

STATE OF THE CITY



2024

State of the City 2024

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Public Works

Water Department

2024 was a very busy year for the Water Department. The city consumed the most water in its history with meter usage rising to 620 million gallons. This represents about a 10% increase over the previous record and follows a consistent pattern of sales growth.

Wilmington's partnership with Fayette County to provide water to the Honda/LG electric vehicle battery plant is moving forward. Construction of a water line to Fayette was completed in October 2024. Work is ongoing to improve and upgrade Wilmington's supply facilities. The project is expected to begin operation in 2025 with revenues beginning when Fayette County starts drawing water.

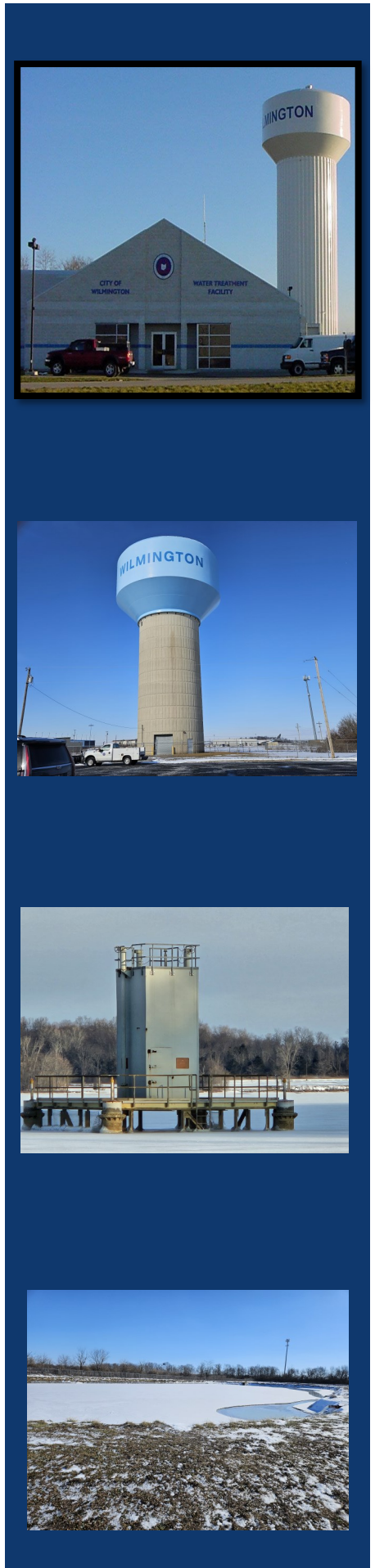
Fayette County will receive up to 4.5 million gallons of water per day to facilitate economic development. For the City of Wilmington, the financial costs of the contract with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to obtain source water from Caesar Creek Lake will be shared with Fayette County.

The Water Department continued working with the engineering firm Hazen and Sawyer to develop strategies for managing "forever chemicals". The presence of these chemicals in the City's drinking water reservoirs in Burtonville will require new methods to treat them. A grant of more than \$1 million from Ohio EPA and funded by the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation was used for the study. The study analyzed the specific PFAS compounds present and pilot tested treatment methods. Pilot equipment was operated to find the most effective and cost-efficient methods of treatment. The PFAS compounds are found in many products, including firefighting foams used at airports like Wilmington Air Park.

Wilmington currently uses Caesar Creek Lake as the primary water source. The purpose of the PFAS study is to be able to maintain the city's reservoirs to a viable water source. The department relies on the reservoir system as a backup to ensure that there is never a disruption to the city's water service.

The water department was especially active this year working throughout the distribution system. Our crews exercised hundreds of valves. This work increases the longevity of valves and minimizes affected areas when water main repairs are made.

As usual, City's drinking water met federal and state standards throughout the year.



Public Works

Wastewater Department

In March of 2023, the construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Facility began. This project has an expected completion date of the summer of 2025. The new facility will have an upgraded capacity of 4.5 million gallons per day design flow with a 22.5 million gallons per day peak flow and will meet more stringent permit requirements set forth by the Ohio EPA. Arcadis is the design engineer and Peterson Construction Company is the General Contractor.

The Wastewater department has continued to investigate inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the public sewer system through our preventative maintenance program that includes scheduled cleaning, video analysis, and flow monitoring of the public sewer lines. Also, flow studies in 2021-2022 have helped lead us to problem areas and have resulted in scheduled lining projects, manhole rehab, and sewer mainline repairs that will ensure reductions in flows to the current wastewater facility and the new facility given extended lift to the sewer infrastructure.

In 2024 many repairs were made to service laterals throughout the city. Many of these were found while doing preventative maintenance and repaired before any customer backups occurred.

Over 54,000 feet of mainline sewer pipe was sonar inspected and cleaned/jetted with our vac trucks. We grouted 46 service laterals and just under 1500 feet of mainline, to fill in joints in the sewer mains. This reduces infiltration and reduces or stops ground water from penetrating the sewer line. The Wastewater Department uses a root control herbicide to control root infiltration into the main lines. Over 11,000 feet of mainline was treated because tree roots penetrate and block sewer mains. Many of these root infiltrations were found while doing preventative maintenance such as televising and using a sonar type, pipe inspection tool. After identifying the lines that have root issues, we treat the line with an herbicide foam that fills the pipe and causes fast decay of the root material. This reduces the chance of a root related blockage. We also video inspected 14,500 feet of mainline for defects, blockages and for locating service laterals.



Public Works

Stormwater

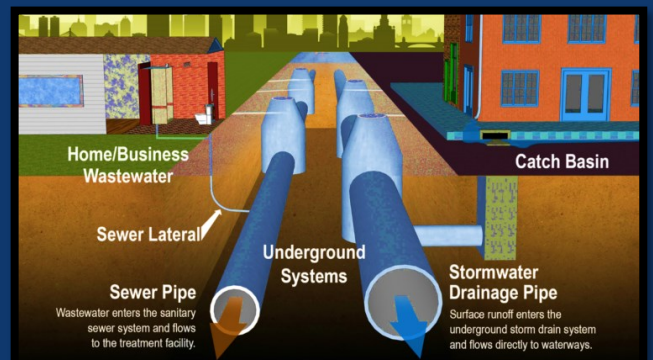
The Stormwater Department continues to provide a vital service to the citizens of Wilmington, thanks in part to the implementation of the Stormwater utility fee. We have an ongoing list of catch basins in need of repair or replacement. Our crews continually handle this at a fraction of the cost of contracting these projects out. We also tackle some of the larger issues in the stormwater realm.

Modifications were made to the catch basins on Rombach Ave., across from the Safety Service Center, to hopefully eliminate the street flooding problems that have happened the past few years.

Projects in house for 2024 include repair or replacement of 28 catch basins, as well as repairs to 4 manholes and multiple point repairs to lines throughout the City. We installed nearly 1000' of storm pipes (4" up to 18") and replaced curb and sidewalks as we went.

We also operate the street sweeper, cleaning the downtown area multiple times a week and covering side streets and sub-divisions on a five-week rotation, as weather permits.

We contracted out two large projects in 2024. Storm sewer infrastructure was added, where non existed, off of Thorne Ave. at the High School, and eliminated two large voids beneath Main Street at Grant Street by replacing the deteriorating storm pipes, as well as adding additional drainage capacity for the roadway.



Human Resources

INTRODUCTION

The Human Resources Department plays a critical role in ensuring that the City of Wilmington attracts, retains, and supports a talented and professional workforce dedication to serving our community while identifying and mitigating risks. Over the past year, we have focused on strengthening employee engagement, enhancing recruitment efforts, and improving benefits administration while welcoming new leadership.

WORKFORCE OVERVIEW

Over the course of 2024, the City of Wilmington employed 155 full-time and 51 part-time and seasonal employees across sixteen departments. Our workforce reflects our community, with the majority having been born and raised in the Wilmington area.

KEY WORKFORCE STATISTICS

- Number of applications received: 339
- Number of Classified/Unclassified positions: 26/28
- Number of promotions: 9
- Average Tenure: 12 years
- Retirements: 3

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Recruitment & Retention

- Welcomed new Human Resources Director Jim Brady.
- Collaborated with Safety Director Nick Eveland to streamline recruitment and improve candidate experience for Fire, Dispatch, and Police Departments.
- Expanded outreach efforts through partnerships with Clinton County Workforce Development.

2. Employee Benefits & Wellness

- Negotiated competitive benefits packages, maintaining cost-effective health insurance options while managing rising costs.

3. Training & Development

- Expanded clerical support to support leadership goals and increase responsiveness to community issues.



Human Resources

Continued

-Established a mentorship program to support employee career growth.

4. Compliance & Labor Relations

-Successfully negotiated changes to our Emergency Communications/Dispatch Department contract to add two part time Dispatch positions.

-Expanded leadership opportunities within the Police Department to foster career growth and strengthen community relations.

-Creation of Employee Task Force to strengthen communication and increase collaboration between leadership and non-union employees.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Despite our progress, we continue to navigate challenges such as workforce shortages in critical areas, rising healthcare costs, and the need for competitive compensation to attract top talent. Looking ahead, we plan to:

- Develop new workforce pipeline programs to address hiring needs.
- Explore cost-saving measures in benefits without compromising employee well-being.
- -Enhance digital tools for HR services to improve efficiency and accessibility.

LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

For the upcoming year, the HR Department will focus on:

1. Enhancing Employee Experience & Engagement– Conducting citywide engagement surveys and implementing action plans.
2. Workforce Planning & Succession Management– Preparing for retirements and ensuring leadership continuity.
3. Technology & Process Improvements– Implementing an HRIS upgrade for better data management, recruitment, and reporting.

CONCLUSION

The City of Wilmington remains committed to fostering a strong, competent, and high-performing workforce. Through strategic planning and collaboration, we will continue to make meaningful improvements and benefit both employees and the residents we serve.

We appreciate the dedication of our employees and the support the city leadership in achieving these goals.



Police & Communications

In 2024 the Wilmington Police Department underwent several changes from administrative personnel to the computer equipment and programs we utilize.

Chief Ron Fifthen stepped down from the position and assumed the role of Police Executive of Administrative Services. His new role entails grant writing, evidence, and public records. Since beginning this new position, Ron has made significant improvements in the evidence room management side of the department. He has worked relentlessly at organizing, documenting, and/or marking items that need returned or destroyed. This has been an extremely important task as we have struggled in this area primarily from lack of space and labor to maintain the day-to-day needs of the department.

Sgt Robert Wilson was promoted to Chief of Police and assumed the roles as the administrator of the department.

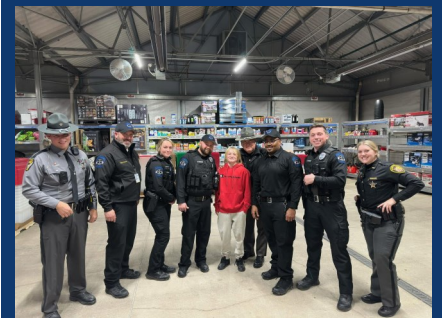
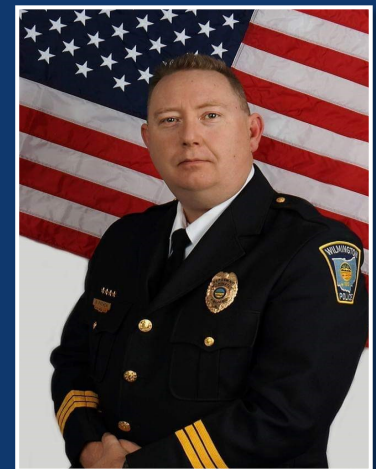
In 2024 the Wilmington Police Department had numerous technological upgrades including a new CAD/RMS System. Motorola Flex was graciously approved and funded by the Wilmington City Council at a cost of over a half a million dollars. The new system brings with it many updated features which will increase the efficiency and organization of the police report writing system. This system went live in August of 2024.

The 911 system underwent upgrades that were paid for by the 911 fees collected by the county in cooperation with the Clinton County Sheriff's Office. The system has been upgraded from analog to digital.

2024 brought two new officers to the Wilmington Police Department, Drew Meadows and Gracie Boggs. We are thrilled to have them as a part of our team!

In 2024 the Wilmington Police Department managed approximately 15,293 calls. I say approximately because prior to the new system going into effect in August the statistics were difficult to track due to the previous CAD/RMS.

The Police Department was active in the Community. Several Officers sit on and participate in local boards. The Police Department participated in the Tim Tebow Night to Shine Event held in Blancheater this year. We partnered with Walmart to participate with various agencies for National Night Out. This Christmas WPD, CCSO, BPD, SBD, and OSP teamed up for Shop with a Cop. We partnered with Walmart and the Wilmington Church of God to enable a Christmas shopping event for approximately twenty children from our communities. This event was an enormous success and one we hope to expand in 2025. Ofc Kelly Grogan began offering unarmed self-defense classes to the community this year. Since inception she has held three classes with hopes of expanding next year. When the weather was nice, officers could be seen walking foot patrols and interacting with the community.



Police & Communications

Continued

Long time School Resource Officer Pat Black retired and was replaced by SRO Logan Schroer who is performing remarkably well in the schools.

We updated the Police Department's Patch and Uniforms to a more moderns and comfortable design. The Cruiser colors have changed from blue to black to match the uniform and patch colors.

The Wilmington Police Department name Sgt Andrew Calhoun as the Officer of the Year, Dispatcher Terri Murphy was named Communications Officer of the Year and Ptl. Matt Patrick was name Crime Fighter of the Year. We applaud these officers for their hard work and dedication to the citizens of Wilmington.

WPD Officers seized over 2,962.64 grams or approximately 6.5 Ibs. Of narcotics in 2024. Those numbers include 36.72 grams of Fentanyl and 430.60 grams of Methamphetamine. Marijuana/Hash/Was Etc. made up the bulk amounts with 2,422.09 grams.

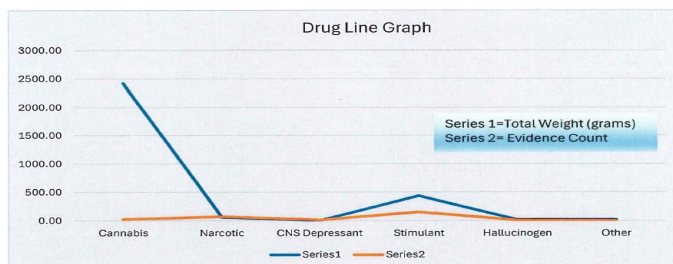
The year seen drugs/paraphernalia as the highest arrest areas in the city. Criminal trespass and petty thefts were high during the first part of the year but seem to have slowed down as the year progressed. This is a direct result of Municipal Court Judge Dave Henry taking a hardened stance against these types of crimes. It became clear throughout the year an individual WILL go to jail for these offenses.



Prepared by: Detective Juillerat 2024 Crime Lab Total(s) MVRCL Data

Drug(s)			
Drug	Total Weight (grams)	Evidence Count	Drug Category
THC Product (Hash, Flower, Wax, Etc.)	2422.09	22	Cannabis
Alprazolam	0.51	2	CNS Depressant
Buprenorphine	14.34	17	Narcotic
Clonazepam	4.96	11	CNS Depressant
Cocaine	3.71	9	Stimulant
Fentanyl	36.72	36	Narcotic
Heroin	0.66	4	Narcotic
Hydrocodone	3.78	2	Narcotic
Lorazepam	0.06	1	CNS Depressant
LSD	0.24	5	Hallucinogen
Melatonin	18.15	1	Other
Methamphetamine	430.60	142	Stimulant
Morphine	0.47	1	Narcotic
N-Desethyl Etionitazene (prior to 06/04/24)	0.71	3	Narcotic
Oxycodone	2.03	3	Narcotic
Phentermine	2.65	2	Stimulant
Psilocyn	18.47	3	Hallucinogen
Tramadol	2.49	4	Narcotic
Grand Total	2962.64	268	

Drug Category Breakdown		
Drug Category	Total Weight (grams)	Evidence Count
Cannabis	2422.09	22
Narcotic	61.20	70
CNS Depressant	5.53	14
Stimulant	436.96	153
Hallucinogen	18.71	8
Other	18.15	1
Grand Total	2962.64	268



Fire Department

In 2024 the Fire Department made 3924 responses. 3117 of these calls were for EMS to assist with Falls or Lift Assists, but our services also included Fire Responses, Fire Inspections, Investigations, Public Interaction in several ways, and other general calls for assistance.

We made 521 Fire Responses for fires such as Houses, Apartments, Vehicles, and Mulch. We responded on many good intent calls where someone may have thought there was a problem and just needed us to check it out for their own piece of mind. We also responded to 143 motor vehicle accidents.

We made mutual aid or cover run calls to neighboring departments 226 times.

We had one Lieutenant retire after a full service career with Wilmington Fire Department for 25 years. Lieutenant Brant Schmitt will be missed but we wish him a very happy and healthy retirement as he plans to spend quality time with family. Firefighter William Jones was promoted to Lieutenant to take Brant's spot. We also had 2 other members move on from our department but in 2024, the Fire Department did hire 5 individuals who are working hard for the City of Wilmington. We would like to Welcome Jacob Kendall, Michael Sowards, Cody Thomas, Jarron Debold, and Steve Fisher to our ranks.

The Fire Department was able to promote Jeff Haines from Firefighter/Paramedic to the position of full-time Fire Inspector. Jeff will be the first designated fire inspector we have had on staff since 2016. Jeff was promoted October 7th and was able to complete 89 Annual Inspections, 86 Follow-Up Inspections, 10 New Install Inspections, and Inspect all College properties by the end of the year.

The Fire Department is currently made up of one Chief, Three Lieutenants, One Fire Inspector, and 10 Firefighters who are certified as EMT's and Paramedics.

The Fire Department has 4 Ambulances, 2 Ladder Trucks, several engines and other miscellaneous vehicles.

We look forward to 2025 and the opportunities it brings for us to grow and interact with the citizens in Wilmington and the County.



Sanitation Department

Over the past year the Sanitation Department faced challenges from increasing waste volumes, equipment issues, sustainability goals and mother nature. Yet, we remained steadfast in our efforts to deliver reliable and effective services for city residents and the entire community.

LANDFILL OPERATIONS

A crew of three equipment operators and a chief operator maintained the landfill operations side of the Sanitation Department at a very high level, Ohio EPA performed quarterly inspections of the site. The landfill passed all inspections and no violations were found. Nearly 56,000 tons of waste was accepted in 2024. A 2024 Caterpillar D5 Waste Package bulldozer was purchase and delivered in May 2024 and a 2013 Al-Jon 500 trash compactor was purchased and delivered in December 2024. These two machines will allow the City to continue providing local residents with a safe place to dispose of waste for many years to come as well as help keep the Wilmington Landfill in good standing with the Ohio EPA.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Sanitation Department operates residential and commercial solid waste collection services. The City Refuse Collection crews put in a lot of effort to provide good, reliable and cost-effective waste removal service for the residents and businesses. This essential daily service currently covers over 4100 residential and almost 500 commercial customers each week. This service is provided 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year with very slight interruption due to holidays. Trash service was also provided for special events such as the Friday Night Concert Series, Rock the Block and the Holidazzle Parade.

The refuse collection crews assist in many other daily functions of the Sanitation Department such as facilities maintenance, equipment maintenance, landfill operations and customer service requests.

The Collections Department maintains a fleet of 11 vehicles to serve the citizens of Wilmington with refuse pick-up. A 2023 Ford F-450 was purchased in January 2024, this vehicle is used to pick up bulk trash items and yard waste.

One 31 cubic yard high compaction Dennis Eagle-New Way Sidewinder automated trash truck.

One 27 cubic yard high compaction New Way Roto Pac automated refuse truck.

One 25 cubic yard high compaction Loadmaster refuse truck.

One 20 cubic yard high compaction Loadmaster refuse truck.

One 20 cubic yard high compaction New Way cardboard recycling truck.

One 31 cubic yard high compaction Loadmaster automated recycle truck.

Two single axle Ford F450 dump truck.

Three service pickup trucks.

One mechanic tool truck.



Sanitation Department Continued

RECYCLING

The Sanitation Department received a grant from Clinton County Solid Waste Management to help pay for curbside recycling related expenses. Approximately 2,500 residents take part in the curbside recycling program, resulting in 285 tons of recycled material being collected.

The Sanitation Department also operates a cardboard recycling program. Nine local businesses take part in the cardboard recycling program. The Sanitation Department has also partnered with Clinton County Solid Waste Management to provide cardboard recycling at the recycle center, located on Main Street. 63.42 tons of corrugated cardboard were collected and recycled.

Both cardboard and mixed recycling is emptied at Rumpke's recycling facility in Dayton.

COMPOSTING

In May of 2024 Evans Landscaping was contracted to grind and process the Sanitation Department's compost. The Sanitation Department operates and maintains an Ohio EPA approved Class 4 compost facility. A total of 1,099 cubic yards of compost were accepted as of November.

2025

In April of 2025 the Sanitation Department will begin construction of landfill cell number 9, an almost six-acre landfill cell. We plan to begin placing waste in this new cell in the fall of 2025. We also took to build a bridge to cross Lytle Creek and expand corrugated cardboard recycling!



Maintenance & Repair

The duties and responsibilities of the Maintenance & Repair Department include but not limited to the following:

- Maintenance and repair over 200 vehicles and equipment for multiple Departments
- Painting of Traffic Control lines and curbs
- Traffic control for City Events
- Maintenance of City Streets— Maintenance & Repair crews place 44.8 tons of cold mix in pot holes and street cuts of other departments
- Snow and Ice removal
- Maintenance & Repair crews placed 1,237 tons of salt in 2024
- Mowing City Properties as well as delinquent properties
- Crew place Military Banners as well as Christmas Decorations
- Crews pick up leaves making 3 rounds city wide
- Crews place and water flowers 3 times a week during the Spring and Summer
- Crews install and maintain traffic signals and signs throughout the City
- Maintenance & Repair crews assist City Offices for minor repairs when called upon
- Maintenance & Repair crews respond to storm damage and assist the Police Department when called upon

The Maintenance & Repair department accomplishments would not be possible without the efforts of our employees. The Department consists of One Superintendent, One Crew Leader, One Diesel Mechanic, 6 Maintenance Workers, and 3 Part time Labors.

The Maintenance & Repair department is very thankful for the support of the Mayor and City Council. Without your support we can not maintain the City Streets for the safety of the traveling public.



Building & Zoning

The Building and Zoning Department issues permits for residential and commercial construction work performed in the City. In 2024, the department issued 177 zoning permits and 400 building permits.

The total number of building permits issued in 2024 was 63% higher than 2023. We issued 400 building permits, with a breakdown of 276 residential and 1,242 commercial permits. The City saw a 70% increase in the number of commercial permits from 2023 to 2024 and a 60% increase in residential permits. Permits were split at approximately 69% residential and 31% commercial work.

The stated value of commercial construction projects started this year was \$3,089,377. Residential projects were valued at \$12,396,016. We collected \$161,277.34 in building permit fees. This is 35% more than the previous year. Permit fees are a combination of flat and calculated charges based on the area of the work.

In 2024, 68 new primary structures were started. Of those 68 structures, there were 66 new single-family homes and 2 multi-family homes. These homes were or are being constructed on E Kentucky Ave, Howard Street, Catalpa Dr, Red Maple Ln, Blue Spruce Ln, B Street, Taylor Dr, Timber Glen Dr, Southwind Blvd, Peggy Ln, Cross Creek Dr, Mulberry St, Morris Ave, and Thorne Ave. One commercial industrial unit was placed on Davids Dr.

As for building department inspections, 1,122 building and electrical inspections were completed. 301 inspections were for electrical work and the remaining 821 covered building, mechanical, sign, and fire work.

Some of the commercial projects that were completed this year:

- Prairie Gardens on Prairie Ave
- HealthSource of Ohio on W Main Street
- Wheelies on Mulberry Street and Trail Haus on Mulberry Street
- Tractor Supply Garden Center on Rombach Ave

Works in progress include the remodel of 31 Clark Street for a VA Outpatient Clinic, remodel of Taco Bell on Rombach Ave, new oil room addition and silo at AZEK on Prairie Rd, new Waffle House on Rombach Ave, and the City of Wilmington Wastewater treatment plant on S Nelson Ave.



Building & Zoning

Continued

The following is a breakdown of all building permits issued by purpose in 2024:

<u>Construction Purpose</u>	<u>Permit Tally</u>
New Single-Family Home Standard Construction - 65 Manufactured Home - 1	66
New Multifamily Homes	2
Expand Residential Home	4
Repair/Remodel Residential Home	3
Deck/Porch	11
New Commercial Building	0
Expand Commercial Building	3
Repair/Remodel Commercial	9
Industrialized Unit	1
New Outbuilding	3
Expand Outbuilding	0
Repair/Remodel Outbuilding	0
Utility	113
TOTAL	215

The remaining 201 permits issued were for electrical, mechanical, fire suppression, fire alarm and sprinkler work, signage, demolition, solar power installation, swimming pool, and certificate of occupancy.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The Board of Zoning Appeals hears request from applicants pursuing variances to the Zoning Code, conditional use requests, and appeals from code enforcement orders. The Board met twelve times this year and heard requests regarding setbacks, and conditional uses. The Board denied one variance request and two conditional use requests. Five variances were withdrawn. Two conditional use requests were postponed and one conditional use request was postponed then sent back to Zoning Administrator.



Transportation Department

Wilmington Transit has had a very big year of growth and opportunity. Transit started January 1, 2024 with a new direction and new director, Jonathan McKay. Director McKay's first task was making sure the employees and community of Wilmington knew that a new day had come to Wilmington Transit. Going forward, Transit would return to focusing on it's main priority: Transporting people in a timely manner to and from their destinations. This is the fundamental reason why Wilmington Transit is in operation. Wilmington Transit also welcomed Nick Babb as the new crew leader to help with this effort.

Once this task was accomplished, Wilmington Transit worked with the State, who is the main funding source for Transit's Operations. Communications between Transit and the State had been lacking, and a new relationship was in order. Just five days after starting his new role, Director McKay joined Mayor Pat Haley and Transportation Coordinator Chasity Williams in a meeting with the State of Ohio and the representatives from ODOT. In this first meeting, Wilmington Transit reassured the State that the new day had come with the start of a new director, and going forward Transit was going to do as it said. Since then, Wilmington Transit has stood by this commitment.

Before the initial meeting with the State took place in January 2024, Wilmington Transit had received a high-risk assessment from the State, and the department was on the verge of losing key funding from ODOT. Since then, thanks to Transit's diligence and hard work, the department is now in the low-risk assessment category, and ODOT could not be happier with the program. This is substantial progress is a testament to the team at Transit, who have been assembled to roll up their sleeves and get this job done.

Transit has been very fortunate this year to receive considerable funding from the City for new vehicles. Wilmington Transit purchased 4 new Ford vehicles to help replace the aging fleet. Those purchases arrived in December and will be put into service in early January once they are wrapped in the new design chosen by the Mayor and Transit employees. With the new vehicles transit will be expanding hours early in the new year as well. Currently the hours of operations are 6:30 am– 7:30 pm Monday– Friday and 9:00 am–3:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. The new hours will be 6:30 am–12:00 am Monday– Friday, 9:00 am– 12:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am–3:00 pm. In addition to the new hours Transit will also be running a loop route, the first of it's kind in the History of Wilmington Transit. This will run Thursday-Saturday 6:00 pm until 12:00 am.

Funding was also applied for the 2025-2025 ODOT annual grant application. These funds will be known in the spring of 2025. This funding is what Transit will run on for one year. Wilmington Transit was pleased to be awarded the stated Mobility Grant. This grant will reward Transit with 4 more new vehicles. This was a highly competitive Grant that each Transit agency in the State of Ohio is eligible for. Wilmington Transit received over \$400,000.00 in funds.

Wilmington Transit served 115,355 riders in 2024. With an average of 320 riders per day, with an average of 9,612 riders per month. Transit certainly keeps it's 50+ Employees and fleet of 20 Vehicles busy.



Parks & Recreation

In 2024, the park's athletics program had another successful year. The leagues had over 1,000 young participants, 250 adults, and 150 volunteer coaches. The officials did an outstanding job for all youth and adult leagues.

The basketball league had over 100 participants, with the clinics for the season being a huge success. Overall, the game play was very good, the participants continue to improve and get better each game.

The spring soccer season had 230 participants

Flag football continues to be a huge success and one of the parks most popular sports. The numbers continue to increase each year having over 170 participants this year.

Baseball, softball, and T-ball had another excellent season, with 260 participants

The year ended with the Fall Soccer season, we had great participation having over 210 participants which is the most we've had in a few years. Dub town soccer put on a great clinic for the kids, they were able to learn a lot.

The coaches and referees continue to do an excellent job teaching the fundamentals to the kids while making the experience enjoyable. Youth sports have a positive impact on children's physical, emotional, and social well-being. Beyond the skills they learn on the field, the life lessons gained through sports stay with them for a lifetime. These lessons help children grow into well-rounded, capable individuals, ultimately strengthening families and our community.

Adult softball had 14 teams participate

Adult volleyball had 8 teams participate

Finally, Trunk or Treat was another big success. We had more than 25 companies handing out candy and an estimated 1,000 trick or treaters. The park is grateful to the many organizations that participated in this event.

The park wants each participant to have the best experience possible in recreational leagues, and want the kids to have fun and enjoy their experience at the park. We look forward to a few new ideas to increase participation and the quality of the leagues. We are looking forward to a great 2025!



Parks & Recreation

Continued

The Denver Park Front Entrance Project has been completed, and looks great. As well as the newly installed LED lights for the tennis/ pickleball courts.

The splash pad continues to get a lot of use during the summer months and with the warm weather we were able to keep it open for an extra month.

The dog park and castle playground get continuous use year round even as we get into the winter months. We had 4 movies in the park which were a success, we showed: Filed of Dreams, Jumanji, Little Giants and Kung Fu Panda 4

We were thankful to have the Wilmington College students join us at the park for a volunteer day. They helped with cleaning up flower beds, picking up trash and cleaning up the pond.



We are happy to see visitors from a wide area coming to enjoy our many attractions. Our shelters continue to be in high demand, with over 250 reservation requests in 2024.

We look forward to the future of our park system and the upcoming projects we will accomplish. Thank you to our sponsors, staff, board members, volunteers, and generous community for your support. Remember, these are your parks - let us know how you would like to get involved and what activities you would like to see. Parks do indeed build community!



Sugar Grove Cemetery

This year, Sugar Grove Cemetery took several steps in providing new services and programs for the community. In addition to the continued maintenance of the cemetery, we have added new burial options, memorial programs, and begun work to provide improved services as well as preserve cemetery property.

STATISTICS

Burial and Land Sales— There were 66 total internments at Sugar Grove in 2024. Of these, 17 were cremation and 49 were full burials. Additionally, there were 44 graves sold including one of the new Ossuary internment spaces.

Foundations— City works poured 45 foundations this year including 6 Government Military Markers, and 4 foundation repairs. The staff also repaired or leveled the monuments of 30 other headstones throughout the cemetery.

IMPROVEMENTS

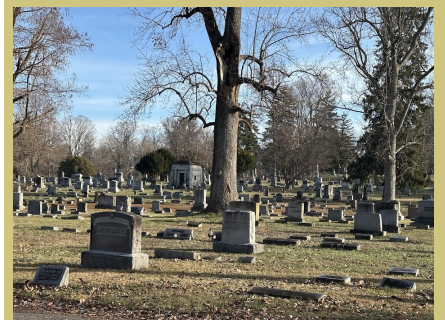
Sugar Grove Cemetery implemented several new improvements this year including a new columbarium for public use which includes an ossuary space as a budget friendly option for cremation internment. The first of each of these spaces were purchased this year and cemetery staff have received lots of interest.

The cemetery also implemented a new Memorial Tree Program, to allow families to purchase trees to be planted in the cemetery. Cemetery staff will work with individuals to select the tree type and location for each donated tree.

GROUNDS AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

The Cemetery grounds currently are maintained with a staff of cemetery superintendent, cemetery technician, as well as one full-time and one part-time labor. The team works efficiently to maintain the 40+ plus acres of maintained cemetery grounds which include the weekly mowing and trimming around the headstones of just under 16,000 burials.

In addition to the regular weekly maintenance, the team maintains trees, bushes, flowerbeds, and works to remove any debris that they find. This year, that work included the removal of several trees that were lost due to high winds as well as the cleaning of the Union Soldier Statue at Soldiers Point.



Sugar Grove Cemetery

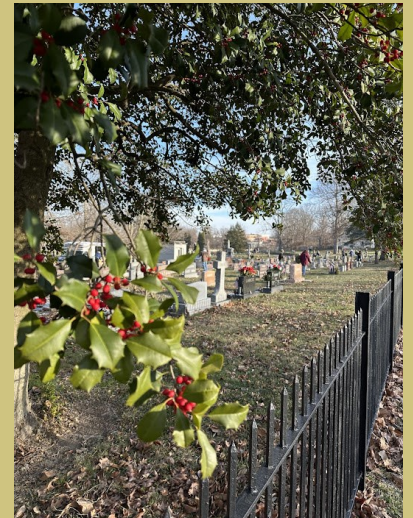
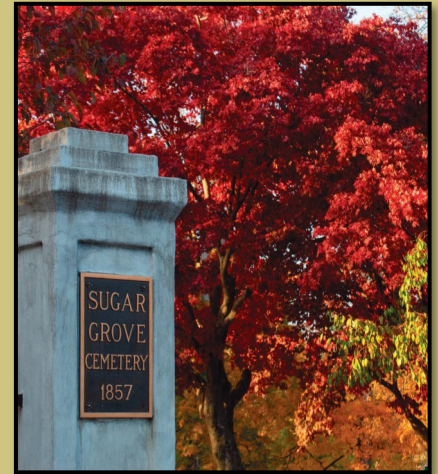
Continued

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Sugar Grove Cemetery has begun work on the restoration of the original cemetery office. After years of water intrusion from a leaking roof, the building just inside the main entrance was full of black mold and crumbling plaster. This year a contractor was hired to remove the mold and make it safe to be in again. Work will continue in 2025 to restore the building and reopen for use as a cemetery office.

COMMUNITY

This year, Sugar Grove Cemetery hosted three community events as it has in years past. In addition to Memorial Day, this was the fourth year to host the Clinton County History Center “Talking Tombstones,” and the second year for Wreaths Across America. The American Legion was instrumental in our success to provide a wreath for each veteran in Sugar Grove, as well as the many volunteers that attended the service and helped place the 1,800 wreaths across the cemetery. In addition to these events, the cemetery superintendent spoke at an event for Cape Mae for Veterans Day.



Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Department strives to fairly and efficiently enforce and uphold the Codes and Ordinance while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of our residents, businesses, owners, and visitors. The City of Wilmington accepts complaints from citizens as well as other local departments and agencies regarding violations of the City's Property Maintenance and Zoning Codes. The department then investigates each complaint and determines a course of action.

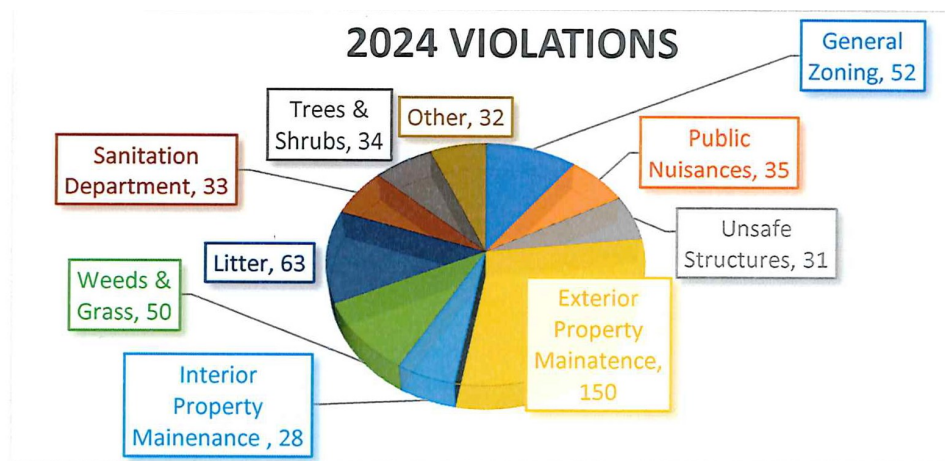
Cases and Violations

The number of new violations decrease this year from 529 to 496 violations resulted in 377 new cases being opened with some cases consisting of multiple violations at one address. Continuing to make record keeping and organization a priority has continued to streamline many aspects of enforcement.

Code Enforcement Case History (YTD 01/03/2025)	
Code Enforcement Cases Opened 2024	377
Code Enforcement Cases Opened 2023	399
Code Enforcement Cases Opened 2022	382
Code Enforcement Cases Opened 2021	263
Cases Closed 2024	354
Cases Closed 2023	375
Cases Closed 2022	260
Total Open Cases (As of 1/1/2025)	115

Violations of the zoning and property maintenance codes are addressed by issuing warnings or formal violation notices (depending on the type and severity of violations) and working with the property owner and/or tenants to bring their property into compliance within a specified time frame. If property owners are not compliant, the cases are then turned over to the City Prosecutor and criminal charges are filed in Municipal Court.

This department handles a variety of violations regarding exterior property maintenance, junk vehicles, litter, grass and weeds, infestations, interior property issues, and other property issues. Below is a chart of the various violations opened in 2024.



Code Enforcement Continued

Activity and Reports

The Code Enforcement tracks case updates and activity through our iWorq System software that records all actions and activities for each case opened by this department. Select activity totals for 2024 are listed in the chart below.

Code Enforcement Activity Totals (YTD 1/1/2025)	
Inspections Completed	766
Violation Notices Sent/Posted	275
Assist Other Department or Agency	37
Complaints Received	218
Total Activity Type Completion	2232

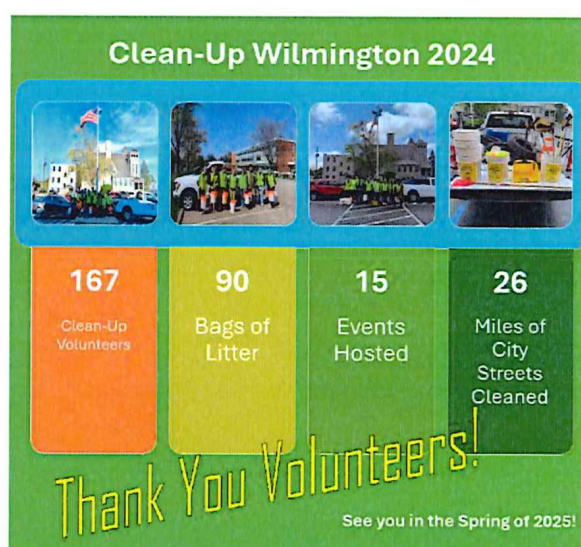
Court Action

When property owners fail to comply with City Ordinances, it becomes necessary to file criminal zoning charges in Municipal Court. In 2024 a local landlord entered a conditional guilty plea of 34 counts of property maintenance violations, some dating back to 2021, due to continued non-compliance with City Codes. The City Prosecutor and Code Enforcement Departments worked together to negotiate diversion with the landlord, resulting in the sale of multiple properties to a private purchaser. The new property owners have since remedied all the violations and continue to improve and restore over 30 properties that were obtained through the terms of diversion.

Special Projects

The Clean-Up Wilmington Project was founded by the Code Enforcement Department in 2021. This volunteer program has continued to address littering, dumping and other blight, while working with other departments, agencies, donors and volunteers.

Since April of 2021, 687 volunteers have removed 514 bags of litter from Downtown Wilmington and surrounding areas, and we look forward to more community events and outreach in 2025.



Code Enforcement Continued

Collaboration and Community Support

This year the Code Enforcement Department has been privileged to continue to collaborate with City and County Departments, as well as individual project donors, and volunteers:

- Clinton County Regional Planning/Land Bank
- Clinton County Solid Waste and Recycling District
- Clinton County Prosecutor's Office
- Clinton County Treasurer's Office
- City Prosecutor's Office
- Clinton County Dog Warden
- Wilmington Police & Communications Department
- Wilmington Fire Department
- Wilmington Sanitation Department
- Wilmington Street Department
- Sugartree Landscaping
- Main Street Wilmington
- Clean-Up Wilmington Volunteers
- Amazon Air
- Wilmington College
- Clinton County Visitor's Bureau

Without the support of these departments, agencies, donors, and volunteers, the ongoing success of this Department would not have been possible. A big thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in our clean-up activities, "Many hands make light work" and to the Administration who has supported these efforts.

Code Enforcement Official Annen Vance is looking forward to continued success and collaboration in 2025.