



UNION TOWNSHIP



Clermont County

Est. 1811



Annual Report 2015



Union Township

Clermont County, Ohio

Est. 1811

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Board of Trustees

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Fiscal Officer

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Administrator

Ken Geis

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Lawrence Barbieri

Union Township Administration
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Union Township

Clermont County, Ohio

Est. 1811

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Administration	3-6
Fire Department	7-16
Planning & Zoning Department	17-20
Police Department	21-30
Service Department	31-38
Union Township Television	39-40



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 2015. 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 \$9.8 million in cash. Overall expenses totaled just less than \$59 million for the year with revenues at just more than \$59 million. The board continued to invest in the community through property acquisitions and sales. In this ever-changing economic environment, the trustees recognize that historic means of revenue generation are unsustainable.

Our township continues to be the center of all 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, highlights the public interest in the area. The majority of work along the I-275 corridor west of Gleneste-Withamsville Road was completed and opened to the public. The residential market is strong and positive housing starts point to the importance the private market has shown in our township. Mixed use development, focusing on amenity-driven homes, was again highlighted in our township. Commercial property increases and investment are seen on the State Route 32 corridor, Ivy Pointe and State Route 125.

In 2015, the township realized the sale of the last parcel in Ivy Point. The Ivy Point Commercial Development has grown to be recognized as one of the most successful commercial developments in the history of Clermont County. Beginning in 2005, the Board of Trustees structured a program to convert more than 100 acres of previously undevelopable land into one of the most desirable areas in the region. Undertaking a non-conventional approach to a partnership, the board agreed to purchase developed land at a “market-rate” instead of directly subsidizing the developer. There is no debate about the success of this project and those who questioned the investment are now silenced by the achievement.

This unique style of partnership, which the township trustees continue to embrace, has now become a framework for success. While other communities paid developers who lost their investment, Union Township has recovered more than 100 percent of its capital in new revenue. The township also has a new Ivy Pointe Park, a walking trail, and sustainable infrastructure to complement the new revenue stream. The existing JEDD revenue alone should generate an additional \$6 million over the next nine years. The new property tax may eclipse \$12 million in a like number of years (nine).

During this calendar year, the board announced a distinctive partnership with the West Clermont Local School District that will bring a brand new \$100 million high school to our community without an increase in taxes. Just as previous boards have invested in the community, this Board of Trustees agreed to a non-conventional measure to achieve prominence. Through a multitude of programs including but not limited to: Debt Restructure, Tax Increment Financing, Joint Economic Development Districts, Port Authority, Community Improvement Corporation Authority, public and private land sale(s) and public and private contracts, the board and the West Clermont School District opened up an additional 100-plus acres for future development. It is anticipated that the new property may reach an appraised value to exceed \$100 million, making the entire project in excess of \$200 million in new investment.

As an organization, we continue to look toward improvement in customer service and the quantity of services performed. Our employees are some of the best in the country. All services are accredited and we remain the only township in the country to have nationally or internationally accredited police, fire, communications, public works and cemetery.

Township 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 more than \$18 million. In September, 2015, the township received another Aa² rating from Moody's, recognizing the stability of the township's financial condition.

The township General Fund ended the year with a cash balance of \$9.84 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 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 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 sixth formal flag-retirement ceremony in June, hosted by the Vietnam Veterans, Clermont County Chapter 649.

2015 saw the Eighth 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.

Police, Fire and Service departments all host free community events for the public, from Police Night Out to CPR classes to Spring and Fall Junk Days.

PARTNERSHIPS

U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup maintains a satellite office in the Civic Center to meet with local constituents.

Township Administration

UC Health Air Care continued its temporary location at the Civic Center in 2015. Hosting the Air Care staff and helicopter has been of great benefit not only to the Union Township community but to Clermont County and beyond.

In addition to the many groups utilizing the gym, the Union Township Board of Trustees is proud of its partnership with the Glen Este Youth Basketball Association (GEYBA), a non-profit organization coaching teams from kindergarten to 12th grade who use the gym as a home base during the winter basketball season for practice and games. 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.

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.

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.

January 28, 2016

Dear Members of the Union Township Board of Trustees,

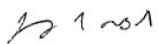
I am writing you this letter as the President of Glen Este Youth Basketball Association, Inc.

I wish to express my continuing appreciation for all of the help and assistance and cooperation you have provided to our program. The ability to use the Civic Center three evenings a week for practices and on each Saturday for games has been invaluable to our program. Without the use of the Civic Center, we would not have sufficient facilities in order to operate our program. The ability to use these facilities without paying rent has allowed us to hold down our registration fees, which in turn has made our program more affordable to families in Union Township. We are deeply grateful for all that you have done for our program over the years.

As you may be aware, the SNAP Dragons are now affiliated with our program, and we further appreciate your willingness to set aside one day a week for this program to operate.

I would also note that your staff has been very helpful to us in scheduling our use of the gym and in addressing any problems which have arisen. We have endeavored in turn to be responsible users of the township facilities and to make sure that the township property is treated with respect and appropriate care during the times that we are using the facility.

Thanks again for all of your help!



Jerry McBride, President
Glen Este Youth Basketball Association, Inc.



SNAP DRAGONS
SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETIC PROGRAM
*In association with GEYBA

January 8, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

I started the Snap Dragons basketball program 11 years ago. For the first 2 years, we played at the Clough Pike Elementary School gym. We then started playing at the Union Township Civic Center gym. That is when the program really started to grow. When we started, we only had about 10 - 12 players. We now have over 100 players and 10 cheerleaders. Last year, we also joined with Glen Este Youth Basketball Association due to the size of our program.

The Snap Dragons basketball program is a wonderful way for the community to help people with special needs. Our program works because we have excellent volunteers. We have adult coaches and student coaches. The student coaches are mostly from Glen Este High School and they help by assisting the younger players. They teach them the basics of the sport, showing them how to be a good team player and make friends. It also helps the parents to connect to other parents. They give support and share information about other activities where their children can participate. The families form lasting friendships.

We also had our first walkathon this summer at the Veterans Park. This was a great location and with the basketball courts and other amenities, it helped make our event a success.

I also have enjoyed getting to know Gina DiMario. What a lovely person! She is always helpful with any questions or concerns I have and is very efficient in the job.

Without the use of the gym and park in Union Township, I truly feel that the Snap Dragons Program would not have been able to expand as it has. This is another reason I love living in Clermont County!

Sincerely,

Kim Shepler
SNAP Dragons "Manager"
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/SNAP-Dragons>

Township 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) 536-4006
info@clermontseniors.com
www.clermontseniors.com

December 17, 2015

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 senior citizens. To begin, the Lifelong Learning Center has had an average monthly attendance of 844 visitors through the first eleven months of 2015; more than 100 additional visitors on average per month compared to 2014. Year after year the attendance at the Union Township Civic Center continues to grow and repeatedly surpasses our expectations.

Our talented staff coordinate the delivery of various programs designed to mentally, physically and artistically stimulate seniors through activities and classes such as creative drawing, floral design, yoga, basket weaving, computer, Tai Chi, Qigong, Healthy-U and much more.

In addition, the Center also hosted informational seminars related to Medicare and Prescription Drug plan enrollment, elder fraud and hoarding. Moreover, AARP volunteers also provided tax preparation assistance to over 650 seniors at the Union Township location. Stated differently, 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 Gramke
CEO/Executive Director


Bill DeHass
Community Services Director

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



Fire Department



To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:

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

2015 marked 25 years of service for the Union Township Fire Department. As we reflect back over that timeframe, the advancements and accomplishments are many. Everything from staffing, number of fire stations, vehicles, equipment, technology, training, run volume, and overall demands for service, both emergency and nonemergency, have kept pace with the growing township. Almost every aspect of the services has changed significantly within this short period of time.

One key component that has been a constant over this 25-year period that has and continues to set Union Township apart is the dedication, commitment, training and professionalism of its employees. They are truly second to none and they are what puts the fire and emergency medical services here at the top of its field.

Several of the employees have been here since the beginning of the department and deserve recognition. They are Lieutenant Bob Cabral, Lieutenant Kevin Cooper, Firefighter/EMT Jeff McCalla, and Firefighter/EMT Duane Willis. They are a small sample of that overall commitment, dedication and loyalty to this community.

The Fire Department looks forward to continuing to exceed expectations in the delivery of life safety services and meeting the challenges of today, tomorrow and for the next 25 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stanley G. Deimling", positioned below the word "Sincerely,".



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.

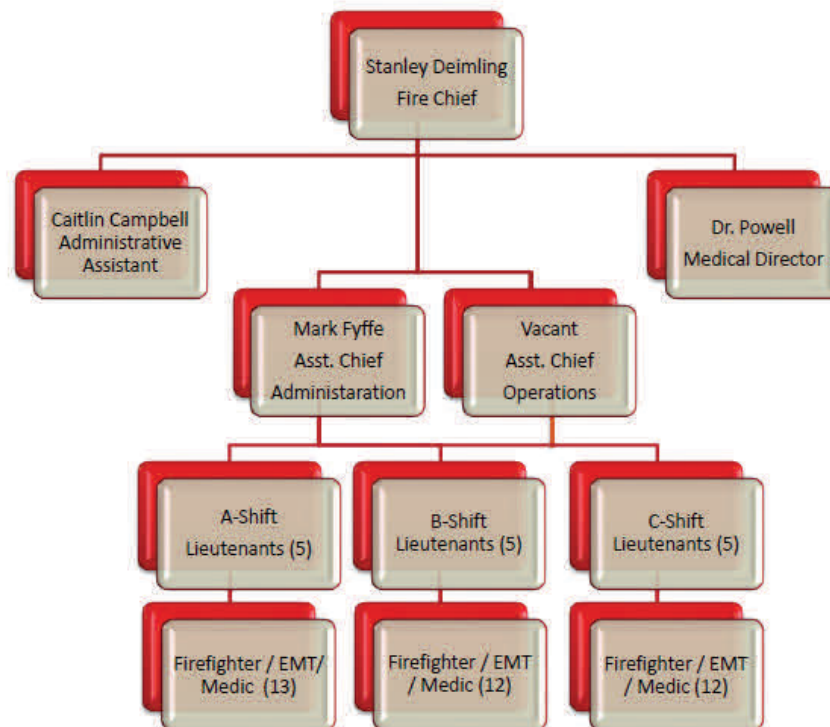


Nationally Accredited Fire Department



2015 Organizational Chart

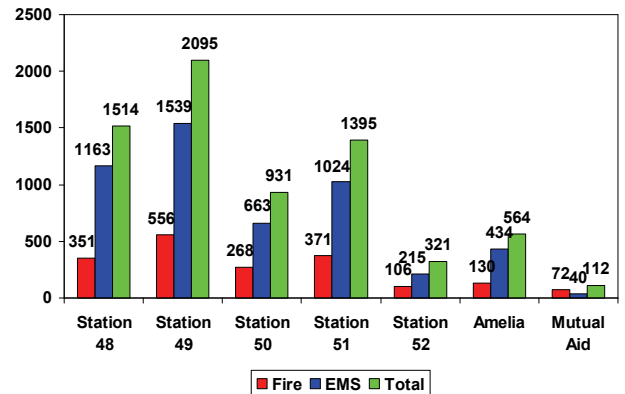
Union Township Fire Department



Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to 6,932 incidents, generating 9,522 vehicle responses for 2015. 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

Over the summer, the Fire Department purchased a 2015 Pierce Commercial pumper and a 2015 Polaris 6X6 Fire/EMS off-road vehicle. The new pumper was designed with safety and cost efficiency in mind. The truck is equipped with the latest technology and will serve our needs for years to come. It has a 1500gpm pump, light tower for night operations, LED warning lights and ample storage for emergency equipment. After final outfitting and training were completed, the pumper was placed in service in early fall.

The Polaris was designed to assist with retrieving victims from wooded areas and for fighting brush fires. The unit has a skid mounted pump with a 60-gallon water tank and a 20-gallon foam tank. The unit has an EMS stretcher on the rear with storage for EMS equipment underneath. The Polaris will also be utilized for special events in the township to provide EMS services. After training was completed on the vehicle's operation and the off-road course, it was placed in service in late fall.

During November, the Fire Department received two 2014 Ford E350 Wheeled Coach Ambulances. This gave the township a total of four ambulances of this type. These two ambulances were designed with cost and efficiency in mind. The two ambulances are smaller and lighter, which make maneuvering through the township much easier. The ambulances will continue to help cut annual maintenance costs. The new ambulances incorporate the latest technology and safety features for the patient and the crew. After final outfitting and training were completed, the ambulances were placed in service at the end of November.



TRAINING

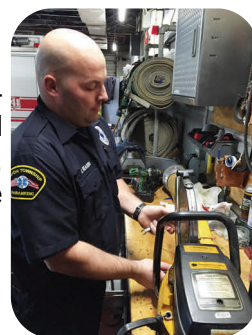
In 2015, the Fire Department remained committed to keeping personnel up-to-date and well-trained in the latest techniques and procedures in EMS, hazardous materials, fire suppression, and fire investigation. During the year, personnel devoted 6,287 hours to various types of training. Training consisted of company drills, EMS continuing education, certification renewals, and training with new equipment.



Fire Department

INTERNAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

The Fire Department maintained many internal protection programs during 2015. Some of the programs included testing and maintenance of fire hydrants, fire hose, fire pumps on apparatus, and ladders. These programs are intended to provide assurance that emergency equipment is in proper functioning order.



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.



Fire Chat is aired throughout the week, every week, on Union Township Cable Television channels 99.2 and 99.3.

PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

The Fire Department continues to be focused on a proactive approach to fire prevention and education. In addition to life safety inspections/plans review and the production of *Fire Chat*, the Fire Department prevention and education programs reached all segments of the community through multiple outlets. Some of these important programs included distribution of free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, car safety seat inspections, school and community CPR, first aid, AED education, and "Adopt-A-School."

The Fire Department continued to provide residents with essential lifesaving tools such as smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors at no cost. The car safety seat inspection program remained a success during the year with 58 car safety seat inspections completed.

School CPR education is an ongoing joint effort between the Fire Department and the West Clermont Local School District. This training is required for graduation. The department works with Glen Este High School to coordinate the training by department personnel as part of the school curriculum. During the year, 297 students were educated in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and the use of Automatic External Defibrillators. Additionally, the Fire Department took an active role in teaching and mentoring students in advanced health programs.

Community CPR was a consistent focal point for public education. Fire Department CPR instructors provided CPR, First Aid, and AED training to 148 citizens.

The Fire Department also provided fire escape plan training, fire extinguisher training, home fire inspections, and other non-emergency type education to these same groups. It is the department's belief that education is the key to fire prevention and loss of life.



Fire Department

The Fire Department has seen more success than ever with the “Adopt-A-School” program in the township elementary schools. This long-running program provides each crew the opportunity to become interactive with an “adopted” school within its response area. Throughout the year, personnel participate in activities which may include reading to students, participating in a school project or school fair, and having lunch with students. These activities also include fire safety education and result in the crews familiarizing themselves with the school building layout and the school staff.

One major addition to the program in 2015 was the “You’re on Fire” recognition at Clough Pike Elementary. “You’re on Fire” takes place on the first Wednesday of each month when fire personnel recognize a student in each class for success demonstrated over the previous month. Fire Department personnel don fire gear and surprise students in their classrooms. This monthly event has been effective in making students feel special and allows students to become accustomed to the look of a firefighter in case of an emergency.



PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION

The department has continued to build on its relationship with businesses that have Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). Department personnel make training available for these devices and provide a monthly operational check of each unit.

FIRE INSPECTIONS AND PLAN REVIEWS



The Fire Department conducted 1,672 business fire safety inspections in accordance with the Ohio Fire Code. 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.

Along with the Clermont County Building Inspection Department, 215 inspections and 249 sets of building plans were reviewed. These inspections and plan reviews provide the department a proactive pre-occupancy approach to code compliance.

The Fire Department has continued with the expansion of the KNOX BOX program. A KNOX BOX is required for new occupancies and installation of a KNOX BOX is strongly encouraged for existing occupancies. These secure devices are designed for the business owner to purchase and are installed on the building with a set of keys to the entry

doors locked inside the box. The Fire Department is the only agency that has access to the contents of the KNOX BOX. The purpose of the KNOX BOX is to allow the Fire Department to gain access to the business during non-business hours in the event of an emergency and also permits the department to secure the building if an actual emergency does not exist. Prior to the installation of this system, many times forced entry was required to gain access, causing the business owner to incur unnecessary costs to repair the damaged entry door.

The department continues to diligently work on several major projects, such as the new West Clermont High School, to ensure a safer and healthier community.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS

The Fire Department regularly collects and analyzes feedback from residents who use our services through Customer Satisfaction Surveys. 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 2015, the Fire Department sent out 140 surveys. Thirty-four surveys were returned with an average score of 2.84. These results continue to indicate a very high level of satisfaction among those who responded.

Fire Department

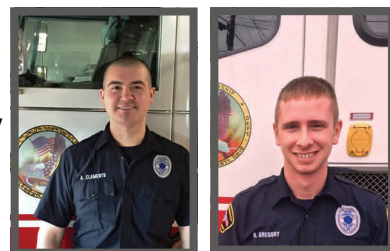
EMPLOYEE NEWS

On March 21, Firefighter/Paramedic Lee Schrichten was recognized by the American Legion, Stuart G. Luginbuhl Post 72, as the Firefighter of The Year. Lee was awarded the honor for his ongoing dedication and involvement in the Fire Department's public education program, specifically his involvement with programs such as Child Safety Seat Inspections, Public CPR, and Juvenile Fire Setters.



In June, 2015, Assistant Chief Gary Auffart retired after a 42-year career in the fire service. Assistant Chief Auffart's four decades of dedication included 27 years with the Cincinnati Fire Division followed by 15 years with the Union Township Fire Department.

The Fire Department would like to acknowledge Austin Clements and Brady Gregory; both were hired as firefighter/paramedics in 2015.



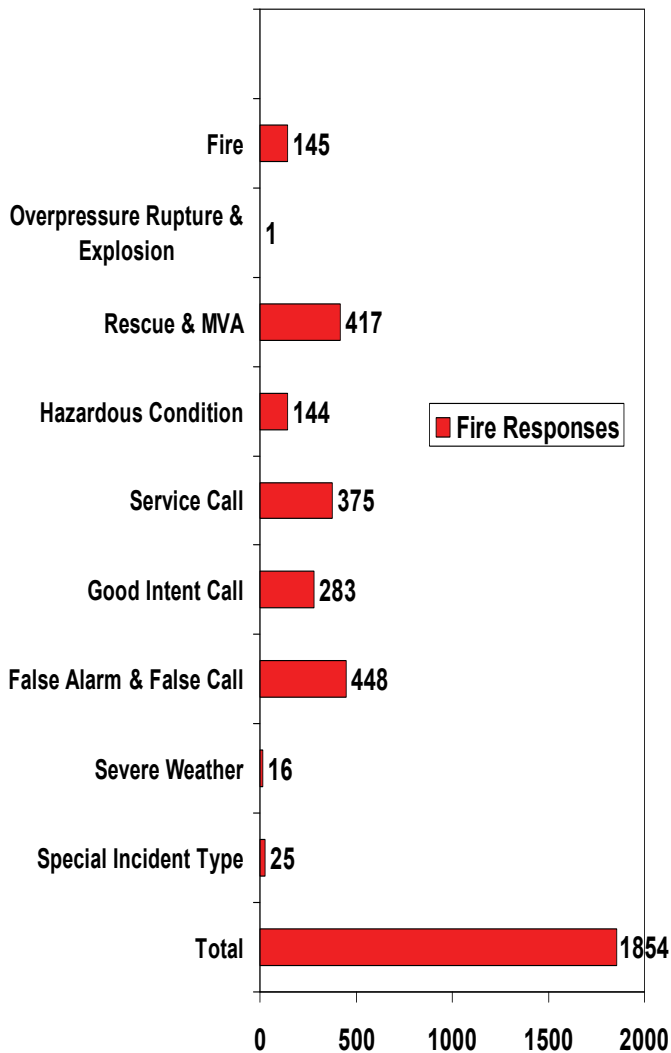
AMELIA COVERAGE

During 2015, the Fire Department continued its fire and emergency medical service coverage for the Village of Amelia. The Fire Department responded to 434 emergency medical incidents and 130 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.

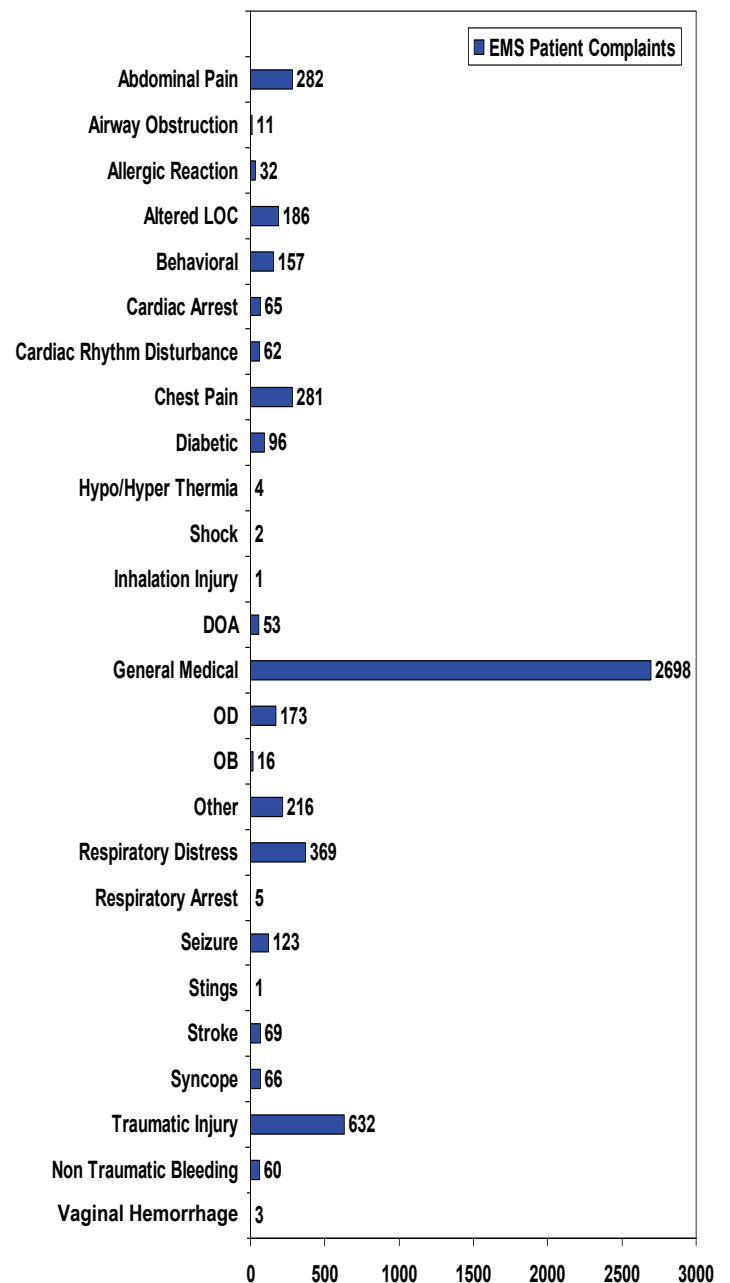
Fire Department

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2015 Fire Responses

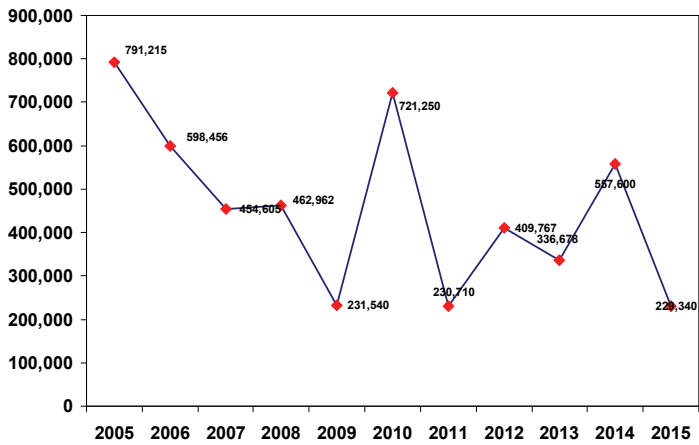


2015 Patient Complaints

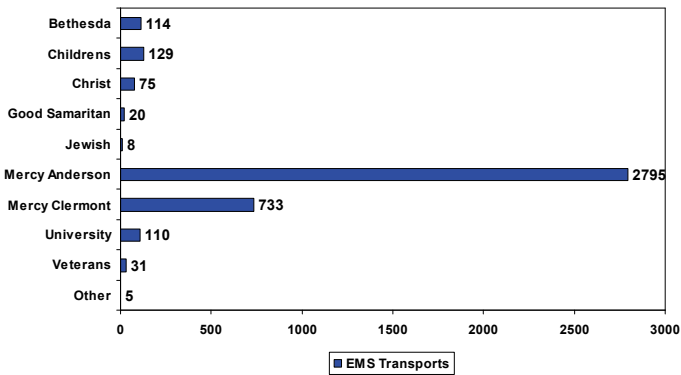


Fire Department

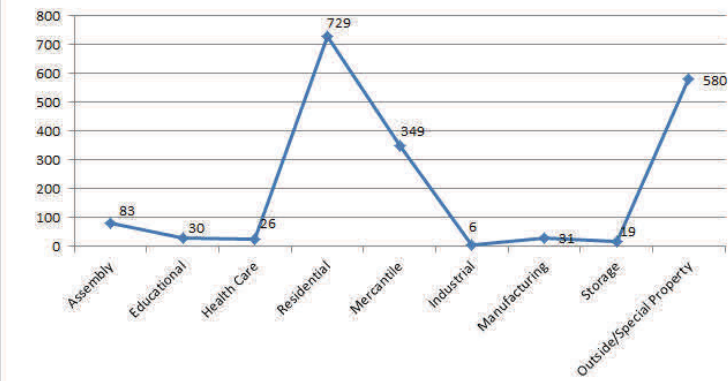
FIRE LOSS



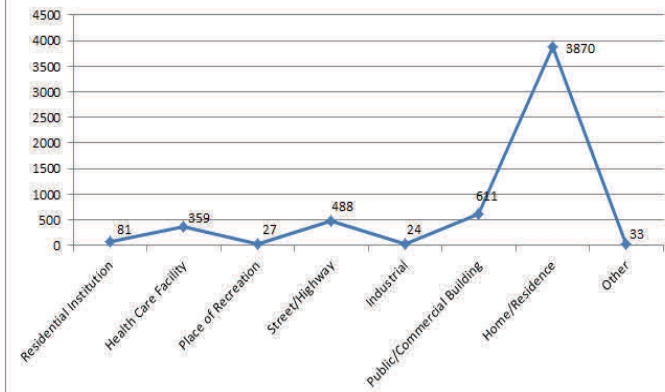
EMS TRANSPORTS



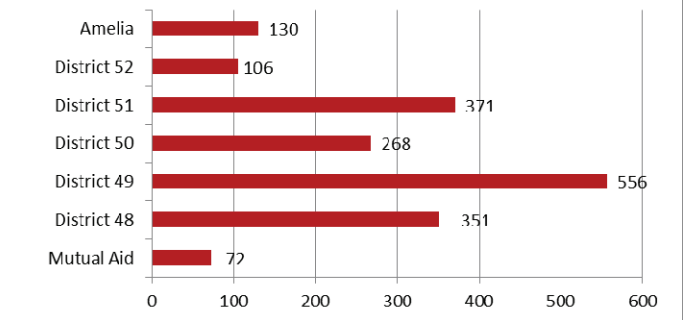
Fire Responses by Property Type



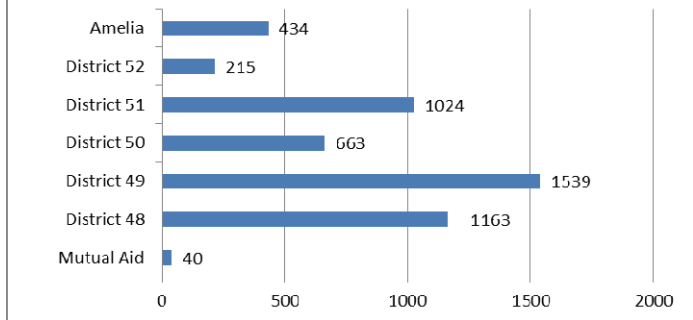
EMS Responses by Property Type



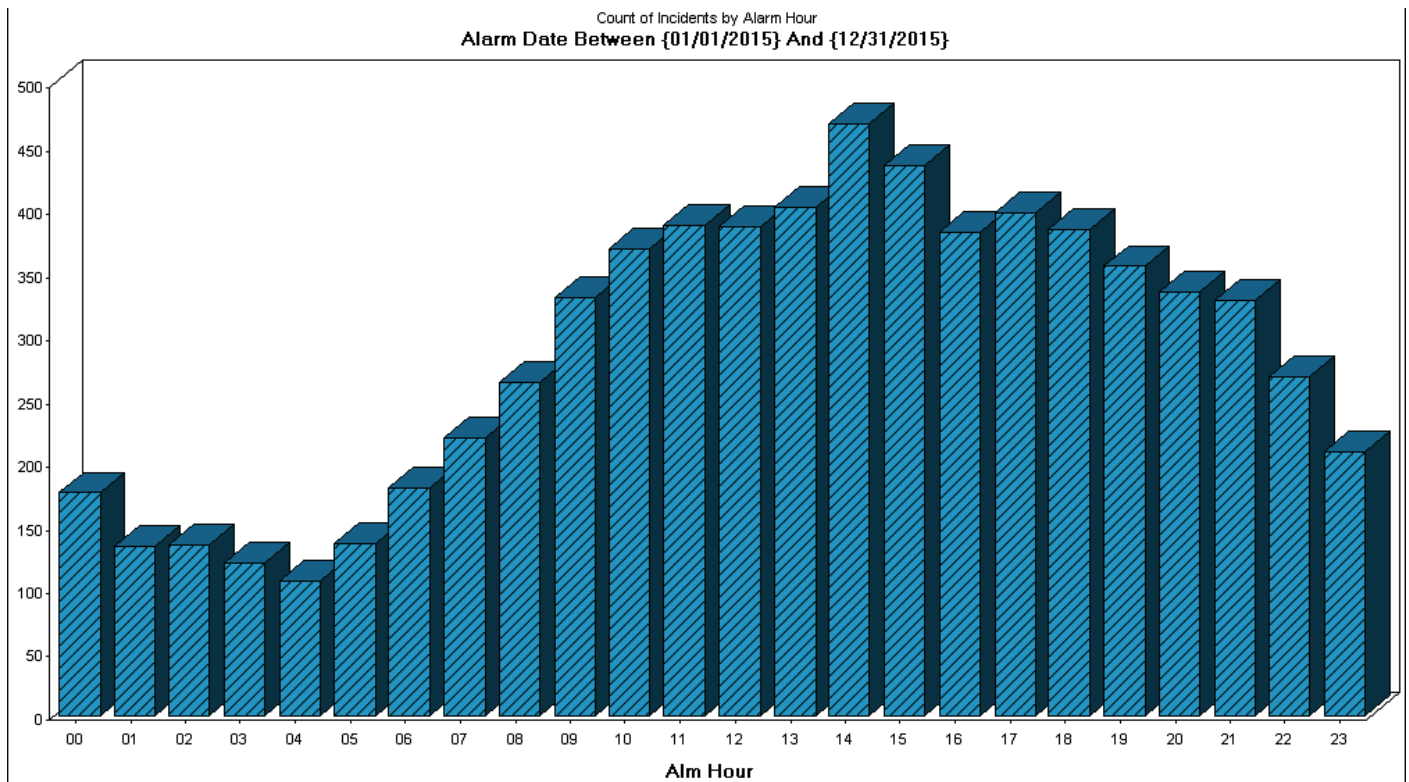
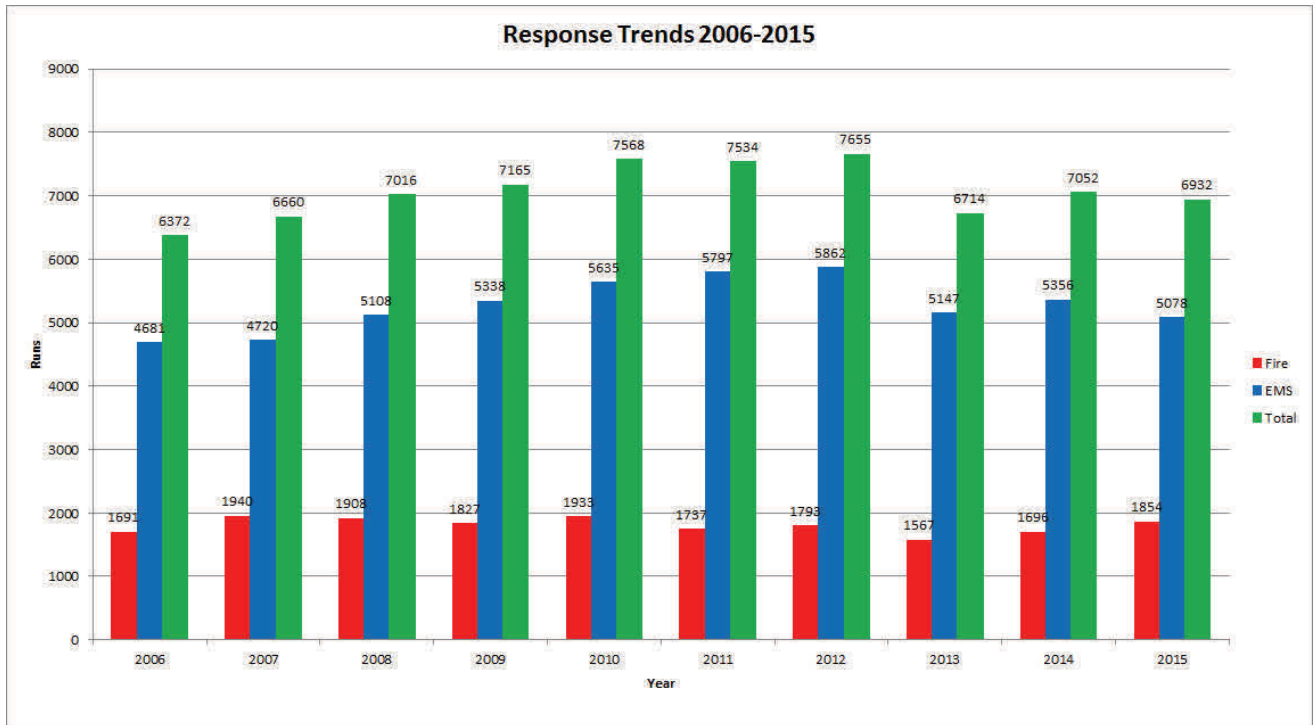
Fire Calls by District



EMS Calls by District

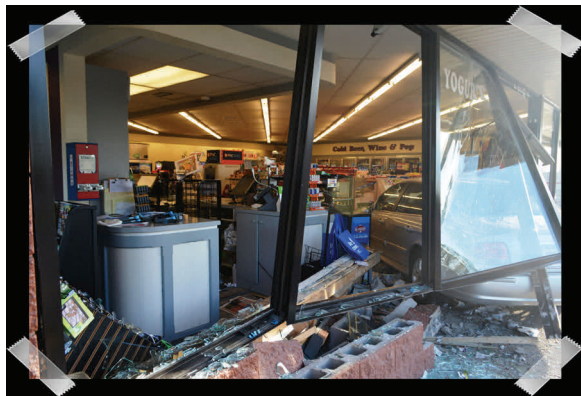


Fire Department



Fire Department

SMOKE DETECTORS AND SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!





Planning & Zoning Department

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:



It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2015 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 alike. 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 2015, commercial development activity soared to new heights in Union Township, with several regionally significant projects announced or permitted during this busy year. Additionally, the department was able to continue its aggressive enforcement stance regarding blighted and unsafe properties and conditions, with a major blighted commercial eyesore demolished along with several other neglected residential properties. The Safe Routes to School project continues to advance, with the approval of the LPA intergovernmental agreement between ODOT, the Clermont County Engineer's Office, and the township.

Significant projects include the redevelopment of Eastgate Marketplace, with a new Hobby Lobby and McDonald's restaurant recently celebrating grand openings, and a new Raising Cane's restaurant poised to break ground in early 2016. Work continues in the Eastgate South area, with major construction underway to bring tenants such as Home Goods, Ulta Beauty, Five Below, and Kirkwood's to compliment the new Gordman's Department Store at 32 East. Most notably, Mercy Hospital received approval for a major development within Ivy Pointe Commerce Park. It would be a disservice to omit mention of the historic partnership between the township and the West Clermont Local School District, resulting in a nearly 400,000 sq. ft. West Clermont High School now under construction at the intersection of Bach-Buxton Road and Clough Pike.

Residential growth and demand remains strong as well, with M/I Homes opening yet another successful phase within the Estates at Shayler Ridge. Brookstone Homes is building high-end patio homes in a newly approved section of Terrace Ridge. Clover Communities announced a new 119-unit senior living development along Clough Pike, and Savannah Ridge broke ground on the first phase of its 293-unit patio home apartment development off Bach-Buxton. Toward the end of 2015, developers of Avalon at the Pointe announced a second phase of high-end, urban style luxury apartments adjacent to Ivy Pointe, near the Union Township Civic Center.

As we move forward into 2016, the Planning Department remains ready to plan for and guide continued growth and prosperity within Union Township.

Sincerely,

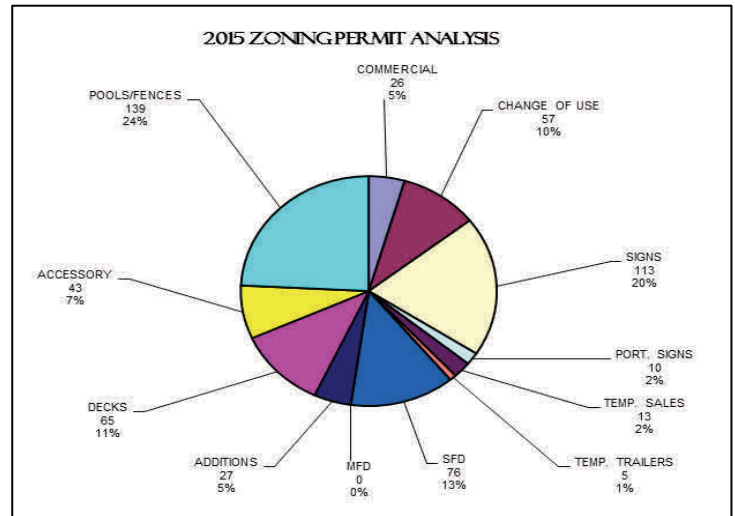
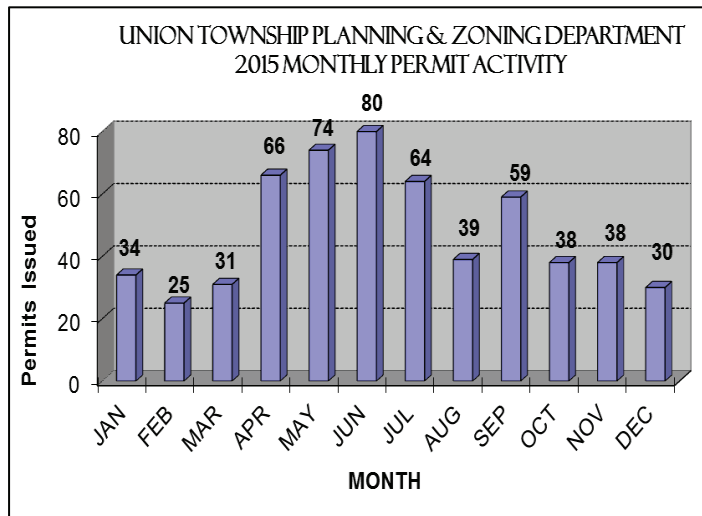


Cory Wm. Wright
Assistant Township Administrator
Director of Planning & Zoning

Planning & Zoning Department

ZONING ADMINISTRATION

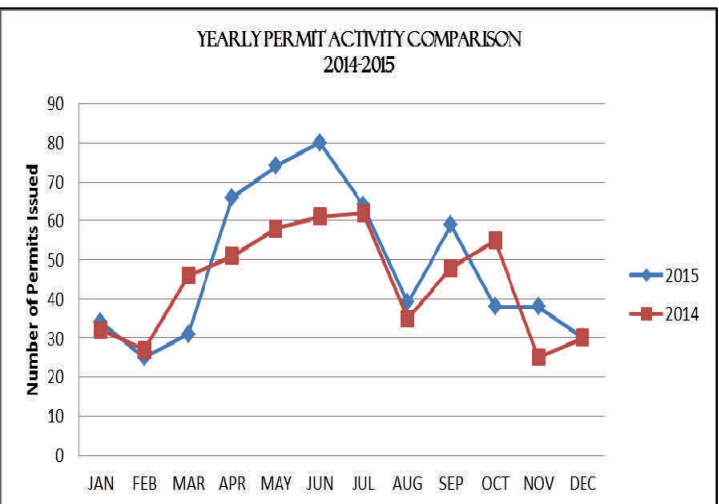
The Union Township Planning & Zoning Department issued 578 permits in 2015, representing an increase of 48 permits over 2014 totals (+9.10 percent). New commercial activity was strong in 2015, with 26 new commercial permits issued. Permit revenues collected from these large commercial projects remained strong, an indication of overall investment levels increasing in the township. Additionally, 57 commercial changes of use/occupancy were issued in 2015. Residential permit activity remains consistent, inclusive of new single-family dwelling (SFD) permits, with 76 SFD permits issued in 2015. Multi-family housing demand skyrocketed in Union Township, as permits for 213 new attached multi-family units were issued last calendar year. Union Township continues to lead the county and the region in attracting new investment each year, reflected in consistent permit activity throughout 2015, with typical seasonal volume experienced. Revenues collected in 2015 increased modestly over 2014 year-end receipts (+6.45 percent).



ZONING ENFORCEMENT

In 2015, the Planning & Zoning Department continued enforcement gains in overall aesthetic appearance and quality of life made during the past several years. The department recorded 161 zoning violation complaints from the public in 2015 as compared to 180 complaints received during 2014. The department continues to work aggressively to resolve complaints without the need for resorting to court action, as evidenced by an exceptionally high administrative compliance rate.

Declared nuisance properties were once again a focus in 2015, with 35 nuisances declared throughout the year. A particularly noteworthy example of the department's efforts on behalf of the Board of Trustees includes the demolition of the long-vacant former Mt. Carmel Frisch's property, bringing new life to the corridor through the removal of this community eyesore. Additionally, nuisance structures were removed off Beechwood Road, and were declared for removal from Old State Route 74. The percentage of properties declared as compared to the overall number of complaints and citations continues to decline, as the department continues its efforts to track down responsible parties to secure abatement prior to the need for public action. Ultimately, public monies expended to seek out, declare, and ultimately remedy the situations are recovered through the levying of assessments on impacted properties. The township's partnership with private firms to abate grass is again a success for the fifth consecutive year.



Planning & Zoning Department

2015 Inspection Data

ACTIVITY CATEGORY	TOTAL
Inspections	576
Complaints	161
Unfounded Complaints	57
Warning Citation	76
15 Day Noncompliance letter	53
30 Day Violation letter	22
Forward to Township Attorney	7
Resolved w & w/o action	172
Illegal Signs Removed	0
Miscellaneous Issues	138
Violations Monthly Total	212
Reinspection of Violations	245

Year-over-Year inspection Activity

ZONING VIOLATIONS & INSPECTIONS	2014	2015
Public Complaints Received	180	161
Properties in Violation	117	158
Warning Citations Issued	66	76
15 Day Noncompliance Letter Issued	35	53
30 Day Violation Letter Issued	16	22
Violations Resolved	160	172
Legal Action Pursued	0	7
Zoning Violation Follow-Up Inspections	196	245
Unfounded Complaints Received	52	57
Miscellaneous Issues	180	138
Inspections	544	576
Nuisance Abatement Actions	38	35

BZA & ZONING COMMISSION

The Union Township Board of Zoning Appeals received seven cases for consideration in 2015, with the majority of those requests consisting of variance applications. In total, the board issued approvals in five cases and denied a single variance application. One appeal case was voluntarily withdrawn. The Zoning Commission also heard two new zoning cases filed for review in 2015, both of which were map amendment requests. Overlay District regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2005 continue to reduce barriers to development on otherwise challenging parcels. The Board of Trustees reviewed 11 Overlay District Applications in 2015. The streamlined PD District amendment process has resulted in the need for fewer rezoning applications. Facilitating reinvestment leads to a reduction in blighting influences, and ensures that business corridors remain vibrant, with five major amendments approved last year.

ZONING STATISTICS 2015

Major Amendments to Approved Planned Developments heard by the Board of Trustees 5

Minor Amendments to Approved Planned Developments resolved by Administrative Action 6

Zoning Commission Cases

Total Number of Cases Filed 2
Zone Changes 2
Text Amendments 0

Final Action of the Board of Trustees

Zone Changes Approved 2
Zone Changes Pending 0
PD Major Amendments Approved 5
Text Amendments Approved 0
Focus Area Overlay Requests 12
Overlay Approvals 10

Board of Zoning Appeals

Total Number of Cases Filed 7
Appeals 1
Conditional Use 0
Variances 6

Approvals 5
Denials 1
Pending 0
Withdrawn 1

Planning & Zoning Department

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Groundbreaking ceremonies and grand openings were abundant in Union Township during 2015. PEBB Enterprises completed its renovation of the first phase of 32 East, welcoming Gordman's Department Store to the growing list of national tenants in the Eastgate area. High-profile retailers such as Ulta Beauty, 5 Below, and Kirkwood's will join Home Goods as well as several existing tenants at the facility currently undergoing nearly \$24 million in renovations. Jungle Jim's Eastgate continues to excite crowds through the addition of a cigar bar and patio open year-round for patrons to enjoy. Mercy Health Partners announced a new 130,000 sq. ft. multi-phase development in Ivy Pointe Commerce Park, finalizing all land sales within the project.

Otterbein Communities dedicated their new Bach-Buxton Road facility this year, representing an excellent infill development opportunity and resulting in high-quality senior housing within Union Township. The township saw development proposals for Raising Cane's, the completion of a new Hobby Lobby, and received permit applications for Savannah Ridge, Home 2 Suites by Hilton, and Clover Communities Senior Living off Clough Pike. Kingdom Productions expanded their operation in Union Township with a renovated facility along McMann Road, and Buffalo Wings & Rings announced a new flagship store along SR 125 in Cherry Grove. This is in addition to routine commercial expansion projects in commercial and industrial areas that occur on an ongoing basis.

This report would be incomplete if not for mentioning the historic partnership between Union Township, the Union Township CIC, and the West Clermont Local School District to consolidate Amelia and Glen Este high schools into a single, new West Clermont High School campus at the intersection of Bach-Buxton Road and Clough Pike. This \$100 million project represents a turning point for the district, and as a result, opens the current Glen Este High School Site for future mixed-use development.

PLANNING INITIATIVES

We continue to participate with the CCTID's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) by providing local input into the regional transportation planning process. Staff also represents Union Township at the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments on a monthly basis. The Safe Routes to School project is on track based on its awarded funding cycle. Construction is programmed for 2016. Specifically, the township recently approved an LPA agreement between Clermont County and ODOT to provide for the construction of the project. This represents a valid and legitimate first step in building pedestrian networks that serve our community and our schools in an efficient fashion.

The Eastern Corridor program of projects has led to several exciting infrastructure improvements opening in the township during 2015. The new reconfigured I-275/SR 32 interchange was dedicated this past year and now functions efficiently as motorists learn new traffic patterns into and through the Eastgate area. Work continues on Segment IV-A, which will provide for at-grade intersection elimination and the construction of new interchanges and access roads along and parallel to SR 32, east of Eastgate Boulevard. Already, the CCTID has begun the process of restoring long-vacated connector roads through the advancement of the Aicholtz Connector project, as well as the procurement of funding for the Clepper Road extension and Old State Route 74 enhancements projects, scheduled to start in FY 2018, in preparation for the Elick Lane/SR32 interchange.



Police Department

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:

I am pleased to present the Union Township Police Department's annual report for the year 2015.

This was my first full year as chief. It was and continues to be my honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Union Township in this capacity.

Total crimes reported to Union Township police decreased for the second year in a row. There was a reduction in most categories of reported crime. The biggest decrease in reported crime was among the burglary and theft categories. Violent crime continues to remain very low for a jurisdiction of our size. Union Township officers remain active in traffic enforcement, education, and research, which has yielded a 1.2 percent decrease in traffic crashes, while violations of **Operating a Motor Vehicle While Impaired** decreased another 1 percent.

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

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

We saw a number of technological upgrades to the Communications Center and the Patrol Division. These upgrades will help the first responders accomplish their jobs in a more efficient and effective manner.

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

Respectively submitted,



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



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



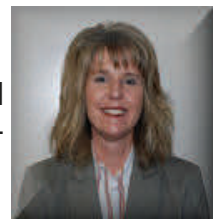
Lt. Anthony Rees commands the Operations Bureau. He is a veteran police officer with 18 years' experience, serving all with the Union Township Police Department. He has served as a police officer, investigator and patrol sergeant, as well as Staff Services sergeant, prior to being promoted to lieutenant 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 23 years of experience and has 17 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 13 years. He possesses a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Grammel has been an assessor with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies since 2014.

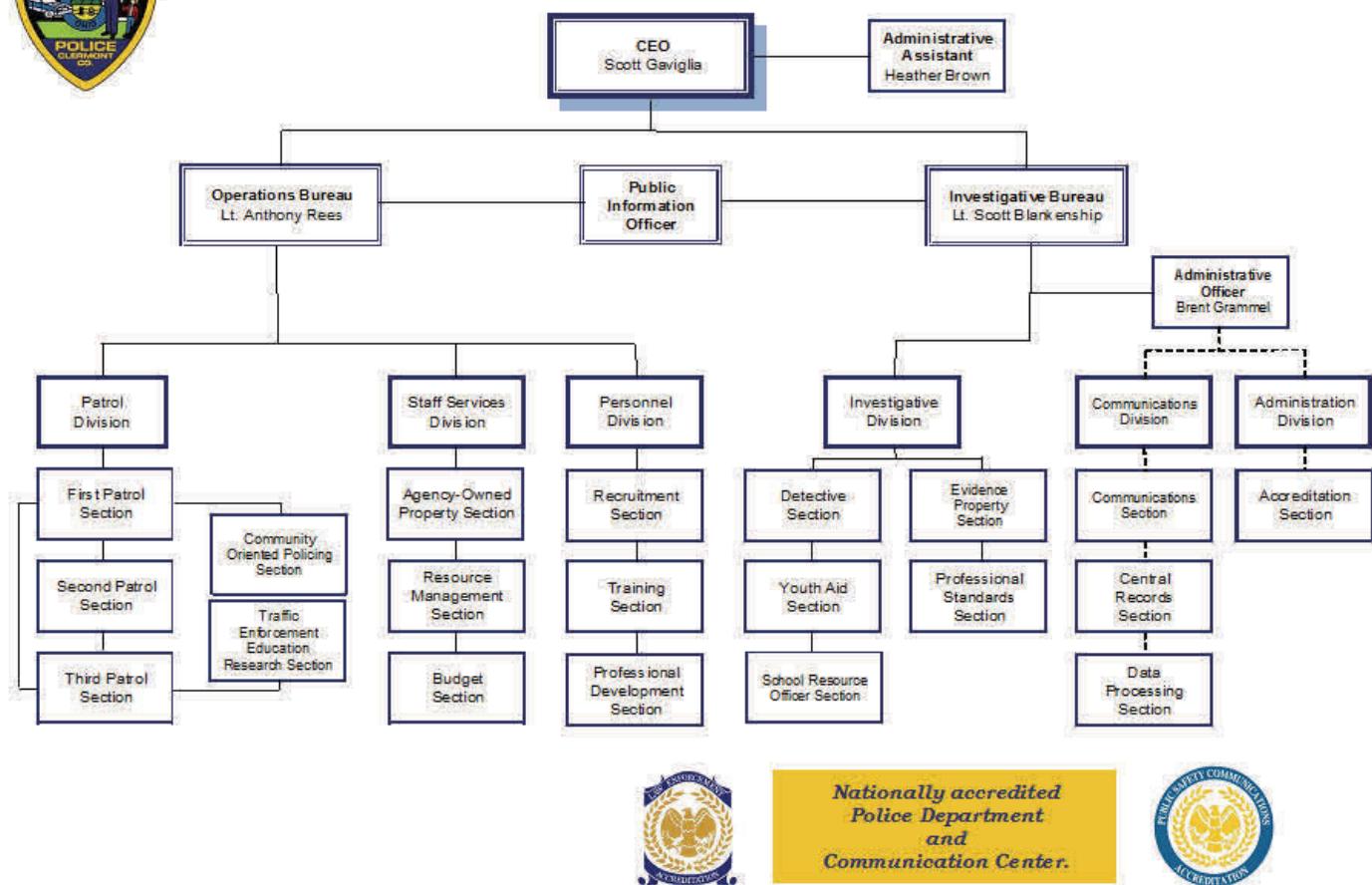
Heather Brown is the administrative assistant to the Chief of Police. She has held that position since her hire in 1997. She continues to be a vital part of the administrative staff. Her duties are many, to include human resource responsibilities.





Union Township Police Department

January 2015



The Union Township Police Department



PRIDE PROGRESS PROFESSIONALISM

2015 Crimes Reported, Traffic Enforcement, and Calls for Service

Crimes Reported		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Part 1 UCR														
Murder Rape Robbery Assault Burglary/B&E Theft/Larceny Auto Theft/Unauthorized Use Arson Domestic Violence Total	Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rape	2	1	4	3	2	3	4	2	0	1	0	1	23
	Robbery	3	0	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	3	15
	Assault	5	7	14	4	6	6	6	7	7	8	5	3	78
	Burglary/B&E	12	10	14	10	13	30	15	15	6	21	12	8	166
	Theft/Larceny	122	100	110	129	104	107	142	150	114	102	117	122	1419
	Auto Theft/Unauthorized Use	6	2	5	3	8	5	9	6	6	5	6	7	68
	Arson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Domestic Violence	7	17	12	15	13	16	17	20	15	13	9	11	165
	Total	157	137	160	167	147	170	194	201	148	150	149	155	1935
Other Non-UCR/General*		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
DUI All Other Offenses All Other Non Offenses Total	DUI	11	5	15	12	13	13	13	13	8	10	9	11	133
	All Other Offenses	116	104	124	130	166	176	175	141	151	164	142	140	1729
	All Other Non Offenses	159	196	209	246	262	250	267	226	244	272	218	256	2805
	Total	286	305	348	388	441	439	455	380	403	446	369	407	4667
Total Crimes Reports		443	442	508	555	588	609	649	581	551	596	518	562	6602
Traffic Enforcement		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Citations Warnings Traffic Stops Traffic Crashes Traffic Crashes on Private	Citations	210	135	143	195	190	216	246	230	220	226	168	219	2398
	Warnings	379	251	333	331	574	574	512	528	530	562	427	709	5710
	Traffic Stops	493	306	407	429	715	740	664	653	666	708	552	837	7170
	Traffic Crashes	115	103	111	127	115	105	126	143	127	128	119	152	1471
	Traffic Crashes on Private	25	28	39	27	37	41	24	26	22	42	25	45	381
Total Calls for Service		4102	3575	4438	4273	5289	4770	5077	4914	4884	5086	4606	5090	56104

*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. The Operations Bureau is the largest agency bureau, with an authorized complement of 38 employees.

The **Patrol Division** is responsible for handling citizen calls for service, tactical response to apprehend criminals, community problem solving, enforcement of traffic laws, and investigation of traffic crashes. Citizen calls for service increased 4 percent from the prior year. Last year saw an increase in the number of crime reports by officers, with 6,602 total reports generated, a 10 percent increase from 2014. Part 1 UCR Crimes (the major felony type crimes) decreased from 2,261 to 1,935, a 14 percent decrease from 2014. 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. Two Patrol Division officers are certified Traffic Crash Reconstructionists. They are equipped with the latest technology and are capable of investigating any type of traffic crash, from a simple two-car accident to a multiple fatality. Enforcement efforts are targeted to increase public awareness of traffic laws and reduce the number of crashes. Traffic officers work closely with the Clermont County Engineer's Office in planning traffic flow as well as identifying traffic hazards. The total number of crashes investigated in 2015 (1,852) increased less than 1 percent after seeing a decrease in 2014. These numbers are consistent with the significant amount of work that was done to the SR32 corridor as well as the interchanges to I-275 in both 2014 and 2015. The number of arrests for **Operating a Motor Vehicle While Impaired** decreased 7 percent, from 144 arrests in 2014 to 133 in 2015, a decrease of 11 arrests from the prior year.

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 Union Township Police Department exhibits this belief through outreach programs such as Neighborhood Watch, 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.



Union Township Police hosted or took part in 90 events in 2015, ranging from child safety talks to neighborhood watch meetings and hosting citizen riders. The Crime Prevention Section accomplished its goals in 2015 by hosting two Women's Self Defense classes and the 9th Annual Police Night Out. A department Facebook page was also developed in late 2015 which has led to successfully closing out five cases with arrests from tips from the public which were garnered from the page. Police Night Out continues to be a growing success and again saw significant increases in attendance.

Neighborhood Watch continues to be a point of emphasis within Union Township. The Crime Prevention Section hosted its seventh annual Safe Communities presentation in April at the

Civic Center. The presentation is designed to inform residents about observing crime and what to expect when reporting crime with regards to officer response. It also serves as a chance for township residents to start up a neighborhood watch. 2015 also saw the development of a Citizen Police Academy alumni group spearheaded by academy graduates expressing their desire to work with the police department on fundraising, special projects and community awareness.



Police Department

Officers from the *Crime Prevention Section* did Robbery Response update presentations at two local banks in 2015 and hosted 18 child safety talks. Officers also hosted three child fingerprinting events in conjunction with Walmart at their Union Township store. The Crime Prevention Section began to expand the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training concept and reached out to three local businesses in 2015, who requested their employees be trained in how to respond to an active shooter in the workplace. The training was well received and requests continue to come in from new businesses. UTPD has also partnered with **Crimestoppers** to host their annual pill drop-off and paper shredding events at Furniture Fair in April and September.

The Crime Prevention Section handled three Cub Scout and Girl Scout tours and two career days at local elementary schools. Officers also conducted 37 ride-alongs with citizens and police cadets. 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 and participated in a Senior Expo at Receptions in Eastgate.

The Crime Prevention Section spent \$1267.24 of its budgeted \$5,000 in 2015. In keeping with the department’s mission of fostering a relationship of genuine, mutual respect with the community, we continue to develop new ideas to increase positive interactions with the public. Several programs are in the planning stages for 2016, including replacing the Crime Prevention trailer with a new and updated trailer and continuing with the training of local businesses in the ALICE concept, utilizing our own officers. Officers will also be working with the UTPD and Eastgate Mall Security in April, 2016, to conduct a Critical Incident Response drill at the mall. 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, equipment and fleet maintenance and upkeep of the police department building. The Staff Services Division also handles media releases and serves as department liaison to the media. *Agency-Owned Property and Resource Management Sections* of the Staff Services Division are responsible for all agency-owned equipment, vehicles, and facilities, to include the ordering of approved purchases, inventory, inspection, and repairs. The smooth day-to-day operation is heavily dependent on Staff Service’s ability to satisfy needs. All agency-owned firearms are inspected on schedule and any repairs are performed by trained armorers and certified agency personnel. All member-issued equipment is inspected by their respective supervisors annually and they in turn report subordinates’ needs to the Staff Services Commander.

The **Personnel Division** is dedicated to the training of its personnel under the direction of Lt. Rees. Training in lethal and non-lethal force and response to critical incidents far exceeds those standards set by the State of Ohio. Training requests from members directly correspond to annual evaluations, endorsed by one’s supervisor and approved by a training committee. The agency takes advantage of all local, state, and federal training offers and occasionally sponsors and hosts state provided training for other departments at Union Township’s Civic Center. 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.



Police Department

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 2,502 hours of training in 2015, including eight hours of in-service training on Taser recertification and certification on the Pepperball Weapons System. The agency participates in a county-wide Special Response Team by assigning six tactical officers and two negotiators. In addition, one officer is assigned to the Regional Dive Team and receives regular training.

Union Township offers its members a generous college tuition reimbursement that allows the agency members to continue to expand their knowledge base and contribute to the growth of the Police Department.

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

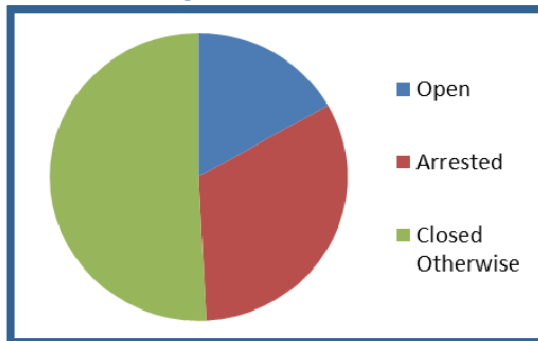
INVESTIGATIVE / ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

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 Officer for the West Clermont Local School District's Glen Este campus is a unit of the Investigation Division due to the sensitive nature of the position. The SRO continues to show ownership in the school campus, involving himself in solving criminal offenses, discipline hearings, and educating students. We continue to enjoy a terrific working relationship with the school district.

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



2015 Investigative Division Case Closure



During 2015, investigators worked over 481 felony cases, closing about 123 (26 percent) by arrest. Of the remainder, 358 (57 percent) were closed otherwise, inactivated, or unfounded. Remaining open were 82 cases (17 percent), which were added to the 2016 caseload.

There were 2,536 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 11 exams, including some for other agencies and pre-employment. Several exams and subsequent confessions led to convictions of serious offenses.

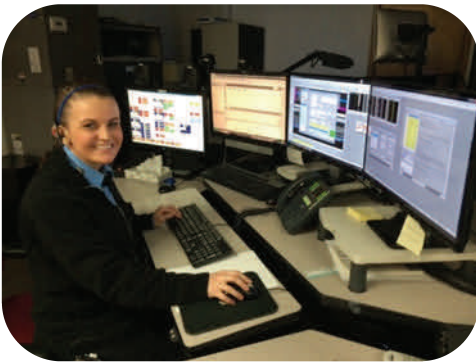
Investigation Division officers receive advanced training in evidence gathering and processing, suspect interviewing, case preparation and management, and specialized homicide and sex crime investigation techniques.

The 2015 investigative highlights included the successful conviction of an individual suspected of numerous rapes and felonious assaults.

The Investigation Division participated in the prosecution of three defendants later apprehended after a home burglary was committed and a large sum of cash was removed. Due to the quick action of the Investigative Unit, a substantial amount of the stolen cash was recovered and returned to the victim. The investigation was brought to a close in a timely manner.

The **Administrative Division** provides support services for the agency, including supervision of all non-sworn personnel, communications, records, accreditation, and professional standards section. The Administrative Division has a compliment of 13 non-sworn members.

Police Department



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. 2015 saw a new radio upgrade to the P25 state-wide MARCS system, allowing for more thorough communication with other Ohio agencies.

During 2015, the Communications Center fielded 25,437 emergency 9-1-1 calls. In addition, they received more than 40,000 administrative calls ranging from internal communication to public service orientation.

The *Central Records Section* processes all documents generated by police officers and manages a computerized records system which includes all citizen calls for service, crime reports, traffic crash reports, warrants, and contacts with persons. Document archival is accomplished through electronic imaging. Public records inquiries, court filings, and expungements are also vital functions in 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). 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 2013 and are scheduled for the eighth police and third communication reaccreditations in 2016.



In addition to accreditation, this section works closely with the *Professional Standards Section* in creating and revising policy and general orders. It is 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 for 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 are monitored for early warning purposes. In 2015, there was one professional standard investigation and there were four citizen complaints.

2015 Citizen Complaints	
<u>Exonerated</u>	1
Not sustained	0
Unfounded	1
Sustained	1
Withdrawn	1
TOTAL	4

Employee Grievances

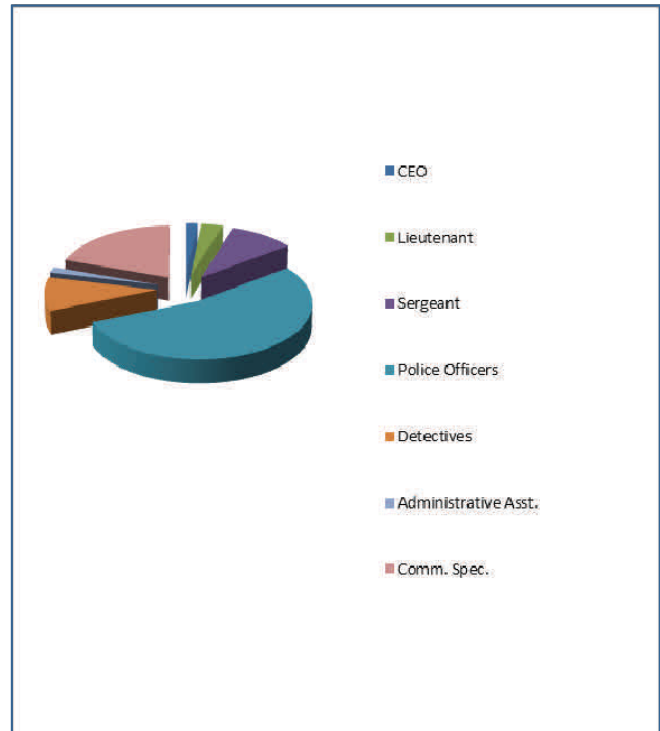
The collective bargaining process provides a grievance procedure where disagreements about the application of the collective bargaining contract between Union Township and the Fraternal Order of Police may be resolved. Negotiations to renew the 2011-2013 agreement were finalized in December for three years, and negotiations will begin again in 2016. **There were no grievances filed in 2015.**

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	30	3	33
Detectives	6	0	6
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



Achievements

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

Several officers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community during 2015. At the Clermont County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet, Detective Dave Combs, Officer Dave Perkins, and Officer Jeff Joehnk were recognized for their efforts in apprehending and prosecuting the suspect in a fatal traffic crash on Roundbottom Road.



Additionally, Det. Keith Puckett, Officer Ken Mullis, Det. Todd Taylor, Det. John Pavia, and Det. Dave Combs were recognized for their efforts in investigating a home invasion on Tealtown Rd.

Police Department

UNION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015 Sworn Officers

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

<i>Detective</i>	<i>Serving Since</i>	<i>Detective</i>	<i>Serving Since</i>
Detective John Pavia	1999	Detective Josh Bail	2002
Detective Keith Puckett	1999	Detective Ken Mullis	2004
Detective Todd Taylor	2001		

2015 Non-Sworn

<i>Communication Specialist</i>	<i>Serving Since</i>	<i>Communication Specialist</i>	<i>Serving Since</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 Hollins	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 2015 Annual Report for the Union Township Service Department.

Our department enjoyed a banner year in 2015. In June, we were awarded reaccreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Several of our departmental management practices were recognized as “best management practices” in the industry of Public Works. In August, we were recognized at the Annual APWA Congress in Phoenix, Arizona.

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

We are proud to be members of several prestigious organizations, including the American Public Works Association (APWA), the National Parks and Recreation Association (NP&RA), the Ohio Turf Grass Foundation (OTGF), the International Cemetery and Cremation Funeral Association (ICCFA), and the Ohio Cemetery Association Inc. (OCAI).

In 2016 and beyond, the Service Department will continue to focus on providing tremendous core services at the best value price. The department is taking the lead role in driving Union Township toward a more sustainable future through best management practices with regard to our community's infrastructure.

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

Sincerely,



Matt Taylor
Service Director

Service Department

The primary 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 agency in North America to be accredited through the American Public Works Association (APWA). The APWA is the authority in public works in the United States. We are extremely proud of the level of professionalism the members of our staff have achieved through their commitment to education and training.

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

ROADS DIVISION

The Union Township Service Department’s Roads Division is responsible for the 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, 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 426 work order requests in 2015. 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. In 2010, 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 2015 annual paving project were selected using this scientific data. In 2015, the following roads were repaved:

STREET NAME	FROM / TO
Surrey Trail	Entire Road
Rustic Way	Entire Road
Surrey Ridge	Entire Road
Surrey Way	Entire Road
Vicbarb Lane	Entire Road
Barbara Lane	Entire Road
Thomas Lane	Entire Road
Fox Trail Circle	Entire Road
Fox Creek	Entire Road
Pewter Road	Beechwood to Beechwood Farms
McGuffey Lane	Tealtown Road to Schoolhouse Road



Service Department

In addition to these roads being repaved, improvements were made to Kennecot Court, Midland Boulevard, Oakbrook Drive, Silver Streak Lane, Terrace Ridge Drive, and Wood Forest Drive. These improvements included full depth asphalt base repairs and curb repairs. These necessary repairs were made in areas where the base was beginning to fail under the road, and where areas of curbs needed replacement.

Snow and Ice Operations

A major role for the Service Department is snow and ice operations. The department is responsible for keeping 131 center lane miles of roadways clear and safe for the traveling public. In 2015, it was necessary to treat the township roads a total of 13 times. Each time the roads are treated for icy conditions, the usage of salt is approximately 70 tons. Approximately 880.5 tons of salt and more than 5,700 gallons of brine were applied to township roadways.

In addition to 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.

In addition to treating the roads, several improvements were made regarding snow and ice operations. All of our employees received additional training in snow and ice operations. The Service Department continues to search for methods to reduce overall salt usage. In 2015, a new Ford F550 was purchased and outfitted with a salt management system. This smaller truck will be used in snow removal operations, as well as other departmental operations. Finally, we installed an additional 6,100 gallon tank that will be used for calcium. All of these activities are to ensure the safety of our residents and the visitors to our community.



PARKS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Parks, Buildings and Grounds Division 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, the annual Lantern Lighting Ceremony, etc. The primary role of the division is the day-to-day operations of Veterans Memorial Park, Clepper Park, Mt Carmel Park, and Ivy Pointe Park.

Veterans' Memorial Park



Veterans Memorial Park remains one of the most popular gathering places in Union Township. With a wide range of amenities, the park is the perfect setting for numerous events throughout the year. The 25-acre park offers all types of recreational facilities, including tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds, sand volleyball courts, and corn hole. 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 2015, a record 162 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 Inc.

Some other memorable events in 2015 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 21 years ago is a Memorial Day vigil sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Clermont County Chapter 649 (VVA 649). The veterans erect a mock military cemetery by surrounding the area near the helicopter with approximately 500 white crosses, each representing a Vietnam

Service Department

casualty from the Tri-State area. Over the years, this event has gained both regional and national attention.

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

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.

In addition to the daily maintenance, every year the Service Department completes new projects designed to enhance the park. In 2015, concrete pads were installed throughout the park. These pads were placed under bleachers, benches, and trash receptacles for a cleaner look. Twenty-five, 6-foot high trees were planted in key locations throughout the park. These trees included oaks and maples. Significant work was performed on the infields of the baseball diamonds to improve overall playability. All these improvements were made by the Board of Trustees for the enjoyment of the community.



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 amenities 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 2015, 111 shelter reservation requests were filled.

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

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

As with all four of the township's parks, an effort is made every year to improve the grounds. In 2015, 25 six-foot tall trees were planted in key locations throughout the park. The park restrooms were painted. These concentrated efforts were made to further enhance the beauty and pleasure of Clepper Park.

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.

In 2015, special attention was paid to the turf areas in the park. This included four applications of fertilizer, and weed prevention. The grounds were also over-seeded in the fall of the year. The township views its parks as a key attraction, providing both active and passive recreational activities for all to enjoy.



Service Department

Ivy Pointe Park



Ivy Pointe Park is the township's newest park. This park is located on Ivy Pointe Boulevard. It is a pet-friendly park situated on just over eight acres. Ivy Pointe Park is graced with two beautiful gazebos, a paved walking trail, a pond, and a restroom facility. This park is unique in the sense that as the surrounding business district grows, the walking path from the park will eventually encompass the entire business district. The Service Department is very excited about the future development of this incredible green space. In 2015, special attention was paid to the trees in the park. This included the removal of hazardous trees, the trimming of healthy trees, and the planting of new trees. These concentrated efforts were made by the Board of Trustees for the enjoyment of the community.

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 391 requests for service in 2015. 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

*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,*

The cemetery staff strives to accomplish this mission year round.

Service Department



In keeping with the mission statement of Mt. Moriah Cemetery, several major projects were completed in 2015. A key project was the installation of three Niche Columbaria. The trend toward cremations has increased over the past several years. The Mt. Moriah Cemetery Niche Columbaria offer families another alternative for memorializing cremation. The grey and black granite columbaria are located on the east side of the cemetery by the pond and Cremation Scattering Garden. Each columbarium will accommodate 24 urns in niches 11" x 11". A niche may be purchased at the time of need or pre-need. The door of each niche is engraved with name, dates, and an endearment. Located near the columbaria is a black granite bench surrounded by beautiful landscaping. The overall aesthetics of this area provide a place of reflection and serenity for those visiting their loved ones.

A key project at Mt. Moriah Cemetery was the restoration of the oldest markers in the cemetery. Approximately 30 markers were treated with a biological solution and cleaned with a natural bristle brush. In addition, gaps were filled with hydraulic cement to stop water expansion in the winter months, and bases were sealed with a heavy-duty cement coating. Many markers that were leaning were excavated, leveled and returned to a new hydraulic concrete base poured below ground. In addition, several markers that were lying broken on the ground were excavated. An above ground frame approximately six inches deep was prepared and the markers were placed on a level gravel base. Hydraulic concrete was installed around the markers. Once the form was removed, the markers were sealed with a heavy-duty masonry coating treated with an acrylic fortifier. Also, during the restoration project, two markers that were completely buried were excavated, restored, and entered in the cemetery database. 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."

Another ongoing project throughout 2015 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 2015, 12 hazardous or dead trees were removed from the cemetery grounds. In addition, 14 new trees were planted throughout the cemetery grounds. The new trees will add to the diversity of species and greatly enhance the landscape of the cemetery.

A momentous occasion for Mt. Moriah Cemetery was reaccreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) on July 7, 2015. As a division of the Service Department, the cemetery performed a self-assessment of 14 practices. Some of these practices were interment, disinterment, lot numbering, section renovation, security, and foundation installation. Policies and practices that govern the cemetery were reviewed. The APWA reaccreditation team awarded Mt. Moriah Cemetery full compliance for all 14 of its practices.

A major event at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in 2015 was the eighth 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. Guests created decorated lanterns to memorialize departed loved ones.

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

After the construction of the lanterns, a delicious complimentary dinner was served by candlelight. A harmonious addition to the evening was a string trio from the Clermont Philharmonic Orchestra, which performed soothing music throughout the evening. The Clermont County Marine Veterans Honor Guard performed the color guard presentation, followed by a bugler who performed Taps. Cub Scout Pack 671 and Boy Scout Troop 671 led the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the "National Anthem."

At dusk, everyone gathered at the shoreline to share a simple but beautiful ceremony. The candles were lit and the lanterns were set upon the pond as the bugler performed "Amazing Grace." As the pond slowly illuminated, the individual luminaria joined together to transform the darkness of the setting sun with glimmering candlelight.

Attended by approximately 650 people, the eighth annual "Lantern Lighting Ceremony" was a tremendous success and continues to be one of the most popular events in Union Township.

Service Department

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, geese control, and trimming the tree limbs. All these programs were performed to maintain the high standard that visitors to Mt. Moriah Cemetery have come to expect.

All these projects and events did not detract from the main business of the cemetery. In 2015, the cemetery staff prepared 234 burial sites, sold 176 new gravesites, poured 150 monument foundations and installed 28 government markers. In addition, 26 families used the Cremation Scattering Garden, and 31 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—2015

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 2015, Isaac Walker was chosen as the Employee of The Year. Isaac has worked for the Service Department since April, 2001. He was promoted to the position of Maintenance Worker II in April of 2007. In 2010, he was put in charge of the Roads Division of the department where he excels year after year. Isaac continues to exceed expectations by outperforming his previous year’s accomplishments.



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 2015, unwanted items included 24 refrigerators, with 16 garbage trucks and 24 30-yard dumpsters filled with furniture, clothes, bicycles, electronic equipment, and lawn equipment.

In 2015, 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 at no cost. In 2015, the Service Department issued 261 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 2015, 121 Christmas trees were dropped off and recycled.

Service Department

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and training are always major themes in the Service Department, and 2015 was no exception. Some of the education and training completed this year by Service Department staff is listed below:

- Commercial Pesticide Applicators license training
- Personal Protective Equipment training
- Lock Out Tag Out training
- CPR and AED training
- Leadership training
- Ohio Utilities Protective Services (OUPS) training
- Attended APWA National Snow and Ice Conference
- Loader operators' training for winter operations
- Ethics departmental training
- Ergonomics training
- Vision, Mission, and Values departmental 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
- Mock Emergency Exercise

IN CONCLUSION

In 2015, 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 2016, 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

To the Board of Trustees and Administrator Geis:

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2015 Annual Report for Union Township Television.

2015 marked the tenth 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 the Clermont County Composite Squadron (Civil Air Patrol) and Rita Heik-enfeld, a regionally known cooking expert, as well as nationally acclaimed portrait painter, Carin Hebenstreit, and local, professional water color artist, Gary Brooks, 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.

While taping, editing and airing the video output of both local producers and internal staff, the department is also responsible for creating, printing and distributing the quarterly township newsletter, *Talk of The Town-ship*, and the Annual Report, as well as other media functions, including press releases, public service an-nouncements and township signage. Ensuring that all press announcements and print media materials are posted on our website is another function of the department.

Civic Center meeting room and gym reservations all go through our office.

UTTV remains committed to promoting community involvement and awareness in all the activities we man-age, as well as supporting the good works of township departments through print and live media. We are grateful for the complete support the Board of Trustees and Administrator continue to provide.

Sincerely,

Gina M. DiMario
Media / Communications Manager

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.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MEDIA: A hallmark of Union Township Television is our support of internal township departments' special events, and 2015 was no different. The Police Department's *Police Night Out* and Mt. Moriah Cemetery's *Lantern Lighting Ceremony* were both taped and aired following these very successful events. We continued producing *Fire Chat* for the Fire Department, and added a new monthly video, *You're On Fire*, another Fire Department detail aimed at furthering the partnership between the agency and our local schools.

We added new producer-based programs, to include *Good Ole Gospel Time* and *The Big Picture*.

UTTV is responsible for taping and airing all township public meetings, including the Board of Trustees, Zoning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals, in addition to the West Clermont Local School District. We also include Milford City Council and the Milford Exempted Village School District meetings in our lineup.

COMMUNICATIONS: Press releases and feature stories are submitted regularly to local media outlets and the township web site.

The quarterly newsletter, *Talk of The Township*, originates in this department, and though it is no longer distributed throughout the township, it is still printed for pick-up in Administration and special request mailings. The department manages the reservation process for Civic Center gym and meeting rooms, both of which bring thousands of guests to the Civic Center each year.

In 2015, we created a pocket-folder filled with township and county contact information, from local government to social services to school districts. The packet is available in Administration at the Civic Center, and is also online on the township website.

2015 marked the debut of Union Township's Facebook page. Through this venue, we share township events, meeting and departmental videos, and police special announcements,

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

In 2015, IT changed from using a traditional point-to-point to connect the township firehouses and parks to a VPLS system. What this allowed us to do is reduce the number of ports we are using from Cincinnati Bell Telephone, reducing our bill from CBT by over \$1,000 per month. IT also put in a backup connection that allows the firehouses to connect directly to the PD in the event of a network outage at the Civic Center. IT also upgraded the phone system from a PRI system to a SIP system, thus allowing IT to put our phone system in a virtual environment, making backup and recovery of the phone system much easier.

