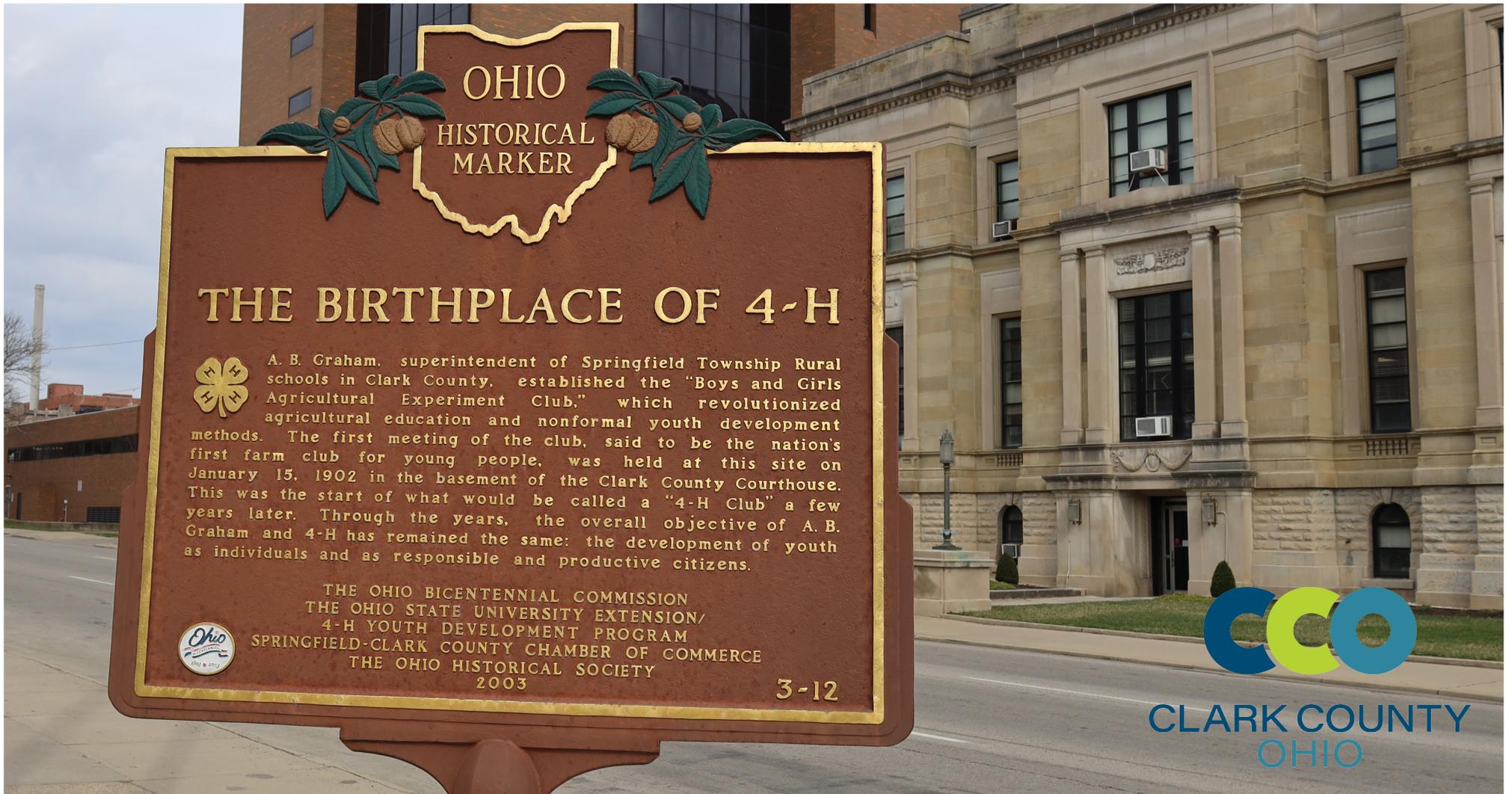


2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CLARK COUNTY, OHIO

APRIL 2022



A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Clark County saw major success across the board in 2021 — in development and job growth, the football field and the international stage.

Clark County continues to realize success after several years of strategic investment aimed at stabilizing the population base and strengthening the local economy.

Here are just a few of the highlights of the year:

- Gabe's broke ground on a new distribution center in the Prime Ohio II Industrial Park that is expected to bring more than 1,000 jobs to the area.
- Two schools opened buildings this year, including the Greenon K-12 building and Shawnee Elementary School.
- The Springfield High School football program advanced to the Division I state championship game, falling to Lakewood

St. Edward 23-13 in Canton. The Wildcats became the third football program in Clark County history to advance to the state final.

- Clark County native and 2016 Shawnee High School graduate Elle Smith was crowned Miss USA at the 70th Miss USA pageant in November. The reigning Miss Kentucky, a journalist in Louisville, finished as a top-10 delegate at the Miss Universe pageant in Israel in December.
- Clark County native and 2009 Kenton Ridge graduate Chris Via, a pro bowler, won his first national PBA Tour title and first major at the 2021 U.S. Open.



The Clark County Commissioners toured the new Clark County 9-1-1 Communications Center in April of 2021. They were joined by Sheriff Deb Burchett, Communications Center Operations Manager Nicole Elliott and Major Chris Clark.



Springfield High School quarterback Te'Sean Smoot runs past a Moeller High School defender during their Division I state semifinal game in November at Sidney High School.



Clark County Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt spoke at the groundbreaking of the new Gabe's facility in October.



The Eichelberger family won the Clark County Solid Waste District's Wrestling Litter competition.



Dog Warden Sandi Click and CCCHD Health Planner Cassidy Nicol pose for a photo with frisbees donated by the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program.



Clark County Luminary Kylie Hannan poses for a photo with Champion City Kings infielder Trey Funderburg.

CHALLENGES MET



SPRINGFIELD — Despite a wide range of challenges facing local governments across the country in 2021, Clark County thrived. In March, the Board of Clark County Commissioners held a grand opening for the newly-renovated historic A.B. Graham Building, a project several years in the making.

Clark County also played a key role in the sale of the former Upper Valley Mall property to a private developer in June, which will spark redevelopment in the area for years to come.

The Board of Clark County Commissioners also created the Clark County Fairgrounds Strategic Planning Task Force, a group of government and local leaders who worked together to map a strategic vision for the Fairgrounds over the next decade.

Those are just a few examples of the many big things Clark County accomplished in 2021. The best is yet to come.

— Clark County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson



Clark County Commissioner Rick Lohnes, Auditor John Federer, Clerk of Common Pleas Court Melissa Tuttle, Treasurer Michelle Harris, Recorder Nancy Pence and Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt cut the ribbon on the historic A.B. Graham Building in March of 2021. The green ribbon is in honor of 4-H, which Graham founded in the county.

SUCCESS STORY

COMMISSIONERS CUT A.B. GRAHAM RIBBON

In March, the Board of Clark County Commissioners held a ribbon-cutting for the newly-renovated A.B. Graham Building. The \$2.5 million project included modernized electrical wiring, heating and air conditioning, fire suppression, plumbing, and a new elevator to make the building handicap accessible.

SUCCESS STORY

MALL PROPERTY SOLD FOR REDEVELOPMENT

The Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation sold the Upper Valley Mall in the fall of 2021 to a regional developer who will transform the property into a business park.

Ohio-based developer Indus-

trial Commercial Properties purchased the 76.8-acre property and 811,000-square-foot mall for \$2.25 million.

"The Land Bank reached its goal of identifying a buyer who could revitalize the property as

a positive economic contributor," said Clark County Land Reutilization Corp. Executive Director Ethan Harris. "ICP has a proven track record of re-purposing properties like this. We look forward to working with them to create great economic opportunities in Clark County."

The land bank operated the facility for more than four years as it searched for a prospective developer to breathe

new life into the property.

"This is the type of use that we hoped for when the county took ownership of the property in 2018," said Clark County Commission President and Land Reutilization Board Member Melanie Flax Wilt. "This will use the existing structure as a foundation for development, create new jobs, and support the remaining retail economy on Upper Valley Pike by bringing more people to the area."



An artist's rendering of the future business park at the former Upper Valley Mall property.



SUCCESS STORY

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE RETURNS

The Springfield Memorial Day Parade made a triumphant return in 2021 after being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The parade — believed to be the largest in the United States — featured several Clark County and Ohio officials, including Auditor John Federer, Recorder Nancy Pence and State Senator Bob Hackett.



SUCCESS STORY

SWD VOLUNTEERS TIDY DOWNTOWN

As part of the annual Clark County Service Day in April, more than 60 people participated in the Clark County Solid Waste District and Keep Clark County Beautiful Downtown Cleanup. Volunteers, which included groups from local businesses, churches and schools, removed 124 bags of trash, 20 tires, 22 bulk items and four mattresses from downtown Springfield and nearby bike paths. The event is also held in conjunction with the annual Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest beautification program, involving millions of volunteers nationally and hundreds annually in Clark County.

More than 540 people in Clark County participated in the 2021 Great American Cleanup. Those volunteers gave over 550 hours of time and picked up 290 bags of litter from 26 public spaces throughout the county from March to June.

60
VOLUNTEERS
20
TIRES

124
BAGS OF TRASH
22
BULK ITEMS



SUCCESS STORY

GOVERNOR DEWINE VISITS CLARK COUNTY

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine made several stops in Clark County in 2021, including a trip to the Clark County Combined Health District's vaccination clinic at the Upper Valley Mall in March. In November, DeWine — a Greene County resident — visited the historic South Charleston Opera House to announce a more than \$640,000 grant awarded to the village of South Charleston's wastewater treatment plant.



South Charleston Village Council Member Sam Stucky introduces Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine enters the historic South Charleston Opera House for a press conference.

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



Natalie Fritz of the Clark County Historical Society wheels out several Peanuts characters from the old Holiday display at the Upper Valley Mall after it was sold in June of 2021. The characters were saved by the Historical Society and were later used downtown as part of the Holiday in the City decorations.



Anette Pequignot and Meara Franzen of the Community and Economic Development Department pose for a photo at their Clark County Fair booth.



Sam Perin of the Solid Waste District and Northridge seventh grader Robert Carabez pose with a recycling bin. Carabez started a recycling program at the school last year.



B.J. Miller of the IS Department smashes a pie in the face of Clark County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson at the annual Employee Appreciation holiday party at the NTPRD Chiller in December of 2021. The IS Department contributed the most money as part of the annual FanDay Friday fundraiser, which raises money for needy families during the holidays.



Clark County Commissioner Rick Lohnes spoke at the ribbon-cutting for the new Clark-Shawnee Elementary School, which opened in August of 2021.



The Clark County Community and Economic Development division used CBDG dollars to tear down the old Madison Street School in New Carlisle in July of 2021.



Clark County Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt skates at the annual Employee Appreciation holiday event held in December of 2021 at the NTRPD Chiller in downtown Springfield.

COMMISSION VISION OF THE FUTURE

The Clark County Commission Department prepared 855 resolutions, 237 contracts and nine formal bid openings in 2021 — all while operating through several different COVID-19 protocols.

The department managed several local boards, including the Clark County Fairgrounds Strategic Planning Task Force, which

was created to map a strategic vision for Champions Park.

Clark County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson was named to the Dayton Business Journal's Bizwomen Power 50 list for the second straight year. Hutchinson oversees a general fund budget of about \$45 million and about 340 employees.



The Commission Office created a postcard for the Clark County Fair to survey fairgoers about the future of Champions Park and the Fairgrounds.



The Clark County Fairgrounds Strategic Planning Task Force held a retreat in September of 2021 to discuss the future of Champions Park.



Clark County Commissioners Lowell McGlothlin, Melanie Flax Wilt and Rick Lohnes pose for a photo during a meeting in April of 2021.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WINNING BIG



Development Director Ethan Harris and Building Inspector Chris Young rope off an area of the Upper Valley Mall parking lot after selling the property in June of 2021.



The Clark County Community and Economic Development department.

Clark County's Community and Economic Development Department was named best in Ohio for 2021 by the Ohio Conference of Community Development, a 170-member statewide association of community and economic development professionals.

The department's results throughout the year played a key role in their selection. The department:

- Managed the Upper Valley Mall until it was purchased by a regional developer to be transformed into a business park. The former JC Penney site also served as the Clark County Vaccination Clinic through May.
- Managed the former Kroger on South Limestone Street until it was eventually purchased by Groceryland.
- Secured more than \$1.7 million in grant funds for the community, including funding to demolish the blighted Madison Street school building in New Carlisle. Executed an Enterprise Zone Agreement with Lone Mountain to build

an airplane dealership and maintenance facility at Air Park Ohio.

- Approved more than \$171 million in new construction projects in Clark County, including 112 new residential structures. Also, completed nearly 4,000 inspections.

- Created an online submission portal and developed a code enforcement task force that includes townships, fire departments, the Clark County Combined Health District and the Clark County Land Re-utilization Corporation. Also, issued 361 zoning certificates and closed 104 zoning complaints.

- Processed 2,344 permits worth more than \$820,000 in revenue. Also, provided financial services to four different Clark County departments.

DOG SHELTER WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY



Despite facing several staff shortages throughout the year, Clark County Dog Shelter saw an unprecedented influx of dogs coming into the shelter in 2021, including several that were simply dropped off at the door.

The shelter saw a record number of dogs in 2021 with 817. Municipal dog shelters and rescues across the nation saw an influx of strays as many dogs adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic were no longer able to be cared for as their new owners went back to work.

The shelter redeemed 310 dogs to owners and 220 dogs were adopted into homes straight from the shelter. The shelter also sent 142 dogs to partner rescues throughout Ohio, including the Clark County SPCA.

The dog shelter participat-

ed in several promotions throughout the year, including the Fall at the Fairgrounds Craft Show, which raised more than \$4,700 in donations for the shelter. The donor fund treats injured dogs, covers needed vet costs that the county cannot legally cover and pays for many other extras that the shelter cannot provide from its Dog & Kennel fund. The event also facilitated several dog adoptions.

The shelter participated in the national Clear the Shelters adoption event, which adopted more than 29 dogs throughout the four-week national event.

The shelter also made a big push to educate the public on the importance of buying dog licenses, which directly funds shelter operations.

817

DOGS HANDLED

310

REDEMPTIONS

220

ADOPTIONS

142

SENT TO RESCUES

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY STAYING READY

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clark County Emergency Management Agency responded to 13 different emergency situations, including a missing person search in January and extreme cold weather sheltering response in February. The agency also responded to several other ongoing crises throughout the year including planning for homelessness in Clark County.

The agency continued to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including supporting the Clark County Combined Health District, maintaining operational readiness to open the Emergency Operations Center and providing situational awareness to community stakeholders. The agency assisted with vaccine site communications, as well as provided staff hours to

assist with FEMA paperwork for reimbursements.

EMA held several mask giveaways throughout 2021 as COVID-19 case numbers continued to fluctuate throughout the year.

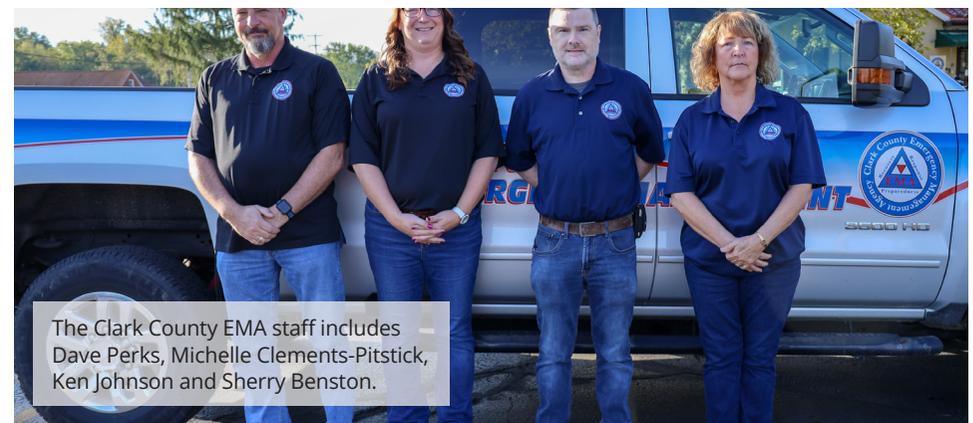
The agency provided planned support at nine different events, including the Fair at New Boston, the Wake the Lake boat race and an OVI checkpoint.

In November, the agency held a training in conjunction with the Nehemiah Foundation on how local churches can host warming centers for homeless individuals.

The agency collected more than \$210,000 in grants in 2021, including more than \$125,000 in performance grants. The EMA also had 22 volunteers perform 90 hours of service, which resulted in more than \$2,500 in savings to Clark County.



Clark County EMA Deputy Director Ken Johnson provided training to local faith-based organizations on how to open a warming center last fall at the Nehemiah Foundation in Springfield.



The Clark County EMA staff includes Dave Perks, Michelle Clements-Pitstick, Ken Johnson and Sherry Benston.

JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

MEETING NEEDS

In 2021, the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services continued to meet the needs of the citizens of Clark County in person and virtually.

The BenefitsPlus division continued to meet the financial and medical needs of Clark County residents. More than 32,600 individuals received more than \$62.8 million dol-

lars in food assistance. Medical Assistance remained a need in the community with 46,000 residents receiving assistance. Over 1,900 individuals received \$3.4 million in TANF. The Fraud Unit recovered more than \$228,000.

The Family and Children Services (FCS) Division continued participation in many



Family and Childrens Services Division employees planted pinwheels as part of its annual National Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign in April of 2021.

programs designed to ensure the safety of children. Out of home placement averaged 200 children including 118 in kinship care and 61 in foster care. FCS also provided service to an average of 174 children in their homes each month. Clark County FCS had nearly 3,578 child abuse/neglect referrals in 2021, an average of nearly 10 per day. Child Advocacy continued to work with the Multi-Disciplinary Team on 154 cases.

Adult Protective Services received 511 referrals regarding abuse, neglect and exploitation of seniors. The department continued its partnership with the Clark County Juvenile Court to find strategies to better serve dually involved youth and prevent recidivism.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency distributed \$20,362,736 in Child Support collections. Support Orders were established for over 93%

of the cases. Clark County CSEA was recognized by the state for "Most Improved" in the area of arrears collections for a large county. Current support and arrears collections were the highest ever achieved in Clark County.

OhioMeansJobs continued work with over 1,100 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 540 jobs from 242 employers which resulted in placing 345 individuals in jobs, with an average starting wage of \$15.86 per hour. OMJ staff worked with the Greater Springfield Partnership and the State of Ohio to host virtual job fairs.



The Clark County Job Fair resumed in 2021 after being shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.



PERSONNEL RAMPING UP

As part of the county's strategic plan priority to “retain and attract workforce” during the midst of the Great Resignation, talent acquisition and retention has evolved into a unique challenge the HR team has met with creativity. To make information more accessible, a QR code was created to link job seekers directly to open positions. A new slogan “Your County. Your Life. Your Impact.” has also been implemented in recruiting materials.

After surveying staff, insurance benefits and leave policies were expanded to be more employee friendly. Onboarding was extended to include follow up interviews with employees as they progress through probation.

284
INTERVIEWS

With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with local and state guidelines, some activities continued virtually and some events returned to in-person activities.

The personnel office continues to offer comprehensive assistance for a full range of activities including recruiting, employment and onboarding activities, updating and maintaining classification and compensation structures, civil service activities, administration of a wide range of benefits, risk management, workers' compensation claims, unemployment claims, coordination of investigative services, and collective bargaining negotiations.

87
NEW HIRES



CLARK COUNTY
OHIO

Come work with us!



Scan the QR code to learn more
about internships with Clark County.

Your County. **Your Life.** Your Impact.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

MAJOR RENOVATIONS

The Buildings and Grounds-Department completed several important projects in 2021. The department also hired three new employees to bring both the maintenance and custodial divisions to full strength.

The department completed renovations on both the first and fifth floors of the Municipal Building, including remodeling the Information Systems department space on the fifth floor and relocating the Public Defender's office to the

first floor. The County Prosecutor's office was also expanded to include the space previously held by the Public Defender. The entryway at the Municipal Building was also redesigned.

The A.B. Graham Building received a new stonewall entry design on the sidewalk and a new countertop was installed at the Title Office.

The department also completed the long-awaited Dog Shelter parking lot improvements.



A new stone entryway was installed at the A.B. Graham Building in 2021.



BEFORE: The Clark County Dog Shelter parking lot before it was resurfaced.



AFTER: The parking lot after it was resurfaced.

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT RECORD NUMBERS

The Clark County Solid Waste District continued its innovative, award-winning programming and set records with its drop-off recycling in 2021.

The district collected a record amount of comingled recyclables — 736 tons, a 340% increase since 2011. It also collected a record 329 tons of cardboard. The collections resulted in nearly \$100,000 in income for the district.

Amidst the pandemic in 2020, the district received many calls about ways residents could throw away large bulk items, such as couches, chairs and mattresses.

In early 2021, the district began accepting large bulk items as part of its furniture drop program, which allows residents to throw away those items for a small fee. The program is designed to offer

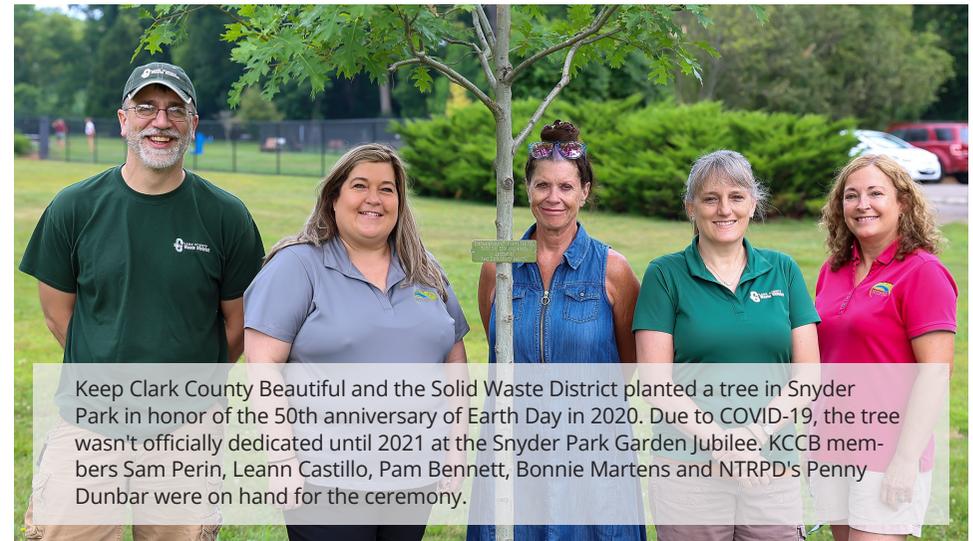
residents the opportunity to throw away these items instead of illegally dumping them in areas throughout Clark County. More than 150 customers dropped off over 300 items of furniture, weighing more than seven tons.

The district also began offering free yard waste recycling through a contract with Springfield-based C&S Tree Recycling Center. More than 4,900 Clark County residents, recycled approximately 11,000 cubic yards of yard waste.

The Solid Waste District continued educational programs that were paused during the pandemic. The district performed 13 classroom programs for nearly 200 Clark County students.



Solid Waste District staffs lifts furniture into a trash truck as part of its Furniture Drop program.



Keep Clark County Beautiful and the Solid Waste District planted a tree in Snyder Park in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020. Due to COVID-19, the tree wasn't officially dedicated until 2021 at the Snyder Park Garden Jubilee. KCCB members Sam Perin, Leann Castillo, Pam Bennett, Bonnie Martens and NTRPD's Penny Dunbar were on hand for the ceremony.

ENFORCEMENT

299

ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLAINTS

193

CLEANUPS

85

INVESTIGATIONS

0

ARRESTS

565

BAGS ON
TOWNSHIP ROADS



7,290
PRIDE HOURS

158
TONS OF TRASH

RECYCLING

6

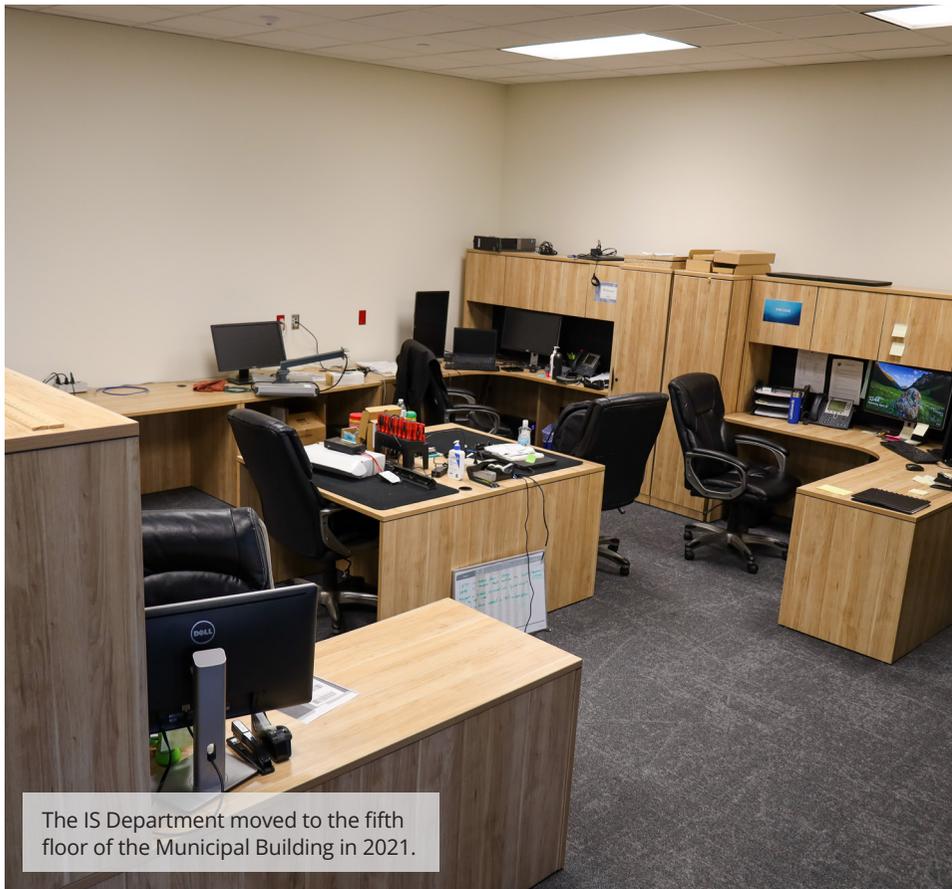
DUMPSTER
LOCATIONS

2,300
DUMPSTERS
EMPTIED

736
TONS OF MIXED
RECYCLABLES

329
TONS OF
CARDBOARD

INFORMATION SYSTEMS **FULL STAFF. FULL STRENGTH.**



The IS Department moved to the fifth floor of the Municipal Building in 2021.

The Information Systems Department is back at full strength after several years of rebuilding.

The department increased its staffing level from three full-time employees in April to nine full-time positions in November, including a contract with Entegrity Consulting Group for technical services.

The department handled a record 2,260 work orders last year, a 22% increase from 2020.

The department worked dili-

gently through a cyber incident in May of 2021 that involved multiple outside entities responding, including the Department of Homeland Security.

The department is in the midst of several projects spanning multiple years, including the deployment of new laptops for employees and a new network to increase storage and provide greater security. They're also installing 30 miles of fiber to increase internet speeds.



The IS Department holds a meeting in their new conference room space.

UTILITIES

FRESH AND CLEAN

The Clark County Utilities Department made a major change to one of its largest infrastructure pieces in Northridge. The department rehabilitated and painted the 1 million gallon water tower that serves about 10,000 Clark County residents in the Northridge public water district, at a cost of \$700,000.

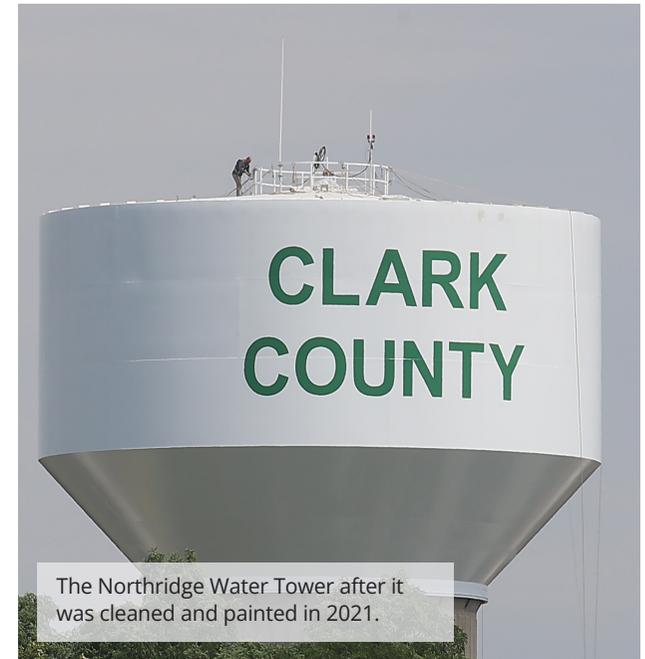
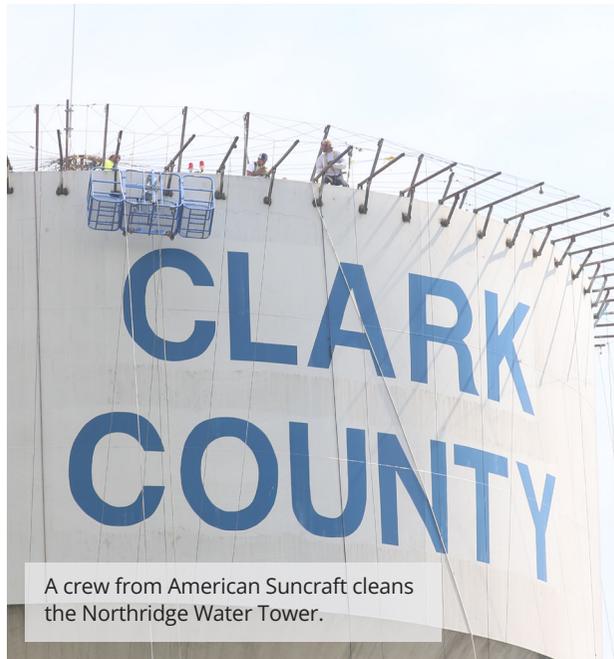
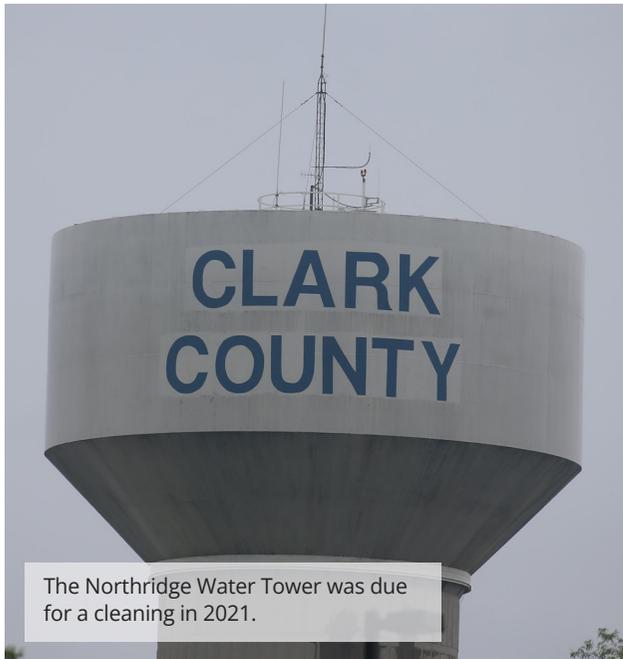
The department limited rate increases to only three water districts, with most customers receiving no rate increase for the year.

The department transferred the Garden Acres, Holiday Hills and Maplewood water and sewer district customers to the City of Springfield in a new partnership.

The department installed a new per-

manent back-up power generator at the Northridge water booster pumping station, which will provide more reliable service to area customers.

The department maintained staffing to provide safe drinking water and sanitary sewer treatment to customers throughout the year.





CONTACT US

Board of Clark County Commissioners
3130 East Main Street, Springfield, OH 45503
www.clarkcountyohio.gov



CLARK COUNTY
OHIO

Connections. Communities. Opportunities.