

UNION TOWNSHIP

Clermont County, Ohio

Est. 1811

ANNUAL

2019

REPORT



UNION TOWNSHIP

Clermont County, Ohio

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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Fiscal Officer
Ron Campbell

Administrator
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UNION TOWNSHIP

Clermont County, Ohio

Est. 1811

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Administration	1—8
Fire Department	9-21
Planning & Zoning Department	22-26
Police Department	27-38
Service Department	39—47
Union Township Television / IT	48

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

To the Board of Trustees:

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank our customers for continuing to make Union Township one of the most livable communities in the country.” This introductory remark never gets old because the single purpose of the employees is to follow the direction of the Board of Trustees, whom are all elected to serve the people of this community. During 2019, Amelia Village and Newtonsville voted themselves out of existence, while Union Township established quantifiable goals and moved decidedly forward. To this end, I believe that the policies of the Board of Trustees and the actions of the employees exemplify this basic understanding, culminating in a great community during very challenging times.

The General Fund recorded a \$16 million balance. This amount is less than last year but more than expected. The township used General Fund Revenue for the first time in more than 10 years to subsidize our Safety Services. The use of TIF Revenue and JEDD receipts have subsidized the Police and Fire Funds in the past 10 years. However, in 2019, the available TIF and JEDD revenue was insufficient to pay for the deficit.

The total cash position for the township was nearly \$25 million. Overall expenses totaled \$66 million for the year, with revenues at \$65 million. The Board continued to invest in the community through property acquisitions and sales. We acquired and disposed of several parcels that represent capital investment and continued taxable revenue for the township.

Union Township continues to be the focal point for development in Clermont County, both in private and public investment. Our residential building market is strong and positive housing starts demonstrate confidence in the community. Mixed use development, focusing on amenity driven homes, was again emphasized in new starts within our township. Commercial office and industrial sites were generally at full occupancy. Investments and job growth was the mantra for Union Township. Total Quality Logistics announced and started their second building, bringing more than 1,000 new jobs to Union Township. Mercy Hospital opened their Ivy Pointe location, bringing more positive Health Care options to our residents.

The public investment in the roadway and infrastructure systems remains robust. Specifically, the Eastern Corridor improvements have made a dramatic positive difference in the township. The modifications to State Route 32 and Interstate 275 continue to improve the traffic patterns, encouraging more investment. In November, we received notice that TRAC (The Ohio Funding mechanism for roadway projects) authorized funding for the State Route 32 improvements at Bach Buxton. The road improvements to old State Route 74 continued and are expected to be completed in 2020.

As an organization, we always look toward improvement in customer service and the quantity of service performed. All township services are accredited. The Fire and Service Departments were re-accredited in 2019. We remain the only township in the country to have a nationally or internationally accredited police, fire, communications, public works and cemetery. Without dispute, our employees are some of the best in the country.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Very truly,



Ken Geis
Township Administrator

FINANCIAL POSITION

The township posted a year end unencumbered balance for all funds of \$25 million.

The Township General Fund ended the year with a cash balance of \$16 million. The total amount was the result of aggressive and secure economic development policies and practices established by the Board of Trustees.

CIVIC CENTER

The Union Township Civic Center grows in popularity each year. Open seven days a week, the traffic in and out includes sports teams and organizations from all over Clermont County, utilizing the beautiful gym and five meeting rooms of various sizes.

The Contract Postal Unit on the lower level is of great benefit to residents and businesses throughout the township and beyond, as evidenced by the increasing business generated there each year. Cincinnati Metro Park-n-Ride offers service to and from downtown, and the parking lot, which was repaved in 2016, is filled to capacity Monday through Friday. 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.

Last year, traffic at the Civic Center numbered more than a quarter-million visitors.



ADMINISTRATION

TOWNSHIP EVENTS

The state-of-the-art Amphitheatre, on the grounds of the Civic Center, was the venue for 12 free concerts in 2019. It was also the location of the ninth formal flag-retirement ceremony in June, hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Clermont County Chapter 649.

2019 saw the 12th Annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony at Mt. Moriah Cemetery. This historic cemetery is a fitting backdrop for setting lit lanterns on the lake at sunset as a way of honoring and remembering departed loved ones. Last year saw the largest crowd yet in this, one of the most popular events in the township.

Police, Fire and Service departments all host free community service and educational events for the public, among them Police Night Out, Citizens' Police Academy, Neighborhood Watch programs, Child's Gun Safety Class, and Women's Self-Defense classes offered by the Police Department; CPR and AED education, child car seat installations, Adopt-A-School Program and "You're On Fire" elementary award program presented by the Fire Department; and Spring and Fall Junk Days, Christmas tree drop-off and the Brush Voucher program under the auspices of the Service Department.

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the many groups utilizing the gym, the Union Township Board of Trustees is proud of its partnership with the West Clermont Youth Basketball Association, a non-profit organization coaching teams from kindergarten through 12th grade. The organization uses the Civic Center as a home base for games and practice. The partnership with the SNAPdragons' organization, a non-profit providing basketball and cheerleading activities for special needs children, has been rewarding in that we have seen the steady growth of that organization, leading to its partnership with WCYBA.

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.

U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup maintains a satellite office in the Civic Center to meet with local constituents. To schedule an appointment with the Congressman, call 513-474-7777.

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

4350 Aicholtz Road, Suite 220 | Cincinnati, OH 45245
513.943.5000 | westcler.org | @westcler
Natasha Adams, Superintendent | Kelly Sininger, Treasurer



WEST CLERMONT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 31, 2020

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

Dear Union Township Trustees,

On behalf of the students, staff and community members of the West Clermont School District, thank you for being such a committed partner with us. We are extremely appreciative of the innovation, insight and support you have provided to our district for many years.

As you know, over the past 15 years, we have operated on an extremely lean budget, and have been increasingly challenged to do more with less. Based on information released by the Ohio Department of Education in December 2019, our per-pupil spending now ranks in the lowest 3% of all public school districts in the state.

Thankfully, we have had the opportunity to collaborate on several projects throughout the years, including the completion of West Clermont High School in 2017. Because of your willingness to think differently, we were able to provide our community a state-of-the-art facility without asking taxpayers for additional revenue.

I truly believe we are a district on the rise; our board, administration, staff and partners are committed to improving the student experience every day, in every way. I know that you share in our desire to invest in the future residents of Union Township.

Your involvement and support are key to everything we do at West Clermont Schools. I am grateful to be part of our community and am hopeful about what the future could bring. Together as one community, we will learn, lead and succeed!

Sincerely,

Natasha L. Adams

Natasha L. Adams
Superintendent

LEARN. LEAD. SUCCEED.

ADMINISTRATION

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



Phone: (513) 724-1255
Fax: (513) 536-4006
info@clermontseniors.com
www.clermontseniors.com

January 2, 2020

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

Dear Union Township Trustees,

The relationship between Clermont Senior Services and Union Township continues to be a rewarding alliance which benefits our community and its senior citizens. To begin, the Lifelong Learning Center has had an average monthly attendance of nearly 956 visits for the 2019 calendar year. This is an increase from the previous year. With each passing year the attendance at the Union Township Civic Center continues to show how important the center is to the community, and repeatedly surpasses our expectations.

Our talented and professional staff coordinate the delivery of countless programs designed to mentally, physically and artistically stimulate seniors through activities and classes such as Creative Drawing, Quilting, Yoga, Wood Carving, Self-Defense, Tai Chi, Qigong, Dance Class, SilverSneakers and much more.

In addition, the Center also hosted informational seminars related to Medicare and Prescription Drug plan enrollment, as well as a Dementia and Aging-related programming. Moreover, AARP volunteers also provided tax preparation assistance to over 600 older adults at the Union Township location. To reiterate, our programs and services are evolving and consistently improving, which leads to more community interest and participation by seniors who are looking for something more than is typically offered at a traditional "senior center".

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Gramke".

Cindy Gramke
CEO/Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill DeHass".

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



January 13, 2020

Dear Members of the UNION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

West Clermont Youth Basketball Association is a non-profit youth basketball program and our home gym is the Union Township Civic Center.

A large portion of our home games occur at the Civic Center gym. We typically have 16 - 18 games on Friday evening and Saturday which brings in teams from other communities such as Milford, West Chester, Hamilton, Sycamore and Mason with 60 – 100 participants/spectators per game. Our visiting teams are constantly commenting on the quality of the Civic Center gym.

Having a community- based gym of this quality is paramount for the youth of West Clermont to have the opportunity to play basketball. We teach teamwork and basic recreational basketball skills. We have approximately sixty teams in grades 2 -12 plus twelve teams in our K-1 program.

Another significant part of our organization is our SNAP Dragons Division which has approximately fifty players and a cheer team. This is our Special Needs Athletic Program that is considered top of the line in SNAP programs. They utilize the gym mostly on Sunday afternoons for games and practice. This program is the highlight of most of the participant's lives. The leaders of SNAP are in the process of arranging a Special Olympics Basketball event for Fall 2020. I cannot overemphasize the importance of such an event for our organization and our community at large. To be able to make the claim of inclusion, you must first be the ones to provide the opportunity for inclusion. Union Township is the center of this upcoming event which will include residents of the tri-state area and beyond.

Continued use of the Civic Center gym makes it possible for us to keep our registration fees low and makes our program affordable for many families. We take our responsibility in the community seriously so that during the season we have students come into the gym to clean the stands. These students are basketball players, Honor Society/Student Council members and some of our local Boy Scout Troops. We make a year-end donation to Union Township to help defray the costs of maintaining the gym. We also grant College Scholarships to our players in their senior year of high school.

We value our relationship with Union Township and are proud to be part of such a great community. Your staff has been very instrumental in scheduling and taking care of WCYBA and our Snap Dragons Division. We continue to respect the property and be responsible users of the township facilities.

Thanks again for your generosity in giving us a place to do some good for the youth of our community!

Michelle Trainor, President

West Clermont Youth Basketball Association



SNAP DRAGONS
SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

*In association with WCYBA

January 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the SNAP (Special Needs Athletic Program) Dragons have used the Union Township Civic Center gym for 15 years. We feel very fortunate to have this lovely gym to use to play basketball.

We have approximately 110 players, ranging from ages 6 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: Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis,



I am pleased to again present the Annual Report for the Fire Department.

Validating Union Township's commitment to excellence, once again in 2019 the Fire Department successfully was reaccredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). This marks a span of uninterrupted accreditation since 2004. This process is continuous, with annual compliance reports and a complete review every five years. Full review includes emergency and non-emergency service delivery and programs as well as standards of cover, strategic planning, facilities, vehicles, equipment, policies, procedures, infrastructure needs, personnel, staffing, and hundreds of core competencies and criteria.

As stated in the site visit Accreditation Report, "The peer assessment team observed strong resolve by the township and Fire Department towards the use of accreditation aimed at continuous process improvements. Accreditation by the township goes above and beyond that available by CFAI..... Several members of the department regularly act as peer assessors for CFAI or are awaiting a team assignment. These approaches ensure continuity, more direct access to quality improvement with similar organizations, and the engagement of a broader spectrum of the department."

The success of the continuing accreditation process, just like the successful daily operations of the department, is only possible by the united efforts of all personnel within the Fire Department who go above and beyond on a regular basis to provide safety services.

As we look forward, the Fire Department remains focused on our mission to exceed expectations in providing life safety services to this community.

Sincerely,

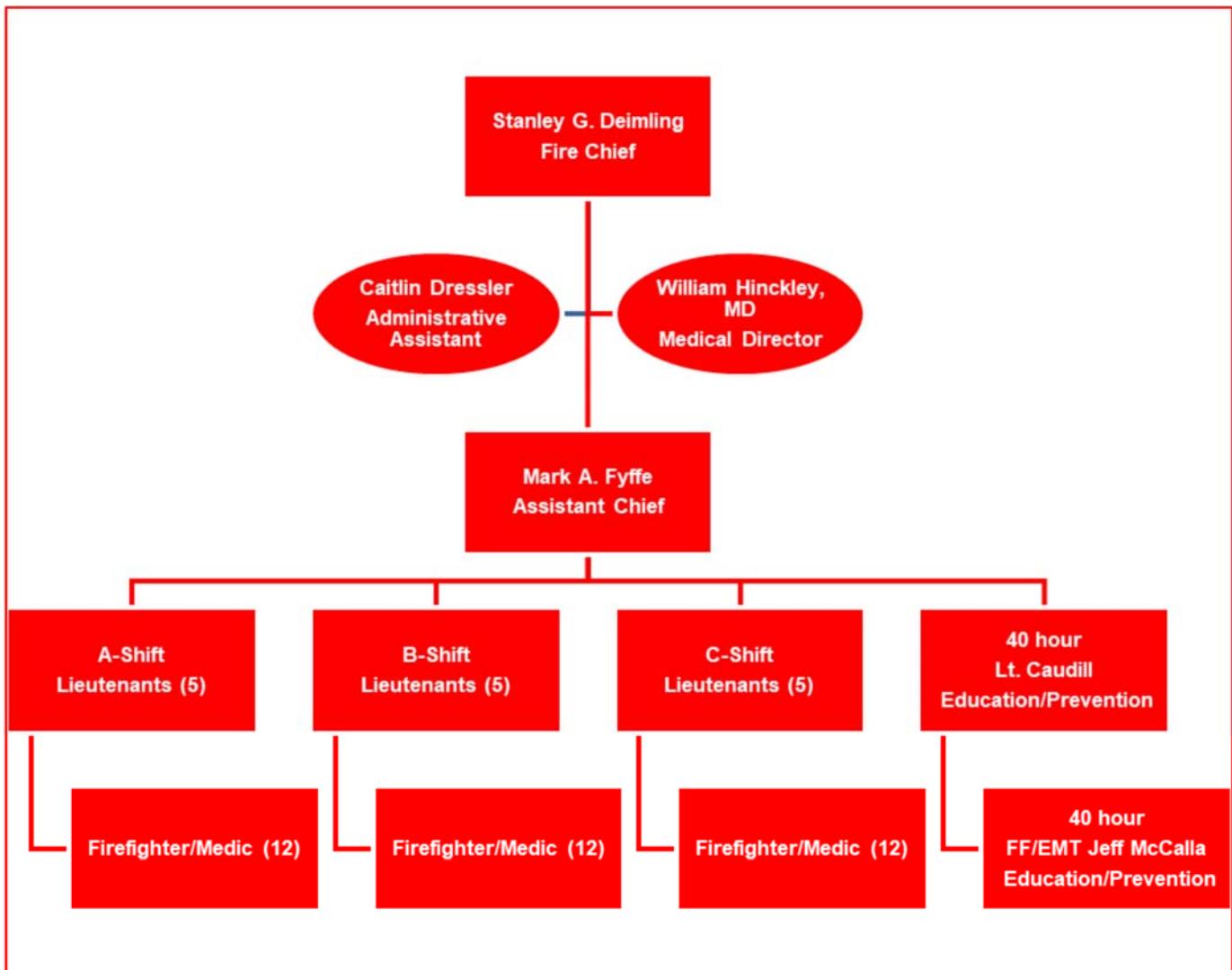
A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Stanley G. Deimling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Stanley" on the top line and "G. Deimling" on the bottom line.

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.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Union Township Fire Department

Proudly Serving Since

Administration

Stanley Deimling	Fire Chief	1990
Mark Fyffe	Assistant Fire Chief	1998
Caitlin Dressler	Administrative Asst.	2013
Lori Fyffe	Administrative Asst.	2018

Line Personnel

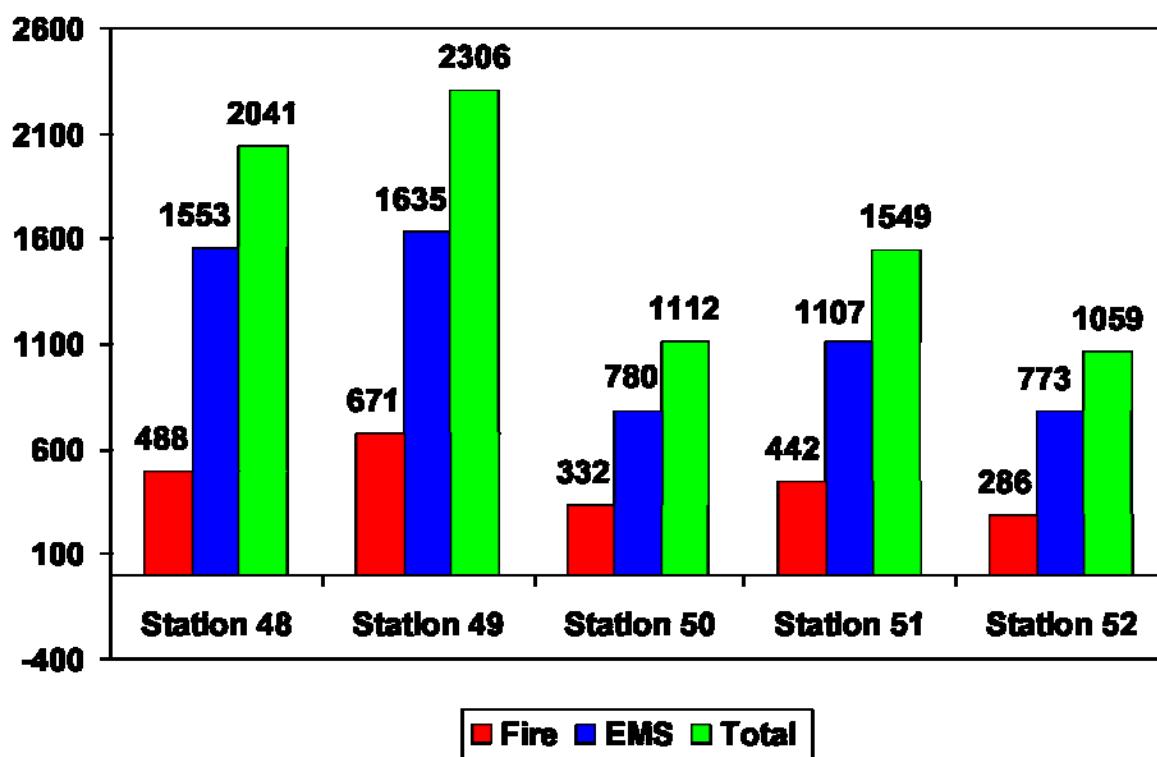
Bob Cabral	Lieutenant	1990
Todd Rosenhoffer	Lieutenant	1996
Kevin Carraher	Lieutenant	1998
Steve Ruhe	Lieutenant	1999
Chris Goessl	Lieutenant	1999
Charles Caudill	Lieutenant	1999
Matt Terrell	Lieutenant	2001
Adam Dressler	Lieutenant	2001
Chris Gilpin	Lieutenant	2001
Matt Losee	Lieutenant	2001
Steve Auffart	Lieutenant	2001
Matt Green	Lieutenant	2002
Craig Forster	Lieutenant	2003
Travis Brown	Lieutenant	2004
Scott Childs	Lieutenant	2006
Matt McHale	Lieutenant	2007

Jeff McCalla	FF/EMT	1990	Shaun Honnert	FF/Medic	2006
Scott Bavaro	FF/Medic	1998	Steve Guth	FF/Medic	2006
Bruce Bellingham	FF/Medic	1998	Bill Barnes	FF/Medic	2007
Steve Long	FF/Medic	1999	Nick Luehrman	FF/Medic	2007
Chad Brinson	FF/Medic	2000	Jacob Bryant	FF/Medic	2007
Tim Stephens	FF/Medic	2001	Jeff Walters	FF/Medic	2007
Mike Smith	FF/Medic	2001	Nick South	FF/Medic	2007
Ted Cwiok	FF/Medic	2001	Ken Reardon	FF/Medic	2007
Dennis Dick	FF/Medic	2003	Chris Butler	FF/Medic	2007
Scott Fay	FF/Medic	2004	Ben Buczak	FF/Medic	2007
Rusty Huff	FF/Medic	2004	Joe Klamo	FF/Medic	2007
Lee Schrichten	FF/Medic	2004	Jessica Moening	FF/Medic	2014
Shad Ruby	FF/Medic	2005	Austin Clements	FF/Medic	2015
Jason Rooms	FF/Medic	2006	Brady Gregory	FF/Medic	2015
Greg Deems	FF/Medic	2006	John Rose	FF/Medic	2017
Franco Delzotti	FF/Medic	2006	Ryan Passet	FF/Medic	2017
Mike Radzimoski	FF/Medic	2006	Charles Ramsey	FF/Medic	2017
Jon Milligan	FF/Medic	2006	Scott Musselman	FF/Medic	2018
Charles Hyden	FF/Medic	2006	Hunter Peron	FF/Medic	2019

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department responded to 8,067 incidents, resulting in 11,017 vehicle responses for 2019. The following chart breaks down the call volume among our five 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.



2019 EMS
Response by District



2019 Fire Response
by District



FIRE DEPARTMENT

APPARATUS / EQUIPMENT

During 2019, the Union Township Fire Department continued to update and maintain its current fleet and equipment.

The Fire Department purchased four 2010 Pierce Arrow XT fire engines from Arlington County, Virginia. The four fire engines are identical, thus making training, operating and maintenance much easier for the department. The trucks are equipped with 1500 gpm pumps, deck guns, multiple hand lines and ample storage space for equipment. The fire engines have many safety features built-in and are a significant upgrade from our previous apparatus. The units are in service and serving the citizens of Union Township.



The department maintained and purchased some new equipment to better serve our residents. To highlight a few, the first items were new High Rise Hose/Nozzle Kits. These items will help combat fires in hotels, schools, commercial structures and apartment complexes. Secondly, the department purchased four new battery operated Positive Pressure Fans. These fans are lighter, which helps firefighters get them in place at the scene more quickly. They allow us the ability to take these fans in places where we were unable to take the gas powered fans they replaced.

The department received a grant from Firehouse Subs that allowed the purchase of three new Genesis Battery Powered Extrication Tools. The tools are two-in-one; they can be used as a spreader or a cutter, depending on need during a vehicle accident where patients are trapped. These tools are replacing units that are over 20 years old. The new extrication equipment is a major upgrade that will improve the speed and efficiency of removing trapped patients from vehicles. The tools will be delivered and placed in service in January, 2020.

TRAINING

Training during 2019 was focused on many traditional methods. Skills training that allows crews to keep current on techniques and methods used during responses were honed by conducting hands-on, medical education and online exercises. Monthly mutual aid trainings with surrounding fire departments and a variety of outside training opportunities rounded out many hours of continuing education.

Pertinent topics were assigned to instructors with the responsibility for the development and implementation of the delegated training throughout the year. Training was conducted daily, led by the company officers.

In 2019, the Union Township Fire Department partnered with the Loveland Fire Department and other departments in Clermont County to utilize a Live Fire Training Facility. Located in Loveland, crews have the ability to train using a multi-story facility. Skill development is enhanced when using a facility that creates life-like situations. Crews are exposed to elevated temperature and smoke conditions that mimic what is experienced in actual response situations. The facility is designed to allow the rapid reset of the scenario so crews can train repeatedly without a concern of structure compromise. The building allows for suppression training as well as ladder work and rescue scenarios.

Training was also held at a local body of water using our water rescue equipment. The Fire Department has equipment that allows for rapid deployment to many of the small bodies of water we have in the community. Detention ponds and small lakes are scattered throughout the



FIRE DEPARTMENT



important that agencies train together so that when large incidents occur, the agencies know each other well, including policies and equipment. This thought process is applied to monthly mutual aid training that is conducted with all surrounding agencies.

The Union Township Fire Department prides itself in Exceeding the Expectations of the residents and community at large. Employees attend many outside trainings in diverse topics. Many hold certifications that enhance the service provided and require continued training to maintain those certifications, as well as to keep current in industry information.

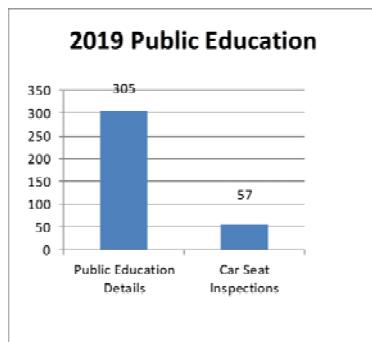
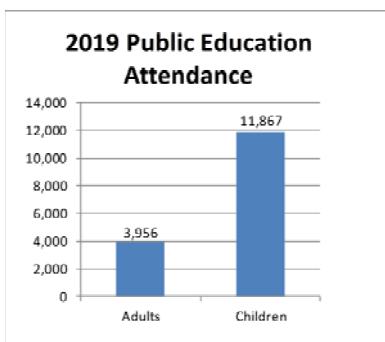
Officer Development is an important aspect of providing quality service and proper management of that service and its providers. Training is attended regularly by employees in Officer Development. The Fire Department has been a longtime supporter of the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association's Ohio Fire Executive Program. This is a quality program that brings leadership training from all over the nation to our members.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) training was held utilizing the medical direction team. Annual Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training was held in-house and provided to all those whose certifications were expiring in 2019. Basic Life support (BLS) training was held with all members and certifications renewed. In addition to ACLS and BLS, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training was conducted with all responders. This, as with others, is a renewal certification and can be taught by our in-house PALS instructors.

Blue Card incident management training was conducted by an in-house instructor and on-line continuing education was conducted by *Blue Card* Hazard Zone management. Recertification requirements for state certifications were met utilizing the Ohio Fire Academy and 24-7 EMS and the *Health and Safety Institute*. This type of training involves Fire, EMS, Inspector and Officer Development.

To better enhance our reporting and training availability to maintain credentials of the employees, Target Solutions' Training Platform was purchased and is being implemented for record keeping and training courses.

Training division instructors included: 13 Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) fire instructors, five ODPS EMS instructors, nine ODPS live fire instructors, two ODPS continuing education instructors, and 13 Health & Safety Institute BLS/ACLS/PALS instructors.



PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

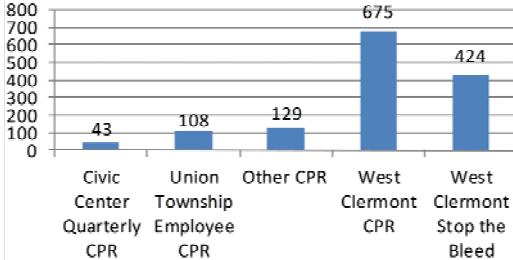
During 2019, the department participated in 305 Public Education Events. This included station tours, fire extinguisher training classes, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes, and the new Stop the Bleed classes. In all, 3,956 adults and 11,867 children attended public education classes throughout 2019. While all members participated in public education, the depart-

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ment has 11 life safety educators, two juvenile fire-setter intervention specialists, 16 CPR instructors, 10 car seat technicians, and two Stop the Bleed instructors.

The department checked 20 public Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) located throughout Union Township and the Village of Amelia on a monthly basis. A total of 21 smoke detectors were installed, 56 car seat inspections conducted, 49 school fire drills performed, and 17

2019 CPR and Stop the Bleed Attendance



Adoption/Foster Care inspections

were completed.

2019 marked the first year the department taught a Stop the Bleed class. Someone who is severely bleeding can bleed to death in as little as five minutes. That's why bleeding control (keeping the blood inside the body) is the purpose of Stop the Bleed. Students are taught: 1) call 9-1-1; 2) apply pressure with hands; 3) pack wound and press; and 4) apply tourniquet. Classes were taught to 424 health



class students and staff in the West Clermont Local School District.

Fire prevention materials for students at West Clermont Elementary Schools, St. Thomas More, and St. Veronica schools within the township, and the Village of Amelia were purchased and disseminated. The *You're on Fire* component of the public education program continued to be a success, with seven sessions taking place at Clough Pike Elementary School.

The department taught 847 participants CPR and/or first aid during 2019. The quarterly CPR classes, which started in 2016, were again a success. The classes were open to residents and businesses within Union Township and the Village of Amelia. The classes had a total of 43 students throughout the year.

It was a record-breaking year in teaching West Clermont High School students CPR. The department taught CPR to 675 West Clermont High School students. This is up from 556 students in 2018. Under ORC 3313.602, the State of Ohio requires that every high school student be given CPR training. This means learning chest compressions, and "Push hard & fast until help arrives." The department took it a step further and certified all the health classes in CPR (adult, child & infant) with AED training, and issued a CPR card as well.

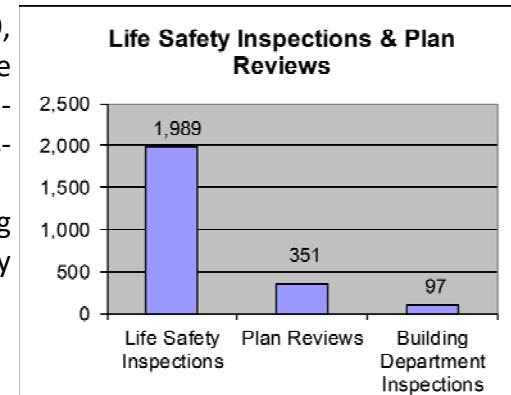
In 2019, the department CPR instructors recertified 108 Union Township firefighter/paramedics, police officers, and communication specialists in adult, child & infant CPR with AED.



FIRE INSPECTIONS AND PLAN REVIEWS

The department conducted 1,989 life safety inspections during 2019, utilizing 52 certified Fire Safety Inspectors (FSI). These on-duty fire safety inspectors conduct their fire inspections with the goal of providing a safe occupancy for both the business/building owner and customers/occupants.

In addition to conducting annual fire inspections, 351 sets of building plans were reviewed and 97 inspections with the Clermont County Building Department were conducted.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Firefighter of the Year

Once again, a member the fire department was honored at the American Legion Post 72 annual Awards Dinner on March 30, 2019. The Firefighter of the Year Award went to Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Guth.

Steve was nominated by his Lieutenant, Chris Gilpin, to receive the award. Steve was selected because of his exemplary service to the citizens of Union Township since he was hired in 2006. Steve's dedication, work ethic, attention to detail, and competence were identified as "bar setting" for firefighter performance. Steve was recognized as being meticulous and focused on always doing the right thing.

In addition to his routine duties, Steve is an acting lieutenant, an accomplished fire investigator, and participates in several outside organizations and training opportunities.



New Employee



Firefighter/Paramedic Hunter Peron began his employment with the Fire Department on December 9, 2019. Firefighter Peron is a Union Township resident and has previous fire and EMS experience at the Loveland-Symmes Fire Department.

HONOR GUARD

In 2019, the Fire Department Honor Guard continued to drill twice a month in preparation for the 2020 FDIC Honor Guard Competition. The Honor Guard had the privilege of standing at attention and saluting the procession for Deputy Bill Brewer after his untimely death. In early August, members performed a flag ceremony for the Ohio State Firefighters Conference. The Honor Guard takes great pride in representing the Union Township Fire Department and looks forward to 2020.



CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS

To help ensure that customer expectations are being exceeded, the Union Township Fire Department routinely collects and analyzes feedback from residents. In part, this data is collected through Customer Satisfaction Surveys completed by those who use the department's services.

These surveys provide a tool to assess the department's performance and the overall satisfaction of the customers served. The surveys are sent to recipients of emergency service, as well as non-emergency details, including public education and fire safety inspections.

The surveys are collected and reviewed by management in order to improve upon services or commend and provide appropriate feedback to the personnel. The survey is broken down into six categories and each question is given a rating of 1 to 3; three is exceeding expectations and one is less than expected.

For the year 2019, 180 surveys were mailed out and 58 were returned. The average score for the year was 2.85, up from 2.62 in 2018. These results continue to indicate a very high level of satisfaction among those who responded.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ACCREDITATION

In 2019, the Fire Department was accredited for the fourth time by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The department was first accredited in 2004, one of the first 100 agencies to attain accreditation, and was subsequently reaccredited in 2009 and 2014. Accreditation is a process by which the department is evaluated and is recognized as meeting certain predetermined standards. Fire Department accreditation includes an in-depth process of self-assessment with methods for determining and analyzing community risks, needs and agency performance in service delivery. Key performance indicators determine the factors needed to be benchmarked and monitored. The 2019 accreditation process included 10 major categories broken down into 45 criteria, with 252 performance indicators.



Although reaccreditation only recurs every five years, the department must file annual compliance reports to CFAI in order to keep its standing, indicating continual improvement and progress toward meeting the site visit recommendations. That means almost daily supervision of the standards in place and determining how the department is measuring up. Continually meeting accreditation standards shows the department's dedication to providing exceptional safety services to the community.

The Fire Department joins the Police, Communications and Service departments, including Mt. Moriah Cemetery and the parks, in being accredited, making Union Township the only township in the country to have all its safety and service departments accredited.

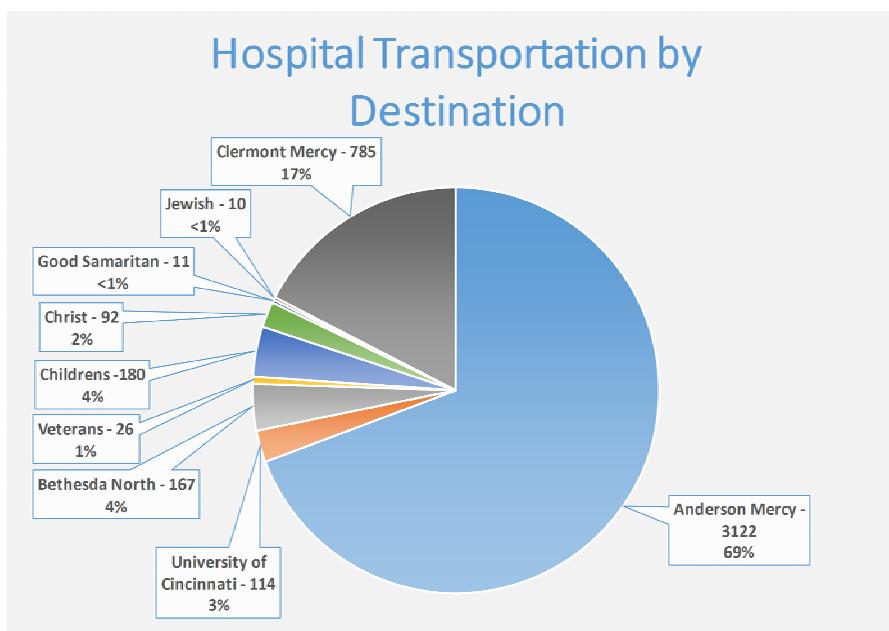
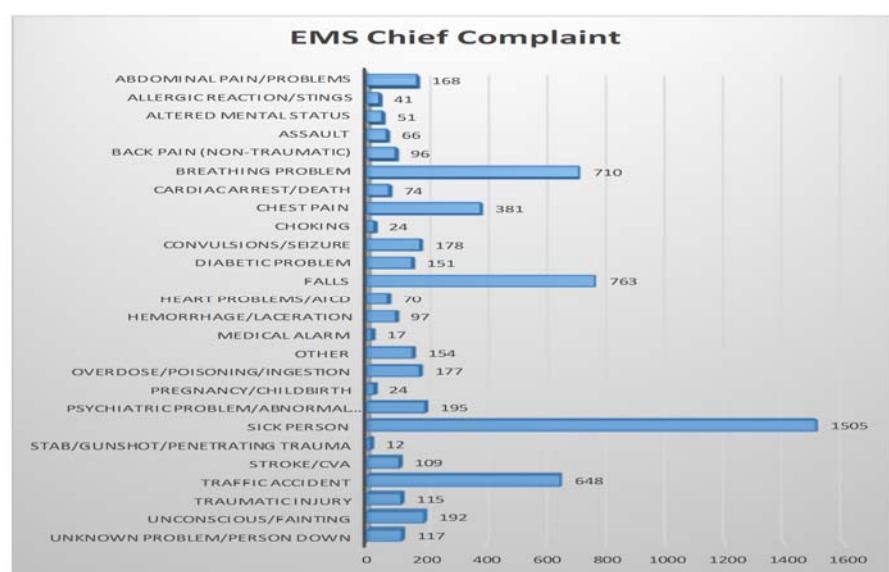
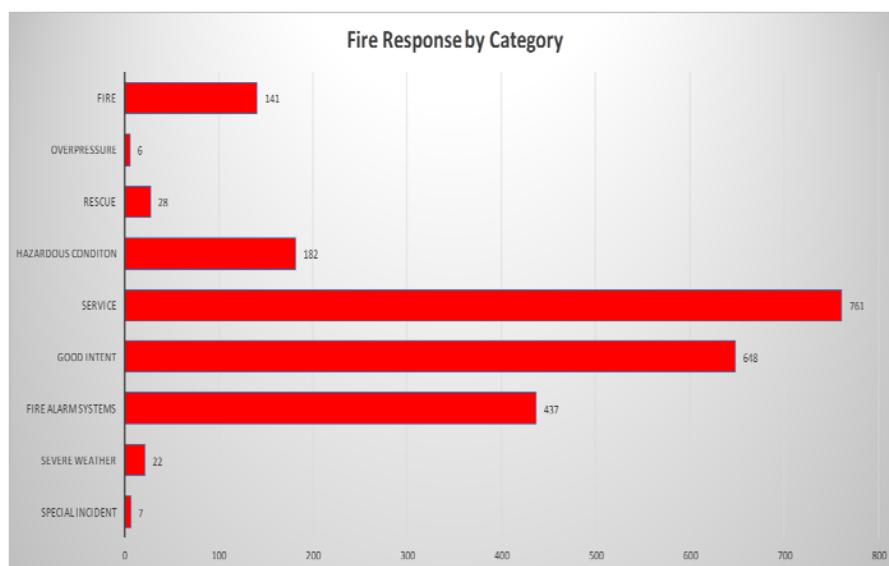
AMELIA COVERAGE

On November 5, 2019, the residents of Amelia voted to dissolve the village. That vote was certified on November 26, 2019, thus concluding the fire and EMS services provided by the Union Township Fire Department since 2004. The Fire Department is honored to have had the opportunity to serve the residents of Amelia for the last 15 years.

During the nearly 11 months of service provided in 2019, the Fire Department responded to 460 EMS calls and 139 fire incidents. The department also provided public education, life safety inspections, CPR training and other non-emergency services to citizens of Amelia.

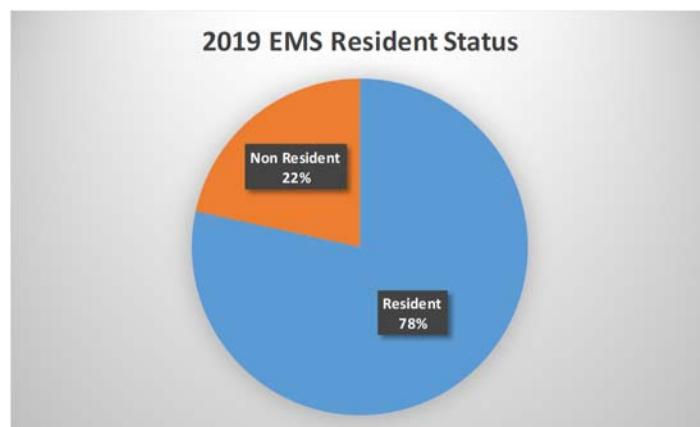
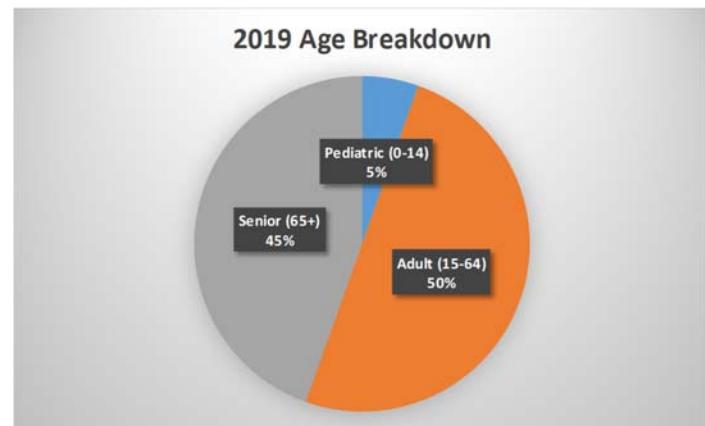
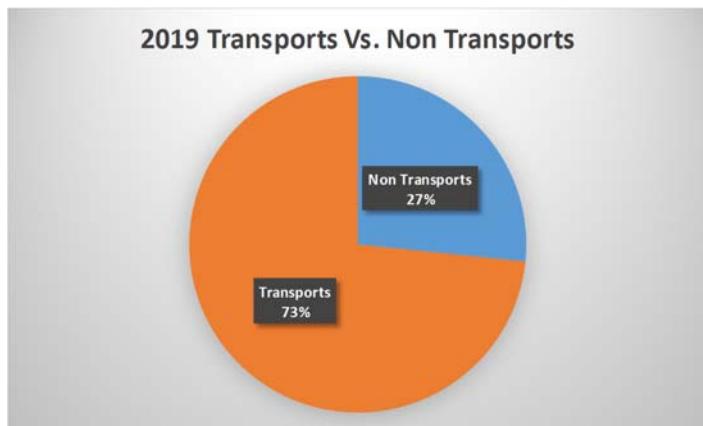
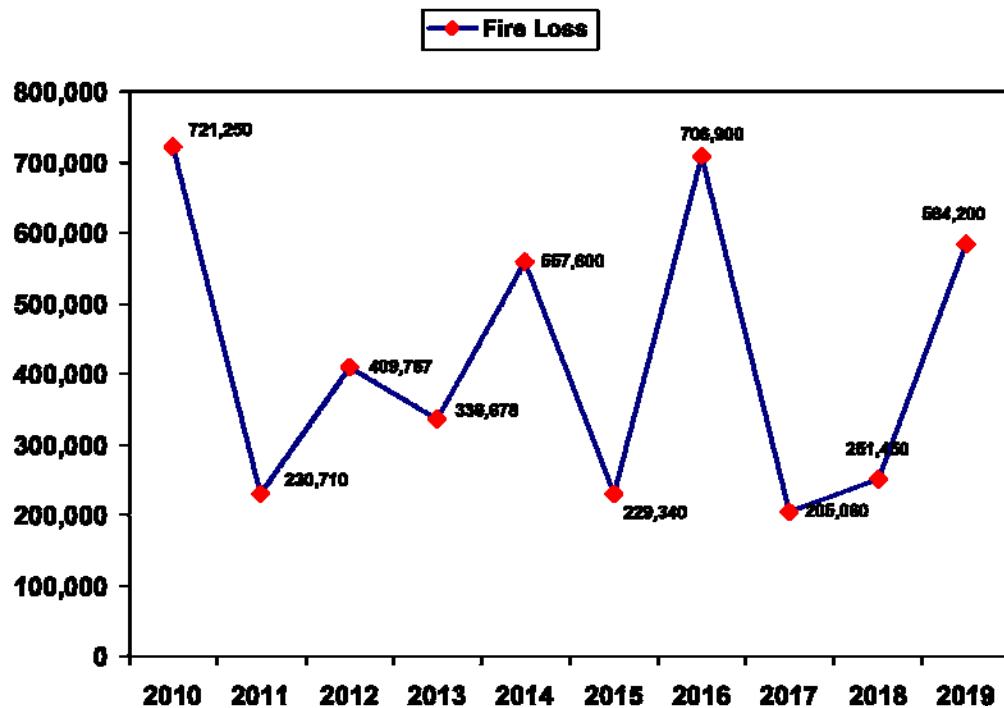
FIRE DEPARTMENT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

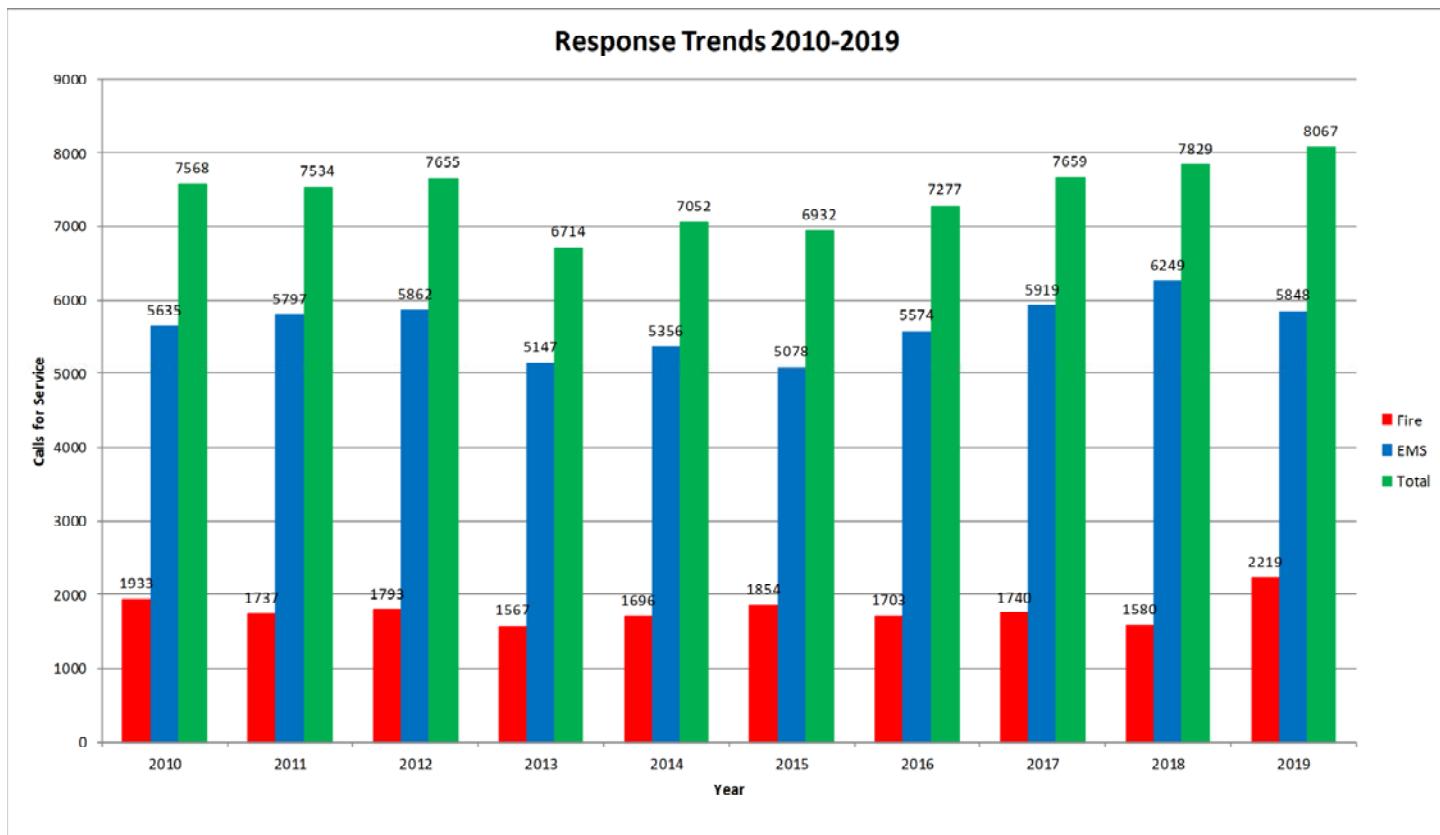


FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 FIRE LOSS



FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIRE DEPARTMENT

SMOKE DETECTORS AND SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!



PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2019 Annual Report for the Union Township Planning & Zoning Department. The department staff remains committed to encouraging responsible growth while providing knowledgeable, friendly, and courteous customer service to both residents and businesses. Additional efforts have been made this year to improve quality of life through enhanced enforcement, economic development and business growth, and the removal of blight in township neighborhoods.



In 2019, commercial and residential development activity prospered in Union Township, with booming activity and interest in quasi-institutional expansions and residential projects. Several long-anticipated projects commenced in 2019, across the spectrum of uses. Significant traffic enhancement projects continue to aid in moving vehicles more efficiently throughout the Eastgate area, with exciting news for future improvements at Elick and Bach-Buxton roads. Also, 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.

Residential growth and demand remains vibrant, with strong activity seen in both the single family residential category, along with multi-family residential. While lot-inventory is low, several new residential developments provide the appropriate mix of for-sale lots and alternative rental communities, such as patio home development and other similar developments for those seeking something other than a traditional single family home. 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 2020, the Planning Department remains poised and ready to plan for and guide continued growth and prosperity within Union Township.

Very truly yours,

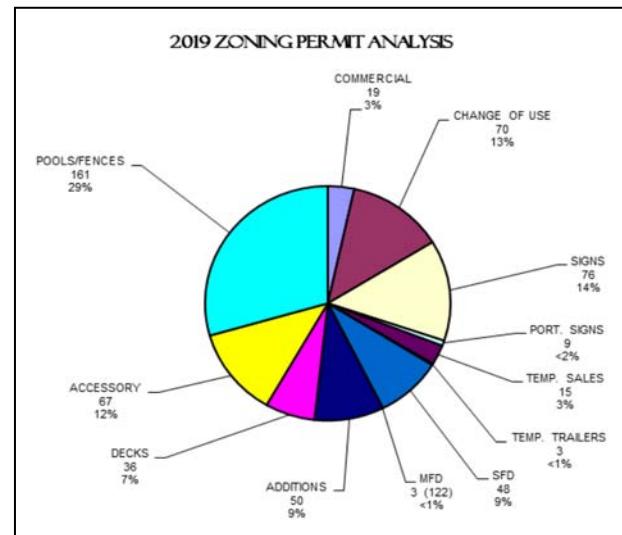
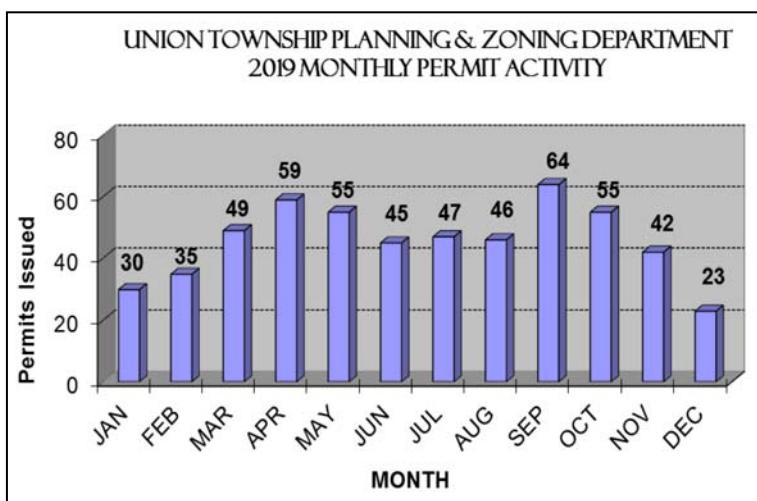
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Wm. Wright".

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

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

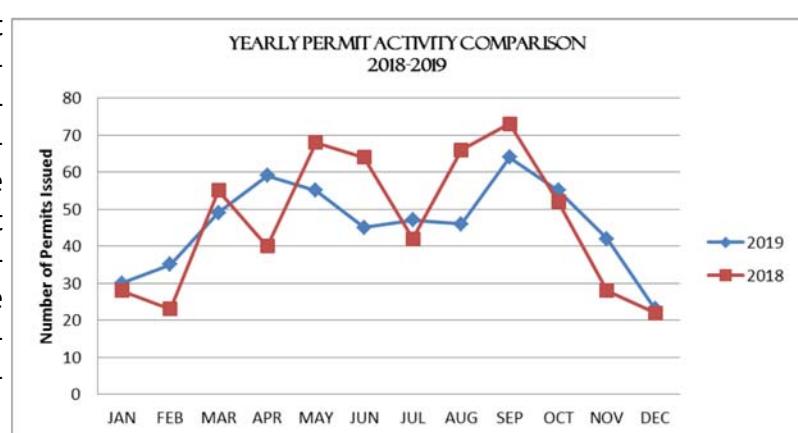
ZONING ADMINISTRATION

The Union Township Planning & Zoning Department issued 550 permits in 2019, representing a numerical decrease of approximately 1.9 percent over 2018 permit totals (561). The department issued 19 new commercial permits in 2019, whereas the department issued 23 commercial permits in 2018. Despite the slight decline in actual commercial permits issued, analysis of commercial permit revenues indicate a larger project size based on comparing previous year revenue totals. Overall, permit revenue was up more than 20.12 percent, generating \$102,979 in 2019. For comparative purposes, aggregate permit revenue in 2018 was \$85,725. Additionally, 70 commercial changes of use/occupancy were issued last year, indicative of strong demand for both new and existing commercial space. Residential permit activity remains consistent in 2019, with 48 new single-family dwelling (SFD) permits issued. Single family development has been primarily limited by a shortage in available single family lots within the township, although new developments such as Estrella and Magnolia Trace have helped provide additional, much-needed housing inventory. Multi-family housing demand remains heavy in Union Township during 2019, as permits for 122 new attached multi-family units were issued last calendar year. Other permit totals generally remained consistent with 2018 levels, with respect to signage permits, accessory buildings, residential additions, and other seasonally issued permits.



ZONING ENFORCEMENT

In 2019, the Planning & Zoning Department continued enforcement gains in overall aesthetic appearance and quality of life made during the past several years. The department recorded 147 zoning violation complaints from the public in 2019, representing a nearly 15 percent decrease over prior year totals. Of those complaints received, more than 36.7 percent were determined to be without cause or basis. However, 119 properties were found to be in violation of the zoning code during 2019.



PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

The department continues to work aggressively 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 slightly in 2019, with 27 nuisances declared throughout the year.

Several properties received significant removal efforts of garbage, debris, or excessive vegetation 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 enhanced through an on-going public-private contractual arrangement.

As always, public money expended for demolition will be recovered through the property assessment process. An arrangement with private contractors to abate grass and/or structure 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.

2019 INSPECTION DATA

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	TOTAL
Inspections	605
Complaints	147
Unfounded Complaints	54
Warning Citation	73
15 Day Noncompliance Letter	32
30 Day Violation Letter	13
Forward to Township Attorney	1
Resolved w & w/o Action	118
Illegal Signs Removed	By Contract
Miscellaneous Issues	128
Violations Monthly Total	164
Reinspection of Violations	146
Nuisance Filed	27

YEAR-OVER-YEAR INSPECTION ACTIVITY

ZONING VIOLATIONS & INSPECTIONS	2018	2019
Public Complaints Received	173	147
Properties in Violation	152	119
Warning Citations Issued	94	73
15 Day Noncompliance Letter Issued	37	32
30 Day Violations Letter Issued	20	13
Violations Resolved	161	118
Legal Action Pursued	1	1
Zoning Violation Follow-Up Inspections	166	146
False Complaints Received	58	54
Miscellaneous Issues	109	128
Inspections	522	605
Nuisance Abatement Actions	38	27

BZA & ZONING COMMISSION

The Union Township Board of Zoning Appeals received six cases for consideration in 2019, with the majority of those requests consisting of variance applications. In total, the board issued approvals in seven cases. The Zoning Commission heard one zoning text amendment case in 2019, and three zoning map amendment cases in 2019. The Board of Trustees reviewed nine new Overlay District Applications filed in 2019, with a total of 11 Overlay District approvals issued, including those cases held over at the beginning of 2019.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

ZONING STATISTICS 2019

Major Amendments to Approved Planned Developments heard by the Board of Trustees	4
Minor Amendments to Approved Planned Developments resolved by Administrative Action	5

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	4
Text Amendments Approved	1
Focus Area Overlay Requests	9
Overlay Approvals	11
Pending	0

Board of Zoning Appeals

Total Number of Cases Filed	6
Appeals	0
Conditional Use	2
Variances	4
Approvals	7
Denials	0
Pending	0
Withdrawal	0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Union Township had another busy year, with 2019 ushering in the completion of the new Mercy Health Eastgate facility, Starbucks Eastgate, Eastgate Waffle House, Bank of America, and other similar projects. Home 2 Suites by Hilton broke ground in 2019 and made significant progress toward completion in 2019. Wahlburgers progressed significantly as well in front of Meijer, rounding out the outlet development located there.

All over, new businesses revitalized declining locations, with the office/warehouse conversion by Trigon Industries of the former Mt. Carmel-Tobasco Family Dollar being a primary example of active reinvestment along all corridors of the township.

Provision Living announced and commenced construction of a more than \$25 million project at the convergence of Elick Lane and Bach-Buxton Road, kicking off the redevelopment of the former Gleneste High School campus in earnest. With the remainder of the site already under contract, the future is bright for this critical area of the township. As part of this overall development, the township was able to partner with Child Focus to repurpose a portion of the former high school campus, establishing the Carter Center for Educational Excellence, thereby breathing new life into this venerated building.

Sharefax Credit Union also began seeking permits toward the end of 2019, with development likely to occur in 2020. Work progressed on the West Clermont Transportation annex at 4000 McMann Road as well, representing a colossal improvement over existing facilities and clearing the way for full redevelopment of the former Gleneste campus.

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

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 2019, in coordination with the township. Clepper Lane Construction appears to be on track, with the first phase of the project nearing completion, and additional work underway. Old State Route 74 Widening Project and the corresponding Paul Drive extension project commenced in 2019; that project is progressing nicely. State Route 32 widening efforts concluded for eastbound State Route 32 in 2019, with future widening efforts to commence on westbound State Route 32. A major funding decision was also rendered, advancing the Elick/Bach-Buxton Interchange project through the TRAC Funding process, in furtherance of advancing components of the Eastern Corridor Segment IV-A plan.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis,

I am pleased to present the Union Township Police Department's annual report for the year 2019.

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.



Total crimes reported to Union Township Police decreased for the fifth year in a row. Violent crime continues to remain very low for a jurisdiction of our size. Union Township officers remain active in traffic enforcement, education, and research. Our attention to traffic enforcement/education has led to a decrease in reported traffic accidents. For 2019, police calls for service approached 54,000.

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.

In 2019, we were also able to upgrade the building facilities and replace aging office equipment.

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 of Scott Gaviglia.

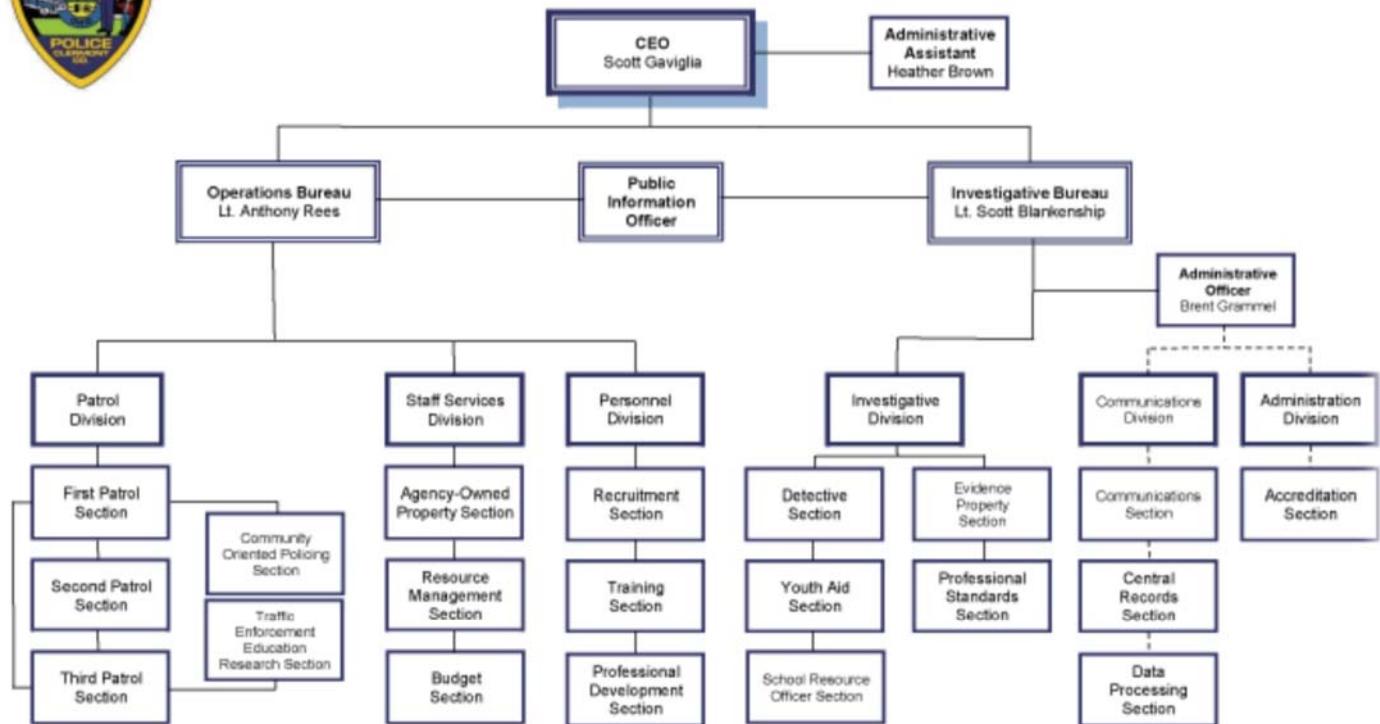
Scott Gaviglia M.B.A. CLEE
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT



Union Township Police Department

January 2019



Nationally accredited
Police Department
and
Communication Center.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

UNION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2019 Sworn Officers

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

* School Resource Officer

*** Narcotics Unit

2019 Non-Sworn

<i>Communication Specialist</i>	<i>Serving</i>	<i>Communication Specialist</i>	<i>Serving</i>
C/S Julie Depuccio	1997	C/S James Robinson	2014
C/S Tracy Daly	1998	C/S Jason Jackson	2014
C/S Nicole Hoctor	1999	C/S Allison Byess	2014
C/S Melissa Russell	2006	C/S Shannon Case	2015
C/S Melissa Kiskaden	2007	C/S Jennifer West	2015
C/S Mindy Malott	2010	C/S Megan Carlson	2015
C/S Shannon Cox	2012		

Administrative Assistant

Heather Brown 1997

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 21 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 26 years of experience and has 21 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 17 years. He possesses a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Grammel has been an assessor with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies since 2014, and currently serves as the Vice-President for the State of Ohio Accreditation Resource (SOAR). In addition, he is a certified instructor with APCO International.



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

2019 Crimes Reported, Traffic Enforcement, and Calls for Service

Crimes Reported	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Part 1 UCR													
Murder	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Rape	0	1	3	1	4	1	4	2	3	1	2	0	26
Robbery	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	3	2	0	14
Assault	8	3	7	6	7	12	8	11	14	11	7	7	101
Burglary/B&E	10	6	7	9	8	12	7	7	6	7	8	5	92
Theft/Larceny	77	88	105	78	101	101	83	90	74	113	82	101	1093
Auto Theft/ Unauthorized Use	2	4	2	3	4	0	1	1	4	3	2	5	31
Arson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Domestic Violence	9	16	17	17	11	22	8	6	17	7	9	11	150
Total	108	118	143	115	135	149	112	120	119	149	112	131	1511
Other Non-UCR/ General*													
DUI	16	15	24	23	19	13	12	13	13	13	27	23	211
All Other Offenses	209	178	276	270	255	219	210	217	189	195	224	225	2667
All Other Non Offenses	220	219	242	257	297	255	290	322	301	300	244	267	3214
Total	445	412	542	550	571	487	512	552	503	508	495	515	6092
Total Crimes Reports	553	530	685	665	706	636	624	672	622	657	607	646	7603
Traffic Enforcement													
Citations	195	128	172	152	168	152	170	155	146	163	166	163	1930
Warnings	468	350	399	360	418	409	436	429	427	399	343	434	4872
Traffic Stops	665	476	557	489	595	567	615	563	578	530	454	563	6652
Traffic Crashes	115	92	112	104	111	95	104	114	91	115	116	109	1278
Traffic Crashes on Private	22	25	36	31	30	40	26	25	24	42	34	38	373
Total Calls for Service	4320	3785	4331	4175	4715	4444	4671	4674	4311	4265	3762	4038	51491

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 37 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 decreased 7.5 percent from the prior year, 2018. The year 2019 saw a decrease in the number of crime reports by officers, with 7,596 total reports generated. Part 1 UCR Crimes (the major felony type crimes) decreased from 1,573 to 1,504, a 4.4 percent decrease from 2018. 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. Three 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 2019 (1,651) decreased 29 percent after seeing an increase in 2018. Road construction picked back up in Union Township in 2019, with major work being done to the State Route 32 corridor. Changes made to the traffic flow on westbound State Route 32, after consulting with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and Union Township Police, contributed to fewer accidents being seen on State Route 32 in 2019. The number of arrests for Operating a Motor Vehicle while under the Influence decreased 22 percent, from 270 arrests in 2018, to 211 in 2019, a decrease of 59 arrests from the prior year. The township continues to see more drug related OVI offenses.

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 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, the annual Shop with a Cop program, and more.

Union Township Police hosted or took part in 42 events in 2019, ranging from child safety talks to neighborhood watch meetings, and hosting citizen riders. The Crime Prevention Section accomplished its goals in 2019, hosting two Women's Self Defense classes, a Child Gun Safety class, a Citizen Police Academy and the 13th Annual Police Night Out. Police Night Out continues to be a growing success and again saw significant increases in attendance and participation. The Police Department was again able to put on the event with over \$8,400 in funds raised within the private sector of the township.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Neighborhood Watch continues to be a point of emphasis within Union Township. The Crime Prevention section hosted three neighborhood watch meetings in 2017 and continued the annual Safe Communities presentation for over 40 residents in April. The 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 assist with the various Drug Take Back events within Union Township and staff the Crime Prevention Trailer at festivals and fairs. Union Township Police hosted its 15th Citizen Police Academy in August of 2019 and hosted and participated in a Junior Police Academy with other local law enforcement organizations over the summer.



Officers from the Crime Prevention Section continued to educate the township's financial institutions with Robbery Response update presentations in 2019. Officers hosted 15 students and citizen riders and conducted child safety talks as well as ALICE/Active Shooter training at local businesses and churches. Officer Lutson also hosted our 5th Annual Child Gun Safety classes in January. UTPD once again partnered with Crimestoppers to host their annual prescription drug drop-off and paper shredding events at Furniture Fair and the Union Township Civic Center in September. The continued utilization of the department 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 Crime Prevention Section handled three Cub Scout and Girl Scout tours, two child safety talks and one career day at UC Clermont College. Officers also attended two Neighborhood Watch/HOA meetings and the annual end of summer festival at Jungle Jim's that included a Touch-the-Truck event. Officers, in conjunction with members of the American Legion, again participated in the annual Shop with a Cop event at Meijer in December.

The Crime Prevention Section spent \$2,809 of its budgeted \$5,000 in 2019. 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 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT



In-service roll call training included immersive topics such as ethics, racial profiling, critical incident response, 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 1,430 hours of training in 2019, including eight hours of in-service training on Taser and Pepper Ball Systems recertification and eight hours of training in advanced firearms and emergency medical evacuation training. Taser training in 2019 involved certification on the new X2 Tasers purchased by the department in 2019. 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. 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 the 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.



The Honor Guard continues to perform at numerous township, county and city-wide events and once again competed in Washington D.C. during Police Memorial week in May. Union Township's Honor Guard took 5th place in the national competition, once again coming ahead of large cities like Chicago and New York. The Honor Guard also displayed the colors at Cincinnati Reds and Cincinnati Bengals games, performed at the annual Yellow Ribbon dinner in Loveland, the Nick Erdy fundraiser in Williamsburg, and several Memorial and Veteran's Day parades and functions. Overall, the UTPD Honor Guard participated or made appearances at 20 functions in 2019.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigative/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; Investigative, Administrative, and Communications.

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 positions. We continue to have two SROs in West Clermont High School. The SROs participate in solving criminal offenses that occur on school campus, discipline hearings, and educating students. We continue to enjoy a terrific working relationship with the West Clermont Local School District.

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

During 2019, investigators worked more than 505 felony cases, closing about 85 (17 percent) by arrest. Of the remaining, 235 (48 percent) were closed otherwise, inactivated, or unfounded. 170 cases (35 percent) remain open and were added to the 2020 caseload.

There were 3,921 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 seven exams, to include some for other agencies and pre-employment. Several exams and subsequent confessions led to convictions of serious offenses.

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.

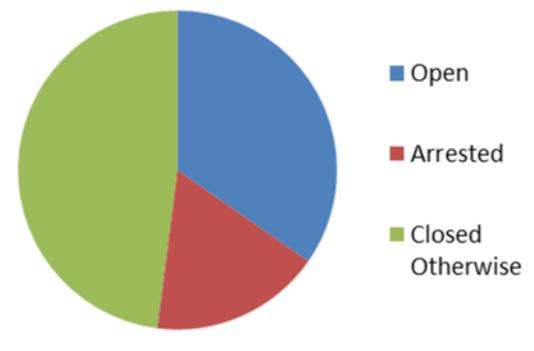
The 2019 investigative highlights included the successful conviction of an individual suspected of numerous burglary cases involving a large quantity of weapons.

The Investigation Division participated in the prosecution of several defendants wanted in connection with several burglary offenses. All defendants were apprehended after months of investigation. Due to the quick action of the Investigative Unit, all weapons were seized and returned to their owners. All investigations were brought to a close in a timely manner, which led to court convictions.

The Administrative Division provides support services for the agency, including supervision of all non-sworn personnel, communications, records, accreditation, and the 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.

2019 Investigation Division Case Closure



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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. The Union Township Communications Center is currently a CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) certified agency.



In 2019, The Union Township Communications Center changed its 9-1-1 call delivery system. Motorola CallWorks was tasked with delivering 9-1-1 and non-emergency calls to the center with a state-of-the-art interface. This software also provides more accurate location services for cell phone users in the form of Rapid SOS.

During 2019, the Communications Center fielded 23,123 emergency 9-1-1 calls. In addition, they received 51,798 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 to 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.

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), and as the Vice-President of SOAR (State of Ohio Accreditation Resource). 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 last nationally reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies in 2016, and are due to be reaccredited in 2020.

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. The complaint process and statistics are available to the public as required by CALEA standards and monitored for early warning purposes. In 2019, there were three professional standard investigations and three citizen complaints investigated.

2019 Citizen Complaints	
Exonerated	0
Not sustained	1
Unfounded	1
Sustained	1
Withdrawn	3

POLICE DEPARTMENT

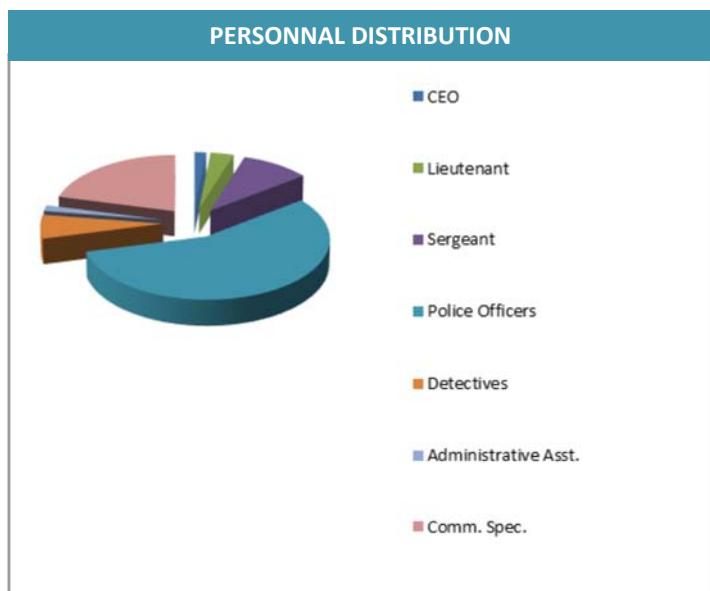
Employee Grievances

The collective bargaining process provides a grievance procedure to address 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 in October for three years. The next negotiation will begin in 2022.

There was one grievance filed in 2019.

PERSONNEL DISTRIBUTION

Sworn Positions	Current	Current	Current
	Male	Female	All
CEO	1	0	1
Lieutenant	2	0	2
Sergeant	6	0	6
Police Officers	32	3	35
Detectives	4	1	5
Sworn Total	45	4	49
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	46	17	63



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, Special Presentation segment of the bi-monthly trustees' meeting, and the issuance of Letters of Commendation.

Officers CJ Holden and Derrick Disbennett were recognized by the American Legion Post 72 for their heroic efforts in responding to a break-in of a local financial institution. Officer Disbennett was injured in the altercation, but was able to arrest the lone suspect, who was under the influence of drugs at the time.



POLICE DEPARTMENT



Canine Officer CJ Holden received the Clermont County *Safety and Justice* award at the 2019 Salute to Leaders celebration. Officer Holden was nominated for his work as a canine officer and for his work in the community of Williamsburg as a volunteer.



Sergeant Eric Williams was recognized by the Cincinnati Reds during one of their games as part of the Cincinnati Reds "Hometown Hero" program.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present the 2019 Annual Report for the Union Township Service Department.

Our department enjoyed an outstanding year in 2019. In June we were awarded reaccreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Several of our departmental management practices were recognized as “best management practices” in the industry of Public Works.

I continue to be privileged to serve as a team leader and site evaluator for the American Public Works Association. This opportunity affords me the ability to effectively choose and implement already proven strategies from some of the most successful public works agencies in North America.

We are proud to be members of 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 2020 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 regard 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 wonderful community.

Sincerely,



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 Service 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 131 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 409 work order requests in 2019. 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 2019 annual paving project were selected using this scientific data. In 2019, the following roads were repaved.

STREET NAME	FROM / TO
Wellesley Avenue	Entire Road
Beaver Trail	Entire Road
Nature Run	Entire Road
Binning Road	Bridge to Olive Branch-Stonelick Road
Baldwin Road	Entire Road except the hill.
Hamblin Drive	Entire Road

SERVICE DEPARTMENT



In addition to these roads being repaved, improvements were made to Terrace Ridge Drive, Glen Rose Lane, Stratford Court, Cedar Run Road, Brandonmore Drive, Todd Rose Court, Auxier Drive, Baccarat Drive, McClean Drive, Orland Road, Gorham Drive, Berdale Lane, Sonny Lane, View Street, Waterford Way, Dorgene Lane, Precision Drive, Robert Taft Drive, McGuffey Lane, Lenox Drive, and Creekstone Drive. 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 131 center lane miles of roadways clear and safe for the traveling public. In 2019, 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 800 tons of salt and more than 4,000 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 five fire stations, all four township parks, Mount Moriah Cemetery, the Eastgate Professional Office Park at 4357 Ferguson Drive, and 4000 McMann. 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 on Ivy Pointe Boulevard. The Parks Division also plays a key role in many township events such as Concerts, Police 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 2019, 192 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' knothole baseball teams.

Many other organizations take advantage of the park, such as The Eastgate Community Church and Clermont County Senior Services. Some memorable events in 2019 included the Union Township Police Department's annual *Police Night Out*, *Cincy Kids-4-Kids Carnival*, the 24-hour *National Day of Prayer Observation*, a walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Associations, *Clean and Green Spring Litter Pickup*, (A Caring Place), and The American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life*.

A tradition that began about 25 years ago is a *Memorial Day Vigil* sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 649. The veterans erect a mock military cemetery by surrounding the area near the helicopter with approximately 500 white crosses, each representing a Vietnam casualty from the Tri-state area. Over the years, this event has gained both regional and national attention.

There are many more events that 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 a manner that makes our residents 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 2019, improvements were made to the walking track, including full depth asphalt base repairs, crack sealing, and new pavement mile markings. Ten red sunset maples were planted along the walking path along with five martin houses and a black granite bench. A concrete ramp was installed at the pond for the wildlife. Improvements were made to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, including the installation of a new paver pad, and leveling of the memorial pavers. In October, a mature white female mute swan was added to the pond to accompany the existing white male mute swan.

Clepper Park

Union Township views its parks as major attractions, 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 2019, a record breaking 140 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.



SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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.

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.



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. Our mechanic 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 356 requests for service in 2019. These requests ranged anywhere 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 park-like 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.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

In keeping with the mission statement of Mt. Moriah Cemetery, several major projects were completed in 2019. A major project was the installation of a fifth niche columbarium. There has been a growing trend over the past many years indicating that families are choosing cremation. There are many reasons why people choose cremation. Some reasons include deeply held personal preferences, the cost of traditional burials, and environmental concerns about the use of land and resources.



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 columbarium 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.



Another major project at Mt. Moriah Cemetery was the ongoing restoration of the oldest markers in the cemetery. A total of 47 markers dating back to 1813 were removed, completely realigned in a row, and reinstalled. All the reinstalled markers were cleaned with a bio-degradable agent using non-abrasive equipment. In addition, approximately 30 monuments in other sections of the cemetery were restored. Some larger monuments had completely toppled off of their bases. Several monuments had failing foundations. The old foundations were completely removed, new foundations were poured, and the monuments reset and resealed. The cemetery applied for, and received, a grant from the Ohio Department of Commerce to continue the monument restoration project in the year 2020. This restoration project is in keeping with the cemetery's mission statement "To operate and maintain an historic burial ground in a park-like setting, with a commitment to preserve and honor the heritage of past generations."

The cemetery launched Walking Cemetery Tours which can be accessed through the township's website. The three tours are Landmarks, Notable Memorials and Oldest Memorials. Simply by clicking on a number on the map, a photo and information are given regarding that site. Some sites that are recognized within the Landmark Tour are Heritage Memorial Grove, Hawkins Bennet Mausoleum, Columbarium Niches and location of gazebos. Some of the Notable Memorials in the cemetery are Dr. Joseph Cotton Webber, Dr. Elisha Bennett, and Charles Cyrus Kearns. Among the oldest memorials are William Doan, William Burr Sheldon, Richard Stockton, and Sarah Stockton. Sarah Stockton (1745-1813) is the oldest marked gravesite in Mt. Moriah Cemetery. The Mt. Moriah Cemetery Walking Tours provide a perfect way to explore the rich history of the cemetery.

In addition, a new mobile application was launched in 2019. The app is available for download directly through the cemetery's website. No longer do visitors have to visit an app store. This is an easy way for visitors to locate loved ones and view the Walking Tours from their phone. The app includes GPS navigation to each grave, and an interactive memorial page of loved ones resting at Mt. Moriah Cemetery. Memories and photos can be submitted to help preserve their history. The new mobile app is the perfect way to locate loved ones, create lasting memorials and view Mt. Moriah Cemetery Walking Tours.



SERVICE DEPARTMENT

A momentous occasion for the cemetery was achieving a third accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) on July 1, 2019. The cemetery was first accredited in July, 2011, and subsequently earned a second accreditation on July 7, 2015. As a division of the Service Department, the cemetery performed a self-assessment of fourteen practices. Some of these practices were interment, disinterment, lot numbering, section renovation, security, and foundation installation. Policies and practices that govern the cemetery were reviewed. The APWA accreditation team awarded Mt. Moriah Cemetery full compliance for all fourteen practices. This outside evaluation is a true testimony to the excellent services provided at Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Improvements continued on the east side of Mt. Moriah Cemetery where the pond and waterfall are located. The large gazebo and bridge were power-washed and re-stained. Also, 650 feet of fence was replaced on the property line shared with Loda Drive. The galvanized chain link fence is durable and enhances that section of the cemetery. In addition, minor renovations were performed on the waterfall. Loose rocks were reattached, fall mums were planted, and creek rock was added. The waterfall is a major attraction at Mt. Moriah Cemetery and is used as a backdrop for prom, homecoming and wedding photos. There are black granite benches located near the pond and waterfall to provide places for reflection and serenity.



In addition, there were improvements on the west side of Mt. Moriah Cemetery in anticipation of a large wedding which was held in September, 2019, at the Heritage Memorial Grove. Developed in 2009, this area is carved partially from a grove of oak and maple trees, with the majority of the grounds left in its natural state. The park provides a place for the community to gather, reflect and enjoy. The large main entrance of the park leads to an area described as an Outdoor Wedding Cathedral, which includes a circular area that provides for seating. A majestic, granite altar is on one side and a large, granite cross on the opposite side. The seating was made of wood, and had deteriorated over time. The seating was removed, and four new gray, granite benches were installed. The entire area was power-washed, new mulch installed, and perennials were planted. The Heritage Memorial Grove was a perfect backdrop for the momentous occasion of a wedding, and is in keeping with the cemetery's mission statement to maintain the cemetery in a park-like setting.

Improvements were made to the facilities at Mt. Moriah Cemetery. The existing gutters and fascia metal were removed on the cemetery office and two garages. New continuous gutters and fascia metal were installed. New downspouts were installed, and unattached soffits were re-installed, or new soffits were installed if completely missing. In addition, the two garages were power-washed and painted.

A major event at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in 2019 was the 12th Annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony. 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. After the construction of the lanterns, a complimentary dinner was served by candlelight. A harmonious addition to the evening was a trio from the Cincinnati Orchestra which performed soothing music throughout the evening. The Clermont County Marine Veteran Honor Guard performed the color guard presentation, followed by a bugler performing taps.



SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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 650 people, the 12th annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony was a tremendous success.



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.

All these projects and events did not detract from the main business of the cemetery. In 2019, the cemetery staff prepared 207 burial sites, sold 172 new gravesites, poured 137 monument foundations and installed 17 government markers. In addition, 18 families used the Cremation Scattering Garden, and 36 columbarium niches were sold.

Mt. Moriah Cemetery is proud to be in good standing with two prestigious organizations. These organizations are 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 both those who are buried at the cemetery and those who are paying their respects.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2019

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 2019, Doug Cross was chosen as the Employee of the Year by the Service Department supervisors. Doug started working for the Service Department on January 3, 2018. He works as a Maintenance Worker I in the Parks Division. Some of Doug's responsibilities include mowing, landscaping, sports field maintenance, and playground maintenance. He also is responsible for snow and ice removal during the winter months. Doug 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. Doug is a valuable asset to the Service Department, and specifically the Parks Division.



Township Administrator Ken Geis with Employee of the Year, Doug Cross

COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTREACH

As part of community service outreach, the Union Township Trustees sponsor *Junk Collection Days* twice a year, once in April, and once in October. The spring *Junk Collection Days* are held over a six-day period, including a Saturday, while the fall event is 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 2019, unwanted items included 61 refrigerators, with 18 garbage trucks, and 28 30-yard dumpsters filled with furniture, clothes, bicycles, electronic equipment, and lawn equipment.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

In 2019, 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 at no charge. There is no limit to the number of Tree and Brush vouchers a resident can receive. In 2019, the Service Department issued 387 Tree and Brush vouchers.

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 2019, 111 Christmas trees were dropped off, and recycled.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training are always major themes in the Service Department, and 2019 was no exception. Some of the education, and training completed this year by Service Department staff is listed below.

- Personal Protective Equipment training
- Ohio Utilities Protective Services (OUPS) training
- Ethics departmental training
- Ergonomics training
- Mission, Vision and Values departmental training
- Commercial Pesticide Applicators license training
- Emergency Vehicle Technician's training through the Ohio Association of Emergency Vehicle Technicians
- Attended the Ohio Association of Cemeteries annual Convention
- Attended classes at the Tri-State Green Conference
- Attended classes at the Ohio Turf Grass Conference
- Loader operators training for winter operations

IN CONCLUSION

In 2019, the Service Department accomplished many things and enjoyed many successes. Our staff continued to grow through education and training. 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 2020, 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

2019 marked the 15th year that UTTV has been on the air in Union Township. Local producer participation continued, and regular users continued to provide us with consistent programming.

We maintained our work with Rita Heikenfeld, a regionally known cooking expert, as well as regular local producers, to present high-quality programming to our viewers.

In 2018, UTTV worked with the IT Department to create an online upload option for producers who do not use UTTV equipment. Usage remained steady throughout 2019, including the addition of two churches who had not previously used UTTV.

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.

The township's Facebook page is yet another venue for township events, meeting and departmental videos, as well as police special announcements. *You're On Fire*, a popular video, features firefighters presenting awards to students at Clough Pike Elementary School for academic achievement. UTTV is also responsible for taping all township concerts and outdoor events, such as Police Night Out, Mt. Moriah Cemetery's Lantern Lighting Ceremony, and the Jungle Jim's/Union Township End of Summer event, and airing them on the two local access channels that comprise UTTV.

In dealing with the media and dozens of township and county residents and businesses each week, 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.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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. Due to Microsoft ending support for Exchange 2010, IT upgraded the township's e-mail server to version 2019. Doing so has added additional features as well as added better security to the e-mail system.

IT also upgraded the computers in the Communications Center (9-1-1). Doing so will allow Dispatch to keep up with the latest changes in software and security.

In 2019, IT was charged with upgrading the township's website. The upgrade has allowed the township to provide a better user experience by making it easier for citizens to navigate the site.

In addition to major upgrade projects, day-to-day technical support is imperative to the smooth operation of each of the township departments. In 2019, IT opened 411 incident reports, resolving all but seven of them.

