

# Clayton Living

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF CLAYTON



## Clayton Places Issue 6 Police and Fire Income Tax Levy on the November 5 Ballot

The City of Clayton is consistently ranked as one of the safest cities in Montgomery County and one of the best communities to raise a family in all of Ohio. The City of Clayton strives to provide exceptional services to their residents and all visitors alike. Many municipalities are facing tighter budgets with expenses increasing across all departments and beginning to outpace revenue.

Expenses in each department have steadily increased each year. The general fund expense also includes transfers to Police, Fire/EMS, and Service Departments. Transfers from the general fund is the only way to supplement various departments when their source of income does not provide enough to pay for all the related expenses. Since property tax levies have remained constant and do not increase with an increase in home values, the level of income generated from those levies is no longer able to account for the realistic increases in costs for those services.

The City Council, after much deliberation, made the decision to place on the November 5, 2024 ballot a request for an income tax increase of 1% to support the Police and Fire departments. The measure would also restore the income tax credit to 100% and guarantee that the credit will not be reduced again unless done so by the voters of Clayton. The income tax would not affect pensions or retirement and would not affect property taxes. The Fire and Police levy would

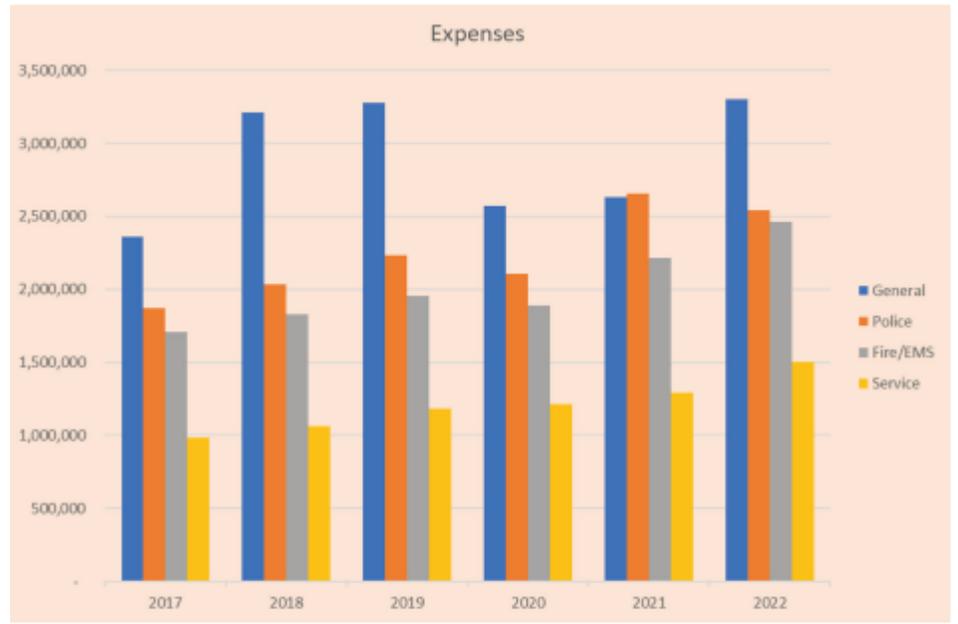
eliminate the need for transfers from the general fund to support the Police and Fire Departments.

With budget constraints, the Police Department did not back fill two open Police Department positions, and the Fire Department did not back fill a Battalion Chief position. In 2023, transfers from the general fund to the Police Department totaled \$1,012,075 and to the Fire Department \$786,050. The 1% would generate \$1.3 million for each department. ☀️

### ISSUE 6 INFORMATIONAL OPEN HOUSES

**Join us for two informational open houses concerning Issue 6.**

Monday September 30 and Tuesday October 15 at 6:30pm at municipal building, 6996 Taywood Road - virtual participation will be available - visit the City's website [clayton.oh.us](http://clayton.oh.us) for the link.



Transfers	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Police	375,600	695,000	750,000	733,471	1,086,808	760,000
Fire/EMS	251,200	500,000	550,000	517,530	745,532	670,000
Service	350,000	475,000	600,000	315,316	400,025	892,500
Debt Service	623,830	607,504	421,230	517,445	472,895	510,031
	1,600,630	2,277,504	2,321,230	2,083,762	2,705,260	2,832,531



# Warm Greetings Friends and Neighbors!

The summer months have flown by! Baseball will make way for football. The pools will see a few less swimmers. The nights a little cooler and the daylight a little shorter. For many, like me, this is a favorite season.

Northmont and neighboring schools began their 2024/2025 school years. This is a time to see our kids continue to learn and advance, meet new friends and challenges, accept new responsibilities, and to live their best lives. I'm calling on each of us to help make this school year the safest and most successful it can be for all. Please, engage with your child's teachers, Principals, and school administration. Attend the Open House, show interest in the things your students are interested in, seek out the many growth opportunities, clubs, and organizations our local schools offer. Talk to your kids about bullying and how to effectively deal with others. Look in their book bags. Monitor Progress Reports. Educate them on responsible cell and internet use. Help them understand School Resource Officers are there to help. Talk to your kids about the importance of

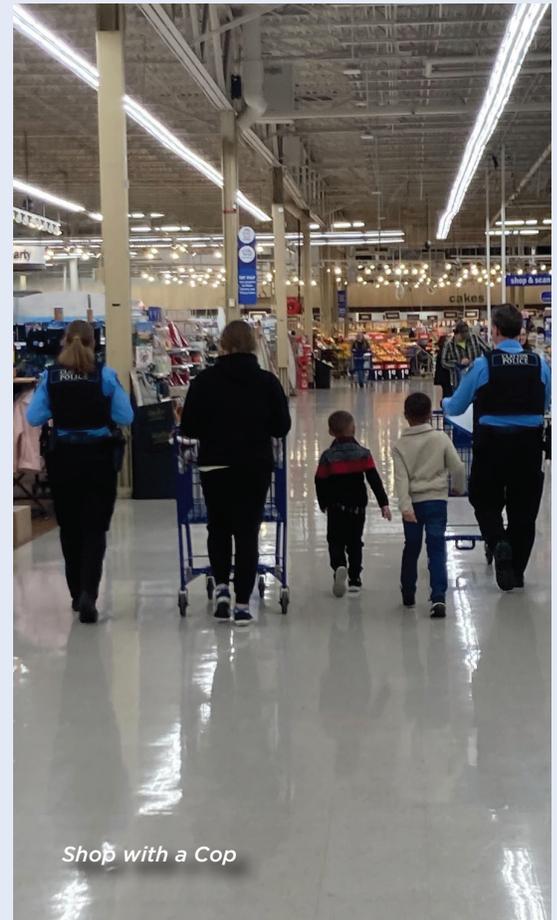
diversity. Reiterate that teachers, bus drivers, support staff, administration, and Board members are professionals working in their chosen profession. And they are human beings and are to be shown respect.

Yes, all schools, including Northmont, are very different than when I graduated from here in 1977. I have had the pleasure and honor to stay connected with Northmont Schools. I am proud to say we are better than ever. Cheers to All for a safe, productive, fantastic year. I'll see you on Friday night!

Go Bolts!

Mike Stevens, Mayor  
(937) 603-5211  
[mstevens@clayton.oh.us](mailto:mstevens@clayton.oh.us)





## Clayton Police: A Proactive History

The Clayton Police Department has a history of proactive criminal justice reform while integrating modern equipment and procedures to deliver efficient and effective services to the residents in the community, ensuring Clayton remains the safest city in Montgomery County.

Clayton has a modern police fleet fully equipped with license plate readers and in-car cameras providing recording capabilities for driving histories of traffic violations and a OLEIS System from the Ohio Department of Safety. Officer equipment includes body worn cameras, tasers and less-than-lethal shotguns. Clayton Police also proudly established the School Resource Officers Program in the Northmont high school and middle school full time.

Using modern technology, officers receive virtual training using the LexiPol Law Enforcement Policy Services. Officers are provided annual trainings in-house through our staff certified instructors for firearms, less lethal options, including shotgun, taser, O.C. spray and ASP baton, defensive tactics, critical incidents involving schools, and force on force trainings with simulations. The department has officers involved in the RANGE Task Force in partnership with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Force to Combat Street Level Crimes as well as the Montgomery County SWAT Team.

Finally, the department has established some of the most popular community outreach programs in the region with "Coffee with a Cop", "Shop with a Cop" and the Police,

Fire and Service Department Open House in October. The department provides vacation house checks for the city's out-of-town residents, a drug drop-off box in the Clayton Administrative Office's lobby, an E-Commerce Safety Zone monitored by cameras for residents safety, and a home security camera registration program to assist officers in solving crimes within neighborhoods.

Progress over the past 25 years in becoming one of the region's leaders in proactive policing would be impossible without the continued support of each and every Clayton resident. ☀️

# Clayton Council Reduces Speed on Area Roadways

Clayton City Council has discussed reducing speeds on certain roadways in Clayton for several years. After numerous complaints and accidents, staff presented a request to Council in September 2023 to conduct a speed study on five roads; Garber Road; Main Street (ST RT 48); Haber Road; National Road (ST RT 40); and Westbrook Road. The Ohio Department of Transportation approved the reduction of the speed on three (3) of the five (5) roads requested.

At the July 18, 2024 City Council meeting, City Council passed three (3) resolutions lowering the speed limits on Garber Road, Westbrook Road and Main Street.

Westbrook Road is a shared road between the City of Clayton and the City of Trotwood. The City of Trotwood will also reduce the speed in their jurisdiction.

New signs will be placed in October. Warnings will be issued for one (1) month by police if speeding is noted. Regular enforcement will begin at the beginning of November. ☀️

Road Name	Current Speed	Reduced Speed
<b>Garber Road</b>	40 MPH	35 MPH
<b>Main Street</b> from Meijers to Greenview Road	45 MPH	35 MPH
<b>Westbrook Road</b> from Main Street to west of St Rt 49	40 MPH	35 MPH
<b>Westbrook Road</b> from St Rt 49 to Diamond Mill Road	50 MPH	45 MPH

## City of Clayton Active Transportation Plan

The City of Clayton was awarded a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation to create an Active Transportation Plan (ATP). An ATP is a document that provides a roadmap for improved walking and biking conditions. The planning process includes steps for gathering input and building community support and lays the groundwork for funding and implementing a wide variety

of projects, programs, and policies. Walking, biking, using scooters, and mobility devices are all considered active transportation! The City of Clayton has engaged Toole Design to help with this process. The plan will make it easier for the City to apply for funding to build sidewalks, paths and bike lanes, create new programs, and adopt policies to support active transportation. We are excited to

expand the ability to walk and bike throughout the City!

As part of the planning process, the city is asking that residents access the link provided and indicate where they feel improvements can be made to the current walking/biking infrastructure.

[https://tooledesign.github.io/Clayton\\_ATP/](https://tooledesign.github.io/Clayton_ATP/)

# Residential Refuse and Recycling Contract with Rumpke: *What You Need to Know*

As of July 1, 2024, the new residential refuse and recycling curbside collection contract with Rumpke is officially underway. This three-year agreement, with an option for two additional years in one-year increments, aims to enhance our waste management services.

## Service Details

For the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the quarterly rate for trash and recycling service, which includes one trash and one recycling cart, is set at \$42.45. If you require additional carts, they can be rented for \$6.00 per cart per quarter. The bids from Rumpke and Republic can be reviewed by going to <https://clayton.oh.us/568/Trash-Contract-Transition>.

Recycling services will continue to be collected every other week. To find your specific collection schedule, please visit the City's website at <https://clayton.oh.us/514/Trash-Recycle-Schedules>.

## Important Reminders for Residents

- **Moving In or Out:** If you are moving, please remember to either open or close your trash account with Rumpke by calling 1-800-828-8171.
- **Update Contact Information:** Ensure Rumpke has your current phone number and email address to notify you of any service delays or issues. You can update your details by calling 1-800-828-8171.
- **Bulk Items:** Residents can place up to three additional or bulk items at the curb each week. Be sure to wrap upholstered items in plastic before placing them out for collection.
- **Unresolved Issues:** If you encounter any issues that Rumpke has not resolved, please contact the Clayton Government Offices at 937-836-3500 for assistance.

## Payment and Collections

Rumpke will send quarterly bills to residents which should be paid directly to Rumpke. However, if a property's payment is delinquent for more than three quarters, the City will assume responsibility for the debt and undertake the collection process. If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out to the City's offices or Rumpke directly. ☀️



# Fall into Fire Safety: Essential Tips for the Season

As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, fall brings a cozy atmosphere, perfect for warm fires and festive decorations. However, the season also brings unique fire hazards that we must be aware of to keep our homes and loved ones safe. As your Fire Chief, I'm sharing some vital fire safety tips to help you enjoy the fall season safely.

## 1. Heat Your Home Safely

With the drop in temperatures, heating equipment becomes a necessity. Whether you use a furnace, wood stove, or space heater, it's crucial to follow safety guidelines:

- **Furnace Maintenance:** Have your furnace inspected and cleaned by a professional before use.
- **Wood Stoves and Fireplaces:** Ensure your chimney is cleaned and inspected annually. Use a fire screen to prevent embers from escaping.
- **Space Heaters:** Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything flammable, and never leave them unattended.

## 2. Be Cautious with Candles

Candles add warmth and ambiance to your home, especially during the fall. However, they also pose a fire risk:

- **Placement:** Keep candles away from flammable items like curtains, decorations, and bedding.
- **Never Leave Unattended:** Always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed.
- **Consider Alternatives:** Battery-operated candles offer the same cozy glow without fire risk.



## 3. Safe Use of Fire Pits and Recreational Fires

Fall is a great time for outdoor gatherings around a fire pit or recreational fire. To ensure safety:

- **Location:** Place fire pits to be at least 15 feet away and recreational fires must be 25 feet away from structures. REMINDER you are only permitted to burn clean dry wood and no more than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high.
- **Supervision:** Always have an adult present and keep a water source nearby.
- **Extinguish Completely:** Make sure the fire is entirely out before leaving it unattended.

## 4. Check Your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

As we spend more time indoors, it's crucial to ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are functioning properly:

- **Test Regularly:** Test alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.
- **Install and Update:** Ensure alarms are installed on every level of your home and near sleeping areas. Replace any alarms that are more than 10 years old. The Clayton Fire Department partners with the American Red Cross and can supply free smoke detectors. Please visit our website at [www.clayton.oh.us](http://www.clayton.oh.us) and sign up to get free smoke detectors if you need them.

## 5. Practice Safe Cooking

Fall also brings hearty meals and holiday feasts, which means more time spent in the kitchen:

- **Stay Attentive:** Never leave cooking food unattended and keep flammable items away from the stovetop.
- **Keep a Fire Extinguisher Handy:** Ensure you have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and know how to use it.



## Final Thoughts

By taking these precautions, you can enjoy the beauty and warmth of the fall season while keeping your home and family safe. Should you have any questions or need further fire safety advice, don't hesitate to contact the Clayton Fire Department. We're here to help you fall into a safe and happy season!

Stay safe,  
Brian Garver  
Fire Chief,  
Clayton Fire Department





### Meet Jack Anderson

My name is Jack Anderson. I have lived in the Dayton area my entire life, having grown up in Beavercreek. I have always seen myself pursuing a career in law enforcement as I grew up in a family familiar to it, with my father and brother both being police officers. I graduated from the Greene County Criminal Justice Academy, and proceeded to work for Kettering Health's Police Department in 2018 up until I was given the opportunity to work for Clayton. I now live in the Northmont area with my girlfriend and our three-year-old daughter, having moved here in 2021. I fill most of my time golfing, fishing, and hiking with friends. I am more than excited to serve the City of Clayton, and I'm privileged to be given this opportunity.



### Meet Terrance Gates

Terrance Gates graduated from Trotwood Madison, and he started his fire career in April of 2023 with the Fire Collaborative working at an Englewood Fire Station. A few months later he started working in a Clayton Fire Station. He was able to work at both stations to gain experience in the fire service. On May 7th he has become a career Firefighter/EMT with the Clayton Fire Department. Terrance plans to start Paramedic school early next year. Terrance is happy to work so close to the community he grew up in. He likes to play sports and enjoys outdoor activities. His favorite sports are track and basketball. Terrance is a great addition to the Clayton, Englewood, and Union Fire Collaborative.

## Trimming Trees

Since the beginning of school is under way it is time to remind residents that residents are responsible to keep all trees and brush out of the roadway and must be cleared



above all sidewalks. During a council meeting in September of 2022, the council approved recommended changes to ordinance 531.50 which requires all trees to be trimmed at least 10 feet above all sidewalks, and 14 feet above every road. The change from 12 feet to 14 was required as all trash trucks become larger. The city receives many complaints from bus drivers that trees are rubbing the buses on several roads. The city will trim these as needed, however with the staff shortages, it is still up to residents to take care of most of these issues. Additionally, school children who walk to school have issues trying to duck under some of these trees that are not cut high enough above the sidewalks. Please help the city keep roads and walks safe for all pedestrians. ☀️

## No Leaf Pickup in the City of Clayton Fall 2024

Due to budget constraints, the City of Clayton will not provide curbside leaf pickup in the fall 2024. Residents are advised not to place unbagged leaves at the curb or in the roadway.

The City of Clayton's trash hauler, Rumpke Services Inc. will collect leaves for the period of October 1 through December 15. Leaves will need to be placed at the curb in standard plastic trash bags and placed at the curb with their trash on their regular collection day.

### Ways to dispose of leaves in the City of Clayton:

1. Mow the leaves into the lawn to recycle their nutrients into the soil.
2. From October 1 to December 15 place bagged leaves at the curb on your regular trash day for collection by Rumpke.
3. Collect and mulch the fallen leaves.
4. Use the leaves as compost.





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Clayton, OH 45315  
(937) 836-3500  
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## City of Clayton Public Meetings

### City Council

1st and 3rd Thursday of Every Month, 7:30 PM

### Board of Zoning Appeals

1st Tuesday of the Month, 7:00 PM

### Planning Commission

4th Monday of Every Month, 7:00 PM

Clayton City Council hold regularly scheduled meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month, starting at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted. During the summer months (June, July, and August) Council only meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. To learn more about upcoming agendas, please visit the city's website at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/175/City-Council>.

To learn more about upcoming agendas, please visit the city's website at <https://www.clayton.oh.us/171/Government>. ☀️

Communication is one of the most important aspects of a growing and thriving community. Clayton releases triannual newsletters. Two, spring & fall, are mailed to each residents and the summer edition is released online. Sign up to receive the online summer newsletter by visiting [clayton.oh.us](http://clayton.oh.us) and selecting 'Notify Me'.



**Mike Stevens**, Mayor  
mstevens@clayton.oh.us

**Tim Gorman**, Vice Mayor, Council Member Ward 3  
tgorman@clayton.oh.us

**Brendan Bachman**, Council Member at Large  
bbachman@clayton.oh.us

**Tina Kelly**, Council Member at Large  
tkelly@clayton.oh.us

**Greg Merkle**, Council Member at Large  
gmerkle@clayton.oh.us

**Ryan Farmer**, Council Member Ward 1  
rfarmer@clayton.oh.us

**Kenneth Henning**, Council Member Ward 2  
khenning@clayton.oh.us

### CITY STAFF

**Amanda Zimmerlin**, City Manager  
azimmerlin@clayton.oh.us

**Brian Garver**, Fire Chief  
bgarver@clayton.oh.us

**Matt Hamlin**, Chief of Police  
mhamlin@clayton.oh.us

**Randy Sanders**, Director of Public Service  
dsanders@clayton.oh.us

**Kevin Schweitzer**, CPA, Finance Director  
kschweitzer@clayton.oh.us

**Elaine Wittman**, Assistant to the City Manager  
ewittman@clayton.oh.us

**Barbara Seim**, Clerk of Council  
bseim@clayton.oh.us

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