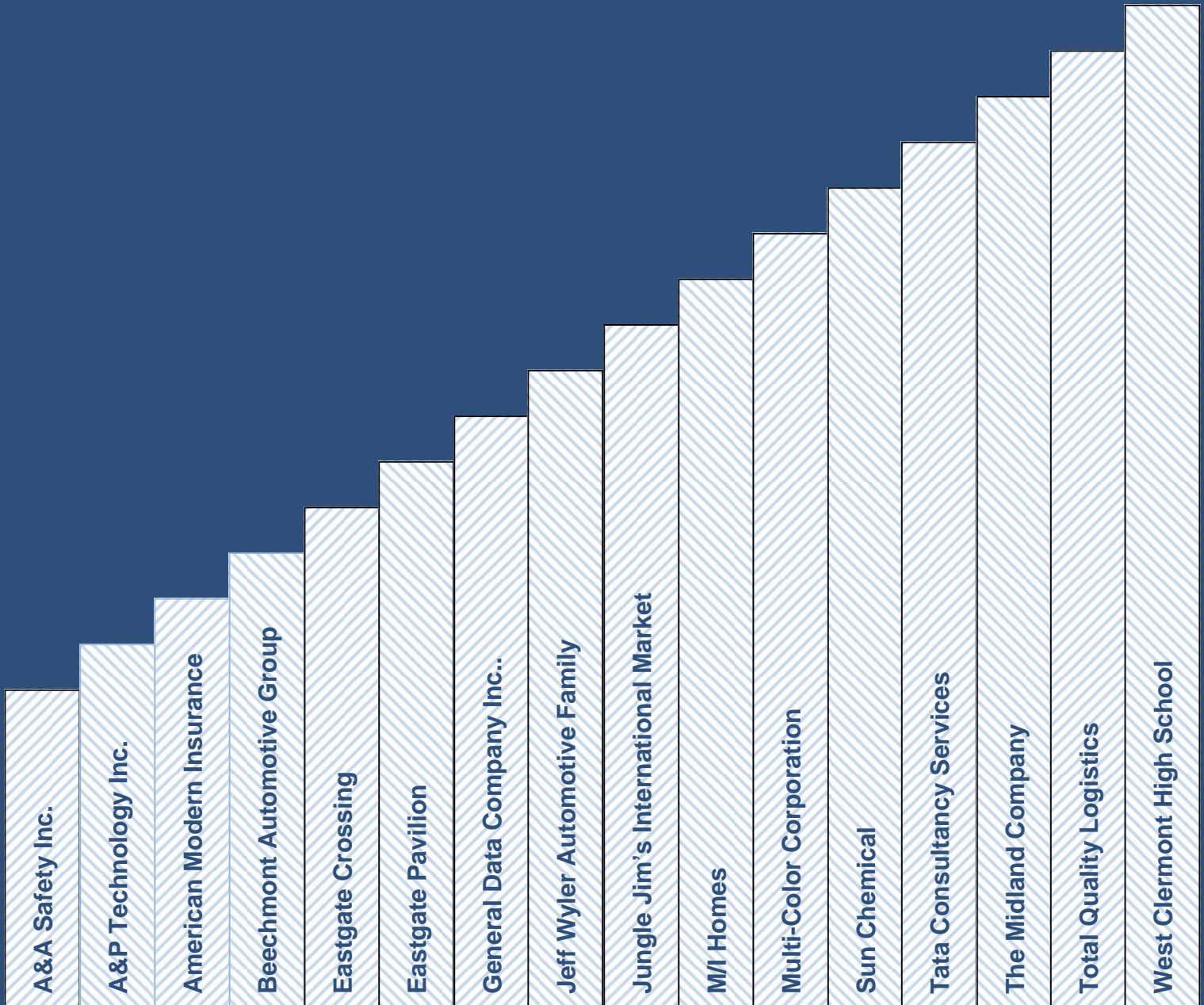


# UNION TOWNSHIP

*Clermont County, Ohio*

*Est. 1811*

## ***2017 ANNUAL REPORT***





# UNION TOWNSHIP

*Clermont County, Ohio*

*Est. 1811*

## ***2017 ANNUAL REPORT***



John McGraw  
Matthew Beamer  
Lloyd Acres

Fiscal Officer  
Ron Campbell

Administrator  
Ken Geis

Law Director  
Lawrence Barbieri

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

# UNION TOWNSHIP

*Clermont County, Ohio*

*Est. 1811*

## ***2017 ANNUAL REPORT***



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# 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, all of whom are elected to serve the people of this community. While many other cities, villages and townships languished in disarray, Union Township established quantifiable goals and moved decidedly toward accomplishment again in 2017. 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 foundation of the township’s financial stability is the General Fund, ending the year with more than \$16 million in cash. Overall expenses totaled \$58.65 million for the year with revenues at just less than \$62 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 is the epicenter of development in Clermont County, both in private and public investment. The Eastern Corridor project, with improvements to State Route 32 and Interstate 275, Clough Pike, Aicholtz Road, Ivy Pointe Boulevard and Eastgate Boulevard, highlight the public interest in the area. The 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. We now have more than 18,000 residential units within the township, up from 16,000 in 2006.

Property value increases and investment can be seen along the State Route 32 Corridor, Ivy Pointe and State Route 125. Our township was again able to attract and retain quality development. Jungle Jim’s, Walmart, Sam’s, Meijer, Kroger, PEBB and Eastgate Mall continued to invest in their respective sites. The Wyler Automotive Family, the Holman Group, Beechmont Toyota, Honda East and Beechmont Ford all recorded excellent vehicle sales for 2017.

Commercial office and industrial sites were generally at full occupancy. Investments and job growth was the mantra for Union Township. AP Technology continued its growth at its headquarters, as did Total Quality Logistics, TATA Consultancy, Multi-Color, and other companies within the township.

The West Clermont Local School District opened up its new 350,000-plus square foot high school on Bach Buxton Road. The new facility is a state-of-the-art complex with the latest technologies and sports facilities incorporated into the campus. The project itself is the culmination of a unique funding partnership between the school district and the township, which has been recognized statewide as a model for community building.

As an organization we continue to look toward improvement in customer service and the quantity of services performed. All township services are accredited. 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 \$24.5 million, up from \$21 million in 2016. In September, 2017, the township received another Moody's Aa<sup>2</sup> rating, recognizing the stability of the township's financial condition.

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.

## TOWNSHIP EVENTS

The state-of-the-art Amphitheatre, on the grounds of the Civic Center, was the venue for two Clermont Philharmonic Orchestra concerts. It was also the location of the seventh formal flag-retirement ceremony in June, hosted by the Vietnam Veterans, Clermont County Chapter 649.

## ADMINISTRATION

2017 saw the 10th 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—more than 650 people attended this popular township event.

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 and Women's Self-Defense classes offered by the Police Department; CPR and AED education, child car seat installations and Adopt-A-School 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 Cincinnati Premier Youth Basketball League, a non-profit organization coaching teams from kindergarten to 12th grade. Once the Glen Este Youth Basketball Association, GEYBA merged with CPYBL in 2017 and still 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 and their newly formed partnership with GEYBA/CPYBL.

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

## CLERMONT SENIOR SERVICES *service with heart*

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

Phone: (513) 724-1255  
Fax: (513) 536-4008  
info@clermontseniors.com  
www.clermontseniors.com

January 22, 2018

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

Dear Union Township Trustees,

The relationship between Clermont Senior Services and Union Township 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 800 visits for the 2017 calendar 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, Basket Weaving, Computer, Tai Chi, Qigong, Dance Class and much more.

In addition, the Center also hosted informational seminars related to Medicare and Prescription Drug plan enrollment, as well as an Aging Brain Health program. Moreover, AARP volunteers also provided tax preparation assistance to over 550 seniors at the Union Township location. To reiterate, our programs and services are evolving and 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,

  
Cindy Granillo  
CEO/Executive Director

  
Bill DeHass  
Community Services Director

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



# ADMINISTRATION



## SNAP DRAGONS

SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETIC PROGRAM  
\*In association with WCYBA

January 23, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the SNAP (Special Needs Athletic Program) Dragons have used the Union Township Civic Center gym for 12 years. We feel very fortunate to have this lovely gym to use to play basketball.

We have 110 players, ranging from ages 7 years old to adult. We also have 9 cheerleaders and this year, a "dragon" mascot! SNAP is a program that helps people with special needs get exercise and make friends. 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



January 3, 2018

Dear Members of the UNION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

West Clermont Youth Basketball Association is a non-profit youth basketball program. We are very grateful to Union Township for allowing us to use the Civic Center several evenings a week and on Saturdays for games that are invaluable to our program.

Most of our home games are played at the Union Township Civic Center gym. We typically have 12- 13 games each Saturday along with practices during the week. Each Saturday brings in teams from other communities such as Milford, Goshen and Mason with 60 – 100 participants per game.

During the spring and summer months we operate a Skills and Drills program that keeps kids involved in basketball during the off season and affords them the opportunity to improve their skills. We also operate a Kindergarten through 1<sup>st</sup> grade program which brings in the youngest possible players to our organization during the months of October and November. This past year our former league, CAYBL disbanded and we joined the Cincinnati Premier Youth Basketball League. We are still playing against some of our old opponents, but we are also playing against some folks that typically do not get a chance to visit our fantastic Union Township Community. It's great to see the visitor's reaction when they walk into the Civic Center gym since from the outside, the building does not come close to looking like a gym.

We are proud to report that our registrations have grown by more than 10% over last year. Being able to use 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 hold our board/coach meetings and photo sessions in the Civic Center meeting rooms.

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 very special affiliate – Snap Dragons. We continue to respect the property and be responsible users of the township

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

John Schmidt, President - West Clermont Youth Basketball Association

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

To: Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis



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

Through the efforts of all the employees of the Fire Department, we continue to accomplish amazing results year after year and 2017 is no exception. Demands for services on an emergency and non-emergency basis continue at a very high pace. We take pride in “exceeding expectations” in the delivery of these essential services to Union Township as well as to the Village of Amelia.

The successful completion of the much anticipated new West Clermont High School this year, combining Glen Este and Amelia high schools into one facility, involved many, many, hours of fire personnel time and dedication, involving everything from preconstruction design meetings and reviews, multiple construction inspections, tests, and reviews, to final approvals. Fire Department staff worked in conjunction with the staff and administration of the West Clermont Local School District to have a facility that the community can be proud of and that will serve Union Township for many years to come.

After being notified in March of being successful in our bid for a grant to help fund capital improvements to Station 49 in Eastgate, we were able to break ground in December. This project will expand the fire apparatus bay space to allow for an aerial truck to be added to this station. It will also give us flexibility in the design of future fire vehicles that has been previously restricted by the size of the apparatus bays that were originally constructed in 1956. We anticipate the completion of the construction by spring/summer of 2018.

We look forward to continuing the delivery of life safety services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Stanley G. Deimling".

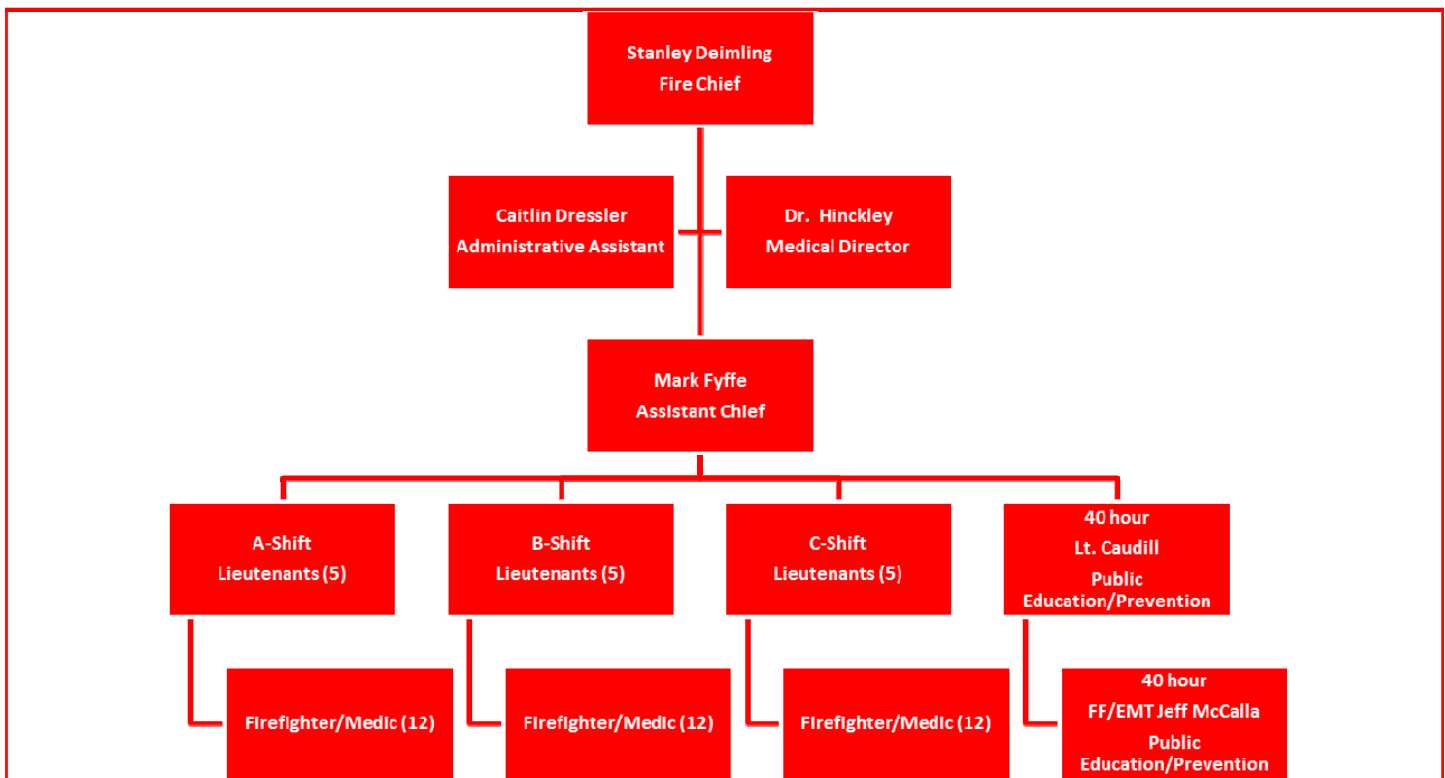
Stanley G. Deimling, EFO  
Fire Chief

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Mission

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

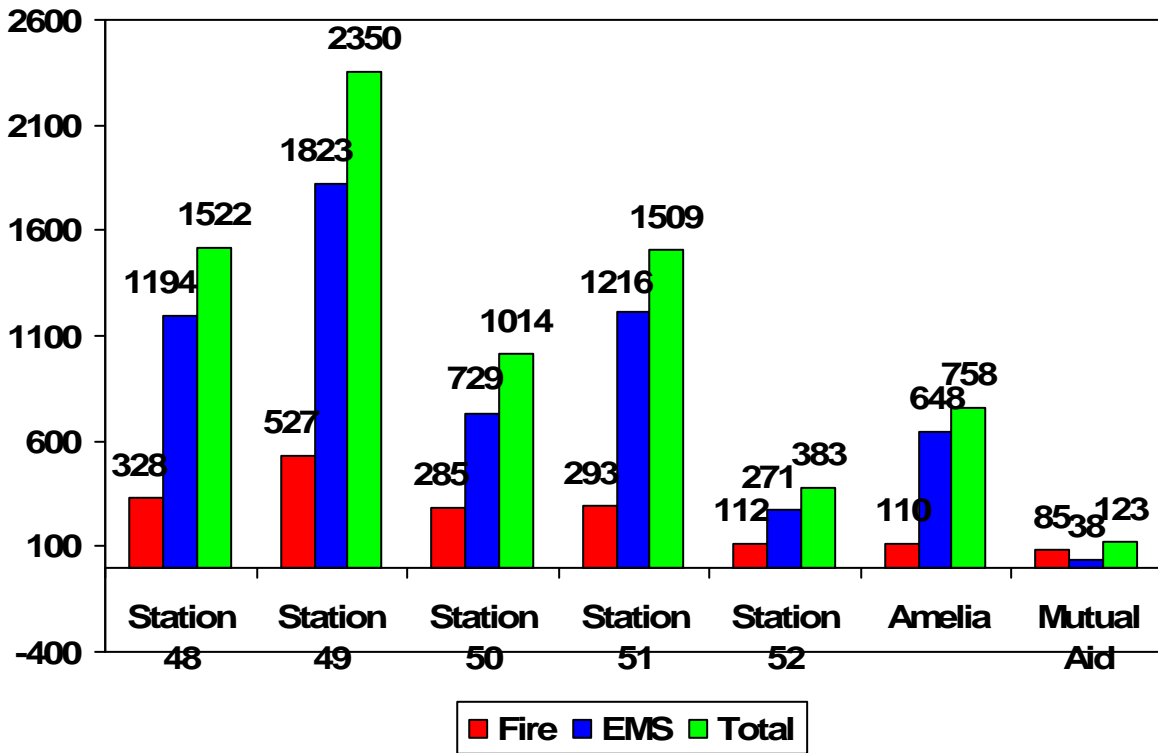
## 2017 Organizational Chart Union Township Fire Department



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department recorded 10,196 vehicle responses as a result of 7,659 calls for service in 2017. The following chart breaks down the call volume among our five stations and the Village of Amelia.

- 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



## APPARATUS / EQUIPMENT

During 2017, the Union Township Fire Department continued to update and maintain its current fleet. The department purchased a new staff vehicle which will be utilized by the Assistant Chief. The vehicle is a 2017 Ford Explorer. The vehicle was outfitted and placed into service during the month of April.

During December, the Fire Department purchased one 2017 Ford E350 Wheeled Coach Ambulance. This gives the township a total of seven ambulances of this type. These ambulances were designed with cost and efficiency in mind. The ambulances are smaller and lighter, which makes maneuvering through the township much easier. The ambulances will continue to help cut annual maintenance costs. The new ambulance will incorporate the latest technology and safety features for the patient and the crew. The ambulance will also receive a new Stryker Power-Load System, which will help prevent firefighter injuries and is much safer for the loading and unloading of the patient. After final outfitting and training, the new ambulance will be placed in service in spring of 2018.

The department also purchased three new Thermal Imaging Cameras. The cameras were from FLIR Corporation. These cameras will increase the number of cameras the department has and will increase firefighter safety. The cameras will also aid in the searching for victims and hidden fire.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## TRAINING

During 2017, the Fire Department training program continued to grow and evolve. The Fire Department incorporated several types of training throughout the year, completing more than 9,000 hours of training.

A joint training with mutual aid fire departments at the City of Cincinnati's Live Burn Training Facility was a highlight of the year. The training consisted of conducting live fire scenarios which challenged the crews' skill and enhanced the working relationship Union Township has with its neighboring agencies. The success of this training has prompted additional similar trainings.



On two occasions, members convened at Live Oaks Joint Vocational School for practical training utilizing the school's five-story training simulator. This training involved cold smoke scenarios that allowed a realistic simulation of conducting operations within multi-story buildings. Using simulated smoke allowed crews to reset the scenarios quickly and focus on skill development by repetition.

Over a three-day period, members were able to utilize a local gravel pit for water rescue training. During this training, water rescues were simulated by crews using boats, dry suits and associated rescue equipment.

The Fire Department utilized an online training program developed for Public Safety Responders and administered through the Ohio Fire Academy. The training presented is designed to meet the continuing education requirements that each member must complete to maintain his/her state certifications. Our members hold many different certifications, and each has specific requirements that can be met using this training system. The courses are developed nationally by many agencies that present new ideas and techniques from all over the country.



The paramedic service is provided under the auspices of a medical director. Each month, the Fire Department's medical direction team provides training to the crews in the areas of the EMS service that is provided. Interaction with the physicians allows for questions to be answered and the service to be improved as needed. Latest trends in medical treatment, new skills and equipment are presented by the physicians, all of whom are associated with University Hospital Medical Center, the only Level One Adult Trauma Center in the region.

Many members took part in outside trainings during the year. In an ever-changing industry, keeping up-to-date on training as presented in different areas is crucial. Training classes that are outreached are also brought here to the department. Fire Safety Educator training, offered by the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office, was conducted here to allow members interested in providing that service to obtain that certification locally.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our fire investigators are involved with many organizations throughout the county, region and some on an international basis. Investigation training is provided by the Clermont County Fire Investigation Team, which is led by Union Township Fire Chief Stan Deimling, and counts many township firefighters among its investigators.



## INTERNAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

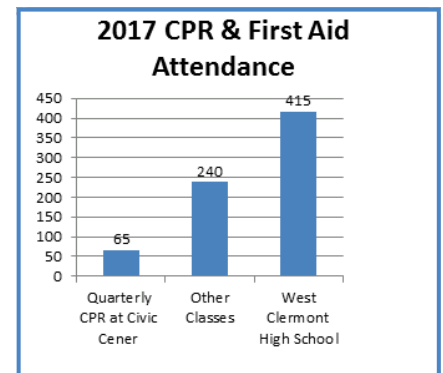
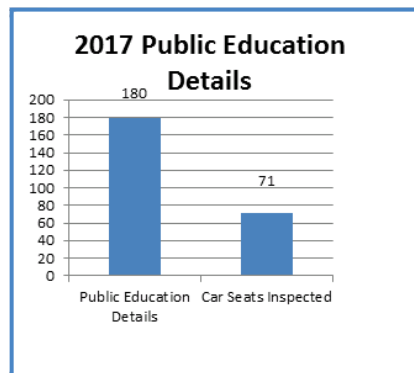
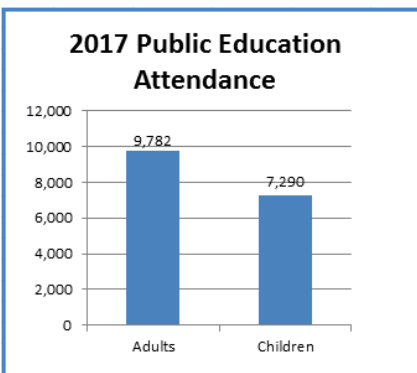


The Fire Department maintained many internal protection programs during 2017. Some of the programs included testing and maintenance of fire hydrants, fire hose, fire pumps on apparatus, small engines and ladders. These programs are intended to provide assurance that emergency equipment is in proper functioning order. With the advances in computer technology, firefighters and paramedics have been equipped with computer-aided dispatch tablets inside the fire and EMS units, which allows them to see the calls for service as the dispatcher is gathering the information. The Fire Department has also deployed the use of ESO, which is an electronic health record system that improves EMS prehospital clinical documentation. This program is managed by the fire department and information technologies.

## FIRE CHAT

Since its debut in 2007, the Fire Department has continued production of the cable talk show *Fire Chat*. The show, hosted by Lieutenant Travis Brown, has been well received by the citizens of Union Township. Lt. Brown interviews guests in the studio at Station 51, concentrating on educating the public on a myriad of special topics and services provided by the fire department. These topics include Fire Code Enforcement, Car Seat Safety Checks, Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Smoke Detectors, Holiday Safety Tips and Severe Weather Preparation. *Fire Chat* provides life safety information relevant to the challenges faced by the fire service today.

## PREVENTION AND EDUCATION



During 2017, prevention emphasis was placed on new construction. Some of these projects included Crossroads Church, West Clermont High School, Echelon Apartments, Trilogy Senior Housing, and Union Township Senior Apartments.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Continued commitment to education was evident during 2017. The department participated in 128 public education events that were attended by more than 17,000 people. Free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were given out and 66 child safety car seats were inspected. 2017 proved to be a record breaking year for Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes.

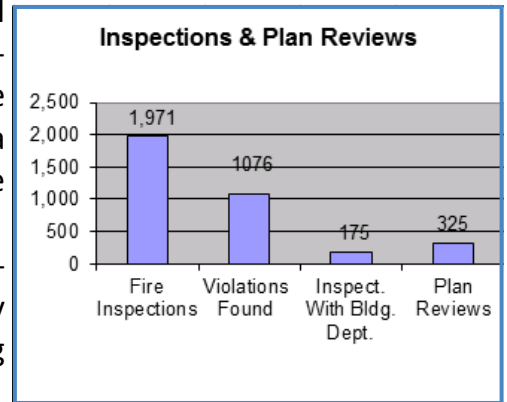
CPR classes were taught to a total of 720 participants, including 415 students from West Clermont High School. With the opening of the new high school in 2017, a challenge was met with the higher number of students at the new school. In the spring of 2017, CPR was taught to 137 students at Glen Este High School. In the fall of 2017, CPR was taught to a total of 415 students at West Clermont High School. Due to the increase in students, two health teachers were brought in as CPR instructors to help assist with the classes. This allowed for the classes to remain in the one week time frame.

### FIRE INSPECTIONS AND PLAN REVIEWS



The Fire Department conducted 1,971 annual life safety inspections during 2017. These inspections were conducted by certified on-duty fire safety inspectors with the goal of providing a safe occupancy for the business owner and the occupants/customers.

In addition to annual inspections, 175 inspections were conducted with the Clermont County Building Department and 325 sets of building plans were reviewed.



### CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS

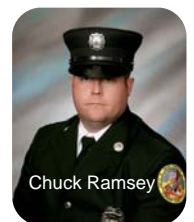
The Fire Department regularly collects and analyzes feedback, through Customer Satisfaction Surveys, from residents who use our services. These surveys provide a tool to assess the department's performance and the overall satisfaction of the customers served. The surveys are sent to recipients of emergency service, as well as non-emergency details, including public education and fire safety inspections.

Once the surveys are returned they are reviewed by management and issues are addressed for improvement or recognition and appropriate feedback is given to the personnel involved. The survey is broken down into six categories and each question is given a rating of 1 to 3; three is exceeding expectations and 1 is less than expected.

In 2017, the Fire Department sent out 182 surveys. Twenty-nine surveys were returned, with an average score of 2.33, indicating a high level of satisfaction among those who responded.

### EMPLOYEE NEWS

During 2017, the Fire Department hired three firefighter/paramedics. One began in February and two began their careers with Union Township in August. They are John Rose, Ryan Passet, and Chuck Ramsey.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## AMELIA COVERAGE

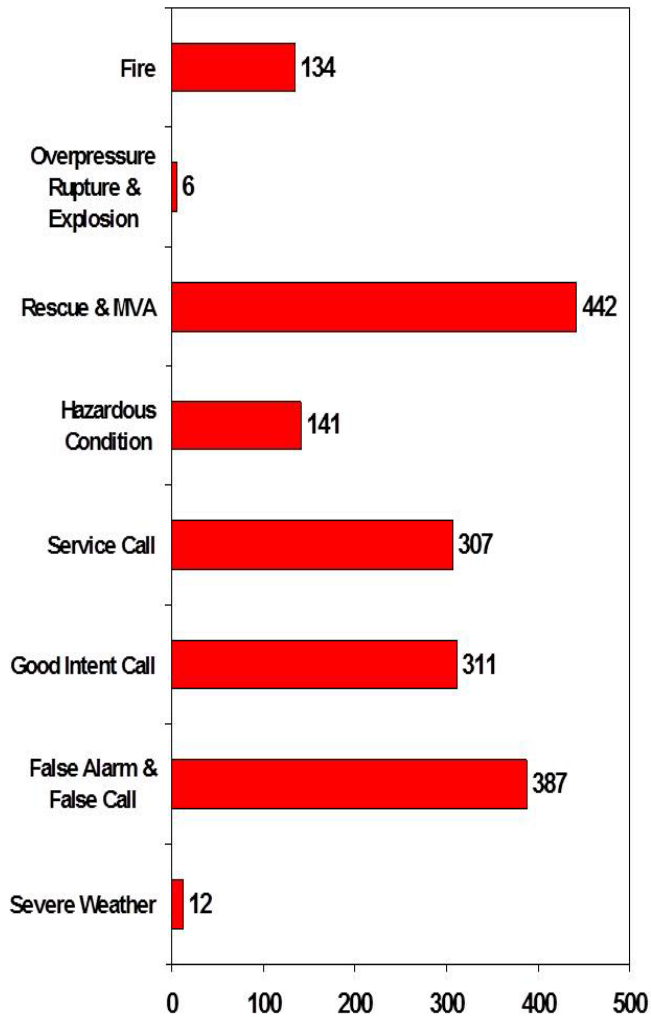
During 2017, the Fire Department continued its fire and emergency medical service coverage for the Village of Amelia. The Fire Department responded to 648 emergency medical incidents and 110 fire incidents. In addition to emergency response, the department maintained a proactive stance in providing public education to the citizens and business community in the village, as well as recertifying the police department in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) use. Assistant Chief Fyffe attends the Amelia Village Council meetings to provide input and answer any questions or concerns the council members may have concerning fire and emergency medical and safety issues that arise in the Village.



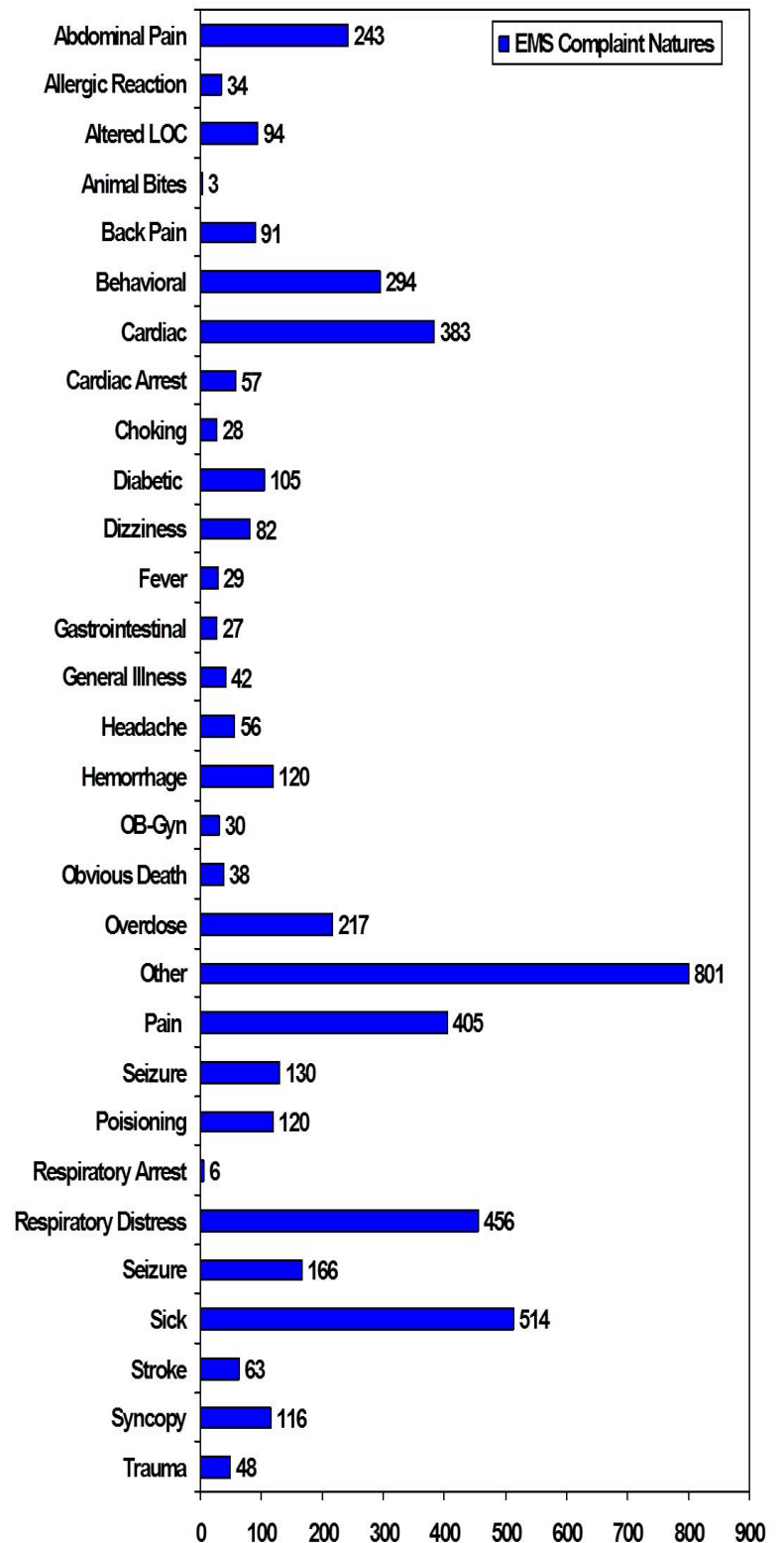
# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### 2017 Fire Responses

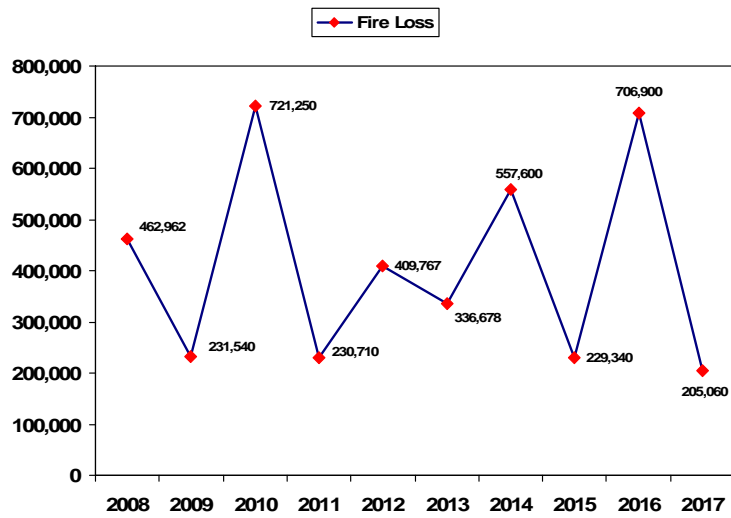


### 2017 EMS Responses

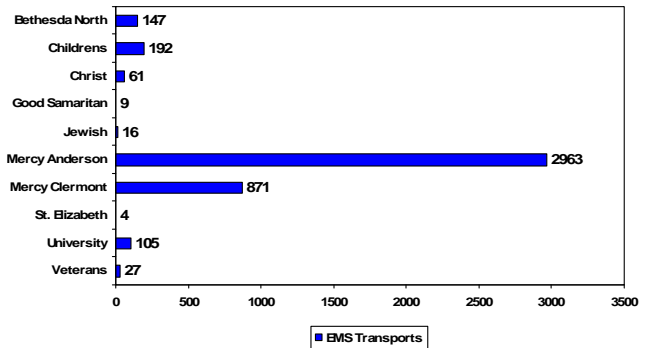


# FIRE DEPARTMENT

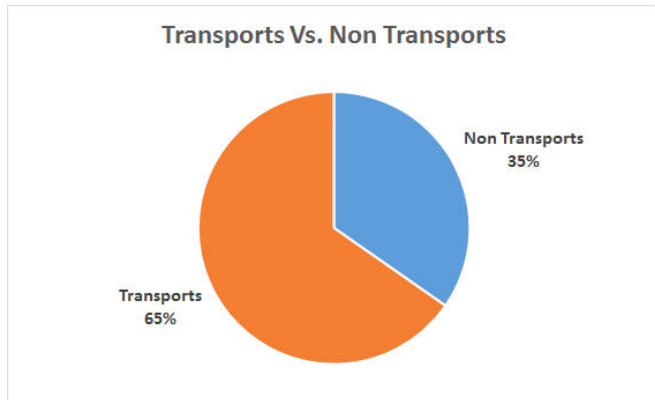
## 2017 FIRE LOSS



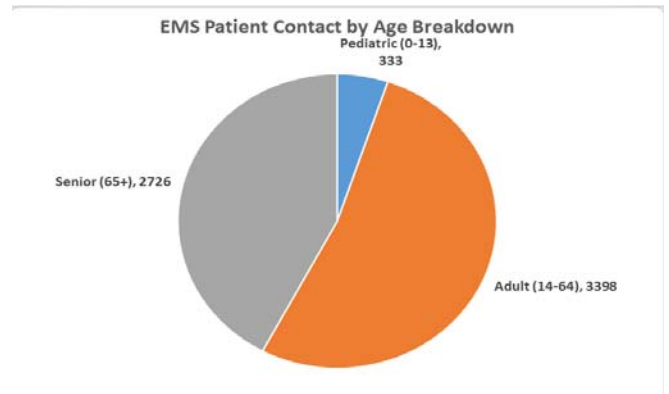
## 2017 EMS TRANSPORTS



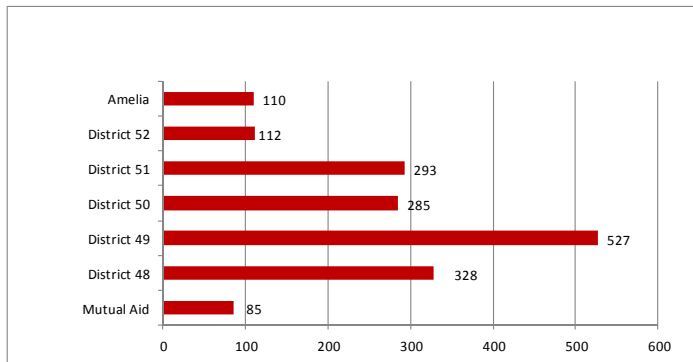
## 2017 TRANSPORTS VS. NON-TRANSPORTS



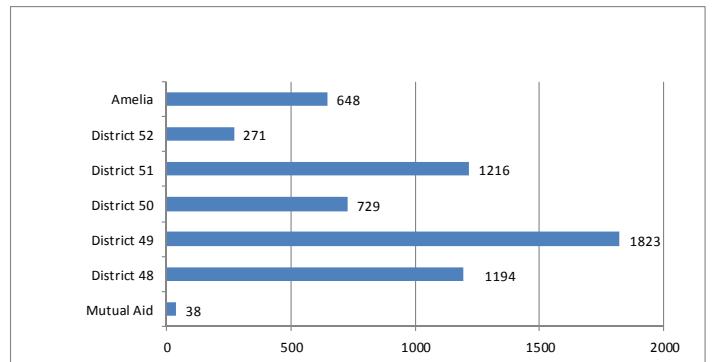
## 2017 PATIENT CONTACT BY AGE



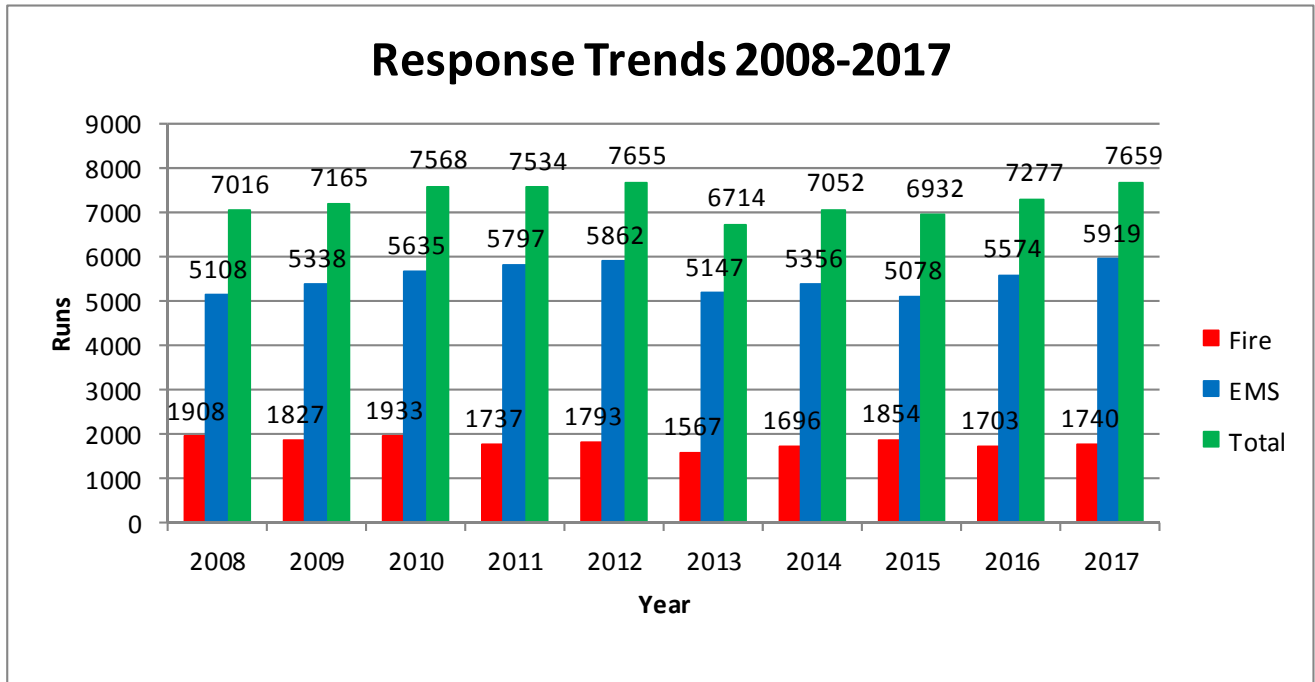
## 2017 FIRE RESPONSES BY DISTRICT



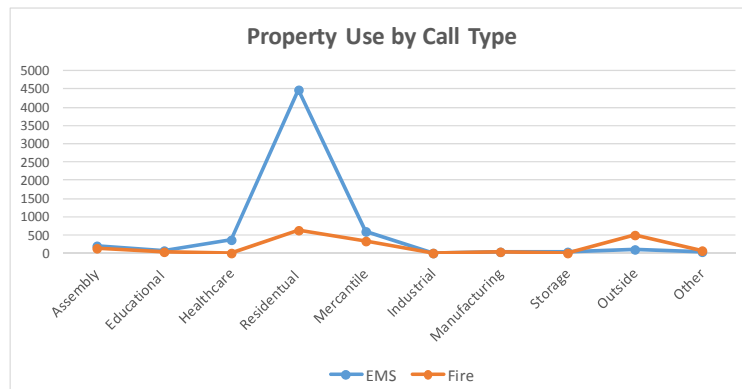
## 2017 EMS RESPONSES BY DISTRICT



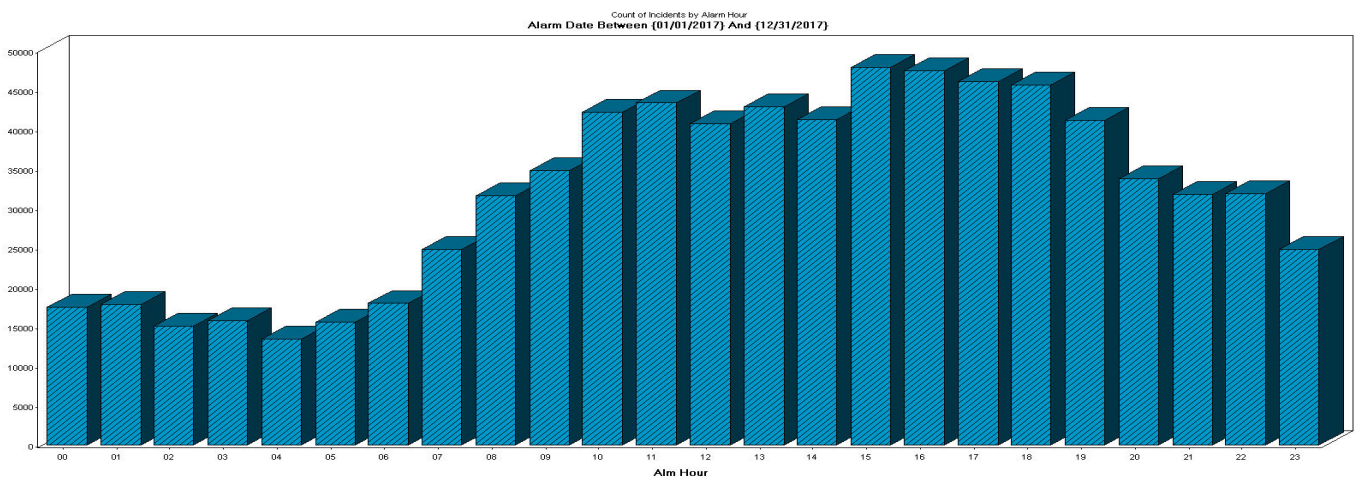
# FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2017 PROPERTY USE BY CALL TYPE



## 2017 INCIDENTS BY HOUR



## 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 2017 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 2017, commercial development activity continued its strong upward trend, with booming activity and interest in quasi-institutional expansions and residential projects. Significant traffic enhancement projects continue to aid in moving vehicles more efficiently throughout the Eastgate area, and the State Route 125 corridor has experienced a large share of reinvestment and development activity as well. Several nuisance structures were successfully removed due to efforts of the township, and this reduction in blight has netted positive outcomes for surrounding neighborhoods.

Residential growth and demand remains vibrant, with strong activity seen in both the single family residential category, along with multi-family residential. Medical and quasi-medical uses continued to be discussed and developed within Union Township in 2017. More importantly, the township appears poised to continue growth into 2018 and beyond due to the positive momentum already established by the Board of Trustees.

As we move forward into 2018, the Planning Department remains poised and ready to plan for and guide continued growth and prosperity within Union Township.

Very truly yours,

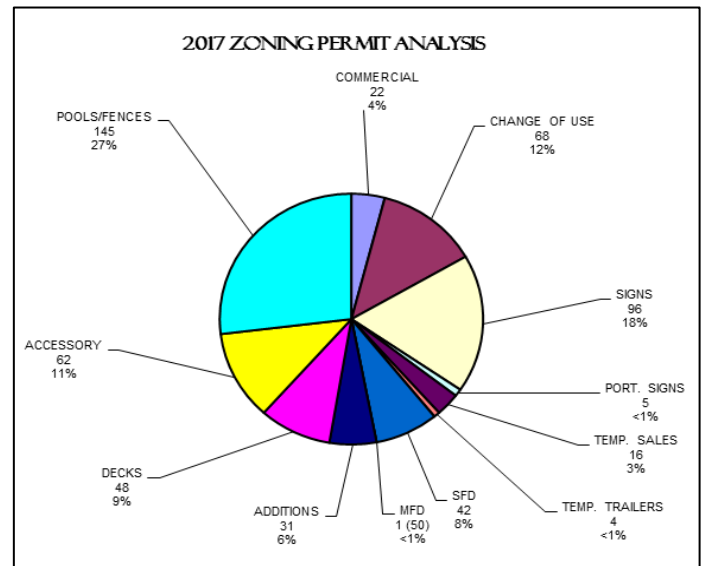
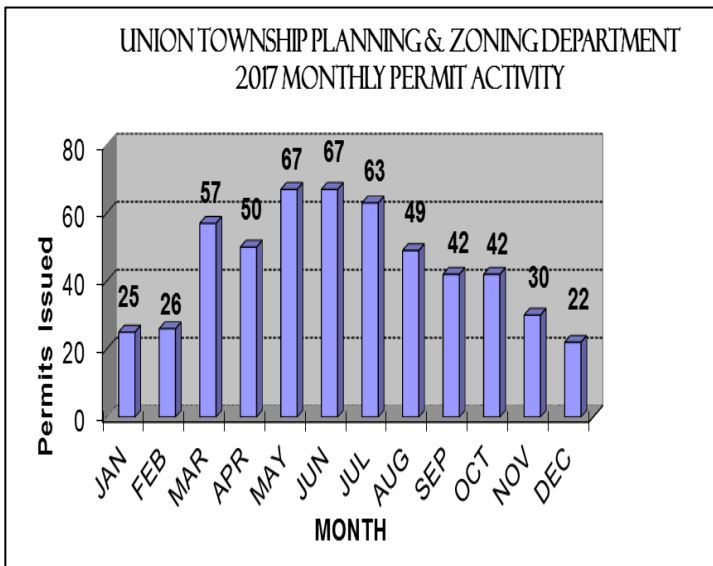
A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory Wright'.

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

# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

## ZONING ADMINISTRATION

The Union Township Planning & Zoning Department issued 540 permits in 2017, representing a numerical decrease of approximately 15 percent over 2016 permit totals (640). The department issued 22 new commercial permits in 2017, whereas the department issued 29 commercial permits in 2016, representing a numerical reduction in gross permit totals. However, permit revenue exceeded 2016 year totals, due primarily to the size and valuation of the larger commercial projects permitted in 2017, compared on a “per project” basis. As such, yearly revenue growth in the absence of an increase in commercial permit totals is reflective of the continued interest to develop large commercial projects within Union Township. Additionally, 68 commercial changes of use/occupancy were issued in 2017, indicative of strong demand for both new and existing commercial space, which mirrored 2016 levels. Residential permit activity remained consistent in 2017, with 42 new single-family dwelling (SFD) permits issued. Multi-family housing demand remained heavy in Union Township during 2017, as permits for 50 new attached multi-family units were issued last year. Other permit totals generally mirrored 2016 levels with respect to signage permits, accessory buildings, residential additions, and other seasonally issued permits. Despite a decline in overall permit activity, revenues increased nearly 1 percent over the already record permit revenue received in 2016, reflecting a higher “per project” permit value and corresponding square footage per project.

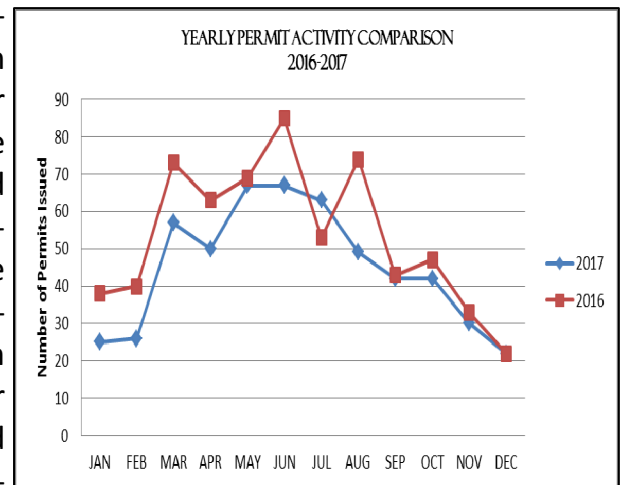


## ZONING ENFORCEMENT

In 2017, the Planning & Zoning Department continued enforcement gains in overall aesthetic appearance and quality of life made during the past several years. The department recorded 156 zoning violation complaints from the public in 2017. Of those complaints received, more than 31 percent were determined to be without cause or basis. However, 124 properties were found to be in violation of the zoning code during 2017.

## PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

The department continued 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 declined in 2017, with 18 nuisances declared throughout the year. Similar to 2016, several of the nuisances identified were condemned or determined to be unsafe structures. Blighted structures that were rehabilitated, demolished, or removed in 2017, either through abatement by the township or voluntarily by the owner upon receiving citations, include 4455 Eva Lane, 1189 Old State Route 74, and 4820 Powderhorn Drive in the Summerside area. Additionally, 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 through court-ordered intervention by Union Township. Illegal signage removal efforts were considerably escalated through a new public-private partnership.



As always, public money expended for demolition is recuperated through the assessment process. An arrangement with private contractors to abate grass and/or structure continues to be successful and cost-effective. Union 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.

### 2017 INSPECTION DATA

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	TOTAL
Inspections	614
Complaints	156
Unfounded Complaints	49
Warning Citation	69
15 Day Noncompliance letter	37
30 Day Violation letter	15
Forward to Township Attorney	3
Resolved w & w/o action	136
Illegal Signs Removed	By Contract
Miscellaneous Issues	146
Violations Monthly Total	193
Reinspection of Violations	169
Nuisance Filed	18

### YEAR-OVER YEAR INSPECTION ACTIVITY

ZONING VIOLATIONS & INSPECTIONS	2016	2017
Public Complaints Received	172	156
Properties in Violation	147	124
Warning Citations Issued	86	69
15 Day Noncompliance Letter Issued	40	37
30 Day Violation Letter Issued	20	15
Violations Resolved	138	136
Legal Action Pursued	1	3
Zoning Violation Follow-Up Inspections	210	169
False Complaints Received	49	49
Miscellaneous Issues	148	146
Inspections	547	614
Nuisance Abatement Actions	34	18

# PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

## BZA & ZONING COMMISSION

The Union Township Board of Zoning Appeals received eight cases for consideration in 2017, with the majority of those requests consisting of variance applications. In total, the board issued approvals in seven cases, with one case withdrawn voluntarily by the applicant. The Zoning Commission heard three zoning map amendment cases in 2017. An additional case, filed in 2017, is scheduled for consideration by the Zoning Commission in 2018. The Board of Trustees reviewed 15 Overlay District Applications filed in 2017, with a total of 15 approvals issued.

### ZONING STATISTICS 2017

Major Amendments to Approved Planned Developments heard by the Board of Trustees	6
Minor Amendments to Approved Planned Developments resolved by Administrative Action	7

#### Zoning Commission Cases

Total Number of Cases Filed	3
Zone Changes	3
Text Amendments	0

#### Final Action of the Board of Trustees

Zone Changes Approved	3
Zone Changes Pending	1
PD Major Amendments Approved	6
Text Amendments Approved	0
Focus Area Overlay Requests	15
Overlay Approvals	15

#### Board of Zoning Appeals

Total Number of Cases Filed	8
Appeals	0
Conditional Use	0
Variances	8
Approvals	7
Denials	0
Pending	0
Withdrawal	1

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Union Township had another busy year, with 2017 ushering in the completion of the new West Clermont High School project, as well as several other marquee projects. Major residential construction in 2017 included projects well underway at Clover Senior Apartments, Trilogy Communities, Echelon by 360, and Belleview Apartments, and also included strong activity within the newly developed M/I Homes development, Estrella. The much-acclaimed renovation of the Stone Creek Apartments finished in 2017 as well, resulting in the full-scale renovation and rebranding of 186 multi-family units by new consolidated ownership, thereby positively transforming the Cherry Grove area. Cherry Grove also saw Mod Pizza open at the former Goodyear Tire site.

## **PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT**

Crossroads Eastgate completed their new Eastside campus project in the Eastgate South area, resulting in more than 100,000 new square feet and a new 2,500 seat sanctuary added to the western side of the Jungle Jim's Eastgate development. CubeSmart began construction of a new, three-story climate controlled storage facility at the intersection of Old State Route 74 and Eastgate Boulevard in 2017, and Mercy Health was approved for a three-story Class A medical office building within the Ivy Pointe Commerce Park. Siena Gardens began construction at the vacant lot adjacent to the former Joe Kidd Dodge dealership, resulting in the development of a more than 70,000 sq. ft. skilled care and nursing facility along State Route 125, near McMann and Merwin-Ten Mile Road. In this same corridor, a new Gold Star Chili restaurant was developed at the long-vacant Pizza Hut location near Bach-Buxton Road. Mt. Carmel Brewing Company embarked on an exciting Tap Room construction project as well in 2017. When complete, this Union Township craft beer destination will include more than 6,000 sq. ft. of a new tap room and event center space, new parking, and enhancements to their growing campus. La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery commenced construction on a new flagship showroom along Eastgate South Drive, and Eastgate Meijer also completed a multi-million dollar renovation of their store along Eastgate North Drive in 2017. Holman Motors completed yet another expansion project with a new consolidated RV Sales and Service facility constructed at their ever-expanding campus near Elick Lane.

### **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 2017 as well, in coordination with the township. The long-anticipated Aicholtz Road connector project opened in 2017, ushering in a new era of connectivity for both motorists and pedestrians alike. Evidence of continued positive momentum was apparent during the 2017 shopping season, with heavy traffic handled readily by the recently upgraded and improved roadway facilities. Planning continues for additional components of the Eastgate Area improvements in conjunction with the CCTID, Union Township, and the County Engineer's office.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis,

I am pleased to present Union Township Police Department's annual report for the year 2017.

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 fourth year in a row. There was a reduction in most categories of reported crime. The biggest decrease in reported crime was under the robbery category, which showed a 31 percent decline. Violent crime continues to remain very low for a jurisdiction of our size. Union Township officers remain active in traffic enforcement, education, and research. 2017 yielded a slight decrease in traffic crashes from the previous year. For 2017, police calls for service were up 1.2 percent, approaching 58,000 annually.

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 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 2017, 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 in blue ink that reads "Scott Gaviglia".

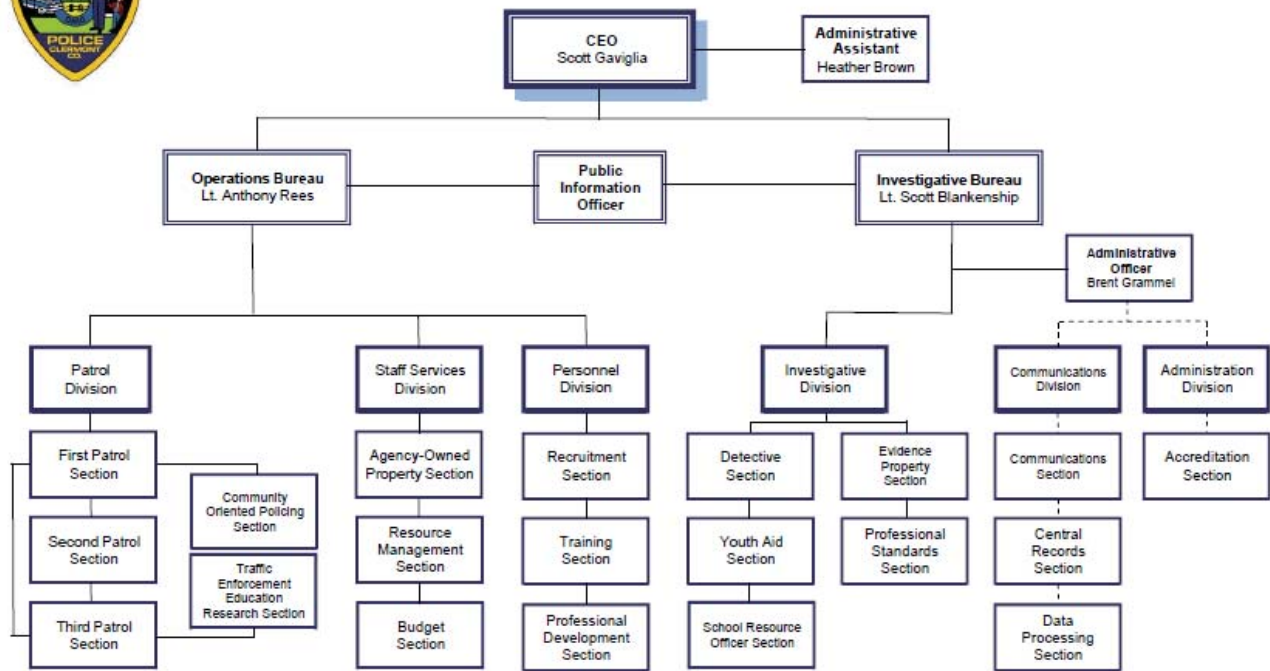
Scott Gaviglia M.B.A. CLEE  
Chief of Police

# POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Union Township Police Department

January 2017



Nationally accredited  
Police Department  
and  
Communication Center.



# 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 20 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, and is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute.

*Lt. Scott Blankenship* commands the Investigative/Administrative Bureau. He is a veteran police officer with 25 years of experience and has 20 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 16 years. He possesses a Bachelor's and 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).

*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

## 2017 Crimes Reported, Traffic Enforcement, and Calls for Service

Crimes Reported	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
<b>Part 1 UCR</b>													
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	3	2	5	6	2	2	3	0	3	3	1	30
Robbery	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Assault	5	7	7	9	11	9	18	12	6	10	9	2	105
Burglary/B&E	6	8	10	9	13	19	9	17	17	17	11	12	148
Theft/Larceny	101	93	95	83	84	73	85	115	80	79	96	84	1068
Auto Theft/Unauthorized Use	7	4	4	6	4	7	5	4	2	6	4	6	59
Arson	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4
Domestic Violence	17	12	13	13	21	11	23	18	11	14	11	12	176
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1596</b>
<b>Other Non-UCR/General*</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Totals</b>
DUI	16	15	17	25	20	15	14	16	13	28	17	15	211
All Other Offenses	224	193	223	234	269	271	254	234	205	213	247	195	2762
All Other Non Offenses	222	222	243	255	300	257	300	320	284	298	249	266	3216
<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>6189</b>
<b>Total Crimes Reports</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>7785</b>
<b>Traffic Enforcement</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Citations	198	208	195	217	208	209	185	193	178	194	196	217	2398
Warnings	565	509	579	465	466	496	520	514	494	477	575	530	6190
Traffic Stops	713	675	746	627	614	637	654	656	621	596	736	668	7943
Traffic Crashes	111	113	112	131	141	119	101	126	121	132	117	166	1490
Traffic Crashes on Private	28	20	38	43	37	24	30	35	39	40	30	30	394
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>4455</b>	<b>4264</b>	<b>4786</b>	<b>4532</b>	<b>5249</b>	<b>4766</b>	<b>4957</b>	<b>5098</b>	<b>4810</b>	<b>4764</b>	<b>4917</b>	<b>4727</b>	<b>57325</b>

\*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 38 employees.



**The Patrol Division** is the largest division of the bureau and is responsible for handling citizen calls for service, tactical response to apprehend criminals, community problem solving, enforcement of traffic laws, and investigation of traffic crashes. Citizen calls for service increased .72 percent from the prior year, 2016. The year 2017 saw an increase in the number of crime reports by officers, with 7,785 total reports generated, a 13.6 percent increase from 2016. Part 1 UCR Crimes (the major felony type crimes) decreased from 1,673 to 1,596, a 4.6 percent reduction from 2016. 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 a state-certified canine unit 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 in identifying traffic hazards. The total number of crashes investigated in 2017 (1,884) decreased .84 percent, after seeing an increase in 2016. Road construction in Union Township saw a sharp decrease in 2017 after a busy 2016, which may have contributed to the decrease in accidents. The number of arrests for Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence increased 5.6 percent, from 199 arrests in 2016 to 211 in 2017, which was a sharp decline from the 33 percent increase in OVI's from 2015 to 2016.

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

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



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Union Township Police hosted or took part in 133 events in 2017, ranging from child safety talks to neighborhood watch meetings and hosting citizen riders. The *Crime Prevention Section* accomplished its goals in 2017, hosting two Women's Self Defense classes and the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 stage the event with over \$10,000 in funds raised within the private sector of the township.



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 Citizens' 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 13<sup>th</sup> Citizens' Police Academy in August, 2017, 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 2017. Officers hosted 69 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Child Gun Safety class in January. UTPD once again partnered with **Crimestoppers** to host its annual Pill Drop-off and paper shredding events at Furniture Fair and the Union Township Civic Center in April and September.

The Crime Prevention Section handled two Cub Scout and Girl Scout tours and two career days at local elementary schools and job fairs. Officers also attended two holiday block parties and two "Touch the Truck" events. Officers, in conjunction with members of the American Legion Stuart G. Luginbuhl Post 72, again participated in the annual "Shop with a Cop" event at Meijer in December.

The Crime Prevention Section spent \$3,626 of its budgeted \$5,000 in 2017. In keeping with the department's mission of fostering a relationship of genuine, mutual respect within 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.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 the 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 personnel under the direction of Lt. Rees. Training in lethal and non-lethal force and response to critical incidents far exceeds those standards set by the State of Ohio. Training requests from members directly correspond to annual evaluations, endorsed by one's supervisor and approved by a training committee. The agency takes advantage of all local, state, and federal training offers and occasionally sponsors and hosts state provided training for other departments at Union Township's Civic Center. In-service roll call training included immersive topics such as ethics, racial profiling, critical incident response, 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 1,919 hours of training in 2017, including eight hours of in-service training on Taser and Pepper Ball Systems recertification. The agency participates in a county-wide Special Response Team by assigning six tactical officers and two negotiators. In addition, two 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 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.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

**The Canine Unit** continues to be an integral part of the patrol function within the police department. Officer Perkins and his canine partner, Kaos, serve as an interdiction team assisting on all traffic stops and calls for service where drugs are suspected to be involved. 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. Kaos is also a tracking canine and can be utilized to track and search for missing persons and suspects at large.



**The Union Township Honor Guard** performed at numerous functions in the community last year and also competed in Washington D.C. in May for the annual Police Memorial Week festivities. The Honor Guard placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams in the competition. The Honor Guard also performed at several veteran's events such as the Veteran's Day parade in Batavia and the Salute to Leaders dinner in the spring.

## 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, Communications and Administrative.

**The Investigation Division** is made up of five sworn officers. Detectives are assigned all serious felony crimes, missing persons, and death investigations. Serious felony crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, major theft or fraud, auto theft, and arson. Also, the agency's School Resource Officers for West Clermont High School are a unit of the Investigation Division due to the sensitive nature of the position. Additionally, a new SRO position was created for the new West Clermont High School this year, due to the merger of two high school campuses. 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 school district.

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

During 2017, investigators worked over 524 felony cases, closing about 111 (21 percent) by arrest. Of the remaining, 355 (53 percent) were closed otherwise, inactivated, or unfounded. Remaining open and added to the 2018 caseload were 140 cases, or 26 percent.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

There were 3,830 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 detective is responsible for preparation of court documents, transportation of evidence to crime laboratories, conducting auctions, and maintaining inventories. Inventories are conducted four times a year.

The *Polygraph Unit* performed 32 exams, to include some for other agencies and pre-employment. Several exams and subsequent confessions led to convictions of serious offenders.

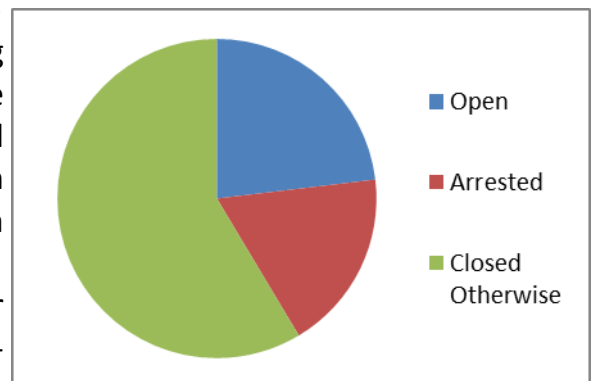
Investigation Division officers receive advanced training in evidence gathering and processing, suspect interviewing, case preparation and management, and specialized homicide and sex crime investigation techniques.

The 2017 investigative highlights included the successful conviction of an individual suspected of numerous rapes and burglary cases.

The Investigation Division participated in the apprehension and prosecution of suspects after allegedly having committed a felony at a local pharmacy, where items were stolen. Due to the quick action of the Investigative Unit and the assistance of Union Township citizens, all of the stolen items were recovered. All investigations were brought to a close in a timely manner, which led to court convictions.

The *Administrative Bureau* 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 complement of thirteen non-sworn members.

2017 Investigation Division Case Closure



**The Communications Division** is managed by Administrative Officer Brent Grammel. This division consists of 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch (one of only two centers in Clermont County, Ohio), and Data Processing. Dispatchers share data entry duties and assist Central Records. These are important support functions of the agency, utilizing 13 non-sworn employees. Communications provides 24-hour emergency dispatching of Police, Fire, and EMS services for Union Township, as well as for the neighboring Village of Amelia, Ohio. 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.



During 2017, the Communications Center fielded 22,747 emergency 9-1-1 calls. In addition, they received an additional 59,588 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.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 is 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 nationally reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies in 2016. The Communications Center was recognized by APCO (Association of Public Communications Organization) in 2017 for their completion of CALEA Accreditation.



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 2017, there was one professional standard investigation and one citizen complaint.

### 2017 Citizen Complaints

Exonerated	0
Not sustained	2
Unfounded	0
Sustained	1
Withdrawn	0
TOTAL	2

*\* One complaint had two outcomes.*

## 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 2017-2019 agreement were finalized in October for three years. The next negotiation will begin in 2019.

**There were no grievances filed in 2017.**

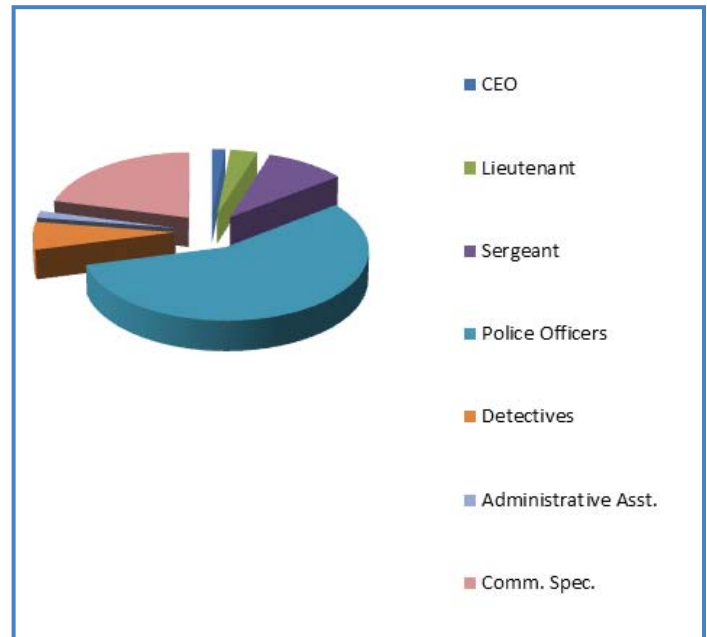
# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 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	0	4
Sworn Total	45	3	48

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	16	62
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## 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 and *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.

Sgt. Mike White and Officers Josh Hathorn and Anthony Metzger were recognized by the American Legion Post 72 for their outstanding efforts in investigating and preventing the kidnapping and sexual assault of a small child at a local hotel.

Investigator Ken Mullis and Dispatcher Tracy Daly were recognized at the 2017 Clermont County Police Appreciation Banquet for their efforts in investigating and apprehending a subject responsible for over 30 burglaries in the tristate area, including Union Township.



The Union Township Police Department



PRIDE

PROGRESS

PROFESSIONALISM

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2017 Sworn Officers

<i><b>Officer</b></i>	<i><b>Serving Since</b></i>	<i><b>Officer</b></i>	<i><b>Serving Since</b></i>
Sgt. Jeff Brown	1996	Officer Ryan Maynard	2014
Sgt. David Combs	1998	Officer Tony Metzger	2006
Sgt. Gregory Jasper	1993	Officer Brian Milne	2005
Sgt. Rick Wagner	1997	Officer Joe Pangallo	2007
Sgt. Mike White	1996	Officer David Perkins	2002
Sgt. Eric Williams	1998	Officer Keith Puckett	1999
Officer Brandon Bock	2014	Officer Ben Reardon	2006
Officer Chad Bullock	2003	Officer Brad Rhodes	2015
Officer Matt Cooper	2017	Officer Steve Seikbert *	2004
Officer Derek Disbennett	2015	Officer Cameron Shaw	2015
Officer Samantha Fedler	2008	Officer Alex Smith	2016
Officer Chris Godsey	2002	Officer Danielle Smith	2006
Officer Brent Grammel	2002	Officer Mark Stephens	2000
Officer Josh Hathorn	2005	Officer Bryan Taylor ***	2007
Officer William Hoess	2015	Officer Dylan Torok	2016
Officer Chris Holden	2006	Officer Mike Ventre	2003
Officer Jeffery Joehnk	2004	Officer Daniel Wilfert	2002
Officer Alex Koszo	2007	Officer Richard Williams*	1998
Officer Terry Kresser	2007	Officer Chris Wilson	2006
Officer Chad Lutson	1998	Officer Clay Zimmerman	2006
Officer Scott Marshall	2014		

\* School Resource Officer

\*\*\* Narcotics Unit

<i><b>Detective</b></i>	<i><b>Serving Since</b></i>	<i><b>Detective</b></i>	<i><b>Serving Since</b></i>
Detective John Pavia	1999	Detective Ken Mullis	2004
Detective Josh Hines	2008	Detective Brandon Bishop	2002
Detective Erin Williams	2002		

## 2017 Non-Sworn

<i><b>Communication Specialist</b></i>	<i><b>Serving Since</b></i>	<i><b>Communication Specialist</b></i>	<i><b>Serving Since</b></i>
C/S Julie Depuccio	1997	C/S Jamie Robinson	2014
C/S Tracy Daly	1998	C/S Jason Jackson	2014
C/S Nicole Hctor	1999	C/S Alison 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 Haitz	2015
C/S Shannon Cox	2012		

### **Administrative Assistant**

Heather Brown	1997
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# SERVICE DEPARTMENT

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present the 2017 Annual Report for the Union Township Service Department.

In 2017, The Service Department's concentration remained on providing remarkable core services at the greatest value price. The department is taking the lead role in driving Union Township toward a more sustainable future through best management practices with regards to our community's infrastructure.

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)

We continue to work with the American Public Works Association. This opportunity affords us the ability to continuously develop our operations through effectively selecting and implementing already proven strategies from some of the most successful public works agencies in North America.

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.

Genuinely,



Matt Taylor  
Service Director



## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The principal role 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 16 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 preservation 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, and 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 408 work order requests in 2017. 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 2017 annual paving project were selected using this scientific data. In 2017, the following roads were repaved:

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

STREET NAME	FROM / TO
Cardinal Drive	Mockingbird to the end
Shephard Road	Tealtown to Tornado Lane
Chanticleer Way	Entire Road
Wellington Drive	Entire Road
Windsor Court	Entire Road
Fountain Court	Entire Road

In addition to these roads being repaved, improvements were made to Barg Salt Run Road, Binning Road, McGuffey Lane, Baldwin Road, Heritage Glen Drive, Roundhouse Drive, and Silver Streak Lane. 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 were areas of curbs needed replaced.

### ***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 2017, it was only necessary to treat the township roads a total of seven times due to an uncharacteristically mild winter. Each time the roads are treated for icy conditions, the usage of salt is approximately 80 tons. Approximately 560 tons of salt and more than 2,700 gallons of brine were applied to township roadways last year.



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, and Mount Moriah Cemetery. The salt used to treat 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 operation 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.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT



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 2017, a record-breaking 191 shelter reservation requests were filled at Veterans Park. 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 other memorable events in 2017 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 23 years ago is a Memorial Day vigil sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Clermont County 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 Tristate area. Over the years, this event has gained both regional and national attention.

Many more events are celebrated at Veterans Memorial Park and the Service Department's Parks Division keeps up with these events by making sure that all aspects of the park are operated and maintained in such a manner that brings pride to our community.

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.

### ***Clepper Park***

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

With entrances from Summerside and Barg Salt Run Roads, the park offers basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, a football field, walking track, fishing lake, and an equipped playground area.

Sheltered and unsheltered picnic areas with grills and public restrooms complete the full range of facilities found at Clepper Park. All the shelters have picnic tables that are handicap-accessible. These shelters can be reserved by residents and not-for-profit organizations at no cost. In 2017, a record-breaking 122 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.



## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The fishing lake is a “catch and release” operation and offers both the experienced and novice anglers a place to test their skills.

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

### ***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 392 requests for service in 2017. 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.*

The cemetery staff strives to accomplish this mission year round.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT



In keeping with the mission statement of Mt. Moriah Cemetery, several projects were completed in 2017. A key project was the installation of a second Open Book Memorial at the Cremation Scattering Garden. The first Open Book Memorial was installed in 2005. The first book is completely filled and accommodates 126 memorial plaques. The new Open Book Memorial is grey granite to match the original book, measuring five feet high and six feet wide. The new book will accommodate 128 memorial plaques. The Cremation Scattering Garden offers families an alternative for memorializing cremation. It is located on the east side of the cemetery, adjacent to the pond. The garden can be reached by following the stamped concrete walk from the parking area.

The walk continues around the perimeter of the garden. The Cremation Scattering Garden is enhanced with red rose bushes interlaced with green perennials. Over 850 spring daffodils and tulips are planted throughout the garden. Individual bronze bars with the name, birth and death years are placed on the memorial. The Cremation Scattering Garden is carefully maintained to ensure the beauty and serenity for future generations.

Another major project at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in 2017 was the restoration of the oldest markers in the cemetery. Approximately 70 markers, dating back to 1813, were removed, completely realigned in rows, and reinstalled. All the reinstalled markers were cleaned with a bio-degradable agent using non-abrasive equipment. In addition, approximately 38 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.

In addition, a family mausoleum located in Section 12 of the cemetery was completely restored. The mausoleum was purchased on March 17, 1896, by Rev. Joseph W. Hawkins and Wilber E. Bennett. Rev. Hawkins (1838-1907) was a chaplain and a Civil War veteran. Also interred in the mausoleum are Rachel Hawkins (1837-1925), Calvin W. Hawkins (1857-1859), Wilbur E. Bennett (1859-1953), Clara Bennett (1860-1939), and Joseph W. Bennett (1895-1896). To restore the mausoleum, the old caulk was removed and new caulk installed. The entire mausoleum was pressure-washed and cleaned with a wire brush. It was repainted with a grey outdoor latex paint.

The names and dates were hand painted in black, and decorative rock was installed at the base of the mausoleum. 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."

Mt. Moriah Cemetery not only recognizes the importance of the restoration of the markers, but the preservation of the history that goes along with those buried there. To help bring this history to life, the cemetery launched new interactive memorial pages on its website in 2017 to capture the histories of the individuals resting in its grounds.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Each person has his own memorial page where visitors can share memories, stories, photos and videos that will automatically build an interactive timeline of their loved one's life, showing from birth to death all of the major memories and events that tell their stories. The memorial page can be accessed through the township's website at Cemetery Search. Mt. Moriah Cemetery believes that every life has a story to be told, and through the Cemetery Search, we can collect and preserve the history of our community.

Another ongoing project throughout 2017 was the tree removal and planting project. Mt. Moriah Cemetery recognizes a commitment to the public for the removal of hazardous trees throughout the cemetery. In 2017, 25 hazardous or dead trees were removed from the cemetery grounds. In addition, approximately 20 new trees were planted in various locations on the cemetery grounds. Mt. Moriah Cemetery was honored to have a local Boy Scout choose the cemetery to complete his Eagle Scout project. The troop planted 14 new trees along the border of Section 14. The trees were Oak, Black Gum, Locust and Pear. In addition, they built and installed 30 birdhouses on various trees throughout the cemetery. The troop planted eight butterfly bushes at the entrance to Wilfert Heritage Grove. The new trees, bushes and bird houses are a tremendous and appreciated addition to the cemetery.

Improvements continued on the east side of Mt. Moriah Cemetery where the pond and waterfall are located. This is an area of exceptional beauty and serenity where visitors can reflect and remember their loved ones. The area was enhanced by the addition of two white Mute Swans. Mute Swans are European and Asian native birds that can be used to effectively control the nesting population of Canadian Geese. Mutes can live for upward of 50 years. Not only do the Mute Swans decrease the geese population, but, more importantly they add beauty and grace to the cemetery. In addition to the swans, a new stamped, concrete walkway was installed leading to the gazebo. The walkway was stamped to appear as cobblestone and colored to complement the gazebo. The picturesque bridge spanning the north end of the pond was completely refurbished. All of these improvements were completed in keeping with Mt. Moriah Cemetery's motto, "...to service and respect the needs of the present generation."

A major event at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in 2017 was the tenth 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. 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 delicious, complimentary dinner was served by candlelight.

A harmonious addition to the evening was a trio from the Clermont Philharmonic Orchestra, which performed soothing music throughout the evening. The Clermont County Marines Veteran Honor Guard performed the color guard presentation, followed by a bugler performing *Taps*. Boy Scout Troop 452 led the *Pledge of Allegiance* and *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*.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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 tenth 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, and trimming the tree limbs. All these efforts 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 2017, the cemetery staff prepared 245 burial sites, sold 177 new gravesites, poured 131 monument foundations and installed 18 government markers. In addition, 15 families used the Cremation Scattering Garden, and 20 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, Inc.

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 2017

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. In 2017, Jake Riley was chosen as the Employee of the Year. Jake Riley started working for the Service Department part-time in 2013, and was hired full-time on February 17, 2016. He is a maintenance worker in the Parks Division, where he takes great pride in keeping the parks in exceptional condition.

Administrator Ken Geis presents Jake Riley with Employee of the Year award.



### 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 Junk Collection Days are 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 2017, unwanted items included 43 refrigerators, with 21 garbage trucks and 28- 30 yard dumpsters filled with furniture,

clothing, bicycles, electronic equipment, and lawn equipment.

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT

In 2017, 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. Any township resident can receive as many Tree and Brush vouchers as they need. In 2017, the Service Department issued 426 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 2017, 109 Christmas trees were dropped off and recycled.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training are always major themes in the Service Department, and 2017 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
- Attended APWA National Snow and Ice Conference
- Ethics departmental training
- Ergonomics training
- Vision, Mission, 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 2017, 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 2018, 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

*The mission of Union Township Television is to support the development of a local volunteer program to facilitate, encourage and promote community involvement in the production of locally-produced television programs that will be available for cablecast on the township's access channels.*

*The station strives to round out local-producer offerings by providing professional, high-quality educational and entertaining programs. Union Township Television will provide the means to local producers to create programs that educate, entertain and enlighten the people of the township.*

*We encourage public participation to promote interest in local government, education and cultural events by providing quality programming that is consistent with state and federal laws.*

2017 marked the 12th 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 nationally acclaimed portrait painter, Carin Hebenstreit, to present high-quality programming to our viewers.

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 added 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. New in 2017 was [www.facebook.com/getcleannowCC](http://www.facebook.com/getcleannowCC), an anti-drug effort sponsored by the Clermont County Opiate Task Force, in which the Union Township Police Department participates.

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 administrative and internal departments. IT is responsible for services related to software, hardware, databases, Web resources, networks, and enterprise systems.

In 2017, IT updated the storage array in the datacenter to a newer model. This new storage array has nearly twice the capacity of the old one with still more room to expand if the need arises. The new array offers iScsi IP communication, which allows some of the servers in other parts of the township to take advantage of the storage even if they are not in the datacenter.

IT also replaced the iPads from both the police and fire departments with Lenovo windows 10 tablets. This has allowed us to use our mobile dispatching software, which gives both the police and fire departments real time information from dispatch.

In addition to major upgrade projects, day-to-day technical support is imperative to the smooth operation of each of the township departments. In 2017, IT opened 304 incident reports, resolving all but three, a nearly 100 percent resolve rate.



