

## Breaking Barriers:

### Public service inspires the next generation

**F**or Dayton Police Department Officer Leatha Savage, becoming an officer wasn't just a career choice, it is a lifelong calling.

Growing up in a small Florida town, she was inspired by both male and female officers who modeled integrity and community service. One in particular, Officer Martinez, stood out as "the epitome of what a female officer should be—caring, stern, always professional, and deeply respected."

After marrying young and moving with her husband, a U.S. Marine, she put her dream on hold to raise a family. But once they settled in Ohio, she seized her chance. She graduated from Sinclair College's Police Academy, joined the Dayton Police Academy soon after, and officially became an officer in 2000.

Her path has been anything but linear. From patrol work to dispatch, to mapping every street in Dayton while pregnant, to helping implement the City's downtown cameras, her journey reflects adaptability and dedication. She has taught at both the Dayton Police Department and Sinclair Police Academy, and today she serves as a school resource officer and criminal justice instructor with Dayton Public Schools. For her, this role has been especially rewarding.

"Most kids only see police when something's wrong," she explained. "I wanted to put a person in the position, someone they could talk to, ask questions, and see differently.



Now, I have students who say, 'I don't deal with police, but you're good.' That makes it worth it."

As a Black woman in law enforcement, Savage acknowledges that her life experience has helped her connect with the community. "I probably understood a little better how families in our community run, the distrust that exists, and why certain reactions happen. That doesn't mean I always approve, but I understand."

Her story also highlights the importance of the 30X30 Initiative, a national campaign working to increase the representation of women in policing to 30% of recruits by 2030. The campaign emphasizes that more women officers help build trust, improve community relations, and bring valuable perspectives to the profession.

Officer Savage has a simple but

powerful message to young women, especially women of color, who may be considering a career in law enforcement:

"Do it. It's only as difficult as we make it. I have no regrets on becoming a police officer. The great thing about it, you get a second family. It is very rewarding, and I know with 100% surety that I get more out of it than I give."

Through her journey, Officer Savage embodies the spirit of 30X30: breaking barriers, serving with compassion, and inspiring the next generation of women to follow in her footsteps.

For more information, go to [joindaytonpd.com](http://joindaytonpd.com) and [30X30Initiative.org](http://30X30Initiative.org).



*By Gabrielle Davis, University of Dayton McIntosh Intern*



## Discover fall fitness and fun opportunities

From family-friendly events to exciting programs for all ages, the Recreation Program Guide has something for you. Find ways to stay active, connected, and inspired this season! Scan the QR code, go to [daytonrec.com](http://daytonrec.com), or drop by a City of Dayton recreation center.

## Building future leaders through recreation

Last school year, the Recreation Department partnered with Chaminade Julianne High School to provide volunteer opportunities for more than 25 junior students. These students supported a range of activities, from sporting games and practices to special events and youth programs. Throughout their time with us, the students demonstrated responsibility, leadership, and a strong commitment to giving back. Some even took the initiative to volunteer on their own time, seeking guidance on building resumes and preparing for future job opportunities. Their positive experience inspired several students to take the next step by joining our team. This summer, we proudly hired three students to work at the Urban Adventures Summer Camp. Recreation opens doors. From volunteering to employment, we help people develop real-world skills that prepare them for lasting success in their future careers.

## Recess After School

This program follows the Dayton Public Schools calendar and provides academic help, arts & crafts, physical activities, and snack time, all at a safe and fun after school alternative. Daily snacks are provided through the Children's Hunger Alliance. Free (registration required); Greater Dayton Recreation Center, Lohrey Recreation Center, and Northwest Recreation Center. Ages: 6-12 years old.



**Learn to swim with us!** We offer group swim lessons for all ages—from as young as 6 months old to adults. Classes are held on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at Northwest Recreation Center and Lohrey Recreation Center. Just \$25 for 6 classes.

**Gymnastics at Northwest Recreation Center:** Our gymnastics program is designed for all skill levels, helping participants build strength, flexibility, coordination, confidence, and motor skills—all while having fun! Classes are available for ages 6 months through Level 3 (ages 6+, based on experience). Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings. Cost: \$25 for six classes.

**Leap Dance:** Move, groove, and shine with our

new LEAP Dance program! Led by instructor Britany Thomas, this class is designed to build confidence, resilience, and dance skills in a fun, supportive environment. Students learn to express themselves through movement, with grace and strength. Classes are offered Saturdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at Lohrey Recreation Center. Cost: \$25 for six classes.

**Youth Golf Clinic:** Register through Oct. 31; Play Nov. 5 at Greater Dayton Recreation Center or Nov. 12 at Lohrey Recreation Center, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Youth Basketball League:** Register through Dec. 6. Practices begin week of Dec. 15; Games begin week of Jan. 5.

**SWAT Karate:** Register through Nov. 29; Class begins Dec. 1.

Go to [daytonrec.com](http://daytonrec.com) or call 937-333-8400 for registration information.

## Fall Harvest Festival



Saturday, Oct. 25, 2-6 p.m.,  
Kettering Field Sports Complex, 444 N. Bend Blvd.  
Pumpkins, candy, costumes, and crisp autumn air—it's that magical time of year again! Join us for the exciting and ever-growing Fall Harvest Festival, a seasonal celebration filled with festive fun for the whole family. Dust off your favorite superhero cape, spooky monster mask, or whimsical costume, and don't forget your trick-or-treat bucket! Celebrate Halloween in a safe and fun environment capturing the magic of the fall season, with lots of sweet and spooky surprises.



### City Commission

937-333-3636

Mayor Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.

### Commissioners

Matt Joseph

Chris Shaw

Darryl Fairchild

Shenise Turner-Sloss

### City Manager

Shelley Dickstein

937-333-3600

[cityhall@daytonohio.gov](mailto:cityhall@daytonohio.gov)

### Customer Services

Service Requests

937-333-4800

Download/use the  
Dayton Delivers app

### Water/Utility Billing

937-333-3550

[PayDaytonWater.com](http://PayDaytonWater.com)

### Building Permits/ Inspection

937-333-3883



# Public and private investment continue to drive transformation



Germantown Crossing is a new, 50-unit Greater Dayton Premier Management apartment building in West Dayton.



The Point will be a 19-unit condominium community in Old North Dayton, to be developed by Civitas Development Group with support from the Dayton Recovery Plan.

Since 2021, Dayton has been writing a powerful story of renewal—where public investment and community priorities come together to create lasting change. Through \$88.2 million in public investment, the City has helped spark more than \$2.1 billion in development, shaping a future built on shared values: revitalized neighborhoods, thriving businesses, and opportunities for all.

## Impact across the city

Investment and development are taking root and showing results across every part of the city (2021-25):

Geography	Total Investment	City Contribution*
Downtown	\$720.8M	\$36.2M
Northeast/Airport	\$605M	\$10.2M
West	\$305M	\$8.4M
Southeast	\$279.5M	\$16.2M
North Central	\$228M	\$17.2M

\*Sources vary, including federal, state and local.

## More places to call home

Dayton is committed to creating communities where everyone can thrive. In collaboration with commercial and non-profit developers, the City is involved with building 772 new affordable homes and 112 market-rate homes—including senior housing, supportive housing, and options for residents at every income level. Private developers are building many

more units without City participation. Programs such as Welcome Home and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit projects are strengthening neighborhoods and expanding access to quality housing across the city.

## Jobs and economic growth

Companies large and small continue to grow and expand in Dayton. Larger employers such as Sierra Nevada Corporation and Dayton-Phoenix Group are investing in the city, while locally owned small businesses including small manufacturers and specialty retailers are fueling opportunity and revitalizing neighborhood business districts.

Private and public investments currently supported by the City of Dayton are projected to:

- Create 1,160 new jobs;
- Retain 305 existing jobs;
- Strengthen key sectors including healthcare, aviation, manufacturing, and small business.

## A foundation for the decades ahead

This is more than growth, it's sustained job creation and retention that will power Dayton's development and ensure a stronger, more diverse workforce. Dayton's progress is measured in real results: new housing, stronger businesses, safer roads, and public spaces that bring people together. By focusing on neighborhoods, opportunity, and connection, we are laying a foundation that will keep Dayton growing stronger, more welcoming, and better prepared for the future.

# Sustainability Saves: Be comfortable this winter while cutting costs

Energy prices have increased noticeably this year, but you can take simple, affordable actions to save money and stay comfortable this winter. These low-cost actions can save 20-40% on heating bills, depending on each household.

- Air-seal ceilings, walls, and floors to create a tight thermal envelope.
- Ensure windows and doors have tight weatherstripping and sweeps and adjust or replace as needed. Use storm windows to enhance older single-pane windows.
- Fortify your home's insulation if needed to R-38 or better for ceilings, R-13 for exterior walls, and R-30 for floors when possible. Some is better than none!



- Use curtains at night to block air movement around windows.
- Install a smart thermostat with room

sensors to better average temperature settings.

- Replace HVAC filters seasonally, and have systems checked and tuned by a qualified technician annually.

Don't forget: Dayton electricity consumers can enroll in the City of Dayton's electric aggregation program, which can reduce energy costs. For more information, go to [daytonohio.gov/power](http://daytonohio.gov/power).

Need energy assistance? Check out these links for additional programs:

[miamivalleycap.org/utility-assistance-2/](http://miamivalleycap.org/utility-assistance-2/)

[daytonohio.gov/ResidentialEnergyenergystar.gov/saveathome](http://daytonohio.gov/ResidentialEnergyenergystar.gov/saveathome).

## Firefighters make history



The Dayton Fire Department welcomed 17 new firefighters in May, following their completion of a rigorous six-month training program at the Dayton Fire Training Center. Their training program included extensive coursework in policies and procedures, emergency vehicle operations, equipment familiarization, and State of Ohio certification as a firefighter, EMT, and fire safety inspector. They also participated in daily physical fitness training to build stamina and core strength. This graduating class of new firefighters represents the most diverse fire recruit class in the history of the Dayton Fire Department, with a combined ethnic and gender diversity of 59%. Additionally, this is the largest cohort of female firefighters (seven) to complete a fire recruit academy, and the group includes the first two African-American female firefighters in department history. The new firefighters are seen here on their last day of training after completing a 30-story stair climb inside the Stratacage Tower, Dayton's tallest building.

# Catching up with DAY

## Updates from Dayton International Airport

Big things are happening at your Dayton International Airport (DAY). Here's what's new!

### "Ohio Future" funds

Dayton International Airport is thrilled to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Development's All Ohio Future Fund, allowing the airport to move forward with airfield improvement plans, which will support additional economic development for the Dayton region. These funds will make it easier for businesses to locate on the airport. Planned work includes building a new apron and rehabilitating the existing apron to expand the airport's capacity for future economic development projects.

### New restaurants coming soon

Passengers can look forward to exciting new options for food and drink at DAY. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, DAY will feature popular local brands in freshly renovated spaces. Stay tuned for more information.

### Additional air service

Delta Air Lines is adding a fifth daily flight between DAY and Atlanta's



Concourse B Modernization Rendering

Hartsfield-Jackson Airport (ATL). This increase in flights will boost Delta's overall capacity from Dayton by 8%.

### Parking update

Since the Metropolis AI-supported parking system launched in March, over 27,000 passengers have enrolled to park on-airport using the seamless, automated parking experience. DAY is one of the first airports to implement this innovative technology.

### Airport modernization

Garage structure improvements: This extensive effort began in early

September and includes concrete and crack repair, expansion joint replacements, sealing, and paint striping.

Rehabilitation of Taxiway "W": DAY received a grant to complete necessary work on this taxiway and is preparing to award the project.

Concourse B remodeling: This transformative project will modernize and improve the passenger experience at DAY and is currently out for bid.

For more information, go to [flydayton.com](http://flydayton.com)

## Make a difference at the Dayton Mediation Center

*Everyone deserves respectful, non-judgmental support during challenging situations*

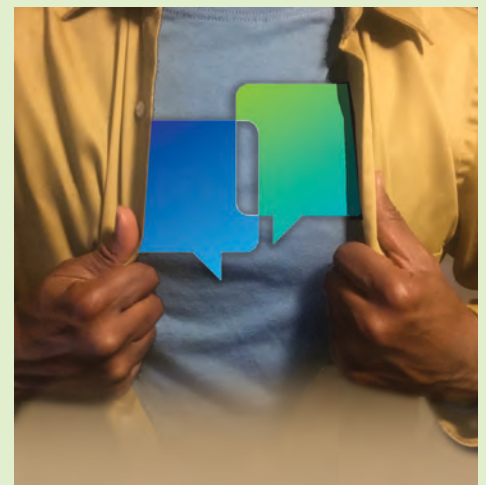
Dayton Mediation Center volunteers offer support in a variety of ways.

- Volunteer Mediators support people to talk and listen to each other while finding their way through interpersonal conflicts.
- Community Impact Panel volunteers share stories of past experiences to help young people understand that everyone makes mistakes that they can learn from.
- Receptionists greet community members coming for mediation and

panels, sign them in, as well as answer phones.

Prospective volunteers are nonjudgemental, compassionate, friendly, and available one or two Saturdays a month, between 8:30 am and 1:30 pm. The annual mediator training will take place in early 2026, applications are due by Dec. 31, 2025. Panelist and receptionist training is ongoing.

To learn more, go to [daytonmediationcenter.org/getinvolved](http://daytonmediationcenter.org/getinvolved) or call 937-333-2345.



# Water interns learn, prepare for future

How can students with an interest in science, engineering, public service and other fields get some practical experience while planning future careers? One way is to intern with the City of Dayton Department of Water.

During the summer of 2025, Dayton's public water supplier welcomed high school students from throughout Montgomery County for a seven-week internship coordinated by the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE).

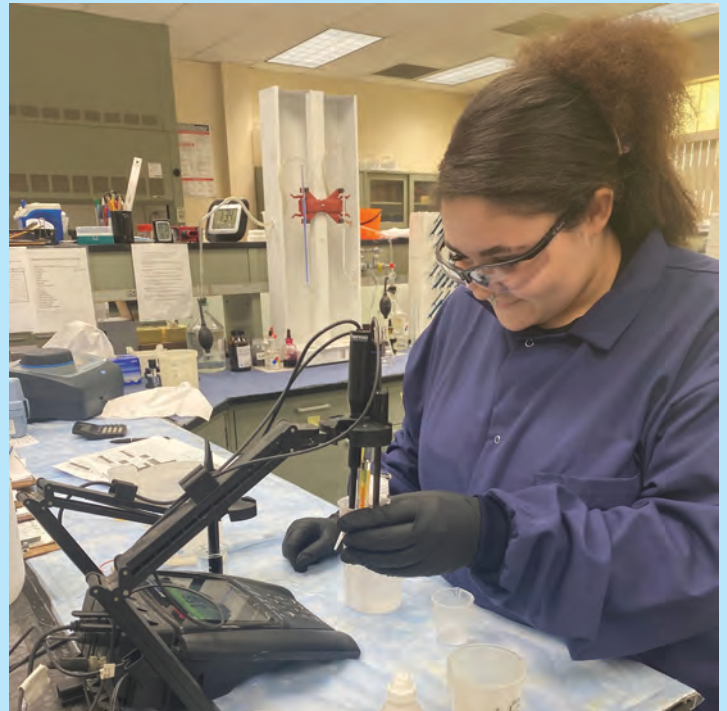
The student interns worked alongside water professionals at Dayton facilities, offices, and workspaces, learning to perform tasks in the areas of science, technology, engineering, administration, and maintenance.

Participants worked in each position for a week before rotating to a new division, learning aspects of water sample analysis, well condition assessments, quality assurance, budget preparation, data entry, and more.

This kind of experience is more important than ever to introduce students to careers in the water industry as the existing workforce ages. Many current employees will be eligible to retire in the next three to five years, and young people can help fill positions while beginning rewarding careers.

The Department of Water is also involved in other youth programs throughout the community, such as high school career conferences and fairs, the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, the Children's Water Festival, and more.

We're proud of our interns for completing the SOCHE



SOCHE Intern Nessa Moyer, a Dunbar High School student, assisting in a Department of Water lab.

program and for bringing their energy and curiosity to the Dayton team. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for each of them.

To learn more about SOCHE opportunities, go to [soche.org](http://soche.org).

## 30X30

**"If I could tell a girl considering becoming an officer one thing, it's this: go for it. It might not be part of your life plan, but it could change your life and make a difference in your community."**

Officer Christine Hamilton  
Community Engagement Unit



As part of the national 30X30 Initiative, the Dayton Police Department is working to achieve a goal of 30% women among police recruit classes by 2030. Currently, 57 women officers represent about 16% of DPD sworn ranks (the national average is 12%). Studies show that police departments with greater female representation build stronger community trust, excel at de-escalation, and enhance overall public safety. For information, go to [joindaytonpd.com](http://joindaytonpd.com) and [30X30initiative.org](http://30X30initiative.org).

## Curbside leaf collection begins Oct. 20

Leaf collection will begin the week of Oct. 20, 2025, and will continue through the week of Jan. 6, 2026, with a minimum of two collections per neighborhood. The neighborhood rotation will follow the order listed below. The schedule is subject to change depending on weather conditions. Residents are also encouraged to use the Dayton Collects app for updated scheduling notices, in addition to visiting [daytonohio.gov/leafcollection](http://daytonohio.gov/leafcollection) or calling 937-333-4800.

- Please do not rake ANYTHING except loose leaves to the curb for pickup. **No bagged leaves will be accepted.** Branches, sticks, grass, and other yard waste may damage machinery and delay leaf pick-up. Leaf piles containing tree branches or grass will not be collected.
- Keep leaves away from catch basin openings to avoid clogging the storm drainage system.



**PLEASE HAVE ALL LEAVES RAKED OR BLOWN TO THE CURB BY 8 A.M. MONDAY OF YOUR SCHEDULED PICKUP WEEK.**

## 2025-2026 Leaf Pick-up Schedule

Schedule is subject to change depending on weather conditions

NEIGHBORHOOD	PICK-UP WEEK #1	PICK-UP WEEK #2	NEIGHBORHOOD	PICK-UP WEEK #1	PICK-UP WEEK #2
Carillon	10/20/25	12/1/25	Mount Vernon	11/3/25	12/15/25
Edgemont	10/20/25	12/1/25	Five Oaks	11/3/25	12/15/25
Miami Chapel	10/20/25	12/1/25	McPherson/Grafton Hill	11/3/25	12/15/25
Madden Hills	10/20/25	12/1/25	Riverdale	11/3/25	12/15/25
Highview Hills	10/20/25	12/1/25	North Riverdale	11/3/25	12/15/25
Stoney Ridge	10/20/25	12/1/25	DeWeese	11/3/25	12/15/25
Germantown Meadows	10/20/25	12/1/25	Northridge Estates	11/3/25	12/15/25
Pineview	10/20/25	12/1/25	Kitty Hawk	11/3/25	12/15/25
Lakeview	10/20/25	12/1/25	McCook Field	11/3/25	12/15/25
Arlington Heights	10/20/25	12/1/25	Old North Dayton	11/3/25	12/15/25
Fairlane	10/20/25	12/1/25	Gateway	11/3/25	12/15/25
Little Richmond	10/20/25	12/1/25	Forest Ridge/Quail Hollow	11/3/25	12/15/25
Residence Park	10/20/25	12/1/25	Pheasant Hill	11/3/25	12/15/25
Westwood	10/20/25	12/1/25	Springfield	11/10/25	12/29/25
Roosevelt	10/20/25	12/1/25	Webster Station	11/10/25	12/29/25
MacFarlane	10/20/25	12/1/25	CBD-Downtown	11/10/25	12/29/25
Wright Dunbar	10/27/25	12/8/25	Oregon	11/10/25	12/29/25
Wolf Creek	10/27/25	12/8/25	Historic Inner East	11/10/25	12/29/25
Old Dayton View	10/27/25	12/8/25	Burkhardt	11/10/25	12/29/25
Southern Dayton View	10/27/25	12/8/25	Wright View	11/10/25	12/29/25
University Row	10/27/25	12/8/25	Eastern Hills	11/10/25	12/29/25
Princeton Heights	10/27/25	12/8/25	Hearthstone	11/10/25	12/29/25
Dayton View Triangle	10/27/25	12/8/25	Eastmont	11/10/25	12/29/25
Cornell Heights	10/27/25	12/8/25	Belmont	11/17/25	1/5/26
College Hill	10/27/25	12/8/25	Patterson Park	11/17/25	1/5/26
Wesleyan Hill	10/27/25	12/8/25	Shroyer Park	11/17/25	1/5/26
Greenwich Village	10/27/25	12/8/25	Walnut Hills	11/17/25	1/5/26
Northern Hills	10/27/25	12/8/25	Linden Heights	11/17/25	1/5/26
Philadelphia Woods	10/27/25	12/8/25	Twin Towers	11/17/25	1/5/26
Fairview	11/3/25	12/15/25	South Park	11/17/25	1/5/26
Hillcrest	11/3/25	12/15/25	University Park	11/17/25	1/5/26
Santa Clara	11/3/25	12/15/25	Midtown	11/17/25	1/5/26

## Senior Safe helps at home

A new service by the Dayton Fire Department is helping senior residents with safety and wellness concerns at home. Senior Safe offers outreach and reminders by Fire Department personnel directly to seniors who may live alone or have limited mobility. For more information or to register, go to [daytonohio.gov/SeniorSafe](http://daytonohio.gov/SeniorSafe) or call 937-333-5555.



## Fun facts: Dashboards show City data

The City of Dayton publishes several online dashboards designed to help you be aware of important data related to the City budget and spending, as well as the Dayton Recovery Plan. A recently launched dashboard tracks Issue 6-related City spending (Issue 6 was an earned income tax renewal approved by Dayton voters in March of 2024). To access these online resources, go to [daytonohio.gov/transparency](http://daytonohio.gov/transparency).



## Get news your way

Get news updates emailed directly from the City of Dayton, with the topics and frequency you prefer. Go to [daytonohio.gov/DaytonExtra](http://daytonohio.gov/DaytonExtra) to subscribe to the Dayton Extra newsletter. You can change your preferences or cancel at any time.

## Waste Collection reminders made easy

The Dayton Collects app sends brief weekly notifications about collection days (no more wondering "Is this recycling week?"), plus special notices about schedule changes resulting from holidays. Just go to the App Store or Google Play to download the free app.

