

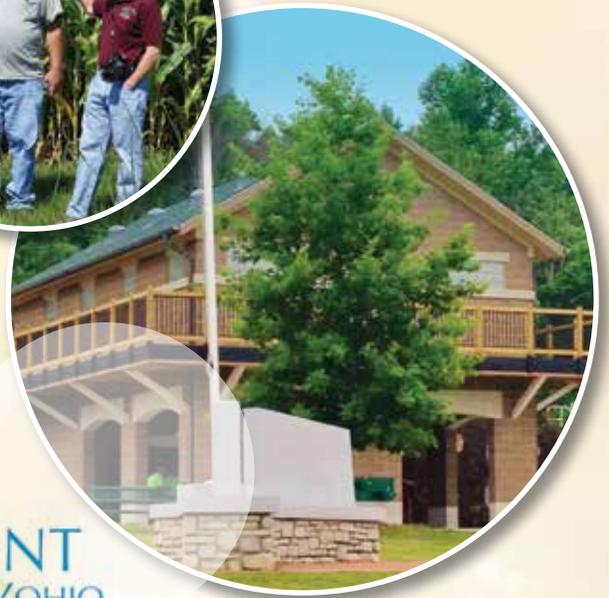
2015 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

ADVANCES IN ...
GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE
GOVERNMENT
FIGHTING HEROIN & ADDICTION
HELPING FAMILIES & KIDS
RECREATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

25

REASONS

TO CELEBRATE CLERMONT COUNTY!



CLERMONT
COUNTY OHIO

Letter from the Commissioners



Our county made great strides in 2015. The economy grew briskly as local companies expanded and new retail opened. The I-275-32 interchange was completed – the linchpin in redevelopment efforts throughout the Eastgate area. This paves the way for a streamlined eastbound State Route 32, where residents will see major improvements throughout the next several years.



Clermont County is attracting more visitors. After \$1 million in improvements at East Fork State Park, including a new beach house, we welcomed USRowing, which held one of its premier competitions at Harsha Lake in July. That event helped county hotels to log a record number of bookings. We're likely to see even better numbers in 2016, as the new Kings Hammer Soccer Club fields in Batavia overflow with competitions and tournaments.



We are conservative stewards of the county's budget, and choose our investments carefully, looking at what will give our residents the maximum return. Over the last decade, we invested in redevelopment of the Ford transmission plant in Batavia Township and the development of Ivy Pointe in Union Township. These projects led to thousands of new jobs. Now we're poised to add to that with the South Afton Commerce

Park in Williamsburg Township. In 2016, we should see the beginning of a 10-year buildout at South Afton, which will lead to more than 3,500 jobs and \$186 million in annual payroll. This will make Clermont County an even more desirable place to live, work and raise a family.

As good as this economic news is, we are mindful that Clermont County is dealing with a heroin and opiate crisis that has taxed our public health system and brought heartbreak to many families. We have not stood by while this has happened. We're one of many partners in the county who came together several years ago through the Opiate Task Force to work on solutions to this crisis. Solutions are not easy, but law enforcement, courts, child welfare, public health, and recovery partners have come up with innovative ways to deal with the causes and ramifications of this issue. One of our biggest initiatives is the Community Alternative Sentencing Center, the first of its kind in Ohio.

In Clermont County, we get things done. We're proud of that.

Sincerely,

Bob Proud | David Uible | Ed Humphrey



2015 was a year of accomplishments. Here is a report of our top 25.

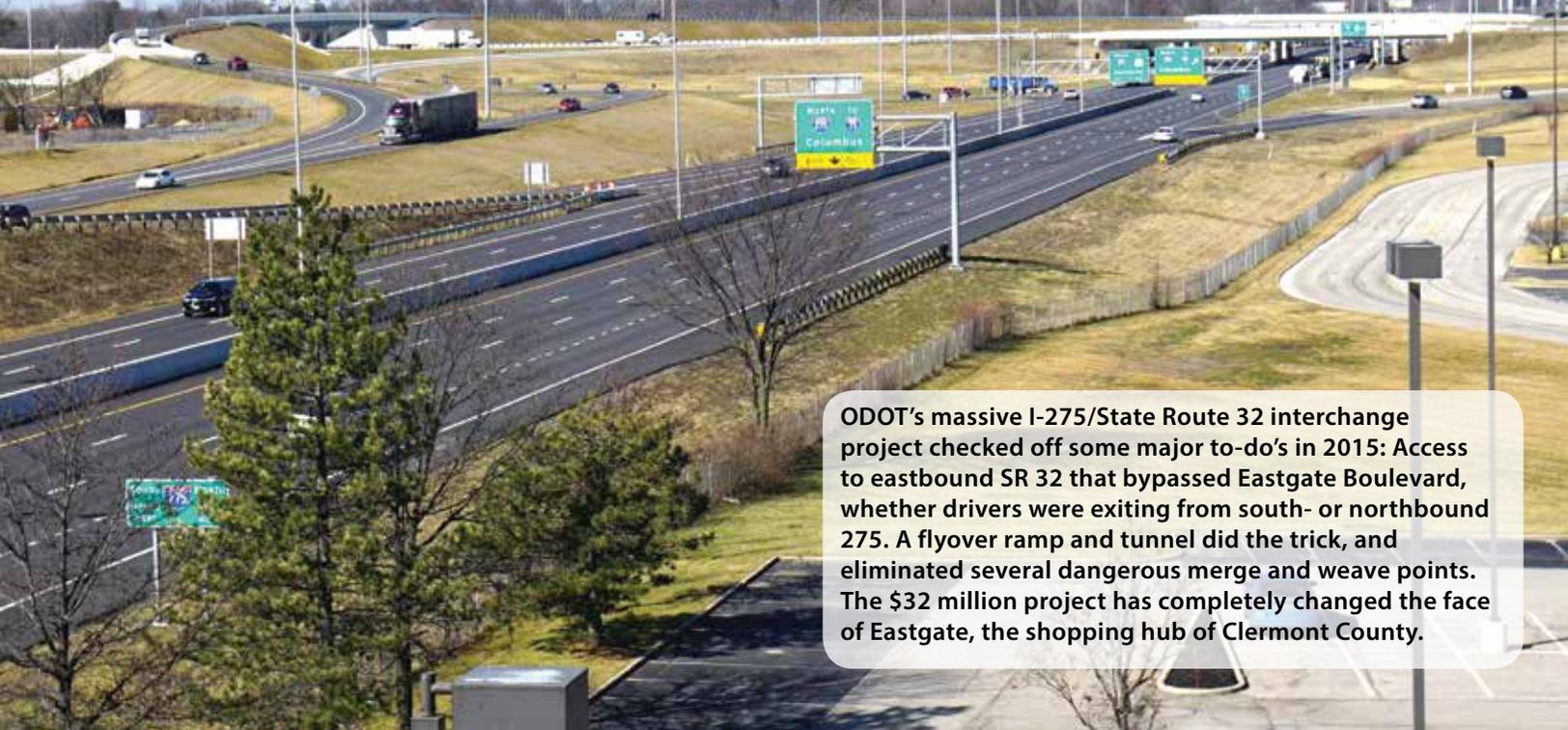
GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE



1 Job growth

Job growth is the number one priority in our Department of Community and Economic Development. In 2015 a number of companies announced expansions, leading to 347 new jobs for Clermont County. This included 149 new jobs at Milacron in Williamsburg Township, 75 at Tripack in Milford and 35 at Overland Xpress in Union Township. Savor Seasonings broke ground on a new building. SpectraTrech completed its plant expansion. And that job number doesn't include new retail at 32 East, anchored by Gordmans, which hired 125 people.

2 A new interchange at Eastgate



ODOT's massive I-275/State Route 32 interchange project checked off some major to-do's in 2015: Access to eastbound SR 32 that bypassed Eastgate Boulevard, whether drivers were exiting from south- or northbound 275. A flyover ramp and tunnel did the trick, and eliminated several dangerous merge and weave points. The \$32 million project has completely changed the face of Eastgate, the shopping hub of Clermont County.

3 More places to shop



Now that accessing the retail around Eastgate is so much easier, we have more retail to access! Major projects in 2015 included the opening of 32 East across from Jungle Jim's, which now hosts Gordmans – the first Ohio location for the mid-price department store – with several other stores to follow in 2016. Also new is the Eastgate Brew & View, a dine-in movie theater in the Jungle Jim's plaza. Hobby Lobby opened in a new location on Eastgate Drive, and fast fashion retailer H&M opened in Eastgate Mall.



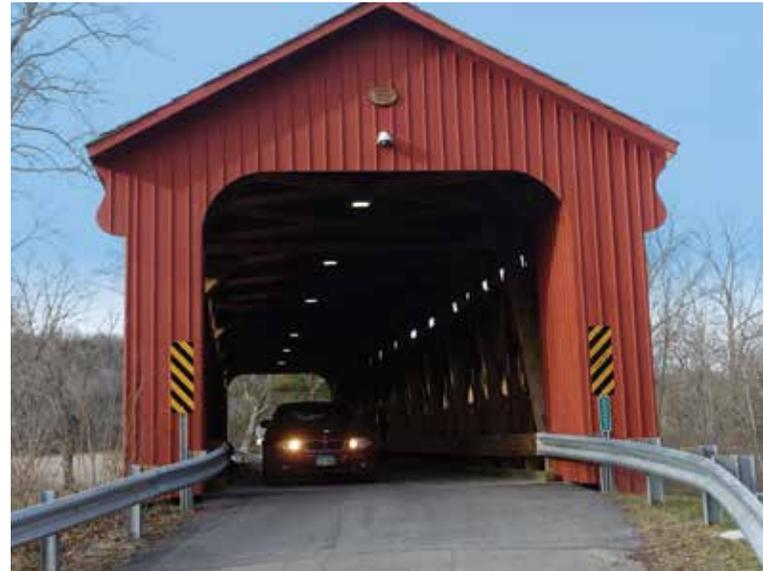
Downtown Loveland's new look

While we're on the subject of development, let's not forget Loveland Station. A mix of retail, residential and office space, this \$12 million project in historic downtown Loveland is sure to bring in more residents – with 94 apartments -- and more visitors (Graeter's anyone?). Nestled by the Little Miami bike trail, it fits neatly into Loveland's quaint hometown streetscape. Other notable openings in 2015: Lori's H2O Skills indoor swim school and Scene 75 Entertainment Center, both in Miami Township.



Scenic history preserved

In April, Clermont County's sole covered bridge opened after an extensive restoration. The Stonelick-Williams Corner Covered Bridge, built in 1878, closed in 2010 after it was badly damaged by an overweight truck. Restoration began in 2013. The project cost approximately \$975,000, much of it financed through grants. Engineers worked closely with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office to ensure that although stronger, the bridge would remain true to its historic roots. Artists gathered in spring to paint their interpretation of the scenic landmark for a gallery show in Milford last summer.



Federal grants fund 10 projects



Less heralded, but important to many communities in the county, are the grants received through the federal Community Development Block Grant program. In 2015, Clermont County received \$932,702 in CDBG funds, which will fund 10 projects that include park improvements in Milford, Owensville and Jackson Township; fire station upgrades in Union Township; sidewalks in Batavia Township; and a septic rehab program open to many homeowners in Clermont County.

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Revenues grow

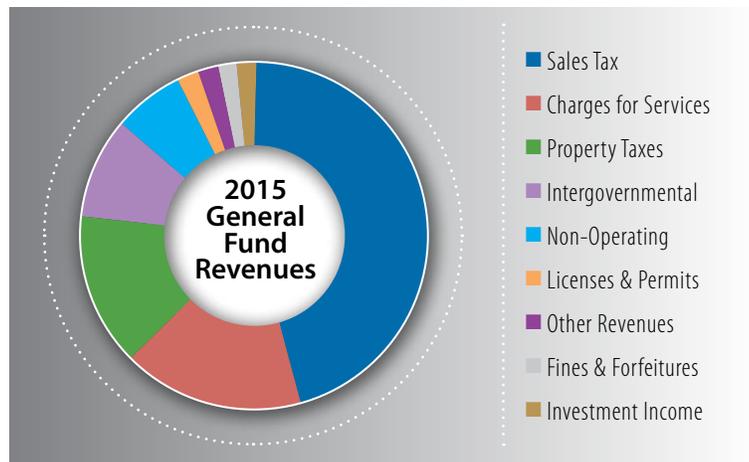
Revenues continue to grow in our county, as both population, jobs and retail grow. Through frugal management during down years, Clermont County was well positioned coming out of the recession. In 2015, county revenues topped \$56 million, exceeding estimates, mainly due to a bump in sales tax revenue. And those online Amazon purchases you make? Sales taxes on those items began to come to the county in 2015.



General Fund

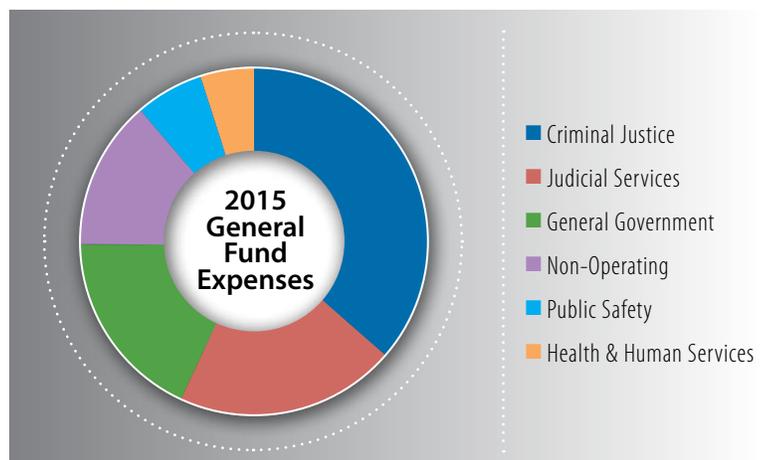
General Fund Revenues Source	2015 Revenues*	
Sales Tax	\$26,101	45.8%
Charges for Services	\$9,580	16.8%
Property Taxes	\$8,009	14.1%
Intergovernmental	\$5,384	9.5%
Licenses & Permits	\$1,141	2.0%
Other Revenues	\$1,060	1.9%
Fines & Forfeitures	\$1,044	1.8%
Investment Income	\$849	1.5%
Total Operating Revenues	\$53,171	93.4%
Non-Operating	\$3,769	6.6%
Total General Fund Revenues	\$56,940	100.0%

*Shown in thousands



General Fund Expenses by Function	2015 Expenses*	
Criminal Justice	\$20,892	36.5%
Judicial Services	\$11,624	20.3%
General Government	\$10,107	17.7%
Public Safety	\$3,666	6.4%
Health & Human Services	\$2,689	4.7%
Sub-Total Operating Expenses	\$48,981	85.5%
Non-Operating	\$8,278	14.5%
Total Expenses	\$57,259	100.0%

*Shown in thousands



8 Technology upgrades

Investing prudently in technology to ensure the county meets its responsibilities to its citizens is something the commissioners take very seriously. In 2015, the county integrated its emergency communications system with Ohio's Multi Agency Radio Communications System at a cost of approximately \$10 million, replacing the system that was installed in 1999. The MARCS system allows for seamless communications among various jurisdictions in the county, as well as across county borders. The county is also updating its Computer-Aided Dispatch system, providing dispatchers access to statewide GPS and mapping.



10

More convenience

To better serve residents who live close to Ohio 125, Clermont County opened the Beechmont Auto Title Office, its third, in June. "We did this for the convenience of the public and to be close to Beechmont Auto Mile," said Clerk of Courts Barbara Wiedenbein. Passport services are also offered there.



9

Nothing to hide

Transparency in government matters, and Clermont County made it easy for citizens to access the county's financial data through the new Citizen Transparency Tool found on the County Auditor's website and on OhioCheckbook.com.

11

Saving our best friends

Clermont to the Rescue Humane Society was selected to manage the county's animal shelter. In 2015, Clermont to the Rescue took in 859 dogs. Through vigorous work with foster and rescue groups, as well as promoting adoptable animals through social media and its website, Clermont to the Rescue was able to minimize euthanasia rates.



12

More for mental health services

Voters gave a resounding yes to the Mental Health and Recovery Board's levy in November, a renewal of the existing 0.5 mill levy plus a 0.25 increase. Six previous attempts to increase the levy all failed. "We believe that the opiate epidemic, and its impact on so many people in the county, along with a greater recognition of the need for treatment of mental health and addiction issues, led to the passage of the levy," said MHRB Executive Director Karen Scherra. The increase in the levy will provide an additional \$1 million for services.

13

New officers

The Sheriff's Office graduated a class of 13 corrections officers in May, needed to staff 50 additional beds that opened at the County Jail to accommodate more women.

14

CASC reopens

The Community Alternative Sentencing Center, an innovative response to the opiate epidemic in Clermont County, reopened in September under the management of the Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services. Clients -- drug and alcohol offenders -- are referred from Municipal Court. Through the residential program at CASC (the average stay is 45 days), clients receive substance abuse treatment, counseling, and vocational help. Of the 71 clients who began in 2015, 40 completed the program by the end of the year.



15

Partnering to solve a tough problem

Clermont County's Opiate Task Force has led the way in a collaborative approach to deal with the ramifications of the opiate epidemic. The Mental Health and Recovery Board and many community partners, such as the Sheriff's Office, Clermont County Courts, Public Health, businesses, and individuals affected by this epidemic, have worked tirelessly to develop new ways to deal with this crisis. Highlights:

- Funding for more residential services for probationers
- ASPIRE, a program to provide vocational and employment services to those who are struggling to restart their lives after jail
- Expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment to help wean addicts off opiates
- Expansion of the Crisis Hotline (528-SAVE) for individuals seeking assistance with opioid addiction
- Development of Project Dawn, which provides Narcan kits to the community, including first responders, Mercy Clermont Emergency Department, and individuals with opioid addiction and their loved ones
- More robust outreach and prevention/education activities to communities and school districts throughout the county.



16

Support for Children's Services

Voters came through for Children's Protective Services, approving the five-year 0.8 mill renewal levy, which provides 50% of the budget for CPS. About 55% of the children that came into CPS's care in 2015 did so because their parents had drug issues – another example of the toll the epidemic is taking. About 300 children were in the care of CPS during 2015 – either placed into foster care or in group homes or residential treatment facilities.



17

Thanks to families who adopt

In November, we celebrated the annual Joy of Adoption ceremony. At this event, Children's Protective Services honors the families that have adopted children through the county. Seventy children were adopted during the year, including 15 groups of siblings. "The Joy of Adoption ceremony is all about the children and their new families," said Tim Dick, Deputy Director of CPS. "When these children and their parents light their candles together, it's like putting a seal on this new family. We are so grateful that these families felt the call to make these children their own."

18

Summer work for youth

For the past several summers, the Department of Job and Family Services has promoted the Summer Youth Employment Program, connecting young people to employers who hire them for the summer. In 2015, thanks to vigorous outreach, almost 100 kids enrolled in the program and 28 employers signed up. A big thanks to the many local school districts that hired students from their own district.





More trail to track

The Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike Trail marked a major milestone in October, when the segment to Zagar Road in Batavia Township opened, completing six miles of the trail. The trail is defined by its partnerships, which include local jurisdictions, Clermont County Park District, Clermont County Public Health, Clermont Engineer's Office, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This latest segment of the scenic bikeway was funded by a \$50,000 grant from Interact for Health.

RECREATION

20

Rowing returns

In July, Clermont County welcomed back USRowing Club National Championships to Harsha Lake. This followed major infrastructure improvements at East Fork State Park -- a new beach house, new docks for kayaks and canoes, and an improved access road leading to the lake -- that persuaded USRowing to return to Harsha. More than 1,300 rowers in 101 clubs participated in the five-day event.



21

Soccer in Clermont County



Clermont County will soon be home to the Kings Hammer Soccer Club. In 2015, ground was broken at the old Red Barn Flea Market site. Later this year, its 13 fields will be filled with youth soccer athletes from around the Tri-State and beyond. More than \$28 million is expected to be generated over five years as Kings Hammer Soccer plays host to tournaments.

22 Wolves on the horizon

The West Clermont School District broke ground in May on the 78-acre site for its new consolidated high school – to replace Glen Este and Amelia -- at Clough Pike and Bach-Buxton Road. Earlier in the year, the district announced a deal with Union Township that involved Tax Increment Financing and selling – for \$1 -- the current Glen Este High School site to Union Township. The Clermont County Port Authority also helped by issuing \$99 million in bonds. The \$90 million high school, expected to open in 2017, will house 2,400 students, who will be known as The Wolves.



23 A new page for Milford library

The Clermont County Public Library and Milford Schools are working together to provide a new state-of-the-art library for residents. The school district will have land and a building close to the high school. In 2015, the library and school district agreed to the land swap: The library will receive land between Mulberry Elementary School and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School on Buckwheat Road. The library is expected to open in 2017.

24 New dean for UC Clermont

Jeffrey Bauer was named dean of UC Clermont in May 2015, replacing Greg Sojka, who had been dean since 2010. Bauer is a longtime fixture at UC Clermont, having been there for 20 years, most recently as chair of the business, law and technology department.

25 Improving farming methods for a healthier lake

A number of farmers in the East Fork Watershed are adopting practices to reduce nutrient runoff from their fields. Aided by staff from the Soil & Water Conservation District and the county Office of Environmental Quality, and grants from the Department of Agriculture, farmers are planting more cover crops, using filter strips, grassed waterways and other methods of nutrient management. Extensive research continues to be done at a farm in Jackson Township where a submerged bed of plants absorbs runoff. The goal? To reduce the flow of nutrients to Harsha Lake, which has suffered outbreaks of algae in recent years.

AND ON THE 2016 AGENDA



2016 General Election: Our Board of Elections will be very busy as the quadrennial Presidential Election rolls around in November. New equipment that came online in 2015 should keep lines moving quickly. In addition to the president, we'll be electing a U.S. senator and congressman; state legislators; and Clermont County commissioners, coroner, engineer, judges, sheriff, prosecutor, recorder, and treasurer.

New industrial park: South Afton Commerce Park, at State Route 32 and Half Acre Road in Williamsburg Township, will become a major player in the county's economy. Aside from the construction jobs during its 10-year buildout, the new industrial park is expected to generate 3,500 direct and indirect jobs, and have a \$1.5 billion annual impact on Clermont County. As manufacturing and warehouse companies start to move into South Afton, expect to see fewer county residents commuting outside the county for employment. At 242 acres, this is one of the largest industrial parks in Greater Cincinnati.



More retail:

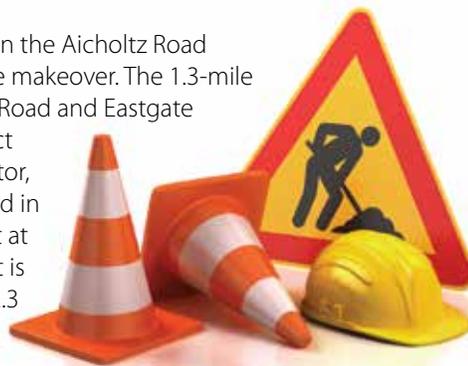
Expect 32 East to be completed this year. New retail will include Five Below, dressbarn, ULTA, HomeGoods and Kirkland's.



New schools: Four new schools in the county are under construction. In Milford, two schools are being built to replace Boyd E. Smith and Seipelt Elementary. Smith is being built in its current location, and Seipelt in a new location off SR 131. Both are expected to open in August 2016. The Batavia School District is building an elementary school on the same campus where its high school is located. It too is expected to open in August 2016. The mammoth West Clermont High School is expected to open in August 2017.

Electronic metering: Many homeowners and businesses in Clermont County will have their water meters replaced as the county switches to a system called Advanced Metering Infrastructure. These new meters will transmit water usage information wirelessly to five sites throughout the county. The project is expected to be completed in 2017.

Major roadwork: Work will start this year on the Aicholtz Road Connector, the latest project in the Eastgate makeover. The 1.3-mile connector will join Mount Carmel-Tobasco Road and Eastgate Boulevard, and run underneath I-275. Expect less congestion on SR 32 when the connector, estimated to cost \$6.25 million, is completed in 2017. Also at Eastgate -- a new roundabout at Eastgate South Drive and Clepper Lane that is expected to be completed this summer (\$2.3 million). Other major road projects include completing the realignment of the curve and other fixes on Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Road (\$3 million), and the widening of Old State Route 74 between Olive Branch-Stonelick Road and Armstrong Boulevard (\$3.75 million).



www.clermontcountyohio.gov:

You'll see a new and improved county website later this year, easier to use, and kept current with information important to county residents.



HOW TO REACH US

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Board of County Commissioners

Bob Proud, President
David H. Uible, Vice President
Edwin H. Humphrey, member
513-732-7300
www.clermontcountyohio.gov

Auditor

Linda Fraley
513-732-7150
www.clermontauditor.org

Clerk of Courts, Common Pleas

Barbara Wiedenbein
513-732-8119
www.clermontclerk.org

Clerk of Courts, Municipal

Tim Rudd
513-732-7290
www.clermontclerk.org

Common Pleas Court

Judge Richard P. Ferenc
Judge Victor M. Haddad
Judge Thomas R. Herman
Judge Jerry R. McBride
Retired Judge William Walker
513-732-7108
www.clermontcommonpleas.com

Coroner

Dr. Brian Treon
513-732-8117
www.clermontcoroner.org

Domestic Relations Court

Judge Kathleen M. Rodenberg
513-732-7327
www.domesticcourt.org

Engineer

Patrick J. Manger
513-732-8857
www.clermontengineer.org

Juvenile Court

Judge James A. Shriver
513-732-7696
www.probatejuvenile.clermontcountyohio.gov

Municipal Court

Judge Anthony W. Brock
Judge Kevin T. Miles
Judge Jason E. Nagel
513-732-7911
www.municipal.clermontcountyohio.gov

Probate Court

Judge James Shriver
513-732-7243
www.probatejuvenile.clermontcountyohio.gov

Prosecutor

Vince Faris
513-732-7593
www.clermontprosecutor.org

Recorder

Deborah Hall Clepper
513-732-7236
www.recorder.clermontcountyohio.gov

Sheriff

A.J. 'Tim' Rodenberg
513-732-7500
www.clermontsheriff.org

Treasurer

J. Robert True
513-732-7254
www.clermonttreasurer.org

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Clermont Transportation Connection

513-732-7433
www.ctc.clermontcountyohio.gov

Economic Development

513-732-7825
www.clermontcountyohio.biz

Emergency Management Agency

513-732-7661
www.ema.clermontcountyohio.gov

Job and Family Services

513-732-7111
www.djfs.clermontcountyohio.gov

Office of Environmental Quality

513-732-7745
www.oeq.net

Office of Public Information

513-732-7597
www.clermontcountyohio.gov/opi

Permit Central

513-732-7213
www.permit.clermontcountyohio.gov

Planning

513-732-7825

Water Resources Department

513-732-7970
www.wrd.clermontcountyohio.gov

AGENCIES, BOARDS AND DISTRICTS

Board of Elections

513-732-7275
www.clermontelections.org

Board of Developmental Disabilities

513-732-7000
www.clermontdd.org

Mental Health and Recovery Board

513-732-5400
www.ccmhrb.com

OSU Clermont Extension

513-732-7070
www.clermont.osu.edu

Park District

513-732-2977
www.clermontparks.org

Public Health

513-732-7499
www.ccphohio.org

Public Library

513-732-2736
www.clermontlibrary.org

Senior Services

513-724-1255
www.clermontseniors.com

Soil and Water Conservation District

513-732-7075
www.clermontswcd.org

Veterans Service Commission

513-732-7363
www.clermontcountyveterans.com



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