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WINTER 2025

Your Community News

Village of Clinton • Canal Fulton • Lawrence Township

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP



Trustee Talk: From Trustee Keith Blowers 330-904-9319

As I sit here and write this, 2024 has come to a close. I find it a good time for reflection. In a lot of ways, I found 2024 to be a difficult and emotionally taxing time. Regardless of your positions, the news was filled with negativity; politically, socially, natural disasters, economically, internationally, the list goes on. Each of these things affect our communities and families. Speaking for myself, I am guilty

of becoming hyper focused on issues that I find concerning and allowing it to overshadow the positive things happening around us every day.

Although these other things matter tremendously, what matters even more is what is happening here at home and in our community every day. Prior to taking this office, I didn't fully appreciate the literally thousands of people that work to better our community each and every day and how interconnected it all really is. It's because of these people providing the services we rely on in our daily life that we have the luxury of debating on the somewhat distant issues previously stated.

I cannot possibly thank them all but for perspective I will start with our own Lawrence Township Police, Fire/EMS, and our always under-appreciated Road and Zoning departments. Beyond that, our civic organizations who tirelessly donate their time and raise money to provide everything from food pantries to vision screening, clothing and basic necessities, housing, youth programs, scholarships, and the list goes on. Also, our hundreds of educators whose responsibilities have extended far beyond the classrooms. As well as our utility workers, farmers, many county and state workers providing programs and services behind the scenes you may not even consider. An extra special thanks to those who serve in our national guard and all branches of our armed forces.

Many of these are 24/7 jobs and it is when things are the worst, they are expected to give the most. To bring this all to a point, regardless of the news or the goings on in Columbus, D.C. or abroad it's because of those above that our community has a bright future. Thank you.

If you find yourself getting dragged down, I encourage you to volunteer and get involved. Start with your church or a civic organization. If you don't have one, there are many locally that would love to have your support. Get your kids involved; many of these organizations are desperate for the next generation to bring new ideas and enthusiasm. It's rewarding and you never know where it will lead you, but it will help you to see there is good in this world and especially within our amazing community.

I realize this isn't the traditional newsletter piece and if you read this far hopefully you found it gave you pause. These are just my personal views and not those of the township as a whole.

Update on various township happenings going into 2025

New Staff: We are happy to welcome two new members of our Lawrence Township administration team. Aimee Stutz is the new Administrative Assistant filling the vacancy left by Kristin Letham. Bill Hostler has accepted the position of Zoning Inspector and is training in preparation for the retirement of Frank Melito in February. We also repurposed one of our retired police cruisers for zoning use, so you will be seeing that out and about the township!

Major Projects: There are several large projects in the works within the township. We have confirmation that the county commissioners have authorized the construction of a sewer system in North Lawrence. This is a project years in the making and was a focal point of former Trustee Les Kamph and more recently Trustee Sean Roseman.

At the corner of Rt. 93 and Orrville Street, we will be getting a roundabout courtesy of ODOT in the summer of 2028. After an analysis of traffic and crash data this was determined to be the best course of action. Funding for this project is approved and

estimated at approximately 3.3 million dollars. It will be paid for by the State of Ohio through ODOT.

A cell tower is set to be erected on Cutten Avenue near Weygandt Street. According to the zoning presentation this tower will help fill gaps in coverage and presumably shoulder some of the extra load during Country Fest.

In addition to these major projects, we also have seven homes under construction in the township along with one commercial addition at Midwest Knife, and a wedding venue in the planning stages. It is always great to see our community grow in positive ways.

Other Items of Note: I want to thank The SAM Center for hosting us and the rest of the Stark County Township Association at their facility on Rt. 93 in October. The SAM Center is a fantastic organization providing a variety of programs and services for our veterans. Visit them online at: www.servingareamilitary.org.

I also want to thank all of our township staff in every department for their hard work in 2024. We have a lot of fantastic people working for our community every day.

As always if you have any questions about any of these topics, or a concern I didn't cover, feel free to email me at kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org or through the township office at info@lawrencetwo-oh.org.



Trustee Talk: From Trustee Sean Roseman

330-353-4349

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday and got to spend some time with their family. I was fortunate to do so as it seems time is flying by.

Sanitary Sewer Project

There have been some rumors about North Lawrence and the Sanitary Sewer Project. Well, great news North Lawrence residents, the Stark County Commissioners have signed a contract for almost 10 million dollars to install sewer to its 90 plus residents. This project will be funded by Stark County using its ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act) and the only cost to the residents will be a \$200 tap fee and the cost of hiring a contractor to tie their home into the sewer. This is going to be a great project, and it has been needed for several years. The project is scheduled to start early spring of 2025 and be completed in late summer of 2026. Please be understanding as with any construction project, plan on detours, delays, and messy roads. When completed, it will be a great project for North Lawrence and Lawrence Township. I would like to thank the County Commissioners for funding this great project and past Trustee Les Kamph for starting the process several years ago.

Lawrence Township Park

As we will be entering nice weather, please remember the pavilion and concession stand are available for rental at the park. This has become very popular among the residents, so if you're planning a family event or gathering book now. Contact Amy in the township office at 330-854-3830 for more details and availability.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

WELCOME

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION



Aimee Stutz

Hello! My name is Aimee Stutz, and I am proud to be Lawrence Township's new Administrative Assistant. I am always looking for ways to continue growing, both personally and professionally, and I am excited to be serving this township. I am someone who values the simple pleasures in life. Whether I am lying in a hammock, camping with my family, curling up with a good book and a cup of tea, or trying out a new baking recipe, I always find joy in the little moments.

You have all been very welcoming, and I look forward to serving Lawrence Township for many years to come.

Upcoming 2025 Trustee Meetings

Generally, regular Board meetings 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.

February 18 (Tuesday)

March 3, 17

April 7, 21

May 5, 19

June 2, 16

July 7, 21

August 4, 18

September 2 (Tuesday), 15

October 6, 20

November 3, 17

December 1, 15

SERVING LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP



ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS:

Monday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Tues - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Closed Friday

Email: info@lawrencetwp-oh.org

Keith Blowers, President <i>(Liaison for the Fire & Park Departments)</i>	330-904-9319 kblowers@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Sean Roseman, Vice President <i>(Liaison for the Road Department)</i>	330-353-4349 sroseman@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Douglas Swartz, Trustee <i>(Liaison for the Police Department)</i>	330-705-1457 dswartz@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Cindy Meisner, Fiscal Officer	330-854-3830 cmeisner@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Frank Melito, Zoning Inspector	330-854-7118 fmelito@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Bill Hostler, Zoning Inspector	330-854-7118 whostler@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Aimee Stutz, Admin. Assistant	330-854-3830 astutz@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Marita Simon, Fiscal Assistant	330-854-3830 msimon@lawrencetwp-oh.org
Lawrence Township Road Garage	330-854-3494 msibila@lawrencetwp-oh.org
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

ADDRESS SIGNS

Seconds count in an emergency. The Lawrence Township Administrative Office has green 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.

**Numbers & Plaque:
\$30.00**

Please visit the Administrative Office to purchase:

5828 Manchester Avenue NW
Monday: 8am - 6pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 8am - 3pm

**info@lawrencetwp-oh.org
(330) 854-3830**



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP



POLICE DEPT.

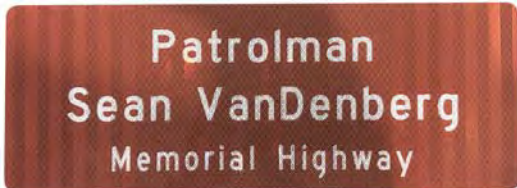
Chief Dave Brown
330-854-2096

2024 is in the books and we begin another year.

In 2024, **Officer Yerman** retired, after serving 21 years with Lawrence Township. Officer Yerman started his career in 2003 as a reserve officer and was promoted to a part-time position in 2005. He served in a part-time position until 2020 when he was promoted to a full-time position. Officer Yerman officially retired in May of 2024 after a successful career. His retirement is well earned, and we hope he enjoys his well-deserved time off!

I would like to thank our residents for their continued support with the passage of a replacement levy in November! I know it is not always easy to support levies as it means higher taxes. We could not do what we do without your support.

On December 19th, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 81, which named Akron Avenue as the **Patrolman Sean VanDenberg Memorial Highway**. It was an honor to work with Representative Stoltzfus to get the bill introduced then through various committees to make its way to the Governor's desk! There will be signs erected on Akron Avenue at the Lawrence Township limits, north and south to make the dedication. It was good news to get as we approached the third anniversary of Patrolman VanDenberg's death. He is still missed every day, and this dedication will help keep his memory alive. Thank you Representative Stoltzfus and Governor DeWine for your support.



ROAD DEPT.

Supt: Mark Sibila
330-854-3494

Winter is upon us! Please be cautious and give our snowplows and salt trucks plenty of room to do their job. Please keep our safety in mind and allow yourself a little extra time to get to your destination.



Believe it or not, spring will soon be here. I'd like to remind everyone to help with water management that has an impact on mosquito control. This would include the removal of old tires, buckets, cans, jars, broken toys, and any other water catching devices. The Road Department is also applying for a grant that will help offset the cost of mosquito spraying. Old tires can be disposed of at the Canton Recycling Center at 742 Schroyer Ave. by appointment only.

Also, please remember to pay attention to signs alerting you that men are working and use caution when navigating work zones.



Hello community members,
It is my honor to be your Ohio State Representative.

Please feel free to contact me anytime via email at rep50@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at 614.466.9078 with any questions or concerns.

Matt Kishman

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LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP/CANAL FULTON



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Shawn Yerian
330-854-2456

Dear Community Members,

As winter sets in, we want to ensure everyone stays safe and warm during the colder months. This newsletter is packed with tips, upcoming events, and updates from your local fire department. Together, we can make this winter a safe one!

Winter Fire Safety Tips

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials.
- Always turn off heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

CHIMNEY MAINTENANCE

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually.
- Use a screen or glass door to prevent embers from escaping.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- Choose flame-retardant decorations
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.



SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Test alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.
- Install detectors on every level of your home.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

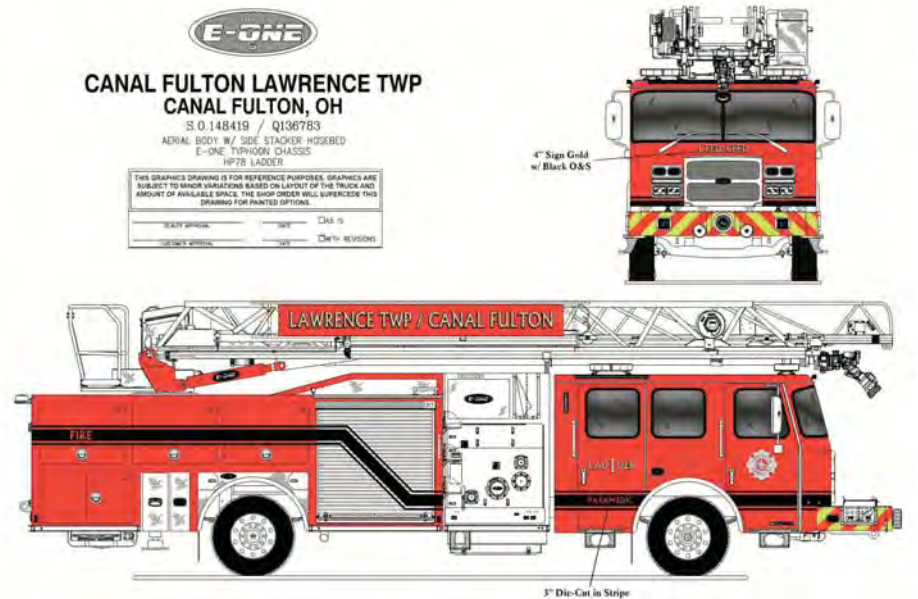
- Create an escape plan and practice it with your family.
- Keep a fire extinguisher accessible and learn how to use it.

STAY CONNECTED

- Follow us online for real-time updates, tips and event announcements:
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/cffdohio
 - Website: www.canalfultonfire.com
- Have questions or need assistance? Contact us at 330-854-2456

Let's Work Together for a Safe and Happy Winter!

New Fire Truck Expected July, 2025



We are pleased to share that we will be replacing an outdated fire truck in Lawrence Township, which has been in service for 28 years, along with another fire truck from Canal Fulton that is 27 years old and has equipment that needs expensive repairs. Together, these vehicles have a combined service of 55 years and no longer meet the modern safety standards required for our firefighters. The National Fire Protection Association recommends removing fire trucks from service at 25 years.

Utilizing a federal grant for this regional purchase can avoid the high costs of replacing each truck separately, which could reach up to \$1 million each. Instead, Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township are each investing approximately \$228,000, resulting in significant savings for our local taxpayers in each community.

The purchase is a quint fire truck, a fire-fighting apparatus that serves the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. Our focus has been eliminating duplication, pursuing grants, and choosing equipment that will serve our growing community for the next 25 years.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CANALFULTONFIRE.COM

Our website focuses on providing department information and assisting with recruitment campaigns. Currently, fire departments across the country, especially in Ohio, are facing a shortage of part-time firefighters. In 2023, the Canal Fulton Fire Department was awarded a grant to help recruit new members. This grant covers the cost of our website and marketing materials.

CANAL FULTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

JOIN US ▾ ABOUT ▾ RESOURCES ▾ FIRE SAFETY ▾

Recruiting Fire/EMS & Junior Firefighters

Join Our Starting Lineup!

Canal Fulton is recruiting for several openings in our fire department. From zero experience to the career firefighter looking for a part-time job, we are accepting applications for positions in Firefighter or EMT and Fire Explorer

? Why Volunteer Firefighter or EMT
↑ Fire Explorer

See what you get with volunteering

Take the first steps and fill out the interest form below.

** indicates required fields

Name *

First Name Last Name

Which City do You Live In? *

City

Email * Phone *

YourName@email.com (555) 123-4567

I am Interested in Becoming a: How Did You Hear About Us?

Fire/EMS Google/Web Search

Apply Now

Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!

- DEC JAN FEB**
Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.
- Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 6** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.
- Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.
- Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Fire & Emergency Plan | NFPA

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/winter and nfpa.org/winter.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.LAWRENCETWP-OH.ORG FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP



ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

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

Welcome new Zoning Inspector, Bill Hostler



Bill Hostler

With over three decades of expertise in the building, landscaping and horticulture industries, Bill brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to this important role. A graduate of The Ohio State University, he has honed his skills in project management, site development, and regulatory compliance. As an experienced contractor, Bill has a proven track record of managing complex construction projects, ensuring adherence to safety regulations, and delivering high-quality results. His extensive experience with zoning and building permits coupled with his ability to navigate administrative processes and

Transitions in the Department

After 30 years of service with our Lawrence Township Zoning Department, I am finally retiring! It has been an honor and a privilege to work with and help hundreds of residents with zoning and township matters. During those 30 years, I have met some absolutely incredible people living in our township.

I would like to thank our Police, Road and Fire Departments and Trustees through the years for their dedication to residents of Lawrence Township and for their support of our Zoning Department. Also, I will always be grateful to our administrative staff and Fiscal Office for creating a great place to work!

I will be retiring in a few weeks so stop at our office and I will introduce you to Bill Hostler, our new Zoning Inspector.

communicate effectively with clients, makes him an invaluable asset to our community.

"I am eager to contribute to the growth and development of our community by leveraging my skills to uphold zoning regulations, promote sustainable practices, and foster relationships with community members. I would like to thank the trustees for this opportunity. I would also like to thank the other township employees for their help and guidance during this transition, especially Frank, for his mentorship."

Requirements for Zoning Permits

A Zoning Permit is required if you are constructing, enlarging, renovating, or building a garage, shed, pool, or signs. If you have any questions about whether a permit is required, please contact the Zoning Department at (330) 854-7118.

Permits may be obtained at the Lawrence Township Hall, Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Building Permits

Building permits are required for commercial and some residential construction. The Stark County Building Department is located at 7235 Whipple Ave., NW Suite A, Canton, Ohio 44720 and should be contacted to determine if a permit is needed for your project at (330) 451-1770.

Health Department: Septic Permits

Septic permits for new construction are required in areas where sewer is not available. The Health Department also requires the review of any addition to a structure located in an area where septic is used. To determine if the location of your addition or alteration will affect your existing septic system, contact 493-9904.



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A MESSAGE FROM Mayor William (Bud) McDaniel



It's this time of year that you are sitting inside wondering when it will warm up and you can enjoy the great outdoors again. You are probably thankful that we keep the streets clean when the snowstorms hit, and we might get some snow this year, but the spring and summer are around the corner. We're fortunate in Clinton to have two great tourist sites, or three if you count the towpath trail.

Memorial Day brings the parade, pancake breakfast, and the OVMP across from the cemetery is open year round. This year, there will be a special event at the OVMP. The Friday and Saturday after Memorial Day will bring us the

Commemorative Air Force exhibit to the park. The CAF Rise Above has a traveling exhibit that tours the country and on May 30th to 31st it will be on display for all to see. We expect many visitors and school groups to go through the exhibit. But that's not all. During the event, there will be a flyover of a P-51C Mustang "Tuskegee Airmen". Now, we can't land that plane in our park, so if you want to see it up close, it will be at the MAPS museum by the Akron-Canton airport in Green for the same two days. I am not sure, but there may be a chance to go for a ride in it. Both locations have a lot to see and a lot of history. They are both open year round, but this particular weekend provides a once in a lifetime event.

So, enjoy your winter and look forward to the beauty of our village during all of our seasons.

Mayor, Bud McDaniel 330-312-1070 • mayor@clintonoh.gov

Storm Water Management Plan

Since 2003, it has been a requirement for the Village of Clinton to address state and federal regulations mandated through amendments to the Clean Water Act. The requirements, referred to as the **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit** is implemented in urban and developing areas. This permit had been managed as a co-permittee of Summit County's MS4 until 2024. As of January 2025, the Ohio EPA now recognizes the Village as their own, separate MS4.

MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. It refers to a system of conveyances that collects and transports storm water from built-up areas to waters of the United States. MS4s can include:

- Roads with drainage systems
- Municipal streets
- Catch basins
- Curbs
- Gutters
- Ditches
- Man-made channels
- Storm drains
- Pipes



MS4s listed above can transport polluted storm water runoff into local water bodies, often untreated. Polluted storm water runoff from MS4s can have negative impacts on the environment and human health. The overall goal of the program is to protect water quality by reducing or preventing pollutants from mixing with storm water runoff that flows into the Village of Clinton's owned and operated small MS4 and into waterways. So, to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged from MS4s, owners and operators are required to develop, implement, and enforce a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The Village Engineer and OHM Advisors are assisting the Village with their MS4 compliance.

Four Council Seats Up For Election in 2025

November 2025 will find the Village with four seats open for election. Currently, those seats are occupied by a newcomer who was appointed six months ago; with the remaining three seats held by multiple term Councilpersons. The remaining two seats are held by first time Council members, who have just completed their first year in office. Those two seats will be open for election November of 2027.

November may seem far off in the distance. However, if you've ever considered running for public office, it's not too early to investigate the possibilities. Do some research, attend Council and Committee meetings, and speak with former as well as current Council members. For information on what steps you need to take to get your name on the ballot, visit the Summit County Board of Elections website (www.boe.ohio.gov/summit), call or stop by their office on Grant Street in Akron.

Summit County Board of Elections Office
470 Grant Street, Akron, OH 44311
Phone: 330-643-5200 • Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



New Equipment for Warwick Park

Thanks to our Street Superintendent, Kevin White, Fiscal Officer, Leah Weirick and Administrative Assistant, Sue Mayberry for getting this project off the ground. The playground equipment at Warwick Park has needed an upgrade for quite a while. Our team has applied for grants a few years running. Unfortunately, the Warwick Park Project has not been awarded those funds. After careful evaluation, room has been made in the budget for this improvement. The project will get underway some time, early this Summer.

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2025

Historical Society Pancake Breakfast



Memorial Day is always celebrated on the last Monday in May. This year, it falls on Monday, May 26. The Village of Clinton Historical Society will be serving up their delicious pancakes, as usual at Fire Station 1, on Main Street. Pancakes are served from 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.

Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

On Memorial Day, the Village of Clinton chooses to honor our fallen heroes every year with a parade; followed by a service of remembrance at the Clinton Cemetery. Line up, for the parade begins at 10:15. Parade participants are asked to arrive at Orchard Hill Church not later than 10:45 a.m. Parade kickoff is at 11 a.m. Questions? Email Marissa Gensimore: mgensimore@clintonoh.gov



7871 Main Street Clinton, OH 44216
330-882-4782 • www.clintonoh.gov

Office Hours:
Tues., Thur., Fri. 9 AM - 1 PM

Mayor: Bud McDaniel, mayor@clintonoh.gov

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ross Blankenship, rblankenship@clintonoh.gov
Keith Clackler, kclackler@clintonoh.gov
Marissa Gensimore, mgensimore@clintonoh.gov
Janice Godwin, jgodwin@clintonoh.gov
Rita Joseph, rjoseph@clintonoh.gov
Matt Steiner, msteiner@clintonoh.gov

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

A MESSAGE FROM Fire Chief Wayne Conroy

330-882-4828
cfd400@clintonohfire.gov



2024 was a productive year for the Department. We were awarded the AFG to replace our 1995 tanker. Also, we were able to place an order for a new ambulance to replace our 1999 Ford.

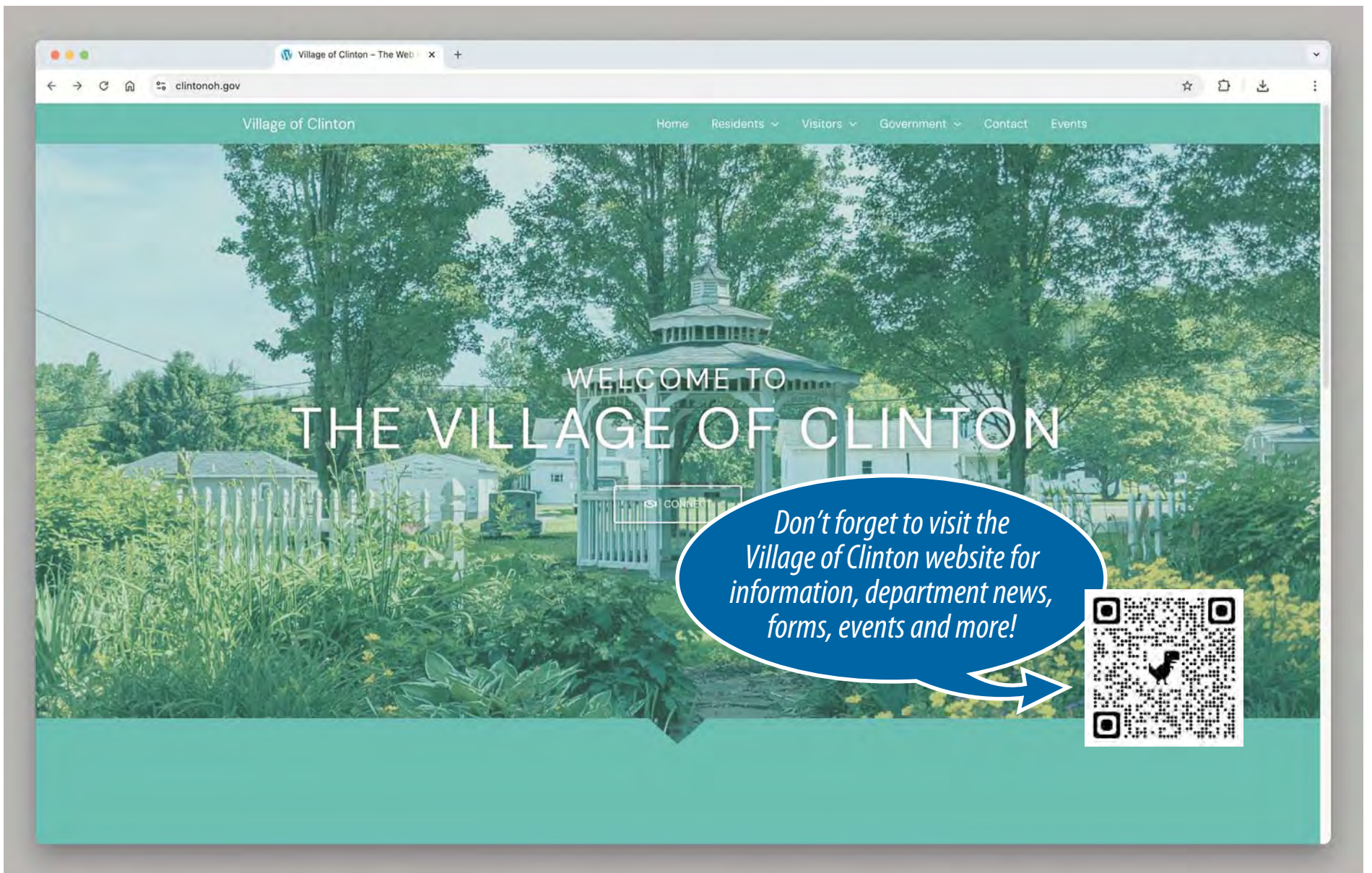
We had siding, soffits, and gutters replaced on our ambulance and brush truck bay. Looking to the near future we hope to have the same work done on the living quarters.

As the temperature continues to drop, please be sure to have your fireplace inspected annually prior to using. Chimney fires are one of the leading causes of structure fires. Also, carbon monoxide detectors are essential for your protection. CO detectors should be on all floors, and close to sleeping quarters.

With high winds and unpredictable weather, the Village Hall has been designated as an emergency shelter. Please make yourselves aware of the protocols our village has set in place.

I would like to thank the staff of Clinton Fire Department for having a productive year and I look forward to all we hope to achieve in 2025.

VILLAGE OF CLINTON



The advertisement features a young man with glasses and a black hoodie sitting at a table with a blue book. The background is a blurred classroom setting. Text on the right side of the image reads: 'fits your **budget** lowest tuition in the area' and 'fits your **life** quick start to in-demand careers'. At the bottom left is the Stark State College logo, and at the bottom right is a yellow button with the text 'apply starkstate.edu/admissions'.

PLEASE VISIT WWW.CLINTONOH.GOV FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



From the desk of Mayor Joseph Schultz

I have shared my mission statement with you in the past, but I think it is worth repeating. *To make the best decisions possible to be great stewards 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. Over the past nine years we have employed several dedicated people to work on your behalf. Every dept. head except one has retired from the city, that is until now. Please indulge me for a moment to commend them and their service. George Lukinac: Utilities, Karen Hiltbrand: Income Tax, Mark Peterson: Streets, Doug Swartz: Police Chief, Mark Cozy: City Manager, Johnson Bellford: Zoning, Ray Durkee: Fire Chief, Bill Dorman: Engineer, and Scott Fellmeth: Law Director. Thank you for your service.

Now, last but not least Bill Rouse-Finance Director joins the club. I believe, Bill Rouse has been the most trusted and respected servant the city has known. We jokingly referred to Bill as the "Dream Crusher". He worked with all of the department heads during budget season as they came in with their list of wants and needs for the upcoming year. Bill skillfully helped all of us to prioritize and develop a plan to budget, save and pay cash for purchases rather than paying interest to borrow.

When I became the Mayor in 2016, Bill asked me what I wanted to get accomplished. I said, I didn't have anything in particular. I just wanted to serve my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and my fellow citizens. But, I would love to see a sidewalk to connect the historic downtown to the commercial end of the city. Little did I know that Bill began planning and budgeting toward that goal. And now, nine years later the goal is close to reality. I owe so much thanks to Bill for his wisdom, knowledge and understanding of how government works. I can't tell you how many times I went into his office and said, here's my idea am I nuts? And he said, yes you are. Then, two or three days later he would send me a podcast about how another community had done something similar to what I was thinking about. Bill gave me and members of Council confidence to know we were on the right path.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment over the past 12 years has been the income tax reform of 2019. Many you may not recall that prior to 2020 Canal Fulton citizens who worked in another municipality had to pay that city's income tax rate and then had to pay another .75% to Canal Fulton. Along with the analytics of Bill Keltner, our current Income Tax Administrator, they presented the idea to me. Passing Issue #14 in 2019 enabled 70% of our citizens to save money on their income tax. In addition, it allowed the city to budget, save and pay cash for downtown renovations for lamp posts, crosswalks, traffic cameras, lights, remote read water meters, asphalt paving vehicle purchases, safety upgrade, increased staffing, software/technology upgrades and the amphitheater. Bill's legacy is the way he led with modesty, honesty, humility and love for the City of Canal Fulton. Best wishes Bill and thanks for a great ride and your unparalleled vision for our city.



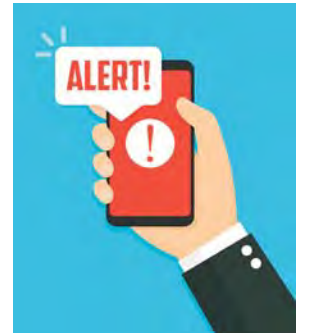
From the desk of **Alyssa Bettis**,
Economic Development Director

What's ahead in

As we embrace the winter chill and look forward to the first signs of spring, we're filled with excitement for what the new year holds for our community. We have some important updates and opportunities to share with you as we enter 2025.

Stay Safe with WENS Emergency Alerts

Your safety is our top priority! One of the most vital ways to stay informed about emergencies in our community is by signing up for the WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System). This free service sends emergency alerts directly to your phone or email, ensuring you receive critical information during severe weather, public safety incidents, and other emergencies. Don't wait until it's too late---sign up today! It only takes a few minutes, and you can register quickly through our website: www.cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov.



2025 Visitor Directory Coming Soon!

We're thrilled to announce that the 2025 Canal Fulton Visitor Directory is just around the corner! This year's directory will highlight everything our wonderful city has to offer, from local businesses to community events. Be sure to keep an eye out for this helpful resource, which will soon be available both online and in print.

Calling All New Businesses: Get Featured in Our Business Directory

Are you a new business in Canal Fulton? We want to help you get noticed! Our Business Directory is an excellent way to promote your services to local residents and visitors. If you're interested in being featured in the 2025 edition, please reach out to Alyssa Bettis at clerk@cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov for more details. We look forward to supporting our growing business community!

We Want Your Feedback: Take Our Online Survey!

Your input matters! As part of our ongoing commitment to improve our services, we invite you to take a moment to fill out our online survey. Let us know how we're doing, share your thoughts on areas for improvement, and provide suggestions for the future. It's quick, easy, and a valuable way to help shape the direction of our city. You can find the survey on our website under "Community Information" or scan the QR code to the right. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing from you!



Excitement for the Year Ahead!

As we welcome 2025, we're filled with optimism and anticipation for all that is to come. There's so much to look forward to in Canal Fulton--new opportunities, continued growth, and, as always, a strong sense of community. Let's make this year our best yet! Stay connected, stay safe, and let's embrace the new year together!



Chris Bundy, CPRP,
Parks and Recreation Director (330) 854-2225 x122

Parks & Recreation News

Who's ready for 2025? This year is shaping up to be an exciting one in the City of Canal Fulton, and we're kicking it off with some fantastic events! We'll begin the year by hosting the Father-Daughter Dance on February 1st and the Mother-Son Activity on March 1st. Both events will be held at Northwest Middle School from 6-8 PM, and tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code to the right.

The Father-Daughter Dance promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with fun and memories. In addition to dancing, we'll have several raffle baskets and a 50/50 drawing (cash only). Be sure to capture the moment with a formal picture in the cafeteria. This is a night your daughter will cherish for years to come!

Then, on March 1st, join us for the Mother-Son Activity, which has evolved into a carnival-themed night. There will be games, balloon popping, a photobooth, popcorn and much more. The fun doesn't stop there, participate in the Mother-Son three-legged race, sack races, and the famous Mothers vs. Kids tug-of-war to close out the evening in style!

But that's not all! There's so much more to look forward to as we get closer to spring:

- **City's Easter Egg Hunt:** April 5th at 12:30 PM, The YMCA's Easter Activities start at 1pm
- **Youth Soccer Camp:** April 24th - May 22nd, Thursdays for 45-minute sessions
- **Jack Cullen Trout Derby:** April 26th at St. Helena Park
- **Youth Flag Football Camp:** April 27th - May 22nd, Sundays (45-minute sessions)



GET TICKETS
HERE!





From the desk of
Dan Bucher, Jr.,
City Manager

Happy New Year! May your 2025 be the best and most prosperous year yet! As always, we have many exciting projects planned for the upcoming season. In this article, I want to let everyone know about three funding opportunities we received from the Ohio Public Works Commission to complete some projects that have been in the works for quite some time.

1. The city received a zero-interest, 30-year loan to extend sanitary sewer lines on Cherry/Cherton St. to Route 21. I know I've written about the new water tower several times, and you were probably starting to think I was crazy because nothing seemed to be happening. By the time you receive this Newsletter, the tower should be at least partially constructed. The tower, along with a booster pump station, are scheduled to be done later this year. In order for development to follow, the city needs to extend sewer as well. This loan will allow us to work with the property owners to accomplish this extension.

2. The city received a grant and a loan to make repairs to the East Side Water Tower. This tower, located near Skipco, will receive a fresh paint job as well as other necessary updates to keep the water safe for consumption. Our finance department has done a great job of budgeting money to allow us to finish them, but the grant we received will help alleviate some of the burden on our taxpayers. These repairs should begin in late summer/early fall.

3. And now the big one: The city received a grant for a Locust Street Improvement Project. This project is still taking shape, but as Mayor Schultz has discussed many times, one of the primary goals is to build sidewalks that will connect the Historic District with the East Side Business District. Other improvements being discussed include paving the street, addition of curbs, and water line updates. We will continue working with our engineer to determine how much we can accomplish with the money we received.

These projects, along with all of our traditional city events, will make 2025 a very busy year in Canal Fulton. I will continue to update everyone on the progress as we go.

Canal Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce

The Canal Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to building a stronger community and promoting area growth.

We understand the challenges that face businesses today. Therefore, we are constantly trying to find creative ways to offer up-to-date, relevant information to help overcome the challenges you face.

Through our affiliation with the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance (SOCA) and Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC), our members have access to valuable tools and resources to help save money and run their businesses more efficiently. More is accomplished by working together for the greater good! Get involved. Learn something new. Help another succeed. It's worth your time!

"Our Mission is to drive economic development by attracting and retaining businesses, promoting growth, developing a competitive workforce, cultivating the next generation of leaders and contributing to a stronger community."

CHAMPION CIRCLE \$5,000 & ABOVE

- 4 Recognition Banners prominently placed in the branches of your choice
- Invitation for 8 to the YMCA Impact Breakfast
- Recognition in our Impact Report and on our website
- Social Media Shout out
- Recognition on the Lobby TVs and Equipment Screens
- Impact tour of a program/branch of your choice
- Sponsorship at a YMCA Association Event/Program of your choice

CHAMPION PACESETTER \$3,000

- 3 Recognition Banners at the branches of your choice
- Name &/or Logo on banner
- Invitation for 6 to the YMCA Impact Breakfast
- Recognition in our Impact Report and on the website
- Name &/or Logo on lobby TVs

CHAMPION PARTNER \$1,500

- 2 Recognition Banners at the branches of your choice
- Name &/or Logo on banner
- Invitation for 4 to the YMCA Impact Breakfast
- Recognition in our Impact Report and on the website

CHAMPION \$1,000

- Recognition Banner at the branch of your choice
- Invitation for 2 to the YMCA Impact Breakfast
- Recognition in our Impact Report and on the website

SUSTAINING DONOR

A sustaining monthly gift automatically renews each month through our monthly draft or online program until you decide to end your donation. A seemingly small monthly donation adds up to a big yearly impact in your community.

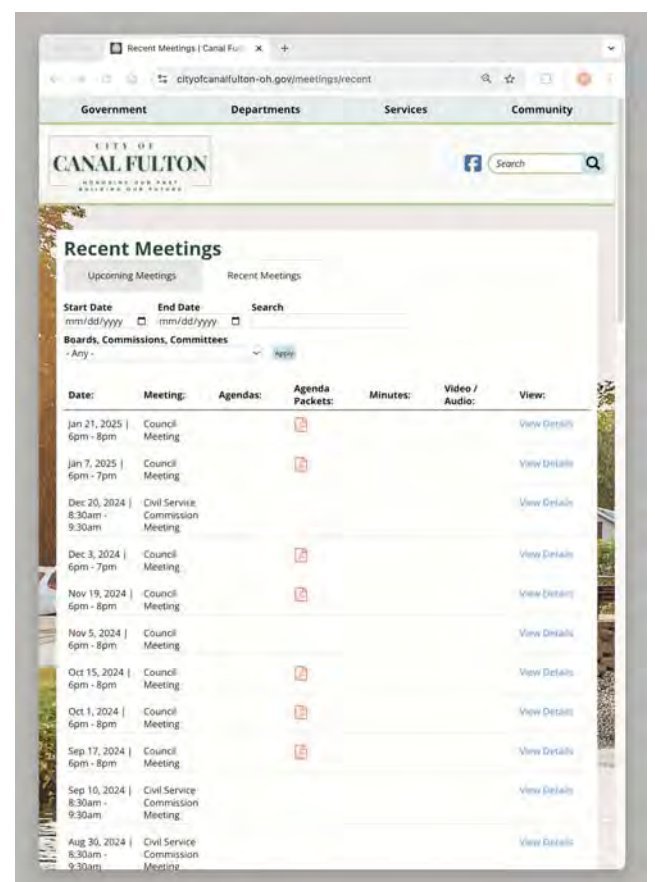
Did you know...

You can search, view and download the agendas and minutes from recent Council and Civil Service Commission meetings on the town website?

Simply scan the QR code!



cityofcanalfulton-oh.gov/meetings



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JUNE 6 - TERRY LEE GOFFEE - JOHNNY CASH

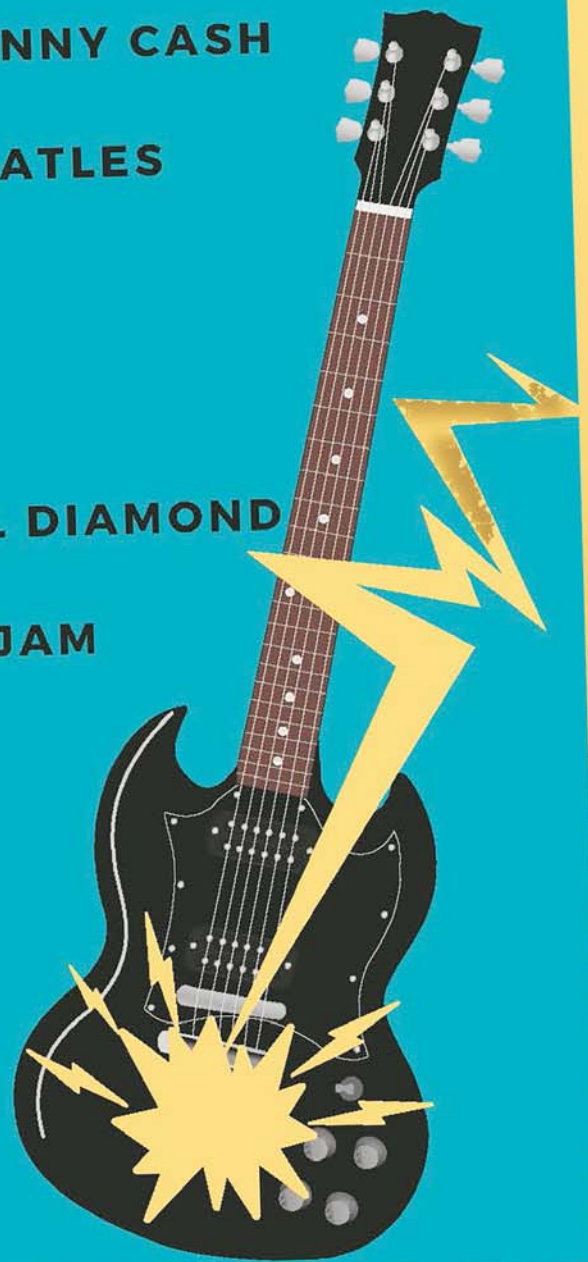
JUNE 20 - HARD DAY'S NIGHT - BEATLES

JULY 11 - DISCO INFERNO

JULY 18 - WANTED - BON JOVI

AUG. 1 - DIAMOND PROJECT - NEIL DIAMOND

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