



CITY OF
OAKWOOD

2023

Annual Report



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CITY PHONE NUMBERS

CITY ADMINISTRATION 937-298-0600

City Manager | Clerk of Council

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE

EMERGENCY **9-1-1**

NON-EMERGENCY..... **937-298-2122**

PUBLIC SAFETY..... 937-298-2122

Public Safety Director | Police & Fire Services
Emergency Medical Services | Public Safety Records

FINANCE 937-298-0402

Finance Director | Assessments
Vital Statistics | Refuse Billing
Water, Sewer & Stormwater Billing **937-298-0400**
Income Tax **937-298-0531**

PUBLIC HEALTH937-298-0600

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES 937-297-2920

Planning & Zoning Manager
City Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer
Permits, Zoning
Pre-Sale/Rental/Business Inspections
Property Maintenance

LEISURE SERVICES 937-298-0775

Leisure Services Director
Health Center
Horticulturist
Smith Gardens
Parks & Recreation Programs
William E. Gardner Pool..... **937-297-2933**
Leisure Line (Recordings) **937-297-2935**

MUNICIPAL COURT937-293-3058

Clerk of Courts | Small Claims Court & Traffic Violations

HUMAN RESOURCES 937-298-0411

Human Resources Manager

PUBLIC WORKS.....937-298-0777

Public Works Director
City Engineer
Public Works Foremen
Bulk Refuse Pick-ups/Dumpsters
Street and Alley Maintenance
Water, Sewer & Stormwater Maintenance
Waste Collection (Refuse & Recycling)
Water Treatment Information

OAKWOOD SCHOOLS

Board of Education **937-297-5332**
Oakwood High School **937-297-5325**
Oakwood Junior High School **937-297-5328**
Edwin Smith Elementary School **937-297-5335**
Harman Elementary School..... **937-297-5338**
Lange School (Kindergarten)..... **937-299-8730**

OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

AES**937-331-3900**
AT&T **1-800-288-2020**
CenterPoint **1-800-227-1376**
Hills & Dales Shelter Rental Info**937-275-7275**
Kettering Inspection Dept. **937-296-2441**
Montgomery County Property
Tax Information **937-225-4010**
RTA (Route & Schedule Info)..... **937-425-8300**
Spectrum **937-294-6400**
Wright Brothers Post Office..... **937-299-1465**
Wright Memorial Public Library **937-294-7171**

CITY WEBSITE:
www.oakwoodohio.gov

CITY FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/cityof oakwoodohio

OCC – MY REC WEBSITE:
www.OakwoodLeisureServices.com

OAKWOOD CITY COUNCIL



William Duncan
MAYOR



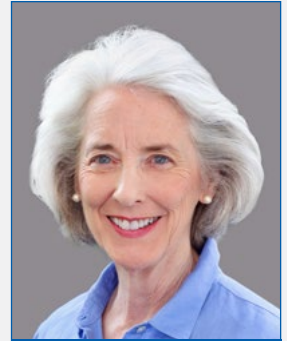
Steve Byington
VICE MAYOR



Rob Stephens
COUNCIL MEMBER



Leigh Turben
COUNCIL MEMBER



Healy Jackson
COUNCIL MEMBER

Oakwood is served by a council/manager form of government. Oakwood City Council is comprised of five members who are elected on a non-partisan basis for four-year overlapping terms. The mayor and vice mayor are selected by their fellow council members for two-year terms.

City Council is the policy-making body of the community, the legislative branch of our Oakwood government. Council appoints a full-time professional city manager to direct the delivery of Oakwood public services, implement city policies, and enforce city ordinances. The city manager serves as chief administrative and operating officer of the City.

City Council normally meets in regular session on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the city building, 30 Park Avenue. Meetings are open to the public and citizen attendance is encouraged. These formal meetings are televised live on the City website at www.oakwoodohio.gov, and on cable TV (Spectrum Ch. 6, TV Tuner Ch. 5.203 and AT&T U-verse Ch. 99). The meetings are also accessible via the Zoom remote meeting platform. Links to the meeting will be posted to the City website at 4 p.m. on the meeting date. Meeting videos will be rebroadcast for a week or so afterwards. Please check your cable guide or www.mvcc.net for broadcast times. Meeting videos can also be viewed on the City website.

Council also meets in work session, typically once each month. These work sessions are held at the city building and normally begin at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

The schedule for upcoming Council meetings is posted on the City website. Also available on the website are Council meeting agendas, minutes and legislation.

To help in performing city business, Oakwood City Council relies on the assistance of many Oakwood citizen committees. The current list of council-appointed committees is as follows:

Board of Health

Beautification Committee

Board of Zoning Appeals

Budget Review Committee

ADA Compliance Committee

Personnel Appeals Board

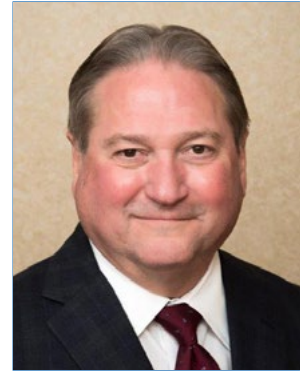
Planning Commission

Property Maintenance Board

Tax/Water & Sewer/Assembly Appeals Board

In total, the current slate of committees provides opportunities for about 100 residents to be involved in the business of providing Oakwood public services. Citizens interested in serving on a committee should contact Clerk of Council Lori Stacel at (937) 298-0600 or should send an email to Mayor Bill Duncan at duncan@oakwoodohio.gov or City Manager Norbert Klopsch at klopsch@oakwoodohio.gov.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BILL DUNCAN



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of City Council, we are proud to present our annual report. It provides highlights of the previous year, and detailed information about city services, finances, community events, city projects and important issues facing our city. We deliver this report to every Oakwood residence and business to keep our citizens and business owners informed about their local government. Please take time to read this report to become better acquainted with how our city operates and how we deliver public services.

The beginning of Oakwood dates back to 1872 when the first residential platting took place and we became what was then called the “Town of Oakwood”. A bronze marker stands in front of the city building at 30 Park Avenue to commemorate our founding. We incorporated as a village in 1908 and became a city in 1931, following the 1930 Census that showed our population had exceeded 5,000.

Oakwood consists of just over two square miles and is the classic bedroom community. Nearly all of Oakwood is devoted to residential living and we now have about 10,000 residents. Oakwood continues to be the premier residential community in the Dayton region, the community of choice for all demographics.

We have beautiful neighborhoods, excellent public schools, a first-class public library, and unmatched city services, including public safety, public works, recreation and leisure. Most of all, we have friendly and welcoming citizens that value safety, quality, neighborliness, respect for one another, and the important role our community plays in the greater Dayton region.

We treasure our parks and greenspace. Our four neighborhood parks are Shafor Park, Orchardly Park, Fairridge Park and Cook Park, and our natural areas include Loy Gardens, Elizabeth Gardens, Houk Stream and Centennial Park. We also have two beautiful public gardens: Smith Gardens is located at Oakwood Avenue and Walnut Lane, and Francine’s Garden is located in the Houk Stream natural area. Our recreation facilities include the Oakwood Community Center and Gardner Pool, the Dog Park at Creager Field, Irving Field, the Old River Sports Complex, and the Hollinger Memorial Tennis Center.

I begin my 21st year on Oakwood City Council and my 15th year as your Mayor, and am honored to serve with my fellow members of Council. Steve Byington begins his 17th year as a member of Oakwood City Council and his 15th year as our Vice Mayor. Rob Stephens begins his 15th year on City Council and Leigh Turben begins her 4th year. We welcome longtime resident Healy Jackson as a new member of city council. Healy was elected to her first term on November 7, 2023.

This Council, like those that precede it, operates in a collegial style and believes in doing the right thing for the citizens and businesses of Oakwood. We sometimes have opposing opinions on city matters, but always listen to one another, respecting each other and the value that each of us brings to the table. We believe in community service, and have no hidden agendas.

Over the years, I have seen firsthand that local government is the most accountable and responsive government. My fellow City Council members and I represent you and will ensure that our city continues to deliver the services that are important and necessary. You are our neighbors and our friends.

When I joined City Council in 2003, it was my belief that Oakwood was well-governed, well-managed and financially strong. I continue to hold that belief. With the help of City Council, city staff and the citizens of Oakwood, we will continue this tradition.

If you have any questions about this report or about any other city issue, please contact me, any member of City Council, or City Manager Norbert Klopsch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William DD". The signature is stylized and appears to be written in cursive.

Bill Duncan, Mayor



MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER NORBERT KLOPSCH



Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am pleased to present this 2023 Annual Report. The report includes detailed information about each of our city departments. The charts, graphs and narrative give you an insight into the services that we provide to our Oakwood community, and the current state of our city.

Oakwood is a wonderful city in which to live, work, raise a family and retire. We are a city full of people that truly value neighborliness, education, helping one another, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, and maintaining beautiful residential and commercial properties. We invest the appropriate resources into making our city a very safe and desirable place, and in keeping our roadways and public infrastructure well-maintained. Our citizens believe in civic involvement and in supporting the Dayton region.

- We have a very safe community, with very low crime and very low fire loss.
- We have an extremely fast police and fire response, and we answer every call with highly trained professionals.
- We always have qualified paramedics and EMTs on duty to respond to medical emergencies. On average, medical help arrives in about two minutes – unparalleled in the area.
- We have well-maintained streets, sidewalks, public trees and landscaped boulevards.
- Our citizens place strong emphasis on property maintenance and our home values prove it.
- Our city parks, public pool, community center and natural areas are wonderful community assets.
- Our overall community ambience is second to none.

Oakwood citizens have a long history of valuing the comprehensive and first-class city services and have been willing to provide the resources needed to pay for them. I am just the fifth Oakwood City Manager since 1931. Dave Foell, our third city manager (1963-1992) once said, “It’s not a question of how much you pay in taxes; the question is whether you receive good value for each dollar spent.” I believe our residents continue to feel that they receive good value for their tax dollars.

As city manager, my primary responsibilities involve overseeing the delivery of public services and the prudent use of public dollars, including local taxes and fees for services. In carrying out these duties, I am guided and directed by Oakwood City Council, and assisted by our 33-member citizen Budget Review Committee (BRC). The committee was established in 1987 and has met regularly since inception. It is represented by citizens living in each of our eight voting precincts. We benefit each year from the volunteer service of the committee members. To see a list of the current BRC members, go to our city website and search Budget Review Committee.

Pages 26-29 of this report include detailed information about city finances. In 2023, expenses were about \$600,000 more than revenues. This was a result of a \$2.2 million investment in a major storm sewer improvement project. Construction on that project began in August 2023 and is scheduled to be completed this spring. The 2024 General City Services Funds (accounting for all city expenses except those related to the refuse, water, sanitary sewer and stormwater utilities) show budgeted expenses \$1.3 million more than the budgeted revenues. We will use cash reserves to address the difference. The primary reason for expenses exceeding revenues is that we allowed a 3.75 mill property tax issue to expire at the end of 2023. That property tax issue generated about \$1.15 million in annual revenue. The 3.75 mill issue had been slated for renewal on the November 7, 2023 ballot, but due to a clerical error, was not on the ballot. The issue was placed on the March 19, 2024 ballot at 2.41 mills. At the reduced millage, the issue will generate the same amount of revenue as the expired 3.75 mill issue. In other words, it will cost the Oakwood property owner the same amount as the now expired levy. Even given the budgeted 2024 shortfall, we remain in a strong financial position and have the resources to provide all of our comprehensive city services.

The breakdown of 2024 budgeted spending for General City Services compared to 2023 actual spending is as follows:

	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>
• Public Safety:	38%	38%
• Public Works:	14%	14%
• Leisure Services:	12%	11%
• Admin/Finance/Legal:	12%	11%
• Capital:	18%	21%
• Miscellaneous:	4%	3%
• Court:	2%	2%

Property Tax: The 2024 Budget includes a decrease in property tax revenue at an amount of about \$1.15 million. As explained above, this is a result of the expiration of one of the city’s two outside mill levies. This year, the city only has one voted levy generating property taxes to pay for city services.

- 2.72 mill property tax: This tax was first approved in 1991 and began generating revenue in 1992. It has a five-year term and was last renewed in 2021, with a 76.4% yes vote. The current effective mills for residential property are 1.01. It generates about \$472,000 annually and costs about \$31 per year per \$100,000 of appraised home value. The 76.4% yes vote on November 2, 2021 was the second highest affirmative vote in the six times that the tax measure has been on the ballot for renewal.



Of the total 2024 property tax paid in Oakwood, the distribution of effective millage for residential properties is as follows:

- Oakwood Schools: 74.0%
- Montgomery County Agencies: 17.9%
- City of Oakwood: 5.6%
- Wright Library: 2.5%

Please see the Finance section herein for additional details about our revenues and expenses, and for information about our refuse, water, sanitary sewer and stormwater utilities. Also, our 2024 City of Oakwood Budget is posted to the city website at www.oakwoodohio.gov. It contains the details on our fund balances, and our budgeted 2024 revenues and expenses.

Here are a few 2023 highlights:

- We had a clean financial audit report. Finance Director Cindy Stafford, CPA and our Finance Department once again received the Auditor of State Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Ohio Representative Andrea White delivered a commendation at our January 2 city council meeting from the Ohio House of Representatives recognizing the achievement.
- We completed asphalt repaving on several residential streets and alleys in the northeast section of the city. Most notably, we resurfaced E. Schantz Avenue between Far Hills Avenue and Lookout Drive. Portions of that roadway that had previously been concrete are now asphalt, which provides a much smoother pavement.
- We completed major concrete roadway repairs on Garden Road.
- In 2023, we completed a major project to rebuild the entire concrete deck around Gardner Pool at the OCC. The project included installing new diving board stands and lifeguard stands, a fence around the baby/toddler pool, and a new perimeter fence along Patterson Road. This year, we are installing a liner in the pool shell, effectively renewing the pool tank.
- We installed a new play structure and swing set at Orchardly Park, and two new swing sets at Shafor Park.
- We began work on a \$2.2 million capital improvement project to rebuild a portion of the storm sewer system on Far Hills Avenue at Greenmount Boulevard; on Dellwood Avenue from Far Hills Avenue to East Schantz Avenue; Forrer Boulevard from Far Hills Avenue to East Schantz Avenue; and along a section of Devereux Drive north of Forrer Road. Work is scheduled to be completed this spring.
- We rebuilt 22 stormwater inlets along Far Hills Avenue and replaced large portions of deteriorating concrete curb along Far Hills Avenue. In 2024, we will resurface all of Far Hills Avenue (State Route 48) in Oakwood. This project is 80% funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation. It was last resurfaced in 2011.
- In 2023, 88% of Oakwood homes sold above the Montgomery County Auditor’s appraised value. Oakwood continues to be the community of choice for those seeking an excellent place to live, and our homes continue to be a good investment.
- CenterPoint (formerly Vectren) completed the final phase of a 13-year project to rebuild the natural gas distribution infrastructure in Oakwood.
- The Oakwood Rotary Club continued to serve our city through the quarterly household hazardous waste collection program, removing large quantities of paint, oils, pesticides and other such items from our city. Call 937-296-5155 for more information, and to schedule a pick-up. This is a free service offered by Oakwood Rotary Club volunteers. Please see oakwoodrotary.org for information about this excellent service club, or if you are interested in joining.
- We offered our sixth Citizen Police Academy in 2023. This 10-week program is designed to educate citizens about the functions of our Public Safety Department and the challenges of modern-day policing.

2023 was another good year in Oakwood. I hope you enjoy reading this report. If you have any questions about it or have any issues that you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to call me at 937-298-0600 or send me an email at klopsch@oakwoodohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Norbert Klopsch, City Manager

BUILDING, ZONING, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & LAND USE

Land use and the maintenance of public and private properties in Oakwood is a high priority, particularly because of the age of our community, and the fact that Oakwood is almost fully developed. Planning & Zoning Manager/Building Commissioner Ethan Kroger and Code Enforcement Officer JT Ferguson have primary responsibility for overseeing all land use and property maintenance.

Are there any current redevelopment projects in the city?



The building located at 2533-2537 Far Hills Avenue was purchased by 2533 Far Hills Investments, LLC in January of 2022. The new owner has completed exterior building renovations with interior renovations to follow, including mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, with common area finishes to be done last as determined by the ultimate tenant mix. The owner seeks a mix of tenants including café/restaurant, specialty service, or retail use for the first floor, and office tenants for the second.

In April 2017, Kettering Health purchased the 2600 Far Hills Avenue office building for the purpose of redeveloping the space into medical offices and related support services. The city proactively meets with Kettering Health officials to discuss their plans for the site; they intend to develop plans for an extensive reuse of the property. As part of their plans, Kettering Health also intends to add supporting parking in the immediate area.

At the corner of Old River Trail and Far Hills Avenue, there exists a vacant lot once approved for development of an 88-unit assisted living facility. While that project was never pursued, city staff will continue to work with the property owner to find a suitable use for this property situated at the entrance to our community.

The city has a pre-sale/rental inspection program requiring that an inspection be conducted before a property is sold and when new tenants move into a rental property. How many pre-sale and rental inspections have been performed during the past five (5) years?

PRE-SALE/RENTAL INSPECTION TOTALS

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
427	458	414	360	306



The pre-sale/rental inspection program has been in place for 50+ years and is one of the primary methods by which Oakwood enforces the Property Maintenance Code. Given the average age of Oakwood homes, this program plays a very important role in maintaining the community and our home values.

Oakwood is recognized as a community that takes a proactive approach to exterior property maintenance. What are my responsibilities as a property owner in maintaining my property?



The Property Maintenance Code is designed to protect property values by encouraging property owners to maintain all structures and property consistent with a first-class residential community. Specifically, property owners are required to keep all property and premises in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. All hard surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways, steps and patios must be kept in a proper state of repair, free of cracks and deterioration. All exterior walls and other hard surfaces shall be free from holes, breaks and peeling materials, and shall be painted or stained to prevent deterioration. Roofs shall be maintained so as to prevent leaking or damage to interior surfaces of the structure. Bushes, trees and flowers shall be properly maintained and trimmed and may not encroach into the right-of-way (sidewalks, alleys, or streets). Although the city monitors properties on a continuing basis and notifies property owners of existing violations, we encourage citizens to contact the city if they have concerns about a property or structure in their neighborhood. The city has a 24-member citizen Property Maintenance Board to assist in the enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code.

Does the City have a process in place to keep the grass and/or weeds cut on properties where the property owner fails to do so, or the property is vacant?



Yes. The city has an ordinance in place that defines weeds or grass taller than eight (8) inches in height as a public nuisance; the ordinance also includes other vegetation that is not managed or maintained. If violations exist, the city is required to place a placard on the front door or in the yard and provide the owner a

minimum of five (5) days to correct the violation. If the weeds, grass, and/or vegetation are not cut, city crews perform the work after normal work hours and the property owner is billed for the work. If the bill is not paid, the cost is certified to the county for placement on the property tax bill.

Why can't I put my yard debris in the street, other than leaves in the fall? Why does it have to be behind the curb?



Residents may place piles of yard debris – brush and branches – into the tree lawn area at their property frontage just behind the curb or edge of pavement for pickup by the city. Residents should not place yard debris in front of other properties, nor should they place yard debris in any roadway center medians. Any amount of debris in the street is an obstruction and disrupts the stormwater collection system by diverting water away from the intended storm drains. Debris in the street can be dangerous to vehicles and is hard to see at night. Debris in the street also interferes with on-street parking and is a danger to pedestrians, joggers, and bicyclists.

It is against the law to place yard debris in the street. The only exception is for leaves during the fall collection program. As of January 1, 2023, the city's code enforcement officer responds to yard debris piles placed in the gutter or street by leaving a door-hanger notice at the property affording two business days to remove the obstruction from the street. After two days, the city will remove the obstruction and will charge the property owner \$150.

Property owners who routinely use the city's monthly collection program and wish to construct a hard surface pad (e.g., concrete, brick, paver) for debris placement should contact the code enforcement officer at (937) 297-2920 or see the city website for permitting information.

In addition to the monthly pick-up, the city offers other options for disposing of yard debris, such as the 24/7 drop-off facility at the J.D. Foell Public Works Center. Also, residents are provided two free special pickups per year, which can be used for yard debris. Additionally, dumpsters are available to be delivered free of charge for large amounts of green waste. More information on these options is available by contacting the Public Works Center at (937) 298-0777.

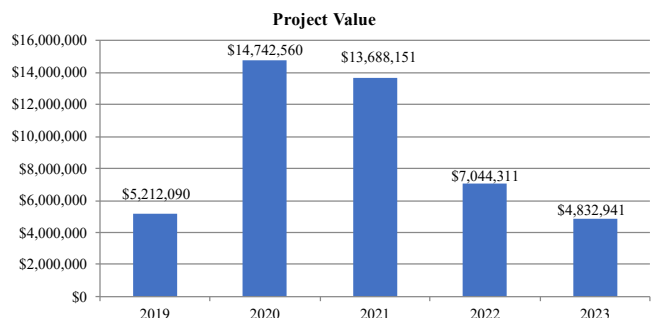
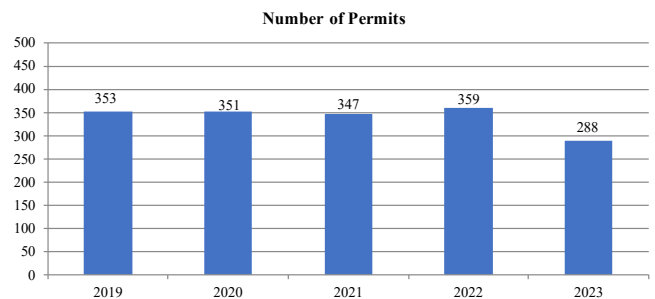
If I am considering a larger construction project such as a room addition, construction of a deck, or a new garage, what type of information does the city require to be submitted before a permit can be issued?

Besides detailed plans, a certified plot plan is required to determine if the proposed improvements meet the zoning setback requirements. If the proposed improvement meets all zoning requirements, the plans are released to the city of Kettering for issuance of the required permit(s). If a zoning variance is needed, the five (5) member Board of Zoning Appeals meets once a month (as needed) to act on variance requests. If the amount of impervious surface you are adding exceeds 625 square feet on a lot of less than 40,000 square feet, or 1,000 square feet for a lot that exceeds 40,000 square feet, a drainage study by a licensed engineer is also required. If your improvement project is time sensitive, we strongly recommend that you plan ahead, well in advance of when you hope to have the project completed. Our zoning staff will be happy to assist you with the application process.

What are the 2023 statistics for the types of Oakwood permits?

TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER OF PERMITS	ESTIMATED VALUE OF PERMITTED PROJECTS
Hard Surface Work on Private Property (Driveways, Patios, Walkways)	56	\$857,550
A/C Units/Heat Pumps	66	\$760,768
Fences/Retaining Walls	86	\$452,798
Accessory Structures (Garages, Storage Sheds, Decks, etc.)	25	\$156,887
New Home Construction	0	\$0
All Other	55	\$2,604,938
Total	288	\$4,832,941

How do these totals compare to numbers from the previous five years?



What are Oakwood's zoning and permit requirements for some of the most common home improvement projects?

	ZONING REVIEW	BZA OR PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING	PERMIT REQUIRED
Air Conditioning/Heat Pump Equipment	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Arbor or Trellis	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Water Backflow Device	No	No	Yes*
Deck	Yes	May be needed	Yes#
Dishwasher	No	No	Yes*
Driveway Apron Replacement	May be needed	No	Yes
Driveway Sealcoating	No	No	No
Driveway Resurfacing	Yes	No	Yes
Driveway Replacement	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Electrical Wiring (New, upgrade or renovation)	No	No	Yes*
Entrance Pillars	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Fence	Yes	No	Yes
Flag Pole	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Gazebo	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Garbage Disposal	No	No	Yes*
Garage	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Greenhouse	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Hot Tub	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Irrigation System	No	No	Yes*
Landscaping (Plant material only)	May be needed	No	No
New Construction (Room additions or new homes)	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Painting	No	No	No
Patio	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Play Structure (<12 feet in height)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Porch Enclosure	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Signs (All)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Roof Shingles	No	No	No (Yes if roof decking is being replaced.)*
Steps (New or Replacement)	Yes	No	Yes
Siding	No	No	No (Yes if the work requires removal of electric meter.)*
Sump Pump (No discharge onto public property)	No	No	Yes*
Sidewalks - Public	May be needed	No	Yes^
Storage Shed	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Swimming Pool	Yes	May be needed	Yes*
Walkways (Private)	Yes	May be needed	Yes
Water Heater	No	No	Yes*
Water Softener	No	No	Yes*
Window Replacement	No	No	No

* Although Oakwood provides any required zoning review, the permit authorizing commencement of the work is issued by the city of Kettering.

Kettering issues permits for decks exceeding 200 sf.

^ Right-of-Way permit should be obtained from the Public Works Department.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Oakwood Public Safety Department is one of only approximately 130 fully consolidated police and fire departments in the country. It is led by Chief Alan Hill. Chief Hill is assisted by Captain Kevin Pruszynski, Captain Mike Tanner and four Lieutenants. The department includes 22 Public Safety Officers.

All of Oakwood’s sworn officers are state certified in law enforcement, firefighting and emergency medical services. The underlying strength of the department is that any Oakwood officer responding to an incident is trained in all three disciplines and can take immediate action in providing public safety services.

Oakwood Public Safety Officers (PSOs) on police patrol are typically the first responders to fire and emergency medical calls. They usually arrive in less than two minutes and can quickly extinguish small fires even before the fire apparatus and other firefighters arrive. Likewise, PSOs on police shifts are trained and equipped to respond to life-threatening emergencies and take immediate action on any medical situation, even before the ambulance and paramedics arrive.

Oakwood’s Public Safety Department is the second oldest consolidated department in the United States. Formed in 1927, the concept has been very successful in providing our citizens one of the most secure and well-served cities in Ohio with an extremely quick and knowledgeable response to any emergency.

OAKWOOD CRIME DATA & TRENDS

How are our crime statistics reported?

Crime reporting is categorized into two areas: “Part I” and “Other Major.” These categories are defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a uniform consistency across the nation.

What constitutes a Part I Crime and what is the Uniform Crime Report?

Part I Crimes are part of the traditional Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) guidelines and are defined by the FBI as “Index Crimes.” These crimes include such things as Homicide, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Auto Theft. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, Congress tasked the FBI with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics. Today, the FBI produces several annual statistical publications, such as Comprehensive Crime in the United States, from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States, including the city of Oakwood.

HOW DO 2023 CRIME STATISTICS COMPARE TO 2022?

A breakdown of each category for 2022 and 2023 is as follows:

CRIME	OFFENSES	CLEARANCES	OFFENSES	CLEARANCES
PART I CRIMES	2022		2023	
Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0
Rape	1	1	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	7	3	0	0
Burglary	7	0	1	1
Larceny	107	37	82	72
Auto Thefts	20	4	16	11
PART 1 TOTALS	143	45	99	84
OTHER MAJOR CRIMES				
Arson	0	0	0	0
Forgery, Fraud, Counterfeiting	23	11	16	12
Morals	4	2	4	3
Vandalism	6	0	2	1
Narcotics	5	4	3	3
Carrying Concealed Weapon	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	9	9	3	2
OTHER CRIMES TOTALS	47	26	28	21
ALL MAJOR CRIMES TOTALS	190	71	127	105

Is identity theft a big problem?

Yes. Identity theft continues to be one of the largest crime categories in the United States. Identity theft can have devastating consequences for the victim, who may face long hours in closing bad accounts, opening new ones, and repairing damaged credit records. While many incidents of identity theft are not preventable as they involve large data breaches by businesses and organizations holding personal data and credit information, there are some cases where one’s information may be safeguarded here at home. To help protect against identity theft:

- Lock your financial documents and records in a safe place at home and lock your wallet or purse in a safe place at work. Keep your information secure from workers and contractors.
- Before you share information at your workplace, a business, your child’s school, or a doctor’s office, ask why they need it, how they will safeguard it, and the consequences of not sharing it.
- Avoid posting personally identifiable information on social media and other easily accessible sites (e.g. do not put full dates of birth in your Facebook profile.)
- Destroy receipts, credit offers, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks, bank statements, expired credit cards, and similar documents when no longer needed using a micro-cutter shredder.
- Take outgoing mail to the post office and place mail in the drop off stations inside the post office. Promptly remove mail that arrives in your mailbox. If you won’t be home for several days, request a vacation hold on your mail.
- If you are a victim, or suspect you are a victim of identity theft, contact the Oakwood Safety Department as soon as possible to make a police report.

Electric Scooters on Public Streets and Sidewalks

The Oakwood Public Safety Department reminds residents of the rules for safe operation of electric scooters on public streets and sidewalks. They are legal on both streets and sidewalks, but different rules apply.

When used on sidewalks, electric scooters are subject to the same requirements that apply to bicycles. This means that scooter operators must always yield the right of way to pedestrians on foot. Reckless operation – which includes erratic riding, hand-held cell phone use or other distracted riding, unsafe speeds, or other careless behavior – is prohibited. When crossing a street, riders should cross with the appropriate light or walk/don’t walk signal if one is present. Otherwise, they have the right of way as long as they are in a crosswalk and exercise due caution not to enter the street in front of oncoming traffic.

When used in the streets, the law treats electric scooters the same as a jogger or pedestrian using the street. This means users must ride on the left side of the road to ensure that they can see oncoming vehicular traffic. In addition, while scooters are permitted on most residential streets, they are prohibited on busier thoroughfares including Far Hills Avenue, Shroyer Road, Patterson Road, West Schantz Avenue, and Oakwood Avenue (between Far Hills and Irving Avenues.)

Prescription Drug Drop-off Box

A locked prescription drug drop-off box is available in the lobby entrance to the city building located at 30 Park Avenue. This drop box offers a way for residents to conveniently dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs and is accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The items that are accepted for safe disposal include prescription medications, medication patches, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, medication samples, and medications for pets. Items that cannot be accepted include liquids of any kind, gels, ointments, needles, inhalers, aerosol cans, and medications from businesses or

clinics. This program is not designed for commercial use. Businesses should dispose of medications according to state and federal guidelines. All items collected from the drop box are processed for destruction according to state and federal law

Who investigates serious crimes that occur in Oakwood and what can citizens do to avoid becoming a victim?

Our Oakwood Public Safety Department differentiates itself from most police departments in that we investigate every reported crime in Oakwood. Serious crimes are investigated by our criminal investigations section and minor crimes are investigated by our crew PSOs. Oakwood has one experienced investigator assigned to handle the larger and more complex cases. Additional safety officers periodically assist the primary investigator in the handling of criminal investigations. Fortunately, Oakwood has very few violent crimes. Most of our Part I Crimes are property crimes, which include thefts from vehicles.

Law Enforcement alone cannot prevent or solve crimes after they occur. To help citizens avoid becoming victims, the department needs every resident to be vigilant and report suspicious persons, activity and circumstances. Whenever in doubt, call the Safety Department. We encourage citizens to get to know their neighbors and look out for their neighborhood. Watch your neighbor’s property when they are away on business or vacation. Use lights inside and outside of your home and consider removing large bushes and shrubs from your exterior that may conceal would-be thieves. If you have an alarm system and/or security cameras, use them, and register them with the Safety Department. Always remove valuables from your vehicles, park in well-lit areas if possible and always lock your car doors

How many investigated crimes are solved?

As shown in the table below, the department “cleared” an average of approximately 45% of all larcenies that were reported from 2019 through 2023. Oakwood Public Safety Department investigators are more successful than the national average, where only approximately 22% of larcenies are cleared.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Larcenies	59	91	81	127	98
Clearances	19	48	16	41	83
Percent Cleared	32.2%	52.7%	19.8%	32.3%	84.7%

Under FBI reporting guidelines, “Clearance” means that the case is no longer under investigation because: 1) an arrest has been made; 2) the case is exceptionally cleared; or 3) the case was unfounded. Clearance of a crime for reporting purposes does not necessarily mean that an arrest was made or a suspect was identified. In certain situations, elements beyond law enforcement’s control prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. When this occurs, the agency can clear the offense “exceptionally.”

Larcenies, especially thefts from vehicles and bicycle thefts, can be difficult to clear. Residents can prevent many of the larcenies in our community by doing the following:

- Locking garages.
- Locking vehicles and removing items of value from vehicles.
- Obtaining bike licenses from the Safety Department and securing bicycles in garages.
- Immediately reporting any suspicious activity to the Safety Department.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Patrol visibility and traffic enforcement play a key role in reducing crime, vehicle accidents, OVI, and traffic offenses that often directly or indirectly contribute to vehicle accidents. Studies have shown that active visible patrol is an effective deterrent to many of these problems.

Our overall goal is simple: keep our community safe for residents, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, and maintain a reputation that Oakwood is a community where traffic laws are enforced and a place where those with criminal intentions should avoid.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS					
YEAR	OVI	ACCIDENTS	INJURIES	DEATHS	CITATIONS
2019	13	124	12	1	2667
2020	7	98	10	0	1554
2021	14	151	9	0	1933
2022	11	121	23	0	1853
2023	16	130	21	0	1916

In 2024, traffic enforcement will remain a cornerstone of the Safety Department’s policing philosophy. Daily goals and objectives of the Safety Department for uniform patrol and traffic enforcement include:

- Actively conduct traffic enforcement on a daily basis.
- Strictly enforce Oakwood parking regulations.
- Be highly visible to the public.
- Reduce the number of traffic crashes caused by moving violations.

- Focus on school zone enforcement during months when schools are in session.
- Conduct proactive radar enforcement at selected locations.
- Monitor intersections where accidents and signal violations frequently occur.
- Promptly address citizen complaints and concerns regarding traffic laws and violations.

Last year, what were the causes of our vehicle accidents?

CAUSES	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS
Assured Clear Distance	23
Failure to Yield	31
Improper Backing	6
Failure to Control	20
Inattention	10
Improper Turn	1
Disobey Traffic Device	6
OVI	0
Snow/Ice	0
Hit & Run	33
TOTAL	130



What do Public Safety Officers do while assigned to patrol duty?

In addition to traffic enforcement, officers also perform vacant house checks, after hours checks on businesses, conduct OVI patrols, respond to citizen calls, perform foot patrols in parks and business areas, conduct crime prevention activities, visit block parties, investigate suspicious individuals and vehicles, make contact with citizens, conduct follow-up investigations on previous complaints, respond to fire and EMS calls for service, direct traffic and monitor school areas.

FIRE

Oakwood citizens and businesses benefit greatly from the fast fire response time - an important advantage of a consolidated Public Safety Department. What is our response time to fire scenes as compared to the ideal national standard of six minutes?

RESPONSE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	National Standard
Average engine response time to scene (min.)	5.07	4.49	4.40	4.20	4.50	6 mins.
Average cruiser response time to scene (min.)	2.25	2.60	2.35	2.25	2.00	None

The department continues to maintain an exceptional response time that is well below the national average for the first responding apparatus. The first arriving Public Safety Officer conducts an emergency assessment and requests additional resources when necessary. Small fires can at times be contained by the first arriving officer. Over the past several years, the department has taken an aggressive approach to fire training and developed a standardized fire training manual. Practical application of basic skills and tactics, combined with improved incident management training, allow us to continually improve our overall fire response capabilities.

What has been Oakwood's fire loss record in recent years?

YEAR	ALARMS RECEIVED	FALSE ALARMS	NO DAMAGE	DAMAGE INVOLVED	TOTAL FIRE LOSS
2019	103	32	71	0	\$0
2020	111	38	68	5	\$495,000
2021	98	34	63	1	\$3,500
2022	79	34	43	2	\$112,000
2023	89	42	44	3	\$302,000

Does Oakwood have mutual aid agreements with neighboring cities?

Yes, and these agreements are very important to Oakwood. Whenever we have a large emergency, we can count on assistance from our neighboring police and fire departments. Likewise, we provide assistance to them when the need arises and when we have the available resources.

What is the primary cause of fires in Oakwood and what steps should citizens take to make their homes less likely to experience a devastating fire?

The primary cause of fires in Oakwood is typically electrical or human factors, such as unattended cooking or combustibles left too close to an ignition source. We recommend that every home have working smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors. At least one per floor and in each bedroom. Fire alarm systems are also helpful. Have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher near your kitchen and in other locations if possible. If you burn a wood fireplace, have it inspected regularly for creosote build-up. Many older homes experience a breakdown in the chimney liners that can lead to fires. A chimney inspection and cleaning can prevent this from occurring. Never use portable heaters in close proximity to combustible materials. Never discard fireplace ashes in anything but a metal container with a lid and place them outside away from structures. If smoking materials are used inside of a home, use proper containers and disposal methods. Never leave food unattended on a stove.

If a fire does occur, immediately call 911 and get everyone out and away from the structure. Give the dispatcher as much information as possible about the location of the fire and anyone who is unable to exit on their own. Once out, account for everyone and never go back inside. If pets are inside, tell the firefighters upon their arrival. Firefighters are trained and equipped to enter your home for the purposes of rescue if conditions permit.

RESCUE

How many medic runs did Oakwood officers complete over the past five years? Of those runs, what happened to the patient?

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Medic Runs	535	363	418	467	438

ACTION TAKEN	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Removed by medic vehicle	418	300	310	375	342
Removed by police cruiser	0	0	0	0	0
Mutual aid provided *	70	12	50	41	33
No removal**	42	46	56	48	60
Dead on Arrival	5	5	2	3	3

* "Mutual aid provided" means that the Oakwood Medic responded to a call for medical assistance in another jurisdiction. This is typically to either Dayton or Kettering.

** These are patients who were not transported to the hospital. They either received treatment onsite, or refused treatment and transport.

How many times did another fire/EMS department respond to medic calls in Oakwood?

ACTION TAKEN	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Remove by mutual aid*	0	0	0	1	1

* "Removed by mutual aid" means we were assisted by medics from another jurisdiction – Kettering is the predominant provider.

We continue to provide our emergency medical technicians and paramedics with comprehensive training opportunities to meet the growing challenges and demands of providing exceptional advanced emergency care to our community. To monitor our service delivery, we have a Quality Assurance Committee that is made up of paramedics, command staff and our physician medical advisors. The Quality Assurance Committee reviews medic run reports to assure personnel follow established regional care and treatment protocols. We continually evaluate our training and equipment, and new technology available in the emergency care field.

How quickly do safety officers respond to calls for medical emergencies as compared to the ideal national standard of 4 to 6 minutes for the first unit and 12 minutes for a medic?

MEDIC RESCUE TIMES	NATIONAL STANDARD	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
First unit on scene	4-6 minutes	1.75	1.85	1.85	1.75	2.00
Medic response time	12 minutes	3.90	3.00	3.25	3.50	4.75
Average on-scene time (medic)	-	10.30	11.90	12.00	11.75	12.25
Average run time	-	41.00	37.75	38.50	37.50	36.00

All times listed in minutes

TRAINING

How many hours of training are accomplished annually for the department to maintain current certifications for Public Safety Officers?

TRAINING	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Police	2913	2296	2289	1776	1756
Fire	776	609	522	784	902
Rescue	696	640	455	841	812
Communications/General	57	71	80	125	50
TOTALS	4442	3616	3346	3526	3520

Continuing education and training is not only a requirement to maintain state certifications, but crucial for organizational development and success. Well-trained employees provide superior service and are more efficient and productive. To meet requirements established by the State of Ohio, each officer must complete a minimum of approximately 24 hours annually in police, fire, and EMS in-service education.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITING

Oakwood has a city ordinance addressing Peddlers and Solicitors. Among other things, the ordinance establishes time controls on door-to-door activity and provides residential property owners with a means to prohibit certain types of door-to-door solicitation and canvassing. This can be accomplished by residents requesting that their property be included on the city’s “Do Not Solicit” list. To be added to the list, simply fill out and submit the form accessible from the city website at <https://oakwoodohio.gov/door-to-door-solicitation/>. There are nearly 1,600 Oakwood properties on this list, which is available on the city website and at the city building.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

In 2023, the Oakwood Public Safety Department hosted its sixth Citizen Police Academy (CPA). The CPA consists of a ten-week curriculum educating the participants on the functions of the Oakwood Public Safety Department. Classes meet one night per week for approximately two hours at the City Building, 30 Park Avenue.

Representatives from the Safety Department instruct a different subject each week with the goal of creating greater understanding of modern policing and its challenges. Topics covered during the academy include Safety Department Orientation, Patrol Operations, Traffic Enforcement, Use of Force, Evidence Collection, and Fire Prevention/Education.

The CPA creates a unique opportunity for citizens to better understand the job of a Public Safety Officer and also serves as a way for Safety Department personnel to hear the needs and expectations of the community. The CPA is free of charge, and class size is limited to 12 students. Applicants must be Oakwood residents or employed in the city of Oakwood and must be at least 21 years of age. The 2024 CPA is scheduled to start September 11, 2024, and applications will be accepted beginning in early summer.

ACORN PROGRAM – ASSISTING AND CONTRIBUTING TO OAKWOOD RESIDENT NEEDS

The Oakwood Public Safety Department offers the Assisting and Contributing to Oakwood Resident Needs (ACORN) Program. The goal of the ACORN Program is to provide peace of mind through proactive community outreach, implementing safety plans, and advocating for the well-being of Oakwood’s senior and at-risk population. Additionally, the program is designed to assist residents in times of emergency and connect participants to existing services when needed.

Program benefits include:

- Periodic wellness visits from the Safety Department.
- Procedures for Oakwood Public Safety Officers to have secure access to your home in the event of an emergency.
- Preparation of medical information and emergency contact forms.
- Partnership with Wright Memorial Library Book Delivery Program.

The ACORN Program is free of charge and is intended for Oakwood residents who are 65 or older, living alone, and have limited contact with caregivers or family members. To enroll, contact the Safety Department at (937) 298-2122 and arrange for a home visit. Additional information, including the ACORN Enrollment Form, is available on the city website at www.oakwoodohio.gov/acorn-program.

BODY AND IN-CAR CAMERAS

The Safety Department utilizes in-car camera systems with fully integrated body cameras. Each Public Safety Officer is issued their own body camera, and each marked patrol vehicle is equipped with a forward and rear facing camera system. The use of camera technology is an important component of modern policing and provides real-time documented recordings of encounters and interactions between Oakwood Public Safety Officers and all people that we serve.

GOOD CHOICE TICKET PROGRAM

This program is designed to recognize Oakwood’s youth for making good choices such as: using a crosswalk, wearing a bicycle helmet, or looking both ways before crossing the street. The program has been very well received by the community and will take place again during the summer months of 2024.

LEISURE SERVICES

The mission of the Department of Leisure Services is to enhance the quality of life of Oakwood residents by offering a variety of activities that encourage overall wellness, cultural enrichment and fellowship with neighbors. Its purpose also includes building upon the natural beauty of the city through the improvement, care and maintenance of parks, public gardens, boulevards and rights-of-way.

The department is managed by Carol Collins who supervises a full-time staff of six and provides oversight to dozens of program leaders, volunteers, seasonal and part-time employees.

When the Department of Leisure Services was created in 1987, its goal was to make each recreation program as self-sustaining as possible. What are the primary program areas for which fees are received?

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pool Membership	147,438	73,591	126,149	166,192	\$194,647
OCC/Health Center Membership Dues	67,852	35,273	52,158	50,181	57,465
Hollinger Tennis Center Membership	29,140	26,825	25,529	25,402	22,412
Sports Activities Fees	30,662	11,871	28,212	41,690	41,870
Pool Concessions	17,692	13,961	17,644	18,148	19,812
Dance Classes and Lessons	24,946	14,743	42,899	29,360	33,404
Old River Rentals	19,780	29,600	29,680	28,960	29,440
Smith Gardens	23,435	20,925	28,637	27,750	29,360
Exercise, Fitness Programs	20,502	15,763	39,488	40,762	40,699
Swim Lessons, Pool Passes	29,813	2,675	25,778	32,475	36,789
Other Misc. Programs	87,887	103,181	52,586	78,615	80,034
TOTAL	\$499,147	\$348,408	\$468,760	\$539,535	\$585,932

To what extent does the General Fund subsidize Leisure Services Programs and how often do we raise our user fees?

The amount of Oakwood tax dollars used in 2023 to help pay for Leisure Services programs was about \$512,200. We evaluate our fees annually and typically raise them every two or three years.



What are the major special community events and activities that are coordinated by the Department of Leisure Services?

2023 was a year of returning to normal. We were able to have many of our annual community events and fun was had by all!

- Trivia Tournament
- Friday Night Fun
- Gingerbread House Decorating
- Community Food Drive
- New Resident Breakfast
- Ice Cream Social
- Spinning Classes
- Over 50 Fitness Classes
- Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Project
- Friends of Smith Gardens Poinsettia Sale
- Friends of Smith Gardens Perennial Sale
- Family Fall Festival
- Holiday Scavenger Hunt
- Spring Senior Luncheon
- Many camps throughout the summer
- Tennis Lessons
- Smith Garden Blanket Concert Series
- Treasure Hunt
- Pumpkin Carving
- Scarecrow Row
- Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Dances
- Holiday Senior Luncheon
- Candy Cane Hunt
- Breakfast with Santa
- Letters from Santa
- Lighting up Oakwood
- Holiday of Lights
- Holiday Decorating Event
- Pro-Am Art & Photography Expo
- Online Cooking Classes
- Community Book Swap
- Houk Stream Scavenger Hunt
- Swim Lessons
- Homecoming Hot Dog Supper in the Park
- Arbor Day Celebration

The Department of Leisure Services also has responsibility for maintenance of the City’s natural areas and boulevards. What is the value of publicly owned trees and what are the annual expenses to maintain and replace them?

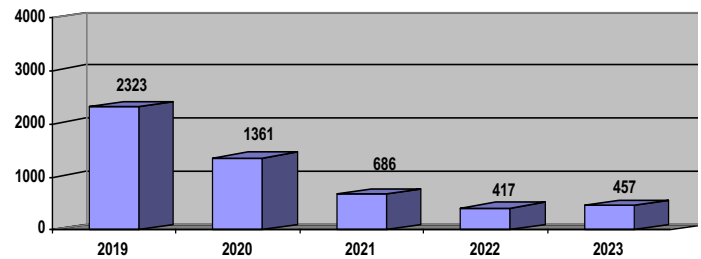
TOTAL VALUE OF STREET AND PARK TREES	\$18,737,225
Average street tree value	\$ 2,351/tree
Average park tree value	\$ 2,005/tree
2023 EXPENSES:	
Tree Removal and Pruning	\$92,965
Stump Removal	\$17,895
Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting Project (city portion)	\$9,029
Community Tree Planting	\$6,464
Emerald Ash Borer Treatment	\$32,005
TOTAL	\$158,358



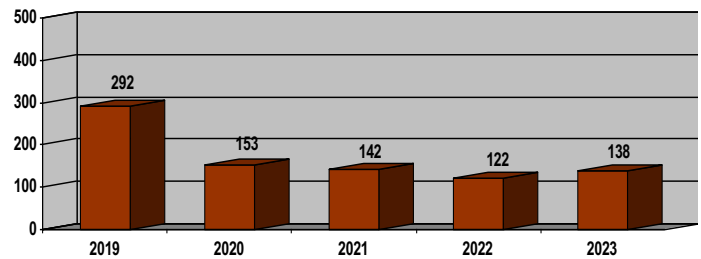
Annual members are an important indicator of citizen interest in Leisure Services offerings. How many Oakwood Community Center, Health Center and Pool memberships did we have during 2023 and how does this compare to previous years?

Note: We have approximately 9,500 citizens living in Oakwood.

OCC MEMBERSHIPS – 457

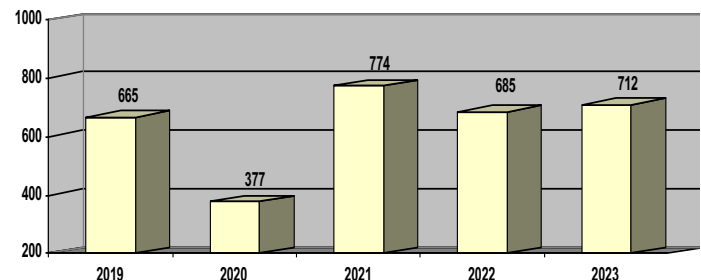


HEALTH CENTER MEMBERSHIPS – 138



Note: There were 7,040 visits to the Health Center in 2023.

POOL MEMBERSHIPS – 712



What are the benefits of purchasing an OCC Membership?

By becoming a member, you are entitled to discounts on memberships to the Health Center, Gardner Pool and Hollinger Tennis Center. It also entitles you to the lowest possible rate offered on all of the classes, sports programs and OCC sponsored events. If you plan on taking classes, enrolling in programs or participating in events, your membership will pay for itself in a short period of time. An OCC Membership is valid one year from date of purchase.

How many people swim at Gardner Pool every season and how many employees does it take to run the pool?

In 2023, there were 20,441 visits to the pool, which is an increase from 19,291 in 2022. The pool also offers water aerobics, deep-water workouts for adults with 47 participants throughout the summer as well as swim lessons for the younger children. Staff includes a Pool Manager, Assistant Manager, Head Lifeguard, nine full-time guards, six substitute guards, six full-time concession workers and four substitutes.

I heard that the City sometimes allows dogs to swim at Gardner Pool. Is this true?

Yes, it's true... but only once a year. Usually the first Sunday after the pool closes we conduct the Dog Splash. We had 33 dogs participate in 2023 for this fun family activity!



Old River Sports Complex is located off of Far Hills Avenue at 1421 Old River Dr. What kinds of activities were held during the year?

Old River Sports Complex is open 7 days a week, year-round, for a variety of sport and community activities.

The Department of Leisure Services utilizes the complex for recreational sports and special events. This past year we were able to offer our spring and fall COED and Little Kickers soccer programs. The city also sponsored several summer recreational events including Skyhawks Sports Academy camps that included multi sports camp (baseball, flag football, and soccer), Mini-Hawk sports camp (soccer, flag football, and baseball), Skyhawks Beginning Golf, and Skyhawks Flag Football. We held other camps throughout the summer including Ultimate Frisbee Camp, Girls Field Hockey Camp and a few "field days" for our weekly camps. We look forward to continuing these programs as well as adding others in 2024.

Lane Stadium is located at the Old River Sports Complex and is used by the Oakwood City Schools for a variety of sporting events.

Oakwood City Schools use the grass fields periodically at Old River Sports Complex throughout the spring and fall seasons for Junior/Senior High soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey practices.

Under agreement with the city, the Old River Sports Complex is the home of Oakwood United Soccer Club. Additionally, the facility is rented to non-city or non-school organizations. We had multiple organizations rent out the facility in 2023 including Dayton Amateur Soccer League and Coerver Ohio Soccer



How many years has the city of Oakwood been a Tree City USA and what is the significance of this program?

The city of Oakwood has been a Tree City USA for 42 consecutive years and was the second community in the Miami Valley to receive this designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Oakwood meets four major criteria each year to qualify for this national designation.

- A city department designated and responsible for tree maintenance.
- The city's forestry program must have an annual budget of \$2 per capita.
- The city must have in place a tree ordinance.
- The city must sponsor an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

How many trees have been planted through the Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting program?

In 45 consecutive years, a total of 3,323 trees have been planted through this project at a total cost of \$482,416. The program is offered each year and includes a 50% discount to homeowners for trees that are planted in the rights-of-way. In 2023, the homeowner's cost was between \$210 and \$250 for a 2" diameter tree. A total of 64 trees were planted through the 2023 Johnny Appleseed Street Tree Planting program.

I heard about the Family Fall Festival and Scarecrow Row. What is it all about?

The Oakwood Family Fall Festival began in 2006 and has continued every year since then. It is a wonderful community event held in Shafor Park. The festival is held in the middle of October each year and includes a variety of old-fashioned activities and games for the whole family... and a scarecrow building contest. In 2023, we had 25 Oakwood citizen and business groups build scarecrows along Shafor Boulevard.



Are there rooms available to rent at the OCC for meetings or parties?

Yes, there are three rooms available to rent: The Great Room is perfect for a reunion, reception or large party; the Teen Center is just the right size for a birthday party or meeting; and the Large Classroom can accommodate 10-15 people comfortably for a meeting or presentation. For information on room rentals, please contact the OCC at (937) 298-0775.

What is the latest update on the Emerald Ash Borer insect?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has destroyed millions of ash trees throughout the upper Midwest. The city’s tree inventory identifies the ash trees in the city rights-of-way, parks and natural areas. They continue to be monitored and inspected by city staff and the city’s tree contractor. In 2023, we again treated a large number of our trees as a deterrent against EAB. To date, the only EAB activity or evidence of the insect in Oakwood has been on trees that were not treated. We have removed some ash trees in the city over the last few years, but that was done because of other insect activity or disease, or for other reasons.

How long has the City owned and maintained Smith Gardens?

In 1974, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton W. Smith donated the gardens, along with the house at 20 Walnut Lane, to the city of Oakwood. Under terms of the gift, the city sold the house and established an endowment fund to help pay costs to maintain the gardens.

How can you support Smith Gardens?

In 1981 the Friends of Smith Gardens was founded by a group of Oakwood citizens which has provided community-wide financial support. Revenue from this annual membership drive is the largest source of income and is extremely important to the vitality of this community treasure. All funds go directly to the care and maintenance of the gardens. Your membership is tax deductible and is greatly appreciated.

What is the Legacy Brick Paver Project at Smith Gardens?

This is a great opportunity to leave a lasting legacy and be an integral part of this lovely garden. Individual brick pavers can be purchased in honor of, in memory of, in recognition of a friend or family member or to celebrate an anniversary or special occasion. Pavers can be placed on the patio by the garden house or at the entrance to the gardens off of Oakwood Avenue. Please contact the OCC at (937) 298-0775 for further information.

Does the OCC have an online registration system?

The Oakwood Community Center launched an online registration program called MyRec (www.OakwoodLeisureServices.com) in November 2020. This website allows residents to set up their own household profiles, register and pay for classes, renew memberships, track their activities, search online through all of the current offerings and much more. Members who purchase a Health Center Membership or Pool Membership are required to submit

an individual photo for each family member to the OCC. The front office staff will upload photos in the membership profile and assign an official OCC key tag to each family member. These key tags will be their permanent tags. This will eliminate the need to reprint passes every year. As always, the front office staff is very willing to help, if needed. If you have any questions while setting up your profile, please call the OCC at (937) 298-0775 or email occ@oakwoodohio.gov

What is the construction work going on at Gardner Pool?

During the winter months of 2024 we completed an install of a pool liner at Gardner Pool which cost approximately \$110,000. This project will provide cost savings in several different ways for the pool over the coming years. It will prevent any leaking of the pool shell which will save on expenses of lost water and extra chemicals. It will also eliminate the need to paint every 4-5 years. The liner is projected to last at least 10 years but most liners last closer to 20 years plus. Other benefits include no paint chipping or wear spots in the shell of the pool. The liner is a light blue and will enhance the look of the pool water. After completing the new deck around the pool in 2023, and installing the liner, we feel this will really enhance the experience for our Gardner Pool members.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Customer Service:** Information about the OCC’s activities and program is available online at www.OakwoodLeisureServices.com. Residents and patrons are able to access our program and events schedule as well as office hours, and register for events, classes and memberships right online.
- **Annual Tree Pruning Program:** Oakwood takes great pride in its beautiful tree-lined streets. Many of the trees in the tree lawn areas need to be trimmed to remove dead wood and to meet required code height limits. The city uses Public Works employees and American Forestry Service to provide this tree trimming service. Letters of notification are delivered to each household prior to trimming.
- **Email Distribution List:** We know how busy everyone is these days, so the OCC tries its best to keep you in the loop! Sign up today and receive email reminders for our programs and community events. Never miss another deadline! Email the OCC at occ@oakwoodohio.gov to have your email added to our list.

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

Doug Spittler, P.E. directly oversees the Public Works Department and Chris Kuzma, P.E. serves as the City Engineer. The department includes a refuse foreman, roadway foreman, water production superintendent/water & sewer foreman, assistant water plant superintendent, engineering technician/foreman, department administrative assistant, and 24 public works employees.

ENGINEERING

The city provides quality professional engineering services in managing, operating and improving Oakwood's infrastructure. This includes developing short-term and long-range capital improvement plans and implementing an annual capital improvement program. Services include project budgeting, design, preparation of construction plans and contract documents, and construction engineering and inspection.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is divided into three general areas.

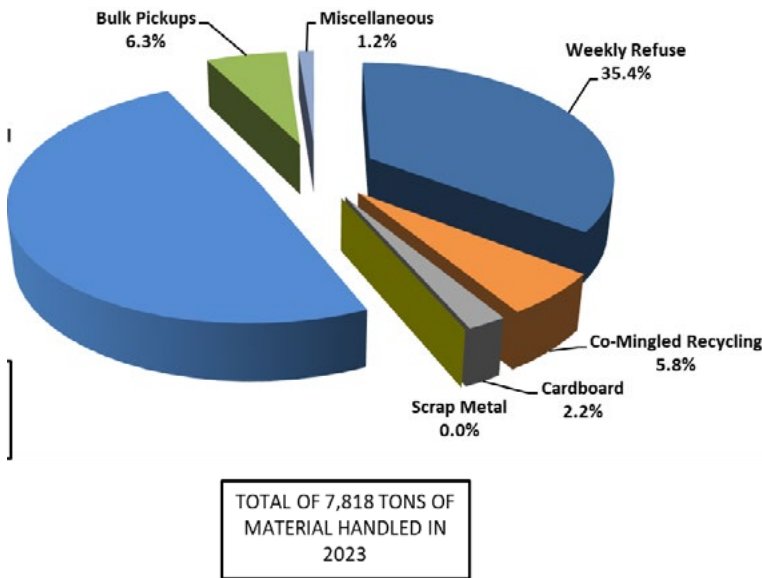
- **Refuse Program** – Includes weekly household waste collection and disposal, a comprehensive recycling program, a special pickup program, year-round yard debris pickup, a dumpster program, and opportunities for Oakwood residents to self-dump cardboard, green waste and recyclables. It also includes fall leaf pickup and a spring mulch delivery program.
- **Roadway Maintenance** – Includes routine repair of asphalt and concrete streets and alleys, maintenance of sidewalks and other structures within the public rights-of-way, snow and ice removal, and maintenance of the city's traffic control systems including traffic signals and street signs.
- **Utilities** – The City operates the following three utilities:
 - **Water**: Our Oakwood public water system includes water production and treatment facilities, underground water distribution pipes, fire hydrants and water service lines.
 - **Sanitary Sewers**: We maintain our own sanitary sewer lines and contract with the city of Dayton and Montgomery County for wastewater treatment.
 - **Stormwater Management**: Our Oakwood stormwater management program includes maintaining the underground storm sewer pipes, roadway gutters, stormwater inlets, and open ditches, creeks and streams.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Our monthly residential refuse fee is \$30 per residential unit. The comprehensive Oakwood refuse program is funded entirely by fees and is not subsidized by our General Fund. Roughly 20-25% of our monthly refuse fees pay for yard debris and leaf (green waste) collection and disposal. The balance pays for disposal of household trash, bulk items and our recycling program. Details about the program are posted on the city website.

- **Yard Waste** – We collect yard waste on a monthly schedule from January through September, and on a bi-weekly schedule from October through December. To keep our community from looking cluttered, it is important that citizens note the week in which yard waste within their neighborhood is collected and that debris is moved out near the street just a day or two in advance. The schedule is published in the bi-monthly Oakwood Scene newsletter and is readily available from the home page of our city website at www.oakwoodohio.gov (Note: When significant storms pass through, we will conduct additional city-wide green waste pickups as needed.)
- **Monthly Debris Drop-Off** – On the first Saturday of each month, our Foell Public Works Center at 210 Shafor Boulevard is open from 8 a.m. to noon. Residents may drop off yard waste, special pickup type items and co-mingled recyclables.
- **Self-Service Debris Drop-Off** – The Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility located at the Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Boulevard is for residents to dispose of cardboard, co-mingled recyclables, and yard debris. The facility is available 24/7/365 and is located in a well-lit area with video surveillance.
- **Roll Waste Containers** – About 500 Oakwood properties that abut public alleys use 96-gallon roll waste containers for their regular weekly household trash. These property owners are limited to that single roll waste container for normal landfill garbage. The single roll waste container limit may be waived from time to time to accommodate extra debris from large parties, special events, etc. Recyclables continue to be placed in 35-gallon or less containers for which there is no limit. The purpose in using the large roll waste containers in alleys is two-fold: 1) it results in a more efficient and cost-effective collection operation; and 2) it helps in reducing the amount of scattered debris in our alleys.
- **Three Can Limit for Regular Trash** – There is a three can limit (35-gallon or less) for regular weekly household trash. This applies to all residential properties except those on alleys that use the single roll waste container. As with the properties on alleys, there is no limit on the number of containers for co-mingled recyclables. The purpose of the limits on regular household trash containers is to encourage maximum recycling. The three can limit may be waived from time to time to accommodate extra debris from large parties, special events, etc.
- **Special Pickups** – All Oakwood property owners are provided two special pickups per calendar year at no cost. Additional pickups are charged at \$115 each. Special pickups are for large items only (e.g., furniture, appliances, etc.) and can be scheduled by calling (937) 298-0777. If you are a tenant, you must coordinate your special pickups with the property owner. All items must be placed in an open area where the city bucket loader can safely access them, such as driveways away from structures and fences. In 2023, our Public Works Department completed 815 special pickups.

Refuse collection is one of the primary duties of the Public Works Department. What was the mix of our solid waste stream in 2023?



Each week refuse, recycling and bulk pickup crews make over 3,200 residential collections, which equals over 166,000 individual pickups for the year.

On occasion (less than 1% of the time), we miss a pickup. If this happens, please call (937) 298-0777 and we will return as soon as possible. In 2023, we had 479 cases of inaccessible trash. These are times when our refuse crews could not make pickups due to locked garages, cars in the driveway, locked driveway gates, loose dogs, etc.

Do most Oakwood residents participate in our recycling program?

Yes. Oakwood collects recyclables using scooters with divided dump beds – one side for regular trash and the other side for recyclables. Plastics, glass, paper, metal cans, and cardboard as described below are to be co-mingled in one or more containers marked as recyclables. All items should be clean and free of food and grease. Please make sure that co-mingled recyclable products are placed loosely in the properly marked container. The items should not be placed in plastic bags. Free “Recyclables” stickers to mark containers are available at City Hall or at the Foell Public Works Center. It is increasingly important that our co-mingled recycling stream contains only recyclable materials. In years past, the guidance was “when in doubt, throw it in the recycling container.” The guidance is now “learn what is recyclable and what is not, but when in doubt, throw it in the regular trash.” The success of recycling and the recycling markets is largely dependent on the quality of the recycling stream. We encourage all Oakwood residents to maximize recycling.



- **ACCEPTABLE DISPOSABLE CUPS:** Disposable cups made of paper, plastic and aluminum.
- **UNACCEPTABLE DISPOSABLE CUP ITEMS:** Do NOT include straws; Solo cups (or cups made from polystyrene #6 plastic); Styrofoam; or K-cups.
- **ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS:** Small containers and bottles that have a small mouth and a wider base, such as plastic milk containers, soft drink bottles, jugs, detergent, tubs (butter, sour cream, cottage cheese tubs as well as yogurt and fruit cups) & water bottles and shampoo containers. Empty, rinse and crush.
- **UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC ITEMS:** Plastic items without a bottle neck, trays, plastic cutlery, clamshell plastic containers, plastic bags, straws, toothbrushes, coffee cup lids, plastic toys & bikes, plastic buckets and plastic wrap. Also, foam and polystyrene are presently not recyclable and should be placed in with the regular trash. Please place loose foam packing material in bags before placing it in with your regular trash so that it does not fly out of our refuse scooters and then blow around your neighborhood.
- **ACCEPTABLE GLASS BOTTLES & JARS:** All colors of glass bottles and jars. Lids and locking rings should be removed, if possible.
- **UNACCEPTABLE GLASS ITEMS:** Ceramic & porcelain, drinking glasses, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs and dishware.
- **ACCEPTABLE METAL BEVERAGE & FOOD CANS:** Aluminum, steel, bi-metal cans, and empty aerosol cans are recyclable. Lids and tips should be removed.
- **UNACCEPTABLE METAL ITEMS:** Needles, sharps & medical equipment, metal hangers, metal pots, pans & pipes and metal wire.
- **ACCEPTABLE NEWSPAPER & PAPER:** Newspapers may be co-mingled with all other recyclables. You may also include junk mail, glossy inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, copier paper and all other clean paper products.
- **UNACCEPTABLE PAPER ITEMS:** Paper plates, hardbound books, tissues, laminated paper, photos, photo paper or specially treated paper, toilet paper, paper towels or contaminated items.
- **ACCEPTABLE CARDBOARD & CARTONS:** Cereal, pasta, cookie and cracker boxes, food and beverage cartons, gift boxes, mailing tubes, corrugated cardboard, clean pizza boxes and brown paper bags may be co-mingled with all other recyclables. Please cut or break down boxes and remove plastic items that may be affixed to the cardboard.

PLEASE NOTE: Large quantities of cardboard items should be broken down and taken to the Recycling & Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility at the entrance of the Public Works Yard, 210 Shafor Boulevard. The recycling facility accommodates the 24/7/365 drop-off of green waste (yard debris), cardboard, and co-mingled recyclables such as glass, plastics and metal cans.

THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR CO-MINGLED RECYCLABLES		
Plastic bags	Hazardous or flammable material	Anything exposed to gas or oil
Pressurized tanks	Paint cans (spray & liquid)	Batteries
Clothing & sheets	Wood & yard waste	Car parts
Hoses & chains	Scrap metal	Styrofoam
Cassette & VHS tapes	Electronics	Coat hangers
Pots & pans	Straws	Solo cups

Please visit the following websites for more information on recycling:
www.mcswd.org (Montgomery County Solid Waste District)
www.rumpke.com/for-your-home/recycling/acceptable-items (Rumpke)

Another important task of the Public Works Department is to make sure Oakwood streets are free of ice and snow. One way to measure this effort, and the severity of our winters, is to track the tons of salt and overtime used in each calendar year. What does the data show?

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Tons of Salt	816	368	794	873	503
Overtime Hours	637	144	541	398	166

Part of the City’s snow removal operation includes plowing the sidewalks. How long has the City provided this service?

We started the sidewalk plowing service in 1966 and have been doing it ever since. We do not, however, apply deicing salt to sidewalks. The plowing is a unique service intended as a supplement to snow and ice removal performed by property owners. Under city ordinance, Oakwood residents are responsible for the safe condition of sidewalks on their property frontage.

Where does the City get its water?

Oakwood has eight water production wells and three water treatment plants. We produced 100% of our own water in 2023. The city continues to maintain backup connections to the city of Dayton and Montgomery County water systems. We operate the water system in compliance with all Ohio and United States EPA regulations. For details about the water system and water quality testing, please see the annual Water Production Report and the annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report on the city website. Our total city water use over the past five years was as follows:

WATER USE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
In million gallons	461	458	441	395	403

The total amount of water used each year is highly dependent on rainfall. When we have a hot and dry summer, our city-wide irrigation use is significant. In 2023, our annual average daily water use was 1.10 million gallons. Our highest daily water use was 1.782 million gallons on June 1st. Our single lowest daily water use was 0.535 million gallons on March 27th.

What is the value of the City’s “infrastructure”?

The public infrastructure is valued at over \$100 million and consists of:

- Eight water production wells and three water treatment plants.
- A 1.5-million-gallon water storage tower and a water distribution system including 44 miles of underground water main pipes and 352 fire hydrants.
- 39 miles of underground sanitary sewer pipes.
- 33 miles of underground storm sewer pipes.
- 51 lane miles of roadways and alleys.
- 53 miles of sidewalks.
- 17 signalized traffic intersections.

What major sidewalk and roadway infrastructure projects were completed in 2023 and what did they cost?

PROJECT	COST
Asphalt Pavement Resurfacing	\$505,141
Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Repair	\$258,454
Concrete Roadway Repair	\$90,120

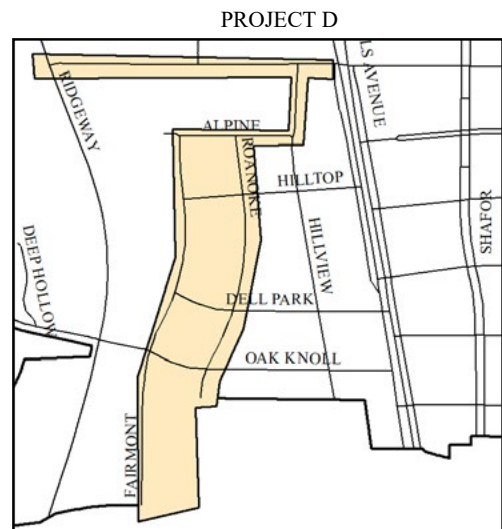
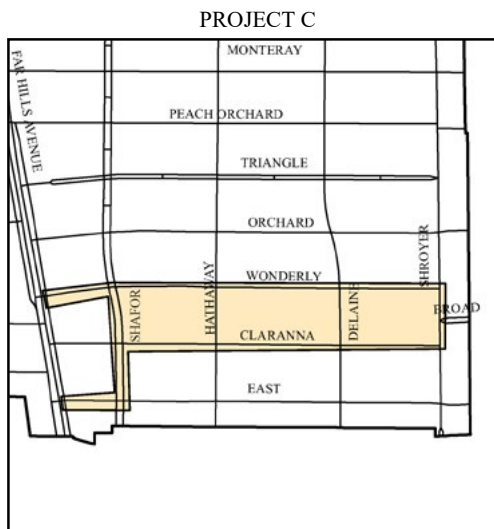
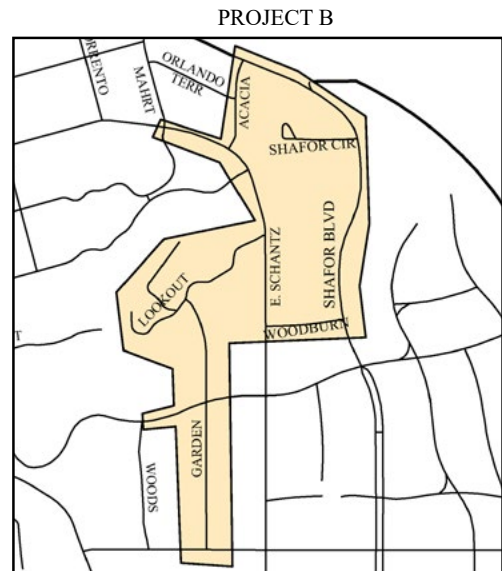
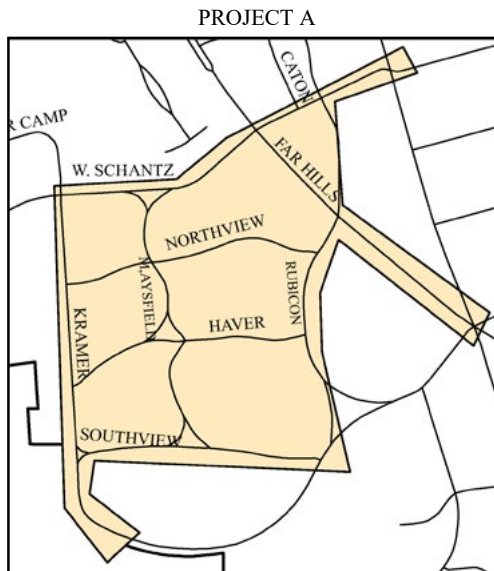
The following asphalt streets were resurfaced in 2023:

- E. Thruston Boulevard (Woods to Acorn)
- E. Schantz Avenue (Far Hills to Lookout)
- Hathaway Road (Patterson to north terminus)
- Lookout Drive
- Acacia Drive
- Miscellaneous alleys

Our 2023 Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project was completed in the area west of Far Hills Avenue, south of Park Road, bounded by Far Hills Avenue and the Oakwood-Kettering Corp. Line. The purpose of the program is to maintain the concrete structures located within the city rights-of-way in good, safe condition.

Did CenterPoint Energy (Vectren) replace gas pipes around town in 2023?

Yes. Between April and November of 2023, CenterPoint (formerly Vectren) replaced underground gas distribution pipes and home service lines in the Oakwood neighborhoods identified in the yellow areas on the maps below. The work involved installing new polyethylene pipes in place of old steel and cast-iron pipes including the relocation of indoor gas meters to outside wall locations. This is the continuation of a multi-year CenterPoint infrastructure replacement project in Oakwood. The project began in 2010 and was completed at the end of 2023.





The City has a 5-year capital improvement program that lists projects for consideration in upcoming years. These projects are included for general planning purposes only. In many cases, the actual project budgeting and construction planning is adjusted due to financial constraints and other priorities.

STREET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS: 5 - YEAR PROGRAM						
FUNDING	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	TOTAL
Annual Asphalt Pavement Program	0	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	2,200,000
Concrete Street Repair	200,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	600,000
Far Hills Resurfacing	346,000	-	-	-	-	346,000
Total	546,000	650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000	3,146,000

Note: The Far Hills Resurfacing project is federally funded with 80% (\$1,354,000) of the \$1.7 million total cost to be paid through the Ohio Department of Transportation and 20% (\$346,000) to be paid by Oakwood.

In 2013, the City established a stormwater utility. What is its purpose?

The stormwater utility was established to pay the costs associated with managing stormwater, including the operations and ongoing maintenance and repair of the public storm sewer system. The utility is funded through a monthly stormwater fee imposed on every Oakwood property. The fee for single family residential properties and for two and three family dwellings was \$6 per month during the first four years of operating the utility. In 2017, the fee was raised to \$7 per month and in 2020 it was raised to \$10 per month. The fee for four family and larger residential properties and for commercial and institutional properties is based on the amount of hard surface area, or impervious area, of the property. In 2023, we spent \$460,638 in maintaining the storm sewer system including underground storm sewer pipes, catch basin inlets, manholes, roadway gutters, drainage ditches and streams. The 2020 fee increase was necessary to address future stormwater infrastructure needs.

Oakwood has a Phase 2 Stormwater permit. What are the requirements and what can residents do to help?

The city of Oakwood maintains a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) permitted through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The SWMP establishes specific goals to limit pollution that enters the region’s streams and rivers.

Some of the tasks that the City completes annually to meet these requirements include:

- Street sweeping to keep debris out of the storm sewer;
- Dry weather screening of manholes to help identify and eliminate illicit connections;
- Mapping of the City’s outfalls to rivers and streams;
- Controlling construction run-off;
- Internal day-to-day best practices to help limit pollution;
- Submitting an annual report on the year’s activities to the OEPA;
- Educating residents on stormwater matters and promoting public participation in pollution prevention.

Citizens in the community can do some simple things to help prevent pollution to our rivers and streams. Please clean up after your pets because the bacteria from animal waste is dangerous to fish and other wildlife in the rivers and streams. Please do not put oil into the storm or sanitary sewers – 1 quart of oil can pollute 100,000 gallons of water. Also, please do not wash vehicles in the street or other areas where the soapy water can enter the storm sewer system. Please keep yard debris (except for leaves during the published 10-week collection period in the fall) out of the street as it will be washed into the storm sewers and eventually into the rivers and streams.

FINANCE

The Oakwood Finance Department provides fiscal oversight to our five fund classifications, and manages income tax collection; payroll; water, sewer, stormwater and refuse billing; accounts receivable; and accounts payable.

The Finance Department is managed by Cindy Stafford, CPA and consists of six full-time employees and one part-time employee. The Finance Department prepares the annual budget and controls all city expenditures.

How is our City budget organized?

Our budget document is organized into five specific fund classifications: General Fund, Major Operating Funds, Other Funds, Refuse Fund, and Enterprise Funds.

The first three (General, Major Operating, and Other Funds) cover our General City Services (everything but refuse, water, sanitary sewer and stormwater utilities). The Enterprise Funds cover all operations relating to water, sanitary sewer and stormwater utilities. The Refuse Fund is operated similarly to an Enterprise Fund and covers all refuse operations.

How are the Refuse, Water, Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Funds different than the General City Services Funds?

Enterprise Funds function like a business, but are intended to operate at a break-even point, rather than at a profit. Customers are billed for services provided. Under Ohio law, Water, Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater revenues cannot be used for any purpose other than to provide water, sanitary sewer and stormwater services to the residents and businesses that use these utilities. Our Refuse Fund operates like an Enterprise Fund.

The General City Services funds are comprised of all other funds that provide public services to the community, and may be subsidized in whole or in part by General Fund revenues such as property tax and income tax. Some examples of General City Services are public safety (police, fire and emergency medical services), street maintenance and repair, city parks and natural areas, and operation of the Oakwood Community Center.

How do the Refuse, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Stormwater and General City Services Fund Budgets function?

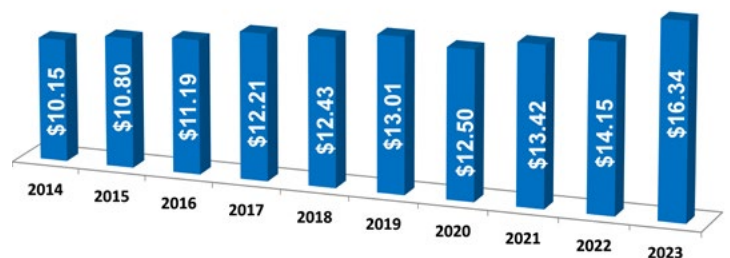
From a budgetary standpoint, our Refuse, Water, Sanitary Sewer, Stormwater and General City Services operations are separate and unique. All costs involved in refuse collection and disposal are paid for by our residents and business that use our program. All of the costs involved in producing, treating, storing, distributing and billing for our public water system are paid for by our residents and businesses that use the water. All of the costs involved in operating and maintaining our sanitary sewer system and the costs we pay to Dayton and Montgomery County for the treatment of our wastewater are paid for by the residents and businesses that use our sanitary sewer system. And, all of the costs we pay in operating and maintaining our storm sewer system are paid by the monthly fees charged to each Oakwood property owner. None of our general tax dollars (e.g., income tax, property tax) are used to pay for any costs related to the refuse, water, sewer and stormwater utilities.

Have we been prudent with spending public funds?

Yes. From 2008 through 2014, we cut expenses by \$2.0 million dollars, a 17% cut in costs. The increases in spending since 2015 are due in large part to higher capital costs. In 2016, we spent \$475,000 to build a 230 space parking lot at the Old River Sports Complex. This new parking lot serves our existing grass athletic fields and Lane Stadium. In 2017, we spent \$1,270,670 on the Shroyer Road Reconstruction Project, of which \$762,402 was reimbursed through federal transportation dollars. In 2018, we spent about \$800,000 on the Shafor Park Tennis Court Facility project, of which \$200,000 was reimbursed by the Oakwood Schools. In 2019, we spent an additional \$240,000 on concrete street repairs and paid off a long-term police and fire pension liability totaling \$422,137. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is reflected in 2020. Several projects were postponed and many programs and activities at the Community Center were canceled or significantly changed resulting in a decrease in expenditures. 2021 capital expenditures include approximately \$400,000 for the recycling center and \$260,000 for the building of a storage building at the public works center.

2022 capital expenditures include \$333,000 for the Gardner Pool deck replacement project. 2023 includes \$939,765 of expenditures for the Far Hills Stormwater Reconstruction project. The monies used were received from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act distributions.

Actual Expenditures for Past 10 Years



What is the City's annual budget?

Shown below are the 2024 budget figures for the five fund classifications.

FUND CLASSIFICATION	BALANCE 01/01/2024	ESTIMATED REVENUE	APPROPRIATION	ESTIMATED BALANCE 12/31/2024
General City Services	18,220,783	16,785,811	18,126,259	16,880,335
Refuse Fund	486,831	1,380,600	1,680,468	186,963
Water Funds	896,155	1,739,400	2,040,076	595,479
Sanitary Sewer Funds	1,553,646	2,385,700	2,840,039	1,099,307
Stormwater Funds	484,788	475,100	636,926	322,962

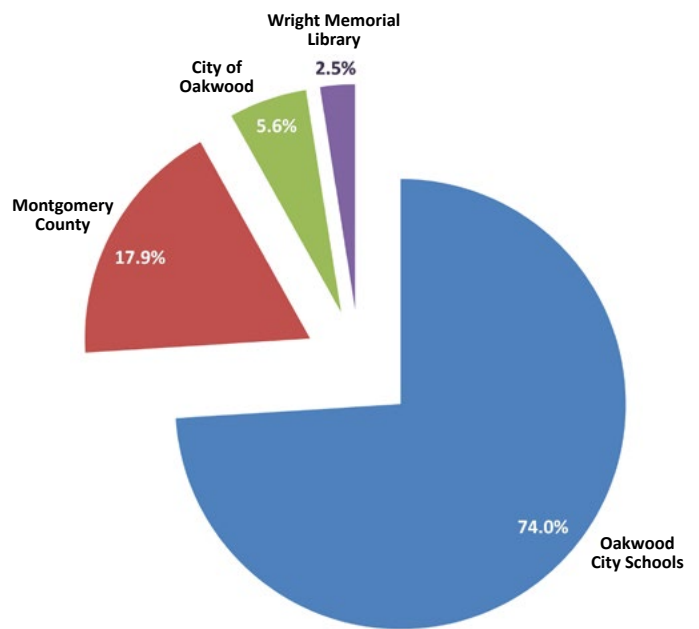
How are my property taxes collected and who receives my residential property tax dollars?

The amount you pay in property taxes is a function of the assessed value of your property and the property tax millage for our city. The residential total effective millage rate used for 2024 property tax collections is 81.75, as compared to the 2023 residential total effective millage rate of 98.59. The total effective millage can be broken into two components, as follows:

- Inside millage (non-voted) – the tax rate imposed by governmental bodies without need for vote by its citizens. Inside millage is limited to 10 mills and is divided between Montgomery County (17%), Oakwood City Schools (47%) and the city of Oakwood (36%).
- Outside millage (approved by voters) – the tax rate proposed by government entities (e.g., county, city, schools, Wright Library, Sinclair, Human Services) and approved by citizen vote.

The current total effective millage of 81.75 is shared by the organizations shown below. The property taxes paid by Oakwood residents in 2024 are calculated based on this millage distribution.

2023 Property Tax Breakdown



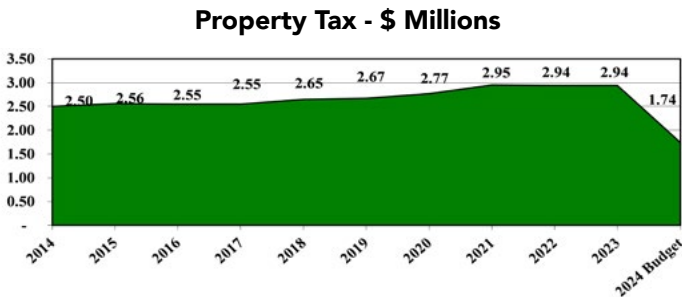
	INSIDE MILLAGE	OUTSIDE MILLAGE	TOTAL MILLAGE
Oakwood City Schools	4.72	55.79	60.51
Human Services*	0.00	8.82	8.82
Sinclair Community College	0.00	2.60	2.60
Five Rivers Metro Parks	0.00	1.31	1.31
City of Oakwood	3.58	1.01	4.59
Wright Memorial Public Library	0.00	2.03	2.03
Developmental Disabilities	0.00	0.19	0.19
Montgomery County	1.70	0.00	1.70
Total	10.00	71.75	81.75

* This is money that supports the County Human Services Programs (e.g., ADAMHS Board for Montgomery County, Montgomery County Children Services, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County).

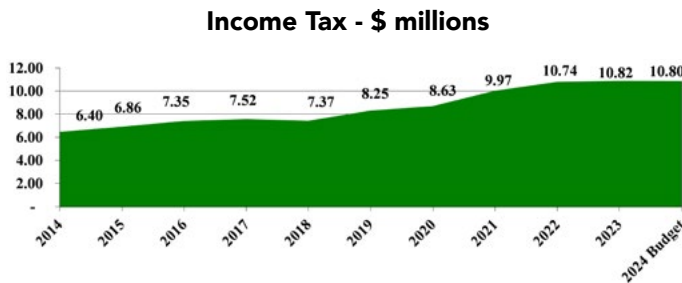
Who receives my income taxes?

It depends on where you work. If you work in Oakwood, in a township, or in a jurisdiction that does not have a municipal income tax (e.g., Beavercreek), then all of your 2.5% local taxes go to Oakwood. If you work in a jurisdiction with a municipal income tax (e.g., Dayton – 2.5%; Moraine – 2.5%; Kettering – 2.25%; Centerville – 2.25%) then most of your local tax goes to the other communities. Oakwood had historically given full credit for local taxes paid to another jurisdiction. City Council took legislative action at the January 2, 2018 council meeting to reduce the credit from 100% to 90%.

Have the property and income taxes that go to the City and pay for city services changed much in the past 10 years?



- The 3.75 mill property tax issue had been slated for renewal on the November 7, 2023 ballot, but due to a clerical error, it was not on the ballot. That property tax issue generated \$1.15 million in revenue. The issue will be placed on the March 19, 2024 ballot at 2.41 mills. At the reduced mills, the issue will generate the same amount of revenue as the expired 3.75 mill issue.
- In November 2021, Oakwood voters renewed a 2.72 mill property tax issue by a 76.4%.



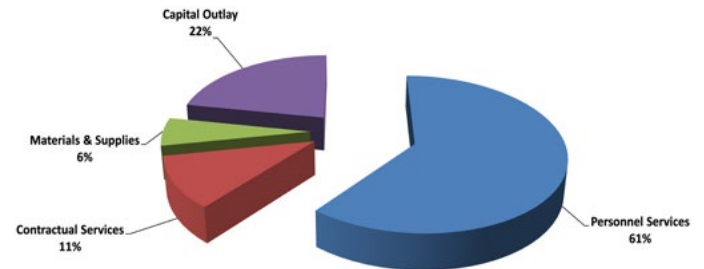
What has been our rate of growth in spending over the years?

In 1991, we spent \$7.9 million in providing city services. In 2023, we spent \$17.6 million. This represents a 3.70% rate of growth. The average annual CPI (inflation) of 2.51% during this 33-year time period. Our growth rate is impacted by annual capital expenditures.

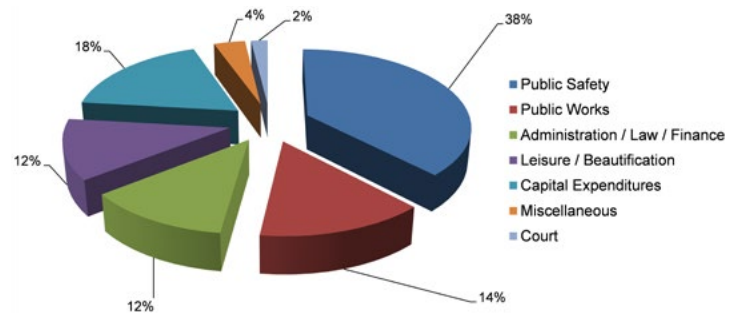
What do we spend our money on?

We spend the largest portion on delivery of public safety services, followed by public works. Our Public Safety Department is recognized as the finest in the area and the services provided by our Public Works Department are the most comprehensive and responsive around.

What are the different categories of expenditures incurred by the City, and what percentage of the total was expended in each category for 2023?

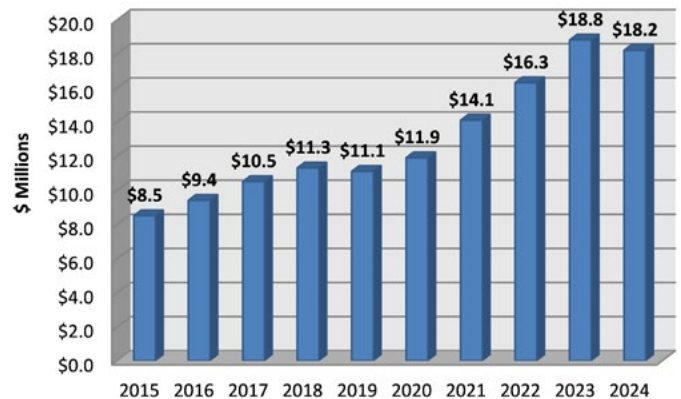


2024 Total Budget \$18.13 million



What have been our beginning year balances in the General City Services funds over the past ten years?

Beginning Year Fund Balances



The improved beginning year balances from 2014 to 2018 are a result of: 1) cost cutting; 2) changing the refuse services to a self-funded operation; 3) paying for storm sewer operations through a stormwater utility with monthly fees; 4) approval of a 3.75 mill property tax in 2013; and 5) some increases in income tax collections. The slight drop in 2019 is the result of the decrease in income taxes caused by other communities raising their tax rates. The increase in 2020 is primarily the result of the 10% credit reduction for local taxes paid to other jurisdictions.

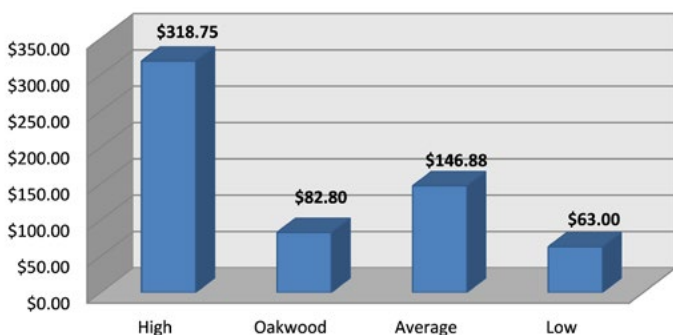
The increase in 2021 is the result of an increase in income tax revenue as well as a significant rebate of past premiums paid to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and receipt of CARES Act monies to offset the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, several capital projects were postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in both 2022 and 2023 is primarily the result of an increase in income tax revenue. Income tax revenues increased as a result of additional residents living in the homes and condominiums at Pointe Oakwood; an increase in the number of Oakwood residents working from home, thereby directing their local income taxes to Oakwood rather than other jurisdictions; and despite difficult economic conditions brought on by the pandemic, the total earned income in Oakwood has increased. Additionally, the city received \$468,000 of monies from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act in 2022 and \$471,765 in 2023.

The decrease in 2024 is a result of increased capital expenditures in 2023, specifically the Far Hills Stormwater Reconstruction project that used the \$939,765 received from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act in 2022 and 2023.

How do our water and sanitary sewer rates compare to those in other Miami Valley communities?

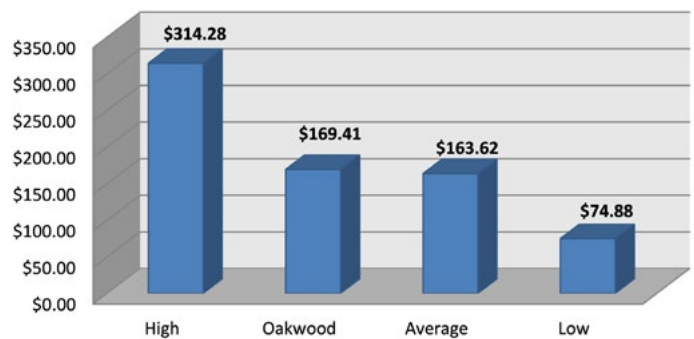
Based on the 2023 rate survey, our water rates are the 3rd lowest out of 68 jurisdictions. Our target beginning year water fund balance is \$1.0 million. We started 2024 at \$595,479, in good shape. We raised water rates in 2024.

Annual Water Rate Survey



Our sanitary sewer rates rank 36th lowest out of 65 jurisdictions. Unlike our water system, which is 100% run by Oakwood, about 67% of our sanitary sewer operation costs (i.e., the wastewater treatment) were contracted. We use Montgomery County and the city of Dayton wastewater treatment plants and must pay County and Dayton rates. We raised our sanitary sewer rates effective January 1, 2024. Over the last few years, Montgomery County and Dayton raised their rates several times, which is what necessitated this Oakwood increase. We started 2024 with a \$1,099,307 balance, in good shape.

Annual Sanitary Sewer Rate Survey



Does Oakwood offer a paperless way to pay the monthly water/sanitary sewer/stormwater/refuse bill?

Yes, and there is no charge to participate in either the E-Statement or autopay programs. As the city continues to look for ways to cut costs, we encourage residents to utilize paperless options for both receiving and paying the monthly utility bill. Residents can register via the city website at www.oakwoodohio.gov to have your monthly utility bill emailed directly to you. The process is quick and easy; just click on the "Online E-Statement" link under the Water/Sewer/Stormwater/Refuse Department tab. To register, you will need your Oakwood water/sewer/stormwater/refuse account number (printed on your monthly statement) and a valid email address.

Direct and automatic payment of your monthly utility bill through an ACH (Automatic Clearing House) is also a simple process. Complete a "Utility Bill Authorization Form" (available at the City Building or on the city website under the Water/Sewer/Stormwater/Refuse Department tab). The completed form will authorize the city to process a withdrawal from your bank account in the amount of our current net bill on the net due date each month. You will still receive an invoice either by email (E-Statement) or regular mail if so desired.

Does Oakwood invest the money it holds in the fund balances?

Yes, most of it. We keep most dollars not immediately required for cash flow safely invested. All investments are guided by an investment advisor and are overseen by the City Manager and Finance Director. Our investment protocol is governed by city ordinances which encompass a philosophy of protecting principal first and maximizing return second.

Does Oakwood accept credit cards as payment for various non-OCC related fees and services (e.g., water bills, sewer bills, refuse bills, taxes, etc.). How does this work?

The city of Oakwood partners with Invoice Cloud to offer an easy-to-use payment portal for our citizens to make credit card, debit card, or electronic check payments. A convenience fee will be added by Invoice Cloud for providing this service. The user fee is required in lieu of the city using general tax dollars to provide this service. The Oakwood Community Center continues to accept traditional credit card payments as it has in the past, with no convenience fee. OCC payments may be made through the Community Center's online payment portal.

Do we have short-term or long-term debt?

No. Remarkably, the city does not carry any short-term or long-term debt. For decades, Oakwood city leaders have prudently managed our city and our city finances. As a result, our annual budget is void of any debt service obligations.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

The office of the City Attorney is established under Oakwood's Charter, which was approved by our citizens on May 3, 1960, and last amended at an election on November 8, 1988. The Charter provides that the City Attorney shall serve as the Director of the Department of Law. Chapter 127 of the Administrative Code of Oakwood sets forth the City Attorney's duties and specifies that he or she is accountable to the City Manager and to the City Council.

Oakwood's Department of Law is headed by our Law Director and City Attorney, Robert F. Jacques, Esq., who oversees and coordinates all legal affairs for the city. Rob provides most of the city's legal representation in-house as the city's chief legal officer, supplemented by outside counsel as necessary.

The legal services of Oakwood's Department of Law fall into three main categories:

General Legal Counsel

As the city's general counsel, the Department of Law is responsible for advising City Council, the City Manager, municipal boards and commissions, and the administrative officers and departments on relevant issues of current and emerging law. In addition, the Department of Law drafts and reviews legislation, contracts, deeds, and other legal documents, and represents the city in litigation and transactional matters.

Prosecution

The Department of Law is responsible for prosecuting charged violations of municipal ordinances and state laws in Oakwood Municipal Court, including criminal, traffic, and parking offenses. As a related function, the Department provides training to the Oakwood Public Safety Department on matters relevant to effective law enforcement and investigation, and to the administrative personnel of Oakwood Municipal Court on procedural matters.

Tax Collection

Working closely with the city's Department of Finance, the Department of Law assists with the collection of delinquent municipal taxes. In that capacity, the Law Director advises the Department of Finance in its pre-litigation tax collection efforts, and when necessary, files suit and enforces court judgments against delinquent taxpayers. These efforts are supplemented by the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Can the City Attorney advise a citizen with regard to matters involving the city of Oakwood or decisions made by the Council?

Related Question: I'm having trouble with my (neighbor/landlord/ex-spouse/etc.). Can the City Attorney advise me?

No. The city Attorney's role is to advise city officials as they perform the duties of their public offices, with the goal of ensuring that the city is governed and functions in a lawful manner. The City Attorney does not represent any individuals of the public, nor does he represent city officials in personal matters. The City Attorney is a resource for the members of Council and for other city officials in performance of their official duties. As such he renders legal opinions and advice on matters of interest to the Council and/or to city officials.

What is the significance of the Charter of the city of Oakwood?

Article XVIII, Section 18.07, of the Ohio Constitution was adopted in 1912, and is known as the "home rule amendment." It was intended to free municipalities from control of the Ohio General Assembly and state officials, thereby allowing municipalities to exercise local self-government. This is done through adoption of a charter, which provides for the structure and organization of municipal government.

The charter of a municipality is essentially the "constitution" of the city and sets forth the legal framework under which it will operate. It designates the form of the municipality's government, the distribution of power, and duties of elected and appointed officials, boards and commissions, and city officials and citizens.

Through a vote of its citizens, the city of Oakwood has chosen a council-manager form of government. Under this form of government, Council has the power to adopt ordinances and resolutions, make certain appointments, and exercise related powers. The Mayor, who is a member of Council, presides at Council meetings and is designated as the ceremonial head of the city, but does not have power to exercise individual administrative or executive authority. The Mayor has one vote, as do each of the four other Council members.

Executive and administrative authority is vested in the City Manager, who is appointed by a majority vote of Council. The City Manager is responsible for faithfully executing and implementing the ordinances and resolutions enacted by Council. All other employees of the city report to the City Manager, who oversees the performance of all of their job functions.

What is the difference between a resolution and an ordinance?

According to the Charter of Oakwood, an ordinance is the required form of legislation for all actions which are of "a general or permanent nature" or for "granting a franchise, or levying a tax, or appropriating money, or contracting an indebtedness to be evidenced by the issuance of bonds or notes, or for the purchase, lease or transfer of public property." Common examples include ordinances to adopt criminal or traffic laws, to levy assessments against real estate, or to appropriate funds for the annual budget.

A resolution is an enactment by Council that does not fall into any of the above listed categories, and that addresses a matter which does not apply to the general population or is of a temporary or short-term duration. For example, a resolution might express a statement of support for a local organization or initiative, or authorize the city manager to enter into a contract for a particular project or purchase.

All action by City Council is taken via ordinance or resolution, although the City Charter allows certain procedural matters to be voted upon without formal legislation.

Are the procedural requirements for enactment of an ordinance and resolution the same?

No. There are differences in how each form of legislation is introduced. An ordinance is required to be introduced at two separate meetings, unless an emergency is declared or three-fourths of the council members vote to dispense with the second reading. In contrast, a resolution is introduced and voted on at a single meeting. Legislation is typically "introduced" by reading its title publicly, and the introducing Council member normally summarizes the ordinance or resolution or explains what it is intended to accomplish.

There are also differences in the effective dates of each form of legislation. A resolution takes effect immediately upon passage. As a general rule, ordinances do not go into effect until thirty days after passage. However, certain ordinances go into effect immediately upon enactment:

- Those declared by Council to be an emergency;
- Those providing for appropriations;
- Those which are intended to raise revenue; and
- Those intended to make public improvements which are petitioned for by the owners of a majority of the foot frontage of property benefited and specially assessed for the cost thereof.

MUNICIPAL COURT



The Oakwood Municipal Court was established on January 1, 1934. Its authority is derived from Section 1901.01 of the Ohio Revised Code and its territorial jurisdiction coincides with the corporate limits of Oakwood. The Court's mission is to provide equitable and courteous justice to the public.

Judge Margaret M. Quinn was elected to a six-year term beginning January 2, 2014 and re-elected for a second term beginning January 2, 2020. The Court staff includes Clerk of Court Sarah Clever and Deputy Clerk Melanie Hornung. The Judge is on call for the issuance of warrants, search warrants, and to set bond. Jury Trials are held when requested by a Defendant and residents may be summoned to serve as jurors. The Judge enjoys being called upon to officiate weddings, which can be scheduled through the Clerk's Office.

The Oakwood Municipal Court implemented the License Intervention Program (LIP) in 2021. This Program is designed to give drivers who are currently under license suspension by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles the time and the information necessary to cure the suspension issues and to become valid licensed drivers again. For 2023, the Court had 70 participants enter the program and 57 who successfully completed it.

The Oakwood Municipal Court has also implemented a Record Search feature that provides easy online access to publicly available Court records. Searches can be performed by name, date, case number, and ticket number through the city's website at court.oakwoodohio.gov (see Municipal Court tab under Departments.)

The Court publishes its own detailed report. It can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Courts at (937) 293-3058.



30 PARK AVENUE
OAKWOOD, OH 45419



City Of Oakwood

VISION STATEMENT

It is City Council's vision of the City of Oakwood to continue its heritage as a premiere residential community:

- Where citizens know and respect one another.
- Where principal emphasis is placed on neighborhood, schools, responsive city services and parks.
- Where citizens contribute to and benefit from strong, responsible stewardship of community resources.
- Where a responsible citizenry helps establish and follows community standards that preserve the quality of individual and community property.
- Where residents feel comfortable and secure in their homes as they move about the community.
- Where education is a vital community tradition.
- Where viable business and professional enterprises are clearly compatible with residential living and not in conflict with the residential integrity of the community.
- Where citizen participation is valued and encouraged to give definition to the high expectations to the community and its residents.
- Where Oakwood benefits from the involvement of its residents and employees in a variety of regional, business, cultural and governmental activities.

www.oakwoodohio.gov