



# Clermont County, Ohio

## 2008 Annual Citizens' Report

Board of Clermont County Commissioners

Robert L. Proud R. Scott Crosswell III Edwin H. Humphrey



*Commissioners Bob Proud, Ed Humphrey, and Scott Crowell invite you to attend a commissioners' session in 2009; call 732-7300 for meeting dates and times or visit the Web site [www.BCC.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.BCC.ClermontCountyOhio.gov).*

**Dear Fellow Residents:**

We are pleased to present the 2008 Clermont County Annual Citizens' Report, updating you on many county accomplishments over the past year and some of the challenges we face with tightening economic conditions. We want to thank you for your interaction with county government through attendance at meetings, your phone calls, and e-mails. Our mission is to make Clermont County government transparent and easily accessible to all citizens; in 2009, we have added an evening session to the commissioners' schedule each month, to allow those who work during the day an opportunity to attend.

Industrial facilities. We are committed to an aggressive economic development program that involves investing in infrastructure improvement, "shovel-ready" site development, and strong partnerships between local, regional, and state agencies. The Clermont Transportation Improvement District is one such collaborative effort that is actively engaged in projects ranging from the Eastern Corridor multi-modal plan, Eastgate roadway improvements, and the Business 28 plan.

In 2008, we opened the new Clermont County Water Resources Building in Batavia, designed to better serve the customers of the Clermont Water and Sewer District (CWSD). New water and sewer mains, elevated storage tanks, and waste water plant expansion projects were part of the \$17 million expenditure on capital improvement projects.



Throughout 2008, the Board held a series of town meetings across the county to meet with citizens and community leaders; thank you for your participation. We appreciated the open discussion that resulted from those meetings. These forums help to strengthen the bonds in our county to continue making it the best place possible to live, work, and raise our families.



If you have not had the opportunity to attend a regular Board of Clermont County Commissioners' session, we welcome you to stop by on meeting days, which are Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.; the fourth Monday of each month, session will be held at 7 p.m. The meetings are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 East Main Street in Batavia. These sessions and other county informational programs are broadcast on Time Warner Cable television access channels throughout the county. For additional information, call the Board offices at 732-7300 or check upcoming agenda information on the commissioners' Web site [www.BCC.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.BCC.ClermontCountyOhio.gov).

**Bob Proud**  
President

**Scott Crowell**  
Commissioner

**Ed Humphrey**  
Commissioner

# 2008 County Government Accomplishments

Clermont County continues to be a place for businesses to locate and grow, in spite of difficult economic conditions. In 2008, Tata Consultancy Services and Freeman Schwabe Machinery celebrated grand openings, Senco relocated its corporate headquarters to the Ivy Pointe Commerce Park, and CKS Solution opened its doors (the only Ohio based remanufacturer of LCD and plasma displays). Several businesses expanded locally, including American Nursing Care, Paxico, and Slice of Stainless. Over \$43 million in real property investments were announced in 2008, leading to the creation of approximately 500 new jobs and construction or occupancy of 673,000 square feet of office, commercial, and industrial facilities. Visit the Clermont Office of Economic Development Web site at [www.ClermontCountyOhio.biz](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.biz) for more information and development news, or call 732-7915.



In 2008, county leaders officially opened the new Clermont County Water Resources Building, designed to serve customers of the Clermont Water and Sewer District (CWSD). The CWSD spent nearly \$17 million on capital improvement projects during the year; these projects included new water mains, elevated water storage tanks, new sewer mains, and continued work on a waste water treatment plant expansion. The Sewer District completed construction of the Bergen/Belfast-Owensville Water Transmission Main, and the Twin Oak Lane Water Petition Project. The Sewer District also began construction of the Williams Corner Area Elevated Water Storage Tank, the O'Bannon/SR 28 Area Sewer Assessment, and the Bramblewood Trunk Sewer. In addition, construction continued for the Wards Corner Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant. Contact the Water and Sewer Departments at 732-7970.

The Permit Central/Building Inspection Department performs inspections and issues building permits for commercial and residential sites in Clermont County and commercial sites in Brown County. In 2008, the Building Inspection Department issued 4,506 permits with a valuation of \$189.7 million. Permit Central is located at 2275 Bauer Road, Batavia, and can be reached at 732-7213 or visit the Web site [www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov/building](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov/building).

The Clermont County 911 Communications Center launched a new computer aided dispatch system allowing staff members to more efficiently prioritize and process incoming 911 and non-emergency phone calls to radio operators. The new system also has its own integrated map program which provides detailed maps of the county; the program has full aerial photo display capability that allows radio dispatchers to “look down” on an event area and relay building and terrain information to units in the field. Contact the Clermont County Department of Public Safety Services at 732-7661.



The Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) provided services to a record number of families in 2008, even though the agency experienced two rounds of state funding cuts and a reduction in staff. DJFS administers state mandated programs, working collaboratively with local communities and partners to protect children and strengthen families by providing support while self sufficiency is achieved. For more information, visit [www.djfs.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.djfs.ClermontCountyOhio.gov) or call 732-7111.



The Office of Adult, Child, and Family Stability (ACFS) is responsible for the administration of public assistance programs, consisting of Medicaid, the Food Assistance Program (previously known as Food Stamps), Ohio Works First cash assistance, Child Care, and Benefit Recovery Programs. Benefits were issued to over 50,000 Clermont County citizens last year, approximately 27 percent of Clermont’s population; at least 56 percent of those recipients were children. ACFS is responsible for the issuance of over \$270 million in benefits; Medicaid expenses contributed to 93 percent of this cost. Benefit recovery efforts resulted in collections and program savings of \$326,326, and 62 criminal fraud cases were referred to the county prosecutor. Visit the Web site [www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov/djfs/acfs](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov/djfs/acfs) or call 732-7111 for more information.

In June 2008, Children’s Protective Services (CPS) went live on the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), a new computer system handling documentation of casework; the system now provides access to every case in the state of Ohio. CPS also was involved in production of a video, *Somebody Knocks*, designed to recruit foster parents; this video is available online at [www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov), then click on Video Library. The first annual walk for Clermont County Foster Care was held in May; this was a very successful event that raised both money and awareness for Clermont foster care programs. For more information about CPS, visit [www.ClermontForKids.org](http://www.ClermontForKids.org) or call 732-7173.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) recognized Clermont County for technological innovations designed to improve child support collections. Child Support Enforcement (CSE) initiated a partnership with several county departments, including Juvenile Court and the Office of Technology, Communications, and Security, to create a paperless case processing system. CSE was also the recipient of two statewide performance awards: best overall performance and best performance in paternity establishment for a large county; this was the fourth consecutive year that CSE received these two performance awards. Clermont County's Criminal Non-Support Diversion Program was recognized as one of the Ten Best Practices in Ohio at the Ohio Child Support Director's Association fall conference; this is a collaborative program administered by Common Pleas Court, the Prosecutor's Office, and CSE. Clermont County offered amnesty during the month of July prior to the August roundup for child support month; a total of \$27,704 was collected. During Clermont County's seventh annual Most Wanted Roundup of child support offenders, deputies arrested 108 offenders, 23 offenders were located in other correctional institutions on unrelated charges, and four warrants were withdrawn for compliance. Over \$22,620 in past due support payments were received during August on these accounts. In 2008, CSE collected \$38,348,614 in support payments. *Contact CSE at 732-7248 or visit the Web site [www.ClermontSupportsKids.org](http://www.ClermontSupportsKids.org).*



Under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Housing and Improvement Program (CHIP), approximately \$1.3 million in federal grant money was invested in local communities during 2008, resulting in improvements to parks, fire protection, housing, sewer systems, sidewalks, and roadways. *Contact the Department of Community Planning and Development at 732-7213 or visit the Web site [www.Planning.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.Planning.ClermontCountyOhio.gov).*

In 2008, the Storm Water Management Department continued efforts to develop a complete inventory and assessment of the storm sewers serving Clermont County. Comprehensive maps were developed for the Hall, Salt, and Shayler Run watersheds; these maps, not previously available, help local governments manage their portion of the storm sewer system in an efficient and cost-effective manner. *To sign up for the Storm Water Department newsletter or to learn more about storm water issues facing Clermont County, visit [www.ClermontStorm.net](http://www.ClermontStorm.net).*



The Clermont County Office of Public Information (OPI) completed two major video productions, *Somebody Knocks* for Children's Protective Services, and *Fair Housing – It's the Law* for Clermont Fair Housing. In addition, OPI produced a 30-second television commercial and designed a flyer used to recruit new poll workers for the Board of Elections. In 2008, OPI became responsible for content management of the county Web site, wrote and distributed over 400 news releases for various county offices and agencies, produced 25 episodes of the *Clermont County Today* show, published 24 citizen/employee newsletters, and continued to operate Clermont County Government Television. *To contact OPI, call 732-7597; watch Clermont County Government Television programming on Time Warner Cable access channels.*

More Clermont citizens are riding Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC) buses. CTC transported 63,948 citizens in 2008, a 28.5 percent increase over 2007. CTC also took over operation of the express route in Amelia from Metro. CTC is available to all Clermont County citizens; operating service runs from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. *For ride information, call 732-7433 or visit the Web site [www.ctc.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.ctc.ClermontCountyOhio.gov).*

Clermont County Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) provided assessment and case management services to 190 court referred individuals for drug and alcohol related problems in 2008. TASC's role in the diversion process contributed to the reduction of approximately 21,051 days of jail or prison time that would have been served by these clients, saving thousands of tax dollars for other critical county services. *TASC is available at 732-8070.*

The Clermont County Treasurer's Office collected \$213 million in real estate taxes, \$956,000 in manufactured home taxes, and \$6 million in personal property taxes. A total of 25 real estate tax foreclosures were filed in 2008 and the county's real estate delinquency rate was 2.45 percent. *The Clermont County Treasurer is J. Robert True. For more information, contact the Treasurer's Office at 732-7254, or visit the Web site [www.ClermontTreasurer.org](http://www.ClermontTreasurer.org).*



In 2008, the Auditor's Office completed the reappraisal of real property, required by Ohio law every six years; it involved the analysis of over 90,000 parcels in Clermont County. The analysis reviewed the attributes of the parcel and neighborhood sales that occurred between 2005 and 2007. *The Clermont Auditor is Linda L. Fraley. If you would like more information about the reappraisal process and about your 2008 values, please go to [www.ClermontAuditor.org](http://www.ClermontAuditor.org) or call 732-7150.*

The Clermont County Recorder's Office processed 31,445 documents, collecting over \$1.4 million. Of the revenue collected, \$736,957 went into the Clermont County General Fund, while \$726,412 went to the state's Ohio Housing Trust Fund. In 2008, new legislation went into effect pertaining to protecting the privacy of personal information on public documents; the Recorder's Office masked imaged documents dating back to January 1, 1978. The second phase of that project continues in 2009. *The Clermont County Recorder is Deborah Clepper. For more information, check the Recorder's Web site at [www.Recorder.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.Recorder.ClermontCountyOhio.gov) or call 732-7236.*



The Clermont County Engineer's Office completed \$4 million in construction projects in 2008. The intersections of Glen Este Withamsville Road and SR 125 were improved with the addition of turn lanes and a new park and ride facility. The intersection of Bauer Road and Old SR 32 was also upgraded. Additionally, the Engineer's Office resurfaced and repaired 20 miles of roadway (totaling \$1.2 million) and 12 bridge and landslide projects were completed. These projects were funded through various grants, private partnerships, and local dollars. *The Clermont County Engineer is Patrick J. Manger, P.E., P.S. For more information, contact the Engineer's Office at 732-8857 or visit the Web site [www.ClermontEngineer.org](http://www.ClermontEngineer.org).*

In 2008, the Clermont County Jail booked 7,170 inmates into the facility and served over 360,000 inmate meals, including 23,956 for the Juvenile Detention Center; the average meal cost was \$1.48. The inmates in the Sheriff's Trustee Program worked on numerous projects for the county saving taxpayers over a quarter million dollars! The Clermont County Jail was again recognized in 2008 for being in compliance with standards set forth by the Bureau of Adult Detention, as well as being in compliance with the standards of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. *The Clermont County Jail can be reached at 732-7540.*

In 2008, over 200 indictments were initiated by the Clermont County Narcotics Unit, as a result of multi-agency investigations and operations; these arrests involved the sale and manufacture of drugs including heroin, crack cocaine, marijuana, and various prescription medications. The most noteworthy drug seizure resulted from a traffic stop by a sheriff's deputy; 181 packages of marijuana were confiscated with a street value of \$3 million.



The Sheriff's Office welcomed two new canines to assist with patrol duties and investigations. Deputy Walsh's new partner is "Arron," a Dutch shepherd trained in narcotics detection and patrol duties; Deputy Summers is the handler for "Guy," a bloodhound trained to track missing individuals and criminals.

Since 2007, there has been an increase in breaking and entering crimes and burglary offenses across the county. Additionally, reports of robberies increased from four in 2007 to 17 in 2008. *The Clermont County Sheriff is A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg. Citizens are encouraged to report suspicious activities around residences and businesses by calling 732-2231. The Sheriff's Office Web site is [www.ClermontSheriff.org](http://www.ClermontSheriff.org).*

During 2008, the Clermont County Coroner's Office investigated 485 cases. The office experienced an increase in autopsies due to accidents, drugs, and suicide cases. In October, the Coroner's Office participated, along with other agencies, in an emergency response drill that involved a simulated plane crash into Harsha Lake. *The Clermont County Coroner is Dr. Brian Treon. For more information about the Coroner's Office, call 732-8117 or visit [www.ClermontCoroner.org](http://www.ClermontCoroner.org).*

In 2008, the Common Pleas Adult Probation Department supervised an average of 1,655 probationers each month, including a monthly average of 75 reporting bond cases diverted from the Clermont County Jail. To enhance the employment opportunities for probationers and increase their child support payments, the Probation Department successfully collaborated with Grant Vocational School Adult Continuing Education Program to offer welding classes for non-support violators. In September 2008, the Intensive Supervision Program was one of three finalists (out of over 200 Ohio programs) for the Ohio Bureau of Community Sanction's Clifford Skeen Award for excellence in community corrections. *Contact the Common Pleas Adult Probation Department at 732-7265.*



Judge Robert P. Ringland left the Common Pleas Court December 29, 2008, after a successful bid for a seat on the bench of the 12th District Court of Appeals in the November election. Judge Ringland was a Judge of the Common Pleas Court for 26 years and a county court judge for six years previously. *In 2008, Common Pleas Court Judges were Judge Robert Ringland, Judge William Walker, Judge Jerry McBride, and Judge Victor Haddad. To contact Common Pleas Court, call 732-7374.*

The Domestic Relations Court saw a 7 percent increase in the filing of Civil Protection Petitions for 2008. The Court had a 3 percent increase in new filings and a decrease of post decree filings by almost 7 percent. The Court carried an estimated 800 pending motions throughout the year and maintained a 5 percent pending caseload docket over the standard Supreme Court guidelines. The Court continues to provide the highly successful Kids In Divorce Situations program and the Alternative Sentencing Program at no cost to taxpayers. *Judge Michael Voris oversees Domestic Relations Court. To contact Domestic Relations Court, call 732-7327.*



During 2008, Municipal Court received 39,107 new cases, including 23,160 traffic, 8,580 criminal, and 7,367 civil cases. Approximately 82,239 hours of community service were performed by probationers as a condition of their sentences; community service hours were carried out at local government and non-profit agencies. *Municipal Court Judges are Judge Anthony Brock, Judge Thomas Herman, and Judge James Shriver. Municipal Court can be reached at 732-7292.*

Clermont County Animal Control conducted 4,898 investigations of animal complaints in 2008, and made 15 arrests pertaining to animal cruelty and/or neglect. Of those arrested, there was a 100 percent conviction rate. The Clermont County Animal Shelter is located at 4025 Filager Road in Batavia. *Contact the shelter at 732-8854 or visit their Web site at [www.ClermontCountyAnimalShelter.com](http://www.ClermontCountyAnimalShelter.com).*



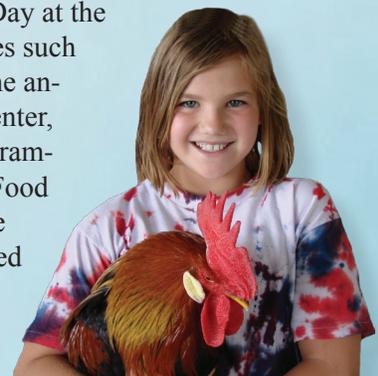
The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) conducted 427 school presentations in 2008, reaching approximately 13,000 students with conservation education programs targeted at litter prevention and water quality protection. Approximately \$200,000 in cost share funds were provided to landowners for installing conservation practices on private lands. A storm water demonstration project (rain garden and rain barrels) was installed at Pattison Park near Owensville and the CSWCD provided mini-grants and technical assistance to eight landowners to help them install residential rain gardens in 2008. The district is working with several county agencies to install rain gardens on 10 local school campuses, as part of a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio EPA. *To contact CSWCD, call 732-7075 or visit the Web site [www.ClermontSWCD.org](http://www.ClermontSWCD.org).*

People are flocking to the Clermont County Public Library (CCPL) for entertainment, education, and information. CCPL saw a 7.47 percent increase in the number of registered library users during 2008; the 125,518 registered users borrowed 1,504,578 items, which included the library's collection of books, compact discs, DVDs, and Playaway audio books. *For more information, visit the Web site [www.ClermontLibrary.org](http://www.ClermontLibrary.org), or contact the administrative office at 732-2736.*



While there were fewer plumbing and septic installation permits issued in 2008, the Clermont County General Health District had an increase in requests for supportive services, such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and newborn home visits. In October, the Health District was one of only 14 health departments selected to receive funding to help reduce the risk of obesity in the community; the focus is on increasing physical activity and improving nutrition among county residents to reduce preventable illnesses linked to obesity such as heart disease and diabetes. A full report will be available in mid-2009. *For information on any of the Health District's programs, call the main office at 732-7499, the Nursing Division at 735-8400, or check the Web site [www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org](http://www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org).*

The Ohio State University Extension-Clermont engaged 33,677 people in 2008, strengthening lives and communities through 780 research-based educational events and programs. Through more than 40 partnerships and collaborations, 5,150 citizens participated in events, such as the Taste of Clermont and Family, Farm, and Environment Day at the Clermont County Fairgrounds. 4-H Youth Development Programs engaged 1,992 youth in activities such as Real Money Real World, CARTEENS, and junior fair events. Agricultural programs included the annual Perennial School, Master Gardener Training, establishing the Emerald Ash Borer Resource Center, and Commercial Pesticide Applicator Training. OSU Extension expanded financial education programming, focusing on budgeting and home ownership. The Family Nutrition Program and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program presented 555 classes on healthy eating, food safety, and resource management to 1,118 limited resource income individuals and families with children. The combined value of all federal grants in 2008 was \$101,031. *OSU Extension-Clermont can be reached at 732-7070 or visit the Web site [www.Clermont.osu.edu](http://www.Clermont.osu.edu).*



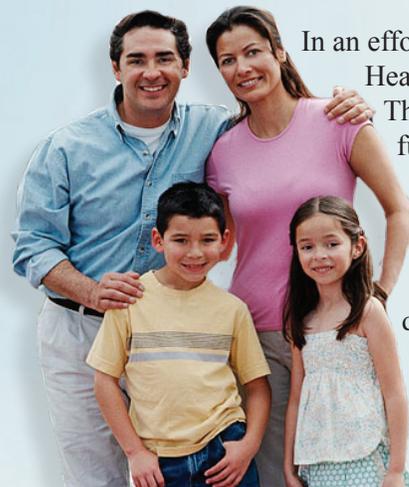


2008 was a busy year for the Board of Elections (BOE). Clermont County recorded a 71 percent voter turnout of the 135,590 registered voters for the November presidential election. The BOE saw a huge increase in absentee (early) voting totaling 26,000; the BOE successfully accommodated over 7,000 in-office voters in less than 25 days with less than a 25 minute wait per voter during peak voting times. *Contact the BOE at 732-7275 or visit the Web site [www.ClermontElections.org](http://www.ClermontElections.org).*

The Veterans' Service Commission (VSC) is proud to serve Clermont County veterans and their family members. During 2008, service officers filed 195 VA claims and were instrumental in obtaining additional federal benefits in the amount of \$1,043,521 for veterans and their families. The VSC also provided emergency financial assistance to approximately 1,525 families in the amount of \$699,861. In order to extend our services to reach the county's estimated 16,000 veterans, a service officer is now stationed, once a week, at the Eastgate VA Medical Center. *The Veterans' Service Commission can be reached at 732-7363; visit the Web site [www.ClermontCountyVeterans.com](http://www.ClermontCountyVeterans.com), or visit VSC offices, located at 76 S. Riverside Drive, Batavia, on the third floor of the Heritage Building.*



In 2008, the Clermont County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) renovated the Thomas A. Wildey Center to house several departments including Early Childhood Services, the School Age Program, Service and Support Administration, Adult Services, Administrative Offices, and Community Support Services. MRDD also made plans to sell one of its sheltered workshops in the Clermont County Airport Industrial Park, in an effort to conserve resources through 2009. Additionally, MRDD continued to address waiting lists for all services in 2008. *Contact MRDD at 732-7000.*



In an effort to address increased need for services at a time of multiple state funding cuts, the Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) focused on partnerships and additional sources of revenue. The MHRB was awarded three grants from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; one funds an enhanced treatment program for individuals involved in the DUI Court, the second provides funding to expand the Supported Employment program for persons with mental illness, and the third is a planning grant regarding co-occurring disorders that seeks to identify the population most in need and the most effective services to address those needs. The MHRB continued its collaborations with DJFS, CPS, Family and Children First, and Juvenile Court in developing and implementing new programs aimed at reducing residential placements of children in custody, and accelerating the reunification of children in custody with their families. *The Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board can be reached at 732-5400.*

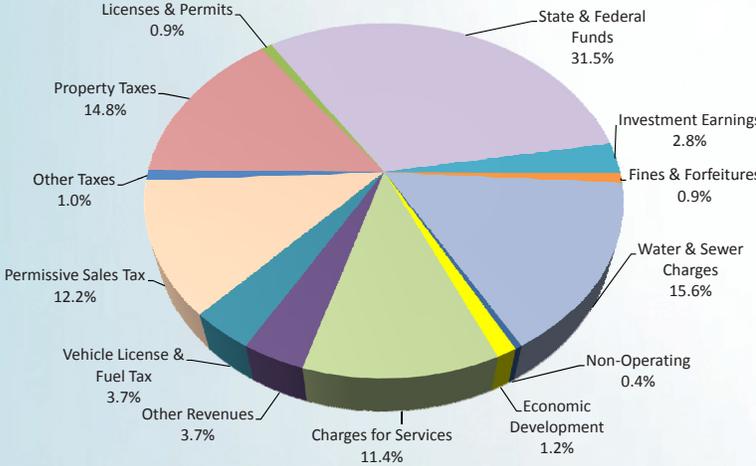
The Clermont Recovery Center (CRC) provides alcohol and drug prevention, and treatment services in Clermont County. CRC provided addiction treatment to 1,360 adults, 126 adolescents, and 109 families during the past year. Over 3,200 students in 18 schools benefited from education and prevention programs during 2008; staff also provided information at the Clermont County Fair, the Red Ribbon celebration, a town hall meeting on underage drinking, and other health fairs and community forums. CRC continued its successful partnership with the Clermont County DUI Court program to promote individual wellness and public safety. CRC also established an expedited referral and assessment process with Common Pleas Court Probation, completing 479 assessments and enrolling 94 clients in intensive outpatient treatment over two years. Clients met or exceeded the goals of reducing substance use, receiving no new convictions, and completing all phases of treatment. Through this program, 60,157 days of incarceration were prevented, with a cost savings of \$3,909,209. *Contact the Clermont Recovery Center at 735-8100.*

The Clermont Park District expanded Sycamore Park from 53 acres to 158 acres in 2008, through an \$845,000 Clean Ohio Fund Grant; the wooded property includes a 25 acre island in the East Fork of the Little Miami River and several miles of trails. The property will be known as the James and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve. It was a record setting year for the Park District; in 2008, naturalist staff presented 175 programs to the citizens, schools, and special interest groups, with an attendance of 5,454 people, the highest attendance the naturalist program has ever experienced. The Park District's Pattison Lodge, Hartman Cabin, picnic shelters, and Chilo Yurts hosted 445 weddings, family reunions, company picnics, graduation parties, and scout outings for over 41,000 people. *Visit the Park District Web site [www.Parks.ClermontCountyOhio.gov](http://www.Parks.ClermontCountyOhio.gov) or call 732-2977.*

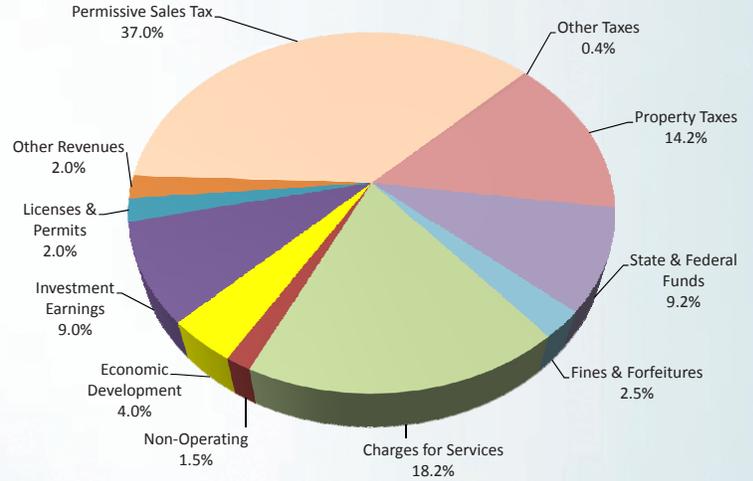


# Clermont County 2008 Financial Summary

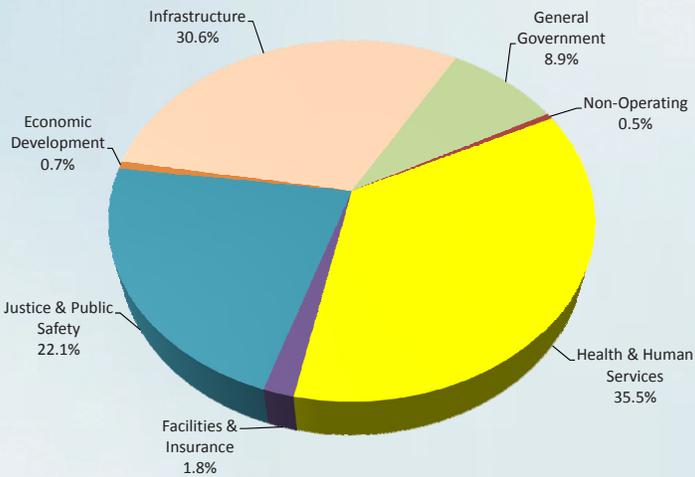
**2008 REVENUES - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BUDGETED FUNDS  
\$186,701,137**



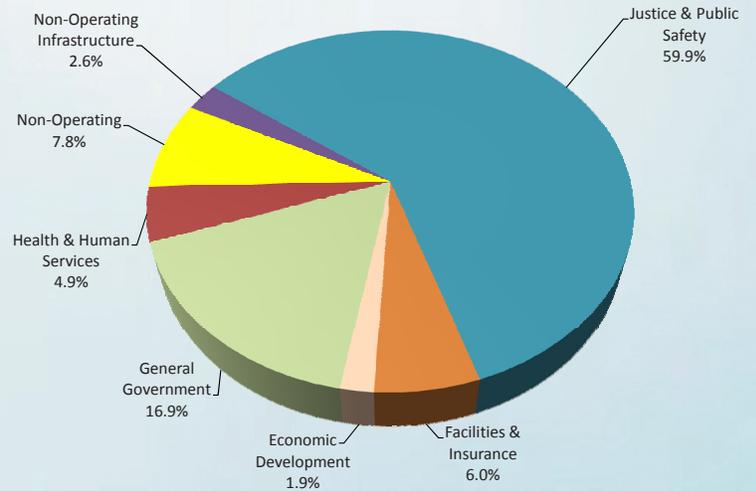
**2008 REVENUES - GENERAL FUND  
\$55,436,863**



**2008 EXPENSES - BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BUDGETED FUNDS  
\$198,076,841**



**2008 EXPENSES - GENERAL FUND  
\$58,504,580**



**All charts exclude Internal Service Funds, Special Assessment Funds, and Interfund Transfers.**

The numbers presented in this report represent actual commissioners' budgeted funds, and include allocation of certain costs to the major service groups and departments. As such, these numbers will differ from those presented in the Clermont County Audited Financial Statements, which may be viewed on the Web site [www.ClermontAuditor.org](http://www.ClermontAuditor.org).