



2019 Annual Report



Connections. Communities. Opportunities.

A year of growth

Last year, Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt and I were asked to give a State of the County address at a Springfield Rotary meeting. As we prepared to speak to the large crowd, I couldn't help but think about how far our county has come over the last few years. The future is bright in our community.

We live in a diverse community of 135,000 people made up of two cities, eight villages and 10 townships. The county government is the one central entity that touches all residents in one way or another. In 2017, we adopted our first strategic plan with several goals, including increased access to government services, improving quality of life and promoting economic development. Several renovation projects were underway in 2019, including the \$2.5 million A.B. Graham interior renovation, a \$1.1 million interior renovation of the third floor at the Springview Government Center and a new \$5 million 9-1-1 dispatch center at the Home Road campus. All three projects are designed to improve services and improve quality of life for the public.

The county continued to work on several economic development projects, including the redevelopment of the Upper Valley Mall, the demolition of the armory near the Clark County Fairgrounds and the continued rebirth of downtown Springfield. The county gave \$1 million toward a new parking garage in downtown Springfield set to open in 2020.

We partnered with multiple agencies to improve quality of life throughout Clark County, making upgrades to emergency radio systems, school



Springfield Rotary President Jenny Rousculp-Miller poses for a photo with Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt and Clark County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson after they gave a presentation at Springfield Rotary in August.

safety, workforce development and neighborhoods. The county is committed to strengthening our sales tax base and bringing homes back to our communities to improve the economy for our residents. Major employers such as Speedway and Code Blue announced expansions in our community. The future has never looked brighter for Clark County.

— **Clark County Administrator Jennifer Hutchinson**

Tomatoes and sunflowers

It was a banner year for the Clark County Solid Waste District. The department's Clark County Tomato Project — a container garden project that allowed residents to take home free tomato plants to educate the community about the impact of recycling, beautification and food production — won the Keep Ohio Beautiful community award for population 25,000 to 150,000.

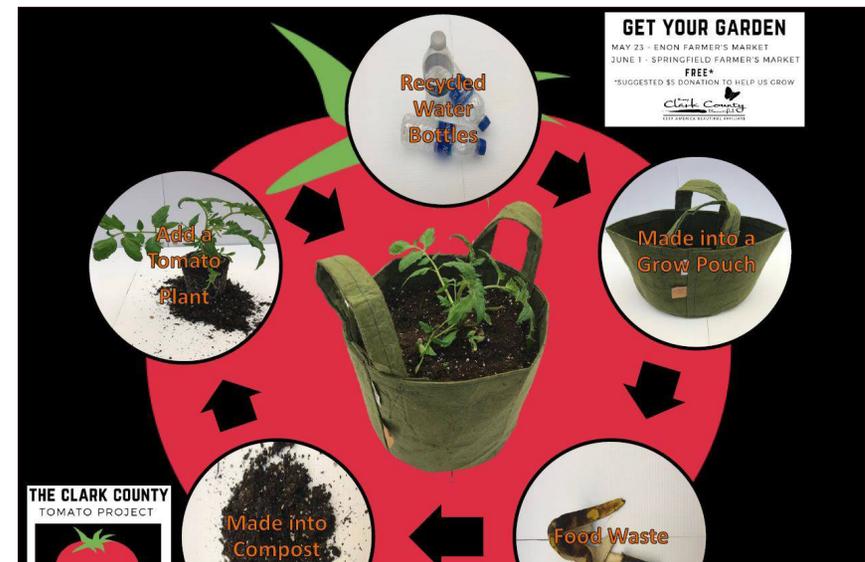
The department also won the 2019 Keep America Beautiful Overall Community Improvement award for its Clark County Sunflower Project, a collaboration between Keep Clark County Beautiful, the Clark County Land Re-utilization Corporation, the National Trail Parks and Recreation District and the City of Springfield. The organizations worked together to clear a former industrial site, plant the seeds and cultivate the flowers in a field located along West Euclid Avenue in Springfield near the bike path.



ABOVE: Keep Ohio Beautiful Board of Directors Secretary Jennifer Jones, Clark County Solid Waste District program manager Bonnie Martens, CCSWD program specialist Sam Perin and Keep America Beautiful Program Director Jerred Jones at the 2019 Keep Ohio Beautiful Awards Ceremony in Columbus. BELOW: A flyer for the Clark County Tomato Project shows the benefits of closed loop recycling.



Keep Clark County Beautiful held one of its meetings and workdays at the Clark County Sunflower Field, installing murals on the side of a building near the field.



A competition of county spirit



The first Gingerbread House Competition was held as part of the annual county employee Holiday Party in December.

The Clark County Community and Economic Development department team of Laura Allen, Amanda Perez, Heath Parmer, Nancy Sowards and Anette Pequignot brought home the championship. The guest judges were Clark County Engineer Johnathan Burr and Clark Soil and Water Conservation District Administrator Chris Simpson.





Run for the dogs

The Clark County Dog Warden's office held the first StrayK, a 5K fun run held to raise money for the shelter. The event, which included shelter dogs participating with runners on leashes, raised more than \$1,300 for expenses not covered by dog license fees.

Commission

In 2019, the Commission department oversaw the nearly \$47 million county general fund budget and \$183.5 million in total appropriations, and facilitated planning for the 2020 budgets.

The Commission continued its strategic focus on improving access to government services, improving quality of life and promoting economic development. To that end it:

- facilitated two major construction projects – the renovation of the historic A.B. Graham Building and the third floor of the Springview Government Center, and started plans for the state-of-the-art 9-1-1 communication center and a new county brand,
- supported efforts to eliminate substance abuse and improve public safety and health,
- supported activities by the Community & Economic Development department with the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and the Dayton Development Coalition, and
- worked closely with local stakeholders to create the Food & Agribusiness working group, which was developed to connect networks and position the county for growth in the sector.

To conduct this work, the department handled more than 800 resolutions, including 377 contracts, 52 meetings and 15 public hearings.



ABOVE: Commissioners Lowell McGlothlin, Melanie Flax Wilt and Rick Lohnes pose with Clark County Fair Queen Taryn Farrell at the 2019 Clark County Fair. BELOW: Clark County Building and Grounds Director Mike Swank (center right) shows the progression of the interior renovation at the A.B. Graham Building to Flax Wilt (left) and McGlothlin (right) along with Steve Ayars of Kapp Construction.

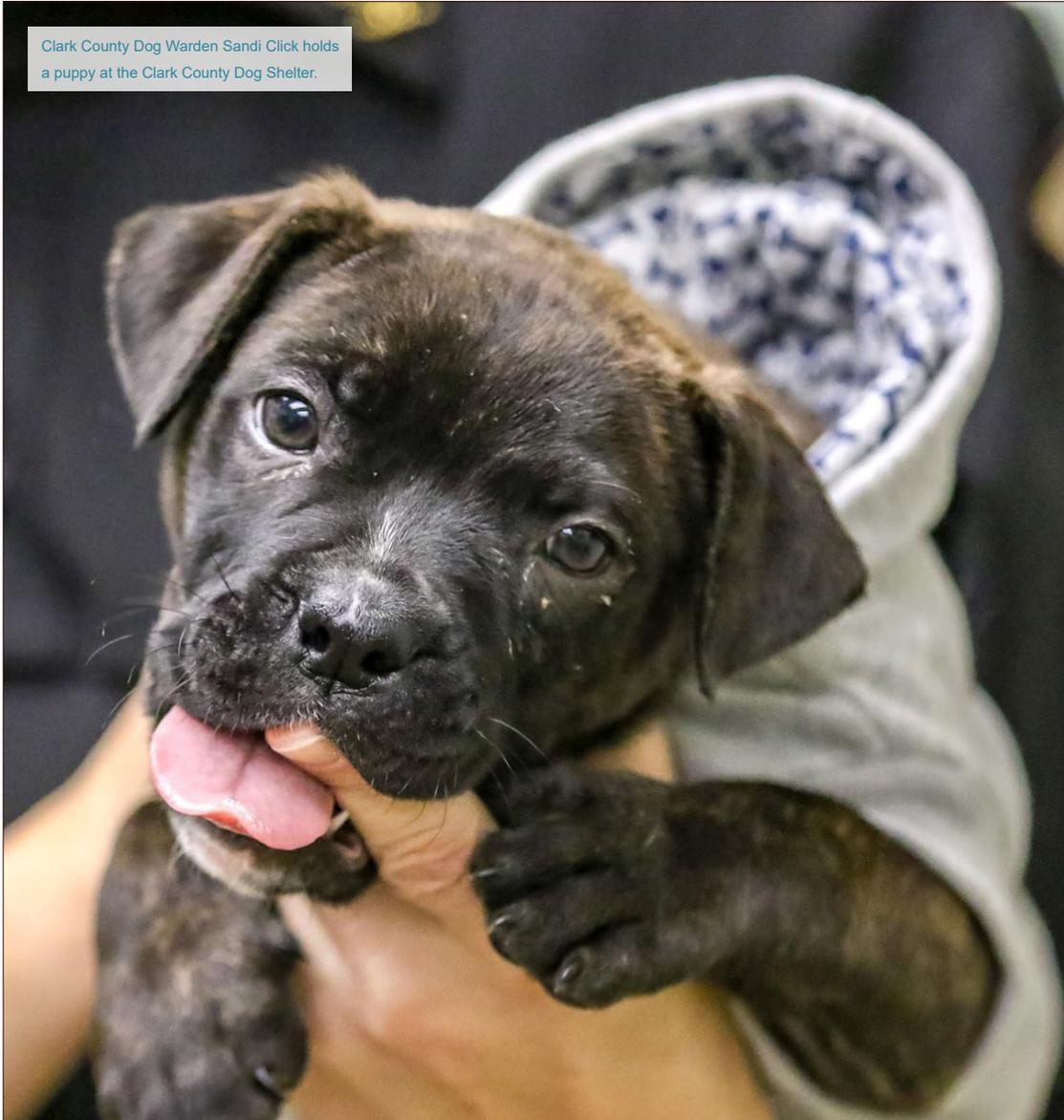


Community & Economic Development

The Clark County Community and Economic Development department oversaw more than \$191.5 million in construction last year, awarding more than 1,795 permits. Sixty-four new homes were built in 2019. The department facilitated several large projects, including the new four-story office building for Speedway LLC, three school facilities and a new Casey's General Store in New Carlisle. More than \$56 million in investment and 320 new jobs were created and hundreds more were retained. The department also issued 198 zoning permits and processed 30 land divisions, 21 lot splits and 41 lot split attachments. In addition, the Clark County Zoning Regulations were reformatted.



Clark County Dog Warden Sandi Click holds a puppy at the Clark County Dog Shelter.



Dog Shelter

In 2019, the Clark County Dog Warden's Office handled more than 1,080 dogs, including more than 300 returned to owners, 320 adoptions and 230 sent to rescues — an overall success rate of about 93 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 on license problems before issuing citations.

The shelter held multiple promotions to help dogs find home, including the first Clear The Shelters event in August, which resulted in dozens of adoptions. The shelter also performed outreach at the Clark County Fair.



Emergency Management Agency

The Clark County Emergency Management Agency responded to several major tragic events in 2019, including multiple tornados in Clark, Greene and Montgomery Counties and the mass shooting in the Oregon District in Dayton.

The EMA staff was recognized for its service during the Memorial Day tornado outbreak from both the City of Beavercreek and Harrison Twp. in Greene County. Staff members used a GIS program, designed by the County Auditor's Office, to track tornado damage, allowing the information to be shared across the state. Staff also was

recognized by the Ohio National Guard for its participation in the statewide Vigilant Guard exercise.

The department also completed several MARCs radio projects, including creating department-specific templates that include common zones and channels for interoperability. Staff also programmed those templates into individual radios, saving taxpayers more than \$160,000.

Volunteers donated more than 865 hours of time, worth more than \$22,000 in savings to the county's general fund budget. The agency

Job & Family Services

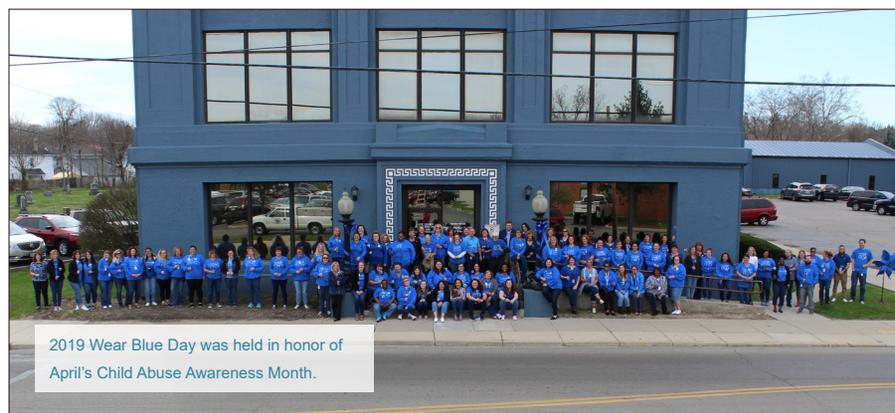
The BenefitsPlus division continued to meet the financial and medical needs of Clark County residents. Over 20,000 individuals received over \$32 million dollars in food assistance. Medical Assistance remained a need in the community with an average of over 40,000 residents receiving assistance. The Fraud Unit recovered \$241,000.

The Family and Children Services Division continued participation in many programs designed to ensure the safety of children. Out of home placement averaged 225 children including 140 in kinship care and 85 in foster care. FCS also provided service to an average of 191 children in their homes each month. Clark County FCS had nearly 3,800 child abuse/neglect referrals in 2019, an average of 10 per day. The Child Advocacy Center continued to work with the Multi-Disciplinary Team on 410 cases. Adult Protective Services received 588 referrals regarding abuse, neglect and exploitation of seniors.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency distributed more than \$19.6 million to families as part of 13,300 cases in Clark County. Over 99% of children born out of wedlock had paternity established. Support Orders were established for 92% of the cases. Three Hundred Sixty-Six driver's licenses

were reinstated in 2019. The Division engaged in many outreach activities, including the annual Carnival held at the CSEA office.

OhioMeansJobs, at the end of 2019, was serving 162 Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program youth (ages 14-24). The agency also 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. In addition, the Job Center posted 700 jobs from 299 employers which resulted in placing 437 individuals in jobs, with an average starting wage of \$13.13 per hour. OMJ hosted 146 hiring events.



The year in photos



The Clark County EMA staff accepts an award from Bath Twp. in Greene County.



Documentary filmmaker Sasha Joseph Neulinger was the guest speaker at a Child Abuse Prevention month training activity.



Clark County Law Day 2019.



The Clark County DJFS staff wore green in honor of Child Support Awareness Month.

Personnel

The Clark County personnel department collected nearly 700 job applications and facilitated and participated in over 240 interviews that resulted in the hiring of more than 225 new employees. Staff answered thousands of emails and phone calls and assisted employees in person each month.

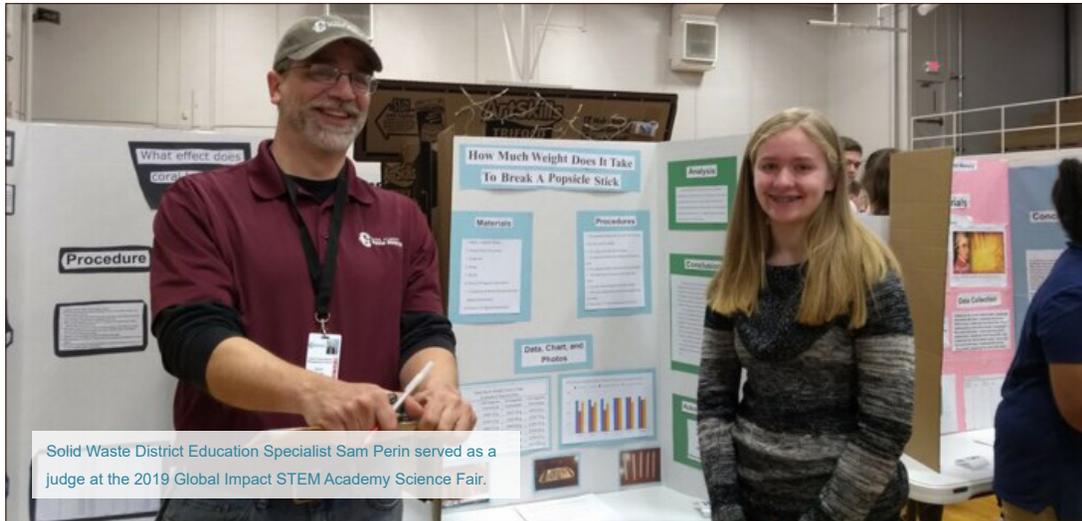
The department facilitated the county's health insurance program, enrolling more than 700 employees — including 60 percent of which participate in the county's wellness program. The personnel staff offered more than 30 on-site wellness opportunities each

month for employees. The department also hosted both a health and wellness fair and a retirement preparedness event with nearly 600 attendees combined.

Clark County achieved full loss control incentive — a discount on liability insurance — for the 10th consecutive year, a savings of more than \$22,000.

The personnel staff also processed more than 70 disciplinary actions for departments under the Board of County Commissioners, which helps county departments and employees remain accountable to taxpayers.





Solid Waste District Education Specialist Sam Perin served as a judge at the 2019 Global Impact STEM Academy Science Fair.



Solid Waste District Director Chuck Bauer talks to a resident about the Clark County Tomato Project at the Springfield Farmer's Market.

Solid Waste District

The Clark County Solid Waste District completed several award-winning projects in 2019, including the Clark County Tomato Project. The program provided residents with a tomato plant in a recyclable container garden, which was used to show the benefits of closed loop recycling.

The district also used a \$31,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to purchase a new foam densifier machine. It was used to allow residents to recycle packaging foam, such as that used for electronics.

The district collected 610 tons of mixed recyclables and 300 tons of cardboard at its six drop-off sites in 2019. More than 66,000 tons of recyclables were collected from homes by commercial collectors.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office Environmental Enforcement division received nearly 400 complaint calls, resulting in 128 investigations. The division also performed 245 cleanups through its PRIDE inmate program, picking up more than 110 tons of trash throughout the county. The inmates provided nearly 10,000 hours of service.

Utilities

In 2019, the Utilities Department secured a \$300,000 grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to help pay for rehabilitation of the Northridge water tower and to install a permanent standby generator at the Northridge water pumping station. Design and construction work on this project will begin in the fall of 2020. The department also constructed a new waterline interconnect in 2019 that combines the Green Meadows 1 and 2 public water systems in Mad River Township forming one water district. The new combined system now has a more dependable water distribution network.

Department staff along with an outside contractor installed more than 2,500 new radio read water meters in the Northridge area replacing meters with older touch pad technology. The new meters have an upgraded



fixed-based meter reading system installed that allows remote reading of water meters without having to send a service worker into customers' homes. The new system provides more efficient use of staff resources.

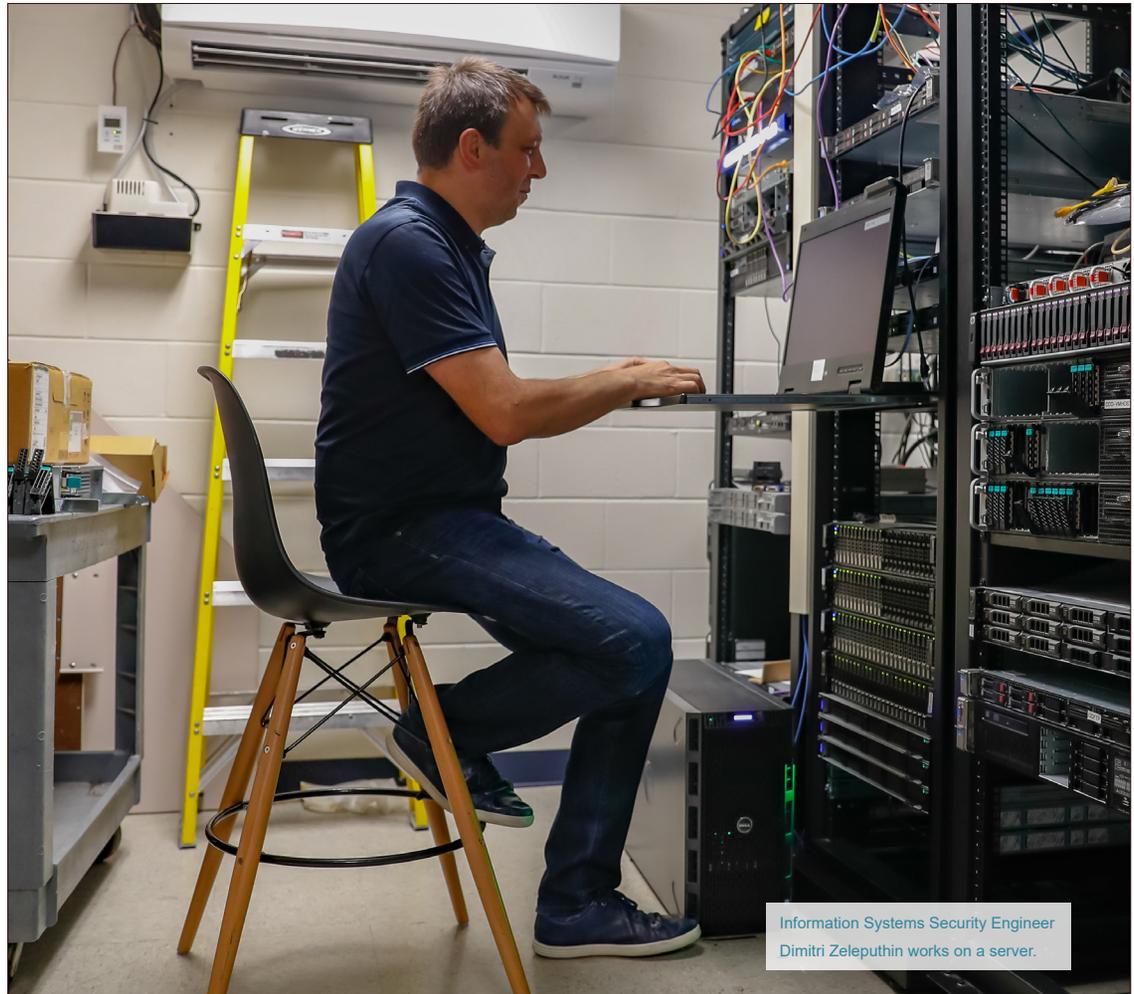
Information Systems

In 2019, the Clark County Information Systems department completed more than 1,600 work orders, up from about 430 in 2017 — a 270 percent increase over two years.

The I/S department also completed a time-intensive and complex server and storage migration project, while also absorbing primary technical support responsibilities for the Clark County Sheriff's Office and the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center.

The department also assisted with improving infrastructure and security at the Board of Elections, while also enhancing network storage capabilities and capacity.

The department also provided technical expertise during AB Graham renovations, including moving five departments to two different locations, established alternate forms of network connectivity and provided technical oversight for technical portions of the renovation bid.



Information Systems Security Engineer
Dimitri Zeleputhin works on a server.

A photograph of several bright yellow sunflowers in the foreground, with a building visible in the background. The building has a blue-tinted overlay on the left side of the image. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others still budding.

CONTACT

Office: 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio

Phone: (937) 521-2005

E-mail: commission@clarkcountyohio.gov