

PROGRESS THROUGH PERSEVERANCE



Report to the Community 2024



Our Mission

We enrich our community by delivering responsive and efficient services, prioritizing public safety and building lasting trust through transparency and responsible stewardship.

Our Vision

To grow as a vibrant, forward-thinking community that champions opportunity, growth and genuine connection.

Our Values

Service Excellence

We deliver dependable, respectful and responsive service to everyone in our community.

Commitment to Quality

We take pride in delivering thoughtful, timely and effective services as we strive for excellence.

Honesty & Accountability

We act with honesty and uphold the highest ethical standards in everything we do.

Teamwork

We believe that strong partnerships and collaboration—inside and outside our organization—create better outcomes for all.

Community Safety

We protect our community's well-being by fostering a safe and secure environment for all.

Resource Responsibility

We steward public resources with care, efficiency and foresight to serve both current and future generations.

Forward Thinking

We embrace new ideas, welcome innovation and adapt to change in pursuit of better solutions.

Springfield is Making PROGRESS THROUGH PERSEVERANCE



As we look back on 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on a year that tested our resilience—and ultimately showcased the strength of our city. While we navigated some unique challenges, particularly during a season of national attention, we also made meaningful progress together. It's clear to me, now more than ever, that Springfield is a city defined by progress through perseverance, inspired collaboration and a shared commitment to building a better future.

Throughout the year, we remained focused on core services and long-term priorities. Our 2024 Community Survey results showed strong resident satisfaction in key areas such as fire protection, parks and recreation and emergency medical services. At the same time, we heard the community's call for continued improvements in street conditions, police services and public communication—and we are taking that feedback seriously. Together, we'll turn those insights into action.

In 2025, we'll complete our updated Strategic Plan and begin crafting a new vision for the years ahead. Communication remains a top priority for us. We will stay focused on delivering consistent, timely and transparent communication across all our platforms. I'm personally committed to strengthening how we share information and engage with you, and that effort will only grow stronger in 2025.

Major progress was made in 2024 in public safety, infrastructure, housing and economic development. Our Fire Rescue Division celebrated a successful paramedic program, our Police Division welcomed new recruits and our Service Department rolled out modern technology, *CityWorks*, to improve City operations. We also saw movement on key housing developments across the city—ensuring we continue to meet the needs of our growing population.

Looking ahead, we're excited to offer more efficient and effective income tax collection through our new partnership with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). This partnership offers modern tools and cost-saving processes to help secure and stabilize our city's largest revenue stream. This is a vital step in preserving the services our community depends on like Police, Fire/EMS, street paving and other core City services.

Springfield is evolving—and so is how we tell our story. In the coming year, I'm personally committed to improving how we connect with you, listen to you and serve you. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Together, we'll continue to make Springfield a City we're all proud to call home.

With gratitude,

Bryan Heck
City Manager

Your Local Government

The City of Springfield's Charter was originally adopted by the voters on August 26, 1913 and was most recently amended in 2002. The Charter mandates the city commission-manager form of government. This form of government is used by over 3,000 cities and over 300 counties nationwide, and it combines the political leadership of elected officials with the managerial and professional experience of an appointed manager.

The City of Springfield City Commission consists of five elected members who are the policy makers elected to represent the needs of the community. The Mayor and Commission members are elected to serve a four-year term.

The City Manager is appointed by the City Commission to serve as chief executive officer of the City and to manage the daily operations of the City. The City Manager serves as chief advisor to the City Commission and is responsible for the development and execution of policies, preparation of the annual budget, administration of personnel, allocation of resources and enforcement of the City's ordinances.

How Does My Local Government Operate?

The City of Springfield operates as a council-manager form of government. Learn more below about the different roles and responsibilities of the individuals that comprise the City of Springfield organization.

Citizens

Citizens of the City of Springfield (within the city limits) vote for and elect members of the community to serve in various elected official positions, such as Mayor and City Commissioner.

Mayor and City Commission

The Mayor and City Commissioners are elected community representatives who are responsible for enacting local legislation, adopting budgets, determining policies, and appointing the City Manager, law director, finance director and city clerk. The Springfield City Commission consists of five members who serve four-year terms.

City Manager

The City Manager is a hired executive officer for the city who directs, coordinates and supervises city departments and employees on a day-to-day basis. This individual and their team is also charged with implementing the approved budget, ordinances and policies set forth by the City Commission.

City Employees

Each city employee provides a service to the City of Springfield in an effort to support strategic priorities and make Springfield an ideal place to live, work and play. They are true public servants with a vested interest in the success of our city.



Springfield City Commission



Left to Right: Tracey Tackett, Vice Mayor David Estrop, Mayor Rob Rue, Krystal Brown, Bridgett Houston



A Message from the Mayor

Looking back on 2024, I'm filled with gratitude and pride for the progress we've made together as a community. Through every challenge, Springfield has shown what it means to lead with resilience, determination, and heart.

I want to offer a special thank you to the Ohio Mayors Alliance for standing with Springfield this year. Their generous contribution of \$100,000 and their ongoing support has made a real difference—and we are deeply grateful for their continued partnership and advocacy on behalf of cities like ours.

Thank you to every resident, business and community leader who has played a role in moving Springfield forward. The future is bright, and I'm honored to serve as your Mayor as we continue to move forward together.

Warm regards,

Mayor

Voice Your Views

Springfield residents are encouraged to participate in the decision making process by participating in public hearings and by offering comments during appropriate opportunities at City Commission meetings and other public meetings. If you would like to learn more about openings on City Boards and Commissions, contact the City Clerk at (937) 324-7341.

Boards and Commissions

Boards and Commissions provide Springfield residents with an opportunity to become involved in their local government.

Board of Building Appeals (BBA)

Held the third Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. in the second floor conference room at City Hall.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Forum.

City Commission

Meetings held on alternating Tuesdays in the City Hall Forum. Legislative sessions begin at 7 p.m.

City Planning Board (CPB)

Held on the first Monday after the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Forum.

Civil Service Commission

Held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room at City Hall.

Community Beautification Committee (CBC)

Held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Forum conference room.

Community Grant Advisory Board

Held on the second Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. in the City Hall Forum conference room.

Community Police Advisory Team

Held on the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at 4 p.m. in a location to be determined. Additional information can be provided upon request.

Compensation Board

Annual meeting held at least once each year, no later than October 1, in the Manager's conference room at City Hall.

Historic Landmarks Commission

Held on the first Monday after the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Forum conference room.

Human Relations Board

Regular meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Forum Conference Room, which is on the first floor at City Hall.

Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) Board of Directors

Meets at the Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport conference room in the Terminal Building located at 1251 West Blee Road. Meetings are not regularly scheduled. Additional information can be provided upon written request to Regina Jeffers by email at rjeffers@springfieldohio.gov or mail: 76 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45502.

Municipal Airport Advisory Board

Held on the first Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at 5:30 p.m. in the Terminal Building Conference Room at Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport located at 1251 West Blee Road.

Community Police Advisory Team (CPAT)

Springfield Police Division Makes Significant Strides in its Commitment to Transparency with the Community

The Springfield Police Division achieved the State of Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation (OCLEAP), a significant step toward greater transparency and accountability. As one of only ten departments selected for the OCLEAP pilot program in 2024, the Springfield Police Division met all of the rigorous state standards, including professional conduct, bias-free policing, and crisis intervention.

In addition to this accomplishment, the Springfield Police Division took a further step toward ensuring transparency by adding body-worn cameras to their patrol officers in 2024. This new technology provides an additional layer of accountability, helping to ensure that interactions between law enforcement and the community are documented and can be reviewed if needed. By embracing this innovative tool, the division demonstrates its commitment to providing a more transparent and accountable policing experience for Springfield residents.

This accreditation and the implementation of body-worn cameras reflect the department's ongoing commitment to improving policies and practices to better serve the community. It is a clear demonstration of the department's dedication to upholding high standards of professionalism and integrity. The CPAT commends the department for these achievements and continues to support efforts that ensure public trust and the safety of all Springfield residents.

About the CPAT

The CPAT is a team of community members appointed to study matters affecting and concerning the relationship between the Springfield Police Division (SPD) and members of the community. The team makes recommendations to the SPD and advises the Police Chief, City Manager and the City Commission on a variety of issues related to community-police relations.



Left to Right: Ravi Khanna, Ramona Henry, Amy Wilmann and Otis Williams

Not Pictured: Karen Benton, Jennette Anderson, Lisa Dunn, James Bacon and Lisa Henry

Public Nuisance Abatement Program

The City of Springfield established the Vacant Property Registration program in 2020 to address the challenge of abandoned, vacant properties. One of the key hurdles facing the City was identifying ownership of these properties and determining effective solutions. Traditionally, abandoned properties could only be addressed through tax foreclosure or demolition, options which were limited by the capacity of the Clark County Treasurer's Office and the financial constraints of the City.

In response to these challenges, the Public Nuisance Abatement Program was launched in 2023, marking a significant step forward in the City's efforts to improve neighborhoods and enhance public safety. The program's collaborative approach has proven to be highly successful, with the City completing two cases through the court system in 2023, followed by a remarkable 13 cases completed in 2024.

The program involves a coordinated effort among multiple City departments and partners. The Code Compliance team plays a key role by issuing exterior orders and civil fines, while the legal department works closely to build each case. The Treasurer's Office ensures proper coding of the properties, and Judge Richard Carey agreed to hear public nuisance cases in the Probate Court. Once a case is approved, receivers renovate the properties, effectively revitalizing these spaces for future use.

The Public Nuisance Abatement Program plays a crucial role in addressing vacant and blighted properties, driving significant improvements in our community by increasing property values, reducing crime and blight, and enhancing public health and safety. By tackling these properties, the program also eases the burden on first responders, potentially decreasing calls related to hazardous properties.



2024 Program Highlights

- **13 structures successfully moved through the court system**
- **Total Sales: \$554,897.00**
- **Cost of Improvements (Receivers' Repairs): \$214,461.13**
- **Real Estate Taxes Paid: \$39,245.71**
- **City of Springfield Sewer Assessments Paid: \$3,198.42**
- **City Judgments Paid: \$19,500.00**
- **Disbursements to Lien Holders: \$21,223.32**

Neighborhood Paving Program Completes its 7th Successful Year

Through the Neighborhood Street Paving Program, an additional 18 streets were paved in 2024. The program was launched following the passage of an earned income tax levy approved by voters in 2017. The City of Springfield promised to use a portion of the tax levy dollars to repair neighborhood streets. To date, more than 90 roadways have been repaved in the City thanks to voters passing the tax levy.

Neighborhood streets completed over the past year, which includes Ohio Public Works and Ohio Department of Transportation projects were: Allen, Barker, Bechtle, Biel, Derr, Dorothy Layne, Duncan, Eagle City, Elmore, Fountain, Gruen, Lowman, Mavor, Morton, Reames, Share, Van Buren and Yellow Springs.



Community Survey

In 2024, Springfield continued to focus on delivering core services while listening closely to resident concerns. The annual Community Survey revealed strong satisfaction with key services such as Fire Protection, Emergency Medical Services and Parks and Recreation. At the same time, residents clearly expressed a desire for improvements in areas including Street Conditions, Police Services and Public Communication.

While this feedback came at a time of increased civic tension and misinformation, City Leadership remains committed to strengthening transparency and accessibility. In response, Springfield is evaluating and expanding communication efforts to better meet residents where they are—through social media, email newsletters, televised meetings, podcasts and community forums.

Public feedback also underscored the need to make civic engagement more welcoming and secure. City Leadership continues to evaluate and adjust protocols at public meetings and in an effort to create new opportunities for residents to engage more meaningfully with City Government.

Looking ahead, Springfield will build on the insights gathered to create more inclusive, effective and transparent channels of communication. As City Manager Bryan Heck noted, "Together, we'll turn those insights into action."



NAAMCE Celebrates Another Year of Innovation and Growth in Advanced Air Mobility

The mission of the NAAMCE is to serve as a premier collaborative hub that accelerates advanced air mobility (AAM) technologies—including electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). It provides state-of-the-art facilities that support research, innovation, testing, training and demonstration projects in partnership with entities such as:

The U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)

NASA

ODOT/Ohio UAS Center

Academia & Research

Private Industry Stakeholders



NAAMCE currently houses 16 tenants and has 4 offices, totaling 1,000 square feet still available for lease.

Assistant City Manager Honored with Aerospace & Defense Award

Assistant City Manager and Economic Development Director Tom Franzen was awarded with an Aerospace & Defense Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions made in support of our military and the future of aerospace technology.

City Manager Bryan Heck and Mayor Rob Rue attended the 2024 Dayton Business Journal's Aerospace and Defense Awards ceremony to celebrate the designation.



Showcasing Innovation: NAAMCE Welcomes 500+ Global Stakeholders and Historic Military Operations

In March 2024, the 178th Wing marked a historic milestone by successfully landing the first MQ-9 Reaper at Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base. The MQ-9 Reaper, a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) renowned for its extensive intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, was at the center of a series of advanced operations following its arrival.

In the days after the landing, the 178th Wing conducted a range of mission-critical activities, including satellite launch recovery, automated takeoff and landing, complex aerial maneuvers, aircraft maintenance, and other core operational tasks. These efforts were part of Advanced Wrath, a high-level collaborative training exercise involving multiple key partners:

The 178th Wing (Ohio)

The 163rd Attack Wing (California)

The 248th Air Traffic Control Squadron (Mississippi)

The Air Force Research Laboratory (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base)

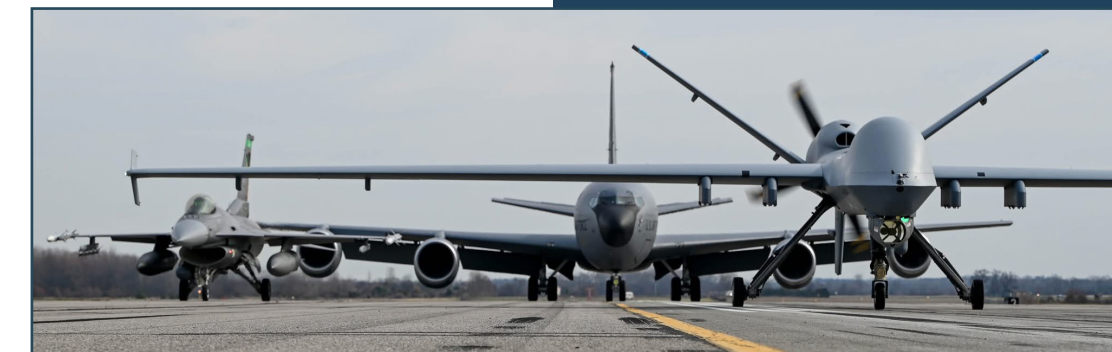
The Ohio Department of Transportation

Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport

The Federal Aviation Administration

This event marked the first military flight operation conducted at Springfield Air National Guard Base in more than 13 years, highlighting NAAMCE's growing role in supporting mission-critical defense initiatives.

In addition to this historic achievement, NAAMCE proudly hosted the National Advanced Air Mobility Industry Forum, welcoming more than 500 attendees from around the world to Springfield-Beckley Airport. The forum offered industry leaders, government officials, and researchers a first-hand look at cutting-edge AAM technologies and emerging aircraft systems, reinforcing NAAMCE's position as a national hub for innovation, collaboration and progress in the advanced air mobility sector.



Pivotal Blackfly eVTOL



MQ-9 Reaper



FORWARD TOGETHER

Springfield has Heart

The City of Springfield remains truly grateful for the outpouring of support and encouragement from our community, partners, and local organizations during 2024 — including this heartwarming gesture from Marker Construction, who added a heart to the City logo to celebrate the people, pride, and partnerships that make Springfield such a special place.

#ForwardTogether #SpringfieldStrong #CommunitySupport



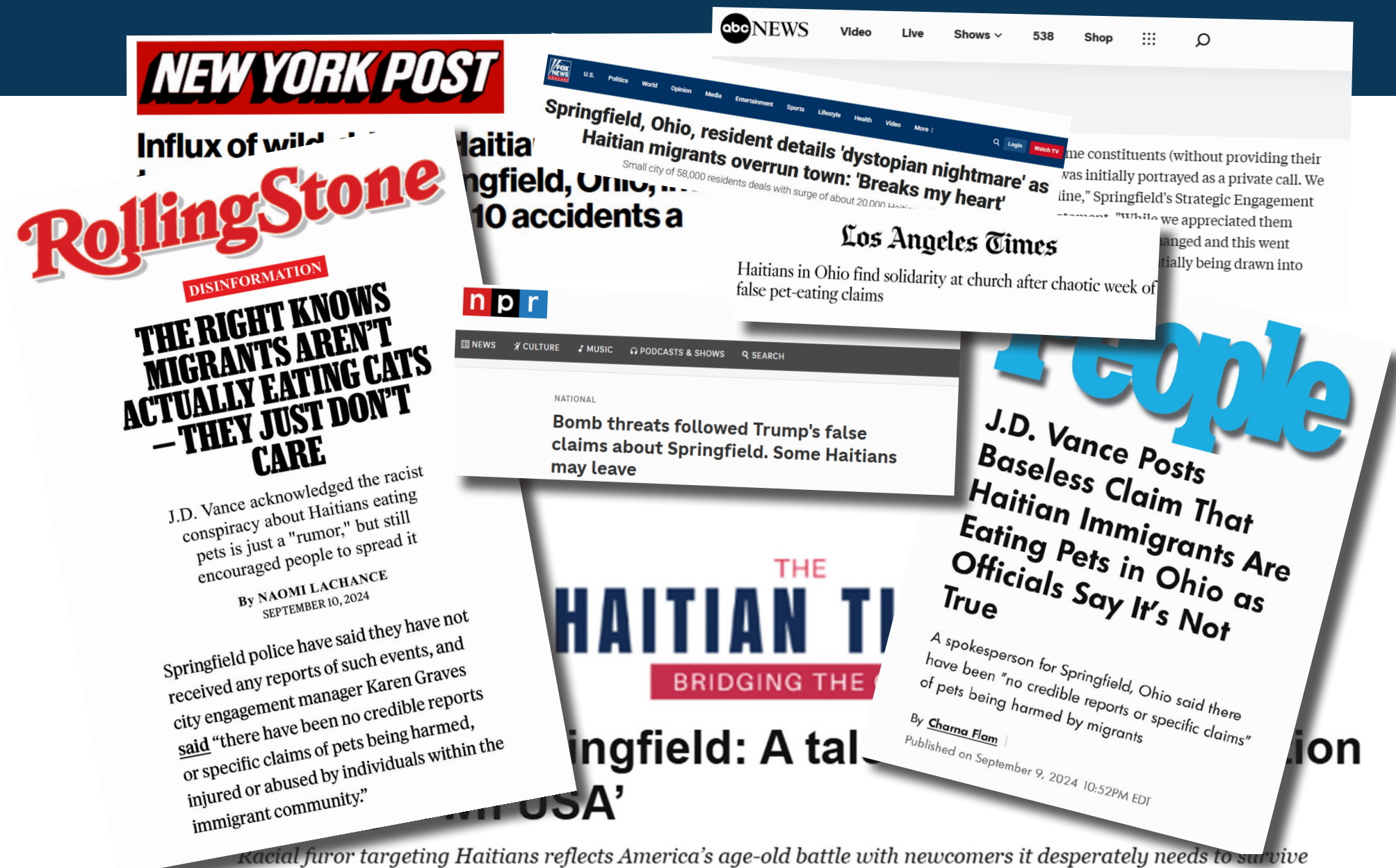
The Legend of a Thousand Cranes

Legend says that he who possesses a thousand cranes gets a wish.

Students from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District worked with Art Teach at Buhler Dual Language Academy to create 1,000 cranes for Springfield, wishing for peace to our community.



In the Headlines



Over the course of just ten weeks in 2024, the City of Springfield, Ohio found itself thrust into the global spotlight, mentioned in more than 226,000 media stories worldwide. This extraordinary media attention—driven by a series of politically charged events and commentary—amounted to an estimated \$10 billion in earned media value, positioning Springfield at the heart of national and international political discourse.

What began as a routine government correspondence quickly escalated into a media phenomenon.

July 8, 2024: Springfield's City Manager sent a formal letter to the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, addressing a range of federal concerns.

September 9: U.S. Senator JD Vance publicly referenced Springfield for the first time, centering it in his comments on immigration—a moment that ignited intense media interest.

September 10: The first Presidential Debate between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris aired, with Springfield becoming a flash point in national rhetoric.

September 16: The city faced a wave of tension, including bomb threats and public rallies involving extremist groups such as the Proud Boys and the KKK, prompting heightened security and national headlines.

October 1: During the Vice Presidential Debate between JD Vance and Tim Walz, Springfield was once again named, further fueling media momentum.

November 5: Election Day solidified Springfield's place in the political narrative of 2024.

Senator Vance's repeated and high-profile remarks—some of which drew significant national attention—kept Springfield in the news cycle, fueling widespread debate and sustained media focus.

This unprecedented wave of media coverage presented both challenges and opportunities for the city. While the volume and tone of attention were at times contentious, the experience underscored Springfield's growing relevance on the national stage and highlighted the resilience of its residents and leadership amid turbulent discourse.

As the city moves forward, this moment in history will be remembered not only for its intensity but for its lasting impact on Springfield's visibility, voice and role in shaping the American political landscape.

City Manager Receives Profile in Courage Award

City Manager Bryan Heck was awarded the prestigious "Profile in Courage Award" at the Ohio City/County Management Association Annual Conference. The recognition honors Bryan's exceptional leadership during Springfield's challenging 2024, a year marked by national immigration debates that brought both misinformation and personal threats to our community.

Mayor Rob Rue had the honor of presenting Bryan with the award, along with a Proclamation declaring February 27, 2025, as "City Manager's Day." Rob took a moment to express deep gratitude for Bryan's unwavering integrity, ethical decision-making and commitment to transparency. Most importantly, Bryan's dedication to engaging all community stakeholders during such a difficult time reflects his true leadership and dedication to Springfield.



Economic Development

Springfield Experiences Major Housing Boom

Over \$25 Million in estimated new Construction Costs

Springfield is undergoing its largest housing expansion in decades, with more than 1,900 new units planned across multiple developments—totaling nearly 430 acres.

Melody Parks, led by Borror Development, is the city's largest project in over 50 years. Spanning 310.5 acres, this mixed-use community will include 1,287 housing units along with commercial space.

Sycamore Ridge, by D.R. Horton, will add 223 single-family homes on 70 acres, offering four affordable floor plans for families.

Premier Property Rentals by Clay Chester is delivering several new options:

- **Maple Grove** (single-family homes)
- **The Flats on Home** (28 apartments, 3.8 acres)
- **Hillside Homes** (24 townhomes, 2.7 acres)

Loftis: 16 homes, 9 acres

Mid-Ohio: 9 homes, 4 acres



Together, these projects represent a major investment in Springfield's future—expanding housing options, attracting new residents, and fueling local growth.

Downtown Plaza Revitalization

A Vibrant Hub for Community and Commerce

Completed in late spring, the City Hall Plaza revitalization has brought new energy to the heart of downtown, creating a vibrant space that complements recent public and private investments. Featuring improved landscaping, inviting gathering areas and art walls, the Plaza offers a welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. This renewed space will serve the community for decades to come as a hub for connection, recreation and celebration.



New Downtown Retail & Dining

In 2024, downtown also welcomed new retail and dining, including Reimagine and Viva La Fiesta, further strengthening downtown as a destination for residents and visitors.



Viva La Fiesta
42 N. Fountain Ave.



Reimagine
25 N. Fountain Ave.

Public Safety

New Officers Sworn In

The Springfield Police Division welcomed new officers in February 2024: Luke Bartlam, Nathan Bennett, Michael Mosshammer, River Oates, Terron Paden, Shane Rofe and Dustin Travis.



South Limestone Fire Station and Training Center Grand Opening

The new Fire Station 8 on South Limestone Street ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to an enormous crowd of well-wishers. Thanks to all who attended! Local supporter Sheehan Bros. generously donated the refreshments for the event.

The new Springfield Fire Rescue Division Station and Clark State College training facility at 2040 South Limestone Street adds a fresh look to the corridor and is built to accommodate a much more diverse workforce and will serve the growing community demand.

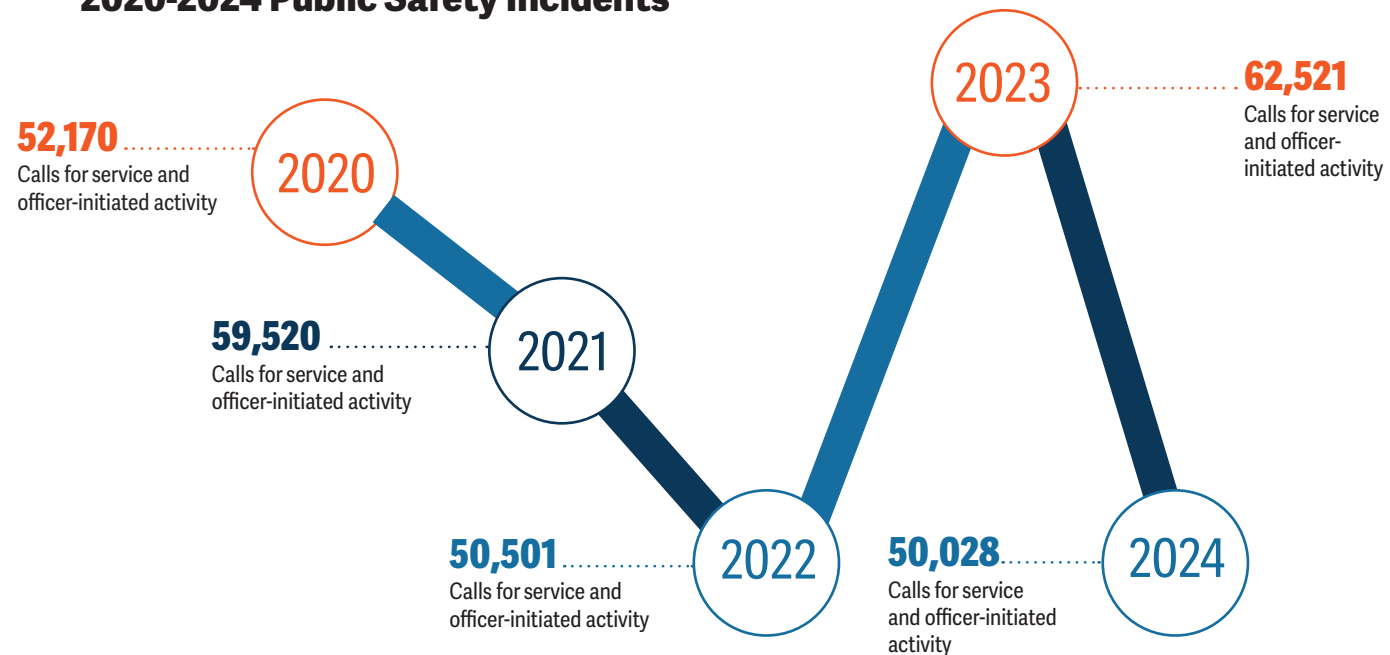
The project was made possible by the partnership with Clark State and a portion of the American Rescue Plan dollars that were allotted to the City by the federal government.



Fire Calls for Service

| | FIRE | EMS |
|------|-------|--------|
| 2020 | 1,891 | 15,043 |
| 2021 | 1,900 | 16,337 |
| 2022 | 2,259 | 15,827 |
| 2023 | 2,363 | 16,597 |
| 2024 | 543 | 16,776 |

2020-2024 Public Safety Incidents



SPD Selected for Statewide Accreditation Program



Springfield Police Division was selected as one of ten agencies to participate in Ohio's first statewide Accreditation Pilot program that launched in 2024 to set the gold standard of best practices for law enforcement.

The Office of Criminal Justice Services held an official signing day event today with Governor DeWine at the Ohio Department of Public Safety.



Fire Station 8 has a separate entrance for Clark State College's Training Facility.



CITY HALL
76 E. HIGH ST.
SPRINGFIELD, OH
45502

  springfieldohio.gov

City Hall
937-324-7700

City Manager's Office
937-324-7300

**City Commission Office
City Clerk**
937-324-7341

Community Development
937-324-7380

Economic Development
937-324-7300

Finance Department
937-324-7700

Human Resources
937-324-7321

Law Department
937-324-7351

Utility Billing
937-324-7365 ext. 1

Tax Division
937-324-7357

Service Center
937-525-5800

**Non-emergency Fire Rescue
Division**
937-324-7605

Non-emergency Police Division
937-324-7685

