

PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The men and women of the Plain Township Fire Department are honored to provide excellent emergency services to you and our entire community.

This annual report provides a statistical overview of the Plain Township Fire Department operations in 2023, including our new mission, vision, and values statements and strategic plan priorities.

Providing professional and responsive fire and emergency medical services requires a constant re-evaluation of resources – both human and financial.

Last year, we created a new staffing model to minimize overtime costs, consolidated our records management system, completed much-needed building repairs, and creatively managed ongoing supply chain issues. With sound financial management, we have been able to extend our last five-year fire levy to nine years, without sacrificing exceptional service.

We are proud to share that one of our improvements was an upgrade to our life-saving emergency medical equipment, such as heart monitors, power stretchers, automated electronic defibrillators (AED), and chest compression devices allow our firefighter/paramedics the best tools to accomplish our mission of saving lives.

With the continued and significant growth in New Albany and Plain Township, we anticipate the need to keep pace to ensure a model of public safety that promotes acceptable response times and safe structures.

The arrival of our emergency teams at your home or business relies on the ability to navigate the traffic that is a byproduct of growth, thus increasing response times. Additionally, our prevention and inspection bureau is tasked with a higher volume of plan reviews and inspections, all to prevent emergencies and keep you safe. In the coming months, we will be sharing more about our plans and our need for additional public support.

We are grateful to be able to serve this wonderful community and look forward to another year of success. I hope that you find the information within this report informative and helpful. Should you have any questions or comments, please call, email or stop by the station to meet with me.

Respectfully,

*Patrick T. Connor*

Patrick T. Connor – Fire Chief



# A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

The dedicated men and women of the Plain Township Fire Department are prepared for the challenges we face to protect the lives and property of the people we serve. In 2023, the trend of increasing volume continued, with a year-over-year 5% increase in emergency calls.

As the community grows, we anticipate a continued increase in call volume and challenges to meet desired response times for emergency calls to all parts of the community.

We proudly operate with the lowest effective fire tax in Franklin County while maintaining an exemplary fire department. Our operational and administrative staff operates from a single fire station built in 1997, located near the heart of New Albany.

Training continues to be a high priority. Our firefighter/paramedics are required to maintain continuing education hours to re-certify their certifications. Daily and specialized training helps accomplish those goals and maintain the skills required to perform at a high level.

In 2023, our chief officers completed leadership training and Fire Officer III certification. Four of our firefighters completed a six-month Rescue Technician Training program for specialized rescues like construction accidents and entrapments. All our full-time firefighters are state-certified paramedics providing ambulance service along with our fire protection responsibilities.

One way we stay connected with our community is by providing community AED and CPR training. In 2023, an Emergency Medical Services Coordinator position was added to help with community outreach, emergency medical training, and quality control. This position has added tremendous value to our mission, goals and keeping our community safe.

Our mission statement says it best – “Together we save lives through, education, engagement and emergency services.”

It is truly an honor to protect and serve New Albany and Plain Township. We are committed to maintaining excellent service with fiscal responsibility and providing our citizens with the safest community possible.

Respectfully,



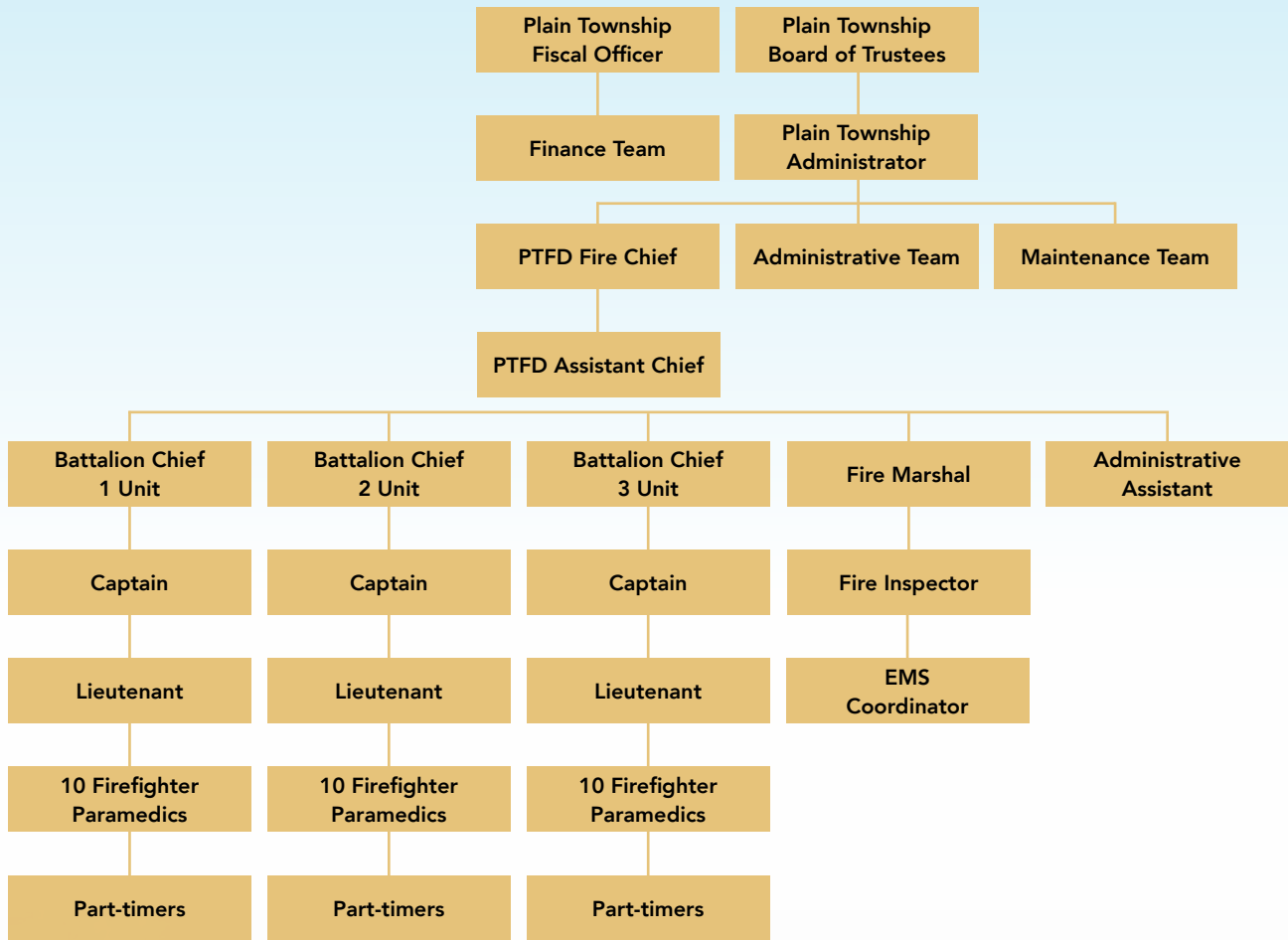
Greg Ecleberry, Assistant Fire Chief



# STAFFING

**PTFD operates with a 24 hours on/48 hours off staffing model for all operational firefighters. There are three shifts with an average of 11 firefighters on duty per day.**

The fire chiefs, EMS coordinator, fire marshal, fire inspector, and administrative assistant work 40-hour work weeks. Currently, 45 are employed full-time, 15 are employed part-time. The fire chiefs report to the Township Administrator and work closely with the Board of Trustees to meet the needs of the community.





## MISSION STATEMENT

Together, we save lives through education, engagement, and emergency services.

## VISION STATEMENT

A community that is informed, connected, and safe.

## VALUES STATEMENTS

### Courage

We do not hesitate in our response, and we fulfill our oath with passion and pride.

### Integrity

We operate with honesty and transparency.

### Compassion

We care for those in distress as we respond to their emergency needs.

### Equity

We ensure every employee has access to learning and development, and that everyone receives the same level of service.

### Professionalism

We adhere to the highest standards in the industry, train diligently, and work effectively to achieve the best outcomes.

### Connectedness

We celebrate and engage our community at events, in the schools, and throughout neighborhoods.





**2022 - 2023 PTFD Awards Ceremony Recipients**

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION**

We are proud to share that our leadership team includes new officers, several of which were promotions in 2023.

**Fire Chief Patrick Connor (January 2023)**  
**Assistant Fire Chief Greg Ecleberry (March 2023)**

**1 Unit**  
 Battalion Chief Chris Pabst (April 2023)  
 Captain Todd Moore  
 Lieutenant Joe Pershing (April 2023)

**2 Unit**  
 Battalion Chief Kevin Sponaugle (promoted to Fire Marshal in 2024)  
 Captain Joe Herren (April 2023)  
 Lieutenant Colby Reynolds (April 2023)

**3 Unit**  
 Battalion Chief Travis Dudley  
 Captain Brian Reasoner  
 Lieutenant Beau Zierk (April 2023)

**We also recognize the contributions and retirement of Lt. Mark Powell, who left the fire service at the end of 2023.**



AC Ecleberry, Firefighter David Smith, Fire Chief Connor

**2022 Medal of Valor**  
 Firefighter David Smith

**2022 Medal of Merit**  
 Lieutenant Beau Zierk  
 Firefighter Adam Brandt  
 Firefighter Nic Yutzy  
 Firefighter Darin Sovchik

**2022 Chief's Award**  
 Firefighter Adam Noble

**2022 Firefighter of the Year**  
 Firefighter David Smith

**2023 Chief's Award**  
 Firefighter Clinton Lainge

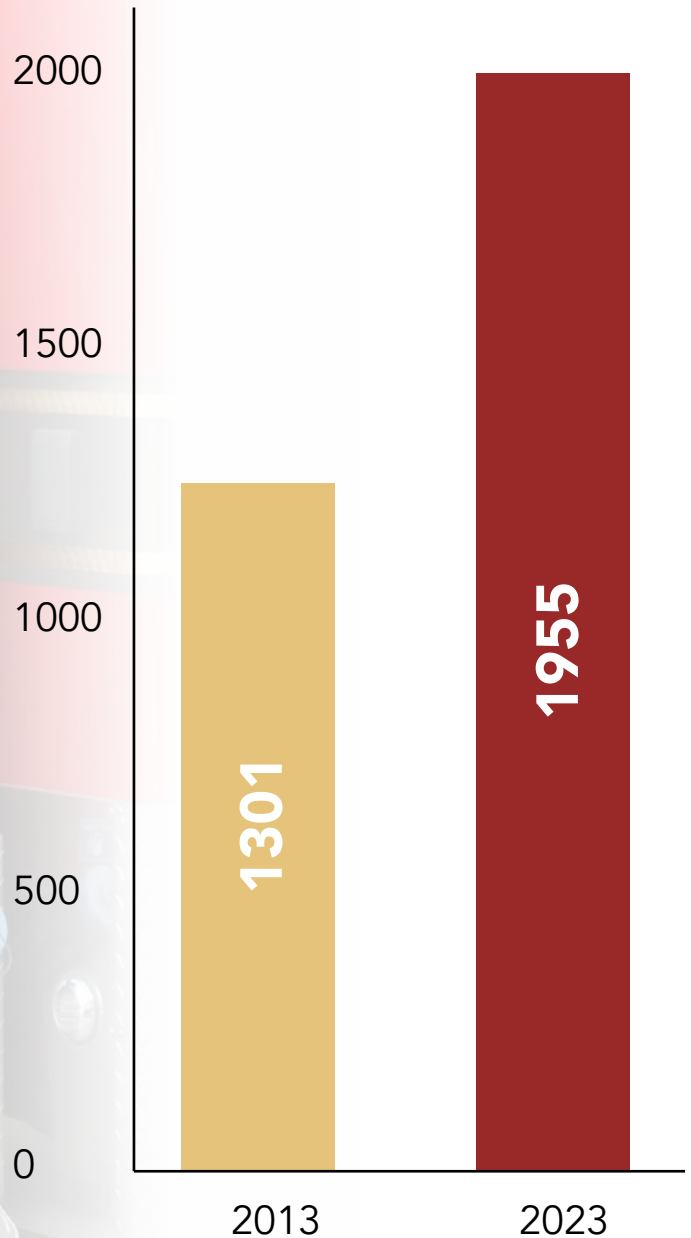
**2023 Firefighter of the Year**  
 Firefighter Derek Caplinger

**2023 EMS Provider of the Year**  
 Firefighter David Smith

**10 YEAR EMS RUNS  
INCREASE OF 50%**

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP**

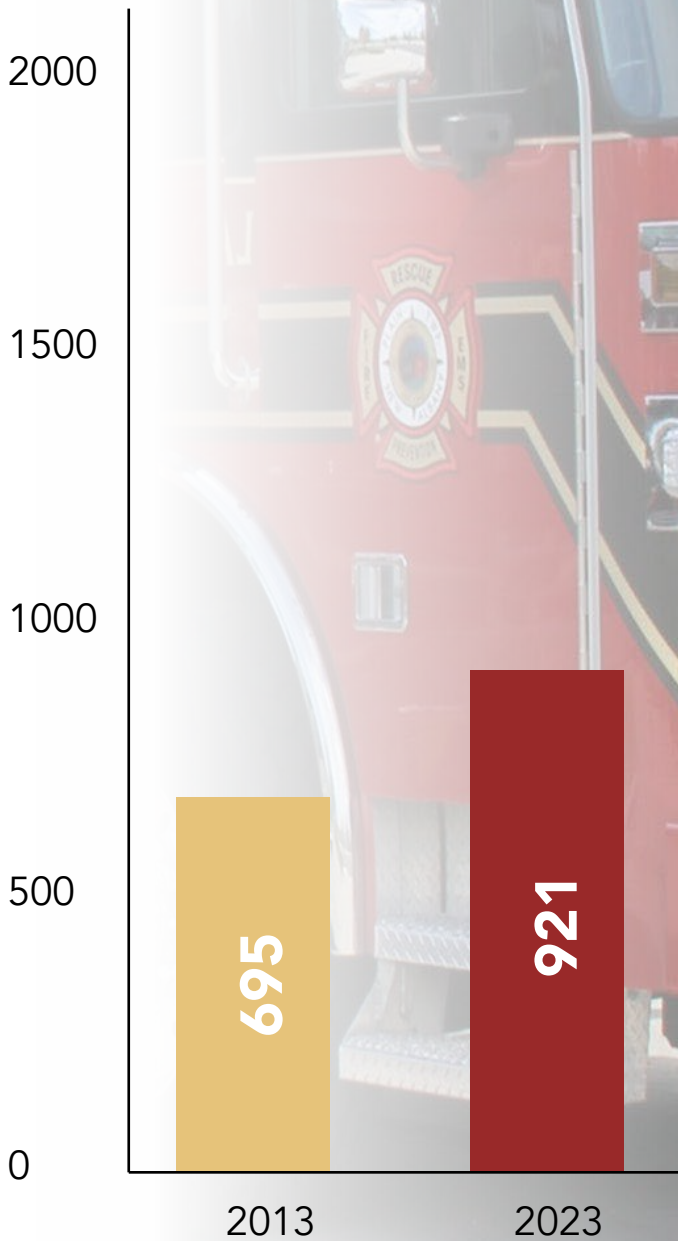
**EMS RUNS**



**EMS Coordinator Essick**

**10 YEAR FIRE RUNS  
INCREASE OF 32.51%**

**FIRE RUNS**





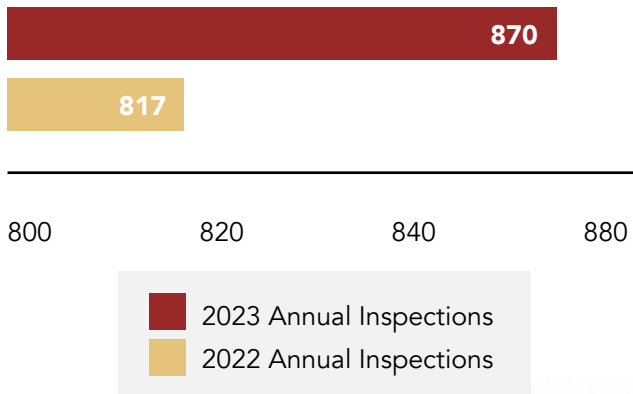


**Fire Marshal Sponaugle**

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with ensuring that all commercial structures within New Albany and Plain Township are safe from possible causes of fire and meet the requirements of the Ohio Fire Code.

The bureau is staffed with two fulltime personnel. The Fire Marshal, who performs plan review and inspections for all new commercial construction projects and the Fire Inspector, who performs annual fire safety inspections at all existing commercial structures.

**PREVENTION BUREAU TOTAL INSPECTIONS ONE YEAR INCREASE OF 6.4%**



**2022 Statistics**

Annual Inspections	513
Reinspections	242
Follow-up Inspections	62
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>817</b>
<b>New Construction Plan Reviews</b>	<b>37</b>

**2023 Statistics**

Annual Inspections	527
Reinspections	300
Follow-up Inspections	43
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>870</b>
<b>New Construction Plan Reviews</b>	<b>4</b>

# A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

The Plain Township Fire Department completed a strategic planning process and standards of cover, with the following priorities approved by the Board of Trustees:

## PRIORITY 1: SAVE LIVES

Goal: To respond quickly with highly trained professionals and state of the art equipment.

## PRIORITY 2: PROTECT PROPERTY

Goal: To prevent loss and to minimize disruptions to property owners.

## PRIORITY 3: PREPARE FOR GROWTH

Goal: To meet the fire and EMS needs of a larger population within Plain Township and its service area.

## PRIORITY 4: WORK EFFECTIVELY

Goal: To manage tax dollars efficiently and operate with transparency.

## PRIORITY 5: ENGAGE COMMUNITY

Goal: To provide community service and to celebrate community traditions and achievements.

The new mission, vision, and values statements are listed on page 5.

Plain Township has a new heavy rescue fire engine on order, with delivery expected in 2025. This will replace the current engine that went into service in 2011 and currently has over 125,000 miles. A new ambulance medic will be delivered this summer, replacing a 10-year-old unit with over 100,000 miles.

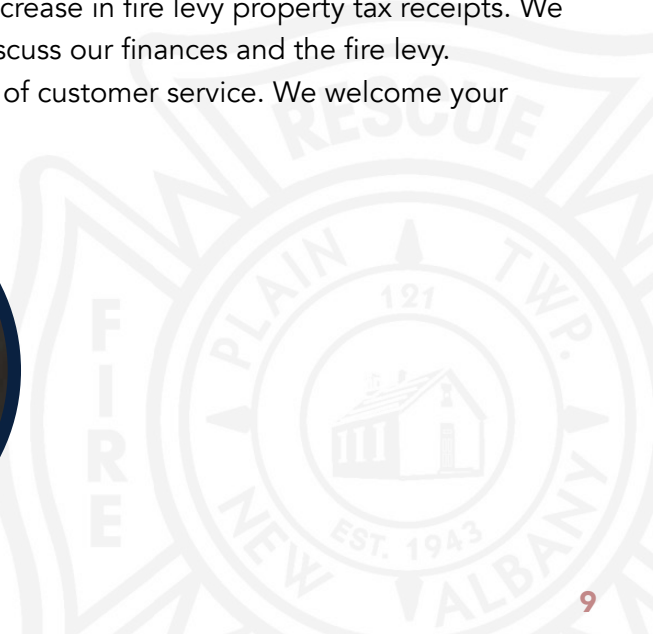
Plain Township partnered with the Franklin County Engineer to replace the concrete aprons at the fire station and to install a concrete driveway to replace the asphalt driveway. Other major facility improvements include converting all internal lighting to LED and replacing the dry fire suppression system in the station.

From a budget perspective, fire levy property tax receipts were flat. Despite a significant increase in residential and commercial development, there was only a 0.3% increase in fire levy property tax receipts. We will be engaging with our constituents in the coming months to discuss our finances and the fire levy. Plain Township continues to provide transparency and a high level of customer service. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your support within the community.

Respectfully,



Ben Collins, Township Administrator



# 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

## Receipts – Fire & EMS Operations

Property Taxes	\$6,529,100
TIF-City of New Albany	\$1,457,010
EMS Fees	\$484,674
Inspection Fees	\$26,217
Grants	\$148,000
Donations	\$7,632
Rent	\$43,688
Other	\$36,448
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$8,732,770</b>

**Receipts – Capital**                    **\$559,498**

**Grand Total Receipts**                **\$9,292,268**

## Expenditures – Fire & EMS Operations

Salaries & Benefits	\$7,670,785
Supplies	\$153,689
Tools & Equipment	\$183,064
Repairs & Maintenance	\$149,020
Buildings & Additions	\$472,626
Insurance	\$45,298
Utilities & IT	\$118,569
Dispatching	\$176,329
Grant Expense	\$129,870
Training & Dues	\$51,499
Audit	\$86,211
EMS Billing	\$24,179
Transfers	\$550,000
Other	\$188,698
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$9,999,838</b>

**Expenditures – Capital**                **\$438,517**

**Grand Total Expenditures**           **\$10,438,354**

**NET**    **- \$1,146,087**

The cash balance as of Dec. 31, 2023 was \$4,082,617.



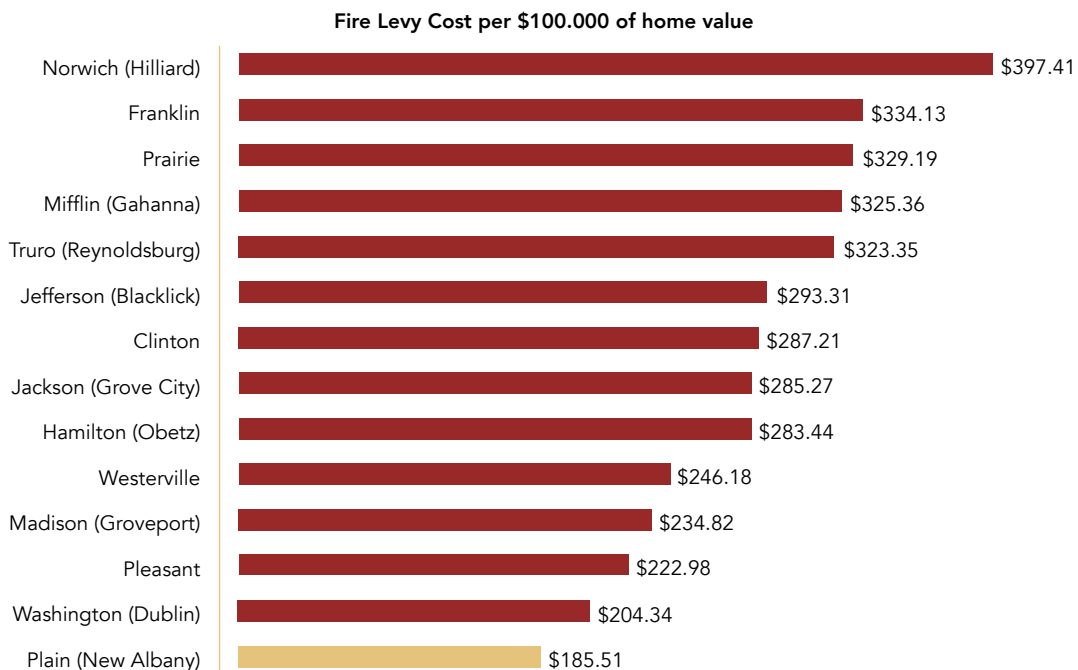
# 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Plain Township Fire Department is honored to be a steward of the resources entrusted to us by voters. In comparison to our peers in Franklin County, **PTFD has the lowest effective residential and commercial effective levy rates.**

The last levy request was 2015. It was designed to last five years but has been stretched to nine years. Our professional firefighters deliver a high level of service and expertise for a tremendous value to our community.

Jurisdiction	Residential Effective	Commercial Effective	Voted Total	Last Levy	Last Levy Mills
Norwich (Hilliard)	11.354551	14.251678	25.02	2024	4.9
Franklin	9.546641	18.235252	24.53	2020	5.9
Prairie	9.405292	13.718913	20.21	2018	3.6
Mifflin (Gahanna)	9.296041	11.761887	16.95	2022	2.5
Truro (Reynoldsburg)	9.238710	16.158322	24.03	2020	4.0
Jefferson (Blacklick)	8.380280	11.308773	14.90	2022	3.5
Clinton	8.205963	11.642324	21.90	2020	7.5
Jackson (Grove City)	8.150577	11.236943	26.75	2022	3.5
Hamilton (Obetz)	8.098396	13.799321	21.50	2023	1.5
Westerville	7.033819	12.050011	20.80	2016	2.8
Madison (Groveport)	6.709246	9.926817	19.75	2015	3.5
Pleasant	6.370792	10.589885	20.00	2023	3.5
Washington (Dublin)	5.838428	7.621395	14.95	2010	8.5
Plain (New Albany)	5.300243	5.959589	12.10	2015	2.9

<b>Average</b>	<b>8.066356</b>	<b>12.018651</b>	<b>20.26</b>	<b>4.15</b>
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## YOUR SUPPORT

The Plain Township Fire Department wants to thank all the community members who drop off food, send thank you notes, and visit our firehouse to offer their support.

We are grateful for all those who remember our firefighters, especially during the holidays, when special meals and desserts are often delivered.



Photo Credit: City of New Albany

**We are proud to serve our community and are grateful for all the expressions of appreciation that we receive.**

Anyone interested in supporting the fire department by making a financial contribution, may do so by writing a check made payable to the New Albany Community Foundation with Plain Twp Fire Dept Fund in the memo line. You may also give online at [newalbanyfoundation.org](http://newalbanyfoundation.org).



THE NEW ALBANY  
*Community Foundation*

# OPEN HOUSE

The 26th Annual Open House was held on Sunday, October 15, 2023 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Hundreds of residents visited the firehouse to meet the firefighters, explore the fire trucks, see the new rescue tools up close, and enjoy a bowl of chili. As always, the foam machine bubbles and special visit from the life flight helicopter, were family favorites.

The Annual Open House is held in conjunction with the national Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Department wants to remind our neighbors that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Make sure you cook with caution, have working smoke alarms in your home, and practice your fire escape plan.

Please save the date for our 27th Open House on September 29, 2024.





**Together, we save lives through education, engagement, and emergency services.**



**Plain Township Office**

45 Second St.  
P.O. Box 273  
New Albany, OH 43054  
Phone: (614) 855-2085  
[www.plaintownship.org](http://www.plaintownship.org)

**Township Administrator**

Ben Collins  
[bcollins@plaintownship.org](mailto:bcollins@plaintownship.org)

**Fire Chief**

Patrick Connor  
[pconnor@plaintownship.org](mailto:pconnor@plaintownship.org)

**Plain Township Fire Department**

Non Emergency (614) 855-7370  
Emergency Call 911

**Elected Officials**

**Board of Trustees**

Kerri Mollard, Chair  
[kerrimollard@plaintownship.org](mailto:kerrimollard@plaintownship.org)

Jill Beckett-Hill, Vice Chair  
[jillbecketthill@plaintownship.org](mailto:jillbecketthill@plaintownship.org)

David Ferguson  
[dferguson@plaintownship.org](mailto:dferguson@plaintownship.org)

**Fiscal Officer**

Bud Zappitelli  
[PTFO@plaintownship.org](mailto:PTFO@plaintownship.org)