Each quarter we feature a photo of one of our members. This quarter we feature Loveland, who is a member of the Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium.

Highlights of this Issue:

- **Long time CLG Executive Director Leaves, CLG Hiring New Executive Director**

Spring Trainings:

- **Payroll Forum**
- **HR Luncheon**
- **Cybersecurity Training**
- **Administrative Professional Luncheon**

Programs:

- **Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Group 1 Bid (S.W.O.R.R.E.)**

Regular Features:

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Page 2: New Faces/ New Places

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Center for Local Government
Summer 2025 Newsletter

CLG Executive Director Leaves Lasting Impact

T.J. White was the CLG Executive Director for 13 years. He started in 2008 as a Management Analyst. Prior to that he had worked at the Center for one summer in 2003 as an intern. During his time at CLG, the organization grew tremendously. Since 2020, the Center has grown from 51 to 70 members, which is the fastest period of growth since CLG was created in 1990.

T.J. created and expanded many programs at CLG. One of the biggest programs he created was the Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium (SWORRE) in 2010. This program is utilized by 14 members to create more competitive bids and pricing to their residents for trash and recycling services. Another major program that T.J. created is the CLG Leadership Academy. This very popular program prepares and trains staff from across the membership to grow and lead in their communities. Since the first class in 2013, there have been over 200 graduates.

In addition to his regular duties as the Executive Director, he continues to be active in the local government community in Cincinnati as a member of CAMA and OCMA. He is a mentor to several people at the start of their careers in local government. He also was and is an instructor in the Northern Kentucky University Resume Class. He initiated a partnership with Xavier University and their Leadership Center. In spring of this year he was awarded "Emeritus" membership for contributions to the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) Greater Cincinnati Chapter.

The Board of Trustees honored TJ with a resolution commemorating his service to and leadership of CLG at his farewell reception held in June. We all wish T.J. much continuing success in his new endeavors!

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Effective Governance Through Collaboration

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Mike Rahall, Interim Executive Director, mrahall@C4LG.org

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION:

The Center for Local Government (CLG) located in Cincinnati, OHIO is a unique non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, created in 1990 as a clearinghouse for inter-governmental collaboration, training and information sharing.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ziah Huett , Assistant Director, zhuett@C4LG.org

New Faces in New Places (And New Governments!)

Mike Rahall joins the Center for Local Government as the interim Executive Director. He brings over three decades of public administration experience to the role, having served in multiple leadership positions across southwest Ohio.

His experience, spanning multiple jurisdictions, from being the Safety Service Director in Reading, to becoming Fairfield Township's Administrator, and finishing as the Village of Cleves' first Village Manager. With his service on CLG's Board of Trustees for two terms as President and Vice President, Mike brings in-depth knowledge of CLG's mission and operations. As a result of his vast experience, Mike is uniquely positioned to provide steady leadership during this transition period.

TJ White joins the Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) as their new Loss Control Manager/Risk Manager. He can be reached at tjwhite@mvrma.com.

If there is anyone we missed, please reach out to ZHuett@C4LG.org, and we will be sure to include them in the newsletter.

Interesting Fact: CLG is searching for it's 4th permanent Executive Director

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Administrative Professionals Luncheon held on May 15th

The Center for Local Government welcomed back speaker Dr. Sean Reynolds on May 15, 2025 at de Sha's American Tavern for a follow-up to his presentation "Listen UP for Better Living" in the Spring of 2024. The topic this May was "Handle Conflict Before It Handles You". This topic created lots of good discussion among the people attending.

Dr. Reynolds specializes in Effective Communication, Teambuilding, Self-Care, Managing Changes, Mission Effectiveness and Organizational Development. He is also a CLG Leadership Academy Instructor. For more than 40 years Dr. Reynolds has served businesses, churches, nonprofits and schools as a trainer, facilitator, teambuilder, and consultant, with a passion for equipping people to live and work more joyfully and effectively.

If you'd like to receive email notifications for our semi-annual Administrative Professionals luncheons, please email Lori Stuckey at Lstuckey@C4LG.org

Inaugural CLG Payroll Administrator Forum Held on April 16th

On April 16th, 2025, the Center for Local Government hosted the inaugural Payroll Administrators Forum at Terwilliger Lodge in Montgomery, Ohio. This new initiative brought payroll professionals from across our member governments for a morning of informal networking and knowledge sharing.

Participants engaged in an open discussion on common payroll challenges such as employee bank account changes and payroll audits. The forum provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration and support among those managing payrolls from over 20 local governments. The next forum will be this upcoming fall, with more details to follow.

Terwilliger Lodge hosted the Inaugural CLG Payroll Administrator Forum

If you'd like to be added to the Payroll Administrator contact list, please email Ziah Huett at ZHuett@C4LG.org.

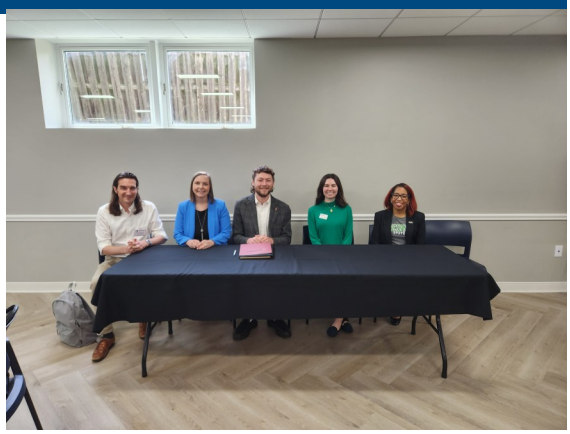
Interesting Fact: Since 1987, more than **50 movies** have been filmed in Cincinnati with half of those filmed since 2005, including Rain Man, Traffic, & many more

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

HR Luncheon Held in May .....

On May 19th, 2025, we held our biannual HR Luncheon, where we heard insights from a diverse panel of college representatives on internship development and creation. Featured at the HR Luncheon, we had speakers from Xavier University, the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State, and Northern Kentucky University.

At the luncheon, attendees learned from university experts about the value of internships, the differences between internships and co-ops, and how to collaborate with university partners to maximize campus outreach.



Left to Right: Kurt Hollender, Loren Papin, Matt Berning, Emily Helmers, Maya Franklin , Julie Stockman (Not Pictured)

Cybersecurity Training

This past June, the Center for Local Government collaborated with the Ohio Persistent Cyber Improvement (O-PCI) program hosting a cybersecurity training session. Held at the Mason Municipal Center, attendees learned about what O-PCI has to offer, and best practices in cybersecurity.

O-PCI is part of a larger initiative, known as the Ohio Cyber Range Institute, which aims to close the cybersecurity skills gap. Peter Kobak, O-PCI's Associate Director, and his team led a discussion on how local governments can use their free training and navigate cybersecurity incidents.

New Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium Bid Completed

The Communities of Fairfax, Greenhills, Loveland, Mt. Healthy, Riverside, an Springdale are participating in the Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium (SWORRE) "Group 1 2025" bidding process. The SWORRE is a joint bid for solid waste and recycling services. Jointly bidding can increase competition for the contract and can provide communities with greater leverage when it comes to issues like customer service. Fourteen governments participate in one of three SWORRE bidding groups.

The bid will be published on April 21, with a contract start date of March 1, 2026 (for all governments except Riverside, which would start on January 1, 2026). It is expected that the group will have an estimate of their prices from the prospective haulers in late May. The average cost in this region for solid waste and recycling collection services has gone up by more than $5 per household per month since 2020. This is due to increases in the price of fuel, labor, capital equipment, and other items. We will share the pricing that the consortium received in the next newsletter, along with an analysis of the steps taken to mitigate these cost increases.

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Attraction and Retention Workshop held at Xavier University in June

On June 26th, 2025, HR personnel from our membership network joined CLG at Xavier University for insights from Xavier University's APEX program on how to attract and retain talent. The speakers for this session, APEX Director Brenda Costa, and Director of APEX Recruitment Kasey Ashton, led an engaging workshop on strategies to attract Gen Z talent and how to explore tactics to strengthen talent pipelines.

Near the end of the program, participants wrapped up the discussion by generating ideas to support the implementation of attracting, retaining, and developing talent. As a reminder, participating CLG members get a tuition discount at Xavier University. Here is the link to the page: Center for Local Government Educational Partnership - Corporate Partnerships, Xavier University

Investment Insights: Knowledge from our Portfolio Management Partners

The Center for Local Government Treasury Asset Management Collaborative (TAMC) offers an opportunity for member government to take advantage of professional portfolio managers with ample experience in public sector finance. Since 2011, CLG has partnered with SJS Investment Services and RedTree Investments, to provide participating governments with financial management expertise.

Governments participating in the TAMC have a choice between both firms to determine which investment approach is most appropriate for their entity's investment needs. Each entity has the option to set up separate investment accounts with one of the firms. And no entity is required to ONLY invest with one of these two firms. To provide an introduction:

Since 2011, **SJS Investment Services** has been a trusted advisor in the CLG's Treasury Asset Management Collaborative, helping members manage investments with clarity and confidence. Our team supports public entities with cash flow analysis, navigating interest rate and bond market shifts, and aligning portfolios with each entity's goals, liquidity needs, and fiduciary responsibilities.

RedTree Investment Group is an independent investment advisory firm specializing in fixed-income portfolio management for public entities. We partner with local governments to develop customized investment strategies that prioritize safety, liquidity, and return. Our experienced team provides transparent guidance and dedicated service to help clients navigate the complexities of public funds investing.

Each quarter, a representative from SJS or RedTree will use this column to provide money management insights to the CLG membership. This month, the column will be written by SJS Investment Services You come first. All the time. Every time.®

Rates Are at a Crossroads - But Your Strategy Shouldn't Be

Interest rates don't always make headlines, but when they do, they tend to shake everything else. For public entities, these rate moves have real implications. They influence how much interest income your entity can earn and how best to balance security, liquidity, and yield.

Right now, interest rates sit at a crossroads. One week, inflation is proving stubborn. The next, slowing growth signals emerge. The Federal Reserve finds itself in a difficult position, balancing competing pressures without oversteering. While the Fed held rates steady at its last meeting, the outlook remains uncertain. Tariffs, labor markets, and geopolitical tensions may shift the path quickly.

Continued on Next Page...

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Investment Insights: Knowledge from our Portfolio Management Partners

In this type of environment, the temptation is to outguess what happens next. But that rarely works. Markets are forward-looking and remarkably efficient at repricing expectations in real time. The better approach is to stop trying to predict and instead build a strategy that works across possible outcomes.

To avoid the pitfalls of market timing, some entities are incorporating approaches like:

- **A ladder of U.S. Treasuries and agency bonds**: This ensures consistent maturities, allowing your entity to reinvest at prevailing rates over time. You won't need to time the market; you'll be participating in it steadily.

- **A small allocation to callable agencies**: These can offer enhanced yield potential and act as a hedge in a rising rate environment. If rates decline, they'll likely be called, giving you dry powder to reinvest. If rates rise, you'll retain the higher coupon.

A sufficient, but not excessive, cash balance: Yes, money market rates are attractive now, but they're also drifting lower. If the Fed reduces rates sharply, today's 4% yields may quickly vanish. Modestly extending maturities out the yield curve may help secure more stable income, even if it means accepting a slightly lower yield today.
It's not that understanding rate expectations is unimportant because tools like the Fed's "dot plot" or Fed Funds futures probabilities offer useful context. But building your portfolio around those forecasts assumes you can outsmart the market which very few consistently can.

Instead, focus on what you can control: building a balanced portfolio that aligns with your entity's liquidity needs while capturing a fair market return. Discipline, not prediction, is what keeps public funds steady…even when rates are not.

Disclosure: *There is no guarantee investment strategies will be successful. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Diversification neither assures a profit nor guarantees against a loss in a declining market.*

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The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Bringing Colerain Together with the Power of Art

The final brush strokes have been added to the newest mural in Colerain Township! When the Colerain Chamber of Commerce took a look at the retention wall near Northgate Mall, they saw more than a blank concrete slab; they saw a possibility for placemaking. Now, with help from the community and Colerain Township, a mural will soon stretch across that wall.

Murals aren't just works of art; they're vibrant landmarks that reflect a community's history, values, and hopes for the future. In fact, about 70% of U.S. adults believe public art improves the image and identity of a place, according to a 2023 Americans for the Arts report.

This wall, located at 9501 Colerain Avenue, was chosen by the Chamber back in August 2024 as a potential mural site. The Chamber worked with Colerain Township, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and local business leaders to develop a design that would stand the test of time. A fundraising goal of $30,000 was set, which was met in April 2025.

After a general idea for a design was formed, artist Brian Beck was tasked with taking the identity of Colerain Township and making it come to life. But this is far from his first time putting paint on a wall.

"I have been commissioned to create 200 murals and/or art installations," said Beck, a native of the White Oak area. "Most of my work is focused within small businesses and private clients. However, I also have been commissioned directly by the City of Mason, Loveland, Bromley, Colerain, and Warren County. I have artwork as far as Seattle, Washington and North Carolina."

Beck said each piece he does has its own story, purpose and delivery. For Colerain Township, the mural shines a light on the different facets of our community – subtly paying homage to the different personalities that make us unique. But Beck has hidden a few personal touches within the art as well.

"The hummingbird depicted in the mural represents homage to the memory of JoAnn DeSalvo, the mother of my longtime, old Colerain friend Zach Hart," explained Beck. "Zach and I were best friends growing up on Appletree Ct. Jo was like a second mom to me. She and my mom always loved spending time in the garden and outdoors. Our moms always loved watching the hummingbird feeders during the summer.

Not only is the mural spearheaded by the Colerain Chamber sure to evoke powerful memories and a sense of pride, but it may also give the business corridor a boost.

A report from the Knight Foundation found that areas with high levels of public art saw a 17% increase in nearby business revenues. Murals also contribute to safer streets — one Philadelphia-based study reported a 25% drop in vandalism and property crime in areas where murals were installed.

"This mural is more than just art on a wall — it's a vibrant representation of the people, places, and pride that define Colerain Township," said Dave Moravec, President of the Colerain Chamber of Commerce. "Seeing our neighborhoods come to life through color and creativity is truly exciting. It's a project that celebrates our past, reflects our present, and inspires our future. We're thrilled to create something that brings the community together in such a meaningful and lasting way."

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

Bringing Colerain Together with the Power of Art (Continued)

Public art projects also strengthen social bonds. A National Endowment for the Arts study revealed that 67% of residents involved in community mural projects reported feeling more connected to their neighbors. These initiatives encourage collaboration among local artists, students, business owners, and civic leaders, fostering a shared sense of pride and ownership.

Artist Brian Beck said his goal with the imagery for this mural was to make people feel immersed in the landscape in a whimsical way. Neighborhoods are represented by different flora like peach trees, white oak trees, blue wild indigo, cone flowers, clovers and poppies. These plants symbolize our Irish heritage, traits like resilience, strength and valor, as well as the native plants that grow freely in our community. If you look closely, you'll also notice nods to our veterans through the poppies and bald eagles. The Northbrook neighborhood, which has developed its identity around pollinators, has monarch butterflies and milkweed as some of their symbols, for example.

Youth engagement is another key benefit. Cities that integrate mural programs in schools or youth centers often report improved attendance and student morale. Art becomes a tool not just for expression, but for empowerment. This certainly was the case for Beck, who had been freelancing as an illustrator and working as an eye care technician before making his dream of creating art full-time a reality.

"In 2017 I resigned from my job, and I took a one-way ticket to Seattle to pursue my first commissioned mural; in less than a week I returned to Cincinnati and decided to embark on a career as a full-time artist," said Beck.

Those who wish to contribute to the mural project can make a tax-deductible donation to beautify and enrich the Colerain community. Commemorative T-shirts will be designed to unify Colerain around the mural. Those interested in becoming a "Native Plant" level sponsor for $250 will receive entry into a drawing for participation in the last brushstroke ceremony later in 2025 and will be recognized in mural publicity & press releases. Donors will also be recognized on mural signage and receive four complimentary t-shirts. Additional sponsorship levels above $250 are also available. Community Sponsors can donate at any level. Any amount of $50 or more will include two free commemorative T-shirts. These shirts will also be available for $25 each in early 2025.

By investing in murals and public art, the Colerain Chamber of Commerce, Colerain Township, residents and businesses are investing in more than aesthetics — they're creating safer, more engaged, and economically vibrant neighborhoods. The numbers make it clear: art has the power to transform.

The Colerain Chamber of commerce is hosting an event on Saturday, July 12, 2025, called "Hands Across Colerain" in celebration of this vibrant new addition to the Township.

To learn more about the Colerain Chamber of Commerce, please visit them online at www.colerainchamber.org. To view more work by artist Brian beck you can find him online at www.AcornUmbrellaStudios.com and on social media at Facebook.com/briancrash.beck and @FleaFooted on Instagram.

The Center for Local GOVERNMENT

News Bits

Leadership Academy Updates

CLG's 12th annual Leadership Academy is reaching its conclusion, with only two classes left. Next week, participants will learn about local government budgeting and financial principles. Following this, in August, they will see how land use and economic development affect government operations, which will conclude the Leadership Academy for the year.

W.D. Heisel Scholarship

Earlier in June, CLG opened the Heisel scholarship application period, and it was distributed to local MPA and planning programs. More information on the scholarship can be found here. The deadline to apply is Friday, July 11th, 2025.

Annual Meeting

Please MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Our Annual Meeting will be held on September 10th at the American Sign Museum from 11:00am– 1:00pm. Details and official invitation will be coming soon.

Upcoming Events from CLG and Partners

Free Online Training Courses: Ohio Ethics and Certified Public Records Training.

Fall 2025 Classes offered by Xavier Leadership Center. Employees of participating CLG member jurisdictions receive a tuition discount. Please click here to see the classes offered and for more information, please visit Xavier Leadership Center.

Emergency Management Training, July 22, 2025 9:00-10:00 am, presented by CLG in the Mt. Airy Room at Hamilton County Educational Service Center (11083 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45231). Cost is $20, please RSVP to Ziah Huett by 4:00 pm on July 21st. Please click here to see flyer with more information.

SAVE THE DATE: CAMA, July 25,2025, "Preparing for a Country Music Festival", at West Chester Township (9113 Cincinnati Dayton Rod, West Chester Township, OH 45069). Speaker will be Lisa Brown, West Chester Township Administrator. More details to follow.

SAVE THE DATE: CLG Annual Meeting, September 10, 2025, 11:00am-1:00pm at the American Sign Museum. Details TBA

Thriving at Work: Boosting Health, Wellness, and Engagement for Peak Performance Training, September 18,2025, presented by MVCC, 9:00 – noon, at MVCC (1195 East Alex Bell Rd. Centerville, OH 45459) Cost: Mem-bers: $55/Affiliates: $65/ Non-Members $75, Click here to register.

The Supervisor Program, October 21-22, 2025, presented by MVCC, 8:00am – 4:00pm at MVCC (1195 East Alex Rd. Centerville, OH). Cost is: Members – $200, Affiliates – $225, and Non-members – $250. Please click here for more details and to register.