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SPRING 2023

# Your Community News

Lawrence Township • Village of Clinton • Canal Fulton



## LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

### Trustee Talk: From Trustee Keith Blowers

AS YOU READ THIS, we are well into the new year and spring is upon us. A lot has happened since our fall edition. First and foremost, we mourn the sudden loss of our long-time trustee and board president, Mike Stevens. Mike served Lawrence Township for 30 years and was a wealth of knowledge and leadership that will be greatly missed. Doug Swartz has been appointed to fill the remainder of Mike's term, which is up for election this November. Welcome, Doug!

#### Lawrence Township Road Levy

Speaking of ballots, our road department levy will be up for vote again on May 2nd after an extremely narrow defeat in November. I want to remind residents that this is replacing a previously expired levy and I cannot emphasize enough that this funding is desperately needed to continue maintaining and clearing roads. I encourage everyone to read Trustee Roseman's article and vote come May 2nd.

#### Lawrence Township Fire News

As I mentioned in previous articles, Lawrence Township continues to work with the City of Canal Fulton to strengthen our joint fire operations. We made a great leap forward at the end of last year by selecting Shawn Yerian as joint chief of both departments. Shawn has long standing ties to the department, and to the community, and has a wealth of skills and experience that will benefit the department and the residents. Chief Yerian was selected through an extensive search process led by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. Though Chief Yerian is not new to the department, having a unified leadership and command structure will help continue to strengthen our department and the service we provide to the community. Chief Yerian has already been working diligently on internal processes as well as applying for numerous grants for additional funding and resources. Congratulations, Chief Yerian and keep up the good work!

Also in fire department news, we had several meetings with the North Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department in February. After just shy of one year since we settled on a contract to resume service to North Lawrence, it was good to hear positive progress. The fire chiefs and officers are meeting regularly to discuss operations and opportunities to share in training and resources. The trustees

were able to negotiate another one-year contract with North Lawrence Volunteer Fire Department continuing service until March 17, 2024.



#### Lawrence Township Park

For my most exciting news, we are getting very close to seeing some much-needed improvements in the park!! The old playground equipment has been removed and the site prepared for the installation of the new equipment. We are currently expecting installation of the new equipment sometime towards the end of April. The trustees are also currently considering construction of new permanent restrooms at the park, hopefully to be completed this summer. Both will be dramatic improvements for our community park that gets used by all ages. If you have interest in the park and would like to participate in our park advisory board, please feel free to reach out to myself or the township office. We need and value input from the community!

*If you have any questions or concerns about your township fire services or the park, please feel free to reach out to me at [kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org](mailto:kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org) or 330-854-3830. Have a great spring!*

#### LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP PARK COMMUNITY EVENT

**Movie at the Park**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2023**  
**Movie begins at dark**

Food from 5-7pm • Inflatables for the kids!

## Stark Soil & Water Upcoming Events



#### INTRODUCTION TO RAIN GARDENS • April 10th, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Sandy Valley Branch (Stark Library) 9754 Cleveland Ave. SE, Magnolia  
Learn about rain gardens, how they help the environment, their benefits, and how you can become a Master Rain Gardener!  
Register for the workshop by visiting [starkswcd.org](http://starkswcd.org) or calling the Sandy Valley Branch at 330-866-3366.

#### STORM WATER & SEVERE WEATHER • April 24th, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Perry Sippo Branch (Stark Library) 5710 12th St. NW, Canton  
Always be prepared! Learn about storm water and severe weather in Stark County, and the steps you can take to manage storm water and severe weather at home.  
Register for the workshop by visiting [starkswcd.org](http://starkswcd.org) or calling the Perry Sippo Branch at 330-477-8482

Visit [StarkSWCD.org](http://StarkSWCD.org) to see our complete Events Calendar

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG](http://WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Trustee Talk:  
From Trustee  
Sean Roseman

Well, we have almost made it through another winter, and I hope all is well with our residents. I would like to take some time and inform the township residents on how great of a road department that we have. It consists of three full-time and one part-time employee. Mark Sibila, Road Superintendent, and his staff are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, keeping the residences safe on our roads from snow plowing to clearing downed trees.

The department maintains 144 roads to equal 56 miles in all. Check out our township website to see if your road is listed as a township road. During a normal winter, the crews will spread about 1,000 tons of salt on the roads. Mark has three routes set up for the trucks for plowing and salting. These routes take 6 hours for each of the three trucks to do one lap around the township. So, if at times you wonder where the plow trucks are, keep in mind it takes 6 hours to make the run.

All the work performed by the road department is funded through the road district levy that you will see on the ballot in May. Below is some additional information regarding the road levy:

Why is there a Road District Levy on the ballot?

- The Road District tax receipts in 2021 were \$445,757.00.
- The Road District tax receipts in 2022 were \$202,595.00.

What happened? One of the two tax levies in the road district expired in 2021 and was voted down in the following elections. The road district fund will continue to receive the amount generated in 2022 until a new road district levy passes.

What is your tax money in the Road District spent on?

- Road Repair (including material, asphalt, and resurfacing roads)
- Snow and Ice Removal
- Street Sweeping
- Equipment to Maintain the Roads
- Sight Issues (Distance maintenance at Intersections)
- Storm Water Management

Money received by the road district fund always remains in the road district. Money not spent one year is used in calculating the following year's budget.

How much will the new Road District levy cost?

- \$58.00 for each \$100,000.00 of the county's appraised value.
- The 1.65 road district levy will run for 5 years.

If you have any suggestions on how the township can improve the road department, please feel free to give me a call at 330-353-4349 or email me at [sroseman@lawrencetwp-oh.org](mailto:sroseman@lawrencetwp-oh.org).



Trustee Talk:  
From Trustee  
Douglas Swartz

Last year we lost an iconic pillar in our community with the passing of Trustee Michael Stevens. I think you will all agree that I speak for everyone when I say our prayers are with Mrs. Stevens, and with her family and friends. Thank you for your decades of service to our community, Mr. Stevens.

Since I have been selected to this position, two questions keep resurfacing with each new interaction with family and friends. "Do you like it?" and "What do you want to accomplish?"

Do I like it? Absolutely! Something that has always brought joy to my life is coaching youth sports and serving the public in some capacity. Retiring from the police chief's position in Canal Fulton took a big chunk of that away from me and I miss it dearly. This new role helps fill that void and opens doors to new ways that I can serve. I also love interacting with the staff at Lawrence Township who are amazing individuals. Their dedication and knowledge give me great confidence that we are able to improve no matter what issues come before us.

What do I want to accomplish? I want to continue and grow the sense of community we all share. I want to advance relationships between Lawrence Township and the City of Canal Fulton and work closely with them while they grow. Interesting fact, the city limits, some time ago, stopped on Locust Street at the old township garage near James Street. Over the years, the city has expanded and grown tremendously, and I expect the same in the next 50 years. It is important to protect the way of life we all expect living in the township, and we can accomplish that by a strong economic relationship with the political entity inside our borders.

My roots are deeply entrenched within our community that I owe so much to. If I tried listing the 45 years of blessings this community has brought to me, it would take up the entire newsletter. If I may, I'll just list one. That is finding my wife Erica and raising two amazing young boys Isaac and Kai. We are so blessed having such a wonderful community to raise our family. What I hope to accomplish is to show them the importance of taking care of others in their community and the many ways they can give back.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your thoughts or concerns by email at [dswartz@lawrencetwp-oh.org](mailto:dswartz@lawrencetwp-oh.org) or my cell phone (330) 705-1457.

Upcoming 2023 Trustee Meetings

Generally, regular meetings of the Board are set for the first and third Mondays of each month (subject to holiday adjustment), beginning at 4:30 p.m. for executive sessions, as authorized. Such executive sessions to conclude no later than 5:30 p.m.; with the public session to then commence at 5:30 p.m. at each regular meeting.

April 10	5:30 p.m.
April 24	5:30 p.m.
May 8	5:30 p.m.
May 22	5:30 p.m.
June 5	5:30 p.m.
June 20 (Tues)	5:30 p.m.
July 3	5:30 p.m.
July 17	5:30 p.m.
August 7	5:30 p.m.
August 21	5:30 p.m.
September 5 (Tues)	5:30 p.m.
September 18	5:30 p.m.
October 2	5:30 p.m.
October 16	5:30 p.m.
November 6	5:30 p.m.
November 20	5:30 p.m.
December 4	5:30 p.m.
December 18	5:30 p.m.

Serving Lawrence Township

ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS:

Monday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. • Tues.  
Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. • Closed Friday  
Email: [info@lawrencetwp-oh.org](mailto:info@lawrencetwp-oh.org)

Keith Blowers, President	330-904-9319   <a href="mailto:kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org">kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a> (Liaison for the Fire & Park Departments)
Sean Roseman, Vice President	330-353-4349   <a href="mailto:sroseman@lawrencetwp-oh.org">sroseman@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a> (Liaison for the Road Department)
Douglas Swartz, Trustee	330-705-1457   <a href="mailto:dswartz@lawrencetwp-oh.org">dswartz@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a> (Liaison for the Police Department)
Cindy Meismer, Fiscal Officer	330-854-3830   <a href="mailto:cmeismer@lawrencetwp-oh.org">cmeismer@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a>
Frank Melito, Zoning Inspector	330-854-7118   <a href="mailto:fmelito@lawrencetwp-oh.org">fmelito@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a>
Kristin Letham, Admin. Assistant	330-854-3830   <a href="mailto:kletham@lawrencetwp-oh.org">kletham@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a>
Marita Simon, Fiscal Assistant	330-854-3830   <a href="mailto:msimon@lawrencetwp-oh.org">msimon@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a>
Lawrence Township Road Garage	330-854-3494   <a href="mailto:msibila@lawrencetwp-oh.org">msibila@lawrencetwp-oh.org</a>
Lawrence Township Police Dept.	330-854-2096 Non-Emergency
Lawrence Township Fire Dept.	330-854-6755 Non-Emergency
North Lawrence Vol. Fire Dept.	330-832-6347 Non-Emergency



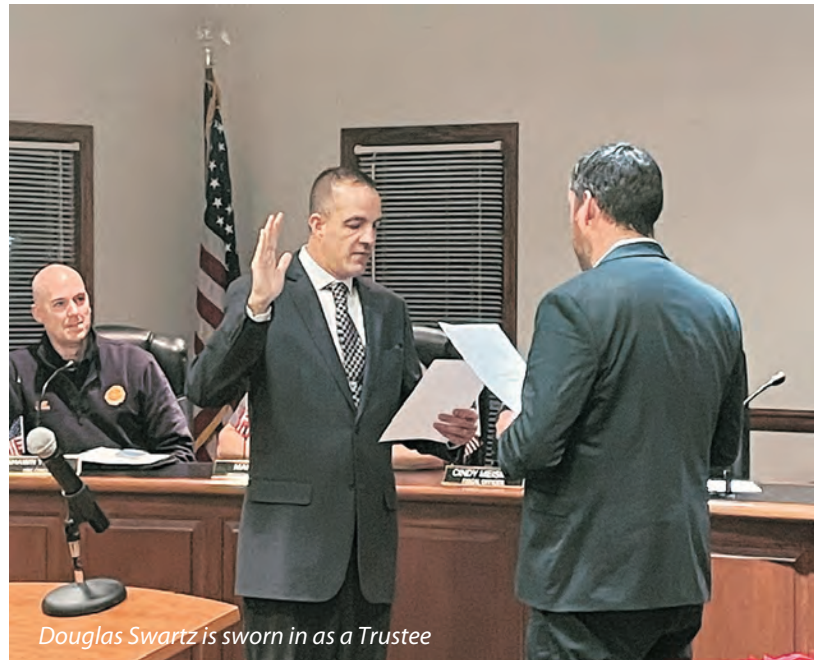


# LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Chief Dave Brown • 330-854-2096**

LAST YEAR THE TOWNSHIP EXPERIENCED ANOTHER LOSS when Trustees Stevens passed away in November. Mr. Stevens was one of the Trustees when I was hired as a Reserve Officer in 2003 and was on the Board as I moved through my career here. He was a great resource and supporter of the police department. I used to joke with him when he called that he had either locked his keys in his car or lost his cell phone because both happened more than once! Mr. Stevens was proud to serve his community; he along with his knowledge and experience will be missed!



Douglas Swartz is sworn in as a Trustee

Douglas Swartz, a lifetime community member, was selected to become our newest Trustee. Many may know him as retired Chief Swartz from Canal Fulton. I am excited to work with Mr. Swartz to continue improving the police department and service we provide to our community. His knowledge in policing will be a great benefit to me, the department, and the community. Congratulations, Mr. Swartz!



## Country Fest

As this newsletter is being read, we are hopefully moving into spring. One of the events we have every year is Country Fest at Clay's Park Resort. Last year they had record numbers of patrons coming to the festival. The number of people caused traffic delays that lasted hours. We are working with organizers to help keep traffic flowing and minimize delays in the area. During the festival, if you can avoid the area, it may be easier and faster to take a different route. If you need assistance with directions, call the station and we can help you plan an alternate route. In the past, we have seen the longest delays on the Thursday of the festival. That may be a good day to avoid the area, if you are not attending. We know we can't eliminate the delays but will do what we can with the promoters to shorten them.

The township website ([www.lawrencetwp-oh.org](http://www.lawrencetwp-oh.org)) was recently updated. There are some tabs on the Police Department's page that are beneficial. There are links to request extra patrols, vacation checks, request for reports and a link to the State for accident reports.

One of the things I hear a lot is that people don't want to call our emergency number, because they don't think its an emergency. Our emergency number is answered by the dispatchers at the RED Center. If you need an officer, the best number to call is 330-854-4114, which is our dispatch center.



## ROADS DEPT.

**Superintendent: Mark Sibila**  
**330-854-3494**

### Just a few reminders:

If you have any roadway issues, for example, potholes, trees, ditches, etc., your first call should be to the road department at 330-854-3494. Please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Please remember to keep your ditches free and clear of leaves, sticks, toys, and other debris. These items invariably end up blocking culvert pipes.

Mowing season will soon be here. Remember, do not blow your grass clippings onto the roadway, and do not dump them into the ditches.

### Department Summer Projects:

- Installing a culvert pipe across Weygandt Street between S.R. #93 and Butterbridge Avenue.
- Installing a culvert pipe across Ben Fulton south of Youth Street.
- Installing a culvert pipe across Skyline Street and Elmfield Road.
- Continuing ditching, berming, mowing, tree trimming, etc.

### Work Zone Safety Tips:

- Research Your Route - Avoid work zones and use detours when available.
- Pay Attention - Keep your eyes on the road and be aware of reduced speeds, lane changes, etc.
- Slow Down - Slow down when entering a work zone and watch for road workers.
- Move to the Open Lane - Move into the open lane as soon as possible if there are lane closures.
- Keep Your Distance - Maintain extra space between vehicles to avoid a rear-end crash.



## In Memory

**Michael D. Stevens**

May 8, 1950 - November 23, 2022

Lawrence Township Trustee  
1992 - 2022

*Thank you, Mike, for your 30 years of dedication to the community.*

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG](http://WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



# LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Shawn Yerian • 330-854-2456

### Are you prepared for a home fire?

In Northern Ohio, the American Red Cross responds to an average of three home fires daily! Not only is the loss of a home devastating, but the loss of life is also often preventable.

The Red Cross of Heartland, Stark, and Muskingum Lakes has partnered with area Fire Departments, Emergency Management Agencies, and city officials to identify at-risk areas. But smoke alarms, alone, will not save lives. Our knowledgeable volunteers will help educate families and individuals on fire safety during the installation, including creating an escape plan.

To request the installation of free smoke alarms for your home, please call 330-453-0146. We will contact you within two business days to schedule a time for our volunteers to install smoke alarms in your home.



### Address Signs - Lawrence Township & Canal Fulton

Seconds count in an emergency. The Northwest Firefighter's Association, in cooperation with the Lawrence Township Administrative Office, has reflective blank signs and house numbers for sale. You will receive one blank sign and enough numbers for both sides of the sign. Please pay with cash or check only. No credit or debit cards will be accepted.

Signs can be picked up at 5828 Manchester Ave NW, North Lawrence  
Monday 8 am - 6 pm  
Tuesday - Thursday 8 am - 3 pm  
For info: (330) 854-3830

Prices are as follows:  
Numbers & Plaque: \$30.00  
Numbers Only: \$ 1.00 (pack of two) • Plaque Only: \$ 25.00



### From Firefighter to Alaskan State Trooper

We want to congratulate Brad Miller on becoming an Alaska State Trooper and wish him well. Brad has been a local volunteer and part-time firefighter for almost 20 years. Firefighter Miller served both Lawrence Township and Canal Fulton with professionalism and dedication. Stay safe and stay warm, Brad!

### Assistant Chief was accepted into Ohio Fire Executive (OFE) Program



Assistant Chief Matt Burgasser begins the Ohio Fire Executive Program, a 2 1/2 year program designed to prepare executive-level fire officers in the many facets of the chief's position. The content and processes of the program are chosen to support the acquisition of improved leadership capabilities. It is envisioned that the program will impact participants in five domains: Knowledge acquisition, Self-awareness building, Perspective change, Skill development, and Behavior Change. AC Burgasser follows in the steps of former AC Dan Podlogar, who graduated from this respected program.



### NOTICE

## Ohio Burn Bans

Ohio Revised Code 1503.18 Regarding Kindled Fires O.R.C. 1503.18 is under the authority of the Ohio Division of Forestry.

**This law prohibits outdoor open burning statewide in unincorporated areas during March, April, May, October, and November between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.**

This ban includes burning yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel.

During spring, wildfire danger is great before plants have turned green, and in fall, fire danger is high due to abundant dry leaves and dead grass. Warm, windy weather in both seasons also contributes to elevated fire risk. Always use a proper burn barrel when burning outdoors during legal hours.

**Call your fire department for info about local burning regulations or ODNR Forestry at 877-247-8733 with questions.**



## North Lawrence Fire Dept Updates



### New Apparatus

On February 3rd we took delivery of our new 2022 Sutphen Corporation Engine! Engine 2 now has to go get all of the equipment mounted and then returned for a couple months of training. We plan for the Engine to go into service in Late April or early May! We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support us and helped bring a new engine into our community!



### Open House

The NLFD is currently anticipating holding an open house on April 22nd! We will be opening up the station for all community members to join us for an inservice ceremony for the new engine! Food and beverage will be provided!

### Contract Extension

The Lawrence Township Trustees and the NLFD have signed another one year contract! We would like to thank the Trustees for working with us to ensure we continue to provide our services to the community.

Additionally, we'd like to thank the Trustees and Canal Fulton/Lawrence Township Fire Department for agreeing to lease to us an ambulance and battery-operated extrication tools.

**THE NLFD IS CURRENTLY HIRING!**

*Education provided and paid for!*  
*Volunteer/PRN/Part time spots available • 12 and 24 hour shifts!*





# LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP

## ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Zoning Inspector Frank Melito • 330-854-7118**

### Know Your Property Lines

AS A HOMEOWNER, it's important that you're aware of your property lines so that when you apply for permits for adding an accessory structure or building, pool, deck, or addition to the home you will know where these projects can be built or placed on your lot. Knowing where your property begins and ends can prevent potential issues or legal disputes with your neighbors.

Our township zoning department can give you some help and offer advice on locating property lines; however, we cannot survey the property for you. We suggest that you give the zoning department a call before hiring a surveyor to determine if you have other options before spending money on hiring the surveyor. To obtain an aerial view of your property showing property lines, go to [www.StarkCountyOhio.gov](http://www.StarkCountyOhio.gov) and click on Real Estate Search.

Here are several reasons it's essential to be familiar with your property lines:

**Easements:** A neighbor may have legal rights to use an edge of your property to access their lot if it's landlocked or is eligible for a shared driveway.

**Encroachment:** Existing improvements such as a driveway, garden, playground or storage shed may actually be on the wrong lot. Litigation and

mediation may be necessary to solve complex situations.

**Property disputes:** Determine if one or both parties are responsible for maintaining a fence or removing a fallen tree. There may also be a misunderstanding about where the frontage or sidelines start and end.



Property line disputes are a civil matter so if you have a property line dispute with your neighbor, we will usually recommend that you hire a surveyor to have your property surveyed to determine exactly where your property lines are located. This will be helpful especially if you are contemplating putting a fence on the property line. Residential fences are permitted to go up to and on the property line when adjacent to another residential property. Therefore, you want to ensure when the fence is installed that it is not encroaching on your neighbor's property to avoid any issues in the future.

The best advice is to always call our department (330-854-7118) first with any questions regarding property lines, easements, encroachments, fences, trees or any other matters regarding your property. If we can't resolve the problem, we can explain your options!

## You are not alone

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Call us at 330-455-6264

[www.namistarkcounty.org](http://www.namistarkcounty.org)

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## A Message from Mayor William (Bud) McDaniel



My wife, Karen, and I moved to Clinton in 1999 because of the small town feel and friendly atmosphere. After over 20 years and raising three kids in this village, we still feel the same way. In that time, I have served on the Clinton Canal Society as my love for the canal system was brought to fruition with the wonderful trail that has been put in and still being used today. The next step was on the Zoning Board of Appeals in which a lot of variances were approved and many of our residents would not have the additions, garages, and swimming pools due to the special circumstances of their

property. During that time Summit County started looking at putting public sewer into the village and the concerned citizens wanted a voice on council. I was asked to be that voice. Six months later the president of council resigned and I was chosen to take her place. After almost two terms on council, our mayor moved out of town and that left a vacancy for me to step in as mayor and I officially took the seat last September. There are

several projects coming up that will greatly benefit the village. The ongoing sewer project is not dead, but appears to be on life support. We are still meeting with Summit County regarding this and should know more this summer. A major undertaking is happening in Summit County that could benefit our community and that is what is called the Summit Broadband Initiative. It is meant to bring fiber to each community to improve services for police, fire, and EMS. Since that is more bandwidth than our village can use, it only seems fitting that we should share. We are looking into expanding what is considered the middle mile fiber ring into what is termed as the last mile. That is bringing that fiber to each and every household in Clinton. This will require people outside of our resources to put together, install, and do the billing. However, other communities are already doing this and I am confident that we can find a company with those resources and get them involved. With all of that history and current events, we now look forward to our Memorial Day events coming up. We start off with a pancake breakfast at the fire house and then the parade starting at the church, going through town, and then ending at the cemetery. Of course there will be a short memorial there, and then the day is yours. While you are here, take a walk across the street to the Ohio Veteran's Memorial Park. There is a lot to see and if you haven't been here in a while, a lot has been added in the last year.

## Zoning Department Updates *from Jeff Ferjutz, Zoning Inspector*



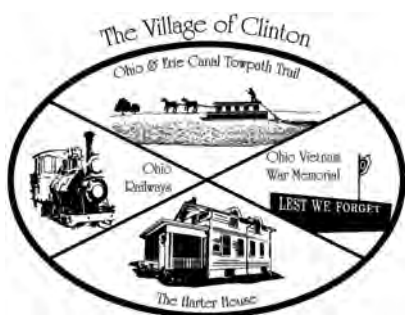
I hope everyone enjoyed the winter season we had. This was a rare and lucky year we had with snowfall. As we approach even nicer weather this spring, here are some things to consider for your property and future projects.

The Village does enforce high grass, exterior property maintenance, junk/abandoned and unregistered vehicles in the right of way. Please take the time to review your property as the weather gets nicer to resolve these issues you may have.

I'd like to mention sidewalk maintenance. This past year we have received complaints concerning them. If there is

a sidewalk in your front yard, the resident is responsible for it. Any trees, canopies, grass, or vegetation impeding on them is the resident's responsibility due to ORC, (Ohio Revised Code). This is the resident's responsibility. Also, please keep vehicles and garbage cans away from them for people walking.

Lastly, if you are having any construction or building being done on your property, you will need a permit from the Village. If you are unsure if you need a permit, please reach out to me. New homes, accessory structures, pools, fences, walls, and many other projects require a permit. Please reach out if you have any questions.



Mayor: Bud McDaniel, [mayor@clintonoh.gov](mailto:mayor@clintonoh.gov)

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, Monthly 7:00 PM

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kent Goch, President, [kgoch@clintonoh.gov](mailto:kgoch@clintonoh.gov)  
Ellen Conroy, [econroy@clintonoh.gov](mailto:econroy@clintonoh.gov)  
Marissa Gensimore, [mgensimore@clintonoh.gov](mailto:mgensimore@clintonoh.gov)  
Janice Godwin, [clintonoh.gov](mailto:clintonoh.gov)  
Lewis Rash, [lrash@clintonoh.gov](mailto:lrash@clintonoh.gov)  
Matt Steiner, [msteiner@clintonoh.gov](mailto:msteiner@clintonoh.gov)

Secretary: Sue Mayberry, [admin@clintonoh.gov](mailto:admin@clintonoh.gov)  
Street Supt.: Kevin White, [street@clintonoh.gov](mailto:street@clintonoh.gov)  
Fiscal Officer: Leah Weirick, [fiscal@clintonoh.gov](mailto:fiscal@clintonoh.gov)  
Fire Chief: Wayne Conroy, [cfd400@clintonohfire.gov](mailto:cfd400@clintonohfire.gov)  
Zoning Inspector: Jeff Ferjutz, 330-417-2298, [zoning@clintonoh.gov](mailto:zoning@clintonoh.gov)

Income Tax Questions: R.I.T.A. - Brian Thunberg,  
1-800-860-7482, ext. 3244 Refunds: 1-866-252-0913  
Cemetery Information: 330-882-9629 or 330-882-5565



## Memorial Day in the Village

Strike up the band, ready the floats, polish those classic cars. It's time to get ready to march! The Village of Clinton honors our fallen heroes every year, with a parade followed by a service at the Clinton Cemetery. Parade participants are asked to arrive at Orchard Hill Church not later than 10:45 a.m. to be placed in line. Kick off is at 11:00 a.m. Questions? Email Marissa Gensimore: [mgensimore@clintonoh.gov](mailto:mgensimore@clintonoh.gov).



## Historical Society Pancake Breakfast

Start your Memorial Day celebration with a plate full of yummy pancakes. Pancakes are served starting at 7:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Be sure to browse through the raffle booth and get your lucky ticket. The Historical Society can always use volunteers, to help with such events. Check out their website to see how you can help... [clintonohiohistoricalsociety.com](http://clintonohiohistoricalsociety.com). As usual, the Pancake Breakfast will be held at Fire Station 1, downtown, on Main Street.



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*"Still amazed it's only 20 minutes, twice a week. Anyone can do this!" - Aimi S.*

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PERSONAL**  
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From the desk of **Mayor Joseph Schultz**  
**Motivating the Unmotivated**

**A**re you a list maker? I never used to be, but this title made me curious. So, I signed up for the workshop as part of my continuing education requirement as a teacher in the Northwest Local School District. It turned out to be one of the most valuable tools I used in the classroom and for myself. It seemed counterintuitive to me at first. I had to devote five minutes of my forty-one minute teaching period to call on students randomly to go in front of the class and hold up an emoji poster that had twenty different facial expressions to represent the student's feeling at that moment. We had to hold up the poster and say, today I feel \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_. Not only did it give the students an opportunity to express their feelings, but it gave me great insight about what the students were dealing with in and out of school. Yes, these were seventh and eighth graders and yes, the students who were not randomly selected had an opportunity to volunteer to go forward and share their feelings. Of course, being fourteen years old they quickly learned that we could quickly eat up more than five minutes of my precious forty-one minute period. I learned that how every student was feeling was worth every bit of my forty-one minutes. For the students it revealed how all of our feelings change continually and that makes us healthy.

Step two of the process to motivate the unmotivated took place after the lesson and prior to starting the assignment. At the top of the page the students had to write "When I finish this assignment I will feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." and use an emoji face to describe how they thought they would feel.

Step three came after they had completed the assignment. You may have guessed what this step involved. "Now that I have completed this assignment I feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." We all learned that we feel good about ourselves when we get things done.

You may be asking yourself, what does this have to do with what is going on in the City of Canal Fulton? As I stated in the beginning of this article, I never used to be a list maker prior to the workshop. My first couple of years as mayor I pretty much kept my list rather short and to myself. The last couple of years the lists of projects in Canal Fulton has grown and I started sharing them with City Council members to get their suggestions. The project list is able to grow mainly because of the income tax reform that our citizens passed in 2018. Talk about counterintuitive, how could raising the city income tax rate to 2% save money for about 70% of our working citizens? That happened because we gave 100%, rather than 50%, credit to citizens who worked in other municipalities. The net effect is that our income tax revenues are up about 28% since 2019. Cities get rewarded for creating jobs and that results in us reinvesting in more projects and improvements in the city. Here is our assignment for 2023, when we complete these projects we will feel excited, because we tried to improve on what we have been blessed with, build what we do not have, and plan for what we in the future.

**Proposed Projects for 2023**  
**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN:** Replace 74 streetlights and poles, Replace concrete and remove pavers in crosswalks at Market/Canal and Cherry/Canal. Install

pedestrian crossing controls at Cherry/Canal. Paint existing traffic light poles black. Replace timer and control panel. Purchase heavy duty traffic bricks for crosswalks. Install traffic sensors at Cherry/Canal intersection. Replace downtown trash containers with wrought iron receptacles.

**COMMUNICATION and UPGRADES AT CITY HALL:** Complete a community survey to get citizens input about what we are doing well and what we need to improve on. Upgrade the city website. City Hall repairs including paint, brickwork, landscaping and lighting. Upgrade City Hall phone system. Zoning Code Revision. Complete software upgrade for payroll, billing and e-file capability for businesses.

**PERSONEL and PROGRAMS:** Hire two police officers, utility billing clerk, utility worker and Zoning Inspector. Continue Shop Locally Program with east side businesses in November. Continue Historic Downtown Improvement Interest Free Loan Program.

**UTILITIES:** Complete MS4 Storm Water Report done by City Engineer. Replace generator at lift station iFî. Get estimates for above ground sewer treatment blower system for 2024 budget. Complete water meter upgrade approximately 1900 are done with 300 remaining. Project is funded, but we are dealing with supply chain issue. Begin budgeting for Eastside Water Tower repairs over the next five years. Sewer lateral maintenance program billed through utility billing homeowner option. High Street waterline replacement from Market to Water Street.

**PARKS AND DEVELOPMENTS:** Community Park connection to Northwest Stark Senior Center Locust to S. Canal \$300,000 grant funded. City Engineer and Stark Soil & Water final approval for a 60 lot development Longview to Strausser. Improvements to St. Helena Heritage Park Amphitheater including sound panels, stage lights, four light poles, dance area in front of stage, concession area, lighting on footbridge and possible sidewalks to connect to parking lot. Go to bid for Westside Water Tower, supply line and booster pump to provide water to Skyview, Wooster and Cherry Street residents on wells and provide for future residential and commercial development. Disc Golf Course constructed at the Community Park wooded area near Senior Center. Exterior lighting at Northwest Stark Senior Center. Provide for folding chair rentals for weddings at Muhlhauser Park. Complete assessment and repairs to the St. Helena III Canal Boat and make it operational again.

**STREETS:** Drainage improvements the Olde School Yard lot and Locust Street. Asphalt and chip and seal bids March 15th. A record amount of street improvement funding for 2023. Locust Street Corridor Safety Study. Continue Denshire concrete street repairs.

And yes, there were times that some students did not complete the assignment. Their step three went like this, "I didn't complete my assignment and I feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." Lesson learned? Dealing with setbacks and failure is part of life, but it does not define us as human beings. City employees and Council feel good about ourselves as your local government when we make improvements in the city. We endeavor to our best for you.

*continued on page 12*

**Upoming Events** Parks & Recreation Dept. • 330.854.2225

April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Easter Egg Hunt, 4/1</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ St. Helena Park, 12pm</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Recreational Hike, 4/19</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Meet at the Canalway Center, 9am</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Canalway Center Workshop, 4/26</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Birdhouse Constructing, 5pm</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Jack Cullen Memorial Trout Derby, 4/29</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ St. Helena Park</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Canal Boat Tours – TBD</b></li><li>• <b>Recreational Hike, 5/17</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Meet at the Canalway Center</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Memorial Day Parade, 5/29</b></li><li>• <b>Canalway Center Workshop, 5/31</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Painting Rocks, 5pm</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Friday Night Concert Series, 6/9</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ "Straight on" Heart Tribute, 7pm</li></ul></li><li>• <b>TNT Marketing Festival, 6/18</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Father's Day Car Show, 3pm</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Recreational Hike, 6/21</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Meet at the Olde Muskingum Trail–Cherry St., 9am</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Friday Night Concert Series, 6/23</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ "Diamond Project" Neil Diamond Tribute, 7pm</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Canalway Center Workshop, 6/28</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Constructing a Patriotic Wood Flag, 5pm</li></ul></li></ul>

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CITYOFCANALFULTON-OH.GOV](http://WWW.CITYOFCANALFULTON-OH.GOV) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



Be aware of potential scams

Every day, it seems harder and harder to remember a time when we weren't attached to our cell phones. In fact, for those born in the past twenty years or so, there was never a time when we didn't have little computers right at our fingertips twenty-four hours a day. Unfortunately, the same holds true for scam artists all over the world, who constantly work to evolve their craft, and take advantage of unsuspecting victims. While we have widely thought that criminals take advantage of our most vulnerable populations, over the past several years, even those who consider themselves "technologically savvy" have been targeted. Unfortunately, in most of these scams, it is very difficult to investigate or recover money for victims, because the criminals do not live in the United States.

One such example of a report our department has recently taken involved a home improvement scam. The victim had contracted an established and respected business to have some home repairs completed. When the victim received an email from the business that she would need to send a portion of the cost of the repairs to them, she clicked the link in her email to their website, then completed the transaction. Little did she realize that experienced scammers had simply added an inconspicuous punctuation mark to the website address and created a website that appeared to be the actual business site. Through our investigation, officers found that the business' website had been hacked by international criminals, who then contacted clients and perpetuated their con.

Investors in cryptocurrency have also found themselves victims. Some may have found interest in crypto for the anonymity of the transactions, the potential for quick turnaround on their investments, or other reasons. These same factors make it very difficult to recover funds if an account is compromised. Remember, cryptocurrency accounts are not backed by the government, like traditional banks; and transactions do not come with the same legal protections as traditional credit cards. Criminals all over the world are privy to this and have shifted their focus to this market in their scams.

Our officers have also taken numerous reports lately for fraud that begins

when victims are contacted by strangers, believing to have discovered a love interest on the internet. Victims report that the person eventually begins requesting explicit photos of them, then using the photos to blackmail them by demanding money or threatening to send the photos to the victim's family members. Currently, some other very popular scams involve Facebook Marketplace and other buy/sell websites. Others report receiving phone calls or mail from our police or fire departments requesting donations. Sometimes, the suspects can even use technology so that it appears the phone calls originate from our office. This should be a major red flag, because our department will never reach out to request donations!

Scammers are always coming up with new ideas to steal your money. Some ways to spot scams and protect yourself are:

- A person demands payment by non-traditional methods, such as purchasing gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.
- A person threatens you or a family member if you do not remain on the phone with them the entire time while you complete a transaction.
- Be careful with the information you reveal to people you talk to on the internet. There is a probability they are not the person you think they are!
- Don't ever click on links in unexpected emails, text messages, or social media messages.
- Use your instincts. If you ever question the legitimacy of a message, don't feel embarrassed to reach out to family or friends for advice, or contact our department to speak with an officer.

Chief Sara Wilson

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Zoning Department

A Message and Introduction

Hello, everybody. My name is John VanDenberg. The City of Canal Fulton has chosen to hire me as their new Zoning Inspector. This city has been my home for many years, and I hope to serve it well in the years to come.

Spring time and warmer weather are coming! We wanted to take a moment to remind you that all grass and weeds must be regularly maintained. Our city ordinance, Chapter 903 (Weeds, Trees, and Shrubbery) allows only to 8" before a violation occurs. Also, all trees and shrubs along sidewalks and streets are to be trimmed to 10" from the level of the sidewalk or street. Now is the perfect time to begin to prepare your equipment or to make any necessary arrangements to schedule lawn services.

Any questions?

Feel free to call or email the Zoning Office:  
330-854-0590 • Zoning@cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov



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Brought to you by the Canal Fulton Fire Department and Stark County Safe Kids.

Date: 04.29.2023  
Time: 1 PM - 4 PM  
Where: Canal Fulton F.D  
1165 Locust St., Canal Fulton

We will have a limited number of free convertible seats and booster seats available for eligible families whose seats are expired or otherwise deemed unsafe.

Bring your child/children

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## FROM THE DESK OF **City Manager Dan Bucher, Jr.**

**W**hile preparing to write this article, I went back and read the articles I posted in the previous newsletters. It's become apparent that I will be writing about the same topic every time we send one of these out: Employee changes in City Hall. Our Fire Department's motto is "Start Here, Go Anywhere." This motto has taken on a life of its own, as we have seen a tumultuous amount of turnover within the city over the past two years. Here is just a short breakdown of the changes we are seeing:

In my Summer 2022 article, I mentioned that we were hiring a new Parks and Recreation Director. This position has been filled by Chris Bundy, who joined us from Mill Creek Metroparks. In the 8 months that Chris has been here, he has done a phenomenal job of helping run many events, such as Haunted Canal Fulton, 12 Days of Christmas, the Father-Daughter Dance, and the Mother-Son Fun Night at the Carnival. He is also implementing new programs, such as recreational walks on our many walking trails. Be on the lookout for pamphlets which will show all of our new activities throughout the summer!

In December, we lost our Zoning Inspector, Laura Cowles. She spent nearly two years in the position before being chosen as the next Zoning Inspector for Coventry Township. We miss her dearly, and we know she will do a great job there. Last month, I hired John Vandenberg to be our new Zoning Inspector. Despite not coming from a zoning background, he has jumped right in and is doing a great job.

In today's job market, one of the most important things you can do is reward those employees who are loyal and want to do more to build on the success of the city. Alyssa Bettis has served as the city's Clerk of Council and the Assistant to the City Manager for the past four years. She has certainly outgrown the Assistant title, and she is being given the opportunity to do more. She will now be promoted to Economic Development Director, which will allow her to do more networking with all of our local businesses, as well as apply for grants and continue searching for more businesses to draw to Canal Fulton. Alyssa will also play an integral role with the Canal Fulton Chamber of Commerce, with the hopes of allowing that organization to flourish.

These are just some of the many changes we are experiencing within our staff. With these changes will come growing pains. One of my favorite quotes from Mayor Schultz is "no one likes a change except a baby." We are doing our best to embrace these changes, and will continue to work for the citizens of Canal Fulton with integrity, honesty, and the dedication you all deserve. If you're in the area during a workday, feel free to stop by City Hall and say hello. Alyssa, John, Chris and I are just a small part of the new generation of administrators in Canal Fulton that are working hard to rejuvenate our downtown while still honoring the work of those who came before us.

*Dan Bucher*

**Final returns and first quarter payments for City of Canal Fulton City Income Tax are due April 18th, 2023.**

Extensions can be filed using the eFile available at [www.cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov](http://www.cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov). If you are retired, filed previous years exemptions and did not receive a yellow postcard, you no longer need to file with the city.

William Keltner  
**Income Tax Administrator**  
330-854-9448



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## From the desk of **Mayor Joseph Schultz**

### My mission statement as your Mayor

To make the best decisions possible to be a great steward of the resources provided to us by the citizens, businesses, and employees of Canal Fulton. To attract, train, and retain the absolute best men and women who will provide outstanding services to our residents, businesses, visitors, and fellow employees. So that, everyone who receives our services may enjoy the best quality of life possibly afforded by the City of Canal Fulton.

Personally, I pray every morning for this city; everyone who lives here, works here, or visits here. I pray for God's will to be done in Canal Fulton and I give Him all of the glory for our successes. And I ask for His forgiveness, grace and mercy when I fail because of my sinfulness. On March 7, 2010, I completely surrendered my life to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. That was the biggest checkmark I ever crossed off a list in my life. To know that my life's greatest assignment is DONE. His assignment was to come to earth, to suffer and die for our sins and then return to Heaven to prepare an eternal home for anyone who believes. Today I feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. I invite you to fill in the blanks about your relationship with God. Remember, every single currency produced in the United States of America has four little words on it, "IN GOD WE TRUST". Do you?

A collage-style graphic for 'Quilt and Thread'. At the top, the text 'Coming Soon....' is written in a large, bold, black font. Below this, a central image shows a small white building with a sign that reads 'Quilt and Thread'. To the left of the building, a sign lists 'Machine cleaning', 'Machine', and 'consignment'. The background of the graphic is filled with various quilting-related items: colorful buttons, spools of thread, a sewing machine, and fabric scraps. A pink oval highlights the building image. At the bottom, the text 'Located at 863 Cherry St E, Canal Fulton, OH 44614' is displayed. Below this, social media icons for Instagram and Facebook are shown next to the handle '@quiltandthread'. The final line of text reads 'We offer fabric, notions, classes, machine cleaning, and more.'

# Coming Soon....

Quilt and Thread

Machine cleaning  
Machine  
consignment

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