

**CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER**  
**JUNE 21, 2024**

**IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES:**

July 15, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
August 5, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
August 11, Sunday, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Ice Cream Social (Shaford Park)  
August 18, Sunday – Smith Gardens 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Smith Gardens)  
August 19, Monday, 5 p.m. – Work Session (30 Park)  
September 10, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)  
September 16, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
October 7, Monday, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Session (30 Park)  
October 15, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. – BRC Meeting (30 Park)  
October 21, Monday, 5 p.m. – Council/Staff Retreat (Smith Gardens)

**BUSINESS UPDATE:**

- 1313 Far Hills: Enclosed are *DDN* and *Register* articles about the sale of 1313 Far Hills. Details are available on the city website. So far, 247 people have visited the website posting.
- 2024 CPA: The following 10 citizens are enrolled in the 2024 Citizen Police Academy. We still have two open spots.
  - Karen Schnee – 2416 Fairmont Ave
  - Carol Holm – 223 Hilltop Ave
  - Kathy Bolmida – 215 Triangle Ave
  - Vicki Brown – 329 Telford Ave Unit A
  - Joseph Scott – 249 Claranna Ave
  - Georgiana Nye – 16 Ashridge Rd
  - Graham Bailey – 112 Far Hills Ave
  - Donald Balduf – 1611 Shroyer Rd
  - Harry Bourne – 216 Corona Ave
  - Douglas Hammer – 1916 Far Hills Ave
- Hefty ReNew Program: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the new Hefty ReNew Program now available in Oakwood.
- Vandalia Interim City Manager: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about Mark Schwieterman serving as interim city manager with the resignation of Dan Wendt. Mark is serving in this capacity through the Shared Resources Center.
- Historical Marker: Enclosed are *DDN* and *Register* articles about the newest historical marker commemorating Four Mile Tavern... and also about Centerville/Washington Township installing their first historical marker. What do they say? ... “Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.”
- Marijuana Dispensaries: Enclosed is another *DDN* article about marijuana operations being prohibited by local cities.

- Five Rivers MetroParks Levy: Enclosed are *DDN* and *Register* articles about Five Rivers MetroParks seeking another tax levy in the fall to cover a backlog of maintenance projects. They will seek an additional 1.0 mill, which equates to about \$35/year per \$100,000 of appraised home value.
- BZA: Enclosed is Linda Weprin's resignation letter and a letter we mailed to her this week.
- Top 100 Administrator: Enclosed is a *Register* article about Oakwood Superintendent Dr. Gupta being recognized as a Top 100 Administrator.
- ADAMHS: Enclosed is another *DDN* article about the failed ADAMHS crisis care center.
- July 11 BZA: We have no applications so this meeting is cancelled.
- That Day in May: The event was again a huge success for The Rotary Club of Oakwood. Below is a note from the weekly Rotary newsletter with some details:

*Doug Hammer presented our final TDIM numbers and despite having fewer participants at the Pancake Breakfast and the Golf Outing, the tireless efforts of Dan Turben and Joe Scott brought in over \$7K more in sponsor donations and, at a net profit of \$38K, put us over last year's total! Adding in credit card acceptance kicked up the games ticket purchases big time and we brought in over \$1K just from credit card sales alone. Due to the efforts of Club members in every phase of TDIM from planning, coordination, meetings and boots on the ground day-of, we will be presenting a check for **\$25,000 to the Foundation for community grants**. A portion of the proceeds raised will also go to our Club to fund our expenses and to continue to provide community services such as RYLA, scholarships, sandwich making, and more.*

- Montgomery County Animal Resource Center (ARC): A couple representatives from the ARC are planning to attend our July 15 council meeting to speak about the services of their organization. Chief Hill gives his semi-annual staff briefing that evening and will include in his presentation some information about the work done through our Public Safety Department in addressing stray pets and wild animals.
- Smith Gardens 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: We will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city receiving Smith Gardens and Carol's 50<sup>th</sup> year on city staff on Sunday, August 18. We are finalizing details about the event and will publish them in the near future.
- Senator Niraj Antani: Enclosed is a *DDN* article about the city of Centerville considering a resolution calling for the resignation of State Senator Niraj Antani. In a recent *DDN* article, it was reported that Sen. Antani has missed most of the Senate sessions and votes over the past few months.
- Safety Department Report: Enclosed is the May report.
- Chickens: Enclosed is a *DDN* article reporting that the city of New Carlisle voted 4-3 to allow chickens on residential properties within city limits. Immediately thereafter, the city council began discussion on an ordinance amendment to add restrictions on how the chickens could be kept.

- Sinclair College: Sinclair continues as one of the gems in our Dayton region. Below is an email received this week from President (and Oakwood resident) Steve Johnson. Enclosed is a fact sheet about the 2023-24 school year.

## **Office of the President**

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Dear Valued Community Partners,

As we conclude another remarkable academic year, I am filled with gratitude for your support, which has played a pivotal role in continuing to help more students gain more education in this region.

At Sinclair Community College, our goal is to provide high-quality, affordable education that equips individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to secure rewarding careers or transfer to a bachelor's degree program. This year, we celebrated the achievements of 8,400 students who earned degrees and certificates, positioning them for success in high-demand fields for our region such as engineering, aviation, cyber security, HVAC, health care, business management, and much more.

Since our founding 137 years ago, Sinclair has transformed countless lives, with nearly 94,000 graduates earning degrees or certificates over the past three decades alone. These remarkable accomplishments would not be possible without the invaluable support of our community partners, donors, and advocates like you.

Your commitment to making quality education accessible has ensured Sinclair students have the resources they need to succeed, ultimately contributing to the economic well-being of our region.

As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to our mission of empowering individuals and families through education, and we are grateful for your continued partnership in this endeavor. Please take a moment to review the attached document, which highlights Sinclair's recent milestones and impactful initiatives.

On behalf of the entire Sinclair Community College family, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to your support. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of students and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Steve  
**Steven L. Johnson, Ph.D.**  
President and CEO  
Sinclair College  
937.512.2525  
[president.johnson@sinclair.edu](mailto:president.johnson@sinclair.edu)



- Social Media Training: Enclosed is another copy of the flyer for the event to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday, July 26. Healy is registered. Please let Lori know if you would like to attend.

- MCD: Enclosed is a letter from General Manager MaryLynn Lodor providing details on the recent decision to pause the planned readjustment of flood protection assessments. MaryLynn attended our June 3 city manager roundtable meeting to explain what took place over the past couple months and what is planned for the next year or two. She reported that MCD is in the process of hiring a consultant to assist in reevaluating the funding model. MCD and the consultant will seek stakeholder input as they go along.
- EV PPV: We still do not have a delivery date for our all-electric police pursuit vehicle.
- RTA Trolley: Demolition work continued this week along Far Hill Avenue... with additional overhead wires removed, along with numerous poles.
- Food Waste Recovery and Resource Program: Enclosed is a letter we sent this week to Montgomery County Environmental Services expressing our support of the proposed new food waste program. Assuming planning goes well, and funding is obtained, the program should commence sometime in 2025.
- Sidewalk, Curb and Driveway Apron Project: The sidewalk, curb and apron work in the Far Hills Business District is now expected to start sometime next week.
- Far Hills Storm Sewer: All of the new concrete roadway curb and driveway aprons on Devereux were poured this week, along with the concrete curb in the median island at Far Hills and Forrer. Concrete roadway replacement on Devereux will commence next week.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

TRANSMITTALS NOTED WITHIN NEWSLETTER

*DDN & Register* articles re: 1313 Far Hills  
*DDN* article re: Hefty ReNew Program  
*DDN* article re: Vandalia Interim City Manager  
*DDN & Register* articles re: Historical Marker  
*DDN* article re: Marijuana Dispensaries  
*DDN & Register* articles re: Five Rivers MetroParks Levy  
 BZA Letters  
*Register* article re: Top 100 Administrator  
*DDN* article re: ADAMHS  
 BZA Cancellation Memo  
*DDN* article re: Senator Niraj Antani  
 May Safety Dept Report  
*DDN* article re: Chickens  
 Sinclair College Fact Sheet  
 Social Media Training  
 MCD Letter  
 Food Waste Recovery and Resource Program Letter

# Oakwood sewer project done; site to become city's 1st new home since 2020

Bids on rare vacant lot on Far Hills Avenue will be accepted until July 11, say officials.

By **Nick Blizzard**  
Staff Writer

Oakwood is accepting bids on land it owns on Ohio 48, with plans to sell it for the first single-family home to be built in the city since 2020.

Submissions will be taken until 5 p.m. July 11 to buy the vacant lot at 1313 Far Hills Ave., where the city demolished the previous house as part of its \$2.1 million sewer reconstruction project.

When Oakwood City Council approved sale of the land earlier this year, it opted “to sell for single-family construction only,” Law Director Robert Jacques said. “So, there will be a deed restriction built in ... limiting it to single-family use.”

The torn-down home was built above “a critically important section of failing sewer culvert,” Oakwood Vice Mayor Steve Byington said previously.

The new sewer was installed in a designated easement area along the southern line of the prop-

erty, outside the area where a new home can be constructed, according to the city.

Six single-family homes were built in Oakwood in 2019 and 2020, all part of Pointe Oakwood near the Dayton border in the suburb's northern section, according to City Manager Norbert Klopsch.

New home construction in Oakwood is rare, Jacques said.

“Occasionally there's a little infill lot here or there,” he said. “We have (had) homes bought for a tear down or rebuild, that kind of thing. But we're landlocked.”

The two-parcel, 0.5-acre site is on the west side of Far Hills north of Ashridge Road, according to the city. Oakwood bought the land in 2020, according to Montgomery County land records.

Four years ago, the property – before the demolition – was valued at about \$335,000, county records show. The land itself was appraised last month at



The house at 1313 Far Hills Ave. was demolished as part of the city of Oakwood's \$2.1 million sewer reconstruction project. The city is taking bids on the land for the site of a new single-family home. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

\$182,200, according to a report by certified general appraiser Michael Moorhead of Kettering.

To be considered, bids must be at least 90% of the land's appraised value and be accompanied with a security deposit of \$2,500 in cash or certified funds, according to the city.

The security deposits will be applied to the sale price or returned, Jacques said. The

successful bidder will have five business days to sign a purchase contract and construction on the home must start within a year, according to the city.

Details about the property and the bidding process can be found on the city's website at [oakwoodohio.gov](http://oakwoodohio.gov).

Contact this reporter at 937-610-7438 or email [Nick.Blizzard@coxinc.com](mailto:Nick.Blizzard@coxinc.com)

## Oakwood puts 1313 Far Hills up for auction, bids due July 11



The City of Oakwood is selling the vacant land at 1313 Far Hills Avenue for the site of a new single-family residential property.

The property consists of 0.5042 acres and is located on the west side of Far Hills Avenue, north of Ashridge Road. The property was the previous site of a single-family home that was demolished to allow for the removal of an old storm sewer and construction of a replacement sewer. The new sewer was installed in a designated easement area along the southern line of the property, outside the area where a new home can be constructed.

S e a l e d bids for the purchase of the property will be a c c e p t e d by the City of Oakwood until 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 11. For details about the property and the bidding process, please visit the City of Oakwood website at [www.https://oakwoodohio.gov/1313FarHillsAvenue](https://oakwoodohio.gov/1313FarHillsAvenue) or scan the QR code.



## **City participates in Hefty ReNew Program**

Rumpke Waste and Recycling announced the expansion of their acceptable items by adding hard-to-recycle plastics as part of the Hefty ReNew Program.

The city of Oakwood collects recyclables weekly from residential households and delivers them to the Rumpke material recovery facility for sorting and eventual conversion into new materials. The Hefty ReNew Program allows residents to purchase specific orange bags from local retailers and place materials in those bags that were previously unacceptable in the loose co-mingled recyclable container. Once the orange bag is full, simply place it in your current co-mingled container at your home or in the co-mingled recycle container at the Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility located at the entrance to the J. David Foell Public Works Center, 210 Shafor Boulevard. The orange bag is delivered to Rumpke where it is removed from the loose recyclables and separated for delivery to specialized recyclers.

This program is optional for those residents who wish to further reduce their waste and recover hard-to-recycle plastics.

“The Hefty ReNew Program will allow additional materials to be diverted from the landfill and provide another opportunity for residents to continue doing their part in responsible recycling,” said Doug Spitler, Director of Public Works.

Visit the city’s website for the latest information on acceptable materials for recycling at: <https://oakwoodohio.gov/recyclables/> and visit HeftyReNew.com for additional program information.

# City turns to former Kettering city manager

Schwieterman to be Vandalia's interim manager after recent Wendt resignation.

**By Almee Hancock**  
Staff Writer

The city of Vandalia will be served on a temporary basis by Mark Schwieterman, who has been appointed interim city manager as part of a contract with the Shared Resource Center.

According to contract documents, the city will pay the SRC \$16,000 per month for the duration of the agreement, which is effective beginning June 17 through Dec. 31.

The city may seek further service from the SRC, including for consulting, account-

ing, payroll, and special projects, at additional costs of up to \$200 per hour.

Should the city employ a permanent manager prior to the contract's expiration, the agreement can be terminated with the consensus of both parties. The agreement may also be extended on a month-to-month basis, if needed.

Schwieterman's placement was announced just days after city council voted to accept the resignation of former City Manager Dan Wendt, who vacated the position following a brief administrative leave that was preceded by a series of closed-door council meetings.

Employed by the SRC, Schwieterman will serve in Vandalia, beginning Monday, while the city searches for a permanent manager.



Former Kettering City manager Mark Schwieterman will serve as the interim city manager for Vandalia while the city searches for a permanent replacement following the resignation of Dan Wendt. FILE

Schwieterman formerly served as Kettering's city manager for nearly two decades, from 2006 until his

retirement in 2022. He also serves as treasurer for the Ohio City/County Management Association, according to the organization's website.

Wendt is listed as a board member for the OCCMA.

As part of Wendt's resignation, the city of Vandalia authorized a separation agreement with the former leader in a parting deal that will pay him just over \$277,000 in severance pay.

The pay includes regular pay through Aug. 1, along with payment for 10½ months in the amount of \$142,636. The city will continue Wendt's insurance coverage through the end of the year at a total of nearly \$12,000.

The severance also includes state retirement system contributions, and the payout of sick, holiday, vacation and flex pay.

In a statement last week, the city cited issues related to "management style, communication, and direction" as reasons that contributed to Wendt's resignation.

"On June 5, 2024, city council discussed potentially removing the city manager primarily due to ongoing general concerns," the statement reads. "... There was no single specific item that led to the discussion for change. Prior to a vote on the matter, Mr. Wendt tendered his resignation pending the execution of a separation agreement."

In the agreement, the city acknowledges Wendt is not accused of committing any civil, criminal or policy violations.

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Contact this reporter at [almee.hancock@coxinc.com](mailto:almee.hancock@coxinc.com)



# New historical marker honors tavern built in early 1800s



The fifth in a series of historical markers developed by the Oakwood Historical Society commemorates the Four Mile Tavern. It was recently installed on the sidewalk near the corner of Far Hills and Hilltop avenues. CONTRIBUTED

Four Mile Tavern was named for 4-mile journey from downtown Dayton.

By Nick Blizzard  
Staff Writer

The newest historical marker commemorating Oakwood's beginnings has been installed.

It honors Four Mile Tavern, a building that dated to the early 1800s, according to the Oakwood Historical Society.

The marker, the fifth in a series of the historical society project, was installed on the sidewalk near the corner of Far Hills and Hilltop avenues, where the tavern was

located.

One news account from that era said the tavern may have been built about 1800, but it is difficult to say with any accuracy, said Debra Edwards of the historical society. But the OHS believes it was built in the early 1800s.

The building had rooms for overnight stays "and it was very large," Edwards said. "It had food. You could eat there. It was mostly a meeting place later. ... People voted there. Township trustees had meetings there."

The tavern was named for the 4-mile journey from downtown Dayton along Lebanon Pike, officials said.

It "served as a place of respite for travelers and a gathering place for those living in the nearby rural

area," the marker states. It was demolished about 1912.

The OHS project, which started with a first marker installed in 2022, honors the 150th anniversary of the platting of the Town of Oakwood in 1872, some 30-plus years before the city incorporated.

The first two markers were installed on Park Avenue. One is at the city building and the second was dedicated across the street at the former site of the town's first library.

The Rotary Club of Oakwood funded the Four Mile Tavern marker. The club also funded markers for the Kramer's Wine & Pleasure Gardens and the Schantz Park Historic District, both installed in 2023, according to the historical society.

"Oakwood has such a rich history and we are very pleased to see the historical marker project unfold" said Joe Scott, Rotary club president, in a released statement.

The historical society is planning the next historical marker, which is expected to be announced this fall, Edwards said.

Contact this writer at 937-610-7438 or email Nick.

[Blizzard@coxinc.com](mailto:Blizzard@coxinc.com)



## New historical marker commemorates Four Mile Tavern



Oakwood's newest historical marker, part of a series developed by the Oakwood Historical Society, commemorates the Four Mile Tavern, a storied, now "lost" building that dated to the early 1800s. The marker was installed with the assistance of the City of Oakwood in the sidewalk near the corner of Far Hills and Hilltop Avenues.

This marker is the third historical marker that the Oakwood Historical Society has unveiled thanks to a generous grant from the Rotary Club of Oakwood.

The Four Mile Tavern served as a place of respite for travelers and a gathering place for those living in the nearby rural area. The tavern was named for the four-mile journey from downtown Dayton along Lebanon Pike. It was demolished circa 1912.

The Rotary Club of Oakwood grant also funded the markers for the Kramer's Wine & Pleasure Gardens and the Schantz Park Historic District, both installed in 2023.

"The Rotary Club of Oakwood is honored to be part of this project. Oakwood has such a rich history

and we are very pleased to see the historical marker project unfold" said Joe Scott, Rotary Club of Oakwood president.

This new historical marker joins the existing historical markers which commemorate the Town of Oakwood and Oakwood's first library. Both are located on Park Avenue and were placed in 2022.

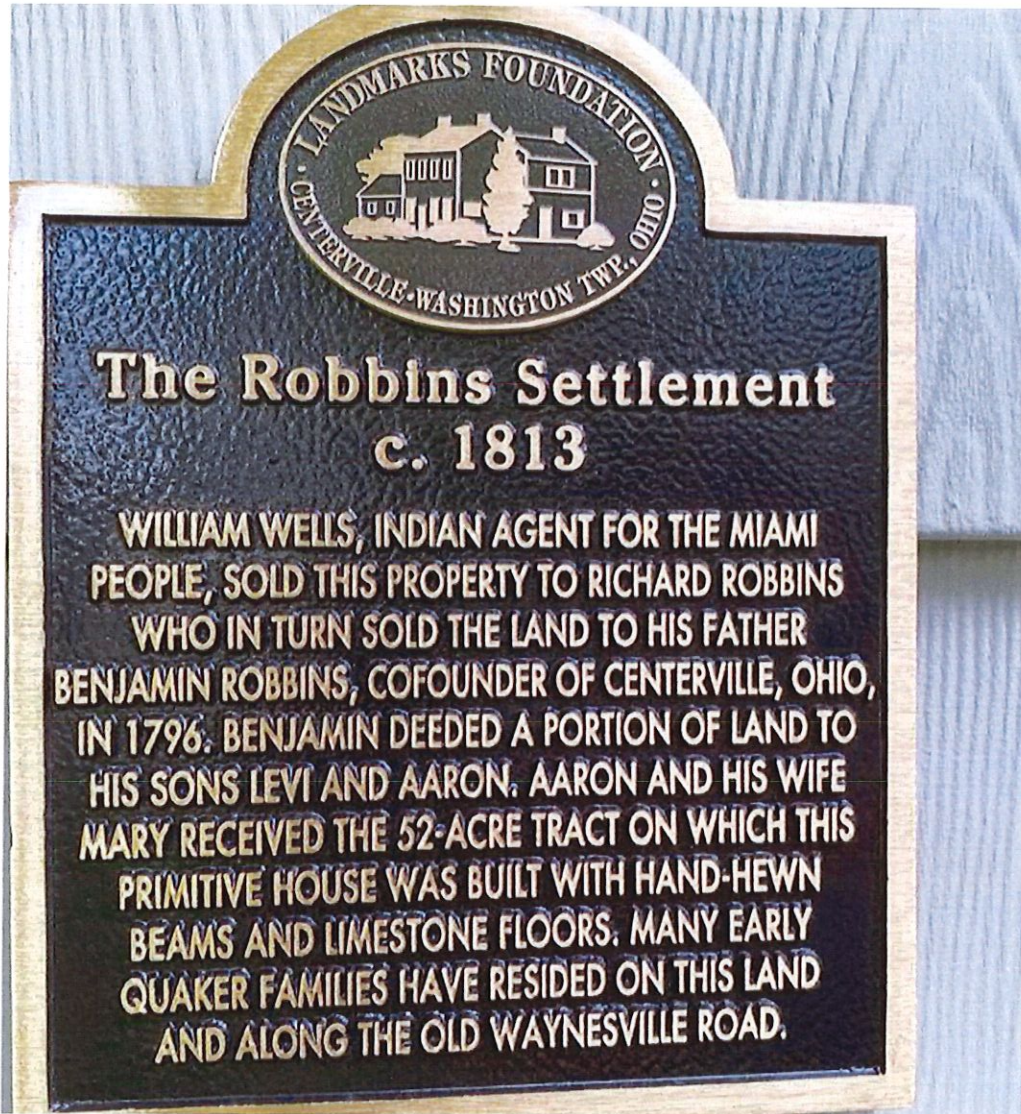
"The historical marker project has been a wonderful and very well-received endeavor for our community," said Oakwood City Manager Norbert Klopsch.

The Oakwood Historical Society is currently planning the next historical marker, to be announced this fall.



CENTERVILLE

## Foundation presents 1st historical marker



The Landmarks Foundation of Centerville-Washington Township unveiled and presented their first historical property marker on the Robbins Settlement on Clio Road in Washington Township on Wednesday, June 5.

## WASHINGTON TWP.

### **Foundation celebrates first historical marker**

The Landmarks Foundation of Centerville-Washington Township unveiled and presented their first historical property marker on the Robbins Settlement on Cloy Road in Washington Township on June 5.

The property is owned by Sandra K. Smith, who has lived in the house for nearly 30 years and has made a number of renovation investments to protect the integrity of the house. The structure still retains its limestone foundation and hand-hewn log beams reflecting its original 1813 lineage.

The Landmarks Foundation, founded in 1995, is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Centerville and Washington Township's historical assets, with special emphasis on the area's historic and architecturally significant buildings.

Attending the event were landmarks trustees Hylde Strange, Brenda Badgley, Jerry Strange, Laurel Benner, Joellen Ulliman, Matthew Fritz, and Gary Stiens (chairman). Washington Township was represented by trustees Scot Paulson (president), Sharon Lowry and Brian Lunne, plus township administrator Mike Thonnerieux and fiscal officer Gary Smiga.

To learn more about the Landmarks Foundation, visit the website: [www.landmarks-foundationcwt.org](http://www.landmarks-foundationcwt.org).

# Kettering extends pot business ban, just after Oakwood makes its permanent

By Nick Blizzard  
Staff Writer

Two neighboring cities have taken further steps to prohibit recreational marijuana businesses in their jurisdictions.

Kettering City Council this week approved an extension of a moratorium on adult-use cannabis business operators in the city through June 2025. The move follows action by Oakwood the previous week to permanently ban adult-use recreational marijuana businesses.

Oakwood had previously passed a moratorium on marijuana retail operators.

Last November, Ohioans approved Issue 2, a state-wide ballot initiative legalizing recreational marijuana. Within weeks of Issue 2's passage, temporary freezes on marijuana businesses were also passed in Beavercreek, Carlisle, Centerville, Fairfield, Franklin, Hamilton, Miamisburg, Monroe, Springboro, Vandalia, Waynesville, Xenia and several other cities throughout Ohio.

"We were ... hopeful that the state legislature might act to modify or amend some provisions of this voter-initiated law, possibly in a way that could be beneficial to our community," Oakwood Vice Mayor Steve Byington said. "To date, this has not happened, and we are not optimistic that it will.

"The legalization of marijuana is a major change in the law, particularly when it comes to the potential impact of marijuana business operations on a small residential community," Byington added.

**Under Ohio law, state residents over the age of 21 can have up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana in plant form or up to 15 grams in extract form and are allowed to grow up to six marijuana plants per adult (capped at 12 plants per household).**

Oakwood's council believes "marijuana business operations are not compatible with the dense residential character" of the city, he said. Oakwood already prohibits medical marijuana dispensaries, Law Director Robert Jacques added.

Kettering's initial nine-month moratorium was approved last November.

The vote this week to extend the temporary ban was made, in part, because "the state's administrative rules are not fully completed," according to the legislation.

"There are bills pending in the Ohio General Assembly that if enacted could change the commercial cannabis statutes," Kettering City Manager Matt Greeson said.

"An extension of the moratorium is needed to give the city time to assess the state statutes and administrative rules once they are finalized," he added.

Under Ohio law, state residents over the age of 21 can have up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana in plant form or up to 15 grams in extract form and are allowed to grow up to six marijuana plants per adult (capped at 12 plants per household).

Issue 2 legalized possession and home growing of marijuana while creating the Division of Cannabis Control, which will eventually allow the regulated sale and purchase of recreational marijuana products.

Earlier this month, the Division of Cannabis Control began taking applications for licenses that will allow medical marijuana dispensaries to also sell nonmedical cannabis.

Byington said Oakwood officials expect the state will start issuing business licenses this summer.

# Five Rivers MetroParks seek tax levy for \$58M in maintenance, new projects

By **Cornelius Frolik**  
Staff Writer

Five Rivers MetroParks for the first time in its 61-year history is planning to seek a second tax levy that's meant to address a backlog of deferred maintenance projects and to invest in the park system.

If voters approve a proposed 1-mill levy this fall, Five Rivers MetroParks says it should be able to retire a \$58 million backlog of maintenance needs by 2037, and within several years from now the organization should have some funding to start putting toward new amenities the community wants.

"With this levy, MetroParks will be able to continue to serve the county in the way we have," said Carrie Scarff, MetroParks' chief of planning and projects. "It's important to this community that they have these quality parks to visit."

The Five Rivers MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners on Friday passed a resolution asking the Montgomery County Auditor's office to certify the total tax valuation of the county and the amount of revenue a 1-mill levy would generate.

This is the first of two steps needed to put a 1-mill levy on the November ballot. The board next would have to approve a measure to ask the Board of Elections put the levy on the ballot, which could happen in July.

The proposed 1-mill levy is expected to generate about \$14.2 million in revenue each year. The proposed tax measure would cost the standard owner of a \$100,000 home in Montgomery County \$35 per year. The levy would last for 10 years.

MetroParks already is funded by an existing 2-mill tax levy, which was most recently approved by county



Cox Arboretum park is one of 25 public facilities operated by the Five Rivers MetroParks system. The park system is seeking another tax levy. MARSHALL GORBY/STAFF

voters in 2018. That levy costs the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$45.75 per year, based on current effective millage rates.

Property values have risen since the levy was approved by county voters in 2018, so the effective rate has decreased. More than two-thirds of voters (a 67-33 ratio) approved the existing 10-year levy in 2018.

## Park usage, needs, finances

More than 300,000 of Montgomery County's roughly 535,000 residents use the MetroParks every year, Scarff said. MetroParks' parks and facilities welcome more than 2 million total visitors each year.

Without additional revenue, high-priority amenities like trails, play areas, picnic areas, restrooms, programming, festivals, concerts and events could see cutbacks, cancellations, eliminations and closures, Scarff said.

About 87% of MetroParks' general fund revenue comes from its current tax levy. The organization says it has taken a variety of steps to expand

and create alternative revenue streams, including by starting a new foundation and aggressively going after grants.

Five Rivers MetroParks CEO Karen Hesser said seeking a new levy is a fiscally responsible move to ensure the protection of the park system and to ensure the organization serves the public in the ways people want.

Scarff said, "For us to stay relevant and current, we need to evolve."

MetroParks says its maintenance needs include fixing up, replacing and reopening restrooms, playground equipment, picnic shelters and other facilities and attractions, like a boardwalk at the Woodman Fen natural area in southeast Dayton.

New revenue will help MetroParks repair and replace amenities like the water-play area, the playground and band shell at Island MetroPark, officials say.

MetroParks wants to replace a 25-year-old playground at Eastwood MetroPark that was removed for safety reasons, plus multiple structures at Wesleyan MetroPark, including the

restroom facilities.

MetroParks wants to replace aging and damaged elements at RiverScape MetroPark that tell Dayton's history. This includes plaques in the ground and the invention stations, which are oversized sculptures and interactive artwork showing local inventions, like the cash register, pop-top cans and ice cube trays.

RiverScape's irrigation, utility and sound and lighting systems also need to be replaced, park officials said.

The organization says it is developing a plan for new investments if the proposed levy is approved.

MetroParks does not have any parks in the west central part of the county, but it has more than 500 acres of land in that area and would like to build one. The area is southwest of Trotwood.

MetroParks officials say new levy revenue is not expected to be used to help pay for proposed ambitious investments like a futuristic, \$34 million pedestrian bridge and park over the Great Miami River. That project is part of the riverfront master plan, which is a 25- to 30-year vision for transforming the banks of local river corridors.

Karen Davis, president of the Board of Park Commissioners, said Five Rivers MetroParks is important to the community's quality of life, and that the parks also spark community and economic development.

"Even with belt-tightening moves — such as holding staff positions open, rethinking programs and finding more cost-effective maintenance solutions — we need this levy to protect the parks for all of Montgomery County," she said.

# Five Rivers MetroParks to place levy in November



**Hills & Dales MetroPark**

The Five Rivers MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners plan to place a 10-year, 1-mill levy on the November 5 ballot.

This levy would be in addition to the existing 2.0 mill levy, last passed in 2018. If voters approve the levy, it will generate resources for MetroParks to protect the 35 locations it manages, including 18 MetroParks, the 2nd Street Market, eight conservation areas and eight portions of the region's paved trail network.

"Five Rivers MetroParks is essential to our quality of life, and the parks stimulate community economic development," Board President Karen Davis said. "Even with belt-tightening moves — such as holding staff positions open, rethinking programs and finding more cost-effective

maintenance solutions — we need this levy to protect the parks for all of Montgomery County."

The last levy MetroParks placed on the ballot in 2018 was overwhelmingly approved by county voters. If the proposed levy is approved by voters in November, the cost to property owners will be less than \$3 a month per \$100,000 of appraised property value.

"This is a fiscally responsible move that will allow MetroParks to serve the public in the ways the voters want and deserve while ensuring their MetroParks are protected now and in the future," Chief Executive Officer Karen Hesser said. "Without passage of this levy, your MetroParks risks being unable to keep trails and facilities safe, clean, accessible and repaired; offer outdoor education and

festivals; and sufficiently protect our water quality and wildlife — all things this community has entrusted us to do for more than 60 years."

Five Rivers MetroParks currently manages nearly 16,000 acres of natural areas; 191 miles of trails for hiking, walking, backpacking, horseback riding, mountain biking and cycling; and a significant portion of the region's 270 miles of river corridor. Five Rivers MetroParks had more than 2.05 million visitors last year, and more than 300,000 Montgomery County residents report visiting a MetroPark at least a few times a year.

The Board is scheduled to take its second required vote to place the issue on the November ballot in July, before the Aug. 7 filing deadline.

**June 19, 2024 THE OAKWOOD REGISTER**

Linda Weprin  
638 Garden Rd  
Oakwood, OH 45419

6/20/2024

Board of Zoning Appeals  
City of Oakwood  
Mr Ethan Kroger

Dear Ethan,

I am writing this letter to serve notice of my resignation from the BZA. This will take effect as of the date of this letter.

I have had a great experience serving on this Board but it is time for me to leave and enable someone else to serve.

I want to thank-you, Rob, Lori and the staff for this opportunity to serve the City of Oakwood. I have enjoyed meeting new citizens and staff while serving.

Sincerely,  
Linda Weprin





# City of Oakwood

Government Administration

Mayor

June 17, 2024

Linda Weprin  
638 Garden Road  
Oakwood, OH 45419

Dear Linda:

Ethan Kroger informed City Council that you are unable to continue as a member of our Board of Zoning Appeals. On behalf of City Council, thank you for your service to our community. Citizen participation in the governance and management of Oakwood is critically important and we truly appreciate your service on this important board. We wish you and your family all the very best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William D. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

William D. Duncan  
Mayor

WDD:ls

c: Members of City Council  
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager  
Ethan Kroger, Planning & Zoning Manager

# Gupta honored as Top 100 Administrator

Oakwood Schools Superintendent Dr. Neil Gupta's leadership in K-12 education recently earned him national recognition on the Top 100 Administrators list. The rankings, published by the trade publication *District Administration*, highlight some of the country's most influential and impactful educational leaders and innovators.

"Collectively but in varying capacities, they're helping shape the future of students across the country – and around the world – by turning their passions into actions," the magazine published in its May 2024 edition.

Gupta joined Oakwood Schools as superintendent in 2023. Since then,

he's led a series of initiatives focused on continuing excellence, transparency



and community collaboration.

"I'm honored to be included in District Administration Magazine's Top 100 Education Influencers of

2024," Dr. Gupta said. "When one wins, we all win. This win is truly a testament to the incredible Oakwood Schools staff and the incredible work they are doing. We have some of the most dedicated, passionate and talented teachers and staff in our schools who constantly go above and beyond for our students."

Earlier this year, Gupta was also named to the American Association of School Administrators People Watch List. As Gupta looks forward to his second year as superintendent at Oakwood Schools, he looks forward to sharing the community-driven Strategic Plan in the fall.

# Behavioral health providers brace for cuts from Montgomery County ADAMHS

By **Samantha Wildow**  
Staff Writer

A planned, but significant reduction in the services that Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) board will fund has come to a head for organizations that receive funding from the board.

Those organizations, which provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, will all have to reapply for funds this month to last them through the rest of the year as the board continues to reduce spending and making some changes to its funding cycle.

While the ADAMHS board has warned its providers that this was coming, many of those organizations have been unable to plan their budgets or services until they know what funds they will receive.

"Our program stops suicide. We stop kids from cutting. We have little kids in Second Step who have told us, 'My dad makes me drink alcohol.' All of these things," said Nancy Bleil, who works at Samaritan Behavioral Health, during a recent ADAMHS board meeting.

"We're changing their lives, and that's not going to happen anymore because we don't have the money," Bleil said.

The Montgomery County ADAMHS board reallocated some \$10 million in funds back to the human services levy, which is shared by multiple agencies, two years ago given a surplus of cash reserves the board had.

"We did have a reduction in our base allocations for expenditures of 38%, but we were well aware of that. That's not anything that's unusual going into a campaign year, and we were planning accord-



**Helen Jones-Kelley, executive director of the Montgomery County ADAMHS board, during an informational meeting Friday about its budget.** MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

ingly," said Chrissy Sanders, chief financial officer at Montgomery County ADAMHS.

The human services levy is about 60% of the Montgomery County ADAMHS board's budget, ADAMHS records say.

The extra cash reserves the board had in place was due to large grants the board had received, but now that the cash reserves have gone down, the board will be reducing the amount of funds it allocates to providers in the community.

"We're very concerned," said Lisa Carter, CEO of South Community.

Any cuts that any of the providers in the county experience will mean a cut in services provided to the community, Carter said.

Samaritan Behavioral Health, Inc. has a large outreach into the community, particularly with students, said Beth Esposito, president of Samaritan Behavioral Health, Inc. They are looking at how to continue to provide services, but a cut in funding could impact staffing.

The board has since been trying to spend down its cash reserves to get its reserves to be about 9% of its annual budget, which the human service levy council had decided in previous years was a good amount to have in the reserves heading into a campaign year, said Helen Jones-Kelley, executive director of Montgomery County ADAMHS.

The campaign year for one of Montgomery County's two human services levies is expected to be next year.

"How do you go ask taxpayers for dollars if you're perceived as an agency as sitting on a lot of money and not utilizing the money, because we were just really blessed with dollars at that point," said Jones-Kelley.

Now, some of the other funding sources for the Montgomery County ADAMHS board, like the large grants it received that built up its cash reserves in previous years, are either flat or no longer available in this time frame, Jones-Kelley said during a recent informational meeting.

The board plans on prioritizing state-mandated programs, which are primarily treatment-based services, as agencies come back around for funding to get them through to the end of the year.

Montgomery County ADAMHS has also seen increased need for those services county-wide, Jones-Kelley said.

Prevention services are most likely to take a hit in funding.

"We had reached a point where we were really building out more prevention programs, which are not mandated by the state, but really have a strong impact on the system overall," Jones-Kelley said.

The Montgomery County ADAMHS board is also implementing a change in its funding cycle, moving funding for prevention services from a state fiscal year cycle to a calendar year cycle.

"It has been on a state fiscal year cycle up until this point," Jones-Kelley said. "We've been using the dollars that we get from the state and then supplementing that funding with levy dollars."

This year is also the first year providers will be able to apply for levy-funded carryover opportunities, said Tristyn Ball, director of prevention and early intervention at Montgomery County ADAMHS.

This will be the remaining local funds available for applicants who have money remaining in their budget, she said.

"I don't know what these funds will look like if there are funds at all," Ball said.

Contact this reporter at 937-503-5305 or email [samantha.wildow@coxinc.com](mailto:samantha.wildow@coxinc.com).

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEMBERS  
FROM: ETHAN KROGER  
SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF JULY 11 MEETING  
DATE: JUNE 21, 2024

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The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024 has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next regularly scheduled meeting is at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

EK:ls

c: Members of City Council  
Norbert Klopsch, City Manager  
Robert Jacques, Law Director

# Centerville delays vote seeking ouster until after Antani addresses council

City opposes senator's lack of support for funding, absenteeism.

By **Eric Schwartzberg**  
and **Avery Kreemer**  
Staff Writers

The Centerville City Council planned a resolution calling for the resignation of state Sen. Niraj Antani, R-Miami Twp., who represents the area, but then withdrew it Monday to give the lawmaker more time to address several issues the city has with his representation.

The measure, which was on the original agenda for the council's regularly scheduled meeting Monday evening, called for



State Sen.  
**Niraj Antani,**  
R-Miami Twp.

Antani, who represents the 6th District in the Ohio Senate, to step down from his role immediately and refund his pay.

A Dayton Daily News investigation into Antani's Statehouse attendance, published May 16, found that Antani had missed nine Senate voting sessions, about one-third of the total votes the Senate has taken since the start of the 135th General Assembly.

It also showed he missed a

**Antani** continued on **A8**

## Antani

continued from **A1**

majority of scheduled committee hearings and was permanently removed from one committee.

Centerville Mayor Brooks Compton, in a statement emailed to this news outlet Monday, said Antani requested an opportunity to explain himself and address Centerville City Council's concerns over the handling of his responsibilities as their elected state senator.

"In the spirit of fairness and transparency, we have pulled the resolution from the agenda to allow Senator Antani the chance to provide his perspective," Compton said. "City Council will give him the opportunity to respond before considering further action."

The Dayton Daily News investigation found Antani had opted not to meet with local stakeholders, nor did he submit a list of priorities to Senate leadership in con-

nection to a \$700 million, one-time strategic investment fund that the state set aside for local projects and folded into the state's larger capital budget. Antani told this news organization he opted not to partake on ideological grounds.

Antani told this news outlet Monday that his understanding is that Centerville City Council members are upset that he is not supporting their funding request for the state capital budget.

"I am voting against this budget as this year it has ballooned to \$700 million, instead of the \$100 million it typically is," Antani said of this year's one-time strategic investment fund. "As a fiscal conservative, I simply cannot stand for this reckless spending, even if that means I am opposing certain projects."

"I stand for all taxpayers, not just certain special interests," he said.

Both the city and Antani said he and Compton spoke over the weekend and are

working to schedule a date on which he will address city council.

Antani missed the next Senate session following the Dayton Daily News' investigation, but is now on a run of three successive attendances to the Senate floor.

Senate journals show that despite Antani's recent return to form, he is still regularly being temporarily replaced on the Senate Government Oversight Committee, which he is paid to help lead.

The council, in its resolution, also said that in addition to Antani missing sessions and hearings "without a valid excuse," he also "failed to meet with representatives of the city of Centerville concerning capital improvement projects eligible for funding and missed the deadline for submitting a list of local projects to Senate leadership in order to access surplus funds set aside for capital improvement projects throughout the state."

The withdrawn resolution

called on Antani to immediately resign from his seat "so that a successor can be appointed as provided by law to effectively represent the citizens of Centerville and the 6th District for the remainder of the term."

It also called on Antani to refund his base pay of \$71,099 "for the time period during which he has neglected his duties and failed to attend sessions of the Ohio Senate."

It said that pay was for "the part-time job of a member of the Ohio Senate, not including benefits and supplements for committee assignments" and "more than \$4,000 above the median household income in Ohio."

The city first sent the agenda that included the resolution calling for Antani's resignation on Friday after it created the packet distributed to council members. The resolution was discussed during a previous work session, Centerville officials said Monday.

**THE OAKWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT'S  
REPORT TO THE CITY MANAGER**

**MAY 2024**

Submitted by Chief Alan Hill

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**PART 1 CRIMES:** There were twelve Part 1 crimes reported during the month of May. These included eight thefts, three domestic violence, and one assault.

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:** During the month of May, 104 traffic violations were cited, and 29 parking citations were issued.

**DETECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS:**

24-001464	1500 Devereux	Criminal Trespass	Cleared By Arrest-Juvenile
24-001542	2400 Blk Far Hills	Motor Vehicle Theft	Under Investigation
24-001574	2800 Blk Far Hills	Theft	Under Investigation
24-004622	1200 Blk Far Hills Ave	Assault	Cleared By Arrest -Juvenile

**LEADS:** The LEADS validation report this month concerned warrant entries. All entries have been validated and the Safety Department remains in compliance with LEADS protocol.

**TEEN COURT:** There were five cases referred to the Oakwood Teen Court and no cases were referred to the Montgomery County Juvenile Court during the month of May.

**BIKE PATROLS:** There were three bike patrols during the month of May.

## FIRE

**FIRE:** There were eleven total fire responses in May, all were to Oakwood. These included six alarm investigations, three smell of smoke investigations, one natural gas investigation, and one arcing electrical line.

**APPARATUS:** There were no maintenance issues reported during the month of May.

**FIRE INSPECTIONS:** There were no fire inspections conducted during the month of May.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**TRANSPORTS:** There were 39 total calls for emergency medical services in May, including four mutual aid requests from the Dayton Fire Department. Seven patients refused medical treatment and/or transportation. All other patients were transported to area hospitals for treatment.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**DARE:** During the month of May, the DARE Officer taught 32 classes, had 2 bike safety talks, and held the graduation ceremony at Smith Elementary.

## TRAINING

Public Safety Officers, Lieutenants, and Command Staff completed a total of 212 hours of police, fire, and EMS training during the month of May.

During the month of May, Safety Department personnel completed EMS online continuing education training presented by 24/7 covering Communicable Diseases.

Fire training consisted of Fire Hydraulics through the online training portal.

Officers completed a 4-hour tactical shooting range held at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office range.

Lastly, all officers conducted online IT Security Awareness training regarding Phish emails from Knowbe4.

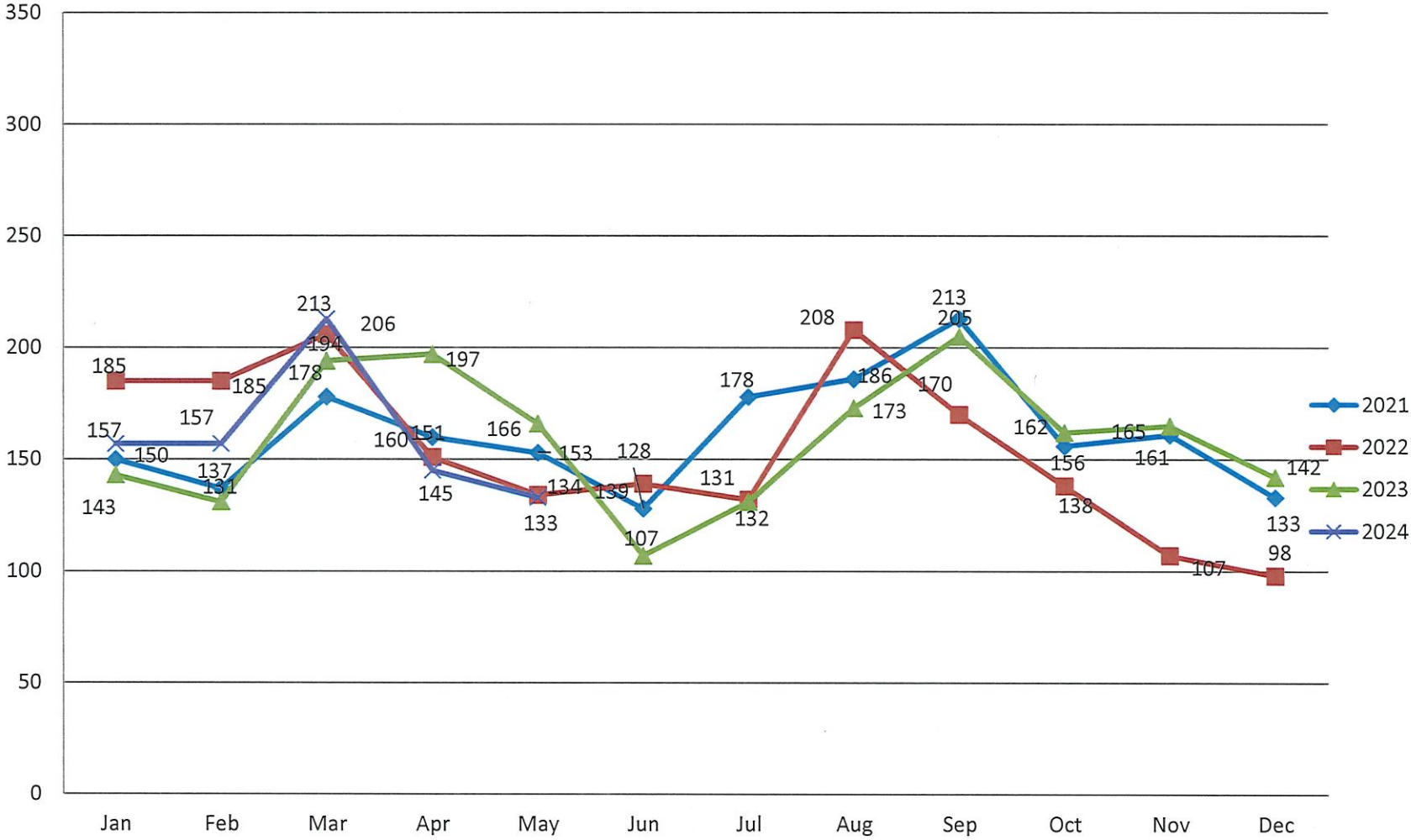
## OFFICER ACTIVITY

	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS CITED	OVI	FIELD REPORTS	REPORTS TAKEN	PARKING	WARNINGS	VHC	COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE
Staff	1	4	0	2	38	5	11	5	3
1	3	28	0	7	30	8	42	118	4
2	3	29	1	2	35	9	44	109	8
3	8	43	0	2	30	7	49	102	5

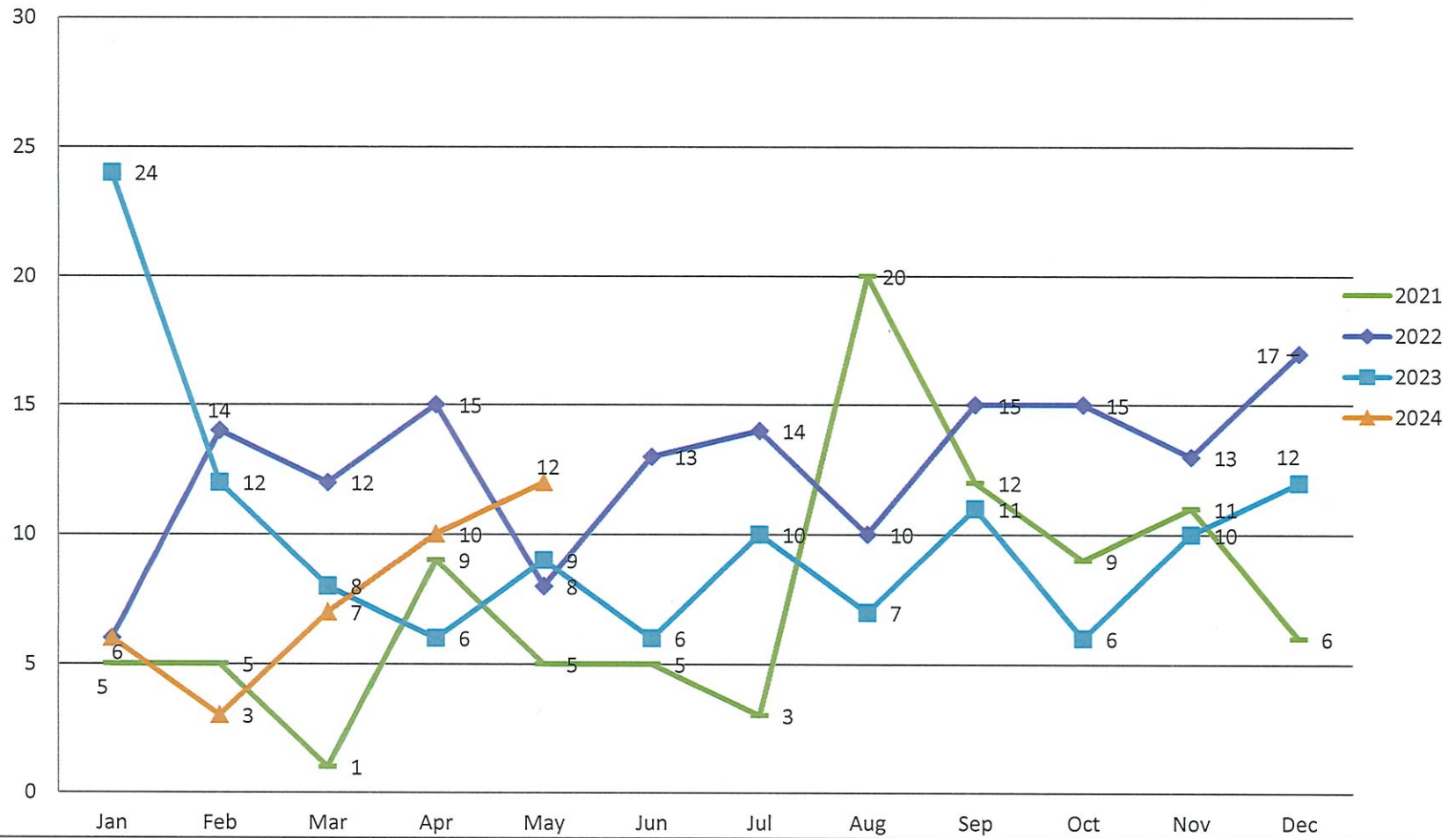
TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS CITED		WARNINGS	
White	47	White	98
Black	43	Black	31
Indian	1	Indian	2
Asian	3	Asian	0
Hispanic	3	Hispanic	2
Middle Eastern	1	Middle Eastern	6
Unoccupied Vehicle/Other/Unknown	6	Unoccupied Vehicle/Other/Unknown	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>
FIELD INVESTIGATIONS		ARRESTS	
White	9	White	7
Black	2	Black	4
Indian	0	Indian	0
Asian	0	Asian	0
Hispanic	0	Hispanic	4
Middle Eastern	0	Middle Eastern	0
Other/Unknown	2	Other/Unknown	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>



# CITATIONS 2021-2024



# PART 1 CRIMES 2021-2024



## NEW CARLISLE

# Split council votes to allow chickens in New Carlisle

**By Brooke Spurlock**  
Staff Writer

A divided New Carlisle City Council has passed legislation to allow chickens in the city, but members will soon discuss restrictions that might be added to the new ordinances that were passed by a 4-3 vote.

The ordinance allows the keeping of hens, also known as female chickens, at residential properties within city limits.

Several residents spoke in opposition to allowing chickens in the city at this meeting, including former Mayor Mike Lowry, who said some people don't take care of animals the way they should and he doesn't see that pattern changing with chickens.

"I can appreciate anybody that wants to learn about farm animals and agriculture ... but when you move into a city, a municipality, and I can't speak for everybody, but I move or live in a city because I want to live by certain types of guidelines and rules. I don't want to live next to a guy who's got farm animals making noise and all the mess that comes with chickens ... I know there are pros to raising your own chickens and eggs, but I think that cons far outweigh at this moment. It's just not the time, and it's bad timing with the housing developments," he said.

A couple residents in favor of having chickens spoke, including a woman who talked about diseases and the disposal.

"Dogs carry diseases, cats carry diseases, I raise rabbits currently in town, they carry diseases, reptiles, exotics, they also carry diseases. What helps is veterinary preventative care that we all as responsible owners provide for our animals," she said. "The cool thing about chickens is you don't actually have to take them to a vet to get that preventative care. Most of the preventative care against things like worms or diseases are available over the counter at places like Tractor Supply, Rural King and other farm stores ... When it comes to waste, I also have garden beds. Chickens make compost for garden beds, they can be composted and that's a way to utilize it and if not there are ways to dispose of it in a healthy manner."

Council held a special meeting on June 10, where legislation was introduced to make the keeping of chickens more restrictive.

The ordinance is being amended because it "lacks certain restrictions and safeguards that would protect all citizens of the city," officials said. The amended ordinance would now include:

A maximum of 12 chickens can be kept for resident properties that are more than one-acre.

The breeding of chickens is prohibited.

Chicken coops, runs and tractors must be maintained to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the chickens, and regularly cleaned to control dust, odor, vermin and waste.

Any coop, combined coop and run or chicken tractor must be considered to be an accessory building.

Anyone keeping chickens must register with and apply to the city for a permit, together with an application fee, in a form adopted by the planning director. Each permit will expire on Dec. 31 of each year unless it's renewed.

Legislation will update the fee schedule and permits required to add the cost of obtaining a permit for the keeping of chickens at residential properties within the city, and to add chicken coops, combined chicken coops and runs and chicken tractors to the list of accessory structures.

The amended ordinance states the initial cost of the permit for keeping chickens will be \$5, and the fee for the annual renewal of the permit will also be \$5.

With the ordinances already passed to allow chickens, Mayor Bill Cook said council has 15 days from that original ordinance to get the amendments tied in with the ordinance, so they had to have a special meeting.

City Manager Randy Bridge spoke during the meeting, calling the ordinance passed as is "detrimental."

"The ordinance that was passed at last council meeting was very detrimental the way it was with lack of registration, lack of maximum amount on an acre or more," he said. "It would end up being very detrimental due

to the lack of registration or anything to go behind it ... It's absolutely one of the most, if not the most, detrimental ordinances that have ever been passed since I've been employed here."

For example, Bridge said, if they have a salmonella outbreak and the county board of health asks for their list of permits of where the chickens are location, "we have absolutely no way of knowing where they're at."

He also has talked about the ordinance to amend the initial action.

"They're not taking (the ordinance) away, it's just avenues for the city to be able to enforce and make it safe for everyone involved. There is a massive issue with not having a cap on an acre or more because a person can get 100 chickens, 200 chickens, that person can go to someone next to them and say, 'Hey, I don't have a limit, would you like me to house your chickens,' and get paid to do so ... It's an ordinance that kind of meets everyone halfway, in my opinion," he said.

During the special meeting, a few residents also spoke again about how they feel about chickens being allowed in the city.

"I think it's, in a way, kind of humorous we're talking about chickens ... We're talking about salmonella but you can get that at stores too. Just keep a clean nest, place for the eggs and chickens," said a resident. "You need to learn them like you do with other pets. I don't think it's going to be a problem because not a whole lot of people will want or have them. The idea is to take care of them, just like other animals."

Supporters say people should be self-sufficient in something by growing something, providing something you can eat.

City council were to discuss and take action on the introduced ordinances at a meeting Monday night at Heritage Hall.

For more information, visit [newcarlisleohio.gov/city-council](http://newcarlisleohio.gov/city-council). To watch past city council meetings, visit [www.youtube.com/@city-ofnewcarlisle](http://www.youtube.com/@city-ofnewcarlisle).

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Contact this reporter at [brooke.spurlock@coxinc](mailto:brooke.spurlock@coxinc).

# SINCLAIR COLLEGE

## 2023-24 AT A GLANCE



### OUR VISION

Sinclair will be the premier choice for students, employees, employers, and community partners.



### OUR MISSION

Find the need and endeavor to meet it by providing high quality, accessible learning as a college of and for the community.



### OUR PURPOSE

Raise economic and social mobility for all.

1. Sinclair **awards more degrees and certificates** than any other Ohio community college.
2. During 2023-24, **30,644 unduplicated college credit students** attended Sinclair College.
3. During 2023-24, Sinclair offered **300+ college credit degree and certificate programs**, including four Bachelor of Applied Science degrees.
4. In 2023-24, **9,977 high school students were enrolled in College Credit Plus (CCP)** at Sinclair. *CCP allows students to earn college credit while still in high school.*
5. On average, Sinclair students receiving Associate Degrees see an approximate **earnings increase from \$32,000 to \$50,000** in the first year after graduation.
6. Sinclair is very aggressively analyzing and planning to implement changes enabled by **Artificial Intelligence**.
7. The Sinclair Foundation annually distributes **\$2.4 Million** to students through **380+ scholarships and program funds**.
8. Sinclair's National UAS Training and Certification Center program and partner reach spans **48 states in the U.S. and 24 countries worldwide**.
9. Sinclair was awarded grants totaling **\$17.5 Million** during 2023-24, targeting: student transfer, job pathways, workforce pipelines, and more.
10. **98% of Sinclair graduates** feel they received a **quality, affordable education** at Sinclair. *(2023 Alumni Survey)*
11. Sinclair's Workforce Development is ranked as the **largest Workforce Development Program** in the Dayton Region.
12. Sinclair has **no financial debt** and has earned the **highest 5.0 financial rating** for Ohio's public higher education.
13. Sinclair was named nationally as one of **Forbes 2024 Best Midsize Employers**.



Miami Valley Risk Management Association  
Miami Valley Communications Council  
Presents:



## SOCIAL MEDIA – PERILS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS - THE LAW AND REALITY

**When:** Friday, July 26, 2024

**Where:** Miami Valley Communications Council  
1195 E. Alex Bell Road  
Centerville, OH 45459

**Time:** 9:30 – Noon – Lunch provided following program

**Cost:** No Charge for MVRMA & MVCC Members



**Jonathan Downes** Jonathan Downes has over 30 years of experience in practicing labor and employment law in Ohio and has successfully negotiated over 500 labor agreements and has presented over 100 impasse proceedings and 100 arbitrations. He represents cities, townships, counties, school districts, and public officials throughout the State of Ohio. Jonathan also represents private employers in employment matters. He has argued cases before the Ohio Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Jonathan is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Jonathan is a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Jonathan has been selected as one of the "Best Lawyers in America – Employment and Labor Law" every year since 2010, as an "Ohio Super Lawyer" every year since 2004, one of "Central Ohio Top Lawyers" since 2009 and received the OHPELRA "Award of Excellence" in 2016. He is also certified by the Ohio State Bar Association ("OSBA") as a Specialist in Labor and Employment law.

He lectures frequently on many topics including state and federal employment and labor law developments, civil rights, civil service, arbitration, and collective bargaining. Jonathan served on the Civil Service Review Commission for the State of Ohio, authored "Civil Service Law in Ohio," and edits the Westlaw annual publication of the "Ohio Civil Service and Collective Bargaining Laws and Rules Annotated." Jonathan was a member of the OSBA's Board of Governors for the Labor and Employment Law Section, is a member of the Ohio Management Lawyers Association, and a charter member and past president of the Ohio Public Employers Labor Relations Association. Jonathan volunteers in his community in various capacities including serving on boards of a public library and two charter schools and advises a high school mock trial team.

**Course Description:**  
**Social Media is great – except when it isn't.**

**This session will outline the Constitutional law standards applied by the courts and the practical standards public employers can implement to comply with the law.**

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**Materials will include a PowerPoint and a detailed outline.**

Please contact Starr Markworth with any questions, [smarkworth@mvrma.com](mailto:smarkworth@mvrma.com) -register through the MVRMA website [www.mvrma.com](http://www.mvrma.com) or through the link below:

**Please register early, class size is limited to 30.**

**REGISTER BEFORE JULY 12TH**



**THE MIAMI  
CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT**

June 17, 2024

Norbert S. Klopsch  
City Manager, City of Oakwood  
30 Park Avenue  
Oakwood, OH 45419

via e-mail: [klopsch@oakwood.oh.us](mailto:klopsch@oakwood.oh.us)

**38 E. MONUMENT AVE  
DAYTON, OHIO 45402  
(937) 223-1271  
[mcdwater.org](http://mcdwater.org)**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mark G. Rentschler  
Michael H. van Haaren  
Beth G. Whelley

**GENERAL MANAGER**

MaryLynn Lodor

Dear Norbert:

On behalf of the Miami Conservancy District, I am reaching out to provide you with an update. We appreciate your interest in the impact of the Miami Conservancy District's flood protection system on the communities that are protected.

We heard your call to pause and reevaluate our funding model, and our Board of Directors has directed us to do just that. We view you as a partner in the mission to keep citizens safe and protect property in the flood protection area.

The Miami Conservancy District's mission is to protect communities in southwest Ohio from flooding and the flood protection system has significantly reduced flood risk from the Great Miami River and several tributaries across five counties more than 2,100 times since 1922.

**Status of the 7<sup>th</sup> Readjustment of the Appraisal of Benefits (7<sup>th</sup> Readjustment)**

The work of the Miami Conservancy District is funded by a valuation of flood protection benefits, and property value has been a factor. Currently property values are based on 2012 values, approved in a 6<sup>th</sup> Readjustment. In 2020 the Miami Conservancy District was ordered by the Conservancy Court to "readjust" the benefit calculation using up-to-date property values, but it was delayed due to an appeal of property values at the state level. In 2022 the appeal was resolved. After delay since 2020 the 7<sup>th</sup> Readjustment was scheduled for 2024.

As you know, due to a steep rise in 2023 property values (especially when compared to 2012 property values), some assessment payers were scheduled for increases up to 400% or even higher. Based on community input and a better understanding of how the 7<sup>th</sup> Readjustment could impact property owners and businesses, the Board of Directors elected to **pause** the readjustment process.

It has never been the intent of the Miami Conservancy District to work against economic development or revitalization of any community. We were created by business leaders to ensure the region never again experiences the devastating impacts of flooding that took at least 370 lives, paralyzed commerce, and took many years to recover.



We are committed to an accelerated study to explore best practices from across the country and evaluate other funding models compared with the Miami Conservancy District's current funding structure. This will involve working with an experienced, external firm to analyze the alternatives, gather feedback from stakeholders, and develop a recommendation. We will balance impact to communities while ensuring resources are available to sufficiently and safely maintain the critical infrastructure of the flood protection system.

This study is slated to begin in early July. The first phase is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. The pause to the readjustment is anticipated to take at least two years while the study is underway, and an enhanced, watershed-based methodology is developed.

The Miami Conservancy District is committed to evaluating the funding approach, so that it is fair and equitable and recognizes the direct and indirect benefits of the regional flood protection system.

### **What does the readjustment pause mean for flood protection?**

During the **pause**:

- The assessments will continue to be calculated using 2012 property values.
- A study will result in a sustainable, alternative funding model.
- A new philanthropic fund is established at The Hamilton Community Foundation. The fund will provide financial assistance to not-for profits in the greater Hamilton area who benefit from flood protection and are paying an assessment. We are exploring the establishment of funds at additional community foundations across the region.
- An increase to 2025 maintenance assessment rates is necessary to maintain critical flood protection services and protect \$10B of property value and essential services.

The **pause** results in the following impacts:

- Unless other funding is available, critical reinvestment to keep the flood protection infrastructure strong will have to be deferred. For example, the capital assessment was to provide \$4.3M annually but with the pause it will annually bring in \$1.4M less. The rehabilitation of crumbling concrete walls of dams is critical to control flooding. If these dams were to fail, it could result in catastrophic losses for the region. There are many other examples of rehabilitation priorities.
- Potential elevated flood risk if resources are not available to adequately maintain the flood protection system and respond to high water and flooding.
- The unencumbered cash reserves will not continue to subsidize routine operations.

### **Assessments are based on the amount needed to care for and address critical, aging infrastructure.**

Typically, when a readjustment of the appraisal of benefits is complete, the Board sets a maintenance rate with the intention that the rate would remain flat until the next readjustment, which is about 8 years. The readjustment has already been delayed four years since 2020. The pause creates additional risks to flood protection.

At a June meeting the Board of Directors reviewed the flood protection maintenance budgets fund balances. The 2025 preliminary budget was reduced by \$1M. The Board reviewed 2025-2027 rate scenarios and approved a 2025 maintenance rate of 3.35%. It is the Board's intention that the rate will remain flat through the study period. By that time, the Board anticipates to being implementation of a new methodology.

The Conservancy Court will consider the updated maintenance rate and the pause of the 7<sup>th</sup> Readjustment during its July 2024 meeting. **This rate, if approved by the Conservancy Court, will result in assessments to many property owners that are far less than the amounts estimated with the 7<sup>th</sup> Readjustment, which is now paused.**

Examples:

	# of Parcels	Current Annual Maintenance Assessment based on 6th	2025 Annual Maintenance Assessment based on 6th	PAUSED 7th Readjustment for Model Evaluation (Maintenance)	NEW 2025 Annual Capital based on 6th Assessment	PAUSED 7th Readjustment for Model Evaluation (Capital)
The Marcum Apartments, LLC (Butler County)	1	\$1,720	\$2,631	\$45,443	\$785	\$16,346
Spooky Nook (Butler County)	4	\$9,673	\$14,797	\$352,677	\$4,417	\$126,862
Children's Medical Center (Montgomery Co)	70	\$72,073	\$110,249	\$245,457	\$32,910	\$88,294
Kettering Health Network (Montgomery, Miami Co)	76	\$12,041	\$18,457	\$49,899	\$5,509	\$17,949
Hamilton Artspace Lofts Ltd. Partnership (Butler Co)	1	\$1,208	\$1,848	\$7,951	\$552	\$2,860
Example: Fully Protected \$100,000 Property in 6th		\$230	\$352	\$394	\$105	\$142
Example: Partially Protected \$100,000 Property in 6th		\$23	\$35	\$39	\$11	\$14

Approximately 40% of all 40,000 parcels currently assessed are calculated at "partially protected" factors. Additionally, over 80% of all parcels flood protection assessments would be less than \$200 per year.

**Flood insurance costs remain avoided for many.**

Some properties that benefit from the flood protection system avoid flood insurance because we have previously met required FEMA criteria for levees to avoid flood insurance. It is our intent to ensure that our levees meet the federal criteria so those property owners will continue to enjoy the benefit of not paying flood insurance. **The average annual cost of residential flood insurance in Ohio is estimated to be \$1,250.**

Without MCD flood protection, some high-valued properties could be faced with flood insurance costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars each year if they were in a FEMA special flood zone.

**Exploring Additional Funding Resources**

Miami Conservancy District is actively exploring state and federal government funding opportunities. We appreciate your consideration of our capital needs in the state capital bill. Since 2022, we have applied for over \$22M in federal or state funding.

We welcome your thoughts and feedback as we move through this process. We value our partnership and encourage you to reach out to discuss any of this in greater detail.

Sincerely,



MaryLynn Lodor  
 General Manager



# City of Oakwood

## Government Administration

City Manager

June 17, 2024

Montgomery County Environmental Services  
Attn: John Minear, Manager  
2550 Sandridge Drive  
Moraine, Ohio 45439

Dear Mr. Minear,

The city of Oakwood agrees, by the submission of this letter, to be Supporting Partners in the Food Waste Recovery and Resource Program being operated through the partnership between The Food Bank, Inc. and Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District, a division of Montgomery County Environmental Services (the "Partnership"). We understand by becoming a Supporting Partner we agree to only the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Supporting Partners Overview document.

Furthermore, the city of Oakwood understands this program will be launched upon the receipt of funding provided through the Partnership, whether that be through grant or internal funding through the Partnership. The city of Oakwood agrees to the roles and responsibilities we have elected to support, which are:

One (1) Drop-off Location & Education & Outreach

We thank the Partnership for pursuing this program and we look forward to its implementation. If you should have any further questions or need any further support, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Klopsch", is written over the typed name.

Norbert S. Klopsch  
City Manager

NSK:ls

c: Oakwood City Council  
Doug Spitler, Director of Public Works