



Annual Report

A summary of the municipal operations
of the City of Obetz, Ohio for the calendar
year 2023—issued February 2024

2023





Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of the City of Obetz.

Over the past year, Obetz has embraced growth, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to community engagement. Our departments have gone above and beyond to uplift our residents, beautify our city, and fortify our local economy. As you navigate through this report, you'll uncover the strides we've made together towards a luminous future for our cherished community. Join us in celebrating our collective achievements and envisioning the exciting developments that lie ahead.



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Contact Us

Visit us in person, connect on
social media, or find more info
about the City on our website.

for more information visit us at
www.obetz.oh.us

Letter from **Mayor Kirk.**

Dear Residents of Obetz,

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of the City of Obetz. In the past year, Obetz has continued to thrive, reflecting our collective commitment to resilience, innovation, and community. Our city has not only sustained its momentum but has accelerated its journey towards a prosperous future. With every project, initiative, and program, we aim to enrich the lives of our citizens, enhance our public spaces, and bolster our economy, making Obetz a model city for growth and opportunity.

A Year of Achievements and Positive Change

Our dedication to improving Obetz has yielded remarkable results across all fronts. From expanding green spaces and upgrading infrastructure to fostering local businesses and enhancing community services, every effort has been made with our residents' well-being and happiness in mind. This report is a testament to the hard work, creativity, and spirit of collaboration that define our city.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on the past year's successes, we are filled with optimism for what lies ahead. There are challenges, of course, but with our proven track record of innovation and collaboration, we are confident in our ability to meet them head-on. We invite you to join us in this ongoing journey, as we continue to build an Obetz that shines brighter with each passing year. We hope that as you turn the pages of this report, you will share in our pride for what we have accomplished and our excitement for the future. Together, we are not just witnessing Obetz' transformation; we are driving it.

Thank you for being a part of our city's story. Here's to another year of growth, innovation, and community spirit in Obetz.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela M. Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name below it.

Angela M. Kirk

City of Obetz Mayor





Angela M. Kirk

Mayor



Michael Flaherty

Councilman



Derek Varney

Councilman



Mike Kimbler

Councilman



Robert Kramer

Councilman



Guiles Richardson

Councilman



Todd Gibbs

Councilman
President Pro-Tem



Meet our Elected Officials.

Obetz officials are elected by the voters in the City of Obetz during the regularly scheduled election cycles. The Mayor and two Council members were elected to four-year terms in November 2023. The remaining four Council members are elected to four-year terms with the next election occurring in November 2025.

Obetz' Executive branch is led by Angela M. Kirk. Mayor Kirk is chiefly responsible for ensuring that the laws and ordinances of the City are enforced. The Obetz Council comprises the legislative branch and is chiefly responsible for the Obetz budget. The President Pro-tem of Council is elected by council and replaces the mayor when the mayor is not available or leaves office.

City of Obetz **Administration.**

The Administration team manages all Obetz departments and reports directly to the officials elected by the residents.



Rod Davisson
City Administrator

- In 2023, the City of Obetz embarked on a journey of significant development and community enrichment, underlining its commitment to progress.
- **Human Resources and Training Development:** We've updated our employee handbooks and launched a new training program to keep our workforce modern and informed, ensuring they possess the latest skills to serve our community effectively.
- **Design and Development Initiatives:** Our partnership with Moody Nolan has kicked off an innovative design for Buckstone, expected to significantly contribute to community and economic development. Additionally, we are acquiring over 150 acres for new developments, with a focus on Buckstone's design and the formation of the New Community Authority, marking a major step towards this vision.

Community Projects and Events: The start of Lancaster Park project's Phase 1 and the most attended ZucchiniFest in history underscore our commitment to community spaces and spirit.

Capital Improvement and Utility Services: We've begun revising the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and are enhancing utility services with the Buckstone water utility extension and utility upgrades along Groveport Road. Overall, Obetz has experienced a year of dynamic development, strategic engagements, and careful planning, ensuring its growth and improvement as a vibrant community for all residents.

\$34,636,392

Annual Budget



\$72,000

Grants Obtained



697

Businesses



\$33,229,073

Total Revenue



73

Employees



\$11,294,784

Income Tax Revenue



-\$3,917,697

Revenue Change



\$9,794,976

Carry Over



1000+

Training Hours



-\$1,407,319

Budget Deficit



6,300

Population



150+

Acres Purchased



41

New Companies



\$4,239,944

Capital Investment



City of Obetz **Engineering/Building Department.**

The Engineering team plans, develops, designs, repairs, and maintains Obetz infrastructure and manages the Building Department.



Mike Corbitt
City Engineer/Deputy
City Administrator

PROJECTS MANAGED

1. Lancaster Park improvements Design (\$1.8 Million)

Reason: Improve amenities to the park and increase visit to the park by residents.

Result: New improved park will have pickleball, cornhole, table games paved parking and walks to create a more inviting space.

2. Rathmell Road and Lockbourne Road Design (\$4-5 million)

Reason: Prepare for future growth in the Buckstone area

Result: A boulevard section with SUP and a roundabout at the intersection.

3. Buckstone Preliminary Design

Reason: preliminary engineering design and master planning for the Buckstone Development to understand cost implications

Result: Design is on-going and evolving to fit Obetz' future needs.

4. Mulberry Grove Emergency access (\$47,000)

Reason: Subdivision had only one means of ingress/egress

Result: Built a new access drive with removable bollards that can't be opened during an emergency or road closure.

5. MORPC / LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure (TSI)


a. SE Technical Working Committee

b. Technical Coordinating Committee for SE


c. COTA 0.5% sales tax increase on ballot in November.


d. Generate \$60 million annually to TSI project.


52.7 miles 
Center Line Miles

1396 
Res. Inspections

\$42,544,247 
Com. Valuation


113.7 miles 
Lane Miles of Road


\$125,702 
Res. Permit Fees


72 
Total Com. Permits


53 
New House Starts

\$18,573,655 
New House Valuation

774 
Com. Inspections

180,696 
SF of New Houses

\$350,000 
Average Valuation per
new house

\$246,447 
Com. Permit Fees

107 
Total Res. Permits

2,635,790 
SF of Commercial

City of Obetz **Utilities.**

The Engineering/ Utilities team plans, develops, designs, repairs, and maintains Obetz infrastructure and manages the Building Department.



Todd Garwick
Utilities Engineer

ASSETS. The Utilities Department manages the following assets:

- Water Main – 34 miles
- Sanitary Sewer Mains – 34.8 miles
- Storm Sewer – 38.6 miles
- Gas Main – 7.4 miles
- Gas Service Lines – 2.7 miles

CAPITAL in 2023. The following capital improvement projects added to the utility infrastructure in 2023.

- Orchard Water Tank Altitude Valve Replacement
- Fire Hydrant Replacements 20
- McGaw Road, Sedan Ave. Maureen Blvd., and Broehm Road

RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS in 2023

The City of Obetz processed 95 (144 - '22) Permits

OBETZ WATER DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

- OEPA and USEPA Water Supply/ Distribution Compliance
 - No violations/ No MCL within the 6 Public Water Systems managed.
 - City of Obetz Water Technicians Mr. Shane Yocum and Mr. Brock McGuire Passed and Completed Water Distribution Class 1 Classes.

2,336

Water Accounts

2093

Refuse Accounts

232,623 MCF

Gas Provided

3

Water Main Breaks

0

Water in Basements

67,893,875 kwh

Electric Supplied

2,257

Sewer Accounts

314,538,000

Gallons Provided

2,865

OUPS Markings

95

Gas Accounts

6,000 +

Water Quality Tests

106

Electric Accounts

0

Sanitary Overflow

City of Obetz **Finance.**

The Finance team manages Obetz budgets, financial records, and financial policies.



Matt Cramblit
Finance Director

- **AWARDS.** In 2023 the Finance Department was awarded the Auditor of State Award with Distinction and the GFOA Financial Reporting Award for its 2022 financial reporting.
- **TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES.** In 2022, the Finance Department spearheaded the upgrade of the servers and firewalls for the City. The project was finished in 2023 with the upgrade of the Utility Department database.
- **BONDING.** No bonds were issued in 2023.
- **AUDITS.** Obetz was issued a clean 2022 audit through an independent auditor and cleared desk review by the Auditor of State without revision

\$38,972,290

Total Revenue

4,928

Total Payments

\$31,981,711

Vendor Payments

\$7,774,083

Payroll Payments

59

Funds

665

Appropriation Accounts

179

Revenue Accounts

\$1,462,781

Investment Income

1,950

Requisitions

1,090

Purchase Orders

1,471

Receipts

68,144

UAN Transactions

\$0

Bonds Issued

\$2,989,409

Debts Retired

Over the last decade, the City of Obetz has navigated a landscape of economic fluctuations and legislative changes that have impacted our income tax collections. Here's a comprehensive analysis focusing on the results of the last ten years, especially highlighting the effects of state law changes on our financials, presented in a way that we hope will be clear and informative for our residents.

Ohio has implemented changes to the treatment of Net Operating Losses (NOL). Beginning with losses incurred in 2017, NOL can now be carried forward for five years. There was a phase-in period where only 50% of the NOL could be utilized, which lasted through the tax year 2022. Starting in tax year 2023 and onwards, the full amount of the NOL carryforward can be utilized without the previous 50% limitation, allowing businesses to apply the entirety of their NOL to their municipal income tax. This change enables businesses to better offset profitable years with prior years' losses, potentially reducing their tax liabilities.

From 2013 to 2020, the city's income tax collections generally showed a positive trend, with year-over-year growth reflecting the expanding economic base of Obetz. The development of new commercial properties, attraction of new businesses, and the strengthening of our local economy contributed to this steady increase in revenue.

However, starting in 2021, the City of Obetz, like many other municipalities in Ohio, began to feel the impact of state legislative changes. These changes allowed for larger corporate tax refunds, which resulted in a noticeable decrease in net income tax revenue for the city.

In 2021, despite the city's robust economic activities, state law changes necessitated \$1.42 million in tax reductions, leading to a total income tax collection of approximately \$13.84 million against a potential \$15.26 million without such reductions. This trend became more pronounced in 2023 when the city had to issue \$1.96 million in reductions, resulting in a total collection of \$11.15 million, whereas, without the reductions, it would have been approximately \$13.11 million.

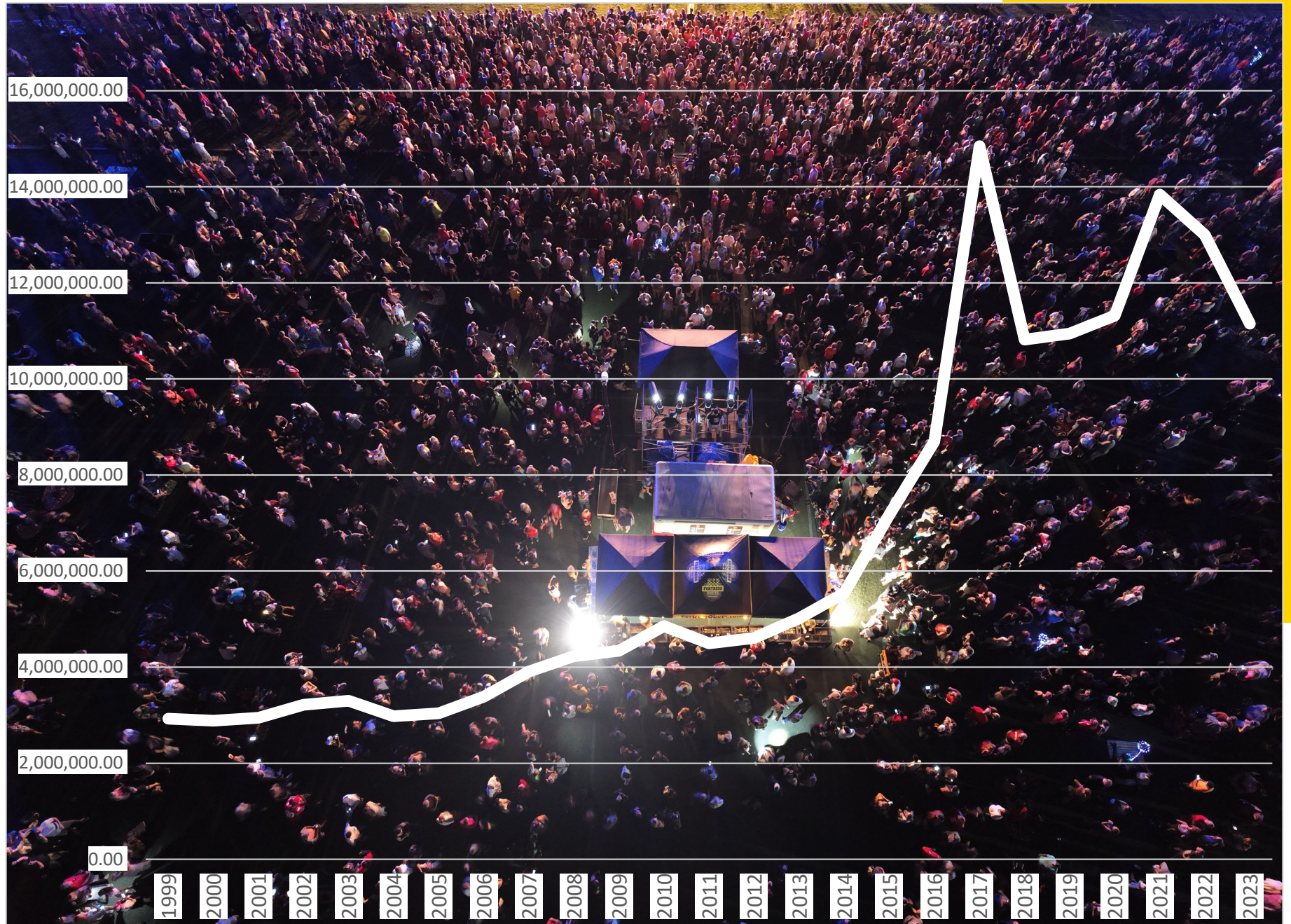
Analyzing the hypothetical scenario without these state reductions provides insight into the underlying strength of Obetz' local economy. Without the state law changes, we would have seen a much less dramatic decrease in tax revenue, with a 12.93% decrease from 2021 to 2022, and a slight decrease of 1.34% from 2022 to 2023. These percentages illustrate what could have been a more stable financial trajectory.

It's important to note that the hypothetical growth rates reflect the city's potential in an alternate tax policy environment. They underscore the city's economic resilience and the success of our strategies to foster growth and prosperity.

The City of Obetz remains committed to transparent financial stewardship and to mitigating the impact of such state-level changes on our local fiscal health. Through careful planning, prudent budgeting, and continued efforts to enhance our economic development, we are dedicated to ensuring the vitality and sustainability of our community for years to come.

This analysis aims to provide our residents with a clearer understanding of the city's financial journey over the last decade and the external factors influencing it. We thank our community for their ongoing support and engagement, which remains crucial as we navigate these changes and build our future together.

Annual Income Tax 1999-2023



City of Obetz **Human Resources.**

The Human Resource team is responsible for attracting and maintaining the best, most qualified employees for the community. We also administer the City’s health benefits and wellness programs, coordinate training events and presentations, and conduct employee relations initiatives.



Derek Duncan
Director of
Human Resources

- **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.** The City of Obetz and Obetz Division of Police—with the addition of the Fraternal Order of Police—have finished and signed our Collective Bargaining Agreement which will carry us out to the end of year 2025.
- **ROBUST TRAINING PLAN.** We enhanced our employee training program by instituting monthly training sessions and informative seminars. These sessions delved deeply into our benefits package, aiming to provide employees with a comprehensive understanding of its nuances so they can fully leverage what’s available to them. Additionally, each training session covered various financial topics to bolster employees’ financial literacy. Our overarching aim is to furnish our employees with abundant resources to foster their personal, professional, and financial growth.
- **EMPLOYEE FITNESS CHALLENGE.** We introduced a fresh wellness initiative dubbed the “Obetz Body Boost” program. This comprehensive program features a weight loss and fitness challenge designed to enhance the overall well-being of our employees. Participants are eligible for additional vacation days as an incentive for their involvement. While our primary objective is to cultivate a healthier workforce, an ancillary benefit is the potential to mitigate increases in health insurance costs by promoting better health habits.
- **IMPROVED EMPLOYEE HEALTH MARKERS.** Annually, we provide our employees with a comprehensive biometric screening, encompassing body mass index (BMI) tests, basic blood panels, and blood sugar tests. This empowers each employee to gain insights into factors that may influence their health. Remarkably, from 2021 to 2023, our staff collectively reduced their BMI by 10% and waist circumference by an impressive 24%! Moreover, we observed a notable 15% surge in employees engaging in regular exercise, coupled with a commendable 10% decline in tobacco usage. These health metrics are pivotal for the holistic well-being of our staff and may be directly attributed to our recent wellness initiatives.

60

Full-time Employees

4

BWC Claims

24

Training Courses Completed

33

Part-time Employees

2

Loss-time Injuries

10

Interns

57

Health Enrollees

3

Short Term Disability Claims

30

Fitness Challenge
Participants

37

Biometric Screenings

1

Corrective Counseling Forms

93

Happy Employees

\$216,400.00

HSA Deposits

60

Training Hours Completed

City of Obetz **Community Services & Planning.**

The City Planning and Community Services Team in Obetz manages land use, zoning, environmental planning, and disaster preparedness, while Code Enforcement ensures compliance with local laws and regulations to maintain public health, safety, and overall quality of life. The Team also manages the ZucchiniFest.



Stacey Boumis
Community Services
Director

- **Development Diversification:** In 2023, Obetz saw varied development beyond large warehouses, including approvals for two warehouses, a daycare, and a pizza shop expansion. Residential development surged, though no new residential lots were filed. The Community Services team supported businesses with updates to buildings, parking, and signage.
- **Community Planning:** Planning for Buckstone focused on guiding sustainable and efficient growth, balancing economic development with environmental protection. The city acquired 32 acres near Big Walnut Creek, opposite High Bank Metropark, for this purpose.
- **Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** Obetz' Community Services Team led the update of the Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Plan, aiming to reduce risks from disasters through strategic planning. This includes improving infrastructure, enforcing building codes, and educating on disaster preparedness, essential for federal disaster aid and funding.
- **Code Compliance:** The team works daily with property owners to address issues like parking on grass, abandoned vehicles, and improper storage of boats and RVs, aiming to resolve problems without resorting to court action.
- **ZucchiniFest:** The festival attracted record crowds with artists like Spin Doctors, Tag Team, All 4 One, Vanilla Ice, and Brantley Gilbert, alongside an increase in food and arts vendors.

11

P & Z Meetings

51

Code Comp. Cases

1

Rezoning

128

Zoning Permits

2

Mayor's Court Cases

230

See.Click.Fix Cases Closed

3

Final Development Plan
Approved

24

P & Z Cases

35

Code Cases Closed

1

Major Site Plans Approved

9

Conditional Use Permits
Approved

231

See. Click. Fix. Cases

15

MORPC Meetings

4.821

Acres Annexed

City of Obetz **Economic Development.**

The Economic Development team recruits new businesses and works to retain businesses already in Obetz.



Steve Adams
Director of Economic
Development &
Promotions

Business Development:

- Completed Business Review and Expansion Meetings with notable companies, including HomeGoods.com, Bowflex/Nautilus, ODW Dist-Trans Logistics, and more.
- Focused on relationship building and maintaining open communication with businesses.

New Additions:

- Sheetz, Inc. North: A significant \$225 million investment, adding a new location at 4375 Alum Creek Dr.
- Buckstone Flats and Buckstone Bend: Introduction of luxury apartments and single-family homes, enhancing local real estate offerings.
- Funai Corporation: New to Obetz, taking over the previous Laser Ship Building, expanding its manufacturing and warranty services.
- Molto Properties: A new 260,000 sq. ft. warehouse at 3188 Toy Rd, set to house three organizations starting in 2024.

Departures:

- HomeGoods.com: Closure of their Obetz operation to focus on brick-and-mortar stores.
- KFC/Long John Silvers: Departure due to underperformance, with ongoing discussions for new tenancy.

Economic Resilience:

- Addressed challenges such as inflation, interest rate increases, and rising construction material costs.
- Continued focus on community amenities, including restaurants, hotels, and healthcare facilities.

4

CRA Zones

2

New Abatements

\$61,500

BWACIC Income

4

TIF Zones

\$84,320,005

Payroll Created

\$3,144,682

JEDZ Income

22

Current Abatements

2

Acquired Real Estate

18

BRE Meetings

2

Expired Abatements

1

Annexation

35 acres

New Deals

City of Obetz **Police.**

The Police team provides quality law enforcement with community pride, cultural respect, and a first-rate delivery of services.



Mike Confer
Chief of Police

- In 2023, the Obetz Police Department made significant progress in operational efficiency, community engagement, and law enforcement effectiveness.
- **Our annual highlights include:**
- **Recertification of Police Policies:** Achieved through the Ohio Collaborative, affirming our dedication to best practices, state standards, and community trust.
- **Updated Police Fleet:** Enhanced four police cars to ensure safe, efficient transportation for patrolling and emergency responses.
- **Designated Marksman Rifle Program:** Initiated specialized training and equipment upgrades for improved critical incident response.
- **First Labor Contract with Fraternal Order of Police:** A milestone that underscores our commitment to supporting our officers and fostering a professional work environment.
- **Implementation of Flock Cameras:** Deployed at key locations to enhance surveillance, crime prevention, and community safety.
- **New Reporting System with Matrix Police:** Adopted advanced technology to streamline reporting, improve data accuracy, and boost analytical capabilities.

30,494

Calls for Service

54

Domestic Violence

683

Traffic Warnings

363

Offense Reports

172

Theft Offences

1,112

Traffic Stops

384

Arrests

163

Auto Accidents

542 Hrs.

In Service Training

17,101

Business Checks

40

Parking Citations

106,466

Patrol Miles Driven

95

House Checks

758

Traffic Citations

City of Obetz **Parks and Recreation.**

The Parks and Recreation department enhances community life by developing and maintaining public parks, organizing recreational programs, hosting events, and promoting environmental stewardship. This annual report highlights our efforts to provide accessible spaces, foster engagement, and promote well-being within our community.



Kerri Duffy
Director of Parks and
Recreation

- Our team, comprising 5 full-time staff, seasonal interns, and part-time support, manages Lancaster Park’s amenities, Senior and Community Services, the Obetz Athletic Club, facility rentals, and special events.
- **Software:** We’ve transitioned to new recreation software, streamlining operations with a 12-week implementation. This software enhances facility rental processes, integrates with the Obetz Athletic Club’s access system, and supports the Obetz Black Card program. It’s improved efficiency, enabling online facility requests, payments, and a comprehensive, color-coded community calendar on our website.
- **Program Expansion and Partnerships:** The new software and partnerships have expanded our offerings, introducing unique classes like cardio drumming. The Resident Black Card Program and collaboration with instructors are key to our growth.
- **Automated Rental Systems:** Dixon Quarry Park now features a kayak rental station, accessible via QR code. This addition promotes outdoor activity and reduces staff involvement, saving city resources. Despite minimal advertising, we’ve seen significant interest, with over 20 rentals in a month, anticipating more growth in summer 2024.

13

Parks

715

Ice Rink Non-Resident
Check Ins (DEC)

5

Rentable Spaces

422+

Park Acres

1

Splash Pad/Ice Rink

3

Paid Summer Camps

5

Full Time Staff

\$3,575

Ice Rink Revenue (DEC)

13

Multi-purpose Fields

1

Kayak Launch

11

Unique Special Events

245

Black Card Memberships
Issued

67

Ice Rink Resident
Check Ins (DEC)

6 weeks

Free Summer Camps

1

Athletic Club

City of Obetz **Athletic Club.**

The Obetz Athletic Center brings a multitude of benefits to the community. It promotes health and wellness by providing accessible exercise opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities. It fosters social connections, offers educational resources, and it enhances community pride and identity by symbolizing a commitment to a healthier and more vibrant community.



Ben Swauger
OAC Operations
Manager

- **Golf Simulators:** The 2023 Golf Club was a hit, with 117 participants enjoying our high-usage golf simulators year-round. Significant upgrades, including new curved screens, club lights, and hitting strips, have enhanced the virtual golfing experience, ensuring top-notch realism and enjoyment for our members.
- **Personal Training:** We proudly trained 12 clients in 468 personalized sessions, highlighting our dedication to exceptional fitness experiences and helping clients achieve their health goals.
- **Something for Everyone:** The Obetz Athletic Club caters to all fitness levels and interests, from cardio machines and serious lifting equipment to fixed weight machines and golf simulators for recreational fun. We ensure a welcoming environment for every member to find their perfect workout.
- **New Equipment:** In March 2023, we updated our bikes and ellipticals and expanded our equipment range with a weight sled, hitmill X, and stationary rope climber, maintaining our commitment to offering the latest in exercise technology.

42,099

Total Check-Ins

81 Players

Indoor Golf League

31

Cardio Machines

\$65,694

Member Revenue

99 Members

Silver Sneakers

11

Equipment Maintenance
Service Calls

468

Personal Training Sessions

2

Golf Simulators

36

Weight Machines

490

Active Memberships

1

Multipurpose Room

1,070

Golf Simulator
Bookings

1,220

New Memberships

593

Day Passes Issued

City of Obetz **Community Center.**

The OCC team provides community support and services, and manages gathering places for recreation, learning, and celebrations.



Mel Ross
OCC Operations
Manager

- **Programming:** In our commitment to enriching community life, we've expanded our program offerings over the past year to boost engagement and inclusivity. New initiatives include Karate sessions, Fun 4 All Summer Camp, Drama Classes, Youth Summer Programs, Cardio Drumming, and the Mother Son Dance. These additions aim to cater to a wider audience, ensuring our facilities offer vibrant and accessible spaces for the entire community. We're proud of these expansions and continue to enhance our programming to reflect the diverse needs and interests of our community members.
- **Critical Services:** At the Obetz Community Center, our focus is on providing essential services tailored to the unique needs of our residents. Recognizing the importance of support for our senior community, we offer transportation services for essential errands and deliver hot meals twice a week to homebound residents. This not only ensures they receive nutritious meals but also provides valuable social interaction. Additionally, our food pantry is a crucial resource for community members facing food insecurity. These services are central to our mission of creating a caring and inclusive environment for everyone in Obetz.
- **Internships:** We highlight the success of our internship program, a collaboration with local schools that has brought high school summer interns into various roles within our Parks and Recreation department. These interns have been instrumental in supporting senior services, managing community space rentals, coordinating special events, and facilitating our free summer camps. This opportunity has allowed them to gain practical experience in government operations and understand the comprehensive impact of our Parks and Recreation department on the community. Their involvement has been invaluable, enhancing our programs and services while also promoting their personal and professional development.

1266

Senior Meals (In House)

9

Senior Canvas Paint Classes

161

Stewart Hall
Reservations

381

Senior Meal Deliveries

47

Euchre Nights

102

Dixon Quarry Pavilion
Reservations

102

Senior
Transportation Trips

10

Cardio Drumming
Classes

57

Meeting Room
Reservations

18

Senior Leisure Trips

9

Cake & Cookie
Decorating Classes

12

Card Craft Classes

1,619

Senior
Transportation Miles

107

Food Pantry Visits

City of Obetz Youth Sports.

The Youth Sports team creates a fun and welcoming atmosphere where kids can learn the game, work as a team, and have fun.



Jacob Gifford
Youth Sports
Coordinator

- **SPRING.** Our spring season included tee-ball, baseball, and softball. Tee-ball had another successful year in the Fortress. The fortunate thing about being on the turf is that this allows for very few cancellations. Our baseball and softball programs had very good years as well. Weather was hardly an issue this year, and we were still able to schedule half of all games at home considering we have so many teams with only four diamonds. Scheduling for umpires went well too. We had umpires covered for every game this year, and we were able to send help to away games when needed.
- **FALL.** Our fall season consisted of tackle football, cheerleading, and a flag football program. We partnered with Bally Sports again this year to offer a non-contact alternative. This instructional program was for grades K-2 serving as an introduction to the game. This was our second year in the Ohio Premier Youth Football League, and we welcomed Canal Winchester on board. It was another successful year in this league, and we look to add a few more organizations in 2024.
- **WINTER.** We partnered with Bally Sports to offer the “Little Ballers” and “Shooting Stars” programs. Much like the flag football program, these programs are designed as instructional type classes meant for introducing young kids to basketball. They work on fundamentals every meeting and cap each session off with a controlled intrasquad scrimmage.
- **EXPERIENCE.** We are committed to making sure all our participants and their families have an excellent time when they are with us. From the moment they register to when they get their trophies, we are dedicated to making sure they have a wonderful experience.

548

Total Participants

20

U8 Softball Participants

39

Senior Football Participants

148

Tee-Ball Participants

41

U10 Softball Participants

54

Mini Cheer Participants

46

U8 Baseball Participants

12

U12 Softball Participants

32

Junior Cheer Participants

30

U10 Baseball Participants

43

Mini Football Participants

28

Senior Cheer Participants

27

U12 Baseball Participants

37

Junior Football Participants

City of Obetz **Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park.**

A community owned Sports and Entertainment Complex – Built to entertain, encourage dreams and development.



Steve Adams
 Director of Economic
 Development &
 Promotions

- Fortress Obetz and Memorial Park will host events, on average, 40 of the 52 total weeks each year. The size and versatility of the facility can accommodate multiple, unrelated events simultaneously. Securing new events is advantageous, but maintaining the loyalty of existing ones is equally crucial. Here is a list of events we have hosted for multiple years and have no intention of relocating along with new added events this year.
- Under Armour/ Three Step Sports High School Football Combine,
- Columbus Pride Women's Professional Ultimate Frisbee Team,
- Bishop Ready High School Football,
- Nike Club Ohio Boys and Girls Soccer Weekends,
- D3 College National Championships – Ultimate Frisbee (NEW 2023),
- Full Throttle Thursdays,
- Hamilton Twp. High School Graduation,
- Storm the Fortress 5K,
- SCCA OVR Auto Cross Racing,
- Resolute and All Ohio Lacrosse Tournaments,
- Rugby Ohio High School Semi's and State Championships,
- Buddy Walk,
- Greater Columbus Sports Commission-

- Community Cup,
- Bands of America – High School Marching Band Competition,
- Cleveland Browns Youth Football Camp,
- All-American Baseball Tournaments,
- Stingrays 18u Girls Fastpitch College Assessment Tournament,
- Ohio Egg Fest – Big Green Egg Festival,
- Spikeball Major Tournament,
- OIS Employee Appreciation Event,
- Fortress Courtyard Cornhole (NEW 2023),
- OSU Rugby Alumni Weekend,
- Franklin County Engineers Office – Touch a Truck (NEW 2023),
- OHSAA Middle School and High School Cross Country Championships

- New for 2024**
- High School Graduation Parties in the Courtyard**
- High School Soccer games (September/October)**
- Men's College Rugby Tournament (March) and Women's College Rugby Regional Tournament (November)**
- Car Audio Competition (August)**
- PENDING- Girls on the Run 5K (November)**

1080

Paved Parking Spots

6500

Marked Seating

1100

Seating with Backs

64

Women's Restrooms

26

Men's Restrooms

137,700 sq ft

Synthetic Turf Field

13

Grass Fields

1850

Gravel Parking

3

Locker Rooms

6

Broadcast Cameras

5

Video Boards

3

Sound Systems

2/4

Concessions/Bars

2

Concert Stages

City of Obetz **Communications.**

The Communications team at Obetz builds bridges with the community through a creative blend of innovative and engaging content across diverse platforms, ensuring that every resident stays informed and connected.



LeAnna Moore
Multimedia
Communications
Specialist

- **GOAL:** The City's Communications team aims to foster effective communication channels, ensuring every Obetz resident stays informed about the city's comprehensive offerings. Our focus on transparency and accessibility guarantees up-to-date, relevant information is readily available for all.
- **ENGAGEMENT:** Community engagement is pivotal to our strategy, emphasizing efficient ways for residents to stay connected and fostering a vibrant community. Through active interaction, advertising local events, timely responses to inquiries, and providing accurate information, we strengthen our city's public image and demonstrate our commitment to our residents.
- **MEDIA:** Our team prioritizes sharing authentic, engaging content, including original images, videos, and amplifying community voices. By embracing creativity and inclusivity, our media strategy mirrors the diverse character of Obetz, engaging with the community on a deeper level.
- **PLATFORMS:** To maximize outreach, we utilize a wide range of platforms, including nine social media platforms, three websites, monthly e-newsletters, messages in water bills, flyers, and digital graphics. Our comprehensive approach ensures we reach every community segment, promoting unity and accessibility.
- **EXPANSION IN 2023:** This year, we expanded our digital footprint by adding nine new social media accounts, predominantly to introduce new Buckstone accounts across various platforms. Recognizing the importance of modern engagement, we launched TikTok accounts, leveraging Archive Social's new capability to archive TikTok content. Additionally, we introduced the Buckstone.com website, a dynamic platform that will evolve alongside the Buckstone development, further enriching our communication and engagement efforts with the community. This expansion reflects our dedication to innovation and inclusivity, ensuring we stay connected with our community through every available channel.

20



Total Social Media Accounts

3,600



Total Page & Profile Reach

5,000



Total New Fans & Followers

9



New Social Media Accounts

6,800,000



Total Page & Profile Impressions

5,100



Total Inbound Messages

3



Total Websites

5,200



Total Post Comments & Replies

3,800



Total Post Video Views

1



New Websites

17,000



Total Post Shares

19,000



Post Link Clicks

1,200



Total Posts

26,000



Total Fans & Followers

City of Obetz **Council Clerk.**

The Clerk serves as the official record-keeper for key entities including the BWACIC, Buckstone NCA, and the Public Records Commission, ensuring transparency and legal compliance.



Stacey Boumis
Community Services
Director

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Meeting Management:** The Clerk organizes and manages Council meetings, including preparing agendas, notifying members, and arranging meeting logistics.
- **Minutes Recording:** During Council meetings, the clerk takes accurate and comprehensive minutes, recording all discussions, actions taken, and decisions made. These minutes serve as the official record of the Council's proceedings.
- **Public Records Management:** The Clerk maintains and preserves official city records, including meeting minutes, ordinances, and other important documents, ensuring compliance with record-keeping laws. In 2023, under the direction of the Clerk, Honesty Angeletti scanned all ordinances from 1928 through 2012. Now the City has all ordinances in digital format.
- **Open Meetings Compliance:** The Clerk helps ensure that the council's meetings are conducted in accordance with open meetings laws.
- **Public Notices and Agendas:** The Clerk posts public notices of Council meetings and publishing meeting agendas in advance to inform the public of upcoming discussions and decisions.
- **Public Information Requests:** The Clerk responds to public information requests, providing access to public records as required by law.
- **Filing and Archiving:** The Clerk organizes and maintains a system for filing and archiving city documents, making it easier to access historical records when needed.
- **Support to Council Members:** The Clerk provides administrative support to Council Members.

22

Regular Meetings

0

Committee Meetings

2

Public Hearings

3

BWACIC Meetings

56

Ordinances Passed

500+ Pages

Records Provided

0

Special Meetings

1

NCA Meetings

1928-2012

Ordinances Archived

41

Council Meeting Hours

**Compliance w/
All Laws**

Public Records State Audit

1

Staff Member

66

Record Requests

1

Public Records
Commission Meetings

City of Obetz **Grounds.**

The Grounds team designs, develops, maintains, and manages Obetz' grounds and landscape assets and helps find and apply for grant opportunities.



Jess Griffith
Grounds
Superintendent

- In 2023, our city's landscape management collaboration with Davey Tree Landscape Maintenance entered its first full year, leading to a successful partnership and a strategic contract renewal for two more years without a price increase, saving the city an estimated \$90,000 annually by keeping lawn care and vegetation control services internal. Our commitment to environmental safety was highlighted by passing the Ohio Department of Agriculture's triennial pesticide inspection.
- We significantly advanced our green infrastructure by planting 200 trees and securing multiple grants for community services and infrastructure improvements, including a \$100,000 grant from the USDA Forest Service for street trees, allowing us to plant 400 additional trees, aiming for a total of 1,000 new trees over three years. These efforts are complemented by a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation for planning a Safe Route to School, enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- Our services team is key to maintaining the city's aesthetic and functional integrity, managing a wide range of services from mowing to mosquito control, often engaging specialized vendors to meet our high standards. Our in-house maintenance and special projects approach enhances efficiency and responsiveness.
- We leverage technology like satellite imagery for ground management and explore innovations like remote-control commercial mowers, aiming to incorporate such technologies when more reliable. Our goals include further tree planting, stream restoration, landscape improvements, and pursuing grants to align with the city's objectives.

**48,850
lbs.**

Fertilizer

2,515 gal

Weed Control

18,000 lbs.

Brush Removal

200

Trees Planted

7,800

Acres Mowed

**800
hrs.**

Trash Pick Up

422

Acres Maintained

\$3,500

Saved in Repairs

4

Certifications

1

Commercial
Applicator Licenses

**1,280
lbs.** of Pick Up

\$125,000

Grants Received

5

Grants Applied For

City of Obetz **Facilities.**

The Facilities team maintains Obetz' buildings and physical assets.



Tim Ross
Facilities
Superintendent

- **Facilities Projects.** Due to a change in our janitorial supply vendor's product offerings, it was crucial to replace all the paper towel dispensers throughout the city. With assistance from the vendor, we efficiently replaced one hundred dispensers. Also, we installed access control systems and new overhead door operators on the two police sallyport doors. Furthermore, we executed the replacement of the handicap access button switch and door closers at the Administration front entrance.
- **Collaborated Projects with R and D.** We've been collaborating on significant projects that have made a substantial impact for Obetz. We helped build new office cubicles, including four individual offices and a dedicated storage space. Additionally, we prioritized structural integrity by subcontracting new roofs on both the Annex and administration buildings, ensuring the safety of valuable assets. At the fortress, we constructed a distinctive winners' podium. Our efforts extend to preparing the grounds and outbuildings for a new lease, showcasing our dedication to supporting the City's growth. Moreover, we helped install a new walk-in cooler at the fortress and assisted in implemented a gray water tank to contribute to environmental sustainability.
- **Collaborated Projects with Parks and Recs.** First, we successfully upgraded the lighting system at the football concessions shelter by replacing ten lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures. Additionally, we implemented a transition from traditional paper towel dispensers to modern hand dryers at the OAC, enhancing both hygiene and sustainability. We worked on installing Romex and adding breakers to the electric panel, ensuring a more efficient and safer electrical system. Finally, we replaced a damaged sink at the splash pad.

453

Work Oder's Completed

8

Flush Valves Replaced

3

Certificates

40

HVAC Units

100

Paper Towel
Dispensers Replaced

34

Lights Replaced

35

Buildings/Structures

9

Flags Flown

206,122 sq.ft

Buildings Cleaned

12

Vehicles Maintained

115

Fire Extinguishers

303

Door Locks

11

Backflows Inspected

8

Security Systems
Maintained

City of Obetz **Service Department.**

The Service Department maintains the streets, rights of way, streetlights, and cleanliness of Obetz.



Kyle Inland
Service
Superintendent

- In 2023, our Service Department undertook an unprecedented volume of work, playing a crucial role in the success of the city's holiday celebrations and scheduled events. We are particularly proud of our Halloween event, spearheaded by our Parks Maintenance Manager Gavin Adkins, with the Service Department crafting games and setting up the venue.
- Our team's greatest asset is undoubtedly the positive attitude and dedication we bring to every task. From maintaining cleanliness along 270 to weekend assignments, the Service Department consistently delivers excellence. The ethos instilled in us upon joining the city—having strong backs and positive attitudes can overcome any challenge—remains our guiding principle.
- Additionally, we actively participated in the city's internship program, welcoming high school students over the summer. This initiative has proven to be fruitful, contributing a full-time employee to our ranks, with the promise of more talent to follow.
- As we look forward to the coming year, we are eager to tackle new tasks and projects. With the city's ongoing growth, we anticipate fresh challenges but remain confident in our team's ability to meet them with unwavering commitment and the right attitude.

300 tons

Salt Spread

38

Streetlights Repaired

1000 ft

Curbs Painted

500 gal

Brine

4

Street Poles Replaced

4 tons

Crack Seal

23 tons

Street Sweepings

20

Vehicles & Equipment Maint.

150 tons

Hot Mix

1000+ hrs.

Litter Pickup

38

Street Signs Replaced

100+

Potholes Filled

300+ hrs.

Snow Removal

60

Street Signs Updated

City of Obetz **Research & Development.**

The R&D Team works on special projects and develops cost saving production techniques.



Bill Baker
Research & Development
Superintendent

- **New Office Space:** Our team constructed four new offices and a work production area, with the Engineering Department providing crucial support in designing the floorplan layout. The R&D and Facilities teams collaboratively developed these office spaces, which included framing walls, running electrical and Cat6 cabling, hanging and finishing drywall, installing LVP flooring and cove base, and applying the final coat of paint along with wall cap and countertops installation.
- **Roof Projects:** We collaborated with local contractors to install a new standing seam metal roof system on the annex building and a TPO roofing system on the administrative building, ensuring both structures are well-protected and aesthetically pleasing.
- **Conference Room Renovation:** Through partnerships with Look Communications and ComResource, we upgraded our conference room to support video conferencing capabilities. This renovation involved removing old carpeting and ceiling tiles, demolishing outdated can lights and AV equipment, cutting up the concrete for new floor electricity installations, and installing new LVP flooring, baseboards, and shoe mold. Additionally, we incorporated new color-changing smart lights to enhance the room's functionality and ambiance.
- **Hands-on Training:** We led multiple projects to provide the team with hands-on experiences in electrical, plumbing, and carpentry, surpassing traditional teaching methods. These initiatives included wiring installations, plumbing repairs, and diverse carpentry tasks, aiming not only to achieve project-specific outcomes but also to offer valuable learning opportunities. By managing these comprehensive projects, we fostered a dynamic learning environment where our team could gain technical skills, enhance problem-solving abilities, and achieve a holistic understanding of various trades.

200

Completed Work Orders

2875 sq.ft

LVP Flooring

360 hrs.

Staff Development in
Facility Operations

10

Subcontracted Projects

100 hrs.

Equipment Operation

1

Department
Employees

18

In House Projects

400 hrs.

Equipment Operation

6

Remodeled Common
Areas

560 hrs.

Training

13

Painting Projects

5

Offices Built

60 hrs.

Welding



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