

Clermont County, Ohio

2007 Annual Citizens' Report

Board of Clermont County Commissioners
Robert L. Proud Mary C. Walker R. Scott Crosswell III

Dear Fellow Residents:

We are pleased to present the 2007 Clermont County Annual Citizens' Report, updating you on many county accomplishments in the past year. We appreciate your feedback at meetings, and contacting us through letters, e-mails, and telephone calls to express your thoughts on many of the issues that face our county. Together, we can overcome challenges and make this an even better place to live, work, and raise our families.

Economic development efforts have been and will continue to be very important to our county; these efforts are crucial to the creation and preservation of jobs and employment opportunities for county residents. In 2007, we again saw evidence of strong investments by new and already established businesses; these efforts will result in the creation of 1,264 jobs and capital investments of \$71.5 million. No industry impacts the quality of everyday life and the success of business more than transportation, and the Clermont Transportation Improvement District has been quite active in 2007, collaborating with local governments to move ahead with numerous projects, including the Eastern Corridor multi-modal project, improvements in the Eastgate area, and the Business 28 plan, among others.



Commissioner Walker congratulates Maria Ruwe for her winning entry in the Love Your Dog-Buy A License Competition

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners is committed to investing in technology to provide high quality service to citizens. In 2007, the Clermont Water and Sewer District completed \$19 million in capital improvements, including the Lower East Fork Waste Water Treatment Plant project and renovations to the

O'Bannon Plant. Construction also began in 2007 on the Wards Corner Regional Plant. These improvements are critical to maintaining a strong infrastructure system that will meet the needs of this growing county for years to come.

In 2008, the Board will again hold a series of town meetings across the county to meet with citizens and local government leaders. These meetings provide an important forum for open discussion on community and county issues that ultimately impact all of us. For information on a town meeting near your home, visit the Web site www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov.

We would also like to welcome you to attend one of the regular Board sessions, generally held on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 East Main Street in Batavia. These meetings and other county informational programs are also 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 county Web site www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov.



Commissioner Proud thanks Marine Corporal Benjamin Curry for his service to our country



Commissioner Crosswell congratulates Paul Tieman on his 50 years of fire service to citizens of Clermont County

Bob Proud
President

Mary Walker
Vice President

Scott Crosswell III
Commissioner

2007 County Government Highlights



Clermont County companies continued a strong upward trend of growth and investment in this community in 2007. New businesses investing in the county include Tata Consultancy Services, Freeman Schwabe Machinery, and MilAir. Several existing businesses announced expansion plans, including Bryan Equipment Sales, Multi-Color, and Sun Chemical. These and other companies announced the creation of 1,264 new jobs, capital investments of \$71.5 million, and construction or occupancy of 946,000 square feet of office, commercial, and industrial facilities. The Office of Economic Development assists companies in identifying suitable locations to grow, enabling capital investment through incentive packages, and aggressive promotion of the county as a great place to grow a business. Visit the Clermont Office of Economic Development Web site at www.ClermontCountyOhio.biz for current information and development news, or call 732-7915.

The Clermont County Engineer's Office completed \$5 million in construction projects in 2007. The connection from Clough Pike to Eastgate was accomplished by constructing Ivy Pointe Boulevard; this roadway provides better access to the Eastgate area from Clough Pike, and enables future business growth in that area. Clough Pike, in the Village of Batavia, was relocated to provide better access to the Village and surrounding areas. Several intersection improvements were completed, including Bach Buxton at Midland and Ferris, and SR 132 and Chapel Road. Other accomplishments in 2007 included 30 miles of road resurfacing and other repairs totaling \$1.5 million, and 8 bridge replacements; these projects were funded, in large part, through various grants and private partnerships and utilizing local funds. 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 at www.ClermontEngineer.org.

During 2007, the Clermont County Water and Sewer District constructed nearly \$19 million in capital improvement projects. These projects ranged from new water mains, elevated water storage tanks, new sewer mains, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) expansions and renovations, and a flow equalization facility. Wastewater improvements included construction of the Lower East Fork WWTP Process Procurement Project, the Shayler Run Sanitary Flow Equalization Facility, the O'Bannon WWTP Renovation, and the Benjamin Drive Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination Project. The Sewer District also began expansion of the Wards Corner Regional WWTP, which is scheduled to be completed in March 2009. When completed, the Wards Corner plant will eliminate the need for two smaller plants, Indian Lookout and Bramblewood. Contact the Water Department at 732-7970 and the Sewer Department at 732-7040.



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 2007, the Building Inspection Department issued 4,868 permits with a valuation of \$248.8 million. Permit Central is located at 2275 Bauer Road in Batavia, and can be reached at 732-7213.



The Auditor's real estate Web site is a comprehensive source of property data, tax, and land information. In 2007, online services were enhanced by providing the following tools: a tax levy calculator which enables a property owner to see the impact of a proposed tax levy based on the valuation of their property, property photos, and a neighborhood sales report which creates a list of properties sold in the previous 18 months that are within the vicinity of the property being reviewed. The Clermont Auditor is Linda Fraley. Visit the Auditor's Office Web site at www.ClermontAuditor.org or call 732-7150.

In 2007, the Clermont County Treasurer's Office continued its aggressive efforts in the collection of taxes. The office collected \$209.8 million in real estate taxes, \$1.1 million in manufactured home taxes, and \$10.7 million in personal property taxes. A total of 52 real estate tax foreclosures were filed in 2007 and the county's real estate delinquency rate was 2.09 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.

The Clermont County Recorder's Office processed 37,769 documents in 2007, collecting over \$1.8 million, of which \$934,239 was collected for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. Because of the new privacy law, all imaged documents are being reviewed, dating back to January 1, 1978; if personal information is found, it is being masked. This project is being completed in house, at a cost savings to taxpayers of approximately \$114,000. The Clermont County Recorder is Carolyn Green. The Recorder's Office Web site is www.Recorder.ClermontCountyOhio.gov and their telephone number is 732-7236.



In 2007, Clermont County Animal Control conducted investigations of 4,020 animal complaints. Of those arrested for animal cruelty and/or neglect, there was a 100 percent conviction rate with appropriate penalties assessed by the county judicial system. *To reach the Animal Shelter, call 732-8854 or visit www.ClermontCountyAnimalShelter.com.*

Did you know that cell phone callers can now be located by the Clermont County 9-1-1 Communication Center? This project is known as the Phase II Wireless E9-1-1 program mandated by the Federal Communication Commission. The 9-1-1 Communication Center has also implemented technology to capture the GPS information from your cell phone onto a mapping program located at each of the 9-1-1 dispatch consoles. Clermont County became Phase II compliant in late 2006; the new technology was funded by the \$.32 monthly surcharge on cell phones instituted in August 2005. *The administration number for the Clermont County Department of Public Safety Services, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., is 732-7661.*



The Mental Health and Recovery Board focused its efforts in 2007 on collaboration, partnerships, and increased accountability. An assessment and specialized treatment program for Common Pleas Court offenders involved with alcohol or drugs, funded by a Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati grant, was implemented in January. Initial results are very positive, with Common Pleas Court Probation reporting benefits to staff and offenders related to increased communication and coordination of care, as well as streamlined access to services. The Board joined 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 reunification of children in custody with their families. The Board celebrated 40 years as a county agency in 2007. *To contact the Mental Health and Recovery Board, call 732-5400.*

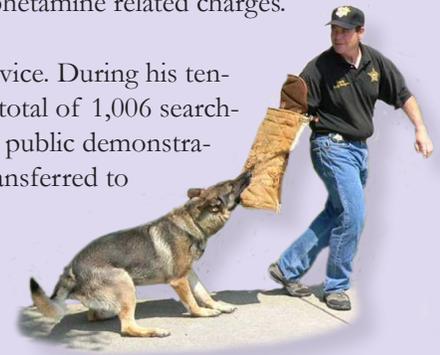
Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC) transported 45,691 Clermont County residents to jobs, medical appointments, schools, shopping, and entertainment destinations all over Clermont County in 2007. CTC also launched two fixed routes - the Eastgate-Felicity Shuttle and the New Richmond Express - which transported 2,088 passengers. CTC is available to all Clermont residents and operates from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. *For ride information please call 732-7433 or visit our newly redesigned Web site at www.ctc.ClermontCountyOhio.gov.*



In 2007, the Clermont County Jail booked 6,977 inmates into the facility and served over 368,000 inmate meals, including 23,043 for the Juvenile Detention Center. The average meal cost is \$1.19, which is up 28 percent from just five years ago. The inmates in the Sheriff's Trustee Program worked on numerous projects within the county saving taxpayers over a quarter million dollars! The Clermont County Jail was again recognized in 2007 for being in 100 percent 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.*

The Clermont County Narcotics Unit conducted nearly 1,000 investigations in 2007, and arrested more than 150 mid to upper-level narcotics traffickers. The unit removed and/or seized drugs with a street value of \$1,395,486, which included more than 1,300 marijuana plants. A total of 16 drug lab locations were discovered and 42 subjects were arrested on methamphetamine related charges.

On December 1, 2007, the Sheriff's Office's first patrol canine, Ajax, retired after nine years of service. During his tenure, Ajax and handler Cpl. James DeCamp were called out a total of 6,264 times, and conducted a total of 1,006 searches, resulting in the arrests of 222 individuals for narcotics violations. They also participated in 108 public demonstrations and 104 criminal apprehensions. On December 18, 2007 personal ownership of Ajax was transferred to Cpl. DeCamp by the Board of County Commissioners.



For several years, Batavia Township contracted with the Sheriff's Office for one full-time deputy dedicated to the township to enhance the law enforcement services already provided by the Sheriff's Office. In late 2006, Batavia Township residents passed a levy which provided additional funding for law enforcement, that has been utilized to increase the number of full-time deputies dedicated to the township. The Sheriff's Office works closely with township trustees and citizens to assess the law enforcement needs of the community and responds accordingly. The Clermont County Sheriff is A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg. *You can contact the Sheriff's Office at 732-7500 or visit their Web site, www.ClermontSheriff.org.*

The Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) program provided assessment and case management services to 328 court referred individuals for drug and alcohol related problems in 2007. TASC's role in the diversion process contributed to the reduction of approximately 38,073 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 Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) administers state mandated programs, working collaboratively with local communities to protect children and strengthen families and individuals by providing support while self-sufficiency is pursued. *For more information visit www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov or call 732-7111.*



In 2007, Clermont County Children's Protective Services (CPS) had many significant accomplishments. The Fast Track program was initiated to provide intensive services to families, allowing children to return home quickly and safely. The Therapeutic Foster Care program was also initiated, in collaboration with Juvenile Court and the Mental Health and Recovery Board; this program is designed to allow children to avoid or limit time spent in residential treatment. It allows children to live in a family setting rather than an institutional setting and is more cost effective. These initiatives are not only in the best interest of the children that we serve, but they are also a more cost effective alternative. *For more information visit www.ClermontForKids.org or call 732-7173.*

The DJFS Division of Adult, Child, and Family Stability (ACFS) administers Medicaid, Food Stamps, Cash Assistance, Child Care, and Benefit Recovery programs. These programs provide direct support and services to approximately 30,000 Clermont County citizens annually, representing 16 percent of the county's population; approximately 55 percent of the recipients are children. In 2007, ACFS received an award of recognition from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for superior accuracy in administering the Food Stamp Program. A digital records management system was implemented in the division to more efficiently manage public records, maintain document integrity, and more readily respond to records requests from customers. The division collected \$323,642 in over-payment dollars in 2007, a 27 percent increase over collections in 2006, and referred 66 fraud cases to the county prosecutor. *For more information visit www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov/djfs/acfs or call 732-7111.*

For the third year in a row, the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Division of DJFS was honored by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Child Support with two performance awards in 2007 (Overall Top Percentage Performer, large caseload division and Highest Percentage for Paternities Established, large caseload division). As part of Child Support Month, CSE held a month long amnesty program in July, prior to the August roundup of those delinquent in child support payments. As a result of the dedication of the Sheriff's office, 149 warrants were resolved during the roundup. The total collected from the amnesty and roundup reached an all time high of \$97,860. In 2007, CSE collected \$37.9 million in support payments. *For up-to-date information concerning child support, visit the Web site www.ClermontSupportsKids.org.*



The Clermont County Park District hosted 490 events at Park District facilities for over 34,000 people in 2007; the naturalist staff conducted 153 programs for over 4,000 people. The Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center had over 6,000 visitors. Work was started on the Williamsburg to Batavia hike/bike trail, and construction on the new boat ramp at Chilo Lock #34 Park began. A partnership with Union Township will develop a new park on Tealtown Road. *Contact the Park District at 732-2977.*



Throughout the year, the Storm Water Management Department continued work on several projects to improve the quality of storm water runoff entering county streams. The largest such project involved the development of a comprehensive, interconnected map of storm sewers and open channels that provide drainage throughout the county. This information will help all local governments improve management of their drainage systems, which in turn, should help prevent drainage problems and improve water quality. A new storm water Web site was also created, with information on all departmental programs, contacts for storm water problems, and tips on how to address private property drainage problems. *For more information, visit www.ClermontStorm.net or call 732-7880.*

In 2007, Clermont County recycled 49 percent of waste generated through private and public recycling efforts, including 34 drop-off sites, two electronics recycling events, an educational program for county schools, and a Household Hazardous Waste voucher program. The county teamed with various agencies and organizations for several neighborhood clean-ups, including the East Fork River Sweep and the Ohio River Sweep. One hundred-eighty tons of litter was removed from over 1,700 miles of roads utilizing the Municipal Court alternative sentencing program. After comprehensive research, in 2007 the county published a nationally recognized report titled *An Innovative Approach to Identifying Key Priorities for Improving Water Quality in the East Fork Watershed* which outlines new and improved ways to protect surface water quality. *For more information, visit www.oeq.net or contact the Clermont Office of Environmental Quality at 732-7894.*





The Clermont County General Health District ushered in several new environmental health programs during 2007. This included new rules for manufactured home sites in parks, new school inspection rules, and the controversial smoke free workplace rules. Smoke free workplace investigations are generated from citizen complaints submitted to the Ohio Department of Health, which are then investigated by the Clermont County General Health District to determine validity. By the end of December, a total of 271 complaints had been received which generated 196 separate investigations at 110 different facilities. These investigations resulted in 21 warning letters, five fines, and countless hours of education to make sure Clermont employers were aware of their obligations under this new law. *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 at*

www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org.

The Clermont County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) launched a successful community awareness campaign in 2007 with the tagline *Building Skills, Empowering People* added to a revised MRDD logo. A cinema ad was developed and aired May through December; informational billboards were also placed in several locations throughout the county. Large flowerpots were decorated by individuals from the Adult Services Department and delivered to every township, village council office, park, and other community locations in Clermont County. In November, MRDD successfully passed a .75 mil renewal levy, with no increase to taxpayers for the five year levy. *To reach Clermont County MRDD, call 732-7000.*

The Soil and Water Conservation District conducted 450 school presentations in 2007, reaching approximately 13,500 students with conservation education programs targeted at litter prevention and water quality protection. Approximately \$150,000 in cost share funds were provided to landowners for installing conservation practices on private lands to protect water quality. Two storm water demonstration projects - a rain garden and rain barrels - were installed at District offices. In 2007, a watershed action plan was completed for the Middle East Fork sub-watershed of the East Fork. Seven failing septic systems were replaced under a \$335,000 Ohio EPA Grant to improve water quality in the Lower East Fork; this grant also funded the restoration of 1,900 feet of Avey's Run, a tributary to Salt Run in Union Twp. *To contact the Soil and Water Conservation District, call 732-7075 or visit www.Clermontswcd.org.*

The Ohio State University Extension presented 42 programs in 2007 bringing knowledge to life and reaching approximately 10,287 youth and adults. The 4-H Youth Development Program engaged over 1,600 young people through traditional and non-traditional programming. New ventures this year included after-school programming, College 101, Disaster Preparedness, and New Camp Counselor Training. Clermont County Master Gardeners volunteered over 500 hours to beautify our communities. Over 135 individuals attended the 13th Annual Southwest Ohio Perennial Flower School reporting they would share their newly acquired knowledge with 2,052 others. New collaborations were formed to support agricultural, entrepreneurial, and family life needs within the county. Clermont County Farm Tour, Real Money Real World workshops, High School Financial Planning programs, Homemade in the Heart of Clermont TV series, County Cookbook Collection Exhibit, Soybean Rust Plot, and Youth Gardening Grant were implemented in 2007. The Family Nutrition Program presented 149 classes on nutrition education, food safety, and food budgeting to 1,613 low income individuals. 2007 brought a new pilot grant called the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program; the target audience is limited resource income families with children. The combined value of all federal grants in 2007 was \$103,829. *OSU Clermont Extension can be reached at 732-7070 or at www.Clermont.osu.edu.*



The Veterans' Service Commission is proud to serve Clermont County veterans and their family members. During 2007 the office was instrumental in obtaining additional federal benefits in the amount of \$464,712 for veterans and their families. Clermont veterans presently receive approximately \$13 million of federal benefits on an annual basis; these monies represent the hard work of three service officers who filed 182 VA claims for county veterans in 2007. Throughout 2007, the office also provided emergency financial assistance to approximately 820 families in the amount of \$665,904. Throughout the year, various billboard and bus boards were unveiled to advertise services offered. *The Veterans' Service Commission can be reached at 732-7363; visit their Web site at www.ClermontCountyVeterans.com or visit their offices on the third floor of the Heritage Building, located at 76 S. Riverside Drive in Batavia.*



In 2007, the Homestead Exemption program was expanded in the state of Ohio. The Clermont County Auditor's Office sent letters to senior citizens age 65 and over, and application packets to mobile home parks, libraries, churches, and Clermont Senior Services to reach all who could potentially be eligible for the program. This resulted in 9,000 new applicants for the Homestead program. The application period will be open again until June 2, 2008 for tax year 2008. *You can fill out the form via the internet at www.ClermontAuditor.org or call 732-7150 to have one mailed to you.*

Watch your government in action! The Board of Clermont County Commissioners meetings, Clermont Planning Commission, and the news program *Clermont County Today* are available on television access channels throughout the area. *Call 732-7597 for details.*

Judge Anthony Brock took office in Municipal Court on January 1, 2007, replacing Judge Victor Haddad, who was elected to the Court of Common Pleas.

The Clermont County Municipal Court Adult Probation Department supervised a total of 1,065 misdemeanor offenders during 2007. Approximately 455 of the 1,065 offenders supervised were new referrals for reporting community control services; misdemeanor offenders are placed on reporting probation/community control to monitor court-ordered conditions of probation, and to assist in rehabilitating the offenders.



The Clermont County Municipal DUI Court started its fourth and final year of federal grant funding from the Ohio Department of Public Safety Services, administered by the Governor's Highway Safety Office and programmed with the Supreme Court of Ohio. Since the program's implementation in May 2005, 225 OVI offenders have been referred to the program; 89 participants have been accepted into the program.

A total of 2,199 offenders were ordered to perform 92,975 hours of community service during 2007. Overall, 73,383 hours were completed during the year. Community service hours are performed at local government and non-profit agencies by the Court's community service work crews. Approximately 1,700 miles of litter (180 tons) were picked up on township and county roadways. In the summer of 2007, the community service program entered into an agreement with the Office of Environmental Quality to provide a crew to work on Saturdays at the Adams Brown Recycling Center. Municipal Court Judges are Judge Anthony Brock, Judge Thomas Herman, and Judge James Shriver. *Contact Municipal Court at 732-7292.*



The General Division of the Common Pleas Court experienced another year of continued caseload growth in 2007. A total of 3,468 new cases were filed, comprised of 2,540 new civil case filings and 928 new felony criminal cases. With the creation of a fourth Common Pleas Judgeship, Judge Victor Haddad became the newest member of the Common Pleas Court bench. Overall, case filings have increased over 67 percent since the year 2000, necessitating the establishment of the fourth judgeship.

In March 2007, Common Pleas Court hosted an off-site session for the 12th District Court of Appeals. Court of Appeals Judges Stephen Powell, James Walsh, and H.J. Bressler presided over three cases pending from Clermont County Common Pleas Court. Common Pleas Court Judges are Judge Robert Ringland, Judge William Walker, Judge Jerry McBride, and Judge Victor Haddad. *To contact the Common Pleas Court, call 732-7374.*

The Domestic Relations Court was one of seventeen courts selected by the Supreme Court of Ohio to participate in the Ohio Courts Network pilot project. This network will connect all Ohio courts to an information database via the Internet. There has not been a significant increase or decrease in case filings for the court for the past few years. Judge Michael Voris oversees Domestic Relations Court. *To contact Domestic Relations Court, call 732-7327.*

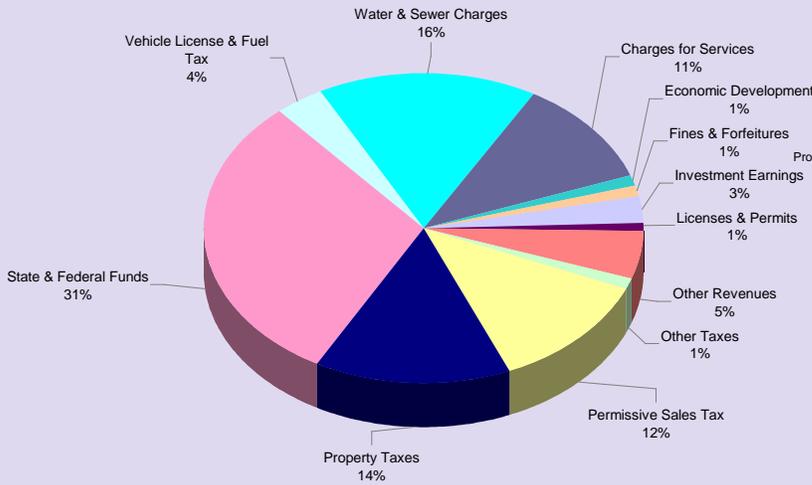
In 2007, the Common Pleas Court Adult Probation Department, in cooperation with the Clermont Recovery Center and the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board, completed the first year of a three year grant-funded program designed to expedite substance abuse assessments and treatment for high risk substance abusing offenders living in the community. The program was designed to reduce criminal behavior associated with drug and alcohol abuse by quickly addressing the treatment issues of these high risk offenders. In May 2007, the Common Pleas Court Adult Probation Department received grant funding from the State of Ohio to add a new Employment Specialist position to work with child support offenders. This new employee is housed at the Business and Workforce Resource Center and helps offenders with child support orders develop job seeking and interview skills that lead to employment. In October, a mandatory meeting for sex offenders actively under the supervision of the Common Pleas Court was set for Halloween night during Trick-or-Treat hours. Six probation officers were present, as well as a sex offender therapist who went over key components of sex offender treatment including victim empathy and relapse prevention. Not only were these offenders off the street on Halloween, but they also participated in a learning experience. *Common Pleas Adult Probation can be reached at 732-7265.*



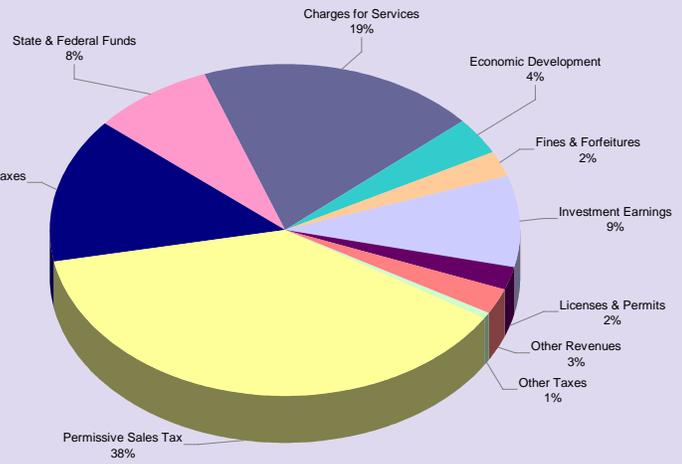
In 2007, Darrell Hawkins with the Coroner's office obtained certification by the International Association of Arson Investigators as a Certified Fire and Arson Investigator to assist with death investigations in fatal fires. The Clermont Coroner is Dr. Brian Treon. *To contact the Coroner's office, call 732-8117.*

Clermont County 2007 Financial Summary

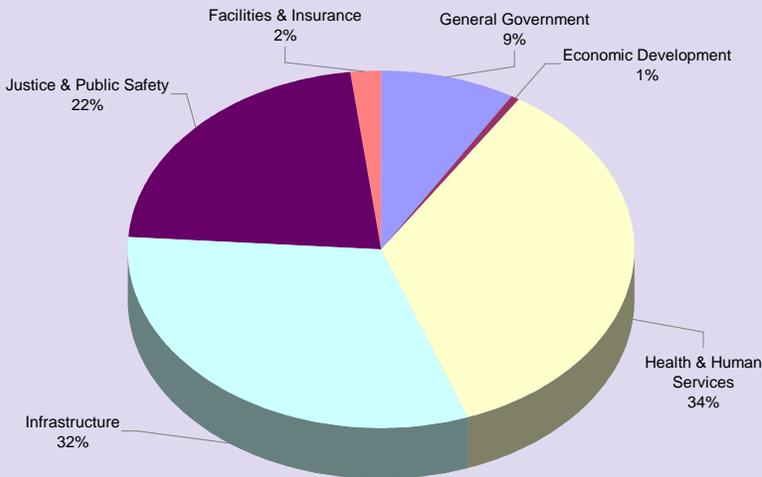
2007 Revenues - Board of County Commissioners Budgeted Funds
\$ 191,273,058



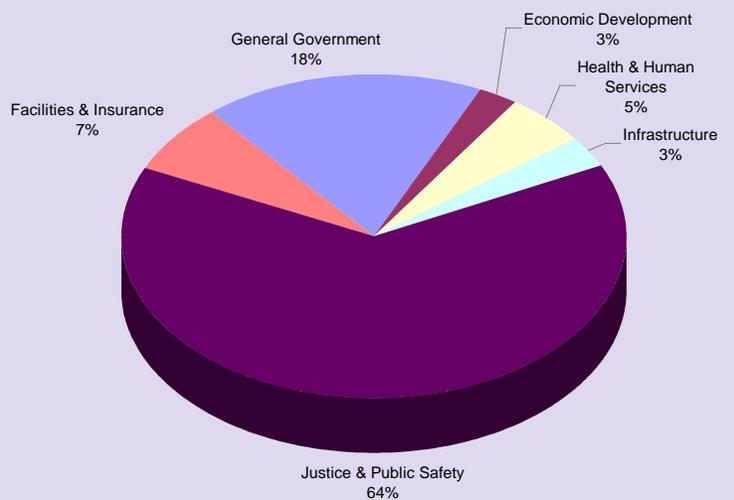
2007 Revenues - General Fund
\$ 55,313,010



2007 Expenses - Board of County Commissioners Budgeted Funds
\$ 190,785,808



2007 Expenses - General Fund
\$ 53,878,807



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.