



2018

# ANNUAL REPORT



## *Now is the* **TIME**

It was fitting the Board of Clark County Commissioners celebrated its 200th birthday in 2018.

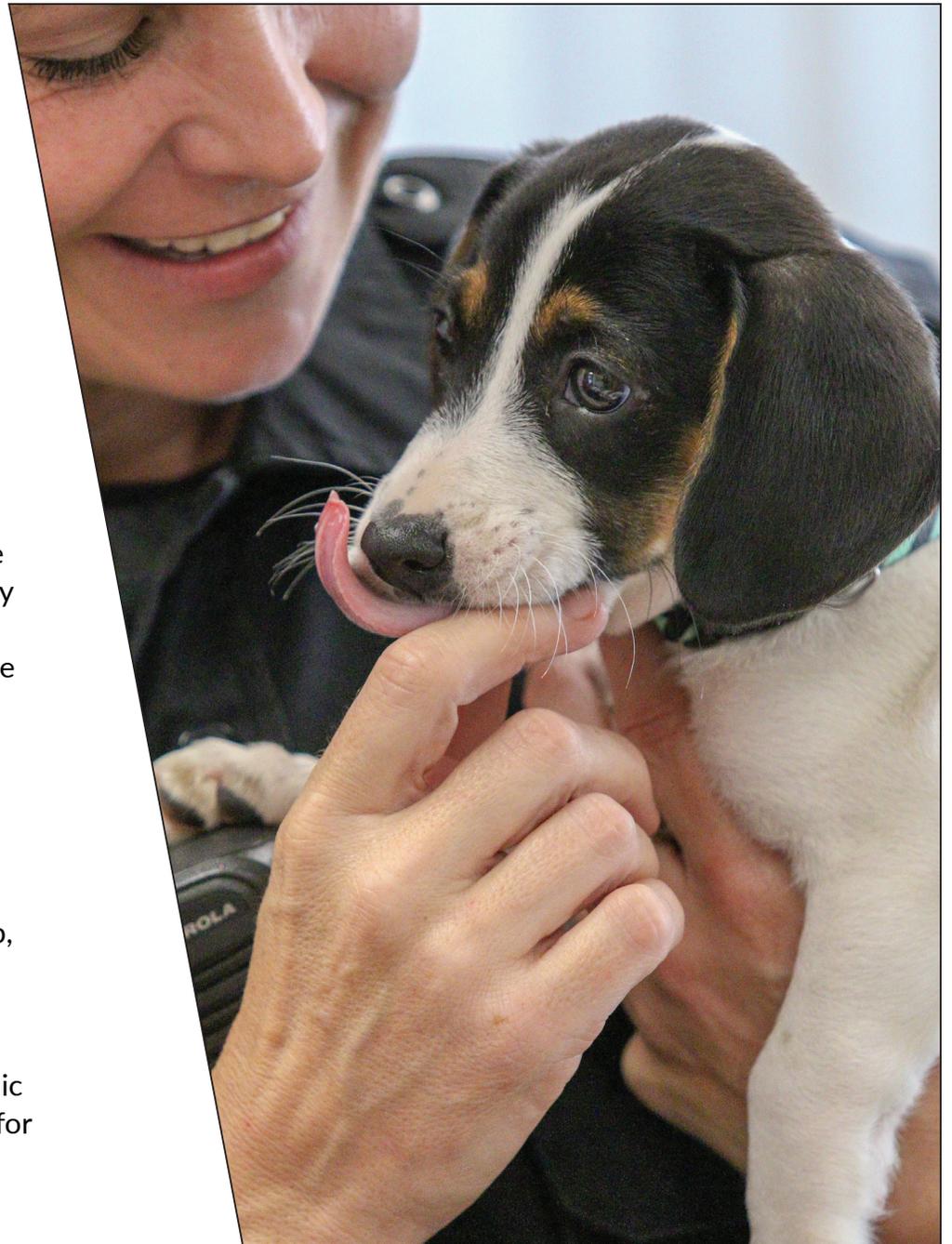
There were plenty of reasons to celebrate.

Clark County turned 200 years old with a bang. It held the Bicentennial Bash in April of 2018, an 1800s-themed party which included a special recognition ceremony honoring the 11 living county commissioners. More than 200 people attended the ball.

Clark County also saw several major announcements, including a massive expansion at the Speedway corporate headquarters and the first new housing development in Springfield in decades. The county continued its work revitalizing the Upper Valley property in German Township, as well as making improvements at both the Clark County Courthouse and the A.B. Graham Buildings.

The county is primed for future development and economic growth. We're working hard to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens here in Clark County.

— County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson



# 200 years in the **MAKING**

Clark County celebrated its Bicentennial in 2018.



## FIRST PITCH

As part of Clark County's Bicentennial celebration, the Champion City Kings and the Board of Clark County Commissioners partnered to host a Bicentennial Night in August of 2018. Clark County Commissioners Rick Lohnes and Melanie Flax Wilt threw out the first pitch to honor the county's 200th birthday. Limited edition baseball t-shirts were also sold to commemorate the county's Bicentennial.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

A five-person Bicentennial planning committee, including Clark County Clerk Megan Burr, former commissioner John Detrick and county residents Bill Berry, Betty Grimes and Mike Haubner, was formed to plan special events throughout the year. The committee held a tour of the county's Bicentennial farms, participated in the Memorial Day parade and had booths at several local events, including the Clark County Fair.

## BIRTHDAY BASH

The committee also organized Clark County's 200th birthday celebration, the Bicentennial Bash. The event, held in April, the same month of the first-ever commission meeting, honored the 11 living Clark County commissioners, including nine pictured in the above photo. Back row: Rick Lohnes, Ron Vincent, Lowell McGlothlin, Melanie Flax Wilt, David Herier and John Maurer. Front row: Roger Tackett, John Detrick and Roger Baker. Not pictured: Gordon Flax and David Hartley.

# *Sunflowers* **BLOOM IN URBAN FIELD**

Clark County partnered with several local organizations and agencies to grow a sunflower field.

In 2018, four Clark County agencies partnered to brighten up an abandoned industrial site in Springfield.

The Clark County Sunflower Project is located in the 500 block of West Euclid Avenue, just east of the Little Miami Trail bike path. Keep Clark County Beautiful, National Trail Parks and Recreation District, the City of Springfield, and the Clark County Land Reutilization Corp. worked together to clear the field, plant the seeds, and cultivate the flowers.

The Land Bank had acquired the property as part of its mission to revitalize vacant and blighted properties. The factory on the site had been demolished several years ago, and the Land Bank had the remaining concrete foundation slabs removed. The other agencies worked together to buy and plant the seeds and cultivate the growing plants.





## *Buildings &* **GROUNDS**

The Clark County Buildings and Grounds Department completed several major projects in 2018, while also responding to hundreds of work orders.

The A.B. Graham building and the Clark County Courthouse had a new roof, new windows and irrigation installed, as well as new exterior landscaping. The department also began renovating the pods at the Clark County Jail, including painting, plumbing, lighting, locks and camera wiring. The department also installed new water heaters at the jail and added new security fencing to the perimeter of the overflow trailers.

The department completed a major undertaking by renovating the Clark County Dog Shelter at 500 Urbana Road. The former Humane Society property was purchased in 2017 and renovated early in 2018.

Commissioners honored two of the department's employees for helping save a life at the Clark County Jail. Mike Yinger and Tanner Croley went above and beyond the call of duty by helping a Sheriff's deputy save a man's life at the Jail in November.

# *Dog* **SHELTER**

The Clark County Dog Warden's Office underwent major change in 2018.

In 2017, the office split from the Clark County Humane Society and later purchased its former location at 5201 Urbana Road.

After \$35,000 in upgrades to the facility, the Dog Shelter opened in March and held a formal grand opening later in the year.

In 2018, the Dog Shelter handled more than 940 dogs, including more than 290 returned to owners, 286 adoptions and 245 sent to rescues — an overall success rate of about 90 percent.

There are currently four dog wardens who patrol from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The dog warden's department continues its practice of gaining compliance from dog owners for failure to license before issuing citations. It also conducted door-to-door license surveys.

The shelter's Facebook page is one of the largest government pages in Clark County with more than 8,000 followers who help the dog wardens and staff reunite dogs with their families.



# *Personnel &* **WELLNESS**



The Clark County personnel department collected more than 1,000 job applications and facilitated and participated in over 340 interviews that resulted in the hiring of 100 new employees. Staff answered thousands of emails and phone calls and assisted employees in person each month.

The department facilitated the county's health insurance program, enrolling more than 745 employees – including 60 percent of which participate in the county's wellness program. The personnel staff offered more than a dozen on-site wellness opportunities each month for employees.

Clark County achieved full loss control incentive – a discount on liability insurance – for the ninth consecutive year, a savings of more than \$22,000.

The personnel staff also processed more than 270 disciplinary actions for departments under the Board of County Commissioners, which helps county departments and employees remain accountable to taxpayers.



# Commission OFFICE

In 2018, the Administration Department handled more than 800 resolutions for Clark County agencies, including:

- 350 contracts
- 14 bids
- 55 meetings
- 20 proclamations and
- 6 public hearings.

The commission also held joint meetings with the City of Springfield to discuss both economic development and the opioid crisis.

The administration facilitated the Clark County Luminary Awards, an honor bestowed upon local residents who shine bright in the community.

The department also held multiple events for employees including an Employee Appreciation Day and a holiday event.

The administration staff added a public information component in 2018, increasing its visibility with residents and in the region through social media. The Clark County, Ohio Facebook page more than tripled its reach in the last eight months of the year.



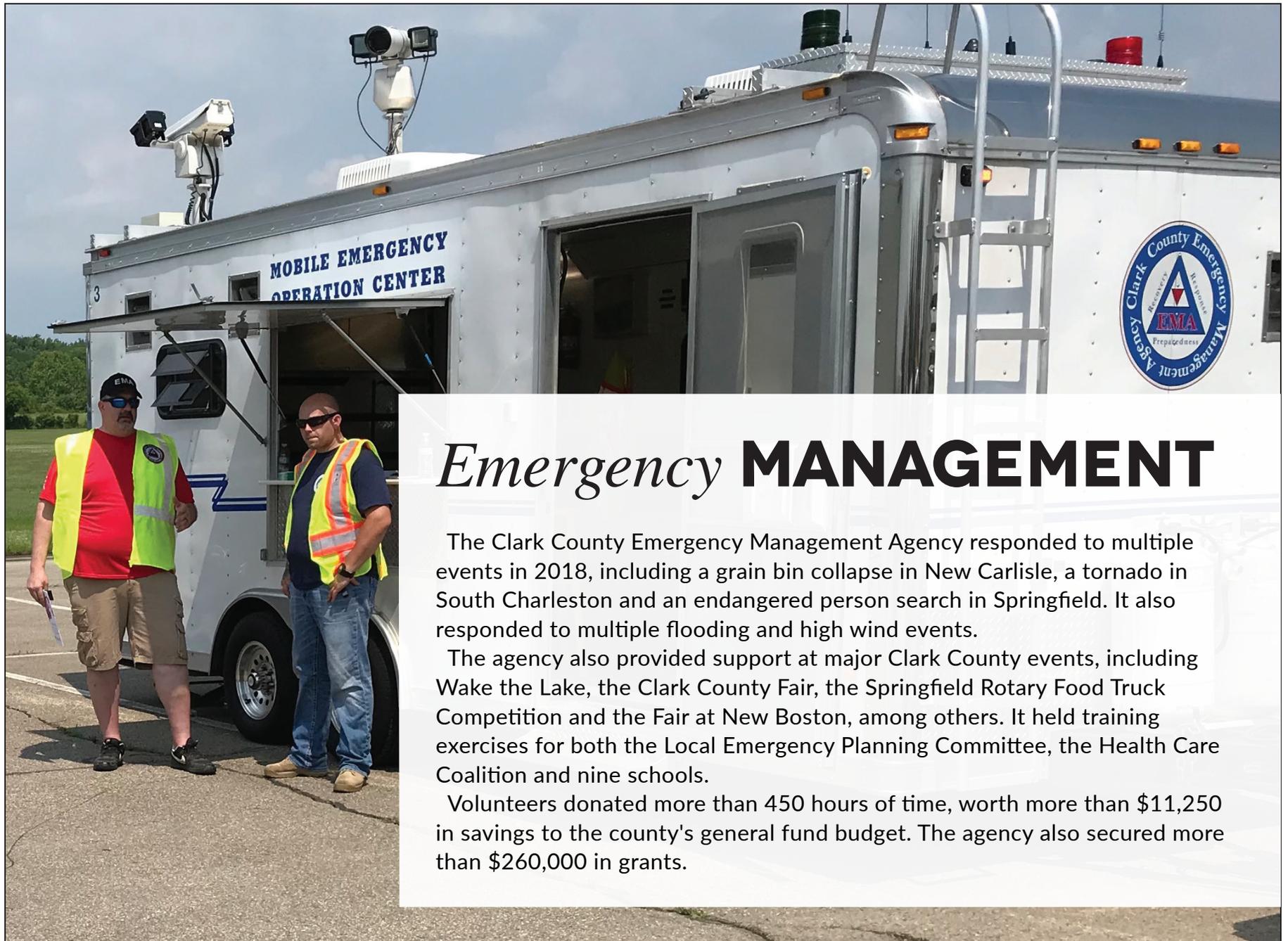
# *Community & Economic* **DEVELOPMENT**

The Clark County Community and Economic Development department oversaw more than \$41 million in construction last year, awarding more than 1,700 permits. 72 new homes were built in 2018.

The department facilitated several large projects, including the Northwestern High School athletic facility, a new Mercy Health emergency department in Enon and North Spring Dental's new location in Moorefield Twp.

The department also oversees the Clark County Land Re-utilization Corp., which demolished its 100th blighted property in 2018. It also collaborated with several partners, including the CIC, cities, villages and townships.





## *Emergency* **MANAGEMENT**

The Clark County Emergency Management Agency responded to multiple events in 2018, including a grain bin collapse in New Carlisle, a tornado in South Charleston and an endangered person search in Springfield. It also responded to multiple flooding and high wind events.

The agency also provided support at major Clark County events, including Wake the Lake, the Clark County Fair, the Springfield Rotary Food Truck Competition and the Fair at New Boston, among others. It held training exercises for both the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Health Care Coalition and nine schools.

Volunteers donated more than 450 hours of time, worth more than \$11,250 in savings to the county's general fund budget. The agency also secured more than \$260,000 in grants.

# *Job and Family* **SERVICES**

In 2018, the BenefitsPlus division completed the statewide conversion of their public assistance software system from the 30-year-old system, CRIS-E, to a new system, Ohio Benefits Worker Portal. This conversion took months to achieve and many hours of training for our staff. Over 41,000 Clark County residents received Medicaid assistance and over 20,000 received food assistance in 2018.

In July, the Family and Children Services Division welcomed a new Deputy Director, Denise Estep. The Family and Children Services Division placed more than 200 children outside of their homes at the end of 2018, including 142 in kinship and 77 in foster care. Increased Search and Engagement practices have been implemented. Clark County FCS had over 3,900 child abuse/neglect referrals in 2018, an average of 10 per day. The Child Advocacy continued to work with the Multi-Disciplinary Team on 376 cases. Adult Protective Services received 533 referrals regarding abuse, neglect and exploitation of seniors.





The Child Support Enforcement Agency distributed more than \$18 million dollars to families in Clark County. CSEA has over a 14,000-caseload count and over a 95% paternity establishment rate. Child Support Enforcement Agency also had over 300 success reinstatements of driver's licenses in 2018. The Division engaged in many outreach activities, including the annual Carnival held at the CSEA office.

OhioMeansJobs, at the end of 2018, served 173

Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program youth (ages 14-24). OhioMeansJobs provided many services to these individuals, including comprehensive guidance and counseling, work experience, supportive services, leadership development opportunities and education concurrent with workforce prep activities. Additionally, the Job Center posted 380 jobs from 216 employers and assisted in placing 366 individuals in jobs with an average starting wage of \$13.88 per hour.



## *Solid Waste* **DISTRICT**

The Clark County Solid Waste District completed several projects in 2018, including the grand opening of the Northeast Recycling Station, located at the corner of Old Columbus Road and Ohio 54 in Harmony Township.

The district collected more than 489 tons of mixed recyclables and more than 253 tons of cardboard at its five drop-off sites throughout Clark County in 2018. More than 66,000 tons of recyclables were collected from homes by commercial collectors last year.

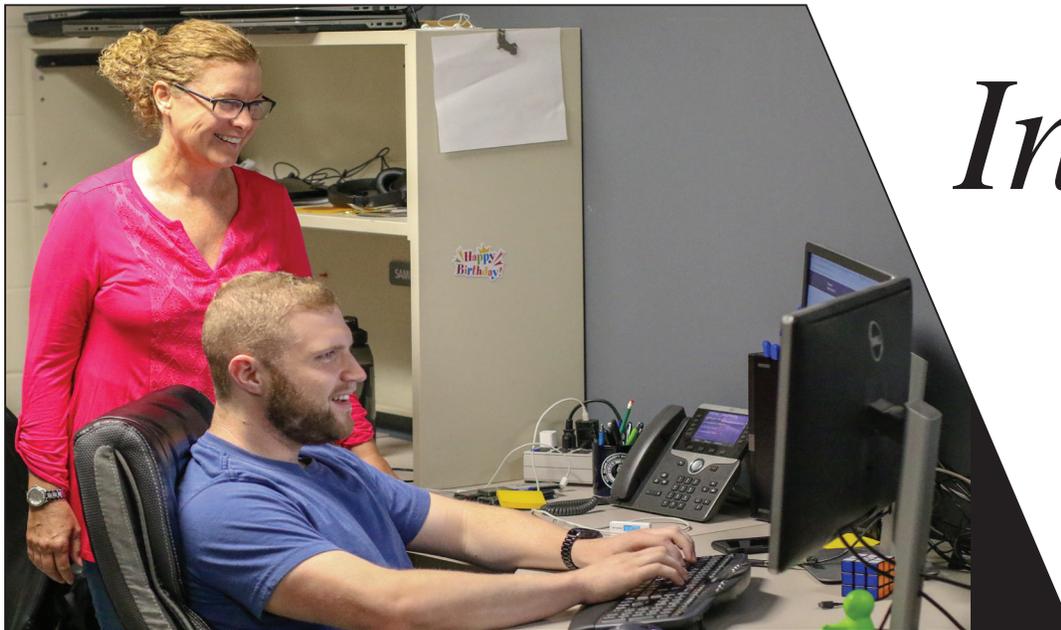
The Clark County Sheriff's Office Environmental Enforcement division received 456 complaint calls, resulting in 111 investigations and three arrests. The division also performed 239 cleanups through its PRIDE inmate program, picking up more than 131 tons of trash throughout the county. The inmates provided 9,264 hours of service, including working the Solid Waste District's Recycling Center.

The district also saw its solid waste plan ratified by government officials in 92 percent of Clark County.

# Utilities

In May, the county utilities department adopted comprehensive water and sewer regulations for the first time since 1958. It also successfully negotiated a new three-year electric supply contract for all departments to help manage costs.

The department constructed a new biosolids storage building at the Southwest Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The billing office integrated new electronic bill and check scanning into workflow and began offering online registration for services to improve both office efficiency and customer service.



# Inf. Systems

The Information Systems department oversees all technology infrastructures for departments and other elected officials. The department completed several projects in 2018, including installing new court case management software and 18 uninterruptable power supplies (UPS) units at switch locations across the county to ensure critical network connections stay powered during electrical events and brief outages. Last year, IS fielded 1,330 work orders, up from 440 in 2017.



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- MELANIE FLAX WILT** *Commissioner*
- LOWELL R. MCGLOTHIN** *Commissioner*
- RICHARD L. LOHNES** *Commissioner*
- JENNY HUTCHINSON** *County Administrator*
- MICHELLE NOBLE** *Assistant County Administrator*
- MEGAN BURR** *Clerk*
- JODI LUCAS** *Budget Analyst*
- EMILY CARTER** *Deputy Clerk*
- MICHAEL COOPER** *Public Information Officer*