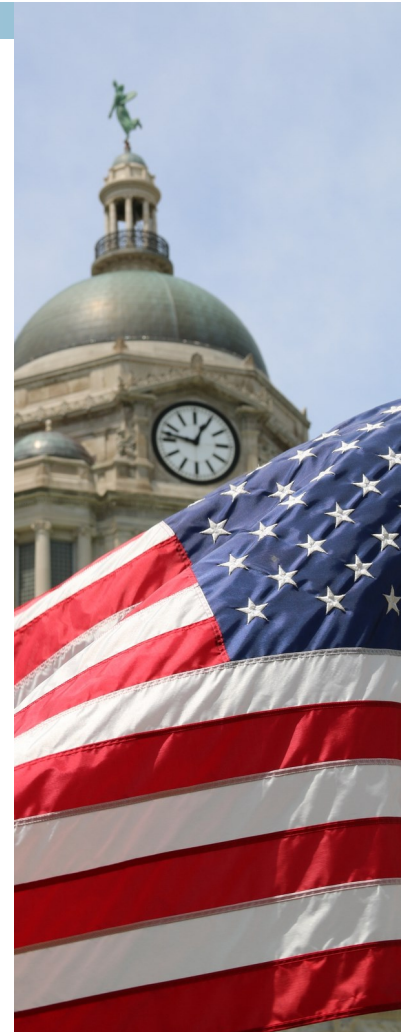
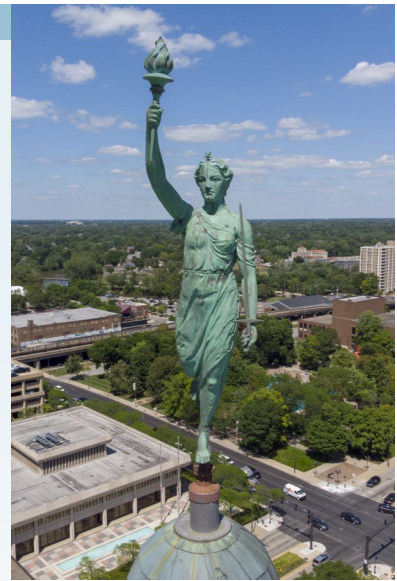

Allen County, Indiana Annual Report 2019



2019 Allen County Annual Report

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Facts About Allen County

- Largest county by area (660 sq. mi.) in Indiana
- Estimated population of 372,877
- Named for Colonel John Allen, who was killed during the War of 1812
- One of the few counties in the U.S. to border as many as nine counties

Cover photograph of the Allen County Courthouse and picture of Lady Liberty at top of this page furnished by John McGauley



Vandeverer Impact Award

The Allen County Board of Commissioners presented the 2019 Linda & Jerry Vandeverer Impact Awards to Alex Cornwell, owner and publisher of the Waynedale News, and Mariesa Rang, a lecturer in speech-language pathology at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Cornwell was cited for his devotion of hours for projects that have positively impacted Waynedale. They include creation of the Waynedale visitor's guide, founding the Waynedale Business Chamber and the Waynedale Improvement Team, and initiating the Waynedale corridor project with the city of Fort Wayne.

Rang's project began in 2012 when she realized that first responders were receiving no training in how to communicate effectively with those who have complex communication needs. Within one year of starting her program, Rang had trained more than 800 Allen County first responders. Over the course of the past three years, 75 training sessions in 29 departments and cities in Indiana involving nearly 2,000 first responders have been presented.

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 |



Commissioners Nelson Peters, Richard Beck and Therese Brown

Board of Commissioners' Message

We are pleased to present the Allen County Annual Report highlighting our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all who call Allen County home. This annual report will provide an overview of what our staff members have worked on and accomplished over the past year, giving you as a resident a closer look at how your local government works behind the scenes to meet your needs.

Thanks to the efforts of our permitting and economic development partners, Allen County achieved more than \$1 billion in construction permitting values for the third consecutive year. An agreement with the City of Fort Wayne allowed us to expand our already popular Tox-Away Tuesdays program to select Saturdays. Development of a new strategic plan for county government is well underway. And we've begun our commitment to improve upon our gravel roads by converting 27 miles to chip-and-seal hard surfaces in 2019.

These are but a few of the highlights of the past year. Through it all, we strive to never forget that we work for you – the residents of Allen County. The people of Allen County are what make it such a special place to live, and we are committed to working together to continue moving our county forward.

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 at-large by all Allen County voters.

As the executive branch of County government, the Commissioners may approve policies affecting some 1,800 full-time and part-time 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 lease-purchase 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.

Budget & Financial Management

Submitted by Nicholas Jordan, CPA, Allen County Auditor

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.

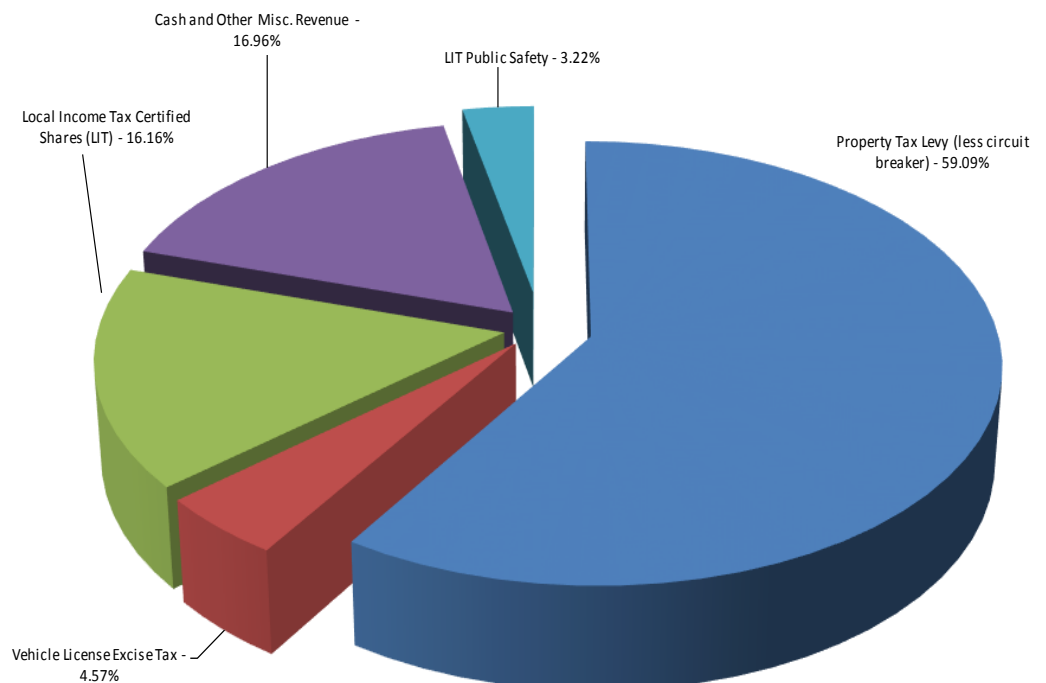
County Council is responsible for establishing an annual budget for county government. Council is also responsible for appropriating funds for the operation of county government. The County Auditor serves as the clerk of the fiscal body.

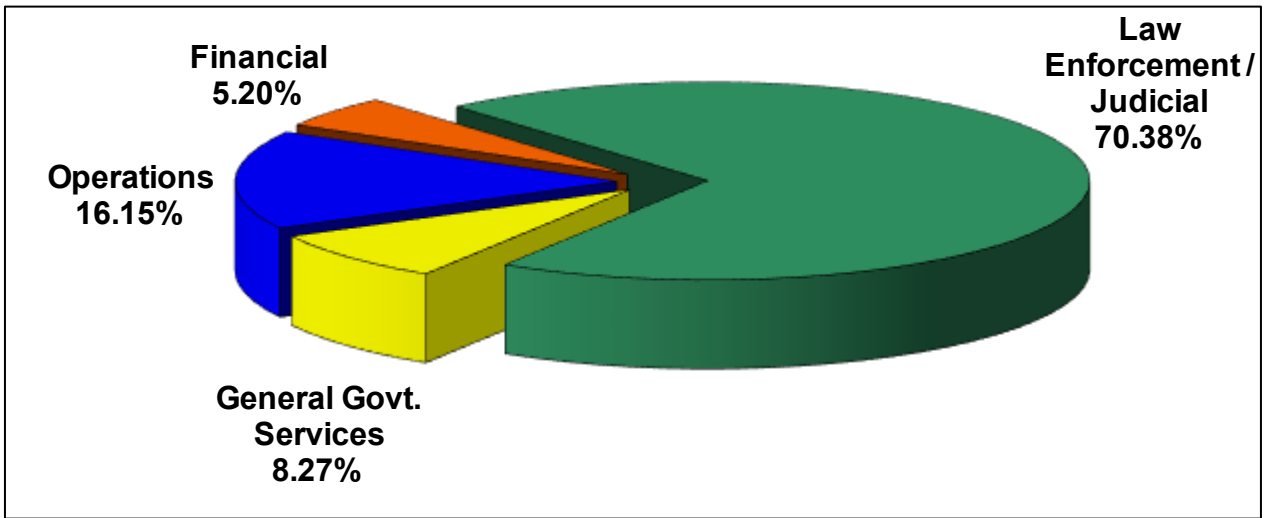
2019 Council Members:

- Sharon L. Tucker, District 1
- Thomas A. Harris, District 2
- Joel M. Benz, District 3
- Larry L. Brown, District 4
- Robert A. Armstrong, At-Large
- Ken Fries, At-Large
- Kyle Kerley, At-Large

Allen County's 2019 Budget was approximately \$216,793,803 including \$106,499,153 for the General Operating Budget which includes the General and Local Income Tax 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 the next page 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.





Financial, Real Estate, Taxes, etc.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Auditor | 1,232,427 |
| Treasurer | 799,918 |
| Recorder | 0 |
| Assessors | 2,691,021 |
| Co Wide Expenses | 138,399 |
| Employee Health Ins | 679,354 |
| TOTAL | \$5,541,119 |

General Govt. Services

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| County Bldg Dept | 1,972,719 |
| Park & Recreation | 568,893 |
| Co-op Extension Serv | 341,555 |
| Voter Registration | 402,938 |
| Election Board | 782,387 |
| Plan Commission | 1,562,880 |
| NIRCC | 1,226,134 |
| Surveyor | 1,003,875 |
| Drainage Board | 650 |
| *Co Wide Expenses | 220,009 |
| Employee Health Ins | 726,531 |
| TOTAL | \$8,808,571 |

Law Enforcement and Judicial

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sheriff | 13,278,413 |
| Confinement Center | 13,053,119 |
| Coroner | 692,620 |
| Prosecutor | 5,632,386 |
| Work Release | 1,415,172 |
| CCP | 922,671 |
| Police Pension | 2,300,000 |
| Employee Health Ins | 6,774,668 |
| Circuit Court | 2,253,133 |
| Public Defender | 3,844,313 |
| Superior Court | 6,339,549 |
| Clerk of Courts | 3,301,173 |
| Youth Services | 1,389,705 |
| Juvenile Center | 11,885,640 |
| Co Wide Expenses | 1,872,122 |
| TOTAL | \$74,954,684 |

Operations, Commissioners, etc.

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| County Commissioners | 1,897,536 |
| Soil & Water | 164,136 |
| Human Resources | 675,172 |
| County Services | 639,266 |
| Data Processing | 1,644,147 |
| Bldg. Maintenance | 4,361,176 |
| Homeland Security | 268,661 |
| County Council | 3,055,923 |
| *Co Wide Expenses | 429,469 |
| ARC & Mental Health | 3,408,245 |
| Employee Health Ins | 651,047 |
| TOTAL | \$17,194,779 |

TOTAL 2019 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

\$106,499,153

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

Tax Abatements

In 2019, 11 companies were granted property tax abatements. Three approvals were for projects in unincorporated Allen County, seven were in the City of New Haven, and one was in the Town of Huntertown. Investment by the companies totaled \$72,135,169 in both real and business personal property. The companies approved said they will create 204 jobs and retain 808 jobs as a result of their investments.

- RMI Properties/Riverside Manufacturing – Huntertown
- CSC-Indiana, LLC – New Haven
- Multimatic Indiana, Inc. – New Haven
- Trelleborg Sealing Solutions – New Haven
- Kady Gene Cove – New Haven
- Auto Truck Group – Allen County
- Redmon Properties/ Accutemp Products – New Haven
- Quickcut, Inc. – Allen County
- Valicor Environmental Services, LLC – New Haven
- SDI LaFarga – New Haven
- Keller Development – Allen County

Economic Development

Submitted by Elissa McGauley, Allen County director of redevelopment

2019 was a year in which the Allen County Redevelopment Commission was busy with current projects as well as crafting new policy and initiatives.

In April, the Redevelopment Commission entered into an agreement with A&Z Engineering for additional engineering of McFadden Way. The county built McFadden Way to originally serve General Mills, which announced in 2011 that it would invest \$36 million to construct a 1.5 million square foot distribution facility. The road now will be designed to extend another 1,500 feet east into commission owned property that is available for sale.

In May, the Redevelopment Commission executed a loan agreement with the Board of Commissioners to repay up to \$172,373 from property tax increment captured in the Greatbatch allocation area for improvements to Kroemer Road in conjunction with Sweetwater Sound's \$82 million investment at its US 30 campus that was announced in the fall of 2018.

In June, the commission approved a resolution to release \$6 million in incremental assessed value in the I-469/Bluffton Road EDA/Allocation Area to other taxing units.

In September, the Redevelopment Commission enacted a program whereby property tax increment generated by a commercial and/or industrial project in an allocation area could be reimbursed to the developer and/or business of that project for associated public infrastructure projects. Under the program's guidelines, the Redevelopment Commission decides how much is reimbursed to the developer for the public infrastructure based on the type of business and the goals contained in the respective economic development area plan where the project is located.

During 2019, the Redevelopment Commission made payments of over \$3.2 million toward commitments in the form of agreements, bonds, loans and leases.

The Economic Development Commission gave final approval at its January meeting for economic development revenue bond financing for EV FW Limited Partnership. EV FW Limited Partnership will be constructing a 125 unit senior assisted living facility at the southwest corner of Auburn and Union Chapel Roads. The \$25 million tax exempt bond to finance the project was given preliminary approval by the commission and the Allen County Council in June 2018.

Building Department

2019 reflected the most robust year for economic development ever based upon the project value of building permits. A total permit value of \$1,643,632,653 was recorded by this office in 2019. The billion-dollar mark was hit on August 8, 2019. In 2018, it took until Thanksgiving to hit the billion dollar mark, and in 2017 it was late December. The breakdown was about 60/40 commercial to residential in permit values. This was the first year a special commercial remodeling permit was established, allowing for better permit review by other departments. Use of this permit cut down on the number of projects that got held up at final inspection because of a missing component from another department.

The total number of permits increased about 10 percent from the year before. This number seemed low at first compared to the permit values. Based on staff observations of daily permit counts, it appears that utilization of pre-construction meetings between contractor and building staff set attainable goals for project completion, resulting in less permits needed on large projects.

The number of inspections exceeded 50,000 in 2019, which was attained with the same amount of staffing. The Building Department absorbed the extra inspections through the increased use of basic technology such as e-mail and VOIP phone messages going directly to inspectors in the field. This means inspectors are not required to report to the office daily, thereby saving fuel and wear on vehicles by providing all the resources needed for inspections remotely. Inspectors could then claim another inspection during the work day rather than fighting traffic to return to the office. Additional training and certification was offered, allowing some inspectors to become credentialed in multiple trades.

As the Building Department tries to increase online traffic through online permitting, additional instant permits were added in 2019 bringing the total to 16. The total online permitting numbers have consistently exceeded 50% with the actual number in 2019 at 54.85%. There are more improvements planned, such as professional license renewal online for 2020 as resources can be allocated to accomplish this. More than \$2.1 million was collected through permits, licensure, penalties, and testing in 2019. Once again, revenues closely matched operating costs through fees paid by the user instead of the taxpayer.

Some notable projects in 2019 included completion of phase one of Promenade Park including band shell and rill; groundbreaking of the new south wing of Parkview Hospital North; groundbreaking for a new Lutheran Hospital downtown next to the old St. Joe Hospital; Sweetwater warehouse; new schools in Northwest Allen County; Coca-Cola Plant Conversion to residential living; eight new hotels including a boutique hotel downtown;; renovation of the historic Landing; and numerous additions and renovations to existing school buildings.



The Allen County Commissioners, along with representatives of the commercial and residential construction industries, announced that by Aug. 8 building permit values exceeded \$1 billion in the county. It was the third year in a row that the billion-dollar mark was achieved.



Remodeling work in the Allen County Building Department offices was finished in the early part of 2019. The completed project included a remake of the front counter and reception area. The work was done by the County Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Department.



Antwerp Road Bridge
(photo courtesy A&Z Engineering)



New Bass-Hadley Road Roundabout

Highway Dept. Stats

Conversions:

3.13 miles - \$146,033

Gravel Road Conversions

28.16 miles - \$1,802,167

Reseals

77.67 miles - \$980,747

Reclamations

17.23 miles - \$862,413

Permits for the year

2,330 - \$347,000

Small Structures

1 - \$111,318

Culverts:

7- \$668,156

Highway Department

One of the biggest challenges Allen County government faces each year is building and maintaining an effective transportation system that moves people, products and needed services conveniently and with minimal delay. Managing more than 1,400 miles of highway and some 200 bridges continues to be a top priority for the Allen County Highway Department.

Projects Completed in 2019

Antwerp Road Bridge # 326 over Hamm Interceptor

Improvements included replacing the existing structure with a three-span concrete slab bridge. The bridge was widened from 20' to 36' and tapered to meet the existing roadway outside of the bridge limits. The bridge spans are 20' each with a total span of 60'.

Gar Creek Road Bridge # 133 over Lomont Ditch

Improvements included rehabilitation of the existing single span bridge with new composite slab overlay constructed on and adjacent to the existing bridge deck to increase the structural capacity.

River Road Bridge # 249 over Hamm Interceptor

This project replaced the existing structure with a three-span timber bridge with road improvements of widening and raising the road profile two inches with drainage ditches on each side of the roadway.

Community Crossing Grant – Old Auburn Place and Oak Crossing Subdivision

The Community Crossing Matching Grant program provides funding to cities, towns, and counties across Indiana to make improvements to local roads and bridges. Community Crossings is a partnership between Indiana Department of Transportation and Hoosier communities, both urban and rural, to invest in infrastructure projects that catalyze economic development, create jobs, and strengthen local transportation networks. The Allen County Highway Department submitted for Old Auburn Place subdivision and Oak Crossing subdivision to remove existing failed concrete pavement and curbs/gutters and replaced with new concrete pavement, curb/gutters, and ADA ramps.

Projects 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 consists 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. The project is being bid in four different phase from 2016 to 2022. The next phase to be bid in March 2020 is for Bass Road from Thomas Road to Hillegas Road.

Fogwell Parkway Restoration

The Indiana Department of Transportation informed county officials that federal funds totaling more than \$6.5 million have been awarded to reconstruct and upgrade a one-mile section of the Fogwell Parkway. The total project cost estimate, including engineering, is \$8.9 million. The federal aid award covers 80% of the construction and inspection costs. The project is to be bid most likely in late 2023. The county plans to reconstruct the section of four-lane road from Lafayette Center Road to Winters Road with new pavement underdrains, curb and gutter, and upgrades to guardrail, signage, and drainage as needed.

Ryan/Bruick – US 24 to Dawkins Road

The purpose of this project is to improve pavement treatment, widening the roadway and updating any substandard geometrics where feasible in order to provide a safe facility capable of sustaining the increased traffic due to the construction of the New US 24 and the development of this area. Allen County Highway Department acquired the right-of-way in late 2015 to 2017. This project has an overall construction estimate of \$10 million. The project was bid in March 2018 and the lowest bidder was Primco, Inc. The completion is scheduled for September 2020.

Community Crossings Grant 2019 – HMA Resurfacing

Communities can be awarded up to \$1 million each year from the Community Crossing Matching Grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation. INDOT offers two opportunities to submit projects each year. The Allen County Highway Department applied for the Community Crossings Matching Grant in January 2019 for hot mat asphalt resurfacing for Saint Joe Road, Schwartz Road, Wheelock Road, and Winchester Road. The Highway Department applied again in August 2019 for HMA resurfacing for Bluffton Road. The Highway Department was awarded the \$1 million combined for both projects. These projects need to be completed by November 2020.

Gravel Road Conversion Project

In May, the Allen County Board of Commissioners announced it was investing \$2 million to help accelerate the conversion of 27 miles of gravel roads in the county to chip-and-seal hard surfaces during 2019. This first round of conversions, completed in October, is part of a plan put together by GAI Consulting for the county highway department. Depending on the availability of funds, 125 miles of gravel roads are slated for conversion by 2025. The roads planned for conversion were chosen based on factors such as continuity to other paved roads, an existing 20-foot wide stone pavement as part of the road, and a minimum of two houses per mile on the road.



Allen County Commissioners were joined by highway department personnel on Oct. 10 to announce completion of the first round of the county's gravel road conversion project.

Department of Environmental Management

2019 was an active year for the Allen County Department of Environmental Management. We continue to be dedicated to our mission to “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost,” while adapting to changing environmental circumstances and providing programs to address the needs of our community today and in the future. By developing, promoting and expanding programs that educate Allen County residents about waste reduction and sustainability and providing opportunities for everyone to learn about, and participate in, responsible material management, ACDEM is helping the community to reduce the waste of resources.

Education & Community Outreach

- Engaged over 1,800 Allen County residents through environmental education programs and events in the community.
- Collaborated with 32 community organizations to raise awareness of waste and plastic pollution issues and reduce Allen County's environmental footprint.
- Collaborated with six schools in Allen County on environmental education programs and activities that correspond with Indiana Academic Standards for science, grades K-5.
- Hosted three "Learn to Compost" seminars in Allen County.
- Wrote monthly "Ask an Environmentalist" columns for Input Fort Wayne, responding to residents' questions and concerns about local waste issues.
- Presented and shared expertise at the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts' Annual Business Meeting about best practices for engaging residents on social media.
- Hosted the 2019 Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Task Force Meeting at ACDEM's Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The meeting included an educational presentation by ACDEM's HHW Operations Tech, Logan Keener.
- Hosted 2019 Allen County Sustainability Awards with County Commissioners. Five individuals and organizations were rewarded for their efforts to reduce waste and preserve natural resources in Allen County.



Battery & Light Bulb Recycling

- 18.09 tons of batteries were collected through ACDEM’s business partner sites in 2019.
- 149,118 linear feet of fluorescent light bulbs were collected through ACDEM’s business partner sites in 2019.

Community Recycling Drop-off Sites

- 516 tons of recycled material was collected at ACDEM’s six Community Recycling Drop-off Sites in 2019.
- The top three materials collected at all sites were cardboard, paper, and glass.

Organic Waste Recycling

- 9,501.91 tons of brush and yard waste was collected at Republic Recycling & the City of Fort Wayne’s Bio-Solids, Lime, & Yard Waste Recycling Facility.

Business Waste Assessments

- Conducted eight business waste audits in Allen County in 2019.

Food Waste

- 22 organizations registered to be donors of excess food in 2019.
- 72 Allen County residents registered and volunteered with our program partner Food Rescue US to rescue food from local restaurants and vendors in 2019.
- 14 organizations in Allen County registered with Food Rescue US to receive donated food in 2019.

Electronics Recycling

- 282 tons of e-waste collected at Omnisource in 2019.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

- 177 tons of household hazardous waste material was collected and processed at ACDEM’s Household Hazardous Waste Facility, including material collected from Tox-Away Tuesdays, Tox-Away Saturdays, and Allen County businesses.
- 2,478 cars drove through ACDEM’s Household Hazardous Waste Facility in 2019.

Tire Recycling

- 4,567 passenger and semi tires were collected in 2019.



Thanks to a deal reached with the City of Fort Wayne, the Allen County Department of Environmental Management was able to expand its successful “Tox-Away Tuesday” program. Starting in 2019, the program now operates on six Saturdays in addition to the regular weekly Tuesday schedule.

Human Resources

Strategic Planning

Allen County Human Resources continued to collaborate with other Allen County leaders on the creation of the Allen County Strategic Plan. The creation of our new Strategic Plan would not have been possible without the teamwork of many fellow department heads and elected officials. This collaborative strategic planning process allowed key stakeholders to come to a consensus on where Allen County should be going in the next five to 10 years and fostered a shared commitment to the strategic vision, mission, and values.

Parental Leave Policy

HR implemented a Family Leave Policy which was adopted by the Board of Commissioners in August of 2019. This new benefit provides up to three weeks of paid leave during the six months immediately following the birth or adoption of a child. All full-time employees who had been in a regular benefits-eligible status for at least 12 months, regardless of gender, were eligible for this new benefit. The policy was implemented in part because we recognized the importance of assisting employees who became new parents to achieve a work-life balance. If both parents are employed by Allen County, both will be entitled to separate parental leaves of three weeks each, which can be taken concurrently or at separate times. This benefit also allows mothers who were eligible for short term disability benefits to supplement that benefit with the new parental leave benefit, which results in the mother receiving 100% of her pay for six weeks following the birth of her child.

Internship Program Partnership with East Allen County Schools

HR partnered with East Allen County Schools to begin connecting high school students with internship opportunities. This partnership was formed due to upcoming high school diploma requirements from the State Board of Education that require graduating students to complete a project-based learning experience, service-based learning experience, or a work-based learning experience. Allen County will benefit in its recruitment efforts by introducing students to local government and potentially a future career with Allen County. EACS students benefit by fulfilling their diploma requirements while at the same time gaining valuable work experience and potentially opening the door to future employment with Allen County. Numerous departments had interest in the partnership and expressed a willingness to participate. County Council designated \$10,000 to begin a pilot program so these could be paid internships, which creates a real-life work experience for the student.



The Annual Employee Health Fair sponsored by Human Resources was held in July. In addition to the displays of health care exhibitors and door prizes, county employees took advantage of Chem 23 Blood Draws, vaccinations, and several health screenings.



Each year, Human Resources organizes a group of Allen County employees to participate in the United Way Day of Caring. Last year, employees worked on miscellaneous projects at Fox Island Park.

Creation of Safety Committee and Improved Loss Control Measures

Allen County also partnered with a new broker, USI Insurance Services, for our casualty insurance lines. This new partnership helped us decrease our casualty insurance premiums and increase our focus on implementing new loss control measures. We are currently working with USI to create a renewed and improved safety committee. The goal of this committee will be to identify key areas of risk for Allen County and to make recommendations based on those risks for new safety protocols. We are looking forward to an active safety committee that will set goals, implement a plan for safety and OSHA hazards, and work together on the best safety practices for Allen County Government and its employees.

Employee Engagement

In an effort to increase employee engagement and make Allen County Government an employer of choice in our community, HR helped create an employee recognition and engagement program. The goals of this new program were to build trust between employees and leadership, increase employee engagement in the workplace, and ultimately create an atmosphere where employees strive to contribute to the success of Allen County. The following recognition activities were established to encourage comradery, celebrate the accomplishments and successes of Allen County employees, and overall to increase employee engagement:

- Annual Years of Service Celebration highlighting 20 + years of service to Allen County.
- Quarterly civil service recognition awards, which are in place to showcase employees who have gone above and beyond the scope of their job requirements and/or duties.
- Employee of the Year recognition ceremony where employees from Allen County will be honored at an annual recognition ceremony.
- Employee recognitions where department leaders or supervisors can recognize stellar employees for going above and beyond. Those employees recognized not only received public recognition in our bi-monthly county newsletter but also receive tickets to a local attraction.
- Employee Discount Program featuring discounts for Allen County employees to local business, attractions, restaurants, etc.
- TinCaps City/County Employee Night where employees can purchase discounted tickets and then will be recognized at the game.

Since the inception of the program, more than 100 exceptional employees have been recognized by county leaders and supervisors for their stellar performance.



Employee of the Year: Jeff Moore

The Allen County Board of Commissioners presented its “Employee of the Year” award for 2018 to Jeff Moore, a transportation officer with Youth Services Center, for regularly going “above and beyond his job description.”

Moore’s nomination was submitted by the YSC administration. “Jeff regularly takes the initiative to go above and beyond his job description and he is always looking for more tasks to complete. For example, he mows the property’s grass, comes in early to set up breakfast when the cooks are unavailable and works weekends and holidays to help with staffing concerns. Every Friday, Jeff fuels all of the Youth Services Center vehicles, does maintenance checks and ensures they are kept in order. Jeff had picked up a third shift Youth Care Worker’s hours to cover a vacancy and to cut overtime costs and arranged his schedule to take another day off during the week.”



Homeland Security

Allen County is taking steps to bolster its crisis management coordination strategies with plans to implement a virtual emergency operations center.

In 2019, the Allen County Board of Commissioners approved a contract between the county's Office of Homeland Security and Grey Wall Software of New Haven, Connecticut, to use the company's Veoci software system to manage emergencies and run drills in preparation for emergencies.

Bernie Beier, Homeland Security director, said that the Veoci system will give his office a platform to provide near real-time information

and collaboration between local government departments and jurisdictions during emergency events. Veoci will also provide the county "cloud space" to store plans, protocols and statistical information for emergencies.

The first year of the contract will cost the county \$25,000 for the software, its implementation, and training on how to use the system. Afterward, the county would pay an annual software subscription fee of \$15,000.



Recipients of the first Jeanne Nicolet Delivering Democracy Award were (left to right) Judith Kohrman, Marina Davidson, Julie Workman and Ho Mai Da. Jonathan Fettig, not pictured, was also a recipient.

Election Board

Contested races during the 2019 municipal elections contributed to a 30% voter turnout, the highest percentage in a municipal election in 12 years. In all, 57,264 voters participated in elections in Fort Wayne, New Haven, Monroeville and Leo-Cedarville, with early voting capturing 26% of all votes.

The office completed work on several initiatives designed to boost security for Allen County elections. Several technical improvements were made in partnership with the Secretary of State's office. The office hired a full time employee to fill the newly created position of Elections Security and Technology Manager. Two full time employees graduated from Ball State's Election Administration, Technology and Security Certificate program in 2019, gaining valuable insight into security issues currently facing election administrators.

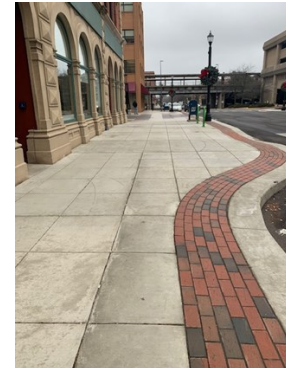
The Election Board created the Jeanne Nicolet Delivering Democracy Award in 2019 to recognize the efforts of election workers who make a difference for Allen County voters. The award is dedicated to Jeanne Nicolet, who served as assistant director of elections before passing away in July 2019. The first recipients of the award were five poll workers who opened their polling location on time election morning, despite the actual building being closed. The workers used car headlights to illuminate their work outside the building's doors while using the electronic poll books and emergency ballots for about a half-hour until the doors of the location could be opened.

Facilities Maintenance

The Facilities Maintenance Department oversees the maintenance and upkeep of 38 county-owned buildings and hundreds of acres of county-owned property. The department is made up of licensed electricians, plumbers, carpenters and HVAC personnel along with a variety of other specialized trades working directly with all county departments on everything from general repairs to major projects.

The department had a very noticeable project this past year with cleaning and repairs to the north side of the Keystone Building and the east side of the Criminal Division Services facility. This was all due to the new landing project completed this summer with both buildings getting new sidewalks (pictured on the right). Maintenance also had a two-month project at the Rousseau Centre renovating two of the five air handlers, re-plumbing and replacing some very old cooling coils.

The Maintenance Department completed 99% percent of the 2,500 work orders submitted by county departments in 2019. These included replacement of one section of roof and repairing three external brick walls of the Allen County Jail and construction by our county tradesman of new offices for the Public Defenders and Prosecuting Attorneys offices.



Youth Services Center

In 2018, the Allen County Youth Services Center began the long process towards becoming accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). Materials were purchased, a consultant was hired to help us walk through the complex process, and an application was submitted. Accreditation was an intense self-evaluation of our agency followed by many man hours to develop new policies and procedures and make changes to programming to meet the required standards.

In May of 2019, CARF sent two program reviewers to conduct the survey. We were thrilled to receive notice that YSC achieved the Three-Year Accreditation decision – the highest level given. Continuing work

went into submitting a Quality Improvement Plan within 90 days based on deficits found and making the recommended changes to strengthen the program. YSC is committed to continuing to work towards aspiring to excellence, which is CARF’s purpose.

On top of massive work towards the accreditation of YSC, a big effort in cleaning up accounts and collections also happened during 2019. Due to this, YSC was able to bring in more than \$2 million in reimbursable costs from the state and other agencies contracted with YSC. This is a \$300,000 increase over 2018 figures.

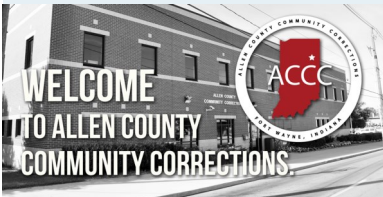


Community Corrections

Allen County Community Corrections supervises adult offenders who are referred for pre and post-conviction supervision, community service, or CBT-based classroom programs. In FY 2018-2019, ACCC supervised a total of 2,089 individuals, and provided services for an additional 1,281 individuals from referrals to either community service and/or CBT programs. ACCC recognizes that over 70% of participants found employment while completing their court-ordered supervision requirements and just over 75% of all participants completed supervision successfully.

ACCC has developed an ongoing relationship with a team of external evaluators to conduct a program impact evaluation of its supervision components. The evaluators were professors in the School of Psychological Services at the University of Indianapolis. These evaluators have completed three formal evaluations of program outcomes and recidivism rates. The most recent evaluation reviewing through the conclusion of the 2016 operational year demonstrates a continuous fall in recidivism rates for ACCC over a 10-year period. ACCC is currently planning a fourth evaluation of program outcomes and recidivism rates for the operational years of 2017-2019.

The Continuous Quality Improvement Division collected 1,059 satisfaction surveys from participants in 2019. The results revealed that participants felt that cognitive behavioral classes along with guidance from their case manager were extremely helpful toward their rehabilitation. Participants indicated that the services of ACCC contributed to a greater awareness of their choices as well as supporting stability to their lives.



County Assessor

The County Assessor's Office is required to physically inspect 25% of the parcels in the county each year which means that we only physically visit a property once every four years. In 2019, we completed reassessment in Aboite, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Marion, Maumee, Monroe, and Pleasant townships. Beginning May 1, 2020, we will be conducting reassessment in Adams, Lake, and Washington townships. During reassessment, we look at property characteristics and compare them to our records to see if anything has changed.

Property information and sales data can be viewed at www.acimap.us/assessors.html. Simply type your address in the search bar and click search. For more detailed instructions on how to use the COMPS website, visit our website www.allencountyassessor.org.

Allen County Assessor Stacey O'Day (pictured on the left) was recognized for her service this past year as president of the Association of Indiana Counties and was also voted Outstanding Assessor of the Year by the Indiana County Assessors Association.



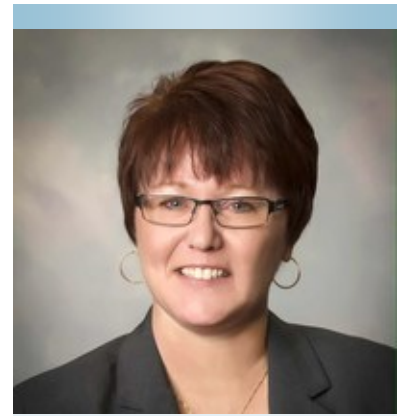
County Recorder

In 2019, the Allen County Recorder's office recorded 68,883 documents. 72% of those documents were recorded electronically.

In 2019, more than \$2.5 million in recording and user fees were collected. A little more than \$1 million of those fees went into the Recorder's perpetuation fund while the remaining \$1.5 million went to other various state and local funds including the County General Fund.

As of 2019, the Recorder's office Property Fraud Alert system has almost 10,000 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.

We continue to offer our military veterans an Honor Rewards card, which provides discounts at local businesses to our discharged service men and women.



County Recorder Anita Mather

Clerk of the Courts

During 2019, the Clerk of Courts receipted and disbursed more than \$85 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 more than 68,000 new court case filings in 2019. Additionally, the Clerks of Courts issued 2,484 marriage licenses in 2019.



*County Clerk of the Courts
Christopher Nancarrow*

Wayne Township Assessor

The Wayne Township Assessor's Office completed the second year of the current reassessment cycle by visiting and inspecting more than 10,300 parcels and will begin the third cycle in the Spring of 2020.

The residential real estate market in the township continues to increase in relation to both the amount of sales occurring and the dollar amounts of the individual sales. The number of 2019 valid residential sales processed in Wayne Township alone continues to increase. 2018 saw 1,247 sales compared to the 2019 total of 1,351. The average valid sale price increased from \$97,338 in 2018 to \$105,399 in 2019.



Wayne Township Assessor Bev Zuber

The Fight Against Substance Use Disorder in Allen County

Allen County's most ambitious effort yet to combat substance use disorder was launched in 2019.

At three locations in Allen County a total of 71 new sober living beds are now open to help treat people fighting substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder.

Representatives from Allen Superior Court, Allen Circuit Court, Allen County Community Corrections, Allen County Adult Probation, the Allen County Board of Commissioners, The Lutheran Foundation, Park Center, Redemption House, and Shepherd's House worked collectively for more than two years to bring the project to fruition.

The pilot project's new sober living beds operate at three different levels of care as outlined by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). 15 new beds, which will serve both men and women, located at Park Center on Carew Street will provide clinically managed high-intensity residential services. The new Redemption House facility, on East Wayne Street, will provide 16 vital new, female recovery residence beds for the criminal justice system. 20 beds will be provided at Choices Treatment Centre on Spy Run featuring clinically low-intensity residential services, which is unique to our community. The program focuses on teaching recovery skills, preventing relapse and improving emotional functions. Choices will also provide 20 new, male recovery residence beds.

These new treatment beds are the result of a pilot project authorized under Senate Enrolled Act 510, passed during the 2017 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Allen County was chosen as the site of the SEA 510 pilot project due to the robust infrastructure within the Allen County criminal justice system, including alternative sentencing programs and problem-solving courts. The State of Indiana awarded Allen County a \$1.5 million grant for the program, which is being supplemented by locally raised matching funds, including support from members of Allen County Council.

Many individuals arrested for substance use disorder related offenses are non-violent offenders who respond positively to treatment in conjunction with community-based supervision. This initiative saves costly jail space and offers the best hope of returning citizens to their families and to productive lives.

The 71 new beds have been created for the exclusive use of Allen County criminal justice involved individuals. Participants in the pilot must be 18 years of age, under the supervision of the courts or a local criminal justice agency and have a substance use disorder. Dr. Brad Ray of Wayne State University was contracted to evaluate the pilot and report his findings annually back to the Indiana General Assembly's Legislative Council.



A ribbon cutting ceremony and tour took place July 12 to help kick off the new level of recovery services now available in Allen County for justice involved individuals.



Allen County Commissioners Richard Beck and Therese Brown toured one of the three locations which will house 71 new sober living beds to help those recovering from substance use disorder.

Other Highlights of 2019



Allen Superior Court Judge Charles F. Pratt, Administrative Judge of the Family Division, announced the launch of the new Family Recovery Court program. The program provides a powerful new tool for families, parents and guardians struggling with substance abuse. Family Recovery Court is funded through a \$15,400 grant from the Indiana Supreme Court.



Each year, county employees have two opportunities to roll up their sleeves and donate blood during our Red Cross Winter and Summer Blood Drives. Also participating in the events are employees with the City of Fort Wayne. In 2019, a total of 102 units of blood was donated. Thanks to our employees, as many as 306 patients in our area were assisted with life-saving blood.



The Allen County Department of Child Services and Allen Superior Court - Family Relations Division collaborated with local agencies to celebrate the adoptions of more than 30 local children during "Adoption Day" on Nov. 20.



The Allen County Sheriff's department formally opened its new 6,600-square-foot training and fitness center in May. The 24-hour facility is located on Venture Lane on Fort Wayne's north side.



Allen County Commissioner Therese Brown was honored for her service to Indiana County Government in 2019. The Arthur R. Himsel award is the highest award given by the Association of Indiana Counties.



Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne partnered to allow for a one-time horse trail ride along the Wabash and Erie Canal Towpath Trail on October 19. The event assists Three Rivers Horse Trails, Inc. The organization was established to advocate for the development of equestrian trails in the community. They support efforts where the public can enjoy safe travel by horseback for recreation, connectivity and quality of life throughout northeast Indiana.



The Allen County Health Department takes public health on the move. On Oct. 11 and 14, the department provided health screenings to the local refugee population in partnership with IU Health and Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne - South Bend.

What's Ahead in 2020

- Complete nest 25 miles of chip and seal roads
- Assist in making Sewer District rates more competitive for rate payers
- Begin County-wide broadband initiatives and assist in coordinating efforts
- Pursue additional “shovel-ready site” opportunities
- Upgrade permitting software
- Working jointly with the Public Safety Resiliency group and the City of Fort Wayne to evaluate space needs for data centers and other public safety agencies
- Establish horse trails in Allen County
- Conducting a study to assess future needs of the criminal justice system
- Continue preparation of property on Carroll/Lima Road intersection for sale and development
- Work collaboratively with Dekalb and Noble Counties and various stakeholders to improve the Cedar Creek Corridor
- Review of all fee-for-service agreements that are in place

2020 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 |
| | | Dept. of Environmental Mgt. | Thomas Fox |
| Council | Robert A. Armstrong | Dept. of Health | Deborah McMahan, M.D. |
| | Joel M. Benz | Dept. of Planning | Kimberly Bowman |
| | Larry L. Brown | Election Board | Beth A. Dlug |
| | Sheila R. Curry-Campbell | Highway Dept. | William Hartman III |
| | Kenneth J. Fries | Homeland Security | Bernie Beier |
| | Thomas A. Harris | Human Resources | Charity Murphy |
| | Kyle Kerley | NIRCC | Dan Avery |
| | | Parks & Recreation | Jefferson D. Baxter |
| | | Public Defender | Eric Ortiz |
| Assessor | Stacey J. O'Day | Purdue Co-op Extension | James Wolff |
| Auditor | Nicholas D. Jordan | | |
| Clerk of Courts | Christopher M. Nancarrow | Voter Registration | Maye Johnson (D) |
| Coroner | Craig Nelson, D.D.S. | | Barry Schust (R) |
| Prosecuting Attorney | Karen E. Richards | War Memorial Coliseum | Randy Brown |
| Recorder | Anita Mather | Youth Services Center | Christopher Dunn |
| Sheriff | David J. Gladioux | | |
| Surveyor | Jeff Sorg | | |
| Treasurer | William Royce | | |
| Wayne Twp. Assessor | Beverly Zuber | | |
| Circuit Court | Judge Thomas J. Felts | | |
| Superior Court | Judge David J. Avery | | |
| | Judge Craig J. Bobay | | |
| | Judge Nancy E. Boyer | | |
| | Judge Wendy W. Davis | | |
| | Judge Jennifer L. DeGroot | | |
| | Judge Frances C. Gull | | |
| | Judge Charles F. Pratt | | |
| | Judge Andrea R. Trevino | | |
| | Judge David M. Zent | | |



Allen County Board of Commissioners

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