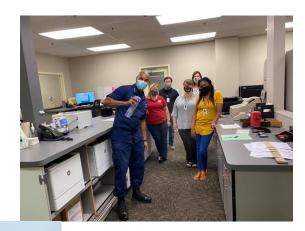
# **2020 Allen County Annual Report**



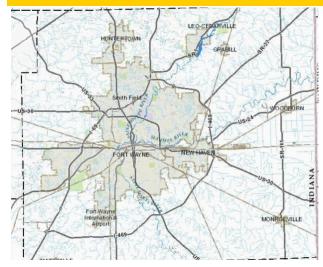








Powering Through a Pandemic



# **Facts About Allen County**

- Largest county by area 600 sq. mi. in Indiana
- Estimated population (2019) of 379,299
- Third-most populous county in Indiana
- Within a 200-mile radius of major population centers
- Formed on April 1, 1824
- Named for Col. John Allen, an attorney who was killed during the War of 1812
- One of the few counties in the U.S. to border as many as nine counties

# **Table of Contents**

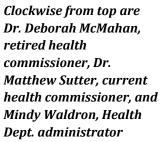
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# **Dedication: Allen County Health Department**

The Allen County Health Department has been the lead agency on behalf of the county in helping our residents, businesses and the community manage the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic health emergency. Since early February 2020, when the pandemic first began, Health Department staff has been working with federal, state and local governments, health care providers and County departments to issue stay-at-home health orders, lead testing, conduct thousands of track-and-trace efforts, implement an extensive media and public outreach campaign and produce and disseminate safety messaging — all with the goal to ensure that everyone who lives, works and visits Allen County stays safe.

For working diligently to meet this significant challenge to our community and the positive and effective way they have responded to the pandemic, we gratefully dedicate the Allen County 2020 Annual Report to Dr. Deborah McMahan, who retired as Health Commissioner in June, her successor, Dr. Matthew Sutter, administrator Mindy Waldron, and the entire staff of the Allen County Health Department.



























The Allen County Board of Commissioners (left to right) Nelson Peters, Richard Beck & Therese Brown

# **Board of Commissioners' Message**

2020 was a year like no other. A global pandemic shifted the way we work, provided public education, operated businesses, and spent time together. Allen County was not immune to the challenges of COVID-19. We experienced the loss of cherished members of our community, reached out to support those who became ill, and made many sacrifices to keep everyone safe. Amid our response efforts to the pandemic, our dedicated employees set the standard each day with the uninterrupted provision of essential services. They continued throughout to serve, shape and safeguard our community.

Despite the unprecedented challenges we faced, we were able to realize real progress in 2020, produce results and deliver on our ambitious targets and bold goals for Allen County. The Broadband Access Team was formed to examine the current status of high-speed internet access in Allen County and broadband network costs and sources of funding. Our highway department completed the second round of gravel road conversion projects in 2020, chipping and sealing 28 miles of gravel highways over the summer. For the fourth consecutive year, building permit values in the county exceeded \$1 billion. Our Election Board was well prepared for the November general election, which proceeded smoothly and with minimal disruption. And we closed out 2020 by making good on our financial commitment to the community's important and transformative Electric Works project.

We are proud of the way our county government has operated during this extraordinary year. We are exceptionally grateful to you, our citizens, for how you have adapted to many changes and came together in unity to respond to the challenges we still face. We are pleased to share this annual report with you and welcome your feedback.

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Sincerely,

# The Board of Commissioners

The three member Allen County Board of Commissioners serves as both the executive and legislative branches of County government. While they are required to reside within their specific geographic districts, the County Commissioners are elected atlarge by all Allen County voters.

As the executive branch of County government, the Commissioners may approve policies affecting some 1,800 full-time and parttime county employees.

As the legislative branch, the Commissioners pass ordinances that primarily affect unincorporated areas (outside a city or town) of the county.

The Commissioners' duties include:

- •Receive bids for projects and services and sign contracts.
- Authorize all claims on county budgets.
- Decision-making authority over planning and zoning in the county.
- •Supervise construction and maintenance of county roads and bridge structures.
- •Issue bonds or approve leasepurchase agreements to borrow money for the county.
- •Serve as the Drainage Board, which oversees the legal drainage system in the county.
- •Operates and maintains all County facilities, including the historic Allen County Courthouse.

# Allen County Council

The Allen County Council is comprised of seven members, four elected from districts and three elected at-large. Council serves as the County's fiscal body. Members of Council must reside within the county and the district from which they were elected, if applicable.

Council sets and approves the County's annual property tax levy.

County Council is responsible for establishing an annual budget for County Government.
Council is also responsible for appropriating funds for the operation of County Government.

#### 2020 Council Members:

Sheila R. Curry-Campbell, District 1

Thomas A. Harris, District 2

Joel M. Benz, District 3

Chris A. Spurr, District 4

Robert A. Armstrong, At-

Large

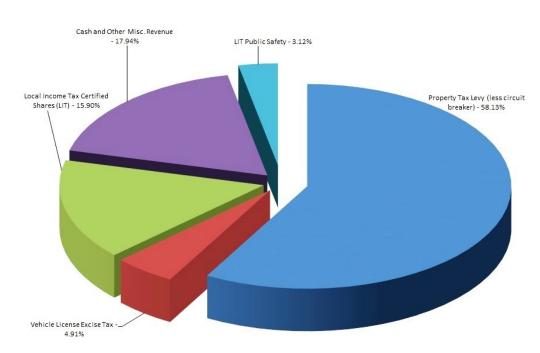
Kenneth J. Fries, At-Large

Kyle Kerley, At-Large

# **Budget & Financial Management**

Allen County's 2020 budget was approximately \$228,935,004, including \$117,607,710 for the general operating budget which includes the General and LIT Funds. The County budget is primarily funded through property tax revenue. However, many other funding sources are used to fund county operations. Other common forms of tax revenue include income, excise, and gasoline taxes. Other non-tax revenue sources include fee-for-service revenue, investment income, grants, etc. The chart below shows the revenue sources and the percent by which they fund the general operations of Allen County.

The chart on page 5 shows the County general operating budget. The County's budget provides a map for County Council and taxpayers that identifies the operating costs considered essential to the successful operation of the County for a given period. The policies and procedures established by the County Commissioners and County Council support the identified trends and needs of the County. Law enforcement and the judicial branch of government make up approximately 70% of general operating expenses and another 30% is used for general government services and operations combined.



#### REVENUE SOURCES

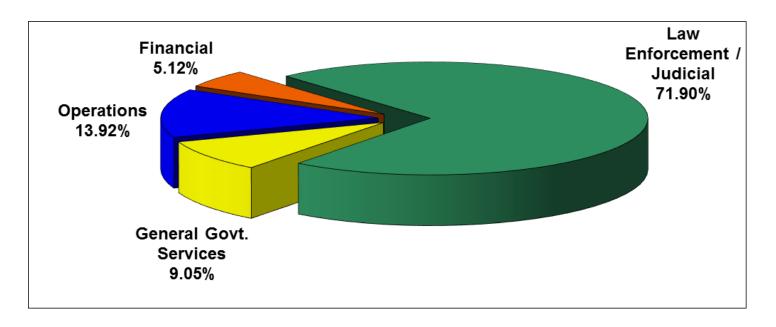
**Property Tax Levy: \$66 million** 

Local Income Tax (LIT): \$18 million

LIT Public Safety: \$3.5 million

**Vehicle License Excise Tax:** \$5.5 million

Cash/Other Misc. Revenue: \$20.8 million



Auditor		1,314,729
Treasurer		808,120
Recorder		-
Assessors		2,782,258
Co Wide Expenses		150,084
Employee Health Ins	_	678,629
	TOTAL	5,733,820

#### Law Enforcement and Judicial

	····
Sheriff	14,666,392
Confinement Center	14,009,954
Coroner	713,873
Community Corrections	305,340
Prosecutor	6,089,545
Work Release	1,515,236
CCP	922,671
Police Pension	2,500,000
Employee Health Ins	6,776,863
Circuit Court	2,412,592
Public Defender	4,117,568
Superior Court	6,737,984
Clerk of Courts	3,452,770
Youth Services	1,472,901
Juvenile Center	12,683,434
Co Wide Expenses	2,106,677
	TOTAL 80,483,800

#### **TOTAL 2020 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**

\* Unemployment, Workers Comp, Data Contract, Liability Insurance, County Attorney Salaries.

#### **General Govt. Services**

County Bldg Dept		2,211,360
Park & Recreation		591,873
Co-op Extension Serv		351,096
Voter Registration		464,650
Election Board		1,066,361
Plan Commission		2,016,554
NIRCC		1,374,339
Surveyor		1,065,872
Drainage Board		850
*Co Wide Expenses		265,258
Employee Health Ins		725,756
	TOTAL	10 133 969

#### Operations, Commissioners, etc.

County Commissioners	1,874,730
Soil & Water	170,603
Human Resources	727,657
County Services	686,741
Data Processing	1,840,974
Bldg. Maintenance	4,534,149
Homeland Security	300,983
County Council	911,419
Co Wide Expenses	407,981
ARC & Mental Health	3,480,962
Employee Health Ins	650,352

TOTAL 15,586,551

\$111,938,140

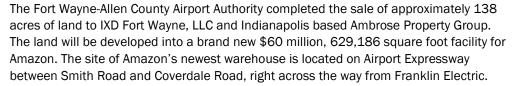
## **Economic Development**

Submitted by Elissa McGauley, County Director of Redevelopment

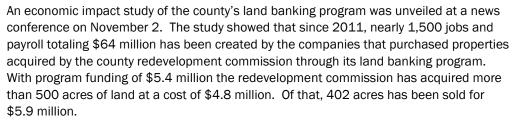


During 2020, the Redevelopment Commission made payments of more than \$2.7 million toward commitments in the form of agreements, bonds, loans and leases. Two commitments totaling \$1,996,533 with the Redevelopment Commission were paid off in 2020. The commission also approved releasing \$6 million in incremental assessed value from the I-469/Bluffton Road allocation area to other taxing units in 2021.

Two new Economic Development Area plans received approval by the Redevelopment Commission. The Stonebridge III EDA consisting of 130 acres south of Stonebridge Business Park received final approval in November. Auto Truck Group's 72,865 square foot facility is currently located on 26 acres on the west side of the property. The remaining acres are under development by OMD Holdings/Silverado Properties. Construction of a 748,800 square foot speculative/shell building is anticipated to break ground in early 2021. The second EDA and allocation area consisting of 63 acres at Smith and Dalman Roads received preliminary approval in October. Staff will be seeking approvals for the Smith Dalman EDA and allocation area by the County Plan Commission and Board of Commissioners in early 2021 before a public hearing and final approval can be considered by the Redevelopment Commission.



Production began in early 2020 at Sweetwater Sound's new \$52.5 million dollar state-of-the-art distribution center. The facility has 480,000 square feet of usable space – nearly quadrupling the size of the previous warehouse – and has a footprint of more than seven acres. In addition to more space for increased inventory, new technology that was custom -built by Sweetwater's IT team will allow orders to be processed and filled faster, resulting in shorter delivery time.



Allen County is partnering with the City of Fort Wayne and Greater Fort Wayne on the development of an economic development action plan. A steering committee of 30 individuals was formed to guide the plan's development. Work on the strategy is expected to be complete by the end of July 2021.



Stonebridge Business Park



Auto Truck Group facility in Stonebridge III



Land Banking News Conference held on November 2

#### **Human Resources**

2020 was a unique and challenging year, and the Human Resources Department had to quickly adapt to new challenges and needs stemming from the COVID-19 virus, such as assisting departments to develop and implement altered work practices, performing workplace contact tracing, creating new policies in response to COVID-19, and monitoring employee health and safety.

As a result of efforts to keep employees safe and healthy and in response to the governor's stay at home order, it was necessary to scale back the workforce and close County-owned buildings to the public. While many employees were able to work remotely during that time, there were others whose jobs could not be accomplished from a remote location. So the commissioners and HR created and carried out a COVID-19 Employee and Operations Policy which permitted employees who could not work remotely to be off work from March 16 through May 5 on public health leave.

Additionally, HR worked with departments to ensure that all employees completed a daily health questionnaire, which was aimed at identifying employees who were sick with COVID-19 or potentially exposed to COVID-19 out of the office. HR also assisted in reviewing departmental work practices and office set ups and making recommendations for altered practices that conformed to the CDC guidelines. HR also performed contact tracing for county departments, made recommendations for handling outside exposures, and assisted in calculating quarantine and isolation periods.

A large subset of county government's workforce was deemed to be essential, which required those employees to remain working during the governor's Stay at Home Order. In an effort to ensure that all essential positions remained fully staffed, the county commissioners and HR implemented a supplemental pandemic pay policy that permitted certain essential employees who were required to continue working and who were not able to fully mitigate possible COVID-19 exposures to receive a temporary increase in their hourly rate. The policy also permitted certain exempt employees who were tasked with directly responding to the COVID-19 response efforts and who worked an extraordinary number of hours on those response efforts to receive supplemental pandemic pay in the form of a bonus.

Although many of its efforts shifted to combating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, HR continued to focus on other priorities. Among the goals achieved by HR in 2020 included:

- Delivered major achievements on goals for value-based healthcare
- Made significant changes to employees' prescription drug program, which has the potential to transform the prescription drug marketplace forever
- Performed workplace risk assessments on eight county-owned buildings
- Processed 232 new hires and 136 transfers (full-time employee turnover rate was 8.6%)
- Posted approximately 180 new positions and processed over 8,000 applications
- Continued strategic planning efforts by assisting departments with their priorities
- Rolled out a new and improved safety committee





Most county departments and offices had plexiglass barriers installed so employees could conduct in-person business with citizens





For the fourth year in a row, the Allen County Building Department reported total permit values exceeded one billion dollars. Permit valuation by the end of 2020 totaled \$1.318 billion.

Thanks to proactive, intentional goals of using technology for a greater number of permitting processes, the department was able to continue issuing permits at a record pace — even with the closure of its lobby for several months due to COVID-19 restrictions. 31,184 permits were processed in 2020, surpassing the previous year by 3.4%. Online permitting increased to 70.46% in 2020 with 100% of all contractor permits available digitally. The only paper permits processed were for homeowners and those in our community without access to technology by choice.



Inspections continued uninterrupted as well, with field staff working remotely starting from home and using their vehicles as mobile offices. A total of 61,800 inspections were performed in 2020. Contractors and inspectors worked out protocols to socially distance by clearing the inspection area of workers briefly so inspectors could still do their job. Allen County is also the first county in Indiana to enact a drone inspection program. Training and certification was coordinated with the Sheriff and Homeland Security Office. This proved useful not only for the prevention of contact and spreading of COVID, but also kept staff off ladders when inspecting roof top HVAC units and other hard to inspect areas.



The Allen County Community Development Corporation, which is assigned to the building department, increased sales in 2020 with a total of 281 parcels sold. Through active marketing, social media presence, and having mowing crews approach neighboring property owners, the total number of properties owned has been cut almost in half during the past three years. This resulted in ACCDC being able to cut a \$40,000 line item from the budget to have a vendor monitor properties held. Mowing costs have also decreased as ACCDC had fewer lots in the inventory to maintain. In addition, the department started a pilot program partnering with local non-profit agencies which hire individuals with impediments to mow and maintain the lots. Many of those who went through the program went on to obtain gainful, full-time employment in our community.

2020

Notable Projects

- 77 Commercial Permits valued over \$1 million
  - Lutheran Hospital, Van Buren St.
  - Amazon, Smith Road
  - DIN 6 (Amazon), Avionics
  - Northrop High School, Coldwater Rd
  - Sabert, Engle Rd



# **County Maintenance Department**

To help protect employees and citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Maintenance Department installed custom hanging plexiglass for all county departments. Bipolar ionization systems were installed to all HVAC systems in every county-owned building. These systems work with the air stream and ions attach to particles, where they combine, become larger and are more easily filtered from the air. Moreover, when ions come in contact with pathogens they disrupt the pathogens' surface proteins, rendering them inactive. Also, individual HEPA filters were added to all county elevators.

The north side of the Rousseau Centre plaza got quite a facelift. This was the final paver replacement to complete the plaza walkways. The roof under those new pavers was also replaced. Ramps were installed to meet disability requirements to both east and west sides. The removal of some very old trees near the parking garage will give the opportunity to add a new landscaping look in the near future. The lower level outside lights that shine down on the plaza were replaced with energy efficient LEDs.

The two elevators at the courthouse went through a modernization with new controls and a new look inside the cabs. Also the courthouse received some new LED lighting shining on our historic murals which depict important military events in Indiana's history. These new lights really bring out the color of the murals which were restored in 2002.





### **Election Board**

The Allen County Election Board spent the year shattering records and norms, while celebrating voters, election workers, and dedicated colleagues who helped keep the 2020 election safe, accurate and secure in the face of incredible challenges.

Overall voter turnout of 63.82% during the November election was the highest turnout in Allen County since 1992. The demand for mailed absentee ballots skyrocketed in the midst of the pandemic. Election Board workers processed over 68,000 ballots in 2020, a 430% increase from four years earlier. Another 72,925 voters chose to vote in person during early voting, representing a 55% increase from the 2016 presidential election.

Election Board staff spent months adapting election procedures to last minute changes in policy and mandates related to the coronavirus. They designed and implemented pandemic safety controls at polling places, outfitted and educated workers about proper use of personal protective equipment and responded to countless questions and concerns from the public.

The Election Board benefitted from the expertise of many of their county and city partners, including the Board of Health, Department of Homeland Security, Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County Clerk's Office, Memorial Coliseum, Grand Wayne Center and all four school corporations during these preparations.

The staff also marveled at the courage of hundreds of new volunteers who stepped up to fill poll worker positions normally filled by higher risk senior citizens. Election workers in 2020 were tasked with conducting accurate and fair elections with added responsibilities of protecting the health and safety of voters. During early voting and on Election Day, these workers manned the front lines of democracy to help their community cast ballots despite their own personal risk.





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Community Corrections' Residential Services Facility on Venture Lane

# **Community Corrections**

The Allen County Community Corrections Residential Services Facility located on Venture Lane opened on August 25. The program offers local courts the sentencing alternative of a secure residential facility for male and female offenders that was previously not available.

Program participants are subject to 24 hour-a-day supervision through residential placement and GPS supervision while in the community, individualized case plans, individual in-house cognitive behavioral therapy interventions and a schedule of targeted rehabilitative services and any other special conditions of placement that have been ordered by the court. When appropriate, participants work toward transitioning from residential placement to home detention/electronic monitoring as an enhanced incentive model.

In a residential services component, ACCC case managers and program facilitators strive to facilitate literacy services, increase employability as well as supply participants with pathways to receive immediate and assessment driven mental health and substance abuse education and treatment, as well as other targeted interventions to attempt to greatly reduce the possibility of re-offense upon release.

# **Department of Environmental Management**



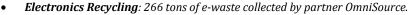
Just as each of us has had to personally adjust to the changes mandated by COVID-19, so, too, did the Allen County Department of Environmental Management adjust to the "new normal" in order to continue our programs and carry on our vision to achieve zero waste of resources in Allen County. While there were some interruptions, most of our programs continued with minimal disruption in 2020. Our dedicated staff and contractors adapted to new protocols to keep everyone safe, while still providing services to county residents. In so many ways, the ACDEM team stepped up to meet the all of the challenges we faced.

ACDEM introduced the "Stop the Spark" campaign on America Recycles Day, November 15, to educate residents on safe battery recycling. This campaign includes battery recycling containers that have been made available at no cost to all Allen County residents. Containers are available for pick-up at ACDEM's partner stores, and were funded in part by a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

ACDEM recognized five of Allen County's Sustainability Superheroes by awarding the 2020 Sustainability Awards to Connolly's Do-It-Best, Megan Masterson and Ground Down Composting, EcoFest Fort Wayne, Hop River Brewing Company, and Cyndi Adamson, Food Rescue US volunteer.



# ACDEM 2020 By the Numbers



- Household Hazardous Waste Collection: processed 151 tons of household hazardous waste.
- **Battery and Light Bulb Recycling:** 15.5 tons of batteries and 99,688 linear feet of light bulbs were accepted through Tox-Away events and at partner stores.
- Yard Waste: 11,309 tons of organic yard waste and brush were accepted at the City of Fort Wayne's Bio-Solids, Lime, and Yard Waste Facility.
- Tire Recycling: 4,471 passenger and semi tires were recycled.
- Community Recycling Drop-Off Sites: 696 tons were collected at ACDEM's six locations.
- **Food Waste Reduction:** 253 tons of food were distributed through the USDA's "Farms to Families" program.



# **Highway Department**

#### PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

#### Auburn Road Small Structure over Belot Drain

The improvements include the replacement of the existing deteriorated corrugated metal pipe arch culvert. A new aluminum box culvert was constructed to restore the maximum load permitted on the road back to the legal limit. This project was completed in August 2020.

#### Hot Mat Asphalt Resurfacing Projects

The Allen County Highway Department received \$1 million from the state's Community Crossings Matching Grant program for hot mat asphalt resurfacing of Saint Joe Road, Schwartz Road, Wheelock Road, Winchester Road and Bluffton Road. All projects were completed by November 2020.

#### O'Day Road Bridge over Seegar Ditch

This project consisted of the replacement of the bridge located approximately 0.4 miles south of the intersection of O'Day Road and Cook Road. The new bridge has a structure length of approximately 65 feet. The roadway approaches consist of two 12-foot travel lanes and six-foot wide shoulders at the bridge and taper to match the existing 22-foot pavement width. This project was completed in May 2020.

#### **IN-PROGRESS**

#### Bass Road - Scott Road to Hillegas Road

The purpose of the project is to widen and improve the roadway due to growth and traffic on Bass Road. This will consist of widening the roadway, adding in roundabouts at certain intersections, and adding a trail on the north side of the roadway from Hadley Road to Hillegas Road and a trail on the south side of the roadway from Scott Road to Hadley Road. Also, the project will improve the bridge over the Flaugh Ditch and the bridge over I-69. This project will be bid in five different phases from 2016 to 2022. The construction estimated cost is \$31.9 million. The first two construction phases were accepted in September of 2020. The next phase bid in March 2020 was for Bass Road from Thomas Road to Hillegas Road. Construction started in late 2020 and is scheduled to be completed October of 2022. The Highway Department will be starting on right-of-way for Phase 3 from Scott Road to Hillegas Road, plus adding in a bridge just west of Hadley Road to eliminate a lingering flooding condition.

#### **GRAVEL ROAD CONVERSIONS**

The conversion of Allen County's gravel roads to chip-and-seal hard surfaces continued in 2020 as the county highway department completed a second round of projects. 28.5 miles of gravel highways, primarily in the northern half of the county, underwent conversion over the summer months. They were chosen based on factors such as continuity to other paved roads, the width of the stone pavement as part of the road, and a minimum of two houses per mile on the road. Around \$2 million was spent on the conversion projects and the money came from the county's Local Income Tax (LIT) funds. All of the work was completed in-house with county maintenance personnel.

#### ACHD 2020 By the Numbers

- GRS Conversions 28.59 miles - \$1,857,291
- Reseals 72.47 miles - \$1,075,063
- *Reclamations* 20.51 miles \$1,268,986
- Permits for the year 2,600 \$310,000



Allen County Commissioners and Highway Department personnel celebrate another 28.5 miles of gravel roads converted to chip-and-seal.



David J. Gladieux

Allen County Sheriff

## **County Sheriff's Office**

The Allen County Sheriff's office consists of approximately 300 employees including 138 sworn police officers, 135 civilian confinement officers and various other support staff. The office has multiple divisions that include patrol, warrants, civil, detective bureau, bureau of identification, vice and narcotics, sex offender registration and notification unit, confinement division, and office of professional standards. Each division has its own unique role and they all play their own part to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Allen County by professionally working in partnership to provide safety, security and service to the community.

Here is a statistical recap of the various divisions' work in 2020.

- Patrol Division: Handled 89,724 call of service (traffic stops, felony & misdemeanor arrests, OWI arrests, etc.)
- Warrants Division: Served 7,324 warrants (criminal bench warrants, adult probation, parole warrants, family court warrants)
- Detective Bureau: Investigated more than 700 felony crime cases
- Bureau of Identification: processed 2,298 gun permits and fingerprinted 969 citizens
- Sex Offender Registry and Notification Division: Monitored 701 sex offender and conducted more than 1,100 in-person visits to verify offenders' registered address
- Allen County Drug Task Force: Seized narcotic street value of drugs totaling nearly \$2.8 million and seized more than \$467,000 in cash while executing 29 warrants
- **Civil Division:** Served 24,090 civils papers; served 6,638 tax warrants; collected almost \$734,000 in state taxes; completed 141 sheriff's sales; served 2,427 protective orders
- Confinement Division: Booked 7,259 persons into jail with an average days served of 22 days; average daily population was 792
- Special Operations Division: Trained a total of 1,464 students from Allen and surrounding counties and cities in areas including K-9, FBI Safe Streets Task Force, SWAT Team and crisis negotiating.

In September, the sheriff's office began using its new K-9 training facility. Located on Paulding Road, the new building houses programs that train police dogs for the Allen County Sheriff's office and a number of other law enforcement agencies in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. Some of the training includes areas such as narcotics or explosives detection, search and rescue, and school resource canine teams. The facility includes classrooms and a heated kennel.







# 2020 Highlights from Other County Offices & Departments

#### **Clerk of the Courts**

During 2020, the Clerk's Office worked closely with our courts and the Election Board to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Because electronic case filing was implemented in Allen County a few years prior, our judiciary was able to continue functioning to the best of its ability given the limitations presented by the pandemic. The Clerk's Office also assisted the Election Board with administering elections which were unprecedented in terms of logistical challenges, especially during a Presidential election year. The office receipted and disbursed more than \$61 million in court case-related financial transactions. Aside from issuing protection orders, jailer's releases, warrants, summonses, subpoenas, and other court documents for existing cases, the Clerks of Courts also processed 57,708 new court case filings. Additionally, the Clerks of Courts issued 2,503 marriage licenses.

#### **County Assessor**

In 2020, the County Assessor completed reassessment in Lake, Washington, and Adams townships. The physical inspections completed during reassessment are a crucial part of determining your assessed value. Indiana is a market-based system and assessments are based on two components: physical characteristics of the property and market area sales from the year prior to the assessment date. Despite the pandemic, the housing market in Allen County is still holding strong with nearly a 10% increase in the median home price from 2019 to 2020.

#### Wayne Township Assessor

The Wayne Township Assessor's Office completed the third year of the current reassessment cycle by inspecting more than 10,200 parcels using a mixture of aerial photography and distanced site visits. The residential real estate market in the township continues to increase in both the amount of sales occurring and the sale prices for another year. In 2019, Wayne Township saw 1,351 valid sales. In 2020, that amount rose to 1,524. The average valid sale price for a home in Wayne Township increased from \$105,399 in 2019 to \$111,115 in 2020.

#### **County Recorder**

In 2020, the Allen County Recorder's office recorded 83,884 documents which is 15,000 more documents than last year. 80% of those documents were recorded electronically. More than \$3.3 million in recording and user fees were collected. \$1.3 million of those fees went into the Recorder's perpetuation fund which is used to run our office, and for salaries. The remaining \$2 million went to other various state and local funds including the General Fund. The Recorder's office Property Fraud Alert system has 10,354 subscribers. This service allows you to have your name monitored within the Recorder's office in order to track possible fraudulent recordings that affect your property. Subscribers will be notified when the name they have registered is used in any recording activities within the Recorder's office.

#### **Youth Services Center**

The Youth Services Center was greatly impacted by COVID-19. Admissions for the year were the lowest they have ever been with just over 276 children served during 2020. The Juvenile CHINS and Delinquency Court processes attempted to keep kids safe by leaving them where they were and providing support services. Because of the reduction in children served, the center was able to return over \$350,000 to the county general fund.



Christopher M. Nancarrow

Clerk of the Courts



Stacey O'Day County Assessor



Beverly Zuber
Wayne Township Assessor



Anita Mather County Recorder



**Youth Services Center** 



#### **BROADBAND INITIATIVE**

A committee was formed to begin tackling broadband issues in Allen County. The Broadband Access Team consists of representatives and experts from various economic development and business groups in Allen County and northeast Indiana, cable and internet service providers, and other elected officials. The team developed a survey to identify the level and capacity of existing broadband internet, determine how citizens and businesses are obtaining internet service and what they're paying for it, and how they want to use it. Future topics include broadband needs for the next 10 years and broadband network costs and sources of funding.



#### **ELECTRIC WORKS INVESTMENT**

The Board of Commissioners wired a \$3.5 million commitment to Electric Works project developers in mid-December. The county's investment is in addition to \$1 million provided in the fall of 2018 for remediation work at the former General Electric campus site. The project's first phase includes more than 700,000 sq. ft. of space and offers office, innovation, education, healthcare, retail, entertainment, and community uses. The ultimate vision is for a well-conceptualized, mixed-use district of innovation, culture and community seamlessly integrated with other downtown development projects underway.

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#### "ALL IN ALLEN"

Work on the community's next comprehensive plan dubbed "All In Allen" kicked off in 2020. The two year-long process is a joint effort of Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne and will provide guidance for the city and county plus the communities of Huntertown, Grabill, Monroeville and Woodburn. A consulting team will work with local leaders to develop a plan that will create a shared vision for future growth and development, encompass meaningful and inclusive public engagement, identify stakeholders, establish clear guidance with a user-friendly document, and establish an achievable implementation plan.

#### COMMISSIONERS RECEIVE STATEWIDE AWARD

The Allen County Board of Commissioners was named the recipient of the 2020 Indiana Association of County Commissioners' Achievement Award for Outstanding Team Effort. The commissioners were recognized for showing "great tenacity, drive and cooperation with multiple government and public entities" to complete the first two phases of the Bass Road Corridor project over a ten-year period. The first two phases of the project on Bass Road stretched from Hadley Road to Clifty Parkway and included widening the roadway from two to three lanes; constructing two roundabouts, one of which included a railroad crossing; adding a multi -use path; and widening the Bass Road Bridge over Interstate 69.



#### "CARES" ACT FUNDING

Allen County received \$12,177,806 in reimbursement from the state of Indiana through the Federal CARES Act for internal COVID expenses which permitted us to be reimbursed for rent at testing sites, PPE for employees, plexiglass barriers at front counters, technology to permit remote work and video conferencing, and payroll expenses for first responders. In addition, the county was able to be reimbursed \$407,654 for its COVID public awareness campaign that ran through the holiday season to help prevent a spike in cases and hospitalizations.

# **Connecting to Allen County Government**

Assessor's Office	449-7123
Auditor's Office	449-7241
Building Department	449-7131
Circuit Court	449-7602
Clerk of Courts	449-7245
Community Corrections	449-7252
Coroner's Office	449-7389
County Council	449-7233
Department of Environmental Management	449-7878
Election Board	449-7329
Health Department	449-7561
Highway Department	449-7369
Homeland Security	449-4663
Human Resources	449-7217
Jail	449-7376
Memorial Coliseum	482-9502
Parks and Recreation	449-3180
Planning Services Department	449-7607
Prosecuting Attorney	449-7641
Public Information	449-7671
Purchasing Department	449-7567
Recorder's Office	449-7165
Sheriff's Department	449-7535
Superior Court	449-7681
Surveyor's Office	449-7625
Treasurer's Office	449-7693
Veterans' Service	449-7861
Voter Registration	449-7154
Wayne Township Assessor	449-7173
Youth Services Center	449-3561



# 2020 Vandeveer Impact Award

The 2020 Linda & Jerry Vandeveer Impact Award was presented to a husband-and-wife team for their community service work.

Josh and Jenny Hartup received the honor during a Sept. 28 ceremony.

Josh Hartup is a sergeant with the Fort Wayne Police Department and Jenny is a teacher with Fort Wayne Community Schools. The couple has worked extensively with the "Guns 'N Hoses" charity, which provides assistance to first responders and their families. They were also cited for their work in helping the Law Enforcement/Firefighters Memorial receive a \$10,000 grant from the Goldstine Foundation for granite needed to finish the memorial monuments. Josh has helped organize police officers to find sponsors who would donate money to Special Olympics in honor of the officers who would take the "Polar Plunge" each winter. And Jenny was honored by the state of Indiana Fraternal Order of Police in 2019 for her volunteer work with the local

The Hartups received a personal plaque and their names are included on a permanent plaque kept in the commissioners' office. They also received a \$250 check from Fire-Police City-County Federal Credit Union, which is handling a special account established by an anonymous donor for recipients of the award.

Surveyor

# **2021 Allen County Elected Officials & Department Heads**

Commissioners Richard E. Beck Building Dept. John E. Caywood

Therese M. Brown

Building Maintenance

Vance Hernandez

F. Nelson Peters

County Purchasing Dawn Rose

Council Robert A. Armstrong Dept. of Environmental Mgt. Thomas Fox

Joel M. Benz Dept. of Health Matthew Sutter, M.D.

Sheila R. Curry-Campbell Dept. of Planning Kimberly Bowman

Kenneth J. Fries

Election Board

Beth A. Dlug
Thomas A. Harris

Kyle Kerley Highway Dept. William Hartman III

Chris A. Spurr Homeland Security Bernie Beier

Human Resources Charity Murphy
Assessor Stacey J. O'Day

Auditor Nicholas D. Jordan

Clerk of Courts Christopher M. Nancarrow Parks & Recreation Jefferson D. Baxter

Coroner Dr. John Brandenberger Public Defender Eric Ortiz

Prosecuting Attorney Karen E. Richards Purdue Co-op Extension James Wolff

Recorder Anita Mather Voter Registration Katie Zuber (D)

Sheriff David J. Gladieux

Barry Schust (R)

Treasurer William Royce War Memorial Coliseum Randy Brown

Wayne Twp. Assessor Beverly Zuber Youth Services Center Christopher Dunn

Circuit Court Judge Wendy W. Davis

**Jeff Sorg** 

Superior Court Judge David J. Avery

Judge Craig J. Bobay

Judge Jennifer L. DeGroote

Judge Steven O. Godfrey

Judge Frances C. Gull

Judge Charles F. Pratt

Judge Andrea R. Trevino

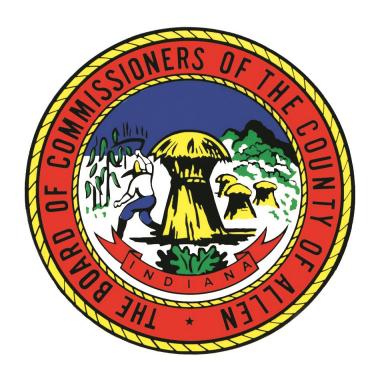
Judge Andrew S. Williams

Judge David M. Zent

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**2021 Goals** 

- Work toward more equitable pay system for county employees
- employees
- ♦ Plan for Youth Services Center move
- ♦ Complete next 25 miles of chip-and-seal roads
- Purchase and begin to rehab new home for Community Corrections
- Enhance technology in the Allen County Jail
- Continue preparation of Carroll Road/Lima Road property for development
- ♦ Assist with mass COVID vaccination efforts



# **Allen County Board of Commissioners**

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