Balance classes will be taught at the Pickerington Senior Center during the month of September. These classes, taught by the Fairfield County Senior Hub, empower and equip older adults with the skills to prevent falls.



A MATTER OF
BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS



THE SENIOR
Hub

MEALS ON WHEELS
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation

FCHD continues efforts to reduce dependence on nicotine through the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation grant. The two main goals of the program is to prevent youth and young people from starting using tobacco and nicotine-containing products, and to help adults to stop using tobacco and nicotine products.



Fairfield County's Youth Tobacco Use Action Plan was completed to address the issue of youth usage along with **54** tobacco retailer store audits across the county.

The point of sale audits collected data on how tobacco products are marketed and promoted.

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Contact:
hannah.josefczyk@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone)

FCHD has given a total of **1,055** Naloxone kits since January 2024. Approximately **118** kits were distributed to First Responders throughout Fairfield County.



FCHD has started a **mail order** for the Project DAWN kits. The only requirement is that you are a Fairfield County Resident to have up to two Project DAWN kits shipped directly to you at no cost. To place your order, go to the Project DAWN Tab on the FCHD's website and complete the survey.

Project DAWN Contact:
megan.baker@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

Call **740-652-2851** for **FREE** Naloxone.

For more information, visit the Project DAWN program tab at fairfieldhealth.org

Medical Reserve Corps & Emergency Preparedness



Fairfield County MRC 2024 Mid-Year Check-in:

- 82 MRC Volunteers (+6)
- 161.5 volunteer hours
- Economic Value: \$5,446.15
- Sponsored 33 community members
CPR Certifications



Contact Riley Ernst at riley.ernst@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Emergency Preparedness

Distributed over 800 solar eclipse glasses for the North American Solar Eclipse on April 8th. Collected over 1,400 glasses to be recycling through Astronomers Without Borders

Traffic Safety

Contact: bethany.carson@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Fatal Crash Data

This quarter, there were 3 fatal accidents, compared to the 5 in quarter 2 of 2023. Variables that contributed include but are not limited to drug-related, failure to yield-related, motorcycle-related, OVI-related, and unbelted-related variables. The Safe Communities Coalition works to reduce these variables and the number of fatal crashes in Fairfield County. For more information or to be involved, reach out to the Traffic Safety Contact



Events

The first annual Tri-County Kids' Bike Safety Rodeo was a success! 30 children were fitted for a free helmet, learned about the "rules of the road", and practiced bike handling skills.

Find us at these upcoming events for a free helmet and other swag!

Bike Race for Lancaster Festival - July 26

Tour de Buckeye Lake - August 17

024

The Fairfield County Health Department has investigated a total of **533** reported disease cases, excluding Covid-19 from January 2024 to June 2024. The disease with the highest cases so far this year is Chlamydia, **37%** of total cases.

The table below highlights the top 10 reported diseases in our community for the first half of 2024.

Top 5 Diseases	Number of Cases
Chlamydia	197
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations	70
Gonorrhea	54
Lyme Disease	42
Hepatitis B (Chronic)	27

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS)

BACK TO SCHOOL Vaccine Clinics

AUGUST 6 and **AUGUST 20**

4:30pm-6:45pm by appointment.

AS YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR KIDS TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, MAKE SURE THEY ARE UP TO DATE ON THEIR REQUIRED VACCINATIONS. SOME OF THE VACCINES WE OFFER INCLUDE:

DTAP/POLIO ● MENINGITIS ● MMR/VARICELLA ● TDAP ● HPV

FCHD also has vaccine clinics during regular business hours on Tuesday and Thursday every week. We also have a clinic in Pickerington once a month on the third Wednesday of each month, by appointment. Call 740-652-2800 to make an appointment for all clinics.



WIC: Women, Infants & Children



Contact: mary.smith@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

WIC is continuing to focus on offering Nutrition Education with various topics in several formats to make sure it is relevant and accessible for all participants! We offer in-person breastfeeding class with Kaleigh, access to online self-paced modules to complete at home, and the Nutrition Education Station tablet in the waiting room.

Starting in May, WIC partnered with AHA to offer hands-on gardening activities one day a month! Children had fun planting vegetables, pulling carrots, and tasting greens. Each child got to take home a tomato plant, as well as lettuce and basil harvested from the garden!



Farmer's Market Coupons

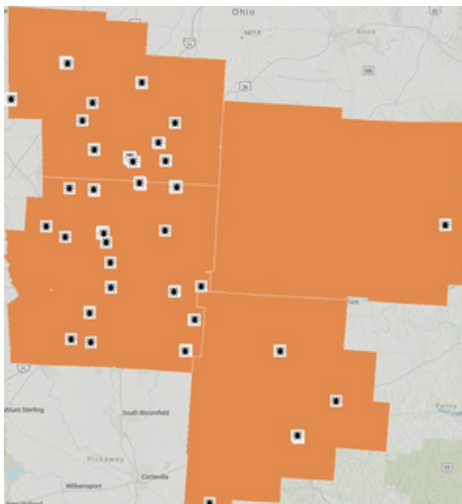
FCHD's WIC program passes out Farmer's Market coupons to eligible families to purchase fresh foods at the Lancaster Farmer's Market. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please call 740-652-2800.

Environmental Health

Contact: rachel.morese@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Mosquito Control

Mosquito season is almost here! Mosquitos are considered vectors for many diseases including West Nile Virus. FCHD offers low cost spraying as part of an integrated pest management approach to reduce mosquitos in Fairfield County. FCHD started spraying the end of May. If you are interested in contracting with FCHD for these services please contact Rachel Moresea at rachel.moresea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov



Tick Blitz

FCHD participated in the Tick Blitz in May to collect ticks for testing across parks in Fairfield County. There were over 40 volunteers in 20 locations across four counties. Over 200 ticks were collected! This program allowed us to make note of target areas that contain higher rates of ticks.

FCHD in the Community



FCHD, with support from Tyrex Resources, hosted a tire collection event in Thurston in May. We collected over 1600 tires, filling a 53-foot trailer, a 28-foot trailer, and two box trucks.



FCHD was one of 47 counties in Ohio who received the 2024 Mosquito Control Grant. This funding goes directly to education and outreach efforts in our community, and to maintaining equipment that helps to prevent and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds to protect residents from serious mosquito borne illnesses.



FCHD passed out seeds and educational materials for the Seeds of Change Earth Day Event at Rising Park



FCHD received over 400 helmets from Put a Lid on It and Safe Kids to distribute to the community.



FCHD staff did a Look Out For Motorcycles campaign at the Millersport, Rockin' The Block Event!



FCHD Environmental Health Staff put out Tick Collection Stations in parks all over the county. The ticks collected will be sent to a lab to be tested for diseases.

JFS Department Update

Presenter: Heather O’Keefe, Assistant Director

- August is Child Support Awareness Month (CSAM). Wear Green Day is 8/7. CSEA is sponsoring a JFS School Supply Donation Fundraiser and will use the collected funds to purchase backpacks and gift cards for school supplies to distribute to the children we are mentoring during our Big for a Day event with Big Brothers-Big Sisters on 7/17. In addition, we will offer a special Fairfield County CSAM shirt for JFS staff members to purchase and to be given to CSEA employees. Also, Wendy’s is providing “free frosty” coupons for us to hand-out to individuals making cash payments at our Drive-Thru in August.
- The Summer Youth Employment Program is in full swing. This program offers eligible youth ages 14-18 the opportunity to develop job skills while being placed with local employers and non-profit organizations. The participants are paid up to \$13/hour with those costs covered by a State grant. We currently have 21 participants in the program which runs through September.
- Applications have been distributed for PRC – school clothes. We are serving families on OWF and children in Kinship households. We will be issuing \$300 vouchers to Wal-Mart Lancaster to buy school clothes and school supplies.
- Team Ohio – the web-based portal for mandated reporters to make referrals for abuse and neglect – is still in the pilot phase but is functioning well and has potential to save time and increase efficiency. We are currently one of the pilot counties and the State is planning to roll it out statewide by the end of this year or beginning of next year.
- We recently kicked off the first year of our new Professional Development Program. This program replaces our previous Leadership Development program which had been in place for over 10 years. The Professional Development Program is a 3-year commitment and includes *Self-Directed Growth, Community Collaboration, Mentorship, and Peer-to-Peer Collaboration*. The first cohort has 12 participants who successfully completed an application and approval process and attended their first class, *Effective Presentations*, on June 20th.
- We are working with leadership staff from Southeastern Ohio Correctional Institution (SCI) on their desire to start a “mini-OMJ” at their facility. Discussions have included the resources that may be most valuable to their population and the roles our staff could play in helping them reach their goals. One potential option would be for our staff to go onsite and provide a resume workshop for inmates who will soon be released and seeking gainful employment.

SHARE:

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Hello Friends,

The calendar may say summer has just begun but given the recent temperatures it sure feels like it has been here for a while now! This is a wonderful time of year in our community as we get ready for the fireworks display this week and later this month, the Lancaster Festival. I hope you all get a chance to enjoy these, and the many other events, scheduled for this summer in Fairfield County.

This edition of the JFS e-Link recaps the awareness events we hosted for Child Abuse Prevention and Elder Abuse Prevention. These events featured guest speakers and announcements of well-deserving award recipients. We are so grateful for the dedication and partnership of all those recognized.

Family FunFest was also in May and gave our staff the opportunity to engage with hundreds of our customers in a fun and informal setting. A huge thank you to all of our team members, volunteers, and community partners who made that event possible.

I hope you'll take a few moments to see what we've been up to and if you have any questions or feedback, never hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you and Happy Summer!

Sincerely,

Corey Clark

Fairfield County Job and Family Services Director

JFS Hosted A Fantastic Family Fun Fest!



This year's Family Fun Fest was held May 23rd in the Job and Family Services parking lot, and it was fantastic! With the help of dozens of volunteers and community partners we were able to host hundreds of families – approximately 400 people! This event allows families to spend a fun evening together and everything is FREE. This is truly only possible due to the generosity of our community partners and the time put in by our volunteers. Family Fun Fest has been a special event at JFS for over 20 years.

Each year, we are able to provide families in our community with an opportunity to get out and enjoy some time together. Children can play games and win prizes, have their faces painted, and make crafts. There are free hot dogs, chips, drinks, popcorn and snow cones for everyone. Families also have the opportunity to learn about organizations and agencies within our community that could provide them with additional resources. The weather was absolutely perfect this year and Family Fun Fest was a tremendous success! We would like to thank our community partners, volunteers, and everyone who came out to support our 2024 Family Fun Fest.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast Held In April



Fairfield County Protective Services held their annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast on April 10, 2024. Agency staff, elected officials, and community partners from across the county took part in the morning's activities. Mike Kenney, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, was the keynote speaker for the morning. Mike spoke on innovative child welfare practices from across the state and highlighted Fairfield County's participation in PACT (Practice in Action Together), a shared practice model being piloted in eight counties.

Also, part of the morning's activities was the presentation of the Partner for Kids Award. Phyllis Shanks, a longtime agency foster parent, was announced as the 2024 winner. Phyllis and her husband, Russ, have been foster parents since 1979 and have had more than 400 children placed in their home during that time. Sadly, Phyllis passed away this past February, so this award was an opportunity to posthumously honor her work and also celebrate her family, who continue their foster journey. Russ and Phyllis's children and grandchildren were on hand to accept the award on Phyllis's behalf.



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## World Elder Abuse Awareness Breakfast Update





On June 12, 2024, The Protective Services Department of Fairfield County Job and Family Services hosted their annual event recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, officially on June 15<sup>th</sup> every year, is an opportunity to promote awareness of elder abuse and neglect. Commissioner Dave Levacy kicked off this year's event with a proclamation presentation honoring June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Fairfield County. Our main presentation, titled "Resiliency and The Art of Living Well," was presented by Karen Vadino, a trainer and humorist in the social service sphere for over 30 years. Karen provided attendees laughter and life strategies for taking on stress.

In addition, Protective Services presented its 2024 Partner in Supporting Seniors Award to Janet Stout. Janet is currently the Guardianship Service Board Coordinator with Fairfield County Probate Court. Prior to that position, she was an Adult Protective Services Caseworker here at Job and Family Services for several years.

As a reminder, if you have concerns about an older adult age 60 and over, please reach out to our dedicated staff to report your concerns at 740-652-7887. Concerns can also be reported through the statewide portal at <https://aps.jfs.ohio.gov/>.

## May Was Fraud Awareness Month

# FRAUD COSTS



**REPORT  
SUSPECTED PUBLIC  
ASSISTANCE FRAUD**

**740-652-7616 fcjfs.org**

Fairfield County  
**Job & Family  
Services**

Fairfield County Job and Family Services is serious about investigating and pursuing allegations of fraud. We have a Benefit Recovery team that focuses on protecting the integrity of the public assistance programs.

#### Objectives:

- To ensure that public assistance benefits are received only by those individuals who are eligible and in the correct amounts
- To recover tax dollars that were obtained by participants through fraudulent activities, unintentional participant error or administrative error
- To deter future occurrences of fraud and maintain program integrity
- 2023 Statistics
- An average of 57 fraud referrals were received each month for a total of 684 referrals
- More than \$481,000 was repaid
- The agency received \$130,146 in fraud incentives from SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid
- The Prosecuting Attorney's Office completed eight prosecutions; all found guilty
- Established 45 SNAP disqualifications
- 99% of fraud cases involve unreported income or household members



## Vantage Aging Offers Paid Job Training To Adults 55 And Older

OhioMeansJobs Fairfield County collaborates with several partner organizations to enhance community services and support workforce development. Among these partners is Vantage Aging,

an organization dedicated to empowering individuals aged 55 or older through paid job training.



Vantage Aging offers valuable opportunities for seniors to receive training and gain practical work experience at designated worksites. These training sites, which must hold a current 501(c)(3) or government unit status, provide participants with 20 hours per week of supervised training. The program ensures a safe and sanitary workplace, with assignments designed to contribute to community services while enhancing participants' skills.

To qualify for Vantage Aging's program, applicants must be 55 years of age or older and meet income eligibility requirements. The program offers numerous benefits, including:

- Helping organizations deliver more services to the community.
- Providing participants with new skills and experiences needed for desired jobs.
- Enabling individuals to take achievable steps on their career pathways.
- Covering participants' time and associated payroll benefits through Vantage.

Training sites offer practical experience in real job environments, helping participants build confidence and thrive in their future careers. Additionally, Vantage Aging's workforce solutions accelerate skill-building by combining hands-on experiences with industry-recognized certifications at community-based organizations.

The program matches the career goals of job seekers with in-demand job opportunities in Ohio, making participants more competitive in today's job market through targeted skill-building and certification opportunities.

OhioMeansJobs Fairfield County is committed to supporting our community's workforce, and the partnership with Vantage Aging is a testament to that commitment. We encourage eligible community members to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and pursue their career goals. For more information visit [OhioMeansJobs](http://OhioMeansJobs).





# Gearing Up For Child Support Awareness Month in August



The Fairfield County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) will celebrate Child Support Awareness Month in August. To commemorate the occasion, CSEA staff will engage in a variety of activities intended to demonstrate our unwavering support for the children of Fairfield County.

CSEA is again slated to lead a JFS-wide school supply donation drive later this summer. This effort will begin with a monetary donation drive in which JFS employees will be called upon to generously aid the cause. Utilizing the funds donated by our JFS team members, CSEA will purchase numerous school backpacks and place a Target gift card (to purchase school supplies) in each of them.

To compliment this fundraising endeavor, fifteen JFS staff members will volunteer their time with Big Brother Big Sisters of Fairfield County on the evening of July 17<sup>th</sup> and serve as “Bigs” for the evening. During this event, JFS volunteers will be paired with a child involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Throughout the evening, JFS participants will engage in mentorship and activities with their assigned child. The culmination of the evening will see JFS volunteers present the backpacks and school supply gift cards to the children in attendance.

Additional Fairfield County Child Support Awareness Month activities will be made possible thanks to generous donations from local businesses such as Roosters and Wendy’s, as these organizations intend to provide gift certificates for CSEA staff to pass out to customers making child support payments at our local payment drive-thru location.



Child Support Awareness Month continues to serve as a reminder of the importance and impact of Fairfield County's child support program. Serving nearly 40,000 of our county's citizens and collecting 23 million dollars in child support on an annual basis; among government service programs, the child support program remains second only to our public school system in terms of the population served.





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COUNTY • OHIO

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The background features a stylized illustration of a building with a large wheel on the left side. The building is rendered in light blue and white tones. Overlaid on the building are several thick, diagonal rays of yellow and light blue, suggesting a sun or a bright sky. The overall style is clean and modern.

# Fairfield County Utilities

- Overview of Senior and Veteran Assistance Program (SAVA)
  - ORC 6103.02 & 6117.02
  - Resolution 2024-06.18.o
- Application

# Senior and Veteran Assistance Program

- ORC 6103.02 & 6117.02
  - A board of county commissioners may establish discounted rates or charges or may establish another mechanism for providing a reduction in rates or charges for persons who are sixty-five years of age or older. The board shall establish eligibility requirements for such discounted or reduced rates or charges, including a requirement that a person be eligible for the homestead exemption or qualify as a low- and moderate-income person.
- Resolution 2024-06.18.o
  - Established the program





# Senior and Veteran Assistance Program

## Application on the county utilities website

The Senior and Veteran Assistance (SAVA) Program is available to owner-occupied residences of senior citizens who receive water and/or sewer services from Fairfield County Utilities. This pilot program is designed to provide financial assistance to homeowners who are eligible for the homestead exemption or are a veteran. **Eligible homeowners must be 65 years of age or older with Ohio Homestead Exemption or a veteran receiving the Ohio Homestead Exemption.** Qualifying applicants will receive a **10% discount** on their Fairfield County Utilities bill.



# Senior and Veteran Assistance Program



## Fairfield County Utilities

Senior and Veteran Assistance Program Application

Mail: 6670 Lockville Rd., Carroll, OH 43112

Fax: (614) 322-5203, (740) 652-7129

Email: askutilities@co.fairfield.oh.us

The Senior and Veteran Assistance (SAVA) Program is available to owner-occupied residences of senior citizens who receive water and/or sewer services from Fairfield County Utilities. This pilot program is designed to provide financial assistance to homeowners who are eligible for the homestead exemption or are a veteran. Eligible homeowners must be 65 years of age or older and be receiving the Ohio Homestead Exemption or must be 65 years of age or older and be a veteran. Qualifying applicants will receive a 10% discount on their Fairfield County Utilities bill.

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Self-Declaration:** I declare that I currently own and occupy the aforementioned property, that I am at least 65 years of age, that I am currently receiving the Ohio Homestead Exemption or am a veteran, and that this application, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true and correct. Furthermore, I understand that Fairfield County Utilities can revoke this discount based upon changes in eligibility.

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment Needed - SAVA Program supporting documentation:** Individual 65 years of age or older must provide either your **current income tax return** under Homestead Exemption or your **DD214** as a veteran.





# Questions



**WELCOME!**

**Lancaster-Fairfield  
Public Transit**



**LANCASTER**

Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit



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COUNTY • OHIO

# Why County Transit Makes Sense

- It's another way to remove barriers to entering the workforce
  - Skills gap
  - Housing
  - Transportation
- Meeting local employer needs
- Transit can better serve the entire county



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Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit



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ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT





## Meet the Leadership Team

Aaron Kennedy, Michelle McCrady  
Dakota Miller, Courtney Martin



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Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit



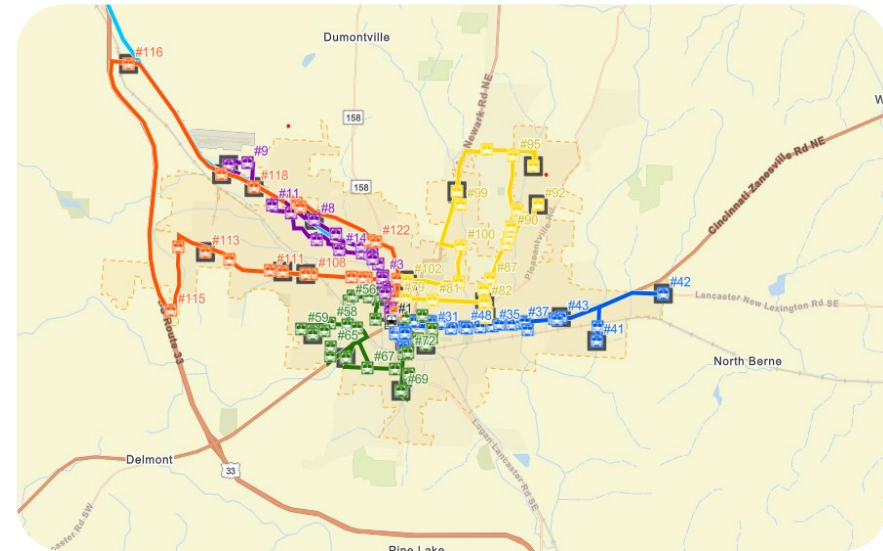
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ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**



# Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit provides:

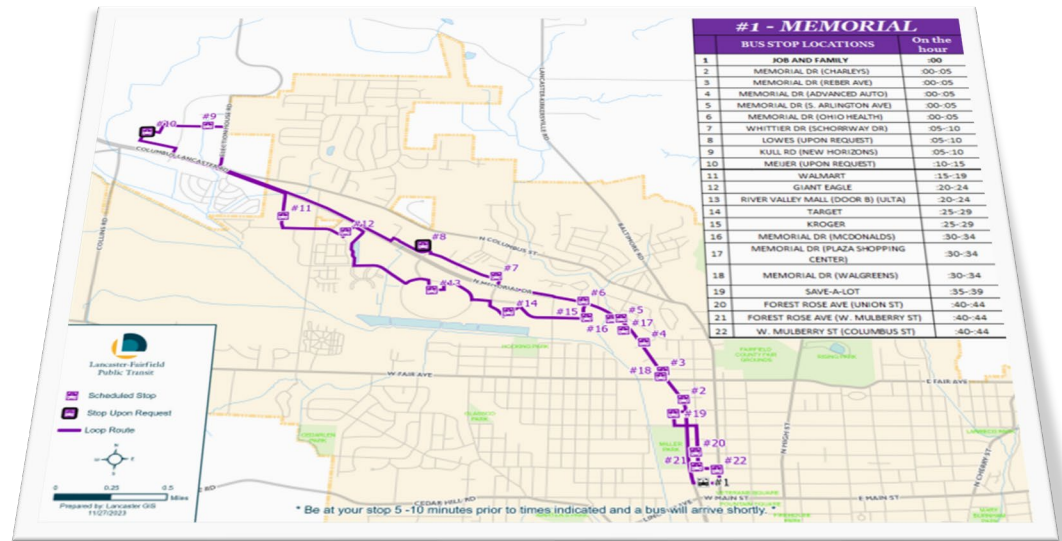
- Loop Routes
  - Seven loop routes with 157 stops
  - Loop fare: \$.50 per trip, \$.10 per transfer
  - Annual loop trips: 101,094



# Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit provides:

## Loop Routes

- Memorial
- Main
- West
- Sheridan
- North
- Pickerington
- Carroll



# Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit provides:

- On Demand
  - Advance: \$2.00
  - Same day: \$5.00
  - Annual Response trips: 107,123





# Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit provides:

- Elderly & Disabled Trips:  
28,492
- Contracts
  - JFS
  - Board of DD
  - Eastland Career Center
  - First Impressions
  - Pickerington Schools
  - Teenworks
  - Workforce Center
  - Lancaster City Schools



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# LFPT Office







Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit • 740-681-5086

2201

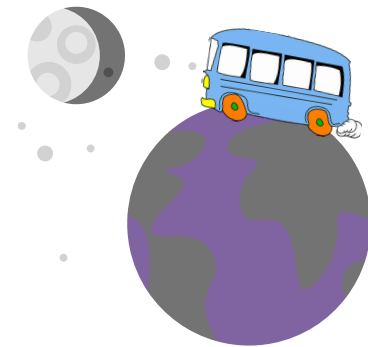
# Staffing



# Fun Stats



- Gallons of gas: 89,681
  - Enough to fill 5 swimming pools!
- Miles driven: 641,058
  - Enough to make it to the moon and back, and halfway back to the moon!



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Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit



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# Future Plans

- Planning Study
- Employer Study/Plan
- Rebrand
- Awareness campaign
- Strategic Routes
- Improved Stops
- Better use of Technology



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Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit



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# Questions?

**Aaron Kennedy**

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**Rick Szabrak**

[Rick.Szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov](mailto:Rick.Szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov)

[www.co.fairfield.oh.us/transit](http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/transit)





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