

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020



Erie County, Ohio

Produced By: *Richard H. Jeffrey*, Erie County Auditor

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Dear Erie County Residents,



The Erie County Auditor’s Office proudly presents the County’s 2020 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). It was primarily created to provide transparency and to increase confidence in the County’s elected officials. It was also created to give the citizens of Erie County a better understanding of the County’s operations.

The information in this PAFR was taken from our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which provides a more in depth look at the County’s finances. This PAFR is not presented in conformity with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), nor is it audited by Auditor of State, Keith Faber. Its purpose is to provide readers a summary of the County’s financial activity in an easy to understand format.

The 2020 ACFR was audited by the office of Rea & Associates, Inc. and received an unmodified opinion.

For those seeking the more detailed information contained in the ACFR, a copy is available at the Erie County Auditor’s Office, or on our website at www.erie.iviewauditor.com.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to review our PAFR. I hope this publication will help you gain a better understanding of the County you live in.

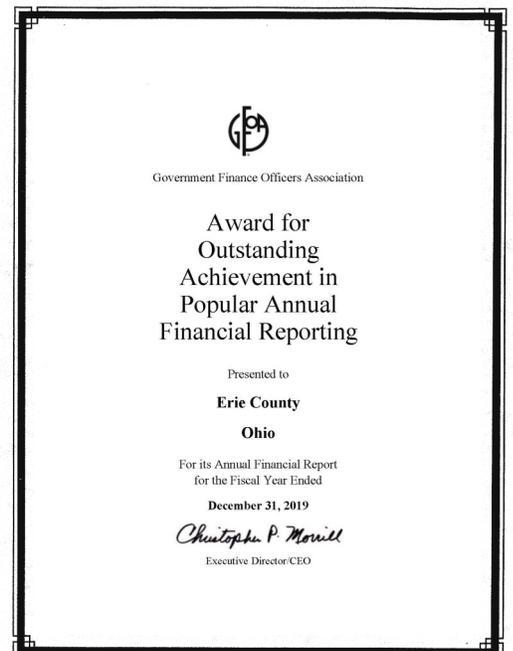
Sincerely,

Richard H. Jeffrey
Erie County Auditor

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Erie County, Ohio for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.



Overview of Erie County Auditor's Office

CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER

As Chief Fiscal Officer of your county, the Auditor is the bookkeeper for all County elected officials and many of the County agencies. It is the Auditor's responsibility to account for all revenues the County receives and to issue warrants (checks) in payment of all County obligations. As part of that bookkeeping responsibility, the County Auditor serves as the paymaster for all County employees.



COUNTY FINANCIAL REPORTS

As the issuer of financial reports for the County, it is the Auditor's duty to make sure that financial records are kept properly and is required by law to prepare the Annual Financial Report. Erie County prepares an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which is then reviewed by the Auditor of State's Office or external independent audit firm to ensure the County's finances are in order and that proper internal controls are in place. They test these controls and make recommendations to the county offices and agencies to assure that your money is spent properly.

In 2016, the County's checkbook was uploaded to OhioCheckbook.com, a site launched by the former State Treasurer, Josh Mandel, in an effort to make government more transparent and accountable to the taxpayers. Users can easily navigate, search and compare County spending across multiple years. The direct link and a "how-to" guide for easy viewing of Erie County's checkbook can be found on the Auditor's website: www.erie.iviewauditor.com.



REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL & ASSESSMENT

Erie County has 46,209 parcels of real property. It is the duty of the Auditor to ensure that every parcel of land and the buildings on it are fairly and uniformly assessed for tax purposes. A general reevaluation is mandated by Ohio law every six years with a statistical update at the three year midpoint. The Auditor's Office maintains appraisal records of each parcel in the County. These records are open for public inspection. The countywide revaluation was completed in 2018.

REAL ESTATE TAXES & RATES

The Erie County Auditor cannot raise or lower property taxes. Tax rates are determined by the budgetary requests of each government unit, as authorized by the vote of the people. Tax rates are computed in strict accordance with procedures required by the Ohio Department of Taxation, Division of Tax Equalization. Tax bills are based on the tax rate multiplied by your valuation found on this list. Property owners are assessed at 35% of the fair market value. Ohio law limits the amount of taxation without a vote of the people to 10 mills (\$10 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation). Any additional real estate taxes must be voted in by County residents.

MANUFACTURED HOMES

The Auditor's Office is also responsible for assessing taxes on manufactured housing. Under Ohio law, mobile home owners must register their homes with the Auditor's Office for tax purposes. The Auditor assesses each manufactured home annually and prepares a tax list. The manufactured home tax is distributed back to the local tax districts in the same manner as real estate taxes.

CRITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Your County Auditor also helps watch over local governments within your County by:

- Estimating the tax a local government wants to put on the ballot according to what they define as their need
- Issuing a certificate when the local government wants to borrow money, assuring that the debt of that government does not exceed what is allowed by Ohio law
- Preparing a certificate of estimated resources on behalf of local governments to ensure that local governments do not spend more than they can expect to receive
- Distributing taxes to local governments including: real estate, cigarette, gasoline, motor vehicle, and other taxes
- Consulting, advising, and assisting local governments and county departments on proper governmental accounting procedures

WEIGHTS & MEASURES

The Auditor is the Sealer of Weights and Measures for the entire County, maintaining “Equity in the Marketplace,” thus protecting both buyer and seller from possible loss which may occur from faulty measuring devices. The Auditor is charged with the legal responsibility of ensuring that all state and federal laws relating to Weights and Measures are strictly enforced.



Sealers perform inspections and tests on both commercial and some non-commercial devices to ensure those devices meet the criteria of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). Audits and tests are performed on random packed items a store may weigh, such as: meats, cheeses, and produce and standard packed items. These tests are conducted to ensure the product meets or exceeds the requirements of Handbook 130, Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods. Price verification tests are also performed to make sure there is no misrepresentation of pricing.

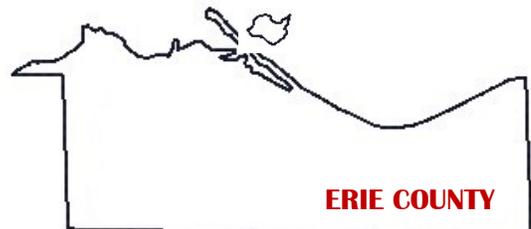
The Sealer of Erie County tested 4,099 devices across the County in 2020. These services are performed to maintain “Equity in the Marketplace.” If you believe a device is not performing properly, or for more information, please contact the Erie County Auditor’s Office, Weights & Measures Division at (419) 626-7746. For additional resources, visit the Weights and Measures page on the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s webpage: www.agri.ohio.gov.

LICENSES

The County Auditor’s Office is responsible for the issuance of licenses for dogs, vendors, and cigarette sales. Vendor licenses authorize businesses to sell tangible property to the public and collect sales tax, a part of which is returned for use on the local level.

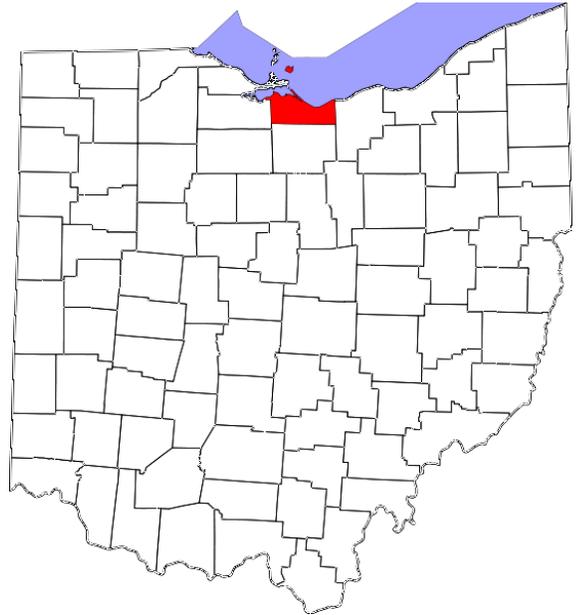
ADDITIONAL DUTIES

- Secretary of the Budget Commission
- Secretary of the Board of Revision
- Secretary of the Fiscal Report Review Committee
- Chair of the Tax Incentive Review Council
- Member of the Records Commission



Your Erie County Government

Erie County was formed by an Act of the Ohio General Assembly on March 16, 1838. The Ohio government decided to divide larger counties into smaller areas of land. Its name came from the Erie Indians, who inhabited the land before the Iroquois drove them out in the mid-1600s. It borders Lake Erie in north-central Ohio, extending 28 miles in an east-west direction and 11 miles in a north-south direction, with a total area of 264 square miles, including 8,560 acres of wetlands. The County seat is Sandusky, which is located halfway between Toledo and Cleveland.



Erie County is comprised of three cities (Huron, Sandusky and Vermilion), nine townships (Berlin, Florence, Groton, Huron, Margaretta, Milan, Oxford, Perkins and Vermilion) and five villages (Bay View, Berlin Heights, Castalia, Kelleys Island and Milan).

Erie County is governed by the Board of County Commissioners who are elected by the voters of Erie County. In addition to the three Commissioners, there are eight other elected officials who operate independently following legislation of the Ohio Revised Code. These elected officials also serve four year terms and include: Auditor, Clerk of Courts, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecuting Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff and Treasurer. Erie County has five Judges, each elected to six year terms: Common Pleas Court (two), Probate Court, Juvenile Court and County Municipal Court.

The County employed 818 full time, part time and seasonal employees in 2020 to provide services such as: capital improvements to roads/bridges/sewers, public safety, veterans services, tax collections, job and family services, emergency management services, economic development, animal control and health services just to name a few.

The following chart shows how Erie County departments are currently organized.

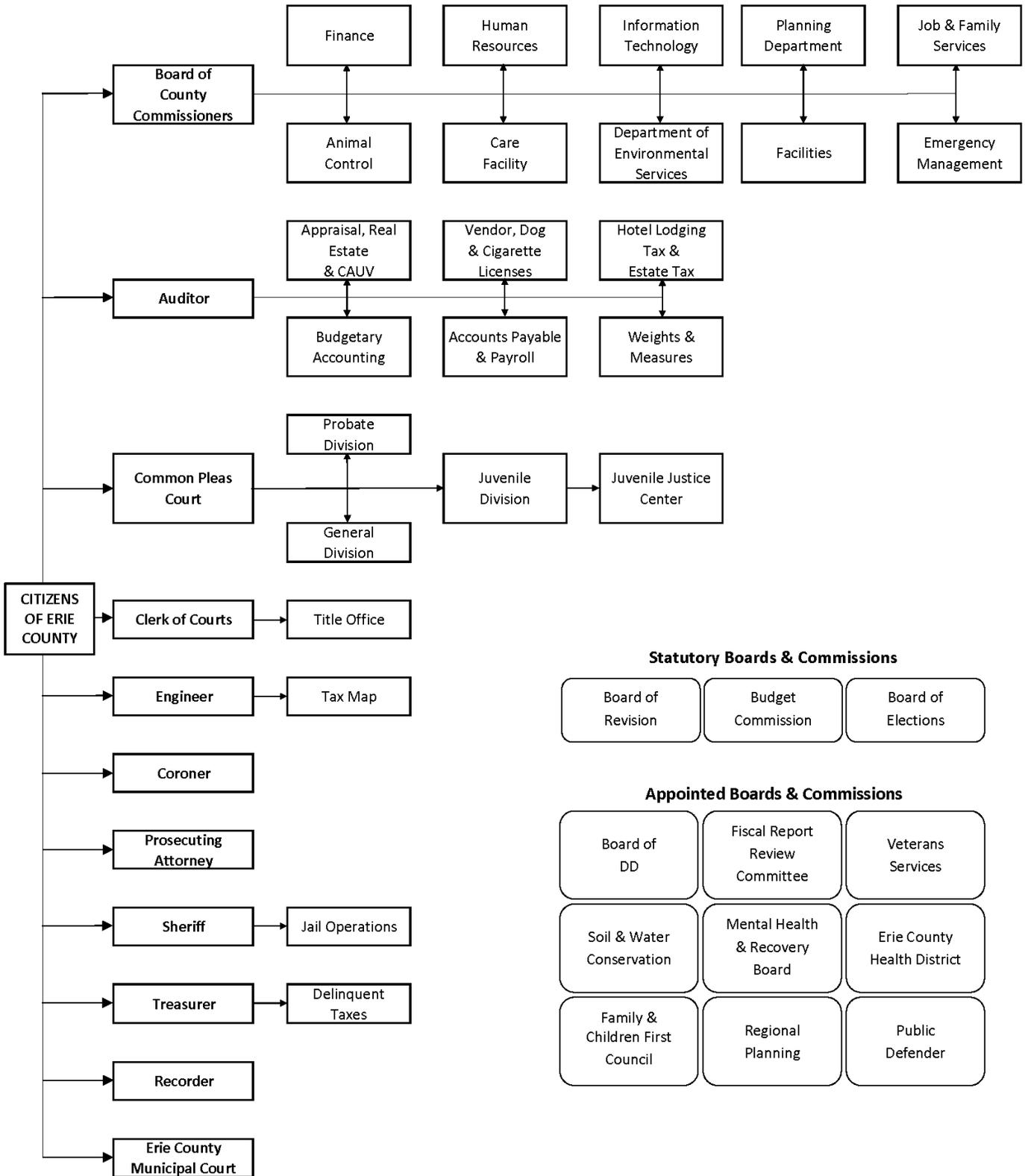


CASTALIA QUARRY



DOWNTOWN SANDUSKY

Organizational Chart

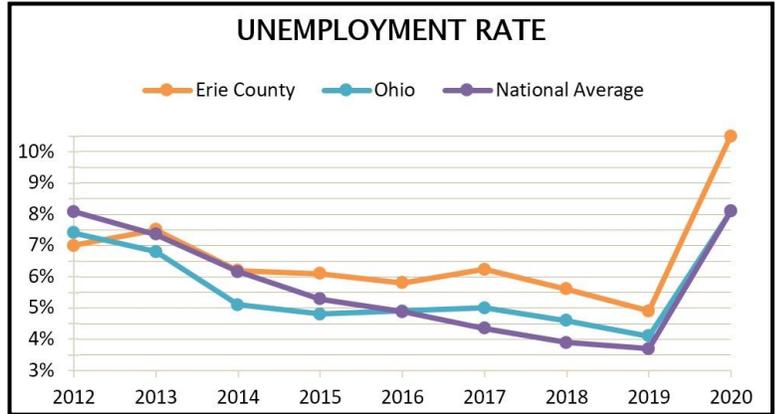


Erie County Demographics and Statistics

Erie County experienced a large increase in the overall unemployment rate, raising from 4.9% in 2019 to 10.5% in 2020. This was an expected outcome stemming from a significant decrease in the number of tourism-driven jobs, an industry that greatly suffered from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Erie County had the highest unemployment rate of the surrounding counties: Lorain 9.9%, Huron 9.5%, Ottawa 9.1% and Sandusky County at 8.1% respectively.

The State of Ohio and the national average experienced similar declines.



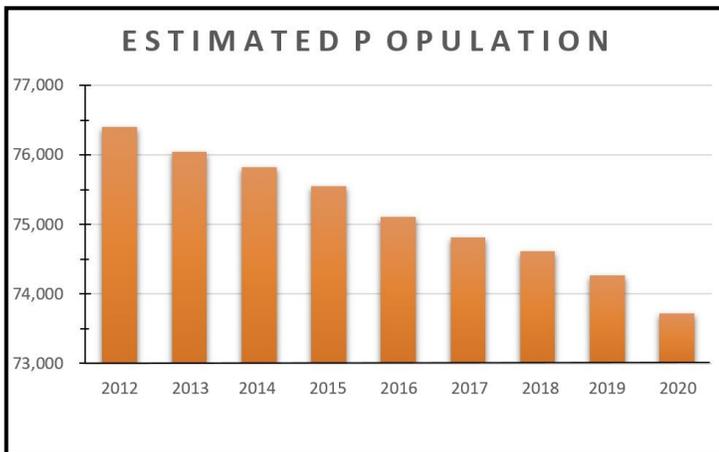
Source: Ohio Department of Job & Family Services



HURON BOAT BASIN



MERRY-GO-ROUND MUSEUM - SANDUSKY

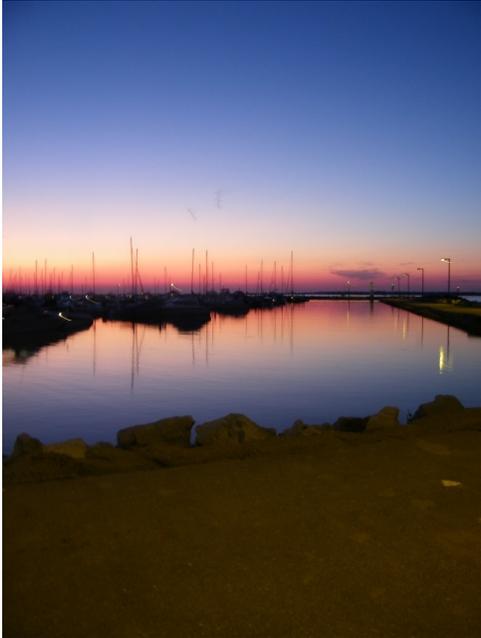


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2020 POPULATION STATISTICS

- Population: 73,719 people
- 48.9% Male / 51.1% Female
- 86.7% White / 8.9% African American / 4.4% Other
- 91.8% High School diploma or higher
- 23.2% Bachelor's degree or higher
- Poverty Level: 11.6%
- Median Household Income: \$54,226
- Mean Travel Time to Work: 21.1 minutes
- Median Value of a Single-Family Home: \$139,900
- Population Per Square Mile: 240.60

2020 TOP TEN TAXPAYERS



SANDUSKY BAY

TAXPAYER	TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE	% OF TOTAL COUNTY TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE
NEXUS GAS TRANSMISSION	160,062,620	7.41%
AMERICAN TRANSMISSION	59,163,390	2.74%
OHIO EDISON	45,988,260	2.14%
CEDAR POINT PARK LLC	42,675,880	1.98%
LMN DEVELOPMENT LLC	29,813,070	1.38%
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC	13,030,470	0.60%
NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY	11,295,360	0.52%
GWR SANDUSKY PROPERTY	6,407,000	0.30%
SHAKER VILLAGE RENTAL COMMUNITIES	5,188,660	0.24%
SANDUSKY MALL COMPANY	5,161,460	0.24%
TOTAL	\$378,786,170	17.55%
TOTAL COUNTY ASSESSED VALUATION	\$2,370,369,880	



SANDUSKY BICENTENIAL SCULPTURE

2020 TOP TEN EMPLOYERS

EMPLOYER	TYPE OF BUSINESS	# OF EMPLOYEES
CEDAR FAIR L.P./MAGNUM	ENTERTAINMENT	2,800
VENTRA	AUTOMOTIVE	2,200
FIRELANDS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	HEALTHCARE	1,996
KALAHARI RESORT	ENTERTAINMENT	1,053
ERIE COUNTY	GOVERNMENT	818
OHIO VETERANS HOME	HEALTHCARE	523
SANDUSKY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	EDUCATION	473
FREUDENBERG - NOK	MANUFACTURING	300
CERTAINTEED CORPORTATION	MANUFACTURING	222
JBT CORPORATION	FOOD EQUIPMENT	198
TOTAL		10,583
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT WITHIN ERIE COUNTY		32,700

The top 10 employers for Erie County employed 32% of the County's workforce in 2020.

The majority of these top employers are located in the City of Sandusky and Perkins Township.

County's Financial Position

The County's financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). This report contains information related to the County's governmental and business-type activities. Please refer to the County's 2020 ACFR for more detailed information.

Assets provide financial benefits to the County. **Current and Other Assets** are mainly comprised of cash, investments and demand deposits (whether held in the pool managed by the County Treasurer or in outside bank accounts), property taxes receivable, sales tax receivable and monies due from other governments. **Capital assets** are land, buildings and improvements, roads, bridges, water/sewer lines, equipment and construction in progress, and are shown net of accumulated depreciation.

Liabilities place a financial burden on the County. **Current and Other Liabilities** include monies due to other governments, deferred revenues, accounts payable, compensated absences and accrued wages payable. **Long-term liabilities** represent bonds, notes and loans that are being repaid over a period of years as well as payments under capital leases.

Deferred Inflows/Outflows of Resources are inflows and outflows of resources related to pension liabilities resulting from the County's employer contributions to OPERS. Any part of pension expense or income not recognized in the County's financial statements in the year they occur will be recorded as **deferred inflows** or **outflows**, and amortized appropriately.

Net Position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. **Investment in capital assets, net of related debt**, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used or the acquisition, construction or improvement cost of those assets. Net position is reported as **restricted** when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County, or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. The County applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available. **Unrestricted net position** may be used to meet the County's ongoing obligations to citizens, employees and creditors.

For more information on the County's assets and liabilities, please refer to the Statement of Net Position, found on page 17 in our 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.



CEDAR POINT CHAUSSEE - SANDUSKY

NET POSITION

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Assets						
Current & Other Assets	88,495,401	87,650,131	33,154,507	28,930,646	121,649,908	116,580,777
Capital Assets, Net	<u>57,991,384</u>	<u>83,923,683</u>	<u>108,132,970</u>	<u>111,637,525</u>	<u>166,124,354</u>	<u>195,561,208</u>
Total Assets	146,486,785	171,573,814	141,287,477	140,568,171	287,774,262	312,141,985
Deferred Outflows of Resources						
Deferred Charge on Refunding	-	-	419,894	519,476	419,894	519,476
Pension & Other Postemployment Benefits	<u>9,425,875</u>	<u>16,812,381</u>	<u>2,985,358</u>	<u>4,778,176</u>	<u>12,411,233</u>	<u>21,590,557</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	9,425,875	16,812,381	3,405,252	5,297,652	12,831,127	22,110,033
Liabilities						
Current & Other Liabilities	8,859,719	13,425,314	6,006,154	7,145,221	14,865,873	20,570,535
Long-Term Liabilities						
Net Pension & OPEB Liabilities	60,374,560	73,315,493	15,093,642	18,328,874	75,468,202	91,644,367
Other Amounts	<u>41,796,428</u>	<u>43,506,402</u>	<u>61,078,901</u>	<u>64,349,519</u>	<u>102,875,329</u>	<u>107,855,921</u>
Total Liabilities	111,030,707	130,247,209	82,178,697	89,823,614	193,209,404	220,070,823
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Pension & Other Postemployment Benefits	11,843,540	1,819,705	3,319,794	255,292	15,163,334	2,074,997
Property Taxes & Payment in Lieu of Taxes	<u>10,336,635</u>	<u>13,499,475</u>	-	-	<u>10,336,635</u>	<u>13,499,475</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	22,180,175	15,319,180	3,319,794	255,292	25,499,969	15,574,472
Net Position						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	49,602,549	51,435,300	54,976,930	54,548,437	104,579,479	105,983,737
Restricted	37,517,091	34,261,595	-	-	37,517,091	34,261,595
Unrestricted	<u>(64,417,862)</u>	<u>(42,877,089)</u>	<u>4,217,308</u>	<u>1,238,480</u>	<u>(60,200,554)</u>	<u>(41,638,609)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>22,701,778</u>	<u>42,819,806</u>	<u>59,194,238</u>	<u>55,786,917</u>	<u>81,896,016</u>	<u>98,606,723</u>

The County's overall net position decreased \$16.7 million from 2019. There are several non-operating factors that can cause the net position to increase or decrease (capitalization/depreciation of capital assets, issuance/retirement of long-term obligations and changes in the net pension liability). But there were a few key areas that are worth mentioning:

There was an increase of \$3.2 million in capital grants and contributions from 2019 due to an ODOT grant for the Columbus Avenue bridge replacement in Perkins Township and due to contributions that were received for Phase II of the Cedar Point Sport Force Park project.

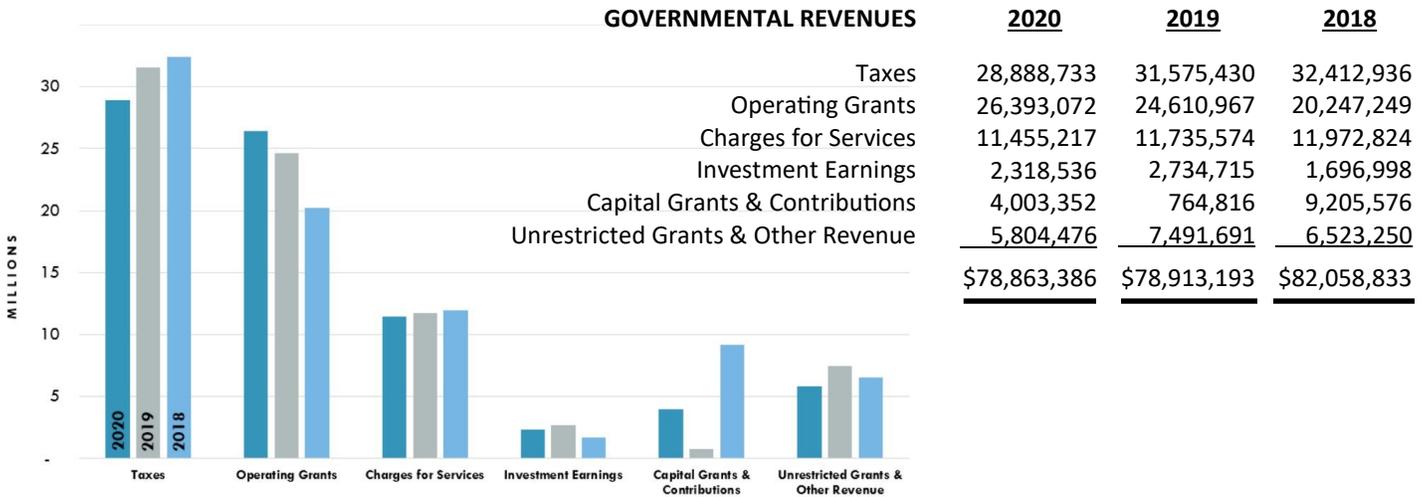
The majority of the almost \$26 million decrease in capital assets was from the loss on the disposal of Phase II of the sports complex previously mentioned. The lease agreement of the sports park between Cedar Point and the County has a clause that allows the County to require Cedar Point to purchase the park for one dollar any time on or after the second full year of operation. The lease qualifies as a capital lease and therefore not considered a capital asset of the County.



SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY

Governmental Revenues

The dollars presented here are reported as governmental activities in the 2020 ACFR’s government-wide statement of activities. Revenues are typically recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. Major sources of revenue for the County include sales tax, property tax, grants, charges for services and interest earned. Grants are further broken down between operating grants and capital grants. Operating grants are provided to the County to help run day-to-day operations. Capital grants are provided to the County for use in acquiring capital assets, such as purchase of land or equipment, as well as the purchase or construction of buildings.



General revenues primarily consist of property and sales tax collections. The County experienced an 8% decrease in the sales tax collection in 2020. The hardest hit in 2020 was the lodging tax revenue with a decrease in collection of over 62% from the prior year. This is directly attributable to the coronavirus pandemic.

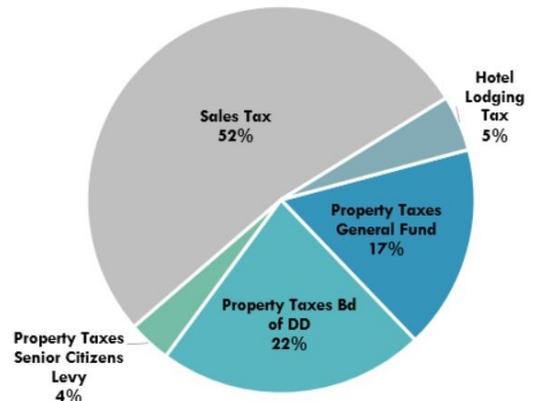
The County uses 1% of the hotel tax revenue to repay the \$37.41 million of revenue bonds issued to finance the development of the Sports Force Park complex in partnership with Cedar Point. The County’s general fund would be responsible for covering these debt payments if there was not enough taxes collected to pay for them, which did not happen in 2020.

The outlook for 2021 looks promising that tourism will pick back up to the previous years’ totals and boost both sales tax revenue and the lodging tax revenue.

As previously discussed, the large increase in capital grants and contributions is attributable to an ODOT grant and contributions received for Phase II of the Cedar Point Sport Force complex.

TAX REVENUE	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Property Taxes - General Fund	4,915,449	4,436,519	4,292,370
Property Taxes - Board of DD	6,427,250	6,189,540	6,285,155
Property Taxes - Senior Citizen Levy	1,028,025	925,076	910,341
Sales Taxes	15,181,533	16,497,483	16,103,049
Hotel Lodging Taxes	<u>1,336,476</u>	<u>3,526,812</u>	<u>4,822,021</u>
	<u>\$28,888,733</u>	<u>\$31,575,430</u>	<u>\$32,412,936</u>

TAX REVENUE



Governmental Expenses

The expenses shown below are those of the County’s governmental activities. Expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred.

Legislative and Executive expenses are incurred by most elected officials offices including: Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Recorder, as well as the Facilities, Information Technology, Human Resources and Finance departments.

Human Services expenses are those incurred by the County’s Job and Family Services Department. Services provided include adoption assistance, child care subsidies, emergency assistance payments, food stamps and job training programs.

Public Safety expenses are those incurred by the Sheriff’s department to ensure the safety of persons and property.

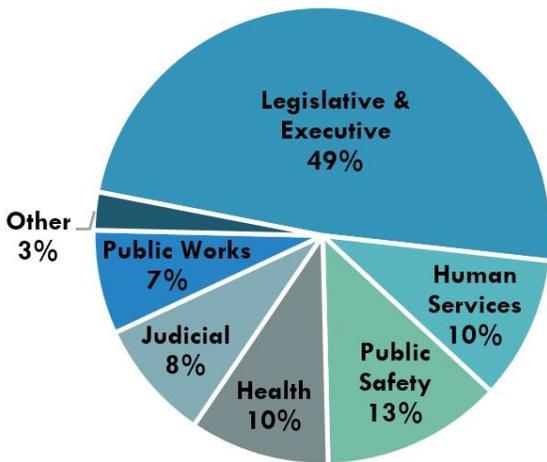
Health expenses are those incurred primarily by the County’s Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide services to developmentally disabled citizens of Erie County.

Judicial expenses are incurred by the County’s Courts: two Common Pleas Courts, Probate Court, Juvenile Court and County Municipal Court.

Public Works expenses are incurred by the Engineer’s department for maintenance of Erie County’s roads, bridges and ditches.

Other expenses represent economic development and assistance costs (CDBG programs) as well as interest charges and other miscellaneous expenses.

GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES

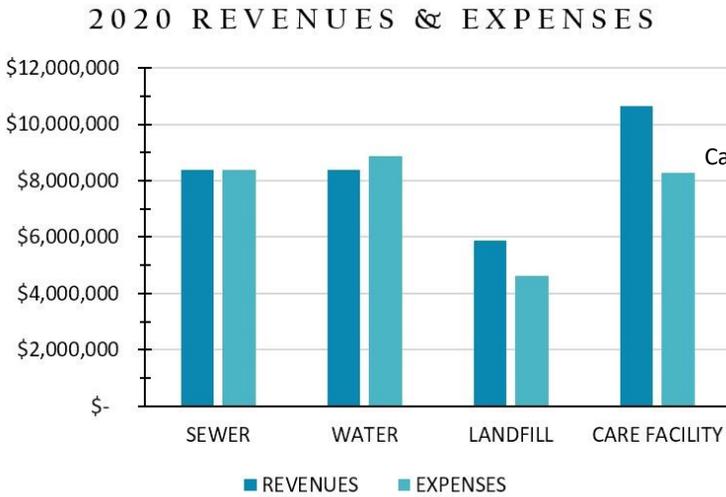


GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Legislative & Executive	48,218,028	16,578,586	16,949,075
Human Services	10,006,147	11,906,866	10,599,234
Public Safety	12,613,411	16,565,002	14,402,764
Health	9,771,175	9,698,628	8,930,501
Judicial	8,461,419	10,913,259	9,506,557
Public Works	7,258,571	9,390,967	6,701,116
Other	<u>2,651,946</u>	<u>3,973,720</u>	<u>3,259,206</u>
	<u>\$98,980,697</u>	<u>\$79,027,028</u>	<u>\$70,348,453</u>

As previously mentioned, a loss on the disposal of Phase II of the sports complex accounts for the substantial increase in expenses in the legislative and executive branch of the County. The CARES Act money the County received is also reflected in the legislative and executive branch totals. The other programs generally showed decreases due to the pandemic.

Business-Type Activities

The dollars presented here are reported as business type activities in the 2020 ACFR’s government-wide statement of activities. Revenues typically are recorded when the underlying event occurs, regardless of when the money will be received. The major source of revenue for business type activities is charges for services, where fees are collected from customers for a service that is being provided. The County continues to deal with delinquent customers, which can positively or negatively affect collections for the year. The departments included in business-type activities are: Sewer, Water, Landfill and the Care Facility.



	<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Charges for Services				
Sewer		8,399,565	8,356,216	7,898,729
Water		8,390,521	8,485,753	8,468,477
Landfill		5,874,528	5,837,699	6,676,119
Care Facility		9,511,388	9,520,163	9,191,092
Capital Grants & Contributions		<u>1,142,728</u>	<u>122,795</u>	<u>191,543</u>
		<u>33,318,730</u>	<u>32,322,626</u>	<u>32,425,960</u>
	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Sewer		8,365,793	8,996,961	9,212,970
Water		8,885,782	9,798,185	9,020,317
Landfill		4,624,282	4,404,753	4,641,268
Care Facility		<u>8,265,309</u>	<u>11,075,014</u>	<u>9,264,567</u>
		<u>30,141,166</u>	<u>34,274,913</u>	<u>32,139,122</u>

In 2020, business-type revenues totaled over \$33.3 million, while expenses totaled just under \$30.1 million. The business-type activities had an overall increase of \$3.4 million in net position from the prior year.

The sewer fund remained fairly consistent with the prior year, with a small increase of \$0.1 million in net position. The water fund net position decreased \$0.3 million, a result of lower operating costs coupled with less transfers in from 2019. Although the landfill had over a million increase in expenses, revenues still outpaced the expenses, increasing net position of \$0.2 million.

The net position of The Meadows, the care facility, increased \$2.4 million, partially due to decreases in payroll and benefits and receiving Federal grant dollars. They were the recipients of over \$1.1 million in stimulus and provider relief payments.

State and federal laws require the County to place a final cover on its landfill when it stops accepting waste and to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for 30 years after closure. These closure/post-closure costs are driven by the total estimated remaining capacity. As of 2020 year end, the liability totals \$10,807,487 based on the use of 89% of the landfill’s capacity. Actual costs may be higher due to inflation, deflation, changes in technology or changes in regulations.

Long Term Debt

Moody’s Rating Service has assigned Erie County bond ratings an “AA2” rating, indicating that our bonds are a safe, reliable investment. This is due to the County’s below-average debt burden, strong general fund reserves and overall sound financial management. In 2020, the County paid down \$6.5 million in principal payments and did not issue any new debt. The following table summarizes the outstanding long-term obligations at year-end.

LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS, TREND ANALYSIS

*Includes Business-Type Activities (water, sewer & landfill debt)
& Governmental (all other debt)*

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
General Obligation Bonds	11,990,000	15,255,000	19,085,000	22,885,305	24,301,490
Special Assessment Bonds	-	-	-	19,696	498,510
OWDA Loans	42,186,717	44,171,490	46,075,452	47,901,914	49,654,051
OPWC Loans	-	-	-	-	4,561
Revenue Bonds	40,999,021	42,276,521	43,530,084	22,866,741	23,003,196
Capital Lease Obligation	435,610	-	5,918	11,195	16,104
Landfill Closure & Post Closure Liability	10,807,487	10,327,662	9,830,884	9,187,997	8,647,611
Net Pension Liability & Net OPEB Liability	75,468,202	91,644,367	61,177,610	51,759,931	38,786,551
Claims Payable	1,799,941	1,929,644	1,509,738	1,560,634	1,553,627
Unamortized Bond Premiums*	546,305	660,321	774,337	888,353	415,278
Compensated Absences	3,994,116	3,864,634	3,277,760	3,356,871	3,552,767
	<u>188,227,399</u>	<u>210,129,639</u>	<u>185,266,783</u>	<u>160,438,637</u>	<u>150,433,746</u>

General Obligation Bonds

These bonds are long-term debt instruments which are repaid from the County’s general revenue resources.

Special Assessment Bonds

These bonds are issued to pay for improvements benefitting property owners. The owners pay the County over a period of 20 years for the debt.

OWDA & OPWC Loans

These loans provide low-interest funding for infrastructure, primarily water and sewer projects.

Revenue Bonds

The County has pledged 1% of hotel tax revenue to pay off the revenue bonds purchased to finance the development of Phases I & II of the Cedar Point Sports Park.

Capital Lease Obligation

These obligations are payments to be made to the vendors for leases entered into by the County.

Landfill Closure & Post Closure Liability

This liability shows what amount is needed to perform all closure and post closure care as of 12/31/20.

Net Pension & OPEB Liabilities

Obligations related to employee compensation are paid from the fund benefiting from their service. GASB 75 was implemented in 2018 which significantly revises accounting for liabilities related to post employment benefits. Changes in benefits, and contribution rates affect the balance of these liabilities, but are outside the control of the County.

Unamortized Bond Premiums

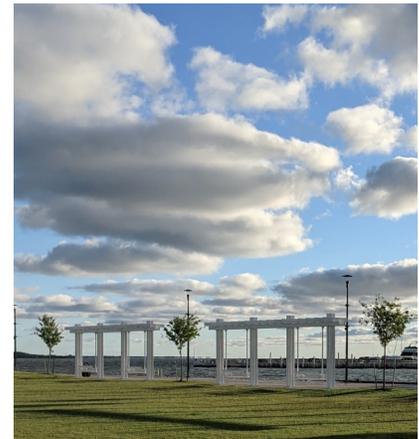
These premiums are deferred and amortized over the term of the bond. *These were previously included in the bond totals.

Claims Payable

Insurance premiums are charged to the fund from which the employee is paid and claims are paid from the applicable internal service fund.

Compensated Absences

This liability is due to employees for services provided to the County, where leave was earned but not taken as of 12/31/20.



JACKSON STREET PIER - SANDUSKY

Property Taxes

TAX RATES FOR ERIE COUNTY—TAX YEAR 2019, PAYABLE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020

TAX DISTRICTS	Tax District	State Taxing District	County Levies	School Levies	Library Levies	Vocational School Levies	Township Levies	City or Village Levies	Full Tax Rate	Residential Agricultural Effective Tax Rate	Commerical Industrial Effective Tax Rate
BERLIN TOWNSHIP											
Edison Schools	01-04	22-0010	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	5.30	n/a	85.84	48.9022	56.6472
Berlin Heights Village	06	22-0020	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	3.50	15.50	99.54	62.5169	70.4176
Huron Schools	05	22-0030	9.10	73.18	1.50	4.45	5.30	n/a	93.53	48.5778	61.4651
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP											
Firelands Schools	07-08	22-0040	9.10	54.11	0.00	2.45	7.10	n/a	72.76	48.7882	49.3042
Edison Schools	09	22-0050	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	7.10	n/a	87.64	50.6480	59.3697
Vermilion Schools	10	22-0060	9.10	68.08	1.625	4.45	7.10	n/a	90.355	50.4668	73.0649
Western Reserve Schools	11	22-0070	9.10	33.10	0.00	4.45	7.10	n/a	53.75	40.4373	43.6287
GROTON TOWNSHIP											
Bellevue Schools	26	22-0080	9.10	42.20	1.00	4.45	5.75	n/a	62.50	52.1340	56.4041
Bellevue City	61	22-0085	9.10	42.20	1.00	4.45	5.75	6.60	69.10	57.5601	62.7765
Margaretta Schools	27	22-0090	9.10	60.30	0.00	4.45	5.75	n/a	79.60	45.2686	63.4511
Monroeville Schools	28	22-0100	9.10	38.20	0.00	4.45	5.75	n/a	57.50	47.3579	49.9915
Perkins Schools	29	22-0110	9.10	67.80	1.50	4.45	5.75	n/a	88.60	52.7767	60.8989
HURON TOWNSHIP											
Huron Schools	39	22-0120	9.10	73.18	1.50	4.45	5.30	n/a	93.53	48.5282	62.2252
Huron City	42-49	22-0130	9.10	73.18	1.50	4.45	0.40	4.90	93.53	48.5590	62.5018
Edison Schools	40	22-0140	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	5.30	n/a	85.84	48.8527	57.4073
Perkins Schools	41	22-0150	9.10	67.80	1.50	4.45	5.30	n/a	88.15	52.4373	60.1663
MARGARETTA TOWNSHIP											
Margaretta Schools	33-37	22-0160	9.10	60.30	0.00	4.45	12.20	n/a	86.05	51.5418	68.9375
Bay View Village	30	22-0170	9.10	60.30	0.00	4.45	0.00	20.00	93.85	56.0968	74.8022
Castalia Village	31	22-0180	9.10	60.30	0.00	4.45	9.70	8.66	92.21	57.6608	74.8631
Perkins Schools	38	22-0190	9.10	67.80	1.50	4.45	12.20	n/a	95.05	59.0499	66.3853
MILAN TOWNSHIP											
Edison Schools	50	22-0200	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	6.55	n/a	87.09	49.6966	58.3739
Milan Village	53	22-0210	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	5.55	8.80	94.89	55.8673	63.9743
Huron Schools	51	22-0220	9.10	73.18	1.50	4.45	6.55	n/a	94.78	49.3722	63.1918
Perkins Schools	52	22-0230	9.10	67.80	1.50	4.45	6.55	n/a	89.40	53.2813	61.1329
OXFORD TOWNSHIP											
Edison Schools	23	22-0240	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	6.50	n/a	87.04	49.8676	58.7761
Monroeville Schools	24	22-0250	9.10	38.20	0.00	4.45	6.50	n/a	58.25	48.0334	50.6277
Perkins Schools	25	22-0260	9.10	67.80	1.50	4.45	6.50	n/a	89.35	53.4522	61.5351
PERKINS TOWNSHIP											
Perkins Schools	32	22-0270	9.10	67.80	1.50	4.45	16.25	n/a	99.10	63.2460	71.3252
VERMILION TOWNSHIP											
Vermilion Schools	12-16	22-0280	9.10	68.08	1.625	4.45	4.75	n/a	88.01	48.4008	70.9036
Vermilion City	18-22	22-0290	9.10	68.08	1.625	4.45	0.00	11.75	95.005	55.4620	77.8129
Edison Schools	17	22-0300	9.10	65.19	1.80	4.45	4.75	n/a	85.29	48.5820	57.2083
KELLEYS ISLAND VILLAGE											
Kelleys Island Schools	54	22-0310	9.10	9.85	0.80	4.45	n/a	9.97	34.17	29.2609	29.9731
SANDUSKY CITY											
Sandusky Schools	55-60	22-0320	9.10	84.950	1.50	0.00	n/a	5.18	100.730	62.6776	72.7385
BELLEVUE CITY											
Bellevue Schools	62	22-0330	9.10	42.20	1.00	4.45	n/a	6.60	63.35	52.3263	57.1015

TAX RATES EXPRESSED IN MILLS

MILL = \$1 IN TAX FOR EVERY \$1,000 IN TAXABLE VALUE

How to Calculate Your Tax Bill

PROPERTY TAX CALCULATION

Market Value x 35%	=	Assessed Value
Assessed Value x Full Total Tax Rate / 1,000	=	Gross Tax Per Year
Assessed Value x Effective Tax Rate / 1,000	=	Adjusted Tax
Gross Tax—Adjusted Tax	=	H.B. 920 Credit
Gross Tax—H.B. 920 Credit	=	Net Taxes
Net Taxes x Non-Business Credit Percent	=	Non-Business Credit
Net Taxes x Owner Occupancy Credit Percent	=	Owner Occupancy Credit
Net Taxes—Non-Business and Owner Occ.	=	Taxes Charged
Tax Charged / 2	=	Half Year Tax
Half Year Tax + Special Assessments, Penalties, etc.	=	Total Half Year Tax

EXAMPLE: If a taxpayer lives in Huron Township, in Perkins Local School District, Real Estate Taxes on a \$100,000 owner-occupied home with no special assessments would be:

$\$100,000 \times 35\%$	=	\$35,000.00	Assessed Value
$\$35,000 \times 88.15 / 1,000$	=	\$3,085.25	Gross Tax Per Year
$\$35,000 \times 52.4373 / 1,000$	=	\$1,835.31	Adjusted Tax
$\$3,085.25 - \$1,835.31$	=	\$1,249.94	H.B. 920 Credit
$\$3,085.25 - \$1,249.94$	=	\$1,835.31	Net Taxes
$\$1,835.31 \times 10\%$	=	\$183.53	Non-Business Credit
$\$1,835.31 \times 2.5\%$	=	\$45.88	Owner Occupancy Credit
$\$1,835.31 - \$183.53 - \$45.88$	=	\$1,605.90	Taxes Charged
$\$1,605.90 / 2$	=	\$802.95	Half Year Tax

The \$1,605.90 in Annual Taxes is distributed as follows:

Tax Recipient	Tax Rate	Taxes Paid
Perkins Schools	40.3318	1,235.16
EHOVE Career Center	2.6471	81.07
Huron Township	3.1528	96.56
Huron Library	0.8923	27.33
County General Fund	1.3682	41.90
Board of Developmental Disabilities	1.7846	54.65
General Health District	0.5949	18.22
Mental Health & Recovery Board	0.7138	21.86
Serving Our Seniors	0.2974	9.11
Erie Metroparks	<u>0.6544</u>	<u>20.04</u>
	52.4373	\$ 1,605.90



ERIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

2020 Erie County Projects

FIRELANDS SANDUSKY HEALTHCARE CENTER



Firelands Regional Health System began construction on a new facility located on Columbus Avenue in Perkins Township. The two story, 45,000 square foot healthcare center will house family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, imaging and laboratory services.

Their \$25 million investment will allow them to continue to provide quality, accessible healthcare to more than 300,000 residents in the surrounding areas.

Construction is expected to be completed by August 2021. Once completed, an enterprise zone agreement will be in effect for a ten years period at 60% tax savings.

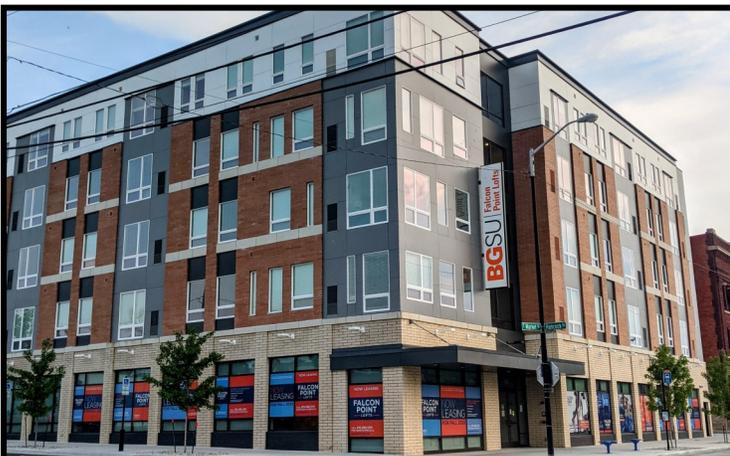
THE MEADOWS AT OSBORN PARK



Renovation began in 2019 to upgrade the County-owned nursing home. Over \$1 million was spent for upgrades including: expanding the lobby and foyer areas, building a new chapel, salon and library area with computers, replacing the common area furniture, replacing the greenhouse roof and dedicating one wing of rooms to long-term care. The renovation project allows The Meadows to remain a competing force in the area's rehabilitation, skilled nursing and long-term care fields.

Construction was completed in the fall of 2020.

BGSU DOWNTOWN SANDUSKY CAMPUS



Bowling Green State University partnered with Cedar Fair to offer a Bachelor of Science degree program focusing on preparing students for management careers in the resort and attraction management industry.

The \$14 million, 5-story, 78,000 square foot building features a learning center, classrooms, meeting spaces, offices, street level retail space and 80 fully furnished apartments. The curriculum includes four, ten-week semesters of classroom learning and two full-time guaranteed, paid co-op experiences at one of Cedar Fair's amusement parts in North America.

The first class has approximately 83 students, with the expectation of total enrollment to be between 140-150 students in the coming years. After over a year and a half of construction, the new campus welcomed its first students onsite in October of 2020.

CARES Act Funding & Future Outlook

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted by Congress, in response to the widespread economic impact of COVID-19. The CARES Act included a variety of relief provisions for individuals, businesses and local governments.

Erie County received \$4,685,000 from the CARES Act. This money could not be used for lost revenue replacement, but could be used for several different areas that were directly affected by the pandemic. The large majority was used for Sheriff deputy salaries and salaries for those working at The Meadows long-term care facility. Funding was also used for new and improved technologies to support the increased need to go virtual, cleaning and sanitizing supplies and equipment to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. The County also sub-granted \$50,000 to the Erie County Economic Development Corporation, which, in turn, assisted 11 local Erie County business that were directly affected by the pandemic.

At year-end, the County still had nearly \$680,000 left to spend of the CARES Act funding. The original deadline to spend these monies was extended to 12/31/2021. All funds must be spent or returned to the Federal government.



SANDUSKY



BERLIN HEIGHTS



CASTALIA



MILAN



KELLEYS ISLAND

Prudent and conservative spending restraints allowed the County to set aside funds to help deal with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic had on the loss of revenues. Many revenue streams were severely affected: sales tax, casino tax revenue and lodging tax. However, many were not. Property tax, gas tax, property conveyance fees and state and local grants all did not suffer from significant losses and many performed better than expected.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act) was passed. The County expects to receive approximately \$14 million over the span of 2 years and may be used for lost revenue replacement and/or for necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. These dollars must be used by December 31, 2024.

With the assistance of the CARES Act and the ARP Act, the County expects to be in a strong financial position going forward.

2020

ERIE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

AUDITOR	RICHARD H. JEFFREY	419-627-7746
CLERK OF COURTS	LUVADA WILSON	419-627-7705
COMMISSIONER	MATHEW R. OLD	419-627-7672
COMMISSIONER	PATRICK J. SHENIGO	419-627-7672
COMMISSIONER	STEPHEN L. SHOFFNER	419-627-7672
CORONER	DR. BRIAN A. BAXTER	419-625-0654
ENGINEER	JOHN D. FARSCHMAN	419-627-7710
PROSECUTOR	KEVIN J. BAXTER	419-627-7697
RECORDER	BARBARA A. SESSLER	419-627-7686
SHERIFF	PAUL A. SIGSWORTH	419-627-7668
TREASURER	PAMELA FERRELL	419-627-7701
COMMON PLEAS JUDGE	ROGER E. BINETTE	419-627-7732
COMMON PLEAS JUDGE	TYGH M. TONE	419-627-7731
COUNTY COURT JUDGE	CARL J. KAMM	419-499-4689
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE	ROBERT C. DELAMATRE	419-627-7782
PROBATE COURT JUDGE	BEVERLY K. MCGOOKEY	419-627-7750