



Each quarter we feature a photo of one of our members. This quarter: Miami Township (Hamilton County)

### Highlights of this Issue:

- CLG's 11th Leadership Academy is underway
- Congress of New Urbanism Coming to the Region
- The Center held its Winter Chief Administrative Officer Coffee Roundtable
- Washington Township Receives Clean Ohio Grant



### Regular Features:

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## The Center for Local Government Spring 2024 Newsletter

### CLG Opens the Year with a Busy Training Schedule

As winter turns to spring, CLG's training calendar is in full swing. There is an Administrative Professionals Luncheon coming up, an important mental health in the workplace training, and the Spring Human Resources Luncheon. Additionally, please be on the lookout training opportunities from our partner organizations [MVRMA](#) and [MVCC](#). Here is a quick look at what we have coming up:

**You're Fine, I'm Fine, We're All Fine: Building Mental Health Infrastructure in Your Workplace** will be conducted by Brian Riblet and Tracy Henao from the City of Montgomery on Thursday April 11th from 9am until 11am at Terwilliger Lodge in Montgomery (10530 Deerfield Rd. Montgomery, OH 45242). Mental health concerns for both adults and adolescents have grown significantly since 2018, and the need for support has only grown more since the pandemic. This session will provide information and resources for getting a mental health program off the ground for the staff and community in your jurisdiction. In addition to CLG, this has been presented at ICMA and OCMA. [Click here for more details.](#)

The topic of the Administrative Professionals Luncheon is "**Listen UP for Better Living.**" The guest speaker will be Dr. Sean Reynolds. He Specializes in Effective Communication, Teambuilding, Self-Care, Managing Change, Mission Effectiveness and Organizational Development. He is also a CLG Leadership Academy instructor. This will take place on April 25th at March First Brewing (7885 E. Kemper Rd. Blue Ash, OH 45249) from 11:45 until 1pm. [Click here for more details.](#)

The Spring HR Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Meritage (40 Village Sq, Cincinnati, OH 45246). Our guest speaker will be Catherine **Tuck Parrish, Vice President of Raftelis, speaking on employee engagement** and fostering a workplace culture that reflects your organizational values. Please keep an eye out for the invitation flyer with more details!

This is not all we have in the pipeline, stay tuned for a session on **effective community engagement** in later Spring. This is still under development but we hope to get the word out soon. We hope you can make it to these sessions!



# The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

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## ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearinghouse for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amanda Zimmerlin, City of Clayton (President)  
Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township (Vice President)  
Jim Lukas, City of Sharonville (Secretary / Treasurer)  
Jack Cameron, Village of Silverton

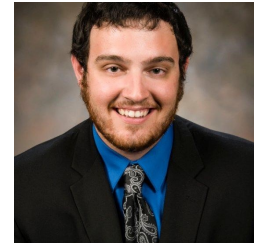
## Effective Governance Through Collaboration



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## 2024 CLG Leadership Academy Kicks Off

The 2024 CLG Leadership Academy held its first session on March 20th. This marks the 11th CLG Leadership Academy group, and our second largest with 26 people. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is 2-fold:

1. Provide an affordable leadership and management skill development opportunity for local government employees.
2. Build relationships between employees of neighboring communities– leading to future collaboration.

Classes are taught by local government practitioners and subject matter specialists. The program is designed to focus on practical applicable skills, such as effective communications, leadership styles, human resources and finance. So far, we have over 200 graduates from 50 local governments in Southwest Ohio. [More information can be found here.](#) Here are this year's participants:

Jesse Arnett	Beavercreek	Mike Huxsoll	Springdale
Justin Burress	Blue Ash	Nicole Kiefer	Butler County
Suzanne Casteel	Sharonville	Emily McNamara	Madeira
Tammy Disque	Anderson Township	Dennis McNamara Jr.	Norwood
Debbie Eldridge	North College Hill	Eric Meister	Mason
Sarah Fink	Indian Hill	Kevin Metz	Miamisburg
Brian Garver	Clayton	Elayna Myers	Carlisle
Kole Grossnickle	Liberty Township	Geoffrey Payne	Colerain Township
Darren Hackworth	Norwood	Lisa Randolph	Lincoln Heights
Spencer Hawkins	Glendale	John Schweickart	Miami Township (M)
Jennifer Highfill	Deerfield Township	Erika Wagner	Butler County
Joel Holbrook	Washington Township	Addie Weaver	Washington Township
Kate Hurst	Monroe	Haleigh White	Mason



## Congress of New Urbanism Coming to Cincinnati

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is bringing the 32nd annual Congress, "CNU-32", to Cincinnati, Ohio. Running May 15 - 18, 2024, this is the must-attend event for people who are passionate about creating and maintaining vibrant, pedestrian-friendly communities to come together and learn from each other to advance our mission.

CNU is an organization with members from around the world. It is a multi-disciplined organization of architects, elected officials, landscape architects, lenders & economic development professionals, planners, policymakers, real estate developers, transportation designers, and community advocates. In short, CNU's mission is to champion walkable, urbane places.

The annual Congress is CNU's flagship event, where attendees gather to debate and discuss trends and challenges related to building places people love. The focus of CNU-32 is "[Restorative Urbanism](#)" as Cincinnati and other cities and towns throughout the region have focused on restoring existing neighborhoods with more walkable, mixed-use urban fabric. The base of operations for CNU-32 will be the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel. CNU-32 will host around 1500 attendees who can choose from over 80 sessions and workshops, 30 tours of the region, and several social / networking events.

Attend CNU-32 to learn from participants who represent nearly every field related to development and add your voice to the mix. Engage in crafting hands-on solutions to provide for the health and vitality of regions, cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

Registration is open to non-CNU members. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to register. Early Bird registration has been extended to Friday, April 5, 2024. Also, please check out the recent WVXU article on Norwood's CNU Legacy Project: [Cincinnati Edition on Norwood's Legacy Project](#).



People look at plans as part of Norwood's CNU Project

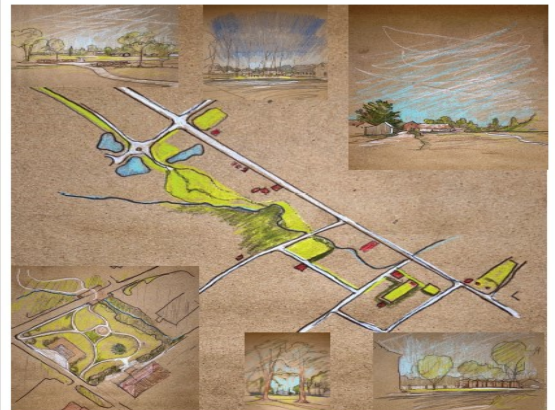
## Pike with a Purpose: Planning the Future of Ohio Pike in Pierce Township

In December, The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) awarded four grants to Cincinnati communities, including Pierce and Batavia Townships. The funding is being used for a planning project called Pike with a Purpose, which will focus on the future of Ohio Pike between Church Street and Amelia-Olive Branch Road (formerly the village of Amelia). An important piece of the project is community input, so the townships held three community meetings to discuss development in the area.

"We want to make sure that what we do in the future represents what residents desire for their community," said Eddie McCarthy, Pierce Township's Director of Community Development & Planning.

The consulting firm ZoneCo has been tasked with putting together final recommendations to guide development in the area. ZoneCo is expected to release a report in May, which will face public and governmental review.

### PIKE with a purpose



This project is a collaboration among Batavia Township, Ohio, Pierce Township, the Congress for New Urbanism (CNU), and ZoneCo. Funding for this project is made possible in part by a grant from CNU, matching funds and in-kind services from the Townships, and additional in-kind services from ZoneCo.



## Sharonville Hosts Winter Chief Administrative Officer Forum

Thank you to Jim Lukas and the City of Sharonville for hosting the Winter Center for Local Government CAO Coffee Roundtable on February 20th. The Coffee Roundtable is an opportunity for managers in the CLG membership to network and discuss pertinent issues in an informal setting. Participants have a chance to know new peers and catch up with familiar ones while discussing relevant items in your community.

Getting to know new peers was actually one of the major discussion points during the most recent Roundtable. There has been a high amount of turnover within the management level of local government recently. There have been 11 new Chief Administrative Officers hired in CLG member governments alone during the last six months. This trend will only continue as retirements occur and people move into new roles.

One of the ideas that came out of this forum was for a Manager Welcoming Committee. This would be a set of one to two incumbent CAOs who would work as "path finders" for a new Manager. They would introduce them to other peers, local organizations (e.g. CAMA), and would be sounding boards as someone adjusts to the region or a new role. The Center can take the lead in reaching out to new managers and connecting new managers to their "path finders." As additional managers come on board in the region, stay tuned for us to reach out on this topic.

## Plenty of New Faces in New Places as 2024 Begins

Between new members, new Chief Administrative Officers, and people moving into new career paths, there have been a number of changes over the first quarter of 2024:

### New Member Governments

We are happy to welcome **Miami Township (Hamilton County)** and **Hamilton Township (Warren County)** into the CLG membership. They represent CLG's 66th and 67th member governments! The Township Administrator in Hamilton Township is **Jim Brett** ([jim.brett@miamitownship.org](mailto:jim.brett@miamitownship.org)), who has also worked in Cleves and Whitewater Township. The Township Administrator in Hamilton Township is **Jeff Wright** ([jwright@hamilton-township.org](mailto:jwright@hamilton-township.org)). Prior to joining Hamilton Township, Jeff was the Township Administrator of Miami Township (Clermont). He has also spent time in Milford and Loveland.

### New Chief Administrative Officers

**Caroline McKinney** ([cmckinney@liberty-township.com](mailto:cmckinney@liberty-township.com)) is the new Township Administrator for Liberty Township. Prior to that, she served as their Economic Development Director. Caroline is also a teacher for the CLG Leadership Academy. **Greg Bickford** ([gbickford@sycamoretownship.org](mailto:gbickford@sycamoretownship.org)) is returning as the Township Administrator for Sycamore Township after a stint in Clermont County. **Steve Braun** ([sbraun@cheviot.org](mailto:sbraun@cheviot.org)) is the new Safety-Service Director for the City of Cheviot (another new Center member). Finally, two Interim Chief Administrative Officers have now moved into permanent positions. **Steve Kelly** ([Steve.Kelly@miamitwpoh.gov](mailto:Steve.Kelly@miamitwpoh.gov)) is the new Township Administrator for Miami Township (Clermont), and **Tim Engel** ([tengel@beautifulwoodlawn.us](mailto:tengel@beautifulwoodlawn.us)) is the new Village Manager of The Village of Woodlawn.

### New Roles

**Jesse Lightle** ([jlightle@sharedresourcecenter.org](mailto:jlightle@sharedresourcecenter.org)) has taken on a new role as the Director— Local Government for the Shared Resource Center. The Shared Resource Center provides a variety of services to school districts and public agencies throughout Southwest Ohio, including finance, consulting, and project management.

### Retirements

Finally, we would like to congratulate **Mike Rahall** on his retirement after a career that has included Manager positions in Reading, Fairfield Township, and Cleves. He also served as a Board member for CLG for a number of years. Please send your regards!



## Centerville-Washington Township Cemetery Expands Options

Responding to an increasing interest from residents, Washington Township expanded its inurnment options at the Centerville-Washington Township Cemetery with the addition of a new columbarium. The Township Cemetery is the only active Washington Township burial ground, with more than 2,300 gravesites on ten acres. "We have heard from so many families who want their final resting place to be at the Township Cemetery," said Public Works Director, Tim Franck. "But there simply isn't much acreage remaining for burial sites or development, so we started to look for other ways to accommodate residents and their families. We are pleased to now have a solution in the form of a 24-niche columbarium as a place to hold urns and memorialize loved ones," said Franck.

A columbarium offers an alternative to scattering ashes and provides a final resting place in which to visit and pay respects.



## Washington Township Begins Clean Ohio Projects

The Washington Township RecPlex has been awarded two grants from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program to revitalize ponds in Countryside Park. Decades of uncontrolled storm water runoff have created extensive siltation and bank erosion in Turtle and Heron ponds. The grants allow the Township to dredge the ponds, install control measures to limit future siltation, and stabilize the banks to curb erosion. Dredging of both ponds is currently underway and revitalization efforts are expected to be completed in September, 2024.

According to Mark Metzger, recreation director, "Residents have requested more water-based recreational activities and facilities for a number of years. The Clean Ohio grants have allowed us to move ahead with a 6-year park master plan that not only expands outdoor recreational opportunities but addresses environmental issues as well." The goals of the Clean Ohio projects are to restore natural habitats surrounding the ponds and bring back aquatic life that has declined over time because of polluted pond water.

The two Clean Ohio grants total \$1,339,516 and will cover 75% of the anticipated cost of the project, ensuring that the RecPlex and Washington Township continue to be strong financial stewards of taxpayer funds by continuously looking for ways to offset the costs of projects through grant funding.



**Dredging work underway in Washington Township**

**Interesting Fact:** The Village of Mariemont was recently awarded an ODNR Grant with the help of MPA students from Northern Kentucky University. The Center for Local Government made the initial connection.



## News Bits

### Norwood Joining JUFS

The JUFS consortium is excited to welcome the City of Norwood Police Department into the group! With Norwood, we will now have 8 police departments that share two justified use of force training simulator platforms on a rotational basis. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Cody Smith (Csmith@C4LG.org).

### Membership Updates

Center for Local Government membership dues are due on Friday May 10th. We are happy that our dues amount for 2024 remains unchanged. In fact, due to membership growth, we have not had to raise our dues since 2007. If your community has not yet paid and you need a new invoice, please contact TWhite@C4LG.org.

### Find Us on LinkedIn

The Center for Local Government is now on LinkedIn! CLG's LinkedIn page is another way for us to connect with our members and to hear about training offerings, programmatic updates and other newsworthy notes about the operation of the Center for Local Government.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-center-for-local-government/>

## CLG Calendar

**Elected Officials Program**, April 10, 2024, presented by MVCC and MVRMA at Yankee Trace Golf Course, Centerville, OH. Cost is \$75 for MVRMA/MVCC/CLG members and \$100 for Non-Members. Contact Starr Markworth ([SMarkworth@MVRMA.com](mailto:SMarkworth@MVRMA.com)) to learn more.

**I'm Fine, You're Fine, We're All Fine**, April 11, 2024, 8:30-9:00 am registration, Session 9:00-11:00 am. Presented in partnership with CLG and the City of Montgomery. [Click here to see the flyer with more information.](#) Cost is \$10, RSVP to T.J. White by 4:00pm on 4/9/2024

**Transitioning from Peer to Supervisor**, April 23, 2024, 8:30am – 11:30am, presented by MVCC at MVCC (1195 East Alex Bell Rd., Centerville, OH 45459). Cost is \$50.00 for members, \$60 for Affiliate, and \$70 for non-members. Click [here for more information](#) and [click here to register](#).

**CLG Administrative Professionals Luncheon**, April 25, 2024, 11:45am -1:00pm, at March First Brewing (7885 E. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45459). Please RSVP to Lori Stuckey by 3:00pm on 4/18/2024. [Please click here for more details.](#)

**Congress of New Urbanism** (CNU) has opened registration for CNU-32 in Cincinnati, May 15-18, 2024. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Patrol Fundamentals Legal Update**, August 23, 2024, hosted by the City of Sidney, [click here for more information.](#)

**Legally Confident – Tactically Confident**, presented by MVRMA and approved for CPT on 3 separate dates: October 11, October 21, and December 10, 2024 All trainings will be held at the Miami Valley Career Technology Center. Registration can be completed at [www.inglewood.oh.us/lctc2024](http://www.inglewood.oh.us/lctc2024).