

## UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025

July 1, 2025

The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2025, with the following members present:

Steve Robinson, President  
David A. Lawrence, Vice President  
Tom McCarthy, Commissioner  
William Narducci, County Administrator  
Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board

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\*Commissioner Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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\*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune; Joe Case, Marysville Matters were in attendance.

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**Elected Officials/Department Head Meeting**

The Commissioners held their monthly staff meeting this date with the following elected officials and department heads in attendance: Andrew Smarra, Treasurer; Ginger Yonak, Director/Human Resources; Brad Gilbert, Director/EMA; Brent Nickles, Union District Administrator/Union Soil and Water; John Rosevear, Deputy Coroner; Sheriff Mike Justice; Wendy Golden, Court Administrator/Common Pleas Court; Judge Don Fraser/Common Pleas Court; Judge Rick Rodger/Probate and Juvenile Court; Christy Leeds, OSU Extension; Inge Witt, Economic Development Administrator; Karen Riffle, Recorder; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; Jeff Stauch, Engineer; Danielle Sullivan, Clerk of Courts; Karen Elyon, Director/Union County Tourism; David Phillips, Prosecutor; and Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

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**Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:**

- David Phillips stated the crisis communications training held last Tuesday was very informative and well worth everyone's time. He thanked the Commissioners and Mr. Narducci for helping to sponsor it. Next month, there will be continued professional training with deputies at the Sheriff's Office. This training has been going on for several years.
- Commissioner McCarthy asked Mr. Phillips to shed some light on the petition to eliminate all immunity.
- Mr. Phillips stated if this were to pass, Chapter 2477 immunity, sovereign immunity, common-law immunity, statutory immunity, governmental immunity, prosecutorial immunity and qualified immunity will be eliminated. This would be a remarkably bad idea and will eventually cost the taxpayers and county more money in insurance costs.
- Andy Smarra stated tax bills are due in 15 days. There will be a notice published in the Marysville Journal Tribune. The Treasurer's Office has worked through their second list of properties that have severely delinquent property taxes.
- Jeff Stauch stated the new county maps are available. Unfortunately, they are already outdated because of the development in the county. The rain is impacting road crews and chip seal work.

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The bid opening for the 2025 paving project will be next Wednesday, and the Engineer's Office annual report will be available in the next couple of weeks.

- Ginger Yonak stated the Wellness program ended on June 30. Claims can possibly take up to 60 days to show up, but everyone will get credit for what they have completed. The Wellness Committee has been planning activities and next week the scavenger hunt will start. CORSA's new program year started on May 1. All departments should have received certificates of insurance. Deductibles have increased, but this is keeping premiums at a reasonable cost.
- Brad Gilbert thanked the Commissioners and Prosecutor's Office for holding the crisis communications training. He reminded everyone that there is a public information office working work for staff members. Last weekend the amateur radio field day was held. With budget changes on the state and federal levels, FEMA and how they respond to local disasters will be different. There will be more responsibility on the state and local areas if a disaster happens, and the threshold to receive FEMA funds is increasing.
- Christy Leeds stated over 250 Union County youth attended 4H Camp at Camp Clifton. This week at camps teaches kids self-reliance and it is a great experience for them. There are some challenges with the upkeep of Camp Clifton, and the primary revenue source is user fees. Commissioner Robinson asked where Camp Clifton is located, and Ms. Leeds stated it is on the border of Clark County between Yellow Springs and Clifton.

- Inge Witt provided a copy of the 2024 Annual Report:

## 2024 REPORT: DRIVING AHEAD



Union County's progress is rooted in collaboration, shared vision, and an engaged community. As one of Ohio's fastest-growing counties, we remain focused on managing growth strategically. Our 2024 Annual Report reflects the progress made in 2024 and the partnerships that power it. Join us as we continue building a brighter future, together.

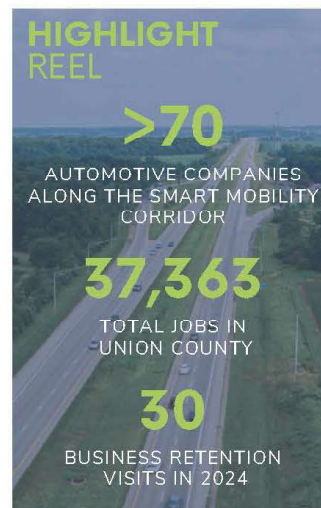
### IMPACT SCOREBOARD

#### CONNECTED VEHICLE PLAYGROUND

- The **Transportation Research Center Inc. (TRC)** broke ground on a new \$25 M, 66,000-square-foot Impact Laboratory to support the National Highway Transportation Administration Vehicle and Testing Center. It is designed to accommodate advanced testing for electric and autonomous vehicles and improve high-impact collision testing capabilities. Construction is expected to be completed by Spring 2026.
- The **Beta District** appointed Doug McCullough as its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the district is advancing its strategic vision and strengthening its role as a hub for smart mobility innovation.
- Completed in 2024, the **Automotive and Mobility Innovation Center (AMIC)** is becoming a destination for innovation in the automotive and mobility sectors. Located in the 33 Innovation Park, the 18,000-square-foot building includes incubator, meeting, and collaborative spaces in addition to an auto lab to support emerging auto and tech companies.

#### COMMUNITY

- The Economic Development Partnership (EDP) brought together community organizations, local businesses, developers, and elected officials for a series of important discussions focused on housing availability and affordability.
- Union County Rideshare Program, launched in December 2023, has continued to provide Uber ride subsidies throughout 2024. This program has served over 250 riders since its launch and over 50 individuals now rely on it regularly.
- Main Street Marysville's Festifair grew from 167 vendors in 2023 to 233 vendors in 2024!
- The Economic Development and Prosperity Speaker Series continued into 2024 featuring impactful speakers like Steve Stivers, President & CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Jamie Green, founder of PlanningNEXT, and Marie Keister, CEO of Murphy Epsom.
- Other community events and discussions in 2024 included: ED 411, MORPC State of the Region, Regional Economic Development Advisory Council Meetings, Detroit Mission Trip, JASCO 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala, Center for Automotive Research Briefings, Housing Taskforce, and Education Leaders Roundtable.

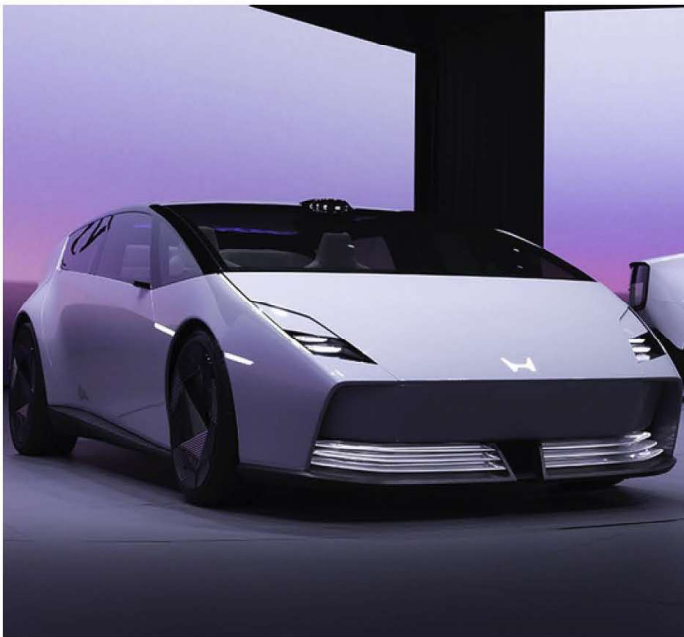


### EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

- EDP participated in **Marysville STEM School's** STEM Day with over 15 civic and business leaders and more than 450 students.
- EDP partnered with the **Columbus State Manufacturing Extension Partnership** for "Crafted in Union County", which connects over 400 high school students with 10 local manufacturers and workforce partners. This event gave students an opportunity to explore the products made in their community and learn about a wide range of career paths within the manufacturing industry.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

- The City and EDP continued to actively support the Friendship Committee, marking the 11th anniversary of our Friendship City relationship with Yorii, Japan. Marysville Schools sent five students to Yorii as part of the student exchange program. Since the program began in 2015, 86 students from both communities have participated.
- Marysville hosted the Ohio Communities in Support of Japanese Investment group, which brings together representatives from Miami, Logan, Shelby, Fayette, and Union Counties—each home to Honda operations.
- Marysville hosts the Japanese Language School at Creekview Intermediate, bringing over 400 students to Marysville each week. Nihongo Hoshūkō (CJLS) is a weekend supplementary Japanese school.
- Union County and Marysville are now home to 20 Japanese companies.



### THE NEW EV HUB

This year, Honda invested \$1 B into its Marysville, East Liberty, and Anna plants. The groundbreaking investment will allow Honda to expand the plants' capabilities. Electric, hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and internal combustion (IC) engines can be produced on the same assembly line- right here in the United States. The Marysville plant will be the first global plant to assemble EV battery packs. Honda's Ohio plants will be the core of Honda's EV manufacturing efforts in North America, setting up Marysville and surrounding areas to be a new EV production hub.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

NAME	INDUSTRY	INVESTMENT	JOBS*
Automotive & Mobility Innovation Center	Flex	\$3 M	TBD
Daron Court	Flex/Office	\$3.5 M	25
EASE Logistics	Logistics	\$8.8 M	100
MIXT Solutions	E-Commerce	\$6.3 M	25 22 retained
OPUS	Manufacturing, Multi-tenant	\$12 M	80
Pioneer Park	Flex/Office	\$7.5 M	55
The Silos at Water & Light	Mixed-Use	\$110 M	TBD
TRC Impact Lab	Automotive	\$25 M	500 retained

\*new unless specified

### MARYSVILLE EAST & SOUTH

The New Albany Company, also known as Marysville Land Company (MLC), is advancing development on two business parks: Marysville East and Marysville South. Together, these projects will span more than 1,000 acres. The developments are being master-planned to leverage Marysville's strong automotive and technology sectors, increasing capacity for future industry growth.



Once completed, the business parks will attract a mix of office, industrial, and tech-focused companies, helping to diversify the community's tax base for years to come.



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

We thank our investors for their unwavering support of our public-private partnership dedicated to advancing economic growth in Union County. The companies, organizations, and municipalities listed below are valued partners in our economic development efforts.

### PARTNERS & INVESTORS

AES Ohio | AutoTool | AWS | City of Marysville | Connect Realty | Connolly Construction Co. Crawford Hoying | Danis | EASE Logistics | Fairbanks Local School District | First Federal Community Bank | Hardy World | Heritage Cooperative | Honda of America Mfg., Inc. | Honda Marysville | Jonathan Alder Local School District | Jerome Village | KTH Parts Industries | Lehman Daman Construction | Marysville Exempted Village School District | McCarthy & Cox | Memorial Health | Merchants National Bank | MIXT Solutions | Morioku Technology North America | Nestle R&D Marysville | Ohio Laser | NACO | North Union Local School District | Richwood Bank Rockford Development Investments | Select Sires, Inc. | Southgate Corporation | Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems | The Pagura Company, Inc. | The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company | Union County Board of Commissioners | Union Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. | Velocys | Village of Richwood

### UNION COUNTY CIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Barry Adler, *Jerome Township*
- Bart Barok, *Rockford Development Investments*
- Brian Beard, *Honda Logistics North America, Inc.*
- Rob Beeler, *AES Ohio*
- Henk Berbee, *City of Marysville*
- Brad Bodenmiller, *LUC Regional Planning Commission*
- Scott Brock, *Salesforce*
- Jason Comstock, *Clarity Technology Solutions*
- Wayne Dellinger, *OSU Extension*
- Jim Eudaily, *Village of Plain City*
- Cody Johnston, *Richwood Marketing*
- Ryan Knapke, *Merchants National Bank*
- Dave Lawrence, *Union County Commissioner*
- Brad Lutz, *City of Marysville*
- Corry Mason, *Memorial Health*
- Beau Michael, *Union Rural Electric Cooperative*
- Brian Ravencraft, *Holbrook & Manter CPAs*
- Adham Schirg, *Fairbanks Local School District*
- Jeff Stauch, *Union County Engineer*
- Jim Wimmers, *Keller Williams Realty*

### PORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Chuck Dyas, *Dyas Law*
- Spence Fisher, *Memorial Health*
- Chris Franke, *Franke's Wood Products, LLC.*
- Chad Hoffman, *Richwood Bank*
- Jaynie Lambert, *Lambert Jewelers*
- Brad Lutz, *City of Marysville*
- Greg Sehnert, *Sehnert Insurance*
- Anthony Smith, *Union Rural Electric Cooperative*

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- Karen Elyon stated the Dine on a Covered Bridge events have started. Hotels in Marysville continue to perform very well, and she is still working on updating the short-term rentals policy in the county with Auditor Weaver.
  - Judge Fraser stated they have completed all prerequisites for the establishment of Specialized Dockets of Veterans Court. The application was submitted, and they are waiting for approval on that.
  - Judge Rodger stated the annual report has been sent out to all departments. They have hired a new clerk, and they will be starting July 15. A magistrate will be retiring from Juvenile and Probate Court on August 31.
  - John Rosevear stated the Coroner's Office's caseload is average for the year. They have hired a new investigator, and it is going well.
  - Jason Orcena stated his office is breathing a sigh of relief because the state budget has been passed. However, they are waiting for the fallout of what that means for the office.
  - Mike Justice stated the Sheriff's Office has started their overtime assignment with Jerome Township. The township had previously complained about traffic details and had extra money. It will be a revenue stream for the office. The individual involved with the shooting in May is still in the hospital. Once he is stable enough, the Sheriff's Office will take custody of him. His staff has been told Chapman Ford has sold, and he is not sure how that will impact the office and their vehicles.
  - Danielle Sullivan stated the Clerk of Courts Office is doing very well. The title office is busy and is in the process of being a passport acceptance agency. She is hopeful that will be done by the end of this year. Commissioner Robinson asked if that would be in conjunction with the Post Office, and Ms. Sullivan stated it would be.
  - Karen Riffle stated the Recorder's Office is up about 33% from this time last year. This is due to sales, refinancing, and the convenience of e-filing.
  - Brent Nickles stated technicians are out doing surveys for conservation practices, and ditch maintenance crews are out too.
  - Bill Narducci stated there was a good representation of each county department at the crisis communications training. The training has sparked conversations about expanding communications, texts or mass emails to county offices, and changing current protocols. The biannual state budget has been signed, and the property tax reform was taken out. There is still an effort by citizens to reform property taxes, and he will continue to monitor that and give updates as they come.
  - Thayne Gray had no report.
  - Commissioner McCarthy stated Governor DeWine mentioned creating task forces. He encouraged everyone to be part of these task forces if it is something that will benefit their department.

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\*Commissioner Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

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The preceding minutes were read and approved July 16, 2025.


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o=Commissioners, ou=Commissioner,  
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Steve Robinson  
Commissioner

  
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o=Commissioners, ou=Commissioner,  
email=mllehman@unioncountyohio.g  
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David A. Lawrence  
Commissioner

  
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by Tom McCarthy  
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Tom McCarthy  
Commissioner

  
Digitally signed by Mallory Lehman  
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o=Commissioners, ou=Assistant Clerk  
to the Board,  
email=mllehman@unioncountyohio.g  
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Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board