



CLARK COUNTY OHIO

Connections. Communities.
Opportunities.



CLARK COUNTY, OHIO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Meet the Commissioners

Lowell McGlothlin

McGlothlin, who served on the New Carlisle City Council for 15 years, was first elected to office in 2016 and was reelected in 2020. He is a graduate of Tecumseh High School and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He has two grown sons, Blake and Brock, and three grandsons — Bryce, Brandt and Easton.

Melanie Flax Wilt

Flax Wilt, the owner of public relations firm Shift-ology Communication, was first elected to the board in 2016 and has served as Board President since 2019. She and her husband, Gabe Kelly, are the parents of CJ and Addie Wilt and Joshua Kelly.

Sasha Rittenhouse

Rittenhouse, a local farmer, is a graduate of Northwestern High School, Clark State College and the Ohio State University. After being named interim commissioner in June of 2022, she was elected to her first term later that fall. She and her husband Scott have three children — Lara, Lexi and Rylan.

2023 CLARK COUNTY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Priority 1 — Strengthen Clark County's economy and sales tax base

Objective 1: Stabilize population by 2022 and increase population by 2025.

Objective 2: Maintain annual 4 percent sales tax growth.

Objective 3: Develop location along I-70 and create attractive gateway to the community.

Priority 2 — Retain and attract workforce

Objective 1: Recruit and retain employees in county government.

Objective 2: Recruit, retain and build employees in skilled trade and professional positions.

Objective 3: Position Clark County as a great place to work, develop talent, and succeed as a business or employee.

Priority 3 — Improve digital and physical access to government

Objective 1: Improve security throughout county facilities and electronic workspaces.

Objective 2: Develop a centralized records system.

PROJECTS IMPROVING COMMUNITY

SPRINGFIELD — 2023 was another stellar year for Clark County.

Several long-running projects were completed that will improve quality of life for our residents for years to come, while others set to make a huge impact began in 2023, including:

- The \$6 million Clark County 9-1-1 Communications Center opened in March after years of discussions with the City of Springfield and other local municipalities. The combined dispatching operation will reach every corner of Clark County and improve response times during situations where seconds matter.

- The Clark County Fairgrounds Board Office project was also completed last summer. The new building provided additional office space at the county-owned fairgrounds, which was moved as part of the upcoming Champions Park development.

- The Emergency Management Agency's new command center was delivered, allowing the agency to use state-of-the-art technology as it responds to critical situations throughout our communities.

- The temporary courthouse for the Clark County Common Pleas Court began construction in late 2023 and was scheduled to open in 2024. The court offices will move to the Bushnell Building next year as renovations at the courthouse begin in the spring.

With more important projects planned for next year, the future remains bright in Clark County.

Jenny Hutchinson
— Clark County Administrator



9-1-1 Center comes alive

The \$6 million Clark County 9-1-1 Communications Center opened in March of 2023 after years of planning and development.

The state-of-the-art dispatch center project included \$1.8M in new construction and about \$4.2 million in technology costs. The project was paid for without raising taxes and used several different funding sources, including bonds, 9-1-1 Wireless funding and American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

The Communications Center was built to allow for increased efficiency, faster response times and greater communication among different Clark County agencies. The center meets state standards for Next Gen 9-1-1 compliance, including the ability to answer text messages. It also eliminates duplicated services and transfers from different dispatch centers.

The combined dispatching operation includes nearly every local municipality, including the city of Springfield, the city of New Carlisle and the 10 Clark County townships.

The Board of Clark County Commissioners held a dedication ceremony in August, honoring the lives of two fallen deputies — Matthew Yates and Suzanne Hopper. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine attended the event and spoke about the importance of Next Gen 9-1-1 and its role in saving lives throughout Ohio.



Lieutenant Kristopher Shultz leads the Clark County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.



Clark County Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt was among the featured speakers.



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine spoke about the importance of 9-1-1 dispatching.



The Yates family unveils the Matthew Yates 9-1-1 Training Room plaque.



The Matthew Yates Memorial Bench.



Tracy Yates and Eugene Yates were the first to sit on the memorial bench.

Honoring our fallen hero



Clark County Sheriff Deb Burchett and the Yates family pose with a miniature version of the Deputy Sheriff Matthew Yates Memorial Highway sign.



Major Mike Young of the Clark County Sheriff's Office and State Representative Bernie Willis were among the featured speakers at the unveiling of the Deputy Sheriff Matthew Yates Memorial Highway sign.

Clark County Sheriff's Office Deputy Matthew Yates — who was killed in the line of duty in July of 2022 — was honored multiple times in the year following his tragic death.

A stretch of Ohio 40 near Tuttle Road in Springfield was renamed the Deputy Sheriff Matthew Yates Memorial Highway. Several people spoke at the event, including Ohio state representative Bernie Willis.

The Board of Clark County Commissioners also dedicated a memorial bench at the Springview Government Center. The bench was placed inside a gazebo, which was repainted and landscaped by the Clark County Building & Grounds Department.





Michael Stafford, Julie Driskill and Bonita Heeg were honored as 2023 Clark County Luminaries.

The Year in Photos



Employees pose for a staff photo at the annual Employee Appreciation Day.



Clark County Commissioner Lowell McGlothlin was one of the featured speakers at the Gabe's Warehouse grand opening.



Clark County Solid Waste District Program Specialist Sam Perin works with a student during an educational program.



Clark County Commissioner Sasha Rittenhouse and her son Rylan brought in baby goats from their farm for commission staff members to pet last fall.



TOP: A group of Building & Grounds employees work on the Matthew Yates Memorial Bench at Springview. BELOW: The Building & Grounds custodial staff were recognized on National Custodial Workers Day.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

FLOODING, LEAKS CAUSE MAJOR REPAIRS

The Buildings & Grounds department oversaw several capital improvements in 2023, as well as continuous repairs and scheduled maintenance at multiple county buildings.

The department completed several repairs at the Springview Government Center complex, including roof leaks along the south wall. Roofing contractors replaced the flashing and sealed cracks on the exterior of the building. Interior repairs to crumbling plaster will start in early 2024.

In October, the department responded to a major flooding incident at the Springview facility. A one-inch pipe burst overnight,

causing damage to the first floor and lower level areas. Service Master Restoration was called in to clean up the damage and dry the area. After the repairs were made to the one-inch line, the department also installed a new metering water valve to help prevent any further damage in the future.

The department also continued to make repairs to the mechanical systems at the downtown Public Safety Building. The boilers and fire pump were repaired with new parts for the heating and safety of the facility. The kitchen dish washer unit was also replaced and the elevators were also upgraded with new safety controls.



TOP: The new Clark County Fairgrounds Office was completed in the summer of 2023. BELOW: A group of Clark County staff members pose for a photo on Ugly Christmas Sweater Day at Springview.



COMMISSION

SEVERAL KEY PROJECTS REACH COMPLETION

The Clark County Commission Department managed several different projects in 2023 and oversaw a budget of more than \$50 million and more than 325 employees.

The completion of the Clark County 9-1-1 Communications Center ended a nearly five-year project that began before the COVID pandemic of 2020, as well as the new fairgrounds office.

The department also prepared 981 resolutions, 384 contracts and 15 formal bid openings last year, while also hosting more than 50 public commission meetings. A department-wide shred day event was held.

In December, the Board honored three local

residents as Clark County Luminaries — Michael Stafford, Julie Driskill and Bonita Heeg — for their efforts in shining a positive light on the community.

The department also held several employee events, including the annual Employee Appreciation Day in September. The second annual Clark County Commission Employee Bowling Tournament was held at Victory Lanes. The team of John Lethcoe, Angela Wheeler and Megan Davis won the team championship, while Lethcoe and Wheeler also won the men's and women's singles titles. Kim Wilson won the gutter ball award.



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT ON THE RISE

The Community and Economic Development department saw several projects start to blossom in 2023, including a substantial increase in subdivision development compared to the last 20 years. The county has multiple subdivisions being developed, including two proposed in New Carlisle and another in Moorefield Twp.

The department was very busy with new and ongoing grant programs. The Land Bank finished up the demolition of the Catawba School and immediately began prepping for the next round of state demolition and brownfield funding. The Clark County Land Bank is also working closely with the city of

Springfield staff to maximize the funding opportunity.

Habitat for Humanity broke ground on two new residential structures in the city of New Carlisle. The properties were transferred to the non-profit organization from the Land Bank and were further funded with Clark County CHIP dollars in the amount of \$30,000 per house. Moving into the fall and winter, the Department was much busier than usual with planning and zoning. This should be good news indicating future development on the horizon in 2024.

The Building Division administered more than \$45 million in total construction value



LEFT AND RIGHT: The former Catawba School building was demolished using Community Development Block Grant funding.

in Clark County, including \$25 million in new construction. The division also continued outreach to townships, health department and other agencies, completed 3,780 inspections and resolved 21 new building code violations.

The Planning & Zoning Division issued 251 zoning certificates, holding 33 meetings that resulted in 76 cases being resolved. The division also received more than 50 zoning complaints and resolved 34, including several from the previous year.

The Finance and Administration Division provide services to the IS, Coroner, Park District, Reentry and Land Bank departments, as well as management of Clark County ARPA funding. The division also provided financial assistance and training to other departments as needed. It processed

2,264 permits and 1,763 credit card transactions and collected more than \$629,000 in revenue.

The Development Division collected more than \$31 million in sales tax, an increase of 2.45 percent from 2022. The division also completed several grant-funded projects, including construction of a year-round shelter house at Smith Park in New Carlisle, street and drainage improvements on Fenwick Drive in New Carlisle and street rehabilitation on Broadview, Rocket and Sunset Streets in Springfield Twp. It also administered six enterprise zone agreements.

The Clark County Land Bank put 60 properties back to a productive use, paving the way for housing and commercial properties to be redeveloped throughout Springfield and Clark County.



TOP: EMA Director Michelle Clements-Pitstick and Deputy Director Dave Perks recognized Northwestern fifth grader Maelyn Smith for winning the statewide Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest. BELOW: Clements-Pitstick and Perks pose with commissioners after receiving a proclamation for Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

EMA ANSWERS THE CALL IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

The Clark County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) was at the forefront of more than 20 critical incidents in 2023, demonstrating resilience, collaboration, and a commitment to the safety and well-being of county residents.

Throughout the year, the EMA was called upon to navigate a series of demanding situations including a train derailment, a helicopter crash, a fatal bus crash and the devastating impact of tornadoes.

In addition to our response efforts, the EMA was actively engaged in continuous planning, including the comprehensive rewrite of the county-wide Emergency

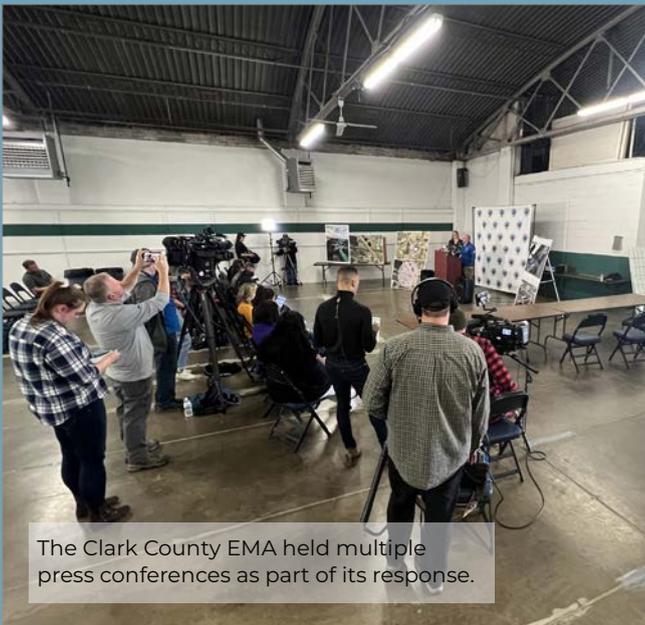
Operations Plan. The EOP is a strategic document that ensures Clark County is well-equipped to address a wide range of emergencies and safeguards for our community members.

The EMA provides support to many activities throughout the county aside from emergency response, such as incident action planning, equipment support, pre-planning and incident support. The EMA attended several events, including the Clark County Fair, CultureFest and Holiday in the City.

Throughout the year, the EMA successfully completed over 17 exercises, encompassing various scenarios in preparation of disasters.



Aerial views of the train derailment near Ohio 41 and Gateway Boulevard.



The Clark County EMA held multiple press conferences as part of its response.



Local and state officials work on their response to the event inside the EMA's new command center.

Train derailment puts spotlight on Clark County

Multiple state and local officials responded to a train derailment on Saturday, March 4, in Springfield Twp. The derailment occurred at approximately 4:45 p.m. near Ohio 41 and Gateway Blvd. Approximately 20 of the 212 cars derailed with four tankers identified with non-hazardous materials -- two tankers contained residual amounts of Diesel Exhaust Fluid and the other two tankers contained residual amounts of Polyacrylamide Water Solution.

The Springfield Twp. Fire Department

responded to the scene and immediately deployed the Clark County Hazmat team, who quickly discovered there was no spillage at the site. A shelter-in-place was issued for nearby residents as a precaution, but no one was harmed in the accident.

In the wake of the train derailment weeks earlier in East Palestine, Ohio, the national media made its way to Clark County, including NBC News. The EMA held several press conferences after the event at the Clark County Fairgrounds.



TOP: Commissioners pose with Dog Warden Sandi Click and Moorefield Twp. resident Arya Woodson, who was recognized for giving her birthday money to the dog shelter. BOTTOM LEFT: A dog is being prepped for adoption. BOTTOM RIGHT: Several gift baskets were raffled off as part of the Dog Shelter's 2nd annual Clear the Shelter event.



BY THE NUMBERS

781

Total intakes

260

Adoptions

169

Reclaimed by owners



DOG WARDEN

DOG SHELTER GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

The Clark County Dog Warden's office brought in more than 750 dogs last year, despite facing several challenges including increased aggressive dog behavior, lack of dog socialization, lack of external rescue space and lack of local veterinary availability.

The Dog Warden's Office and the Board of Clark County Commissioners honored 8-year-old Moorefield Twp. resident Arya Woodson for her selfless donation to the dog shelter in both 2022 and 2023. Instead of accepting birthday presents, Arya donated \$250 in birthday money to help care for the dogs at the Clark County Dog Shelter. She

received a plaque, as well as other gifts collected by the Dog Warden's office for her generous contribution. All donations provided to the shelter pay for care and other items above and beyond those already paid for by county funds.

In the fall of 2023, the Dog Shelter held its second annual Clear the Shelter Day event at its location on Urbana Road, raising more than \$1,300 and adopting more than 20 dogs. The event included bounce houses, food trucks and raffles. It also had a dunk tank that saw local officials getting dunked, including Commissioner Sasha Rittenhouse.



B.J. Miller and Steve Banks work on a server at the County Offices and Municipal Court Building in Springfield.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

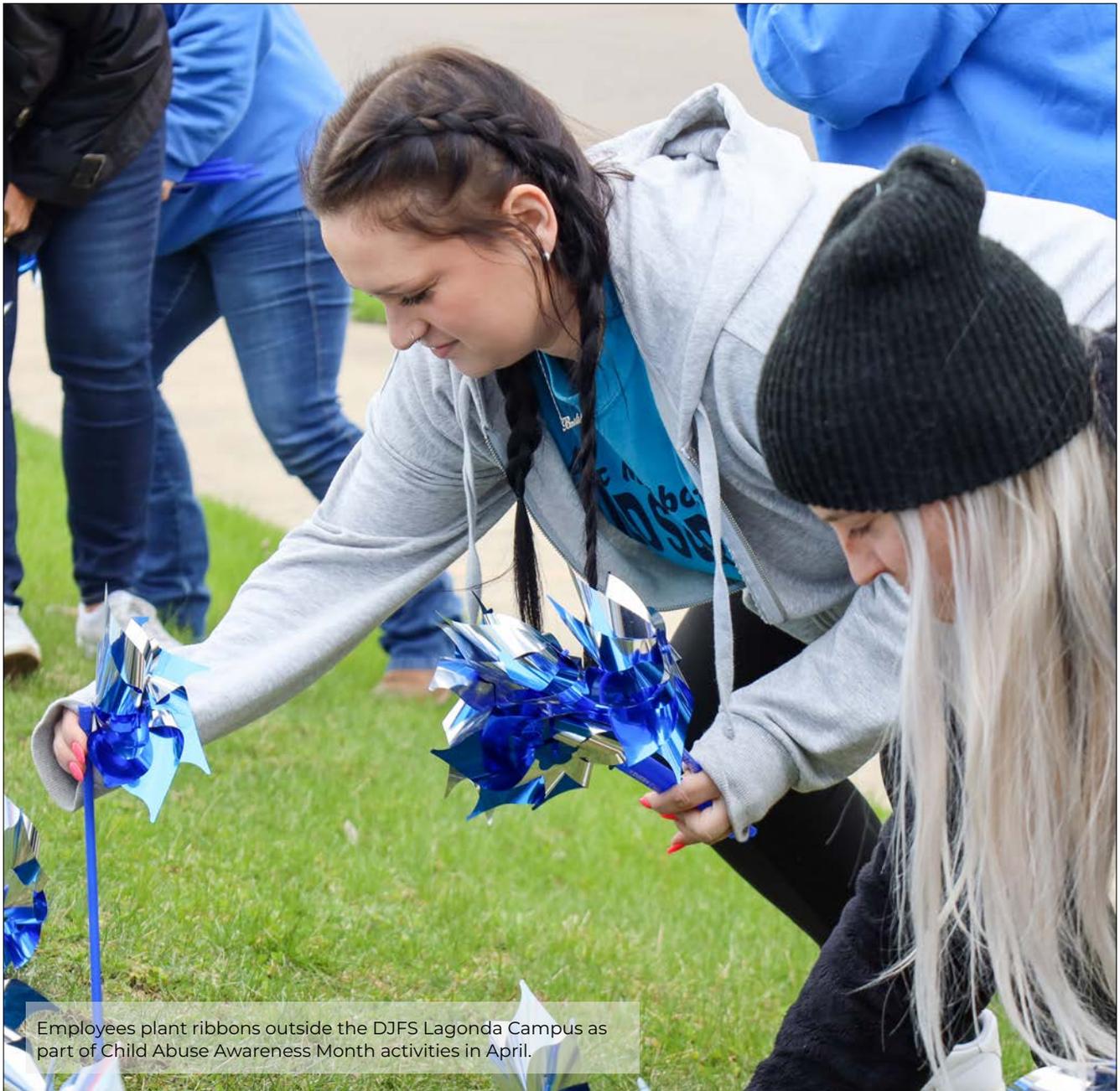
ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR IS DEPARTMENT

In 2023, the Information Systems department operated with a staff of eight and worked meticulously to tackle ongoing projects, new projects, network maintenance, network infrastructure updates, work order requests and other support for the County.

The department processed a new record of 3,010 work orders last year, an 18% increase from the previous year. After many devoted hours, the department was able to work tirelessly with the Sheriff's Office for go-live in March 2023 for the new 9-1-1 Center. The project will continue with the Sheriff's Office in 2024 to refine and add more technological components as needed to assist with

functionality of the facility.

In addition, staff collaborated with outside vendors to bring additional fiber infrastructure to the County network as part of ongoing network infrastructure improvements to increase connection speeds. The department continues to work with a security vendor to increase county-wide network security and functionality. The department also continued to remove old equipment from the network by deploying new laptops to employees. The staff will continue major projects, while also serving the day-to-day needs of the county.



Employees plant ribbons outside the DJFS Lagonda Campus as part of Child Abuse Awareness Month activities in April.

JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

DEMAND INCREASED WITH HAITIAN INFLUX

In 2023, the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services resumed the process for various services that had been suspended during the pandemic. The agency also saw the caseload of Haitian Creole immigrants increase dramatically, presenting new challenges for agency staff and resources.

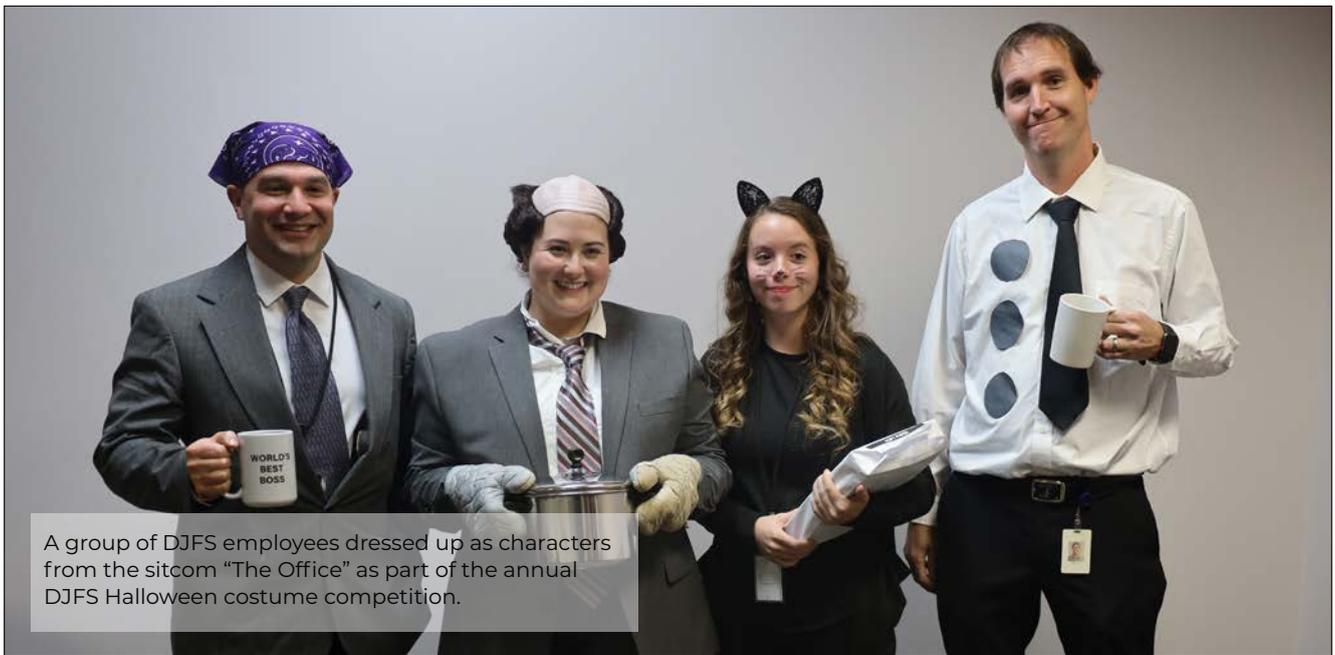
The BenefitsPlus division saw more than 1,400 individuals receive Refugee Cash Assistance worth more than \$2.2 million. More than 40,000 individuals received about \$63 million dollars in food assistance. Medical assistance remained a need in the community with an average of over 53,000 residents receiving assistance. Over 4,000

individuals received over 6 million in TANF. The fraud unit recovered about \$207 million.

In 2023, the Family and Children Services Division continued participation in many programs designed to ensure the safety of children. More than 170 cases were staffed for services through the FST, CRT or DIY programs. Clark County FCS had nearly 3,253 child abuse and neglect referrals with 833 reports screened for investigation and services. The Child Advocacy continued to work with the Multi-Disciplinary Team on 188 cases. Adult Protective Services provided services to 130 residents at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. The department



Clark County Commissioners pose with DJFS Director Virginia Martycz and Child Support Enforcement Deputy Director Thomas McGrath after recognizing Child Support Awareness Month in August.



A group of DJFS employees dressed up as characters from the sitcom "The Office" as part of the annual DJFS Halloween costume competition.

initiated the OHIO START (Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma) program for child welfare cases that have substance abuse as a primary concern.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency distributed more than \$17.6 million in Child Support collections. CSEA had 11,613 cases. Over 95% of children born out of wedlock had paternity established. Support Orders were established for over 88% of cases. The numbers were somewhat lower due to the elimination of many pandemic economic supports. The division continues with public outreach to employers and is an active member of the Clark County Reentry Coalition.

In 2023, the OhioMeansJobs department received 158 new applications for the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program youth (ages 14-24) and had 62 new enrollments. More than 25 of the previous cases were closed with positive outcomes. Services to youth included counseling, work experience, supportive services, leadership development opportunities and education concurrent with workforce prep activities. In addition, the Job Center worked with employers to place more than 290 individuals in new jobs with an average starting wage of \$17.70 per hour.



TOP: The Clark County Personnel and Commission Departments completed a cleanup as part of the Great American Cleanup in the spring. BELOW: Holly McHenry and Sara Davis attended the annual Clark County Job Fair at Clark State.



PERSONNEL

HEALTHCARE, FRINGE BENEFITS EXPANDED

In 2023, the Personnel Department worked to provide several new options to encourage access to healthcare, including establishing a contract for direct primary care for employees and their families. The program is scheduled to begin in early 2024.

The department also created a new gratitude walking path at the Springview Government Center, which is designed to encourage employees to go for a quick walk throughout the day. More than 65 wellness events were provided to employees, including the annual Wellness Fair at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

As part of the Clark County Strategic Plan,

the department streamlined the recruiting and onboarding process to provide staffing to other departments in a timely manner. In 2023, the department posted 80 jobs and conducted 253 interviews and 135 orientation and onboarding sessions. The county also added more fringe benefits to recruit and retain employees, as well as more than 525 training opportunities to expand professional development.

The department also administers insurance benefits to more than 758 employees and more than 1,600 individuals. They also performed 320 personnel actions and monitor driving records for more than 1,149 employees.



TOP: Reentry advocate Albert Hudgins spoke at the Reentry Department's first Lunch and Learn at the Clark County Public Library. BELOW: Members of the Covenant Presbyterian Church pose with Director Brooke Wagner after hosting a Wallet Drive for justice-impacted citizens.

REENTRY

SUPPORTING JUSTICE-IMPACTED CITIZENS

In 2023, the Clark County Department of Reentry made remarkable strides in its commitment to supporting justice-impacted citizens and fostering an environment of reintegration, growth, and empowerment. Through dedicated efforts and strategic initiatives, the department achieved several significant milestones that have positively impacted both individuals and the community. More than 390 justice-impacted citizens were served, extending a helping hand to guide them on their journey towards successful reentry. By addressing their unique needs and challenges, the department contributed to reducing

recidivism rates.

The department assisted more than 90 clients with identifying and reaching self-defined goals, which empowers individuals to work towards personal achievements, fostering a sense of accomplishment and self-sufficiency.

Record-sealing and CQE clinics provided legal services to more than 50 residents, opening doors to new opportunities and minimizing the lingering effects of the justice system. The department also held Fair Chance Wednesday resource fairs, bringing together more than 30 community partners to provide services to reentering residents.



TOP: Clark County Solid Waste District Program Manager Bonnie Martens and Keep Clark County Beautiful member Amanda Hunnicutt pick up litter during a litter pickup. BELOW: More than 60 community members turned out for the 13th annual Downtown Cleanup in Springfield.



BY THE NUMBERS

107

Education Programs

1,100

Cleanup Volunteers

865 TONS

Mixed Recyclables

368 TONS

Cardboard Collected

205 TONS

PRIDE Crew Collections

342

Health Inspections

302

Enforcement Complaints

209

Enforcement Cleanups

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION INCREASED IN '23

In 2023, the Clark County Solid Waste District provided services to residents in several facets, including recycling, education and environmental enforcement.

The district increased its school and public education programs by more than 18 percent in 2023, offering different programs to multiple age groups as well as tours of the Clark County Recycling Center.

The Great American Cleanup saw more than 1,100 volunteers in 2023, up from 840 the previous year. About 30 Clark County residents participated in the annual downtown Springfield cleanup.

The district offered a new program in the

winter called “We Wish You a Litter Free Christmas”, which provided gift cards to residents who picked up a feed bag full of trash during the holiday season.

The district collected more than 865 tons of mixed recyclables, as well as 368 tons of cardboard. Specialty Recycling saw more than 3,000 customers and also saw the inclusion of the Furniture Drop program expanded to include the first Saturday of each month. A recycling station was added at the Springview Government Center to provide more opportunities for employees to recycle both paper and other items.



Clark County's Southwest Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is located off of Woodbury Road in Medway. The plant treats more than 1.5 million gallons of water per day.

UTILITIES

MORE THAN 14,000 CUSTOMERS SERVED IN 2023

The Clark County Utilities Department provides water and sanitary sewer services to areas of Clark County and surrounding counties, operating a public well field in Park Layne as well as the Southwest Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and six public water systems. The Department also purchases water and sewer treatment services from the City of Springfield and water services from the Village of Enon and North Hampton.

In 2023, the department saw 363 million gallons of water consumed and 544 million gallons of wastewater treated for its more than 14,000 customers — including more

than 8,000 sewer customers and 6,000 drinking water customers.

The department — which includes 23 employees — maintains 107 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 87 miles of water mains, 16 sanitary pump stations and three drinking water pump stations.

The department completed a large capital project in 2023, replacing an influent sanitary screw pump at the wastewater treatment plant. The screw pump is used to pump raw wastewater and return sludge to treatment plants. The more than \$260,000 project replaced the previous model installed when the plant opened in 1979.



BACK COVER: A sunflower blossomed at the Solid Waste District's Sunflower Field on Grand Avenue in Springfield. FRONT COVER: The Clark County Personnel Department installed a gratitude walking path at the Springview Government Center last fall.

CONTACT US

3130 EAST MAIN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45503

937-521-2005

COMMISSION@CLARKCOUNTYOHIO.GOV

