



City OF Stow

2024

STATE OF THE CITY

CITY OF STOW
Mayor John Pribonic



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STOW CITY COUNCIL

Cyle Feldman - At-Large	Matt Riehl - Ward I
Kyle Herman - At-Large	Kelly Coffey - Ward II
Jeremy McIntire - At-Large	John Baranek - Ward III
	Mario Fiocca - Ward IV



Message from the Mayor

Dear Stow Residents,

I am honored to share the progress, achievements, and plans that shape the current state of our dynamic city. I am filled with pride reflecting on all we've accomplished together in 2024, and there's still so much to look forward to as we navigate 2025.

For a comprehensive overview of our projects, initiatives, financial status, and future plans, please refer to the accompanying booklet. It provides in-depth information on each topic mentioned and serves as a valuable resource for understanding our city's direction.

Quality of Life: Stow boasts exceptional recreational resources, and we have made significant improvements that directly enhance the lives of our residents, resulting in an improved quality of life. A highlight project of 2024 is the acquisition and renovation of the new Stow Community & Senior Center, which has become a treasured community amenity situated at 5344 Fishcreek Road.

In addition to successful hands-on projects, our programming and community events have been exceptional. It is heartening to witness our community unite and enjoy various events, large and small, fostering a sense of unity and strength within our community.

Economic Growth and Development: Stow continues to thrive economically, with new businesses contributing to our community's prosperity. The past year has witnessed increased investments and job opportunities, fostering a strong local economy. Our commitment to creating a business-friendly environment has played a crucial role in this success. In 2024, we announced a major redevelopment project for the Town Centre Shopping Center, aiming to revitalize the area and attract new businesses.

Furthermore, an impressive number of new businesses have established themselves in Stow in 2024, bringing significant growth and opportunities to our community. We are ready to embrace 2025 with renewed enthusiasm and determination.

Financial Management: With the commitment, support, and collaboration of all elected officials and department heads, the City of Stow has maintained its strong financial standing in 2024. We concluded the year with sufficient reserves in all primary funds, positioning us favorably for the future.

Infrastructure and Public Services: Investing in our city's infrastructure remains a top priority. The City is dedicated to delivering superior public service to our residents while maintaining our infrastructure in an efficient and cost-effective manner. In 2024, we successfully implemented substantial enhancements and upgrades in multiple sectors, including roads, sidewalks, stormwater management, parks, and our water system. Our ongoing commitment to essential services such as ice and snow removal and leaf collection ensures the



well-being of our residents throughout the year. Our dedicated public service teams continue to provide excellent services, ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in Stow.

Public Safety: Ensuring the safety of our residents is our top priority. Our police and fire departments work tirelessly to maintain a secure environment. We continually invest in resources to enable them to carry out their duties effectively, including top-notch training and hiring practices. The successful transition of Stow's Dispatch Center to the Summit Emergency Communications Center saw its first full year of operation. This collaboration allows us to maintain a high standard of service, improve our equipment, and reduce costs.

Our Human Resources: Our exceptional workforce is the backbone of our city. They contribute to various crucial aspects of our community, including quality of life, resident services, law enforcement, and safety. The unwavering dedication of our staff sets us apart.

Looking Ahead: As we reflect on our achievements of the past year, we approach the future with optimism and determination. Our City is vibrant and full of promise, with a strong commitment to tradition and a forward-looking approach. I remain dedicated to being accessible to our residents and businesses, as your ideas, input, and feedback are invaluable in addressing the needs of our community. Stow's potential is limitless, and together, as a united community, we will continue to build a city that we can all be proud to call home. I am deeply invested in the well-being of Stow, and I hope that you share in this commitment.

I extend a warm thank you to every resident, business, organization, and employee that has made a difference in 2024!

Sincerely,

John Pribonic
Mayor of Stow

Strategic Planning and Development Initiatives



New Businesses in 2024

Stow continues to grow as a vibrant hub for businesses, welcoming a diverse range of new establishments in 2024. From salons and restaurants to healthcare and retail, these businesses contribute to the city's economic vitality and community engagement.

Akron Metal Recycling, LLC
AML3D USA, Inc.
Animal Jungle Pet Shop
Atoned
Axe Logistics Inc
Barberz Den
Ben Curtis Golf Academy
Connections in Ohio, Inc
Cvrk Hair and Co
Daniels Health
Dicks Sporting Goods
Dr. Latiff - Dentist
ECM Performance Materials Corp
Embrace Pink
Fogg Building #7
Fortis College
Fulani Services LLC
Haydon
Hope Financial Group LLC
J&S Power LLC
Jenni's Desserts
Matt Winters Excavating LLC

MedThreads
MGA Entertainment DBA Little Tikes
Pro Design LLC
Refrigeration Sales Corporation
RG Foot Spa Stow
Rise Chiropractic and Wellness
Route8Studios
Shanti Home Health LLC
Smoke Friendly
Stella Barbella's
Sterling Home Care LLC
Stow Falls LLC dba Flynn's Tire
Studio Eleven02
Supar Boba Tea
THE EMERALD ISLAND 88 LLC
The Golden Room Salon
Tidewalker Aquarium Services
Traxium
Triple Dagger Tattoo
Valvoline LLC
We Rock The Spectrum - Stow (DBA: Howard-Cantu WRTS LLC)
Wingstop Restaurant

Strategic Planning and Development Initiatives

Stow has experienced steady residential growth and commercial development throughout 2024, strengthening the city's housing market and business sector.

Residential Projects:

- Stow Glen Retirement Facility Conversion: 130 apartments underway
- Quail Creek Subdivision: Continued development
- Miller's Landing – Phase 1: 25 single-family lots under construction

Planning Department Updates & Zoning Enforcement

2024 marked a significant year for the Stow Planning Department, with the highest number of Planning Commission applications since 2007.

Key Highlights:

- Zoning Violations: 37% increase compared to 2023, leading to more property clean-ups and resolution of violations
- Zoning Code Update: In progress to make development more streamlined and business-friendly. Updates can be tracked at: <https://stow-oh-zoning-code-update-hlplanning.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): Utilized for projects like Dick's Sporting Goods and Sun Belt Rentals
- Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs): Attracting businesses to invest in Stow
- GIS System Updates: Enhancing data accessibility with online maps for public and internal department use

Permits Issued

Engineering Permits	15
Right of Way Permits	104
Residential Permits	203
Electric Permits	330
Mechanical Permits	561
Plumbing Permits	201
Commercial Permits	145
Fences	127
Accessory Buildings	31
Sign Permits	36

Looking Ahead

As Stow moves forward, the city remains committed to:

- Finalizing the Zoning Code Update by late 2025 or early 2026
- Continuing strong enforcement of zoning violations to enhance property maintenance
- Attracting new businesses and developments that align with the city's growth vision
- Expanding the GIS system for improved planning and public accessibility
- Updating Stow's School Travel Plan to help improve safety for students who walk and bike to school

Stow's continued growth reflects its dedication to fostering a thriving, business-friendly, and community-oriented environment. With new businesses, residential developments, and ongoing improvements to city planning, 2024 has been a pivotal year for progress and innovation.





Strengthening Public Safety POLICE DEPARTMENT

Staffing and Recruitment

The Stow Police Department faced unprecedented staffing challenges in 2024, with seven officers leaving—a record in the department's history. Despite the vacancies impacting single shifts, the department demonstrated resilience. Recruitment teams successfully hired skilled officers through lateral hiring and a new Civil Service test, ensuring that Stow PD maintained its high standards of service and professionalism.

Jail Upgrades

In 2024, the control panel at the jail was upgraded to a new digital model, replacing an outdated panel that had been in service for nearly 30 years. This enhancement was essential to ensure compliance with both jail and fire certification standards.

Mental Health Initiatives

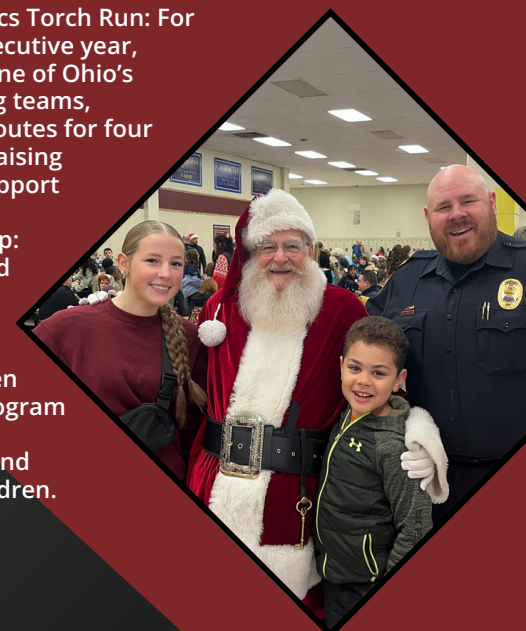
With three additional Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers added in 2024, over 50% of patrol officers are now CIT certified—well above the average. Officers also completed mental health and de-escalation training, while the department continued its eighth year of tracking mental health encounters to refine its response strategies.

Officer Training and Education

This year, the department's seven Field Training Officers (FTOs) provided an impressive 52 weeks of hands-on training for new recruits, passing along vital knowledge and professionalism. Additionally, Stow PD hosted three training sessions on advanced topics like search and seizure, criminal investigations, and leadership, saving over \$2,000 by accommodating other agencies in these programs.

Community Engagement and Achievements

- Special Olympics Torch Run: For the third consecutive year, Stow PD was one of Ohio's top fundraising teams, coordinating routes for four counties and raising \$100,919 to support 2,369 athletes.
- Shop with a Cop: Stow PD helped make the holidays brighter for 34 local children as part of a program involving 15 departments and nearly 200 children.





Strengthening Public Safety POLICE DEPARTMENT

Grant Successes

In 2024, the department secured \$96,803.26 in grant funding to enhance its resources:

- Walmart Community Grant: \$5,000 for a police drone
- BJA Starchase GPS Tracking: \$71,989.96
- DARE/SRO Program: \$10,000
- Ohio LE Bulletproof Vest Program: \$9,813.30
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (pending): \$108,779.40 for police radios

Equipment Upgrades

Several advancements were made to enhance efficiency and safety:

- New Police Cruisers: Three vehicles were replaced due to age.
- E-Citation Program: Fully implemented after a three-year effort, this program saves time for officers and streamlines the citation processes.
- Flock Safety Program: 16 license plate reader cameras were installed at high-traffic intersections.
- Evolution Fingerprint Scanner: Introduced in late 2023, it became a pivotal tool in 2024 for identifying persons of interest.
- Drone Program: Officers were sent to drone operator school and 1 of 2 drones have been purchased. The program will be initiated in early 2025 when the final drone is delivered. The drone program will provide real-time aerial surveillance, aiding in search and rescue, crowd monitoring, and suspect tracking. They will also be utilized for search and rescue efforts for lost and missing children, and elderly persons.

First Responders Memorial

On September 29, 2024, the City of Stow held a groundbreaking ceremony for the First Responders Memorial, a project dedicated to honoring both fallen and long-serving first responders. The memorial aims to recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice as well as those who have dedicated a career of service to the community. The initiative has garnered support from the mayor and city council, who have been instrumental in securing the necessary funding. The memorial will also feature a 9/11 tribute, ensuring that the bravery and dedication of first responders are remembered for generations to come.



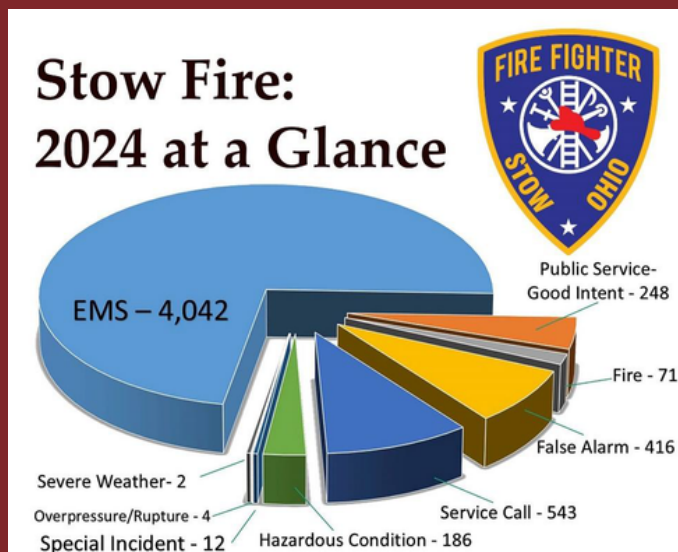


Strengthening Public Safety FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Stow Fire Department had its busiest year on record, responding to 5,524 calls for service in 2024. With 52 dedicated members, including newly hired energetic firefighters, the department continues to evolve to meet the growing needs of the community. Firefighters train daily, with over 15,665 training hours logged, setting another record in fire, EMS, and technical rescue preparedness.

Fire Incident Type Call Breakdown Incident Type Group

100: Fire - 71
200: Overpressure/Rupture - 4
300: EMS - 4042
400: HAZMAT - 186
500: Service Call - 543
600: Good Intent - 248
700: False Alarm - 416
800: Natural Disaster - 2
900: Special Incident - 12



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS remains the most in-demand service, making up 4,042 calls this year.

- 3,075 transports to area hospitals
- 678 Basic Life Support (BLS) transports
- 2,364 Advanced Life Support (ALS) transports
- 33 ALS 2 transports (requiring IV drug therapy and cardiac monitoring)
- 24,000+ miles driven to hospitals with patients on board

An increase in EMS calls from nursing facilities has presented new challenges, but the department remains committed to delivering high-quality patient care. Every firefighter is Ohio Paramedic certified, ensuring advanced pre-hospital treatment and better patient outcomes.

Community Outreach & Fire Safety Education

Fire Safety Educator Mel Gammell reached 8,603 individuals in 357 programs this year.

Age Breakdown:

- Preschool (0-4): 759
- School Age (5-17): 5,706
- Adults (18-60): 1,925
- Seniors (60+): 214

Fire Safety Poster Contest

The 56th Annual Stow Fire Safety Poster Contest encouraged creativity in fire prevention among 3rd-5th graders. The Graphic Award Winner's design was displayed on Mel's Fire Safety Vehicle, and finalists joined firefighters in Stow's Fourth of July Parade.

Anaphylactic Shock Training

Through a partnership with the Allison Rose Foundation, 14 middle school classes received education on recognizing and responding to anaphylactic shock.

Smoke Alarm Installations

- 70 smoke alarms installed in 27 households
- 160 combination carbon monoxide/smoke alarms provided to Safety Town graduates, thanks to a sponsorship from State Farm agent Coriano Johnson

Car Seat Safety Checks

- 22 car seats installed
- 10 additional families assisted during National Car Seat Check Day, in partnership with Akron Children's Hospital

CPR/AED Training

10 CPR/AED classes held for the community, including Stow Police, church groups, Tots Landing, and residents





Strengthening Public Safety FIRE DEPARTMENT

ISO Designation

The Stow Fire Department maintained its prestigious Class 1 ISO designation, reinforcing its elite level of fire protection services.

Each review period is good for five years and the ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) effective date is March 1, 2025 and runs until March 1, 2030. ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U.S. insurers – including the largest ones – use PPC information as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer, or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.



Fun Facts on SQUAD 1

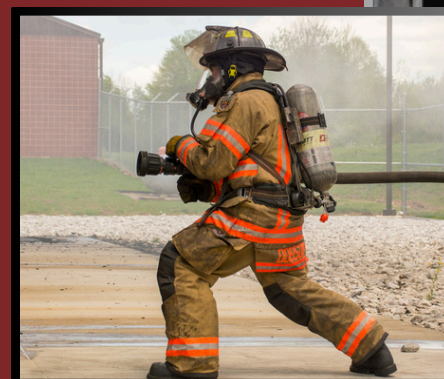
- Features a unique siren sound distinct from other emergency vehicles for increased audibility and safety
- Squad 1's siren sound draws inspiration from the East Coast fire service
- The truck's logo features a wing, paying homage to Stow's historic airport, dating back to the 1910s

New Fire Truck

In July, the department introduced Squad 1, a multi-functional fire truck combining an engine and rescue truck into a single unit. Squad 1 replaced two apparatus, old Rescue 1 and Engine 1. The new rig is able to provide a variety of services as a single unit, saving costs of maintaining and operating two separate trucks.

The new truck saw its first working structure fire on August 7, 2024, at the StowNut Diner fire on Graham Road.

The Stow Fire Department remains committed to excellence in emergency response, training, and community engagement, ensuring Stow remains a safe place to live and work.



Financial Stability & Budgeting

The City ended the 2024 fiscal year with strong balances in all major funds, apart from the Water Operating and Water Capital Fund. To address this, a comprehensive study is underway to explore sustainable solutions. These financial reserves allow Stow to maintain excellent services without imposing additional burdens on taxpayers.

Key accomplishments include:

- Assisting in the preparation and issuance of the City's 2025 Operating Budget, ensuring responsible allocation of resources
- Continuing implementation of the City's long-term debt reduction policy, reducing financial burdens and creating savings in operating and capital budgets
- Developing a long-term Capital Budget financing plan (2025-2029) to streamline capital improvements across the City

Strategic Investments and Infrastructure

In 2024, the Finance Department facilitated key projects that enhance the quality of life for residents:

- Community Center Acquisition – The City purchased the Stow Community & Senior Center without the need for a tax levy or additional taxpayer dollars, paying for the investment in full
- Road & Sidewalk Investments – Significant funding was allocated for infrastructure projects, improving mobility and safety throughout Stow

Technology and Efficiency Upgrades

The Finance Department implemented technological upgrades to enhance efficiency and security, including:

- Cloud-based financial software, improving collaboration and accessibility - from May to September 2024 there was a 5.6% increase in electronic payments helping the City save both money and resources
- Electronic Employee Self-Service, allowing employees to manage leave balances and pay stubs online
- Upgraded Income Tax Office, featuring new furniture and electronic-based formats to increase security and efficiency

Water Rate Study and Fiscal Planning

To ensure sustainable water service funding, the City initiated a water rate study, evaluating usage patterns and cost structures. While Akron increased its rates in 2024, Stow has maintained its own rates. The study's results, expected by early 2025, will guide City Council's decision on potential adjustments.

Financial Transparency and Recognition

The Finance Department remains committed to accountability and transparency:

- Stow successfully completed a full financial audit conducted by an independent firm, ensuring full compliance with the Ohio Auditor's Office requirements
- The City received its 24th consecutive national award for excellence in financial reporting for the 2023 fiscal year, demonstrating continued dedication to best practices in municipal finance

Through prudent financial management, strategic investments, and technological advancements, the Finance Department is ensuring Stow remains a financially stable and forward-thinking community.





Legal Affairs & Initiatives

CITY OF STOW
LAW DEPARTMENT

The Law Department experienced a year of transformation and proactive community engagement in 2024. With a commitment to legal excellence, transparency, and education, the department worked diligently to support the City of Stow in navigating legal challenges, enforcing zoning regulations, and educating residents on critical legal issues.

New Leadership and Expanded Legal Team

In 2024, the Law Department welcomed new leadership with the appointment of Law Director Drew Reilly, confirmed by City Council. The department also grew its expertise with the hiring of Deputy Law Director Steve Hooten, formerly with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and Assistant Prosecutor Jeremy Gilpatric, previously with the Summit County Legal Defenders.

Enhancing Government Transparency and Legal Compliance

As the legal advisor to the City, the Law Department provided essential training to boards, commissions, and city departments to ensure compliance with Ohio's Open Meetings and Public Records laws. These efforts not only reduce the risk of legal liability but also foster greater public trust in government operations.

Zoning Enforcement and the Administrative Hearing Board

The Administrative Hearing Board, established in 2023, continued to streamline the resolution of zoning violations in 2024. Previously, addressing violations such as junk accumulation or unpermitted structures required criminal court proceedings, taking up to eight months. With this new process, resolution times have been cut down to approximately two months, allowing for quicker enforcement and cleaner neighborhoods. This success was made possible through close collaboration with the Planning and Development Department.

ArtsForward Grant and Public Arts Master Plan

The City of Stow was awarded a \$25,000 ArtsForward grant from Summit County and ArtsNow in 2024. This funding will support the development of a Public Arts Master Plan, establishing a long-term vision for public art across Stow. Through a community-driven process, the City will explore ways to integrate public art into its landscape, enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

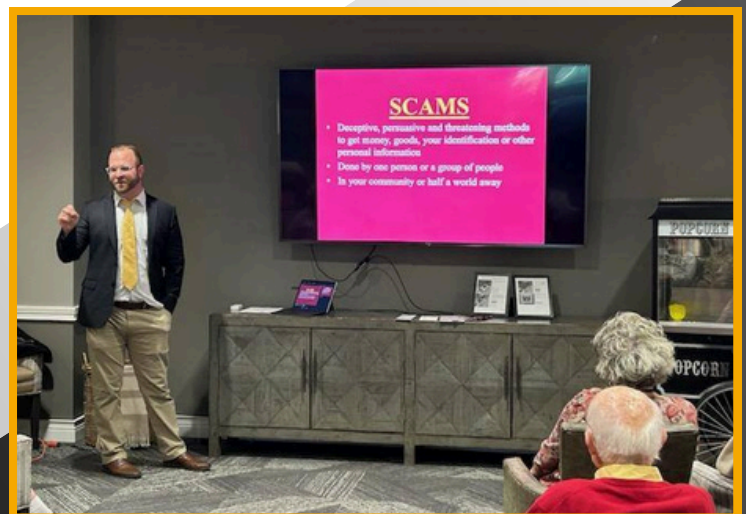
Prosecution and Case Management

In 2024, the Law Department prosecuted approximately 1,000 traffic and misdemeanor criminal cases in Stow Municipal Court. As the department analyzes case trends, this data will help shape future law enforcement and community safety initiatives.

Navigating Changes in State Law

The passage of Issue 2 in 2023 brought significant changes to Ohio's marijuana laws. The Law Department dedicated substantial time in 2024 to:

- Educating Stow Police Department officers on the legal implications and enforcement changes.
- Hosting community presentations to inform residents about the impact of state law changes.
- Working with the Planning Commission and City Council to develop zoning amendments that regulate cannabis facilities within the City.



The Law Department remains committed to education, enforcement, and community engagement in the coming year. Through ongoing legal oversight, outreach programs, and active participation in city projects, the department will continue to ensure that Stow's laws protect and serve its residents effectively.

Servicing our City

The Service Department had an active and productive year, completing numerous projects aimed at improving public spaces and infrastructure in the City of Stow. In 2024, major strides were made on two exciting projects the new pickleball courts and the Community & Senior Center.

Meadowbrook Neighborhood Park

One of the major highlights in early 2024 was preparing Meadowbrook Neighborhood Park for a new storm surge installation and installing new playground equipment.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping covered extensive lane miles in 2024, contributing to cleaner and safer streets. The department's street sweeper, affectionately named "Sweepy Joe," played a key role in the program's success. Staff also completed a driving safety course focusing on distracted driving to enhance operational safety and efficiency.

Leaf Pickup

Leaf pickup operations were a great success, with seasonal and full-time employees working together to collect over 23,000 cubic yards of leaves—keeping our community clean and ready for the winter months.

Winter Preparation

The crews efficiently prepared for winter by managing salt and brine operations to ensure safe road conditions during inclement weather. This effort included the use of over 45,000 tons of salt and 22,000 tons of brine, keeping roads clear and the community safe.

NEW Pickleball Court Complex

The Service team played a key role in preparing the site for the pickleball courts, which included pond excavation, storm sewer installation, concrete work, and the creation of a scenic 2,000-foot loop trail. Milling equipment was used to recycle materials for future restoration projects, reflecting a commitment to sustainability and cost efficiency.

The pickleball court fencing was contracted out, with the city's team providing essential support to ensure quality and timely completion.

NEW Community & Senior Center

Our Service Department workforce completed a complete renovation to turn an existing church into a new community and senior center. The City also engaged outside professionals for aspects such as electrical work, plumbing, HVAC, lighting, flooring, painting, and design. The center reached completion in December 2024, providing the community with a vibrant new space for connection and engagement.



Servicing our City

Asphalt: Road Resurfacing

Road resurfacing was a primary focus in 2024. The department addressed over 30 roads throughout Stow, with 109,328.560 square yards of asphalt paving completed at the cost of \$1,986,758.65. Crack sealing covered 468,279.58 square yards, extending road longevity at a cost of \$29,190.00.

Concrete: Curb and Street Replacement

A total of 4,500 square yards of concrete street replacement was completed, with significant curb and gutter replacements ahead of road resurfacing projects. Work was completed on several streets, including Red Willow, Cox, Temple, and Glenrich, with ongoing efforts in Pambi Farms and Seven Trails.

Sidewalk Repairs

ADA ramps and sidewalks were also a priority in 2024: Over 34,000 square feet of sidewalk were removed, replaced, and installed to improve accessibility.

Storm Sewer Maintenance and Asphalt Repairs

Numerous catch basins were repaired and replaced to reduce flooding risks. Asphalt repairs were also made following water main breaks, ensuring that streets were quickly restored.

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION	AREA SQYD
Ellsworth Road	Springdale to Hudson Drive	8,138.87
Springdale Road	Arndale to Begin Concrete	5,894.19
Temple Trail	Springdale to Springdale	4,750.50
Cox Drive	Higby to Concrete	2,533.14
Cox Drive	Asphalt to Fishcreek Road	5,943.72
Higby Drive	Concrete to Darrow Road	4,409.19
Higby Drive	Cox to Asphlat	2,034.33
Red Willow Road	232' South of Hibbard to Hgby	1,878.61
Red Willow Road	232' South of Hibbard to Hibbard	593.76
Sugar Lane Trail	Hibbard to Higby	1,458.56
Trillium Drive	Hibbard to Higby	1,258.59
Berger Avenue	Moreland to Stow Road	3,993.33
Moreland Avenue	Berger to Graham Road	3,099.58
Uniondale Drive	Stow to Darrow Road	1,103.42
Uniondale Drive	Moreland to Stow Road	3,993.24
Hiwood Avenue	Kent to Elmwood	3,583.72
Santom Road E	Charring Cross to Hiwood	2,311.85
Baird Road	Graham to Kent Road	6,837.78
Ezra Road	Kaufman to Baird Road	777.59
Kaufman Road	End to Kent Road	4,155.81
Merria Road	Concrete Baird Road	2,584.02
Sears Road	End to Baird Road	2,690.13
Bluestem Lane	Cul-de-sac to Shining Willow	2,082.67
Buttonbush Court	Cul-de-sac to Young Road	816.44
Newcomer Road	Call road to Young Road	5,625.18
Rose Mallow Court	Cul-de-sac to Shining Willow	1,589.35
Sedge Grass Trail	Cul-de-sac to Shining Willow	1,839.00
Shining Willow Boulevard	Call Road to Newcomer	4,922.40
Sweet Flag Way	Cul-de-sac to Bluestem	1,584.86
Peterboro Drive	Berwin to 187' East Berry	3,277.34
TOTAL		105,995.95



Building & Engineering Initiatives

Roadway Projects

In 2024, significant progress was made on two major roadway improvement projects:

- Route-91 Darrow Road Reconstruction Project and Route-59 Kent Road Signal Project: Engineering and construction plans were completed, and right-of-way acquisitions finalized. Both projects are scheduled for bidding in January 2025 and will be awarded in February 2025. Construction is set to begin in spring 2025 and will be completed by fall 2026. To minimize traffic disruption, the southern section of SR 91 will be coordinated with the Munroe Falls bridge project.
- Graham Road Signal Project: Engineering began in 2024 and is expected to take 18 months. Construction is scheduled for 2026–2027.



Water Distribution Line Projects

In 2024, critical upgrades were made to the city's water distribution system to replace aging infrastructure:

- Berger, Uniondale, Moreland Waterline Replacement (\$1,060,000)
- Kauffman Waterline Replacement (\$340,000)
- Darrow Road Valves and Hydrants Replacement (\$135,000) – Preparatory work for the upcoming Darrow Road Reconstruction Project.

Storm Water Improvement Projects

Several stormwater improvement projects were completed in 2024 to address drainage and flooding issues:

- Darrow/Arndale Stormwater Improvements (\$258,277.95) – Installation of a rear yard swale and pipe system to manage overflow stormwater behind Arndale Road properties
- 2424 Norton Road Storm Improvements (\$121,795.39) – Construction of a stormwater management basin to mitigate residential flooding
- Call/Friar 60" Storm Sewer Replacement (\$274,480.24) – Replacement of 400 linear feet of deteriorated corrugated metal storm sewer with new infrastructure to prevent sinkholes and improve drainage



2024 TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED

58	Accessory Structure Permits	11	Lot Splits
35	Certificate of Occupancy Permits	558	Mechanical Permits
182	Commercial Building Permits	200	Plumbing Permits
625	Contractor Registrations	208	Residential Building Permits
35	Deck Permits (Over 30")	111	Right-of-Way Permits
14	Demolition Permits	201	Roofing Permits
331	Electrical Permits	1	Tank Permits
17	Engineering Permits	6	Water Irrigation Meter Permits
		35	Water Permits

The Building and Engineering Department continues to streamline operations with online permitting, allowing most permits to be submitted digitally since its implementation in 2022.

Building & Engineering Initiatives

Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

In 2025, the department will continue its focus on stormwater management with projects such as the Forest Hill Stormwater Management Facility and the Echo Road Stormwater Study.

Other highlights include:

- Storm Sewer Lining Project (Woodbridge)
- Storm Sewer Replacement (Homewood)
- Traffic Signal Upgrades on SR 91 and SR 59, with GPS-based preemption systems for emergency vehicles and coordinated signal timing to improve traffic flow.

These infrastructure improvements, combined with proactive traffic management strategies, aim to enhance safety, reduce flooding, and improve the overall quality of life for Stow residents.



Michael Jones, the City Engineer, received the 2024 Urban Conservation Award from Summit Soil & Water for his responsiveness and proactive efforts in stormwater management and community engagement.

Human Resources Initiatives

In 2024, the Human Resources Department successfully onboarded 70 new employees across seasonal, part-time, and full-time positions. A key focus for the year was enhancing employee engagement and wellness. Notable initiatives included hosting a Vendor Fair and a dedicated health and wellness presentation, both of which provided valuable resources and support to employees.

Additionally, the department spearheaded several city-wide training and development initiatives. A comprehensive training program emphasized ethics and fraud reporting, ensuring employees were well-equipped to uphold integrity and compliance standards. Targeted training opportunities were also offered, with a special focus on developing skills in Microsoft products to enhance workplace efficiency and support employees' personal and professional growth.

Looking ahead, the Human Resources Department is committed to expanding its training programs, offering a broader range of city-wide and specialized opportunities that support career development at all levels. A significant initiative for 2025 will be the implementation of a new Human Resources Information System (HRIS), designed to streamline recruitment, onboarding, and employee management processes. This new system will improve operational efficiency and elevate the overall employee experience.

By continuing to invest in employee engagement, professional development, and technological advancements, the Human Resources Department remains dedicated to fostering a dynamic, informed, and well-supported workforce in 2025 and beyond.

Golf Course Achievements & Developments

The New Driving Range at Fox Den Golf Course

Fox Den Golf Course celebrated its enhanced driving range with a ribbon-cutting event on April 10, 2024. Local high school golfers hit the ceremonial first tee shots as the community enjoyed a festive day of activities, appetizers, and giveaways. The driving range now features 15 new bays with mats simulating fairway and rough conditions, along with plans for future recreational developments.



2024 Stats

Rounds of Golf	53,942
Total Revenue	\$2,324,545
Green Fee Revenue	\$1,220,000
Food & Beverage	\$376,580

2023 Stats

Rounds of Golf	49,276
Total Revenue	\$2,011,055
Green Fee Revenue	\$1,111,907
Food & Beverage	\$320,000

Connecting with Our Community



The Marketing Team for the City is housed in the Parks & Recreation Department, with dedicated staff from the department handling all duties.

The Fun Buzz e-Newsletter & City of Stow e-newsletter

Monthly e-newsletters sent to those who sign up on our website with loads of information about our city, programs, and events.

Social Media

- 7,314 FuninStow Facebook followers
- 966 FuninStow Instagram followers
- 390 FuninStow Twitter followers
- 9,500 CityofStow Facebook followers

A Minute (or so) with Mayor Pribonic Videos

Short, targeted, relatable videos featuring Mayor John Pribonic around town interviewing and promoting our schools, businesses, and community organizations, among others.

City of Stow Website

Our website lets people find us, is our online presence, engages our audiences, cultivates relationships, and generates use and participation in our programs and services.

THANK YOU SPONSORS OF THE STOW CITY CENTER PROJECT



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

Stow Community & Senior Center: A New Era for Connection and Engagement

The City of Stow has taken a monumental step forward in enriching community life with the grand opening of the Stow Community & Senior Center. This newly renovated facility, formerly Cornerstone Church, was officially unveiled during an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 5344 Fishcreek Road, Stow, Ohio.

A Welcoming Space for All

With over 8,000 square feet of versatile space, the Stow Community & Senior Center is designed to serve residents of all ages. The center boasts a Grand Hall that accommodates up to 260 guests, an Activity Hub, a Media Suite, and a modern kitchen, making it an ideal location for community events, social gatherings, and educational programs.

One of the center's standout features is its single-level design, ensuring accessibility for all visitors, particularly seniors, who will benefit from an easy-to-navigate facility with ample parking.

A Hub for Senior Services and Community Programs

As Stow's senior population continues to grow, the city remains committed to providing resources that foster active, healthy lifestyles. The Stow Community & Senior Center offers a variety of senior-focused programs, including:

- Social activities to promote connection and engagement
- Health and wellness programs for physical and mental well-being
- Educational opportunities to support lifelong learning

Beyond senior programming, the center is a gathering place for all ages, offering everything from fitness classes to cultural events, ensuring that every resident has a place to learn, grow, and connect.

A Strategic Investment in Stow's Future

The transformation of the former Cornerstone Church into the Stow Community & Senior Center represents a smart, fiscally responsible investment in the city's future. By repurposing an existing building, the city successfully created a modern, dedicated community space without imposing the financial burden of a new recreation center levy.

With its state-of-the-art amenities and commitment to inclusivity, the Stow Community & Senior Center is more than just a building—it's a vibrant hub for community life, fostering connections and enhancing the quality of life for Stow residents now and for generations to come.



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation Department's focus is to enhance and expand our parks and facilities. In 2024, we invested in key parks and recreational spaces that will enrich the lives of Stow's residents.

Oregon Trail Park

2024 Key Improvements

- 5-Court Pickleball Complex – completed and open for use
- Walking Loop - Newly paved, 2,000 ft. loop trail for walking and jogging
- NEW Amenities - Picnic tables, trash cans, team benches, park benches installed
- Wayfinding Signage – Next phase of project
- Restroom / Shelter Facility - Planned for 2026



Silver Springs Park

2024 Key Improvements Completed or Underway

- Kayak Launch addition – Heritage Lake – Open for use
- Tennis Courts – Refurbished & Open
- Campground Improvement Project – Site plan proposed with new access road, new premium sites, upgrades to dump station, electric, sewer, and grading.
- Heritage House Museum – Rebuild. Next steps - quotes and assessments



Meadowbrook Lake Park

2024 Key Improvements

- New Playground
- Swing installed - Eagle Scout Project



Adell Durbin Park

2024 Key Improvements

- Wayfinding Completed - New trail maps, updated trail markers, updated interpretative signs (24), increased signage throughout the park.
- NEW Amenities - Picnic tables, trash cans
- Playground Enhancement - Partial replacement of equipment

Stow Community & Senior Center

2024 Key Improvements

- New Community Hub
- Grand Opening - January 12, 2025
- Key Upgrades - Electrical Upgrade, Acoustics, HVAC, AV Systems, Commercial Kitchen, Accessibility Features
- Amenities – Furniture, Lighting, Flooring, and more
- Infrastructure-Building modifications, Storm Water Management, Parking Lot Upgrade



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

#CelebrateStow Events

- Stow Paddle Battle
- Chalk Up Stow
- Concert on the Green
- Firecracker Run
- Fourth of July Parade



Other Special Events

- An Enchanted Afternoon
- National Lego Day
- Bunny Trail Hop
- Cocktails and Cottontails
- Concerts on the Green
- Wine & Design Series
- Super Hero Training
- Stow Fishing Derby
- Haunted Hayride
- Connect with Nature Series
- Pop Up in the Park Series



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

Summer Sunset Blast

A FUN end of Summer Party on Labor Day Weekend. Two days of live music, food trucks, and fireworks, highlighted by performances from a Journey Tribute Band: *E5C4P3* and a Throwback Dancy Music Band: *Old Skool Cleveland*.



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

Glow with Stow Holiday Lighting

A festive event featuring...

- A holiday tree lighting on our NEW 30' Holiday Tree!
- Santa and Mrs. Claus arrival on a Stow Firetruck
- Santa's Workshop
- Live entertainment from the Fishcreek Racrooners Choir, Premium Blend A Cappella Group, and SMFHS Choir Group
- A Glow Market with vendors provided by the Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce
- The SMF Public Library's Bookmobile
- Visits from Cindy Lou Who, the Christmas Grump, Snow Queen, Spirit Ice Queen & Stilt Walkers
- Train Rides through the holiday lights
- Ice Sculpture Demonstration
- Live Reindeer
- Special children's book reading by Stow Author Pamela Groom
- Delicious Food Trucks



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

Silver Springs Day Camp

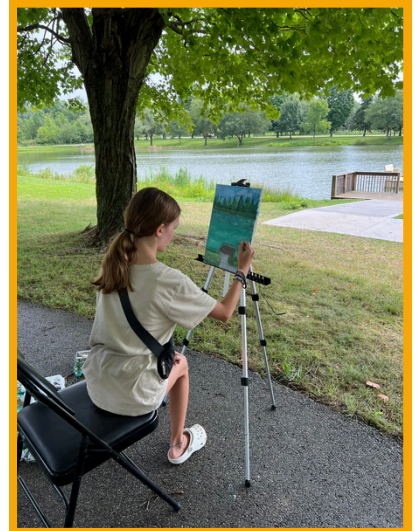
An eight week Summer Day Camp filled with adventure, learning, and fun, providing over 200 children from Stow and surrounding communities with an unforgettable summer experience.

Summer Art Camps

The art camps were led by retired Stow teacher Andrea Schepis, who brings 30+ years of experience. Over five weeks, campers explored themes like Art in Children's Books, Famous Artists, Global Creatures, Mixed Media, and Outdoor Painting.

Basketball Programs

In 2024, we offered nine exciting basketball programs with over 600 participants! Our programs cater to players from 2nd grade through adulthood, featuring both indoor leagues, outdoor leagues, and skill-building sessions throughout the year.



PARKS AND RECREATION SPORTS OFFERINGS

- Basketball
- Flag Football
- Pickleball
- Tennis
- Softball
- Lacrosse
- Volleyball
- Stow Striders Hiking
- Community Yoga
- Pickleball



Stow Parks and Recreation 2024 Fun in Stow

Silver Springs Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp

330-689-5100

Camp Dates: June 10-August 2, 2024

Register at: StowOhio.RecDesk.com

Stow Residents: 3/20/2024

Open Registration: 3/21/2024



Stow Community Garden

With over 150 plots at capacity, the Stow Community Garden continued to thrive as a space for gardeners to connect and grow a diverse range of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Weekly participation at the Stow Farmers Market fostered community spirit and promoted healthy living.



Fostering Community Through Parks & Recreation

Bow Wow Beach

The 7.5 acre fenced-in park features the following amenities:

- Sandy beach and grassy knolls
- 3-acre lake
- Pen entrance
- Waste deposit stations
- Separate areas for small dogs
- Clearly defined rules and procedures



Silver Springs Campground 2024 Year in Review

4335 site reservations

53 nights out of 201 at 100% occupancy

79% Occupancy Rate

5,242 Total guests

- 4321 Adults
- 921 Children
- 822 Pets



The cover of the 2024 Annual Report for Stow Parks & Recreation. It features a collage of images: a person kayaking on a lake, the interior of the Grand Hall, a playground, and a tennis court. The text "STOW PARKS & RECREATION" is at the top left, "GRAND HALL" is at the top right, "Fun in Stow" is in the center, and "ANNUAL REPORT 2024" is at the bottom right. A QR code is located at the bottom left of the cover.

Scan the QR Code

To view the 2024
Stow Parks & Recreation
Annual Report

Stow Senior Center - Events and Programs in 2024

29 Community Bus Trips

32 Senior Events

Over 10 Weekly/Monthly Senior Programs



Contact Us



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