



JOSH MANDEL

STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

Willoughby News Herald
By Tawana Roberts
June 22, 2016

In an effort to increase transparency, Painesville has agreed to share its finances through Ohio's online checkbook program.

City Manager Tony Carson said this is a great way to share financial information with the public.

"We are excited for our citizens and city officials to use this tool in order to work together and better our community," Carson said in a news release. "Painesville is proud to be a leader in transparency by joining the OhioCheckbook.com."

The city of Painesville is the second city in Lake County to post its spending on the state's online checkbook, the news release states. Painesville's online checkbook includes more than 29,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$66 million of total spending over fiscal year 2015.

The Ohio's Treasurer's Office announced the launch of Painesville, Kirtland Hills and Kirtland School District checkbooks on June 17.

Developed by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel in 2014, the Ohio checkbook allows citizens to view detailed expenditures in state government. The website includes multiple search capabilities to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor; dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending; functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; the capability to share charts or checks with social media networks; and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

"I believe the people of Lake County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on OhioCheckbook.com," Mandel said in the release. "By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable."

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