

# UNION TOWNSHIP

*Clermont County, Ohio*

*Est. 1811*

2021 Annual Report



# UNION TOWNSHIP

*Clermont County, Ohio*

*Est. 1811*

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## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

John McGraw  
Robert McGee  
Michael Logue

**Fiscal Officer**  
Ron Campbell

**Administrator**  
Ken Geis

**Law Director**  
Lawrence Barbiere

**Union Township Administration**  
4350 Aicholtz Road  
Union Township, Ohio 45245  
513-752-1742  
[www.union-township.oh.us](http://www.union-township.oh.us)

# UNION TOWNSHIP

*Clermont County, Ohio*

*Est. 1811*

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## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# ADMINISTRATION

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To the Board of Trustees:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2021 annual report for Union Township. During 2021, Union Township continued to excel in its position as a regional leader in terms of business growth, fiscal responsibility, and most importantly, preserved its place as one of the top communities in the State of Ohio in which to live and raise a family. As the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns and lock-downs eased in 2021, the township was able to take advantage of the resulting economic rebound, leveraging this positive momentum to welcome citizens back to the Civic Center and to township facilities. The conclusion of the 2020 U.S. Census effort saw the township population grow to nearly 50,000 residents.

Union Township continues to be the focal point for development in Clermont County, both in private and public investment, with the county's largest employer, the second-largest freight broker in the country. Total Quality Logistics commenced operations in its newest expansion in Ivy Pointe Commerce Park, with hundreds of jobs added in 2021. Additionally, the township celebrated the opening of the Sharefax Credit Union headquarters in Ivy Pointe during 2021. The township took bold and decisive action to provide necessary infrastructure to accommodate the new Hamilton Safe headquarters located along Round Bottom Road, resulting in the consolidation of nearly 200 jobs in the township on a former vacant/agricultural area. This work will continue in 2022, with the addition of turn lanes and road widening improvements near the vicinity of Barg Salt Run and Round Bottom roads, preparing the area for future growth. Single and multi-family residential growth continued and development activity remains strong at the end of 2021 and moving forward into 2022.

In 2021, Union Township successfully completed the construction of a new fire station and COVID-19 Immunization and Testing Center at 5149 Beechwood Road. Union Township Fire Station No. 53 & COVID-19 Immunization Center expands fire and emergency services coverage to the northern end of the township, which enhances response times and safety for the residents. The township successfully implemented a dual-purpose approach to leverage federal dollars in support of the pandemic mitigation efforts and held the first drive-through immunization clinic in November. The township continues to coordinate with state and local authorities to expand the distribution of testing kits and immunizations at the facility in response to the pandemic.

The public investment in roadway and infrastructure systems continues in Union Township. Specifically, the Bach-Buxton/Elick interchange was funded and a bid was awarded by the State of Ohio at the end of 2021. The Aicholtz Roundabouts project continues to advance through the development stage. Specifically, the Eastern Corridor improvements continue to have a dramatic positive difference in the township. ODOT also began exploring the construction of some additional safety upgrades to mainline State Route 32 to continue to enhance safety gains made at the Interstate 275 intersection.

As an organization, we always look toward improvement in customer service and the quantity of service performed. All township services are accredited. We remain nationally and internationally accredited with regard to the township's police, fire, communications, public works, and cemetery operations. Maintaining our nationally and internationally accredited services is only possible with the continued support from our outstanding employees. Even as the aftermath of the pandemic continued, township staff continued to come to work every day because we are essential services. Our Fire and Police personnel answered all of the standard calls and dispatches related to the virus. The Public Works staff continued to care for our roads, parks, and cemeteries. The Zoning and Administration employees worked each day, operating safely and efficiently. Throughout everything, the community embodied the resiliency that makes Union Township one of the best neighborhoods in the State of Ohio.

# ADMINISTRATION

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Our General Fund recorded a \$14.739 million balance at the end of 2021, evidencing the township's continued stable financial condition and overall health. The 2021 year-end total cash position was more than \$32.534 million. Overall expenses totaled \$69.412 million for the year, with revenues totaling \$72.912 million. Our board continued to invest in the community through property acquisitions and sales.

A review of the report's remainder will demonstrate that each department enhanced operations during the last calendar year. Please feel free to comment on the information provided. Our offices are open during regular business hours, and we certainly welcome a chance to demonstrate our commitment to our customers.

Very truly,



Cory Wm. Wright  
Interim Township Administrator

## CIVIC CENTER

Under normal circumstances, the Union Township Civic Center is open seven days a week, offering five meeting rooms and a beautiful gym to the public at no charge. Many non-profit organizations use the meeting rooms on a regular basis. From the American Cancer Society to various veterans' groups, from PTOs to Boosters organizations, and from Girl and Boy Scout groups to homeowners' associations, all are welcome and represented in the constant flow of traffic in and out of the Civic Center. Many local sports organizations use the gym on a regular basis, keeping it busy and filled throughout the week.

In addition, the Contract Postal Unit on the lower level is of great benefit to residents and businesses Monday through mid-Saturday. Completing the amenities the public can find at the Civic Center is a Cincinnati Metro Park-n-Ride, which offers service to and from downtown, and the parking lot, which was repaved in 2016, is usually filled to capacity on weekdays.

Governor Mike DeWine's "stay-at-home" order in March, 2020, halted meeting room and gym usage through May, 2021, when reservations resumed, albeit at reduced time limits. Those limits continue through this writing.

As essential services, the Post Office and Zoning Department both remain open, with mandatory social distancing and mask requirements.

Once the pandemic is under control, the Civic Center will again become a hub of activity, where, in 2019, foot traffic numbered more than a quarter million visitors.

## TOWNSHIP EVENTS

After cancellation of all township events in 2020, most were resumed in 2021. The Summer Concert Series resumed with the addition of the premier performance of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. The Police Department again hosted its Child Gun Safety classes, Citizen's Police Academy, Women's Self-Defense class, and Police Night Out. The Service Department resumed its community events, holding Spring and Fall Junk Collection Days, the Christmas tree drop-off, and Mt. Moriah Cemetery's Lantern Lighting Ceremony. The Fire Department held CPR classes for the Police Department and West Clermont High School.

# ADMINISTRATION

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## PARTNERSHIPS

Providing space for the West Clermont Local School District and Clermont Senior Services Inc. was a priority for the Union Township Board of Trustees before the building was even finished in 2004. It is important to the trustees that the bridge between youth and seniors in the community be strengthened by the partnerships that exist in the Union Township Civic Center.

The Clermont Senior Services Inc. Learning Center is one of the most active, if not the most active, in the county.

Among the many groups utilizing the gym, the Union Township Board of Trustees is proud of its partnership with the SNAPdragons organization, a non-profit providing basketball and cheerleading activities for special needs children. SNAPdragons has been rewarding in that we have seen the steady growth of that organization, leading to its partnership with the West Clermont Youth Basketball Association.

Following you will find testimonials from our Civic Center partners that underscore the success of the relationships between them and the Union Township Board of Trustees.



# ADMINISTRATION

Clermont Senior Services, Inc.  
2085 James E. Sauls Sr. Drive  
Batavia, OH 45103



Phone: (513) 724-1255  
Fax: (513) 536-4101  
[info@clermontseniors.com](mailto:info@clermontseniors.com)  
[www.clermontseniors.com](http://www.clermontseniors.com)

January 03, 2022

Union Township Board of Trustees  
Union Township Civic Center  
4350 Aicholtz Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45245

Dear Union Township Trustees,

The relationship between Clermont Senior Services and Union Township remains a rewarding collaboration which benefits our community and its senior citizens. This past year saw the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which unfortunately, continued to hamper our ability to *physically* connect and interact with the community's older adults.

The Lifelong Learning Center was permitted to re-open in late 2020, but attendance remained sporadic, in part, due to ongoing State-imposed restrictions.

Our staff were able to coordinate the delivery of in-person and virtual programs designed to mentally, physically and artistically stimulate seniors through educational topics, exercise programs, crafting and even cooking classes. While continued learning and activity is important to the older adult community, the social interaction was vital during this period of social distancing.

Senior Centers re-opened, free of restrictions, on June 02, 2021 by way of Governor DeWine's Order rescinding all previous Health Orders relating to Senior Centers. In-person attendance was meek throughout 2021, but a steady increase was seen through the end of the year. The center went from 92 visits in January to over 700 by year's end.

We continue to value the professionalism of the Union Township staff and are very grateful for their continued support and friendship. A considerable amount of the center's success belongs to them. On behalf of our staff and Board of Trustees, I thank you for helping to improve the lives of our community's seniors and we look forward to many years of this very successful partnership with Union Township.

Sincerely,



Cindy Gramke  
CEO/Executive Director



Bill DeHass  
Community Services Director

*Our mission is to improve the quality of life for older adults by providing a broad range of home and community based services, enabling them to remain as active and independent as possible.*



# ADMINISTRATION

4350 Aicholtz Road | Cincinnati, OH 45245  
513.943.5000 | [westcler.org](http://westcler.org) | @westcler  
Natasha L. Adams, Superintendent | Daniel Romano, Treasurer



WEST CLERMONT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 19, 2022

Union Township Board of Trustees  
Union Township Civic Center  
4350 Aicholtz Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45245

Dear Union Township Trustees,

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff, students, families and community members of West Clermont School District, thank you for your partnership. Providing a 21st-century education takes dedicated community members who work together for the betterment of all students and the community at-large. You take this responsibility seriously, always leading by example, and we are grateful.

We know the Union Township Board of Trustees shares our desire to make West Clermont Schools a destination district. Your support in helping us pass the first operational levy in 16 years in 2020 has allowed us to take a different — and better — path toward our future.

This past year, we have been able to use additional local funding and federal relief money to activate our Onward and Upward plan by investing in people, programs and processes. Some of these investments are ongoing expenses for the district while others are one-time investments designed to improve our response to the impact of COVID-19 and improve outcomes for students. These include: investing in a math curriculum and financial literacy update process, adding counselors to the middle school and high school, expanding elementary art, music, physical education and a new discovery class focused on career exploration, bolstering professional learning and instructional coaching for staff, adding 1:1 technology for every student, increasing supports services for students such as school psychologists and extended learning opportunities, and modernizing our data system so we can know our students well and respond. Additionally, in partnership with local organizations, we hosted a community asset mapping event that is helping us connect students with community mentors and businesses to provide real-life learning experiences beyond the walls of the classroom.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, address our steadily increasing enrollment, aging facilities, competitive workforce challenges, and changes to school funding, your continued partnership and support will be a critical component to our success. Again, thank you for working alongside us to commit to excellence with every learner, every day, every way. I can't wait to see what our future holds.

Sincerely,

Natasha L. Adams  
Superintendent

## ADMINISTRATION



### SNAP DRAGONS SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

*\*In association with WCYBA*

January 5, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the SNAP (Special Needs Athletic Program) Dragons have used the Union Township Civic Center gym for 16 years. We feel very fortunate to have this lovely gym to use to play basketball.

We have approximately 115 players, ranging from ages 5 years old to adult. These players are divided into ability and age. We have 9 teams and 2 Special Olympic teams. We also have 10 cheerleaders. SNAP is a program that helps people with special needs get exercise and make friends. Most of our players have been with us for many years, if not since we first started the program. It also is a great way for parents to meet other parents to get support and advice.

We also have high school students that volunteer to assist the younger players learn skills. The students seem to enjoy working with the players and it helps them to understand that people with special needs are more like them than they may realize. For this reason, SNAP is a wonderful community involvement for everyone.

We truly believe that if we did not have use of the gym, our program would not be able to continue to grow and help the athletes with special needs.

Sincerely,

Kim Shepler  
SNAP Dragons Manager

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees:

I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Fire/EMS Department.

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic challenges continued throughout 2021, including safety initiatives, policies, and procedures that started in 2020, and the addition of vaccinations of township employees as well as the general public.



Station 53 began construction in the end of 2020 and was completed in 2021, serving a primary coverage area of the north/northwestern area of Union Township but bolstering Fire and EMS service delivery township-wide. We also successfully completed our first Covid-19 vaccine drive-through clinic at the new station in November.

The public Fire Department in Union Township was started in 1990, so now, 30 years later, we are seeing employees who have served the township for many years retire. As a result of retirements and an additional station being added this year, we saw new employees added as well as promotions within the department.

Keeping with past practices, multiple “new to us” vehicles, including fire engines and an aerial truck, were purchased, not only updating our emergency services’ fleet at a fraction of the cost to purchasing new but also moving towards standardization of the fleet for the purposes of training, operation and maintenance.

Sadly, in late September, our “arson dog” Dover passed away. He was a very loyal public servant who spent the last nine years dedicated to sniffing out accelerants used in incendiary fires throughout Clermont County. He will certainly be missed.

All Fire Department employees maintain a vision of continuous quality improvements to better serve the people of Union Township.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley G. Deimling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Stanley" on the top line and "G. Deimling" on the bottom line.

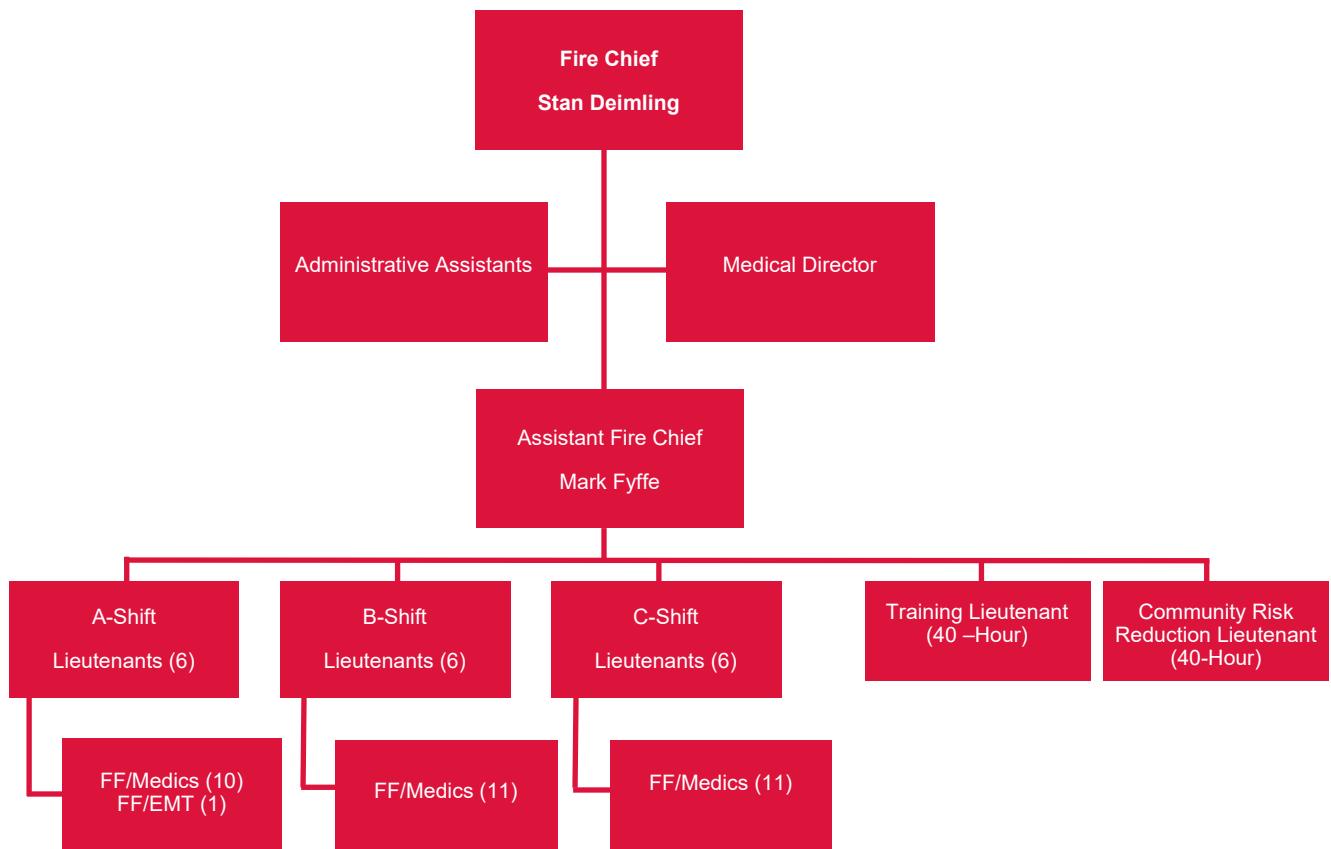
Stanley G. Deimling, EFO  
Fire Chief

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Mission

**It is the mission of the Union Township Fire Department, Clermont County, Ohio, to strive to be on the cutting edge of excellence by exceeding expectations in providing Life Safety Services to the community; and to promote the protection of lives, property and the environment through prevention, education, timely response, mitigation and the actions of highly trained, dedicated and motivated personnel. This mission is directed at making it a safer and healthier community.**

## 2021 Organization Chart



# **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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## **Union Township Fire Department**

Proudly Serving Since

### **Administration**

Stanley Deimling	Fire Chief	1990
Mark Fyffe	Assistant Fire Chief	1998
William Hinckley, MD	Medical Director	2017
Lori Fyffe	Administrative Assistant	2018
Cheryl Spencer	Administrative Assistant	2021
Matthew Rose	Fleet Services	2021

### **Line Personnel**

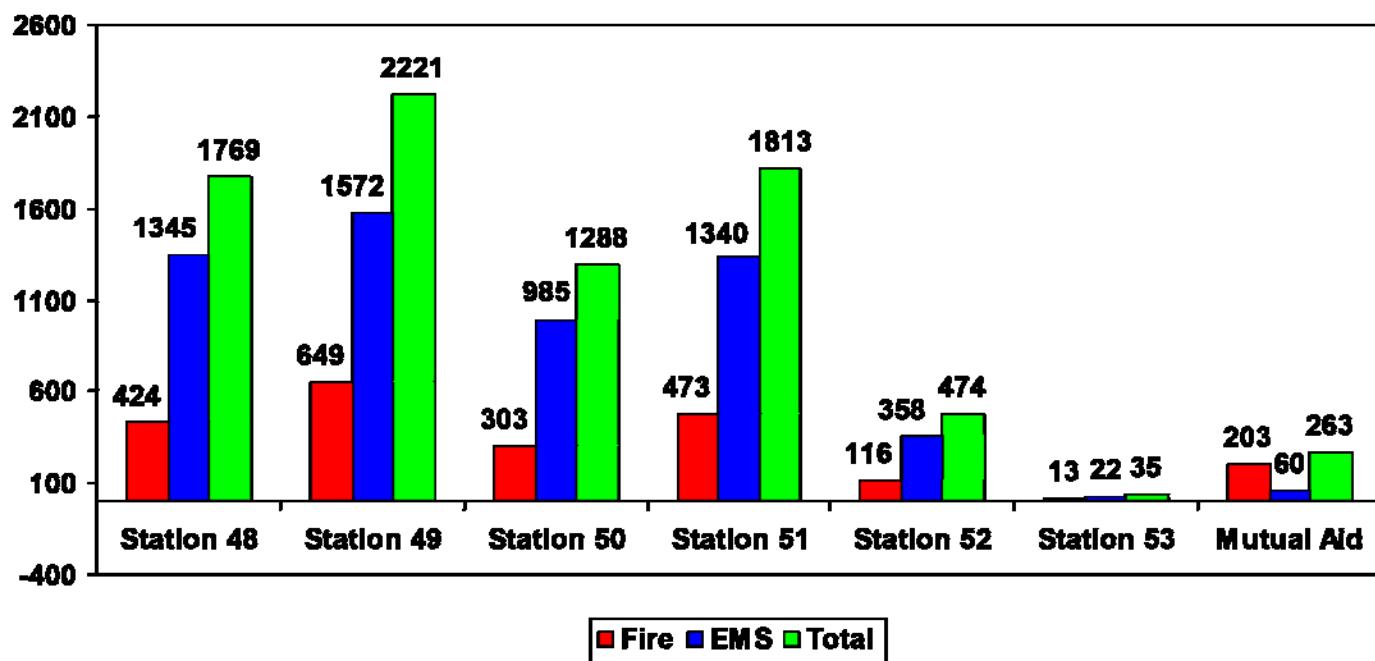
Bob Cabral	Lieutenant	1990
Kevin Carraher	Lieutenant	1998
Steve Ruhe	Lieutenant	1999
Chris Goessl	Lieutenant	1999
Charles Caudill	Lieutenant	1999
Matt Terrell	Lieutenant	2001
Adam Dressler	Lieutenant	2001
Chris Gilpin	Lieutenant	2001
Matt Losee	Lieutenant	2001
Steve Auffart	Lieutenant	2001
Matt Green	Lieutenant	2002
Craig Forster	Lieutenant	2003
Travis Brown	Lieutenant	2004
Jason Rooms	Lieutenant	2006
Greg Deems	Lieutenant	2006
Franco DelZotti	Lieutenant	2006
Steve Guth	Lieutenant	2006
Nick Luehrman	Lieutenant	2007
Matt McHale	Lieutenant	2007
Austin Clements	Lieutenant	2015

Jeff McCalla	FF/EMT	1990	Jeff Walters	FF/Medic	2007
Scott Bavaro	FF/Medic	1998	Nick South	FF/Medic	2007
Bruce Bellingham	FF/Medic	1998	Ken Reardon	FF/Medic	2007
Steve Long	FF/Medic	1999	Chris Butler	FF/Medic	2007
Chad Brinson	FF/Medic	2000	Ben Buczak	FF/Medic	2007
Tim Stephens	FF/Medic	2001	Joe Klamo	FF/Medic	2007
Ted Cwiok	FF/Medic	2001	Jessica Moening	FF/Medic	2014
Dennis Dick	FF/Medic	2003	Brady Gregory	FF/Medic	2015
Scott Fay	FF/Medic	2004	John Rose	FF/Medic	2017
Rusty Huff	FF/Medic	2004	Ryan Passet	FF/Medic	2017
Lee Schrichten	FF/Medic	2004	Charles Ramsey	FF/Medic	2017
Mike Radzimoski	FF/Medic	2006	Scott Musselman	FF/Medic	2018
Jon Milligan	FF/Medic	2006	Travis Gilkison	FF/Medic	2021
Charles Hyden	FF/Medic	2006	Jim Ledford	FF/Medic	2021
Shaun Honnert	FF/Medic	2006	Steven Mohr	FF/Medic	2021
Jacob Bryant	FF/Medic	2007			

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to 7,876 incidents, resulting in 10,210 vehicle responses, for 2021. The following chart breaks down the call volume among our six stations.

- Station 48 - 855 Ohio Pike.
- Station 49 - 718 Cincinnati-Batavia Pike.
- Station 50 - 1141 Cincinnati-Batavia Pike.
- Station 51 - 860 Clough Pike.
- Station 52 - 3873 Bach Buxton Road.
- Station 53 - 5149 Beechwood Road \* Opened 11/23/2021



## APPARATUS / EQUIPMENT

In 2021, the Union Township Fire Department made significant changes in updating and maintaining our fleet and equipment. The department purchased a 2010 Pierce Arrow XT PUC Rescue Engine. This unit has several features that will allow our firefighters to perform at a higher level and with greater efficiency. This unit will be the fifth Pierce Arrow XT for Union Township. Standardizing the fleet has been an ambitious goal of ours. This will ultimately help the Fire Department engineers (drivers) with their duties and increase the safety of operating these vehicles. This unit was placed in service on January 18th, 2022, and is assigned Station 48 as Engine 48.

The department also entered into contracts to purchase a 2012 Pierce Arrow XT PUC Rescue Engine and a 2010 Pierce Arrow XT PUC Tower Ladder. These should be in-service in the first quarter of 2022. Two (2) new Medic Units were purchased and are expected to be delivered in February, 2022.

The department purchased a Stryker Bariatric Power Cot and Load System. This, along with other specialized equipment, was placed in service to better assist the paramedics in treating bariatric patients.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

The department made a significant investment in Fleet Services. The department hired a full-time mechanic. This is a huge asset for the Fire Department. Keeping them in top running order is essential with the number of vehicles in our fleet and the number of emergency and non-emergency calls they make. Several items (pieces of equipment) were purchased to make in-house maintenance a reality. A few of those items include hydraulic jacks that allow the lifting of the trucks, large capacity air compressor, equipment to change and collect engine fluids, and an assortment of tools. All this will reduce equipment downtime and keep the need for outside vendors for maintenance to a minimum.

## TRAINING

In 2021, the department continued to utilize online and company-level training for fire, EMS, and safety inspector continuing education. In addition to these types of training, personnel also engaged in offsite hands-on training. These training opportunities included fire ground operations training in an acquired structure and vehicle extrication training. The combination of training types yielded a more comprehensive training opportunity for all personnel and a total of 16,669 training hours for the department in 2021. This total is a 25 percent increase in overall training hours from the previous year. The department has continued to utilize the Target Solutions Training Platform to record, maintain and categorize training courses accurately.

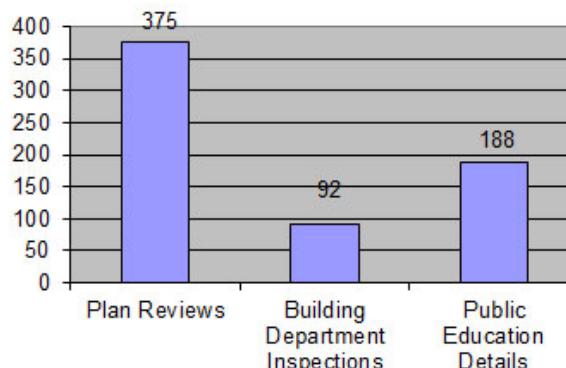


## PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

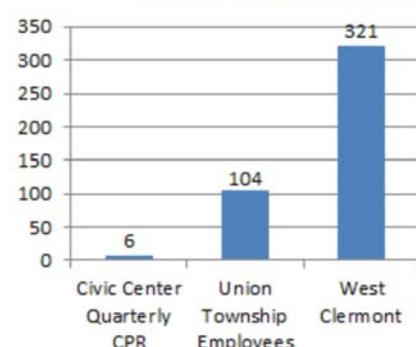
Using every opportunity to provide fire prevention and education is always a priority, and 2021 was no exception. The department participated in 188 public education events, including station tours, fire extinguisher training classes, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes, school fire drills, smoke detector installations, and car seat installations.

The department continued to build on its relationship with elementary schools. All elementary schools were provided fire prevention materials, and the *You're on Fire* component of the public education program continued. The department was able to help train 321 West Clermont High School students and staff in CPR and Stop the Bleed.

**2021 Plan Reviews, Inspections and Public Education Details**



**2021 CPR and Stop the Bleed Attendance**



# **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **FIRE INSPECTIONS AND PLAN REVIEWS**

In addition to being responsible for life safety inspections of more than 1600 commercial occupancies, the department conducted 375 plan reviews and 92 inspections with the Building Department.

## **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS**

The Fire Department places great emphasis on customer satisfaction. The Customer Satisfaction Survey is one tool used to collect and analyze feedback from residents who have received our services. The surveys provide an avenue to assess the department's performance and the customers' overall satisfaction. The survey addresses several aspects of service, including interpersonal skills, service delivery, and technical skills.

Surveys are randomly sent to recipients of emergency service and non-emergency details, including public education and fire safety inspections. Upon return of the surveys, management reviews them, areas of weakness are identified, concerns are addressed, and appropriate feedback is given to the personnel involved. The survey is broken down into six categories, and each question receives a rating of 1-3; three is exceeding expectations, and one is less than expected.

In 2021, the department sent out 165 surveys that resulted in 34 responses. The average score was 2.44. These results indicate a high level of satisfaction among those who responded.

## **EMPLOYEE NEWS**

In 2021, the department saw retirements, promotions, and new hires.

Lt. Todd Rosenhoffer retired in May after 25 years of service. Lt. Scott Childs retired in June after 25 years of fire service, including 15 years of service to Union Township.

Travis Gilkison (firefighter/paramedic), Cheryl Spencer (administrative assistant), and Matthew Rose (mechanic) began their tenure in September. In November, Jim Ledford (firefighter/paramedic) and Steven Mohr (firefighter/paramedic) began serving Union Township.

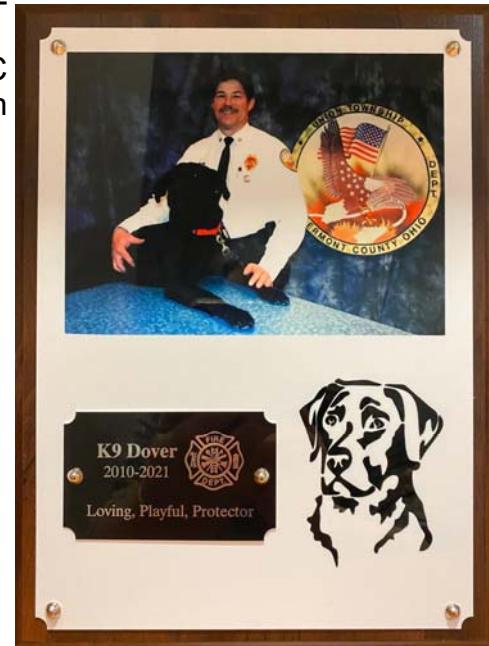
Six firefighter/paramedics were promoted to the rank of lieutenant in November. The newly promoted lieutenants are Lt. Jason Rooms, Lt. Steven Guth, Lt. Franco DelZotti, Lt. Austin Clements, Lt. Nick Luehrman, and Lt. Greg Deems.

## **RIP DOVER**

In 2021, the Fire Department's Arson Dog Dover passed away at the age of 11. Dover served the Union Township Fire Department, and the whole of Clermont County, for more than eight years, sniffing out accelerants used in incendiary fires, leading to the arrests and convictions of perpetrators.

The memorial plaque was presented to the department by UC Air Care pilot Matt Johnson, who was previously a K-9 handler in law enforcement.

RIP, Dover. You served courageously and well.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STATION 53

After the official ribbon cutting on Nov. 22, Union Township Fire Station 53 officially opened for business at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23. But other important business was earlier conducted when, on Nov. 16, the station's first drive-thru Covid vaccination clinic was conducted.

More than 20 years ago, a deployment and response study revealed that a fire station was needed in the north end of the township. A new station became more imperative as the nearby residential area and, subsequently the need, grew. When the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) released \$1.8 million to the township, the obvious use of the money was to build that fire station on land already owned by the township, with the dual purpose of providing drive-thru vaccinations and testing, as well as storage of PPE (personal protective equipment) on site.

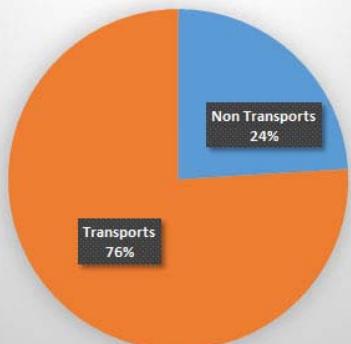
The first order of business for the newly completed facility was the drive-thru clinic Nov. 16. In just two hours, 60 Moderna and Pfizer vaccinations were given. With two professionals on hand to give the injections, that was an average of one vaccination every four minutes each.

The 12,500 square foot station at 5149 Beechwood Road is also a full-service fire and paramedic station, allowing much shorter response times to the immediate vicinity. The station is Union Township's sixth.

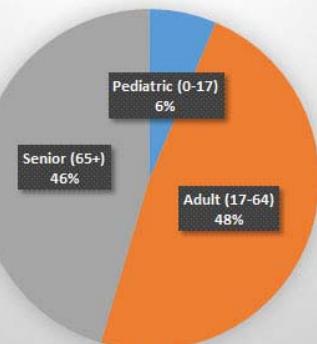


## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

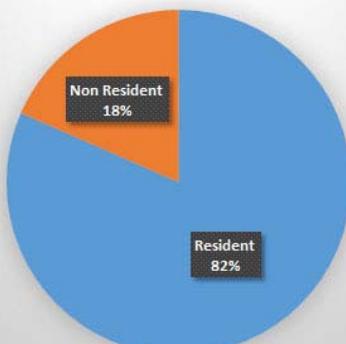
Transports Vs. Non Transports



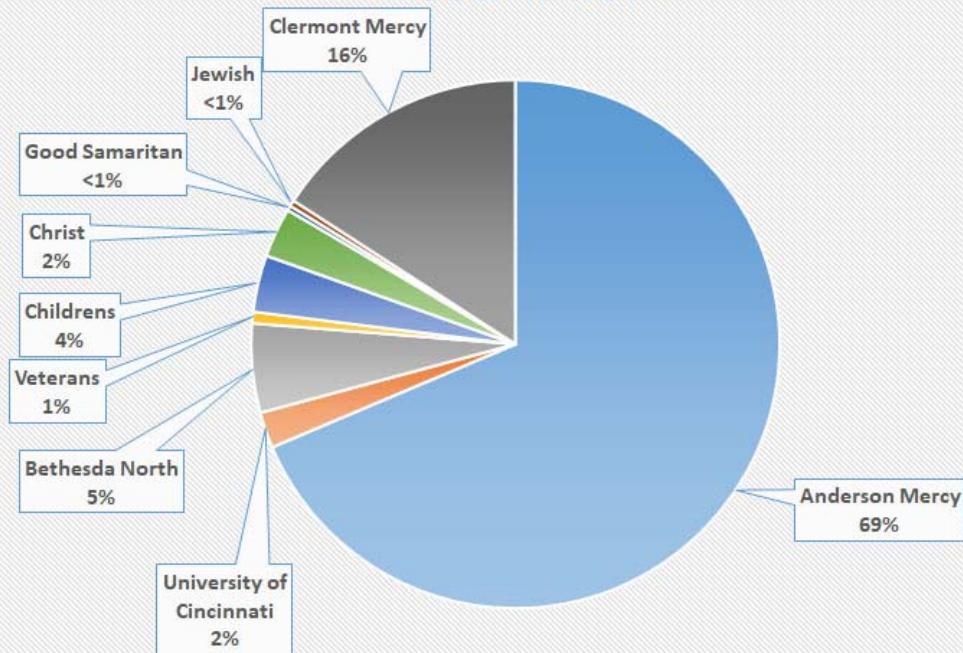
Age Breakdown



EMS Resident Status

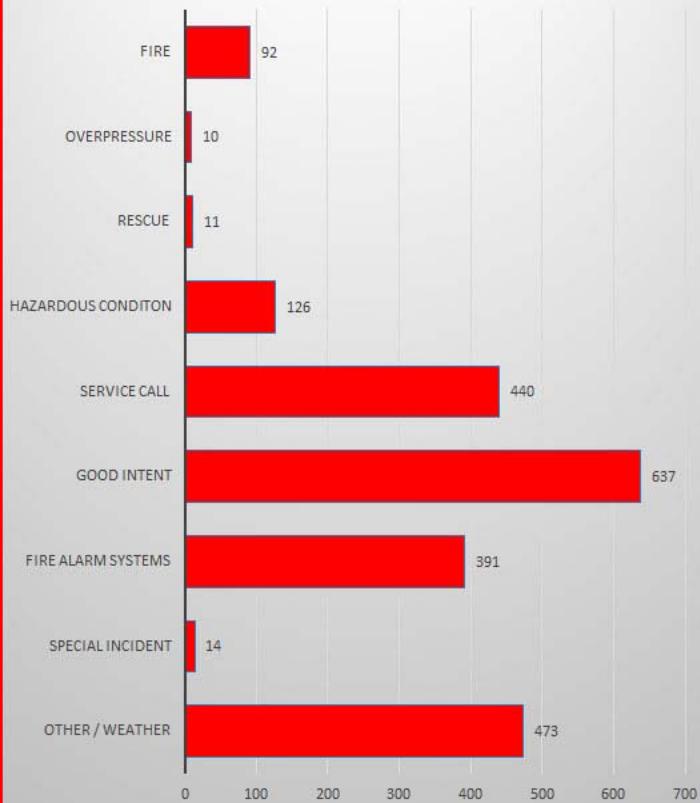


### Hospital Transportation by Destination

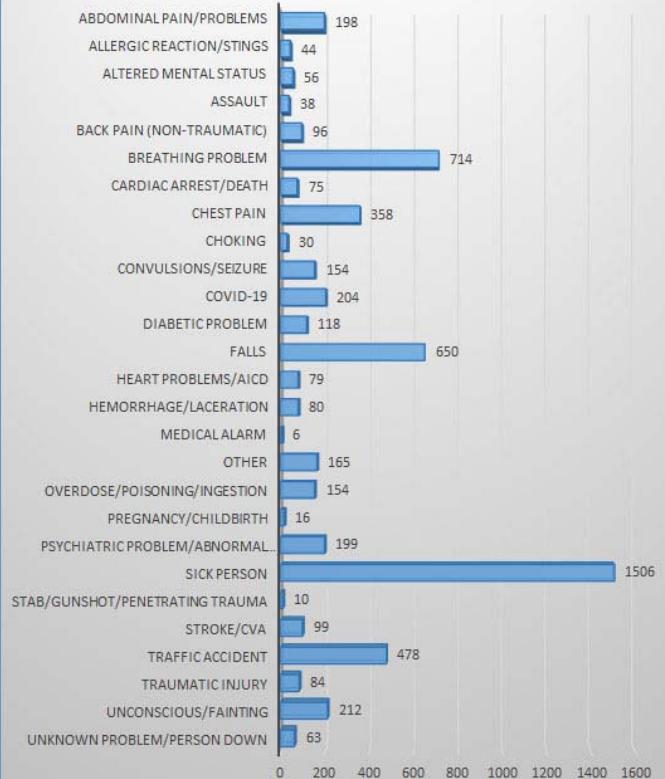


# FIRE DEPARTMENT

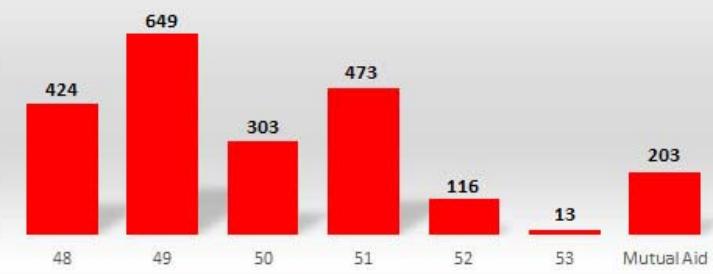
## Fire Response by Category



## EMS Chief Complaint



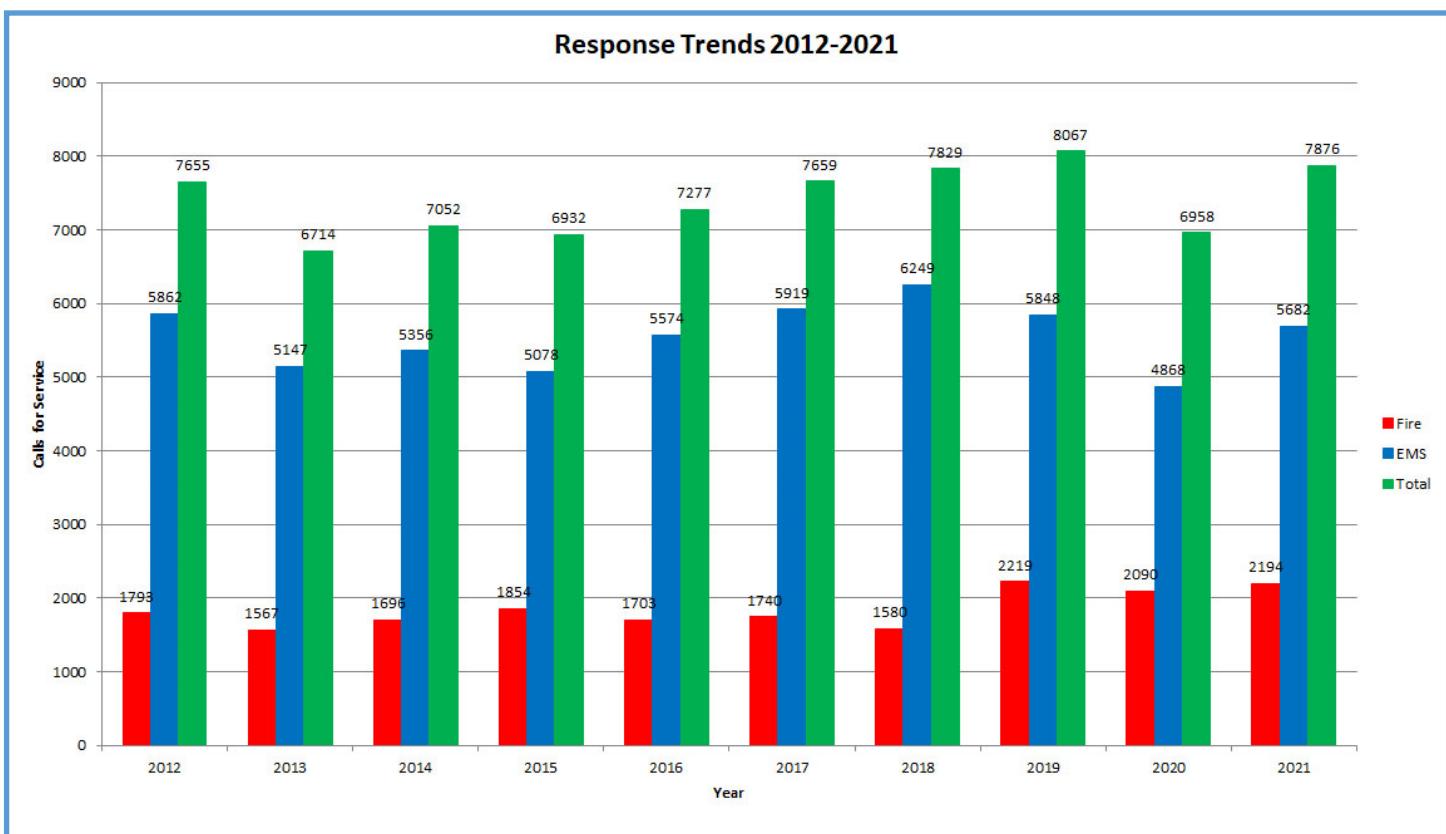
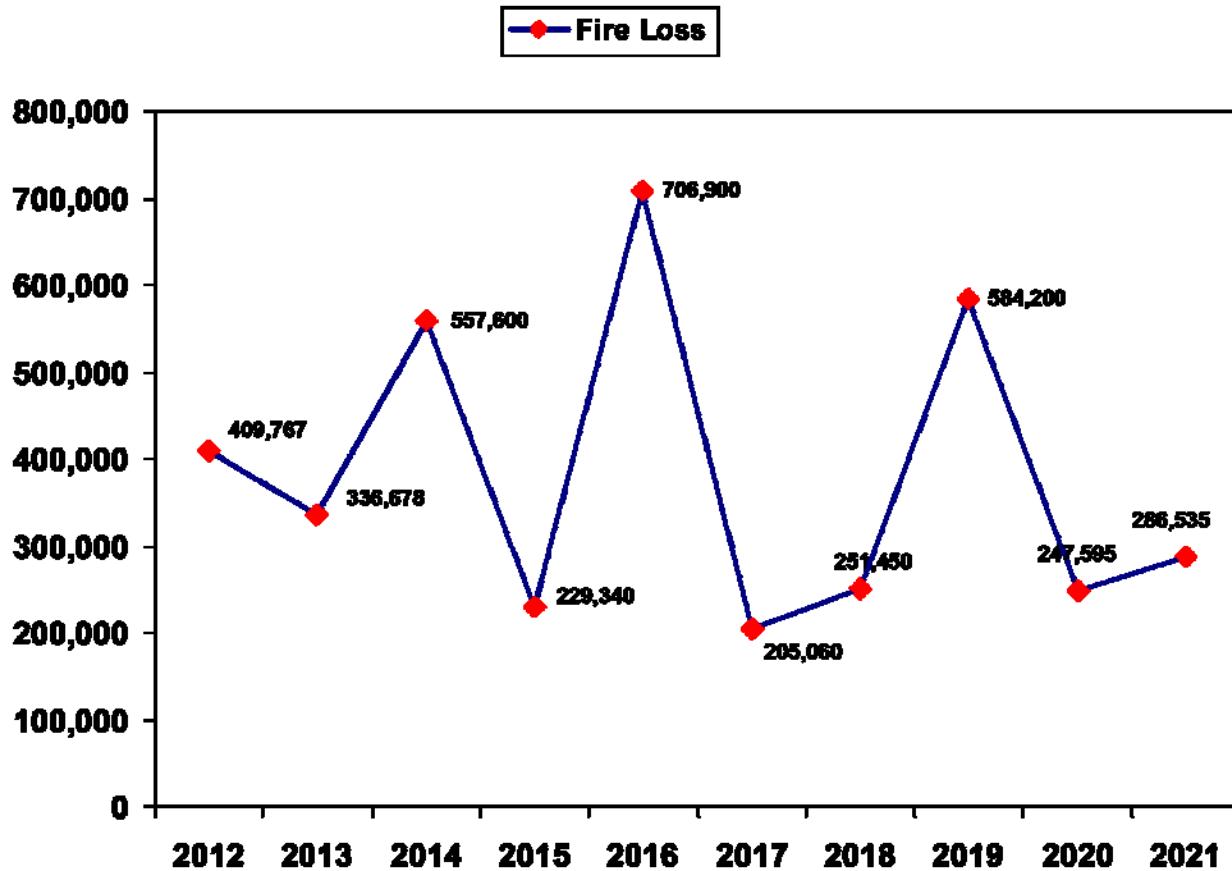
## 2021 Fire Response by District



## 2021 EMS Response by District



# FIRE DEPARTMENT



# **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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## **SMOKE DETECTORS AND SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!**



# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2021 Annual Report for the Union Township Planning & Zoning Department. As we continue with the post-COVID-19 pandemic rebound, activity has been busy and productive this year. As people have spent more time at their homes, continued efforts have been made this year to improve quality of life through enhanced enforcement, economic development, and business growth. Development activity has continued to stay strong throughout the year and as we move into 2022.



In 2021, commercial and residential development activity continued. Significant traffic enhancement projects continue to aid in increased vehicle mobility throughout the Eastgate area. In 2022, we will see continued construction along State Route 32, to include the new interchange at Bach-Buxton Road, an additional travel lane westbound, and a new eastbound State Route 32 ramp onto Clepper Lane. This past year also demonstrated progress on the development of the former Gleneste High School campus, with Provision Living bringing several additional partners to assist in the site buildout. The State Route 125 corridor continues to attract reinvestment and development activity. Once again, the department has identified and eliminated blighted conditions as part of a continued effort to enhance quality of life in established neighborhoods.

Demand for residential units remains vibrant, with strong activity seen in both the single-family and multi-family residential categories. Lot inventory has grown within the township with new subdivision development increasing, primarily within mixed density single family projects. Critical to these continued successes are the actions, investments, and policies established by the Board of Trustees, leading to continuous positive momentum. Planning staff members remain engaged in regional transportation discussions, relative to coordinating development in conjunction with planned network enhancements by the Clermont County TID and others.

As we move forward into 2022, the Planning Department remains poised and ready to plan for and guide continued growth and prosperity within Union Township.

Very truly yours,

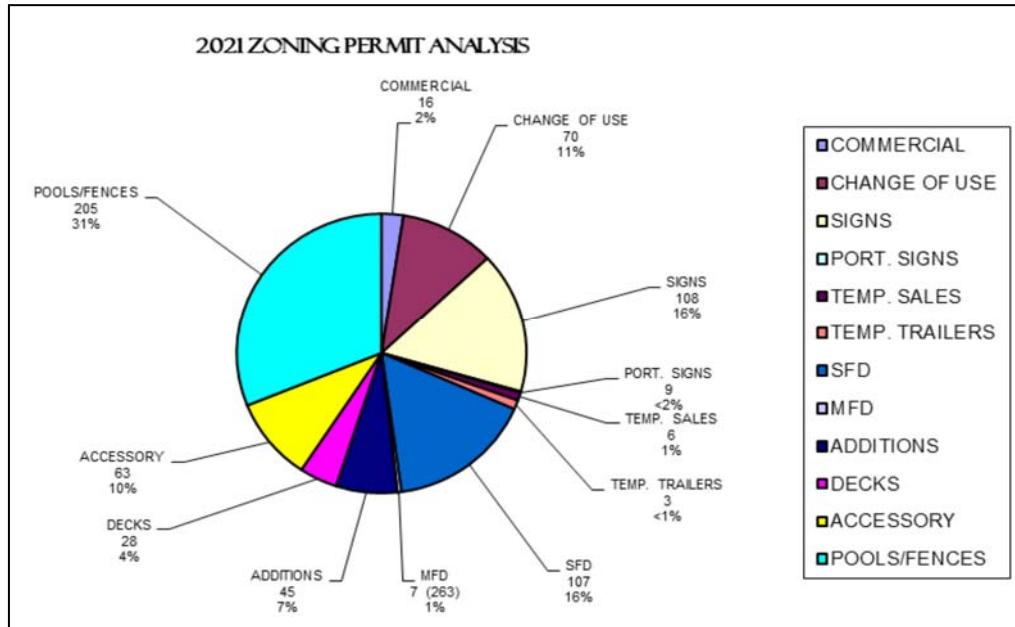
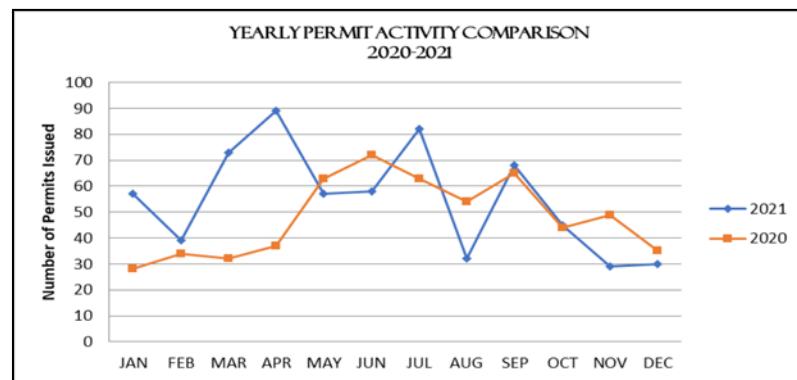
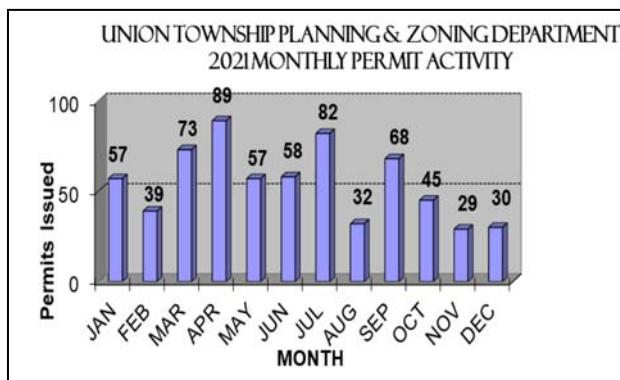
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Wm. Wright".

Cory Wm. Wright  
Assistant Township Administrator  
Director of Planning & Zoning

# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

## ZONING ADMINISTRATION

The Union Township Planning & Zoning Department issued 659 permits in 2021, representing an increase of more than 14 percent over 2020 permit totals (576). The department issued 16 new commercial permits in 2021, whereas the department issued 23 commercial permits in 2020. Despite the slight decline in actual commercial permits issued, an analysis of change of use permit totals (32 percent increase from 2020) indicated a larger project volume due to businesses moving into existing commercial space. Permit revenue increased 70 percent from 2020 due to the increase in the number of permits received and the new fee schedule instituted in the beginning of 2021. Residential permit activity increased in 2021, with 107 new single-family dwelling (SFD) permits issued, which is a 109 percent increase over 2020. Future developments starting in 2022, including Silverstone, Woods of Magnolia Trace and Phase II of Twelve Oaks, will help meet the demand for building lots in the township. Multi-family housing demand remained heavy in Union Township during 2021, as permits for 196 new attached multi-family units were issued. The greatest permit volume increase was in accessory permits (pools, decks, fences, and other homeowner projects). Notably, the department issued 205 pool and fence permits in 2021. Yearly permits total remained consistent with prior year levels with respect to signage permits, accessory buildings, and other seasonally issued permits. In 2021, the township saw an increase in residential addition permits from previous levels (67 percent increase over 2020), as homeowners tackled more renovation projects.



# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

## ZONING ENFORCEMENT

In 2021, the Planning & Zoning Department continued efforts to address quality of life issues through the enforcement process. The department recorded 114 zoning violation complaints from the public in 2021, representing a 10.53 percent decrease in complaints from the previous year. Of those complaints received, nearly 44 percent were determined to be without cause or basis. However, 130 properties were found to be in violation of the Zoning Code during 2021.

The department continues to work to resolve complaints without court action, as evidenced by an exceptionally high administrative compliance rate for properties found to be in violation. Declared nuisance properties decreased significantly in 2021, with eight nuisances declared throughout the year.

Several properties were the subject of abatement efforts as a result of the nuisance abatement process. Furthermore, other long-standing nuisances that were also zoning violations were successfully resolved by Union Township through court-ordered intervention. Illegal signage removal efforts were consistently advanced through an on-going public-private contractual arrangement.

As always, public money expended for demolition will be recovered through the assessment process.

An arrangement with private contractors to abate grass and/or nuisance structures continues to be successful and cost-effective. The township is extremely proactive in the identification and abatement of public nuisances, taking appropriate and swift action as permitted by law to eliminate blight within the community.

### 2021 Inspection Data

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	TOTAL
Inspections	577
Complaints	114
Unfounded Complaints	50
Warning Citation	51
15 Day Noncompliance letter	42
30 Day Violation letter	11
Forward to Township Attorney	0
Resolved w & w/o action	103
Illegal Signs Removed	By Contract
Miscellaneous Issues	163
Violations Monthly Total	130
Reinspection of Violations	112
Nuisance Filed	3

### Year-Over-Year Inspection Activity

ZONING VIOLATIONS & INSPECTIONS	2020	2021
Public Complaints Received	129	114
Properties in Violation	119	130
Warning Citations Issued	46	51
15 Day Noncompliance Letter Issued	48	42
30 Day Violation Letter Issued	24	11
Violations Resolved	117	103
Legal Action Pursued	1	0
Zoning Violation Follow-Up Inspections	160	112
Unfounded Complaints Received	37	50
Miscellaneous Issues	139	163
Inspections	573	577
Nuisance Abatement Actions	22	8

## BZA AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Union Township Board of Zoning Appeals received nine cases for consideration in 2021, with all of those requests consisting of variance applications. In total, the board issued approvals in every case. The Zoning Commission received three zoning map amendment cases and a single text amendment in 2021. The Board of Trustees reviewed 16 new Overlay District Applications filed in 2021, with all receiving approvals (many of the approvals included additional conditions).

# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

## ZONING STATISTICS 2021

Major Amendments to Approved Planned Developments heard by the Board of Trustees	6
Minor Amendments to Approved Planned Developments resolved by Administrative Action	10

### Zoning Commission Cases

Total Number of Cases Filed	4
Zone Changes	3
Text Amendments	1
Pending	1

### Final Action of the Board of Trustees

Zone Changes Approved	2
Zone Changes Pending	1
PD Major Amendments Approved	5
Text Amendments Approved	1
Focus Area Overlay Requests	16
Overlay Approvals	16
Pending	0

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Total Number of Cases Filed	9
Appeals	0
Conditional Use	0
Variances	9
Approvals	9
Denials	0
Pending	0
Withdrawal	0

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Union Township finished the year strong with the completion of several projects, along with some major projects that will impact the forecast for 2022. In the Ivy Pointe Commerce Park, Total Quality Logistics and Sharefax have completely finished construction with all employees moved into both locations. Other businesses that finished construction this year include: Dunkin' Donuts, Swenson's, Hamilton Safe, Tire Discounters, Dollar General, and Empowered Community Services. These projects have resulted in several million dollars of private investment for Union Township and have added many jobs.

The township has a variety of residential developments including Twelve Oaks Phase I; Phase II is underway with similar products. The first phase of Silverstone is now also underway. When completed, this subdivision will add 177 single family homes to the township. Additionally, there is an approved 20-lot subdivision located off of Bach- Buxton Road and an extension at the Woods of Magnolia Trace, adding 28 lots. The luxury apartment project The Gentry was completed, adding 96 new units at their location on Gleneste-Withamsville Road. Phase 1 of the Redwood Project along Tealtown Road is nearing completion. Additionally, 32 Flats, located along Daniel Court, is now leasing its new units. Major new proposals include additional mixed use and multi-family living located around the old Gleneste High School site. These units include a mixture of multi-family living options, above market rate units, senior living complexes and duplexes. The plans also include a mixed-use area for future restaurant and retail.

# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

The Union on Aicholtz Road has broken ground on its 218,500 square feet, 4-story apartment building, to include 190 units. This luxury living complex will add a \$36 million-dollar investment to the Ivy Pointe Commerce area. This development achieves true infill and mixed-use goals, integrating residential options with employment centers. Additionally, it shows the demand for housing present through Union Township and the regional draw of population to work and live within the area. New development is constantly being implemented to promote high quality growth within the area.

## PLANNING INITIATIVES

Planning staff continues to participate with the CCTID's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) planning process. Staff also represents Union Township at the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments on a monthly basis. The CCTID was busy in 2021 in coordination with the township. Work on the Old State Route 74 widening project and the corresponding Paul Drive extension project has been completed. ODOT is gearing up to start construction along State Route 32 with the new interchange at Bach-Buxton Road, an additional travel lane westbound and a new eastbound State Route 32 Ramp onto Clepper Lane.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees,

I am pleased to present the Union Township Police Department's Annual Report for the year 2021.

Serving as Chief of Police continues to be my honor and privilege. I am proud to serve the citizens of Union Township in this capacity.

2020 was quite a year, and 2021 lived up to at least equal billing. The Police Department, like every other organization in the country, deals with COVID issues every single day. The department has tried to stay ahead of the curve by being proactive and keeping officer wellness in mind while meeting the needs of the citizens of Union Township. The Police Department has responded positively to every challenge. I am very proud of how the department has performed during this time. It is a challenge every day.



In 2021, we were able to outfit every officer with a body camera. This process took some time but we wanted to be efficient and effective in the use of tax dollars while purchasing a superior product. I am happy to report the program is operating very smoothly and just creates another layer of transparency between the Police Department and the community as a whole.

While remaining fiscally responsible, the department has maintained all outreach programs and special assignments, to include Bike Patrol, Crime Prevention/Community Relations, Computer Forensic Unit, Honor Guard, Canine Unit, and Polygraph Unit. We are able to retain these special services due to the willingness of those assigned to incorporate them into their regular patrol duties.

The department handled a number of other high profile cases, all of which resulted in successful apprehension and prosecution of suspects.

Technological upgrades continue to be a high priority, as I believe it will help us become even more effective and efficient.

As chief, I will continue to remain committed to the people of Union Township and the men and women of this great department.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Gaviglia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Scott" on the top line and "Gaviglia" on the bottom line.

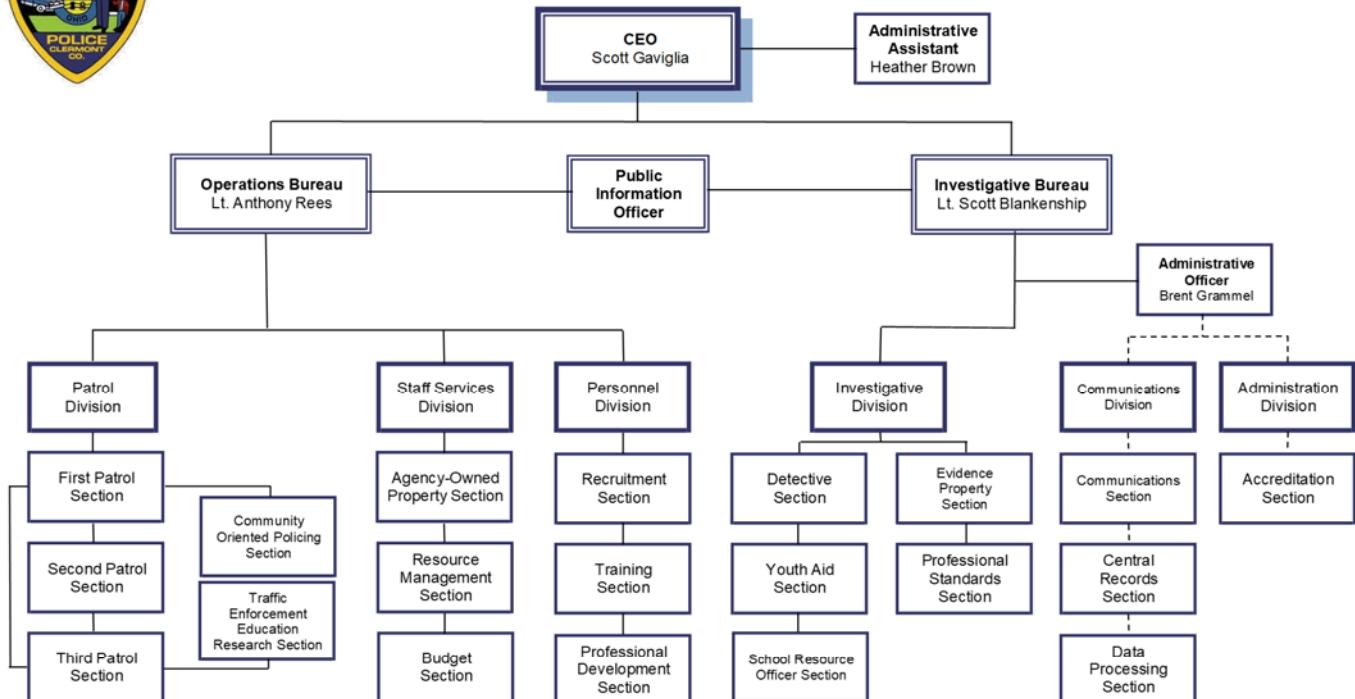
Scott Gaviglia M.B.A. CLEE  
Chief of Police

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Union Township Police Department



January 2021



*Nationally accredited  
Police Department  
and  
Communication Center.*



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## UNION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

### 2021 Sworn Officers

<i>Officer</i>	<i>Serving Since</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Serving Since</i>
Chief Scott Gaviglia	1997	Officer Chad Lutson	1998
Lt. Anthony Rees	1998	Officer Ryan Maynard	2014
Lt. Scott Blankenship	1993	Officer Tony Metzger *	2006
Sgt. Jeff Brown	1996	Officer Joe Pangallo	2007
Sgt. David Combs	1998	Officer David Perkins	2002
Sgt. Gregory Jasper	1993	Officer Keith Puckett	1999
Sgt. Rick Wagner	1997	Officer Ben Reardon	2006
Sgt. Mike White	1996	Officer Brad Rhodes	2015
Sgt. Eric Williams	1998	Officer Cameron Shaw	2015
Officer Brandon Bock	2014	Officer Steve Seikbert *	2004
Officer Chad Bullock	2003	Officer Alex Smith	2016
Officer Matt Cooper	2017	Officer Danielle Smith	2006
Officer Derek Disbennett	2015	Officer Bryan Taylor ***	2007
Officer Kyle Dwelly	2021	Officer Dylan Torok	2016
Officer Samantha Fedler	2008	Officer Mike Ventre	2003
Officer Chris Godsey	2002	Officer Daniel Wilfert	2002
Officer Brent Grammel	2002	Officer Richard Williams	1998
Officer Josh Greer	2019	Officer Chris Wilson ***	2006
Officer Jessica Haggerty	2018	Officer Clay Zimmerman	2006
Officer Tyler Hale	2021		
Officer Josh Hathorn	2005		
Officer William Hoess	2015	<b>Detective</b>	<i>Serving Since</i>
Officer Chris Holden	2006	Detective John Pavia	1999
Officer Brent James	2016	Detective Ken Mullis	2004
Officer Jeffery Joehnk	2004	Detective Josh Hines	2008
Officer Alex Koszo	2007	Detective Brandon Bishop	2002
Officer Terry Kresser	2007	Detective Scott Marshall	2014

\* School Resource Officer

\*\*\* Narcotics Unit

### 2021 Non-Sworn

<i>Serving Since</i>	<i>Communication Specialist</i>	<i>Serving Since</i>
1997	C/S Jason Jackson	2014
1998	C/S Alison Byess	2014
1999	C/S Jennifer West	2015
2006	C/S Megan Carlson	2015
2007	C/S Emily Madison	2020
2012	C/S Ashley Dunn	2020
2014		

### Administrative Assistant

Heather Brown	1997
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# POLICE DEPARTMENT



## MISSION STATEMENT

The members of the Union Township Police Department are committed to the principles that define democracy, including the protection of constitutional rights and equal protection under the law.

Officers of the Union Township Police Department are expected to strive for:

- making the maximum contribution to enhance the overall quality of life in Union Township;
- having the courage to always fight injustice;
- dedication to protecting the innocent and providing aid to those who cannot care for themselves;
- prevention, resistance, and elimination of crime and the fear of crime;
- fostering a relationship of genuine mutual respect with the members of the community;
- achievement of personal and professional excellence;
- the ethical, consistent and equitable exercise of police powers and discretion.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



*Lt. Anthony Rees* commands the Operations Bureau. He is a veteran police officer with 23 years of experience, serving all with the Union Township Police Department. He has served as a police officer, investigator, and patrol sergeant, as well as staff services sergeant, prior to being promoted to lieutenant in February, 2015. Lt. Rees possesses a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, a Master's degree in Public Administration, is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute, and is a Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE).

*Lt. Scott Blankenship* commands the Investigative/Administrative Bureau. He is a veteran police officer with 27 years of experience and has 23 years with the Union Township Police Department. He has served as a police officer, investigator, patrol sergeant and the investigative commander prior to being promoted to lieutenant in February, 2015. Lt. Blankenship is a Certified Polygraph Examiner and is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute.



*Administrative Officer Brent Grammel* has been the Communications and Records Supervisor since 2013. Officer Grammel has served Union Township for 19 years. He possesses a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Criminal Justice. Officer Grammel has been an assessor with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2014. He is currently an APCO Registered Public Safety Leader (RPL).

*Heather Brown* is the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police. She has held that position since her hire in 1997. She continues to be a vital part of the administrative staff. Her duties are many, to include human resource responsibilities.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 Crimes Reported, Traffic Enforcement, and Calls for Service

Crimes Reported***	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>Part 1 UCR</b>													
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Rape	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	5	1	8	1	1	30
Robbery	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	9
Assault	4	5	2	6	15	2	9	8	5	6	12	5	79
Burglary/B&E	1	5	3	3	6	7	9	3	7	10	10	9	73
Theft/Larceny	102	118	104	80	75	64	72	82	76	73	70	63	979
Auto Theft/Unauthorized Use	7	4	4	6	7	9	6	6	5	5	4	3	66
Arson	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Domestic Violence	9	8	17	9	9	7	11	9	9	17	12	15	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1373</b>

Other Non-UCR/General*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
DUI	10	9	12	11	33	16	18	15	10	15	12	17	178
All Other Offenses	167	171	202	219	183	190	225	225	209	191	192	201	2375
All Other Non Offenses	240	209	249	276	327	335	303	284	276	296	254	255	3304
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>5857</b>
<b>Total Crimes Reports</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>7230</b>

Traffic Enforcement	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Citations	115	95	145	168	164	179	182	204	188	184	194	224	2042
Warnings	57	44	235	334	219	246	254	334	313	271	261	346	2914
Traffic Stops	132	99	359	508	353	383	409	466	435	408	413	505	4470
Traffic Crashes	86	79	79	92	99	108	72	99	105	97	108	134	1158
Traffic Crashes on Private	12	10	23	24	18	28	25	18	18	28	20	23	247
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>2871</b>	<b>2609</b>	<b>3465</b>	<b>3534</b>	<b>3321</b>	<b>3381</b>	<b>3483</b>	<b>3671</b>	<b>3455</b>	<b>3870</b>	<b>3475</b>	<b>3576</b>	<b>40711</b>

\*includes all non-UCR and other non-criminal information reports.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Operations Bureau is commanded by Lt. Anthony Rees. The Operations Bureau consists of the Patrol Division, Staff Services Division and Personnel Division. Operations is the largest agency bureau, with an authorized complement of 41 employees.

**THE PATROL DIVISION** is the largest division of the bureau and is responsible for handling citizen calls for service, tactical response to apprehend criminals, community problem solving, enforcement of traffic laws, and investigation of traffic crashes. Citizen calls for service increased 4.5 percent from the prior year, 2020. The slight increase in calls may be attributed to an increase in social activity as the country continues to recover from COVID-19. The year 2021 also saw an increase in the number of crime reports by officers, with 7,230 total reports generated, a 16 percent increase from the year before. Part 1 UCR Crimes (the major felony type crimes) increased from 1,207 to 1,373, a 14 percent increase from 2020. Most of these were for reported thefts, greatly influenced by drug abuse and socio-economic factors.

**The Road Patrol Section** consists of three patrol shifts managed 24/7 by six patrol sergeants. Road Patrol is assisted by two state-certified canine units and an investigator who overlaps first and second shifts. Two Patrol Division officers are certified Traffic Crash Reconstructionists. They are equipped with the latest technology and are capable of investigating any type of traffic crash, from a simple two-car accident to a multiple fatality. Enforcement efforts are targeted to increase public awareness of traffic laws and reduce the number of crashes. Traffic officers work closely with the Clermont County Engineer's Office in planning traffic flow as well as identifying traffic hazards. The total number of crashes investigated in 2021 (1,405) increased 25 percent, following a decrease the previous year. Road construction projects originally scheduled along the State Route 32 corridor for 2021 were halted in most part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues with ODOT. The increase in traffic crashes from 2020 may again be attributed to the fact that people are out traveling more after being confined for most of 2020 due to COVID. This in turn led to an increase in accidents. The number of arrests for Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence increased 6.5 percent, from 167 arrests in 2020 to 178 in 2021. The township had seen a decline in OVI arrests over the last several years.

**The Crime Prevention and Public Relations Sections** are considered a department-wide effort headed by Lt. Rees. Members are responsible for reaching out to the Union Township community with programs designed to inform and educate on a wide variety of subjects. Assigned personnel participate in local, state, and national organizations in order to network and keep current on trends and available programs.

Every contact with the public should be considered an opportunity to serve and educate the public. The Union Township Police Department exhibits this belief through outreach programs such as Neighborhood Watch programs, Women's Unarmed Self-Defense classes, Citizen Police Academies and Reunions, a Police Night Out crime prevention festival, Child Gun Safety classes, School Safety talks, Safety Trailer displays at local events, and certified security assessments by trained officers.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

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After a difficult 2020, in which the department had to significantly reduce our public education programs, the department rebounded in 2021 and was again able to offer our staple of programs. The department hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> annual Police Night Out at Veterans Park, which was attended by an estimated 500 citizens. The department also put on the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Citizen Police Academy and 7<sup>th</sup> annual Child Gun Safety class. In addition to our two Women's Self-Defense classes over the summer, we also hosted a class for female students at West Clermont High School. Additionally, officers presented Active Shooter training at several local businesses and financial institutions.

Our Citizen Police Academy Alumni group continues to grow and participate alongside officers in various public relations events put on over the year. CPA Alumni also assisted with the September Crime Stoppers Drug Take Back and Paper Shred and were able to take over 70 lbs. of prescription narcotics out of circulation.

Officers from the Crime Prevention Section continued to educate the township's financial institutions with Robbery Response update presentations in 2021. The continued utilization of the department's Facebook page has increased the Police Department's visibility in the community. As a result, Police Department programs have also seen an increase in interest and attendance, and public tips accepted via the Facebook page have led to numerous arrests and case closures. The addition of three state certified Security Assessment officers has given the Police Department an additional resource to be able to provide to our residents and business owners looking to improve security around their businesses and homes.

In keeping with the department's mission of fostering a relationship of genuine, mutual respect with the community, we continue to develop new ideas to increase positive interactions with the public. Crime Prevention officers will continue to meet new challenges head on while remaining active within the Crime Prevention Section and still handling their primary duties of answering calls for service.



**THE STAFF SERVICES DIVISION** provides support services for the agency, including supervision over purchasing, requisitions, maintenance of equipment, maintenance of the fleet and upkeep of the Police Department building. The Staff Services Division also handles media releases and serves as department liaison to the media. Agency-Owned Property and Resource Management Sections of the Staff Services Division are responsible for all agency-owned equipment, vehicles, and facilities, to include the ordering of approved purchases, inventory, inspection, and repairs. The smooth day-to-day operation is heavily dependent on Staff Service's ability to satisfy needs. All agency owned firearms are inspected on schedule and any repairs are performed by trained armorers and certified agency personnel. All member-issued equipment is inspected by their respective supervisor annually and they in turn report subordinates' needs to the Staff Services commander. The Staff Services Division saw a significant upgrade in support and technology available to our officers by the introduction in 2021 of body camera systems to our department. All department officers are now equipped with body cameras. Footage from the cameras is continuously reviewed by department supervisors to ensure quality control. Support was also increased by the addition of significant upgrades to our Armory, namely, the ArmorLink software set-up which enables maintenance of our department-issued firearms to be tracked and kept up with.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## THE PERSONNEL DIVISION

is dedicated to the training of its personnel under the direction of Lt. Rees. Training in lethal and non-lethal force and response to critical incidents far exceeds those standards set by the State of Ohio. Training requests from members directly correspond to annual evaluations, endorsed by one's supervisor and approved by a training committee. The agency takes advantage of all local, state, and federal training offers and occasionally sponsors and hosts state-provided training for other departments at Union Township's Civic Center. In-service roll call training included immersive topics such as ethics, racial profiling, critical incident response, de-escalation techniques, personal early warning systems, and a multitude of others.



The agency worked hand-in-hand with the Clermont County Prosecutor's Office to provide timely and essential legal updates to department members. In addition, the full implementation of the *Power DMS* system allowed for fluid training and communication. Union Township Police Department members completed a total of 1,123 hours of training in 2021, including eight hours of in-service training on Taser and Pepper Ball Systems recertification and de-escalation training, and eight hours of training in firearms. The agency participates in a county-wide Special Response Team by assigning seven tactical officers and two negotiators. In addition, three officers are assigned to the Regional Dive Team and receive regular training. Two Union Township officers are also designated as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers and are trained to assist and counsel other officers dealing or struggling with their experience from a critical incident. Union Township offers its members a generous college tuition reimbursement that allows the agency members to continue to expand their knowledge base and contribute to the growth of the Police Department.

The Personnel Division is also responsible for recruitment of potential sworn and non-sworn personnel. Various resources are used in the area of recruitment, such as career days at local grade schools and high schools and the department's ride-along program, serving the University of Cincinnati Clermont College internship program as well as the UC Police Academy.

**The Canine Unit** continues to be an integral part of the patrol function within the Police Department. Officer Dave Perkins and his canine partner, Kaos, and Officer CJ Holden and his partner, Havoc, serve as an interdiction team assisting on all traffic stops and calls for service where drugs are suspected to be involved. Both Kaos and Havoc are dual purpose canines, specializing in drug detection and article search/tracking capabilities. The Canine Unit is also utilized to search and clear buildings on all alarm drops and calls where businesses have been either broken into or found open. They are often called upon to assist in drug detection at the local high schools and occasionally do sniffs of the schools and lockers. Both canines are trained in tracking as well and are utilized in cases of missing children and autistic children who walk away from their homes, as well as missing elderly subjects suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

**The Honor Guard** consists of eight officers and two sergeants in charge of operations and planning. The Honor Guard serves at a variety of different functions throughout the year, including Veteran's Day and Memorial Day parades and celebrations, police and military funerals and other events that pay homage or bear significance. Although they didn't compete in 2021 due to Covid, the Honor Guard also vies with other departments from around the country annually in Washington D.C. as part of National Police Memorial Week in May, and has won numerous awards, often against much larger police departments. In 2021, events where they performed included a 9/11 parade in Loveland, the American Legion's Vets Day Parade, a Rotary golf outing, the Hero's Rumble at the Oasis in December, and the Citizens' Police Academy graduation, among others.



## INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION/ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

The Investigative Bureau and the Administrative Services Bureau were merged in 2014. The bureau is commanded by Lt. Scott Blankenship. The Investigative/Administrative Bureau is comprised of three Divisions; Investigation, Communications and Administrative.

**THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION** is made up of five sworn officers. Detectives are assigned all serious felony crimes, missing persons, and death investigations. Serious felony crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, major theft or fraud, auto theft, and arson. Also, the agency's School Resource Officers for West Clermont High School are a unit of the Investigation Division due to the sensitive nature of the position. We continue to have two SROs at West Clermont High School. The SROs participate in solving criminal offenses that occur on school campus, discipline hearings, and student education. We continue to enjoy a terrific working relationship with the school district.

Within the Investigation Division are the State of Ohio certified Evidence Technician, Polygraph Examiners, Computer Forensic Investigator, and Youth Aid Officer.

During 2021, investigators worked over 472 felony cases, closing about 71 (15 percent) by arrest. Of the remaining, 257 (52 percent) were closed otherwise, inactivated, or unfounded. 167 cases (34%) remained open and were added to the 2022 caseload.

There were 3,619 pieces of property/evidence processed through the agency's property room, managed by one custodian/detective under the auspices of the Investigation Division. This one property room custodian is responsible for preparation of court documents, transportation of evidence to crime laboratories, conducting auctions, and maintaining inventories. A full inventory is conducted once a year.

The **Polygraph Unit** performed 15 examinations, to include pre-employment.

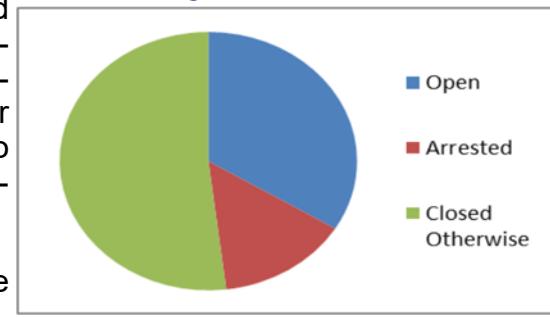
Investigation Division officers receive advanced training in evidence gathering and processing, suspect interviewing, case preparation and management, and specialized homicide and sex crime investigation techniques.

The 2021 investigative highlights included the arrest of an individual suspected of an organized retail theft ring involving local business.

The Investigation Division participated in the prosecution of an individual wanted in connection of several theft offenses in the Tri-State area. The defendant was apprehended after weeks of investigating. Due to the quick action of the investigative unit, most of the property seized was returned to its owners. All investigations were ended in a timely manner.



2021 Investigation Division Case Closure



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU** provides support services for the agency, including supervision of all non-sworn personnel, Communications, Records, Accreditation, and Professional Standards Section. The Administrative Bureau has a compliment of 13 non-sworn members.

**THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION** is managed by Administrative Officer Brent Grammel. This division consists of 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch (one of only two centers in Clermont County, Ohio), and Data Processing. Dispatchers share data entry duties and assist Central Records. These are important support functions of the agency, utilizing 13 non-sworn employees. Communications provides 24-hour emergency dispatching of Police, Fire, and EMS services for Union Township. The section handles thousands of telephone calls each month, emergency and non-emergency in nature. 9-1-1 dispatchers are EMD & EFD certified through the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). The Union Township Communications Center is currently a CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) certified agency.

During 2021, the communications center fielded 23,566 emergency 9-1-1 calls. In addition, they received an additional 40,519 administrative calls, ranging from internal communication to public service orientation.



**The Central Records Section** processes all documents generated by police officers and manages a computerized records system, which includes all citizen calls for service, crime reports, traffic crash reports, warrants, and contacts with persons. Document archival is accomplished through electronic imaging. Public records inquiries, court filings, and expungements are also vital functions of the Records Section. The Records Section handles and disseminates tens of thousands of documents each year, generated by 58 sworn officers, in addition to the numerous requests by the general public. Central Records processed over 6,288 records requests in 2021.

**The Accreditation Section** is responsible for the accreditation process. The Accreditation manager is Administrative Officer Brent Grammel, and he is assisted by Communications Specialist Tracy Daly. Officer Grammel also serves as an Accreditation Assessor with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Union Township is dedicated to the accreditation philosophy throughout its government services, to include national recognition of Police, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications, Fire, and Public Works. The Union Township Police Department and its Emergency 9-1-1 Center were reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies in 2020, and successfully completed their Year 1 virtual review in 2021.



In addition to accreditation, this section works closely with the Professional Standards Section in creating and revising policy and General Orders. They are also responsible for keeping employees apprised of changes to state and federal laws.

## Professional Standards and Citizen Complaints

The Union Township Police Department maintains careful records of all professional standard investigations and citizen complaints. A professional standard investigation is prompted by any alleged violation of criminal or civil law or corrupt activity. A citizen complaint is a non-criminal violation of agency policy or standards of conduct. The citizen complaint program requires written documentation and supervisory involvement in every complaint received. The Chief of Police responds to every complaint in writing as to the outcome.

### 2021 Citizen Complaints

Exonerated	1
Not sustained	0
Unfounded	2
Sustained	0
Withdrawn	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

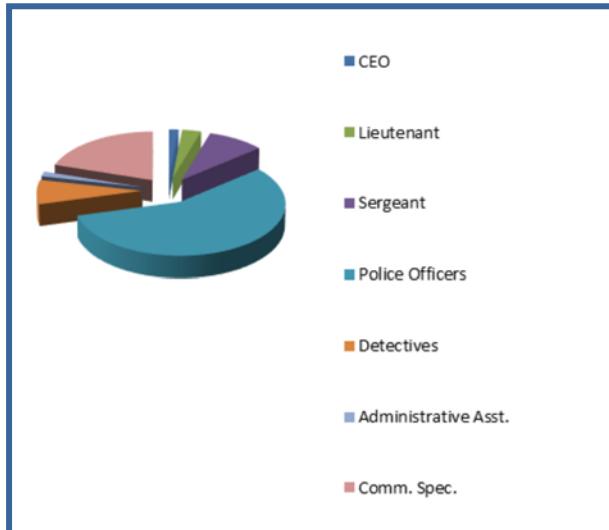
The complaint process and statistics are available to the public as required by CALEA standards and monitored for early warning purposes. In 2021, there were no professional standard investigations and three citizen complaints were investigated.

## Employee Grievances

The collective bargaining process provides a grievance procedure for disagreements about the application of the collective bargaining contract between Union Township and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Negotiations to renew the 2019-2022 agreement were finalized for three years. The next negotiation will begin this year, in 2022.

**There were no grievances filed in 2021.**



## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Union Township Police Department recognizes that certain actions or activities performed by members of the department, whether planned or in response to emergency circumstances, should be recognized and rewarded. For that reason, the agency participates in recognition programs within, as well as outside, the department. Examples of recognition include the Agency's Annual Chief's Award, *Serving Our Community on the Union Township Police website*, the Clermont County Citizens' Law Enforcement Associate Banquet, and Special Presentation segment of the bi-monthly trustees' meeting, and the issuance of Letters of Commendation.

Officer Josh Greer was recognized at the 2021 Police Appreciation Banquet for saving the life of a citizen who had attempted suicide in December, 2020. Officer Greer responded to a "check the welfare" call and cut the citizen, who had attempted to hang himself, down from a tree. The citizen survived the incident.

Personnel Distribution			
Sworn Positions	Current	Current	Current
	Male	Female	All
CEO	1	0	1
Lieutenant	2	0	2
Sergeant	6	0	6
Police Officers	34	3	37
Detectives	5	0	5
Sworn Total	48	3	51
Non-Sworn Positions	Current	Current	Current
	Male	Female	All
Administrative Asst.	0	1	1
Comm. Spec.	1	12	13
Non-Sworn Total	1	13	14
Totals	47	16	65



# SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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To the Board of Trustees:

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Union Township Service Department.

We continue to work hard to ensure this pandemic doesn't keep us from moving forward, and reaching our goals. We continue to participate in several prestigious organizations, including the American Public Works Association (APWA), the National Parks and Recreation Association (NP&RA), the Ohio Turf Grass Foundation (OTGF), the International Cemetery and Cremation Funeral Association (ICCFA), and the Ohio Cemetery Association, Inc. (OCAI).



In 2022 and beyond, the Service Department will continue to focus on providing tremendous core services at the best value price. The department is taking the lead role in driving Union Township toward a more sustainable future through best management practices with regards to our community's infrastructure.

As always, I welcome any recommendations or suggestions on how the Service Department can progress in providing the types of services needed and desired by our residents, business owners, and visitors to this incredible community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Matt Taylor".

Matt Taylor  
Service Director

# SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The vision of the Union Township Service Department is “to improve and preserve the quality of life in our community by the pursuit of unparalleled services for our residents.” Union Township is the most livable community in Clermont County, Ohio, and one of the most desired destinations in the Greater Cincinnati region. All the Union Township departments, including the Service Department, work together to sustain a positive momentum for the community and the residents we serve.

The Union Township Service Department takes great pride in being the only township Public Works department in North America to be accredited through the American Public Works Association (APWA). The APWA is the authority in public works in the United States. We are extremely proud of the level of professionalism the members of our staff have achieved through their commitment to education and training.

The Union Township Service Department is comprised of four major divisions and employs 17 full-time staff members. The four divisions of the department are (1) Roads, (2) Parks, Buildings and Grounds, (3) Fleet Maintenance, and (4) Cemetery.

## ROADS DIVISION

The Union Township Service Department’s Roads Division is responsible for the maintenance of 133 center lane miles of public roadways. These roads range from high volume traffic roads to small cul-de-sac streets. Many of these roads have concrete curbs and gutters. The maintenance of these roads includes drainage improvements within the public right-of-way, pavement resurfacing, patching of potholes, line-striping, the treatment of roads due to snow and icy conditions, the installation and replacement of guardrails, and street and traffic control signs. All these activities work to help ensure safe road conditions for the traveling public.

The daily activities of the Roads Division are driven and tracked through a comprehensive work order system. The Roads Division completed 207 work order requests in 2021. These requests included full-depth asphalt base repairs, patching of potholes, ditching, curb repairs, the installation of both regulatory and non-regulatory signage, the installation of new catch basins, the maintenance of existing catch basins, and many other miscellaneous items.

Additional responsibilities of the Roads Division include maintenance of the road right-of-way. This routine maintenance includes cleaning roadway ditches, repairing drainage systems, trimming trees, and mowing the grassy areas in the road right-of-way.

### **Annual Road Resurfacing Project**

Every year a portion of the Service Department’s budget is reserved for the annual Road Resurfacing Project. Union Township hired a private company to do an in-depth pavement analysis of all township roads. This process assigns each street a pavement rating number. The rating system takes into consideration many different characteristics for each road. The roads selected to be paved as part of the 2021 annual paving project were selected using this scientific data. The table shows the roads paved in 2021.

STREET NAME	FROM / TO
Aldor Lane	Entire Road
Michael Drive	Entire Road
Stratford Court	Entire Road
Woodwick Court	Entire Road
Gennie Lane (East)	Entire Road
Cedar Run Court	Entire Road
Meadow Knoll Court	Entire Road
Forest Run Drive	Entire Road
Wesley Drive	Entire Road
Orland Road	Entire Road
Brittwood Lane	Entire Road
Auxier Drive	Entire Road
Concord Glen Drive	Entire Road
Commonwealth Drive	Entire Road
Hamblin Drive	Entire Road
Brookfield Court	Entire Road
Stratford Court	Entire Road



# SERVICE DEPARTMENT

In addition to these roads being repaved, improvements were made to Birchwood Drive, Wilfert Drive, Ellis Avenue, Loda Drive, Harrison Drive, Minx Drive, English Creek Drive, Roney Lane, June Street, and Bostwick Court. These improvements included full-depth asphalt base repairs, drainage, and curb repairs. These necessary repairs were made in areas where the base was beginning to fail under the road, and where areas of curbs needed replacement.



## Snow and Ice Operations

A major role for the Service Department is snow and ice operations. The department is responsible for keeping 133 center lane miles of roadways clear and safe for the traveling public. In 2021, it was necessary to treat the township roads a total of 11 times. Each time the roads are treated for icy conditions, the usage of salt is approximately 80 tons. Approximately 880 tons of salt and more than 3,000 gallons of brine were applied to township roadways.



In addition to the roads, the Service Department takes care of all township-owned facilities as part of the snow and ice removal program. These facilities include the Civic Center's parking areas, with the adjacent Park and Ride, the Police Department, all six fire stations, all four township parks, Mount Moriah Cemetery, and the Eastgate Professional Office Park at 4357 Ferguson Drive. The salt used to treat the township roads is stored in a salt storage dome located at Clepper Park. This structure holds approximately 1,800 tons of salt.

## PARKS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Parks, Buildings and Grounds Division of the Service Department is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and beautification of the township's four parks, buildings, township gateway areas, and the landscaping along Ivy Pointe Boulevard. The Parks Division also plays a key role in many township events such as concerts, National Night Out, etc. The primary role of the division is the day-to-day operations of Veterans Memorial Park, Clepper Park, Mt. Carmel Park, and Ivy Pointe Park.



## Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park remains one of the most popular gathering places in Union Township. With a wide range of amenities, the park is the perfect setting for numerous events throughout the year. The 25-acre park offers all types of recreational facilities, including tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, sand volleyball courts, and cornhole. A walking track, playground, fitness trail, and fishing pond add to the appeal of the park. Families and groups can enjoy sheltered and unsheltered picnic areas with grills. These shelters can be reserved by residents and not-for-profit organizations at no charge. In 2021, 202 shelter reservation requests were filled at Veterans Park.



## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Some of the many organizations that take advantage of the sports facilities are teams from the Southeast Cincinnati Soccer Association and select soccer teams, and both boys' and girls' knot-hole baseball teams. Many other organizations take advantage of the park, such as the Eastgate Community Church and Clermont County Senior Services.

Many events are celebrated at Veterans Memorial Park and the Service Department's Parks Division keeps up with these events by making sure that all aspects of the park are operated and maintained in such a manner in which our residents can be proud.

Day-to-day maintenance includes mowing and trimming the soccer fields, baseball fields and play areas, trash removal, keeping the restroom facilities clean and in working order, dragging the baseball fields, repairing and replacing playground equipment, and pruning and mulching the landscaped areas.

Every year an effort is made by the Board of Trustees to enhance our parks. In 2021, significant improvements were made to the tennis courts at Veterans Park. These improvements included the addition of four new pickleball courts, and two multipurpose courts that can be used for tennis or pickleball. Also, the parking lot was resurfaced, and striped.



### Clepper Park

Union Township views its parks as a major attraction, providing both active and passive recreational facilities for all to enjoy, and our 50-acre Clepper Park is no exception.

With entrances from Summerside and Barg Salt Run roads, the park offers basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, a football field, walking track, fishing lake, and an equipped playground area. Sheltered and unsheltered picnic areas with grills and public restrooms complete the full range of facilities found at Clepper Park. All the shelters have picnic tables that are handicap accessible. These shelters can be reserved by residents and not-for-profit organizations at no cost. In 2021, 82 shelter reservation requests were filled.

These amenities are used by many organizations throughout the year. The football field is the home field for the Glen Este Youth football league. The basketball courts are heavily used daily and many people use the track to walk, jog, and inline skate. The fishing lake is a catch and release operation and offers both the experienced and novice anglers a place to test their skills.

The Service Department operates and maintains Clepper Park, including repairing and replacing existing playground equipment, installing new benches and trash containers, dragging the baseball fields, mowing and trimming the soccer and football fields and play areas, trash removal, maintenance of the restroom facilities, and pruning and mulching the landscaped areas.

In 2021, the basketball courts at Clepper Park were resurfaced, and striped. The picnic shelters were pressure washed, repaired, and received a fresh coat of paint.



### Mt. Carmel Park

Mt. Carmel Park is the township's smallest park, often being referred to as a Pocket Park. It is a neighborhood park to serve the Mt. Carmel area. Mt. Carmel Park is a beautiful green space located at Dameron Lane and Ravenwood Court. This neighborhood park includes a completely equipped playground area with several benches throughout.



# SERVICE DEPARTMENT

## Ivy Pointe Park

Ivy Pointe Park is the township's newest park. This park is located on Ivy Pointe Boulevard. It is a pet-friendly park situated on just over eight acres. Ivy Pointe Park is graced with two beautiful gazebos, a paved walking trail, a pond, and a restroom facility. This park is unique in the sense that as the surrounding business district grows, the walking path from the park will eventually encompass the entire business district. The Service Department is very excited about the future development of this incredible green space.



## FLEET MAINTENANCE

The Union Township Service Department employs one full time mechanic, who is both ASE and EVT certified. The Fleet Maintenance Division maintains all Service, Police, and Administration vehicles. All requests for service are processed through the Fleet Maintenance Division's newly enhanced unified work order system.

The Fleet Maintenance Division filled 273 requests for service in 2021. These requests ranged from routine maintenance to major repairs. The Fleet Maintenance Division also plays a key role in maintaining the department's snow and ice control equipment.

## MT. MORIAH CEMETERY

### *Mission Statement*

*To operate and maintain an historic burial ground in a parklike setting, with a commitment to preserve and honor the heritage of past generations, to serve and respect the needs of the present generation, and to provide a legacy for future generations.*

In keeping with the mission statement of Mt. Moriah Cemetery, several major projects were completed in 2021. A major project was the installation of a sixth columbarium. In the spring of 2015, Mt. Moriah Cemetery installed the first columbarium with 24 niches. The columbarium was so popular, that in the fall of 2015, two additional 24-niche columbaria were installed. The addition of a fourth niche columbarium was in February, 2018, with the addition of a fifth in May, 2019. The newest columbarium has 36 niches on the front and back, for a total of 72 niches. The grey and black granite columbaria are located on the east side of the cemetery by the pond and Cremation Scattering Garden. Each columbarium has niches which measure 11" x 11". A niche may be purchased at the time of need or pre-need. The door of each niche is engraved with name, dates, and an endearment. Located near the columbaria is a black granite bench surrounded by beautiful landscape. The overall aesthetics of this area provide a place of reflection and serenity for those visiting their loved ones.

In addition, Section 14 was opened for in-ground burial at Mt. Moriah Cemetery. This section is located on the northwest side of the cemetery. Located at the turn-around between Sections 13 and 14 is a beautiful, white gazebo. The gazebo can be used by families for services for their loved ones, and is a perfect site for visitors to rest and reflect.



## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Another major project was the ongoing restoration of the oldest markers in the cemetery. A total of 55 markers dating back to 1813 were removed, completely realigned in a row, and re-installed. All the reinstalled markers were cleaned with a biodegradable agent using non-abrasive equipment. Some larger monuments had completely toppled off their bases. Several monuments had failing foundations. The old foundations were completely removed, new foundations were poured, and the monuments reset and resealed. In addition, 18 headstones that had fallen over in other sections of the cemetery were lined and leveled. The cemetery applied for, and received, a grant from the Ohio Department of Commerce to aid in the funding for the 2022 monument restoration project. This restoration project is in keeping with the cemetery's mission statement, "To operate and maintain an historic burial ground in a parklike setting, with a commitment to preserve and honor the heritage of past generations."

Mt. Moriah Cemetery not only recognizes the importance of the restoration of the markers, but the preservation of the history that goes along with those buried here.

Another on-going project was to download photos of every marker in the cemetery to the cemetery's website. The photos will help immensely in several ways. A family who is looking for their loved one can use the cemetery app which features an interactive memorial page of their loved one, including a photo of their marker. Not only does the app include GPS navigation to each grave, but the photo will help in locating their loved one. In addition, when monument companies contact the cemetery office to see if a death date will need to be engraved, the photo will provide that information. Also, the photos of the markers will be a useful tool in the event that a marker is damaged. The damaged marker can be compared to the photo of the undamaged marker for necessary repairs or replacement.

Another on-going project throughout 2021 was the tree removal and planting project. Mt. Moriah Cemetery recognizes a commitment to the public for the removal of hazardous trees throughout the cemetery. In 2021, six hazardous or dead trees were removed from the cemetery grounds. In addition, six new trees were planted on the cemetery grounds.

Many ongoing programs were continued, benefiting the overall appearance of the cemetery grounds. These programs included the planting of spring bulbs, annual flowers and rose bushes, fertilizing the grounds, mulching the landscaped areas, removing dead trees and unsightly bushes, planting new trees, and trimming the tree limbs. All these programs were performed to maintain the high standard that visitors to Mt. Moriah Cemetery have come to expect.

A major event at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in 2021 was the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony. After an off-year in 2020 due to COVID, the ceremony was eagerly anticipated. This event was a unique evening of beauty and remembrance for the entire community.

The ceremony was held on the east side of the cemetery by the pond. Materials were provided to construct floating lanterns. Rice paper, stickers, markers, poems, and glue were supplied. The children enjoyed coloring with crayons. In addition, participants brought their own photos of loved ones and various items to decorate their shades. They were encouraged to inscribe their own messages of love, peace and hope. The shades were placed on waterproof platforms holding a votive candle in the middle.



## **SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

After the construction of the lanterns, a complimentary dinner was served by candlelight. A harmonious addition to the evening was a trio from the Strings Celebrations, which performed soothing music throughout the evening. The Union Township Police Department Honor Guard performed the color guard presentation, followed by Nathan Schneider, bugler, performing Taps. Boy Scout Troop 452 led the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

At dusk, everyone gathered at the shoreline to share a simple but beautiful ceremony. The candles were lit and the lanterns were set upon the pond as the bugler performed Amazing Grace. As the pond slowly illuminated, the individual luminaria joined together to transform the darkness of the setting sun with glimmering candlelight. Attended by approximately 550 people, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony was a tremendous success.

All these projects and events did not detract from the main business of the cemetery. In 2021, the cemetery staff prepared 231 burial sites, sold 233 new gravesites, and poured 187 monument foundations. In addition, 24 families used the Cremation Scattering Garden, and 51 columbarium niches were sold.

Mt. Moriah Cemetery is proud to be in good standing with two prestigious organizations, the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association and the Ohio Cemetery Association.

Recognizing that Mt. Moriah Cemetery is a place of serenity as well as history, the Board of Trustees implemented all improvements with a focus on providing a proper and dignified setting for those who are buried at the cemetery as well as those who are paying their respects.



## **COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTREACH**

As part of our community service outreach, the Union Township Trustees sponsor Junk Collection Days twice a year, once in April and once in October. Spring Junk Collection Days are held over a six-day period, including a Saturday, while the fall Junk Collection Days are traditionally held over a three-day period, also including a Saturday. This community service provides an opportunity for the residents of Union Township to dispose of unwanted items in an environmentally sound manner. In 2021, unwanted items included 76 refrigerators, with 21 garbage trucks, and 49 30-yard dumpsters filled with furniture, clothes, bicycles, electronic equipment, and lawn equipment.

In 2021, the Union Township Trustees continued to sponsor a Tree and Brush Voucher program. This program allows any township resident to drop off unwanted tree and brush debris at Bzak Landscaping free of charge. Any township resident can receive as many Tree and Brush vouchers as they need. In 2021, the Service Department issued 297 Tree and Brush vouchers.



## **SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

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Each January, the township offers free Christmas tree disposal services. Township residents can drop off their Christmas trees at the Service Department complex, located behind the Union Township Police Department, where the trees are chipped and used for mulch. In 2021, 64 Christmas trees were dropped off and recycled.

### **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

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Every year the Service Department chooses an Employee of the Year. This person best exemplifies everything in the department's mission, vision, and values statements. Among these values are teamwork, integrity, loyalty, excellence, financial stewardship and respect.

In 2021, Adam Davisson was chosen as the Employee of the Year by the Service Department supervisors. Adam started working for the Service Department on December 13, 2006. He works as a Maintenance Worker I in the Parks Division. Some of Adam's responsibilities include mowing, landscaping, sports field maintenance, and playground maintenance. He also is responsible for snow and ice removal during the winter months.

Adam is committed to making Union Township parks beautiful green spaces our community can enjoy and be proud of. He is passionate and diligent in maintaining the parks grounds, and has a consistent work ethic. He is professional, highly productive, and is a team player. Adam is a valuable asset to the Service Department, and specifically the Parks Division.

Administrator Ken Geis presents Adam Davisson with the Service Department "Employee of The Year" award.



### **IN CONCLUSION**

There is no question that 2021 presented challenges, but the Service Department met every challenge and found a way to continue to move forward. Our department has faithfully pursued excellence through continuous improvement of our operations.

From repairing township roads to the maintenance and upkeep of Mount Moriah Cemetery and the various responsibilities in between, the Service Department is proud to be the caretaker of this growing and diverse community.

Looking ahead to 2022, our goals remain the same. First, we will live up to our motto, "*Around here we don't look backward. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things.*" Secondly, we will continue to strive toward our ultimate goal of becoming the most effective and efficient public works department in the nation.

# UNION TOWNSHIP TELEVISION

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2021 marked the 16th year that UTTV has been on the air in Union Township. Although studio usage by the public is still diminished due to the pandemic, local producer participation continued, and regular users continued to provide us with consistent programming. This was made possible due to a new uploading program instituted in 2018, whereby producers who didn't need to come in to borrow equipment could upload their programs directly to UTTV's system. That process remained steady in 2021.

An important function of the department is taping township meetings, to include the Board of Trustees, Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, as well as the West Clermont Local School District meetings, and airing them on UTTV, as well as ensuring they are uploaded to the township website and Facebook page. Because of restrictions at Township Hall, the venue for these meetings, UTTV worked with IT in 2020 to establish a YouTube channel to live-stream meetings, and that process has become a staple.

Prior to the pandemic, local chef Rita Heikenfeld's cooking show continued its monthly tapings, and recovery coaches from the Clermont County Recovery came in to live-stream their program, *Get Clean Now*. Heikenfeld came into the studio for one program in 2021, and Clermont County Recovery's program is still on hiatus, but the expectation is that both will return to full schedules in the near future.

Church program participation has not changed, and one group used the studio three times.

Much of UTTV's output in 2021 was in interdepartmental efforts. Several PSAs and one half-hour documentary were done with the Fire Department. The Fire Department's *You're On Fire*, a video of firefighters going into Clough Pike Elementary School to present academic awards, continued through 2021. UTTV worked with the Police Department to produce several half-hour programs, and also taped many of the township's events, including Police Night Out, Mt. Moriah Cemetery's Lantern Lighting Ceremony, and the End-of-Summer Celebration and Fireworks.

In dealing with the media, as well as township and county residents and businesses throughout the year, UTTV considers itself a partner with the township's other departments in presenting an efficient, resourceful and helpful face of the township to our customers. We look forward to resuming the production of creative programming and presenting the many township annual events in 2022.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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The Information Technology Department is charged with establishing, monitoring and maintaining information technology systems and services for the township's administration and internal departments. IT is responsible for services related to software, hardware, databases, Web resources, networks, and enterprise systems.

IT has upgraded all of the existing public Wi-Fi hotspots at the township's parks in order to provide more internet speed. They have also increased the Wi-Fi range which has made it possible to reach Wi-Fi devices from further away. In addition, Wi-Fi has been added to the parking lot of the Civic Center, as well as to the Amphitheatre behind the Civic Center.

IT worked with Police Department to implement body cameras, which are used to record all interaction between the Police Department and the public. In order to better protect the township's dispatch systems, IT has set up a cloud-based Disaster Recovery platform. This allows for instant access to the Dispatch server in the event of physical hardware failure without having to wait for a backup to be restored.

Finally, IT worked with the Fire Department to set up all technology equipment in the new Fire Station 53, including network access, computers, Wi-Fi, desk phones, and television service.

