



Winter 2024



Mayor Jody Carney
[Email](#)

Message from the Mayor

Happy 2024, Plain City! The new year always brings the excitement of combining new opportunities with our time-treasured traditions. One new event that is a rare occurrence is the solar eclipse that will be taking place on April 8, 2024. Plain City is at the southern end of the path of totality. Staff has been meeting with our first responders, as well as the leadership of the Jonathan Alder Local School District to discuss the event. As we get closer, please plan accordingly for that day. We may have an increase in visitors and traffic on our roadways for people trying to view the eclipse. Download the village app on your mobile device to stay updated on all village information.

In early January, council began with a reorganization meeting and swearing-in of our newly elected members, including the start of my next term as Mayor. We elected a new council president, and assigned our council committee liaisons. Mr. Michael Terry is our 2024 Council President that will work closely with myself and staff to ensure that our village keeps moving forward on legislation and various projects. Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. If you cannot attend our meetings in person, you can view our meetings here: [Plain City - YouTube](#)

Cheers to the New Year!

Mayor Jody Carney



Haley Lupton

Message from the Village Administrator

The year 2023 brought many great events to Plain City, fostering wonderful moments and memories. This summer saw the Uptown area magically transformed into a purple and pink wonderland for the Mother's Cookies extravaganza, a notable first-of-its-kind event to take place in Plain City. Then, a few short months later, the Uptown area was once again highlighted, when Santa came to town for Christmas Under the Clock. Both events were excellently attended, and we look forward to many more occurring in the future.

In addition to great festivities throughout the year, the Village completed several important infrastructure projects in 2023. The Noteman Road project was

completed, as well as the second phase of the Uptown Streetscape Project. Routine infrastructure projects, such as the annual repaving program, were also finished. The Bigelow Avenue parking lot project is underway and is expected to be finished in early spring. The water and sewer transition to Mid-Ohio is on track.

2024 will bring more of the smart planning and infrastructure investments that Village Council prioritizes. Notably, the Village will be completing an Aquatic Feasibility Study to help plan the future of the Aquatic Center at Pastime Park – be on the lookout for ways to participate in that process. Staff also have a focused approach to obtaining grant funding for several park and infrastructure projects to keep our Village fund balances strong.

As always, we will keep you updated on Village happenings via our website, newsletter, social media posts and the app. Feel free to stop into Village offices or invite a staff member to a community event for a more personal connection. I look forward to another great year of serving the Village of Plain City.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Village of Plain City Council Updates

The Village Council is the legislative branch of the Plain City government tasked with the responsibility of enacting laws, approving annual operating and capital budgets, establishing zoning codes, and many more responsibilities. The Village Council consists of six elected members that serve a four-year term. In addition to Councilmembers, the Village has an elected Mayor, who also serves a four-year term.

The current Mayor and Council are comprised of the following members:

- Mayor Jody Carney
- Jim Eudaily
- Kerri Ferguson
- Tyler Harriman
- Aaron Lewis
- James Sintz
- Michael Terry

This year was an election year for Plain City with three Council seats to be determined by the voters. As such, the Village would like to welcome, Mr. Tyler Harriman and Mr. Aaron Lewis, the two newest Councilmembers. Additionally, the Village would like to congratulate Mr. James Sintz on his reelection. Residents are encouraged to attend Village Council meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Municipal Building at 800 Village Blvd. Council meetings are also live-streamed on the Village's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLpsiFxaUin5CNPZxUcaSA>

2023 Committee, Commission, and Board Highlights

2023 has been an exceptionally busy year for the various committees, commissions, and boards that serve the Village and its residents. Several new committees were established by Council in 2023, including: the Economic Development Committee, Tax Incentive Review Council, and the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council. In addition to these new committees, the Village's existing entities have been hard at work throughout the year. Highlights include:

- The Parks and Recreation Committee approved comprehensive updates to policies regarding the Pastime Park Campground and other Village facilities, including rental rates.
- The Tree Commission was reestablished and assisted staff in submitting an application for Plain City to become a designated "Tree City USA".
- The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed a record high number of plans for potential developments in 2023 and emphasized pedestrian connectivity options wherever possible and appropriate.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission passed a comprehensive zoning code update in which the new "Planned Unit Development" (PUD) code section was approved by Council.

- The Personnel & Finance, CIP Committee reviewed and approved several important financial policies, including the General Fund Balance Policy. These policies and processes assist in ensuring the financial stability and future of the Village of Plain City.
 - The Communications and Marketing Advisory Committee assisted staff in executing the Village's branding initiative and website redesign.
 - The Economic Development Committee reviewed and approved the Economic Development Strategy Plan, a comprehensive planning document that will assist the Village in formulating future economic development policies and projects.
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Community Support Grant Now Open

Each year, the Village Council designates \$20,000 for the purposes of awarding grants to local businesses and organizations to complete community-minded projects. The grant application is now open until funding is expended. You can find the application on our website at plain-city.com.

Explore Our New Website: Your Gateway to Community Information

Have you heard the news? Our [Village website](#) has undergone a transformation, and it's now more user-friendly and community-focused than ever before. If you haven't already, we invite you to visit our newly-redesigned website today.

Designed with residents in mind, our website is your one-stop hub for accessing essential community information with ease. Here's what you can discover:

- **News and Announcements:** Stay updated on the latest happenings, important news, and upcoming events right at your fingertips.
- **Utility Payments:** Conveniently make utility payments online, simplifying your transactions and saving you time.
- **Community Events:** Explore a comprehensive calendar of community events, ensuring you never miss out on the fun.
- **Meeting Reminders and Packets:** Access meeting schedules, agendas, and important documents.
- **Report Issues:** Our Citizens Request Portal makes it easy to report issues like broken street lights and potholes.
- **Online Permit Filing:** Easily file and track permits for new fences, decks, or sheds.
- **Departmental Contact Information:** Find contact details for various departments, making it easy to get in touch when you need assistance.

And that's just the beginning! Our new website offers a host of additional features and resources tailored to enhance your experience as a Plain City resident. We're committed to serving you better, and our website is just one of the ways we're making it happen. We look forward to connecting with you online.

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO CONNECT
WITH THE VILLAGE OF PLAIN CITY!**

VILLAGE WEBSITE
WWW.PLAİN-CITY.COM



VILLAGE MOBILE APP

WEATHER ALERTS
POLICE ACTIVITY
STREET CLOSURES
URGENT NEWS

Download from your app store!
Just search
Plain City, OH Police & Gov't.



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OR JUST GIVE US A CALL!

614.873.3527

UPCOMING EVENTS



Active Agers Indoor Walking Program

January 17 - January 31
Mon, Wed, Friday
9:00 - 11:00 AM
The Ball House

Plain City ArtsWalk

January 26
5:00 - 8:00 PM
Participating Businesses
[Event Info](#)



Active Agers Indoor Walking Program

February 1 - February 29
Monday, Wednesday,
Fridays
9:00 - 11:00 AM
The Ball House

Love on Main

February 9
5:00 - 7:00 PM
Participating Businesses
Uptown Plain City
[Event Info](#)



Active Agers Indoor Walking Program

March 1 - March 22
Monday, Wednesday, Fridays
9:00 - 11:00 AM
The Ball House

Sharks Swim Team Sign-ups

March 10 - March 16 for
previous swimmers;
March 17 - March 23 for Village
Residents; and
March 24 - April 1 open to
everyone

Plain City Library Solar Eclipse Event

March 12
6:30 PM
Plain City Library

Easter Egg Hunt

March 23
12:00 PM

Mark Your Calendars: Great North American Eclipse!

The Great North American Eclipse will take place on Monday, April 8, 2024. You won't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience! [Click here](#) for more information.

MEETINGS

Council Meetings

Village Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 6:30 PM.

Council Work Sessions

Village Council Work Sessions occur on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Board of Zoning Appeals *

The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 11:00 AM.

Parks & Recreation Committee

The Parks & Recreation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Personnel / Finance & CIP Committee *

The Personnel & Finance/CIP Committee meets as needed.

Planning & Zoning Commission *

The Planning & Zoning Commission meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Tree Commission

The Tree Commission meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM.

** indicates meetings are scheduled dependent on agenda items.*

For more information about Village Boards, Committees & Commissions, please [visit our website](#).



All meetings are being held in person at the Plain City Municipal Building.

If you would like to speak at a Council or Committee meeting, please [email us](#).

[Click here](#) to watch a live stream of Council meetings on the Village YouTube Page.

Interested in serving on a board, committee, or commission?

The Village accepts applications at any time, regardless of open opportunities. Anyone interested in serving can visit [our website](#) to file an application.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Development Services, Planning & Zoning

2023 Zoning Highlights

- Zoning Permits Approved - 574 (2022: 369 permits)
- New Residential Unit Permits - 187
- Rezoning - 8
- Variance Requests - 3
- Certificate of Appropriateness Applications - 23
- Commercial Occupancies - 20
- Code Changes - 4
- Zoning Complaints - 74
- Planning Commission agenda items - 45
- Design Review Board agenda items - 23
- Board of Zoning Appeals agenda items - 3

2024 Plain City Community Map Now Available

Whether you're a visitor or a new resident, we've curated a community map with your needs in mind. Easily download our map to explore the charm of our parks, savor the flavors of local restaurants, discover unique finds in our retailers, and immerse yourself in captivating attractions. [Click here](#) to download the map and make the most of your Plain City experience! *Printed copies are also available at the Municipal Building, free of charge.*

Applications Sought for Committee Membership

The Village is accepting applications from residents interested in serving on two recently-created committees, the Housing Council and the Tax Incentive Review Council. Both councils, while separate entities, assist Village administration with ensuring compliance with the terms stipulated in various economic development incentive agreements. They also meet to review new requests for assistance and provide recommendations to Village Council.

To be eligible for membership, individuals must be residents of Plain City. Members cannot have any active incentive agreements in place with the Village. Individuals with business, finance, tax, or development experience are preferred, however, all residents are invited to apply. Members do not receive compensation.

For more information, or to apply, [visit our website](#) to download the Committee Interest Form. Please direct questions to Jason Stanford, Development Manager, by [email](#).

Permit, Zoning, or Project Questions? We're Here to Help.

The Planning & Zoning Department offers these friendly reminders:

- Residential – Common required Zoning Permits include, but not limited to; fences, sheds, decks, pergolas, pools, and additions. This includes the installation of a new structure or the replacement of an existing structure.
- Commercial – Required Zoning Permits include, but limited to; any new occupancy or relocation, exterior building change, exterior painting or repainting, modification, addition or any signage (temporary or permanent). Many commercial permits require review/approval from Planning Commission or Design Review Board as well.

Any questions regarding the Zoning Code or to discuss an upcoming project, please contact the Planning Department.

For zoning questions, please contact Colin Powers, Zoning Specialist – cpowers@plain-city.com or 614-873-3527, ext. 120.

For planning and development questions, please contact Derek Hutchinson, Village Planner – dhutchinson@plain-city.com or 614-873-3527, ext. 105.

Tax Department

Tax Season is Here

The 2023 Plain City income tax returns will be mailed approximately February 1st and will be due by April 15, 2024. Please note that filing an annual tax return is mandatory for all residents 18 years of age and older. The village offers an e-filing option in addition to the traditional paper filing. The e-file option will be available on the village website the first week of February. For more information, please visit the [Income Tax](#) section of our website or call the Income Tax Department at 614-873-3527 ext. 104.

Parks & Recreation

Active Agers Walking Program

Back by popular demand is the Active Agers Walking Program! This indoor walking program is open and FREE to adults 18 years and older, January 17 - March 22. The program runs from 9:00 - 11:00 AM every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Ball House, located at 321 W. Bigelow Ave. All walkers must sign a waiver before they can walk. For a downloadable waiver and more information, please go

to the [Village Website](#).

Easter Egg Hunt

Make sure you hop on over to the Plain City Easter Egg Hunt in Pastime Park on March 23, with a rain date of March 30. The egg hunt starts promptly at 12:00 PM, and hundreds of kiddos will be searching for the special eggs with prize tickets! It truly takes a village to help the Easter Bunny hide 8,000 eggs, so we are looking for volunteers to help wash, match, and stuff Easter eggs. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Denton Kitts at 614-873-3527 ext. 108.

2024 Aquatic Center Update

Private Pool Parties

We will be opening up reservations for private pool parties soon! Village Residents are given priority and may reserve their party March 1-March 31, 2024, by using the following link **starting March 1, 2024: [Private Pool Party Reservations](#)**. Any remaining dates will be available to non-residents starting April 1. For more information, please go to the [Village Website](#).

Sharks Swim Team

Do you have a kiddo who loves to swim? Join the Plain City Sharks Swim Team this summer and watch them gain new skills, confidence and a new understanding of sportsmanship! All new swimmers must attend an assessment session. For more information on the Sharks Swim Team, please go to the [Village Website](#).

Aquatics Study

Even though it's cold and snowy, Parks and Recreation is steadily working on all things pool-related! Can you believe the Aquatic Center is entering its 13th year of operation? In light of the facility entering the second decade of operations, we are currently in the beginning stages of an Aquatics Feasibility Study. The study will evaluate the age and state of the facility, the community's aquatics needs, and consider any needed improvements or expansion. There will be at least two public input forums and more information concerning the study will be forthcoming. We love our local pool and want to make sure that we keep it as updated and functional as possible in the coming years. Stay tuned for more information.

Police Department

Winter Driving Safety Tips

With winter weather approaching here are some safety tips:

- Winter gear - pack warm clothing, gloves, hats, blankets in case of an emergency.
- Spare tire - ensure that you have a spare tire that is in good condition.
- Battery jumpstart kit - pack a battery jumpstart kit to help you start your car if the battery dies.
- First-aid kit - keep a first-aid kit in your car in case of an emergency.
- Warm up the car in an open-air space to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure your entire car is cleaned off, of any snow or ice, before starting your route to ensure you have good visibility.
- In the event of bad weather allow extra time for traveling.
- Increase your following distance to allow for sliding on the roadway.

Beware of Scams!

Be aware of scams in which the caller impersonates US Government or law enforcement agencies to target victims (especially elderly victims). Such impersonation scams take advantage of the victims' trust in US Government / law enforcement institutions, or fear of the consequences for ignoring those requests, in order to defraud victims through a variety of scams. This includes fraudulent actors posing as officials from agencies, including the Department of Commerce, Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration and local law enforcement agencies among others. Often, fraudulent actors send urgent requests seeking victims' personal information or money, frequently in the forms of gift cards, cryptocurrency or wire transfers. The elderly are disproportionately impacted by these scams, making up nearly half of all victims and accounting for approximately 69 percent of total losses from impersonation scams in 2022 according to the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Tips: **Do not give out personal information over the telephone.**

- Pressure to act now, while on the phone
- If asked to purchase a prepaid gift card or cryptocurrency (Bit coin etc.), it's a scam. No government agency or utility company takes gift cards or cryptocurrency as payment.
- If you are told to keep this call a secret or not tell anyone who you are talking to, it's a scam.

- A government agency demanding immediate action is probably a scam.
- Bank fraud alerts requesting personal information over the phone.
- Verify all information given by the caller. Phone numbers account numbers etc.
- Your social security number can NOT be suspended.
- If unsure, hang up and call your local law enforcement agency at a number that you know is legitimate. (PCPD is 614-873-4321)
- Educate yourself on phishing, spoofing, viruses, malware, social engineering and other scamming techniques.
- Sign up for the Federal Trade Commission's Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222.
- Do not respond to unknown texts.

Frequently Used Scams

- "Hi grandma, its (insert grandchild's name), don't tell my parents, but I've been arrested and need money. Here, talk to my lawyer..."
- "This is the IRS and have a warrant for your arrest for non-payment of taxes but there won't be a problem if you send money..."
- "We are calling you about your moving violation and unpaid fine.... There is a warrant for your arrest..."
- "A vehicle affiliated with the transportation of drugs was found at the US / Mexico border and your DNA and personal information was found inside....."

Public Works

Snow & Ice Removal

The Village of Plain City maintains roads and streets during winter months by de-icing, plowing, and dispensing salt. All Village streets receive snow removal service based on traffic volumes and speeds. The Ohio Department of Transportation is responsible for snow removal on state highways, including US-42 and OH-161.

Residents can assist with the snow plowing process in several ways:

- Keep parked vehicles off the street before, during, and after storms.
- Shovel snow onto your property, not the street.
- Remove snow and ice down to the concrete or asphalt.
- Shovel the entire width of the sidewalk.
- Clear snow from around fire hydrants.
- Use Ice Melt instead of salt to prevent damage to concrete.
- Remove ice and snow from around stormwater drains.
- Avoid piling snow into the middle of a cul-de-sac.
- Avoid shoveling/plowing snow into the streets, driveway aprons, or in piles around fire hydrants, or mailboxes.
- Maintain a safe distance from snowplows and keep children away from them.
- Do not attempt to pass a snowplow while traveling.
- If you are able, help a neighbor in need.

If more information, please visit our website at [Winter Portal \(plain-city.com\)](http://plain-city.com).

Utilities

Winter Water Pipe Preparation

As winter approaches, it's important to prepare your pipes to prevent costly and inconvenient water breaks. Below are some helpful reminders:

Insulate Exposed Pipes

- Identify and insulate any exposed pipes in your home, especially those in unheated areas like basements, crawlspaces, and garages.
- Use pipe insulation sleeves or heat tape to keep the pipes warm and prevent freezing.

Drain Outdoor Faucets and Hoses

- Disconnect and drain garden hoses, and store them indoors during winter.
- Shut off the outdoor water supply and open outdoor faucets to allow any remaining water to drain.

Seal Leaks and Cracks

- Inspect your home for gaps, cracks, or holes near pipes that could let cold air in. Seal them with

caulk or insulation to keep the area around pipes warmer.

Know the Location of Your Main Water Shut-Off Valve

- Familiarize yourself with the location of the main water shut-off valve in case of an emergency. Knowing how to turn it off can save you from major water damage.

Consider Professional Inspection

- If you live in an older home or an area with extreme cold, consider hiring a professional to inspect your plumbing system for vulnerabilities.

Taking these steps can save you time, money, and the inconvenience of dealing with water breaks during the colder months.

Water and Sewer Update

The transition for water and sewer has taken place with the water and sewer bills. You will now receive 2 separate bills.

Your water and sewer bill will come from Mid-Ohio Water and Sewer District and will continue monthly.

You will see a change in the trash billing going to quarterly. The next bill for trash will be April 1 and due on April 15th for the months of service (Jan., Feb., March).

Is Your Utility Information Updated?

If you have recently moved into a new home or are planning to move out of our community, please make sure to contact the Village to register your utility information. This is an important step that helps prevent any future billing issues, disputes, delinquencies, and shut-offs. Registering or updating your utility information will ensure that you receive accurate bills and avoid problems with your utilities. So don't forget to give us a call at 614-873-3527, [visit our website](#), or stop by the Municipal Building at 800 Village Boulevard to update your information.

CONTACT US

Useful Links

[Village Website](#)

[Facebook - Primary](#)

[Facebook - Parks & Recreation](#)

[Facebook - Plain City Farmers Market](#)

[Facebook - Police Department](#)

[Facebook - Pleasant Valley Fire District](#)

[Twitter - @PlainCityPolice](#)

Mailing Address

Village of Plain City

P.O. Box 167

800 Village Boulevard

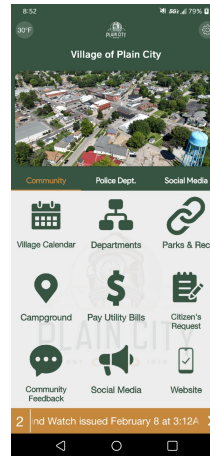
Plain City, OH 43064

Phone

614-873-3527

Email

village@plain-city.com



Plain City Mobile App

Visit your favorite app store and search for the *Plain City Mobile App*. After installing it on your device, be sure to set your settings to allow notifications. If you need assistance, please call the Village at 614-873-3527.

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