

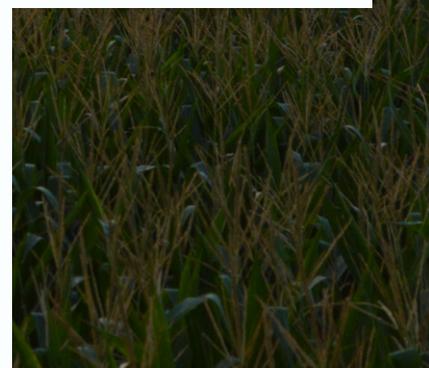
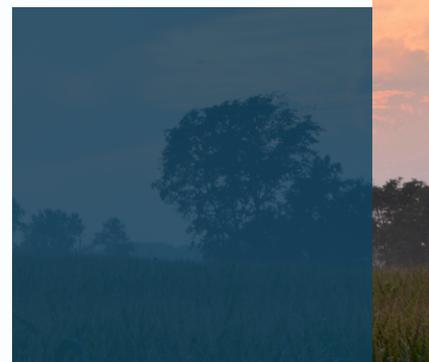
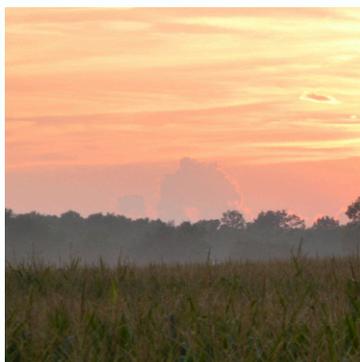
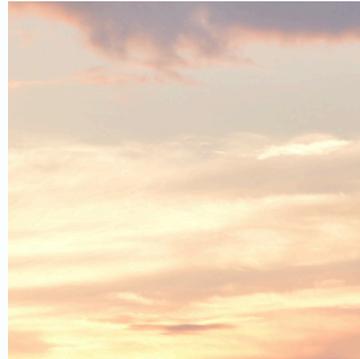
2024 Clark County, Ohio

Annual Report

July 2025



CLARK COUNTY
OHIO



Meet the Clark County Commissioners

Sasha Rittenhouse

Rittenhouse, a local farmer, is a graduate of Northwestern High School, Clark State College, and the Ohio State University. After being named interim commissioner in 2022, she was elected to her first term later that fall. She and her husband, Scott, have three children--Laura, Lexi and Rylan.



Lowell McGlothin

McGlothin, who has served on the New Carlisle City Council for 15 years, was first elected to office in 2016 and reelected in 2020. He has two grown sons--Blake and Brock, and three grandchildren--Bryce, Brandt and Easton. McGlothin retired from the board at the end of 2024.

Melanie Flax Wilt

Flax Wilt, the owner of public relations firm Shift•ology Communication, was first elected to the board in 2016 and has served as the board President since 2019. She and her husband, Gabe Kelly, are the parents of CJ and Addie Wilt and Joshua Kelly.



Looking to the Future

A central theme throughout 2024 has been commitment - commitment to our residents, our partners, and our shared future. On February 28, our community was struck by a devastating tornado. In the face of this crisis, our EMA department responded quickly to assess damage and deliver critical support to families who were affected. We also worked together with the City of Springfield as it managed unexpected national media attention surrounding federal immigration policy following the arrival of thousands of legal immigrants who made Springfield their new home.

As we reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of 2024, we look ahead with optimism. We celebrate the re-opening of the Children's Campus on Home Road and the County Courthouse - both of which have undergone much-needed renovations to better serve our community. These achievements represent more than infrastructure improvements; they are a testament to our dedication to preserving vital institutions while planning for a stronger future.

Looking forward, we are actively preparing for the construction of a new Public Safety Building, an essential investment to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents for generations to come.



Jennifer Hutchinson

County Administrator

2024 Strategic Goals

Strengthen the Economic Base

1. Stabilize population by 2022 and increase by 2025.
2. Maintain annual 4% sales tax growth.
3. Develop location along I-70 and create attractive gateway to the community.

Retain and Attract Workforce

1. Recruit and retain employees in county government.
2. Recruit, retain and build employees in skilled trade and professional positions.
3. Position Clark County as a great place to work, develop talent to succeed as a business or employee.

Improve Digital and Physical Access to Government

1. Implement throughout county facilities.
2. Develop a centralized records system.

Building & Grounds

The Building and Grounds team became fully staffed in 2024 with 24 full-time employees. With this staffing level, they are able to have two employees stationed at the Clark County Jail doing day-to-day operations on much-needed maintenance. These employees all have many different skills combined including electrical, plumbing, carpentry, and painting. These skills were used in daily work calls from the Juvenile Detention Center, A.B. Graham Building, Project Woman, the county garage, and more.

The team worked on Municipal Court renovations. They upgraded all the bathrooms on all six floors, added controls and safety features to the elevators, and a new fire panel to the basement in the case of an emergency.

In the Springview Government Center, the team added security to the Community and Economic Development Department, and they have been updating flooring, painting, layout, lighting, security, and much more.



The Building and Grounds team in October 2024

Commission

The Board of Clark County Commissioners' office worked on several projects this year including the wayfinding project at the Springview Government Center. The goal of the wayfinding project is to make it easier for members of the community to locate different offices.

The department prepared 1,030 resolutions, 10 formal bid openings, and 393 contracts in 2024. The board also held over 50 public commission meetings. In December, the board recognized four local residents as Clark County Luminaries – Jim and John Bobo, John Brown, and Rex Fent – for their efforts in shining a positive light in Clark County.

The Commission office held its annual Employee Appreciation Day in August. Celebrating major service milestones this year were Laura Allen with 35 years, Sandi Click with 30 years, Mike Cleelan with 25 years, Jason Graver with 10 years, and James Bard, Jessica Martin, Jerrol Harris and Rachel Ricketts with 5 years. The Board held its annual holiday bowling tournament in December, with the team of Mike Swank, Brittany Burks and Holly McHenry taking home the first place prize. Commissioners recognized that events like this are important in the culture of a high performing workplace.



The Commission staff wearing blue for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Community & Economic Development

This past year for the Community and Economic Development Department was challenging, yet successful. This includes having changes in the department, housing development continuing to rise, and more large scale subdivisions. The department was also successful in establishing an official Finance Division that provides finance, budgeting, and contract administration to some commission offices.

In the fall, the City of Springfield's Chief Building Officer resigned, which led to the county stepping in to assist. The county staff worked overtime to help the city get permit times within 30 days or less. Collaboration in times like this is crucial in helping to establish a business-friendly environment and reputation for the whole community.

The Building Division oversaw the construction of 44 single homes and 2 multi-unit homes. In addition they had several new business projects completed, including Mundy's Bar and Grill, the Young's Jersey Dairy Carousel, the JFS gymnasium, and much more. The team completed 3,153 inspections.



The Clark County Community and Economic Development Staff.

The Planning and Zoning Division was able to issue 262 zoning certificates, holding 35 meetings and 102 cases resolved. The division also received 32 zoning complaints and was able to resolve 23, including some from the previous year.

The Finance Division provided services to IS, Reentry, EMA, and the Dog Shelter. The division also provides assistance and additional training as needed. They enter transfers, amend certificate requests, and provide supplemental appropriations for multiple departments.

The Development Division collected more than \$31 million in sales tax. The department actively managed five enterprise zone agreements while also maturing one. They executed two retail grants and provided ongoing technical support to many housing developments and commercial projects.

The Clark County Land Bank put 25 properties back to use. They received \$1 million in American Rescue Act funds to construct new single family affordable workforce housing in the City of Springfield.



Community and Economic Development Director Ethan Harris and members of The Conscious Connect at the Ohio Historical Marker of Sully Jaymes.

Emergency Management Agency

The Clark County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) responded to over 22 incidents in 2024, demonstrating readiness and commitment. EMA protects and alerts the community when challenges arise.

One of the bigger incidents EMA was challenged with was tornado response. A tornado touched down at the beginning of 2024, which led to collaborative forces within the community and the department to amend. These forces included The Salvation Army, United Way, and American Regulators. The Clark County Soil and Water District was able to help restore natural landscape and planted trees lost in the tornado.

EMA attended several events this year, including the Clark County Fair, Clark County Parks Haunted Trail, South Charleston Heritage Day, and the Enon Apple Butter Festival. EMA placed a strong emphasis on training this year, offering a wide variety of courses designed to enhance the capabilities of our stakeholders and community partners.



2024 Clark County EMA Staff

Dog Shelter

The Clark County Dog Shelter had a slight increase of dog intakes this year with 38 dogs remaining from 2023. The shelter had a total of 785 intakes, 271 adoptions, and 175 dogs returned back to their owners.

The shelter faced several challenges this year including needing more space and volunteers. Most of the intakes were for dogs that were purposely abandoned by their owners. Volunteers are needed for fundraising events, adoption events and other opportunities that come along.

The Clark County Dog Shelter held its annual Fall at the Fairgrounds event in October. This event had over 120 local vendors that included food trucks, crafters, and a great number of door prizes offered. A lot of donations were brought in to this event including paper towels, dog food, cleaning supplies, and much more.



Zero and Bree were adopted at the 2024 Fall at the Fairgrounds Craft Show.



Information Systems

In 2024, the Information Systems Department continued its operations with an onsite staff of eight. They addressed new and ongoing project work, network infrastructure updates, work orders, and other technical services in the county.

The department completed 2,596 work orders which is a 16% decrease from the 2023 ticket record of 3,010. The department worked tirelessly on network infrastructure and made substantial advancements. In addition, the department continued to work with outside vendors to add fiber and security infrastructure to the county's network.

The department is continually removing outdated equipment from the network by deploying new hardware for county employees. Along with replacing outdated equipment, the group has undertaken updating county email to Microsoft 365 instead of an antiquated on premise server.

2024 was another challenging busy year but successful as the department continues to complete project work and fulfill technical requests.



Information Systems employee BJ Miller works in the Clark County Courthouse during renovations.

Job & Family Services

In 2024, the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services worked diligently to meet the needs caused by the surge of Haitian immigrants, who speak primarily Haitian Creole, in addition to meeting the needs of all the members of the community.

The BenefitsPlus Division had over 3,200 individuals receive Refugee Cash Assistance of over \$7.4 million. Over 41,000 individuals received over \$61.2 million in food assistance. Medical assistance remained a need in the community with an average of over 62,878 residents receiving assistance. Over 4,700 individuals received more than \$7.7 million in TANF. The Fraud Unit recovered more than \$161,500, which is a decline from 2023.



Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt and Commissioner Sasha Rittenhouse meet with members of the Haitian Community Help and Support Center.

In 2024, the Family and Children Services Division continued participation in many programs designed to ensure the safety of our children. The division received 3,353 child abuse/neglect referral calls with 874 reports screened in for investigation. Services were provided to 648 children. Staff completed 4,695 required face-to-face visits. At the division's visitation center, there were over 1,100 visits.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) distributed more than \$19.1 million in Child Support collections. CSEA had 11,369 cases. Over 91% of children born out of wedlock had paternity established. Support orders were established for over 86% of the cases. A total of 1,209 judicial hearings were held. Staff participated in public outreach at the Clark County Fair, the CSEA carnival, Second Chance Wednesdays, and the Path Program.

In 2024, OhioMeansJobs received 113 new applications for Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program Youth (ages 14-24) and had 16 new enrollment services that were provided to 131 youth. In addition, the department had 1,395 individuals visit the resource room and 1,658 services were provided. An impressive 154 students and 111 adults attended the annual Job Fair held in April. Ninety-two Haitian students successfully completed English classes as a second language (ESL) at Clark State College.



Personnel

A major accomplishment for the Personnel Department in 2024 was the opening of the new Wellness Room in downtown Springfield for employees to maintain or improve their fitness goals. In addition to physical wellness goals, each year a variety of options are provided for personal and professional development, mental, emotional and familial health, as well as fun, healthy activities.

Personnel provides services for 1,200 employees including benefits administration, risk management, workers compensation, civil service activities, policy development, recruiting, employment, onboarding activities and education.

In 2024 the department posted 81 jobs, conducted 191 interviews, and 84 orientation and onboarding sessions. They had more than 2,800 interactions with professional development training. They hosted 68 unique wellness opportunities for employees and monitored 1,188 driving records of employees.



2024 Personnel Staff (not pictured Sara Davis.)

Reentry

In 2024, the Reentry Department made extraordinary footsteps in providing services to justice-impacted citizens throughout the community. The reentry program connected with 163 individuals with 130 of those individuals becoming active clients who established at least one reentry goal. The reentry staff dedicated 22,642 minutes of direct contact across 1,373 client interactions.

The department provided direct services for justice-impacted citizens in achieving stability and self-sufficiency. These services included basic needs like hygiene items, Medicaid, education and training programs, housing assistance and transportation services through bus passes, gas cards, and fatherhood services.

The Reentry Department also held numerous events throughout the community in 2024. These included Fair Chance Wednesdays, Citizens' Circle Peer Support Group, a drivers license clinic, and record sealing expungement clinics. The department also participated in 14 outreach events that engaged with at least 331 individuals.



Commissioners Lowell McGlothin and Sasha Rittenhouse with Stefanie McHenry, Raneca Crawford, and Reentry Director Brooke Wagner.

Solid Waste District

The Clark County Solid Waste District provides environmental education and assistance to support community waste reduction programs and services. The Solid Waste District contracts services with the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Clark County Combined Health District.

The Solid Waste District offers a wide variety of individual classroom programs for grades K-8 that focus on recycling, litter prevention, and natural resource conservation. This year, program specialist Sam Perin held 99 classroom programs, visited 16 schools and reached over 2,100 students.

The Great American Cleanup had over 900 volunteers who cleaned 67 public spaces and removed 225 bags of litter. The department also held programs like the annual Downtown Cleanup, Fall Planting Day, and Adopt-a-Spot.

The department had 2,704 pulls from its 6 drop-off recycling locations – two in Springfield, one in Northridge, one in Mad River Township, one on Old Columbus Road and one in Green Township. They collected 865 tons of mixed recyclables including 368 tons of cardboard.



The Great American Cleanup at the Springfield YMCA.

Utilities

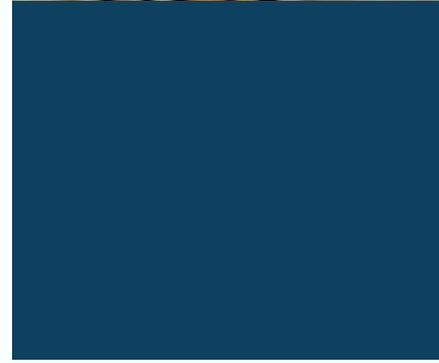
The Clark County Utilities Department provides water and sanitary sewer services to areas of Clark County and surrounding counties, operating a public well field in Park Layne, the Southwest Regional Water Treatment Plant, and six public water systems. The department purchases water and sewer services from the City of Springfield and water services from the villages of Enon and North Hampton.

In 2024, the department saw 366 million gallons of water consumed and 456 million gallons of wastewater treated for its customers – including more than 8,000 sewer customers and 7,000 drinking water customers. The department – which includes 22 employees – maintains 107 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 88 miles of water mains, 16 sanitary pump stations, and 3 drinking water pump stations.

The department completed construction of almost a mile of new 12-inch water main from Park Layne area along State Route 235 to the intersection of State Route 40. In addition, the billing office completed a successful upgrade and replacement of its billing software that had been used since 2002.



Northridge Water Tank.



Contact Us

Thank you for your support of local government. We appreciate the taxpayers, staff and elected officials who make it possible to bring quality infrastructure and services to the citizens of Clark County, Ohio.

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