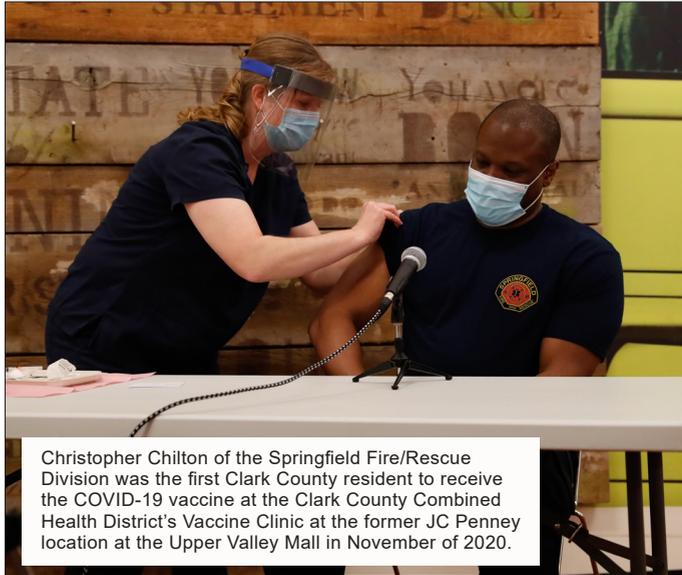




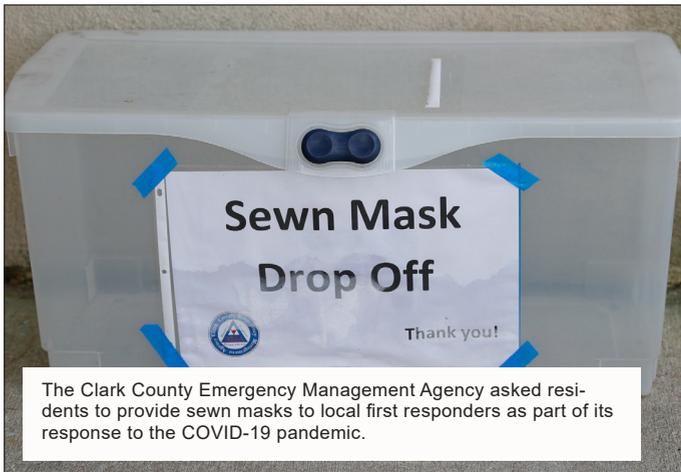
**CLARK COUNTY
OHIO**

**2020 Annual
Report**

A year like no other



Christopher Chilton of the Springfield Fire/Rescue Division was the first Clark County resident to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Clark County Combined Health District's Vaccine Clinic at the former JC Penney location at the Upper Valley Mall in November of 2020.



The Clark County Emergency Management Agency asked residents to provide sewn masks to local first responders as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

No one could have predicted the COVID-19 pandemic that rocked the world in 2020. As the world moved indoors to slow the spread of COVID-19 in late March, Clark County closed its physical offices and began serving residents virtually through online services. We made adjustments and became more efficient in ways we never expected just a few months earlier. We learned the value of Zoom meetings, calls and contactless communication. By the time we returned to the office in May, the world had irrevocably changed.

Despite the challenges, Clark County made strides forward in 2020. The list of accomplishments is impressive — re-opening the A.B. Graham Building, constructing Clark County's 9-1-1 Center, opening the third floor of the Springview Government Center and unveiling a new brand.

As the world changed around us, Clark County's employees and residents persevered through true determination and understanding that nothing — not even a worldwide pandemic — can keep us from accomplishing our goals. As we continue the march to normalcy in 2021, we know nothing can hold us back.

— Clark County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson

CLARK COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

135K

Residents

700+

Employees

\$50M

General Fund
Budget

Connections. Communities. Opportunities.



Connections. Communities. Opportunities.

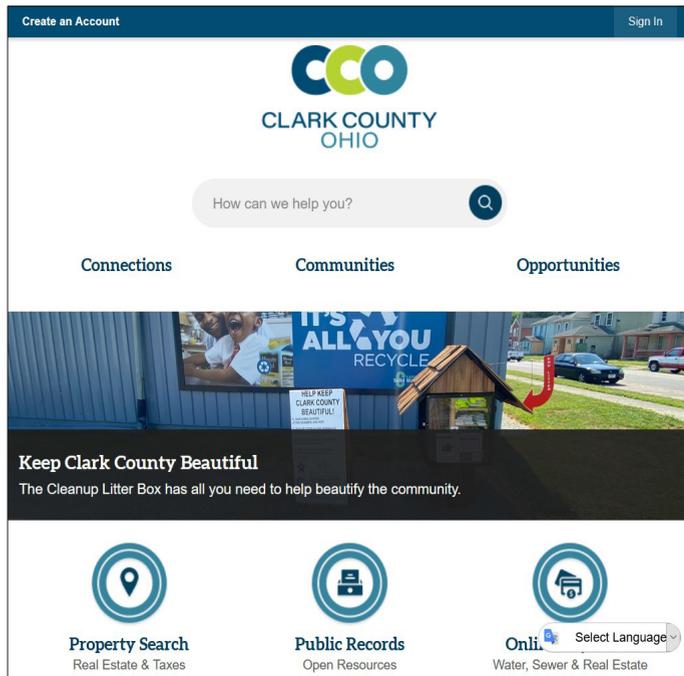
In June, Clark County completed a rebranding process and unveiled its new brand to the world. A new logo and website were completed as part of Clark County's first brand redesign in nearly three decades.

The new logo includes the tagline, "Connections. Communities. Opportunities."

Why these words?

Clark County is about connections made between residents, businesses and visitors. It's those connections that make us a thriving and engaged community. Clark County is populated with unique, diverse communities created through connections, including cities, villages, townships, industries, schools and many others. It's our communities that make Clark County a great place to live and work. Clark County is also full of opportunities for residents to find an affordable place to live and for businesses to prosper.

We want prospective residents and businesses to understand that the time to consider Clark County is now.



LEFT TOP: The new Clark County, Ohio logo. LEFT BOTTOM: The new Clark County, Ohio website. RIGHT BOTTOM: A marketing photo used as part of Clark County's rebranding effort in June of 2020.

Old building, new life



The \$2.5 million interior renovation project at the historic A.B. Graham Building in Clark County was completed in November of 2020.

Four Clark County offices — Auditor, Recorder, Treasurer and Engineer's Tax Map Office — moved back to the A.B. Graham Building, located at 31 N. Limestone St. in Springfield after spending more than a year together at the historic Bushnell Building.

The renovation at the A.B. Graham Building, originally constructed in 1901, included modernized electrical wiring, heating and air conditioning, fire suppression, plumbing and a new elevator to make the building handicap accessible. Springfield-based Kapp Construction served as contractor and Dayton-based Oregon Group served as architect for the project.





LEFT: The stairways at the historic A.B. Graham Building were refurbished to keep the authentic brass railings, while a new elevator was installed on the first floor. MIDDLE: One of the renovated hearing rooms being used by the Clark County Juvenile Court. RIGHT: Clark County Recorder Nancy Pence and Deputy Recorder Bonnie Sakaitis talk behind the office's new counter.

The future of 9-1-1

After years of discussions, Clark County broke ground on a new, \$5M state-of-the-art, 7,000-square-foot 9-1-1 Communications Center that will be used as a dispatch center, office and training facility managed by the Clark County Sheriff's Office. The construction of the dispatch center is nearing completion and is expected to open in early 2021.

In November, Clark County and the City of Springfield entered into a 10-year, \$1.1 million contract to provide dispatching services to residents beginning in 2021. The Clark County Sheriff's Office will provide dispatching services to Springfield, New Carlisle and nine of 10 townships in Clark County.

"This is a great day for Clark County and its residents," said Clark County Commissioner Rick Lohnes. "Dispatching services are paramount to the safety of our citizens. The next generation 9-1-1 system being put in place will allow us to provide faster, more efficient services to the public. We're thankful to everyone, including our staff and the City of Springfield, who worked so hard to make this effort a reality for our community."



TOP: Clark County Commissioner Melanie Flax Wilt, Clark County Sheriff Deb Burchett, Commissioner Rick Lohnes and Commissioner Lowell McGlothlin break ground on the state-of-the-art Clark County 9-1-1 Center. BOTTOM: An artist's rendering of the new 9-1-1 Center, which is expected to open in the summer of 2021.



Moving to the east side

In August, the Board of Clark County Commissioners relocated from its longtime home on the fifth floor of the Clark County Municipal Building to the newly-renovated third floor of the Springview Government Center at 3130 E. Main St.

The move allowed the Commission to consolidate its office with other Clark County Departments, including Community and Economic Development, the Emergency Management Agency, Personnel and Utilities departments. The Commission office had been located at the Municipal Building since the mid-1980s.

“The relocation will allow us to provide better, more efficient services to our residents and bring several departments working closely together under one roof,” said Clark County Administrator Jenny Hutchinson.

Clark County purchased the former Springview Developmental Center from the state for \$2 in 2005, making several upgrades at the facility over the last 15 years. However, the third floor has been unoccupied since it was purchased. Springfield-based Kapp Construction was hired to complete the \$1.1 million third floor renovation project for Clark County, which began in late 2018.

Other county offices located at Springview include the Clark County Board of Elections, Clark County Coroner, Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District, Clark County Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee, Ohio State University Extension Clark County and Clark County Sheriff’s East District Office.

The Commission Office’s move to Springview will allow several offices to be relocated inside the courthouse in 2021, including separating the Public Defender’s Office and the Clark County Prosecutor’s Office. The Public Defender’s Office is expected to move to the first floor, while the Prosecutor’s Office will remain on the fourth floor.

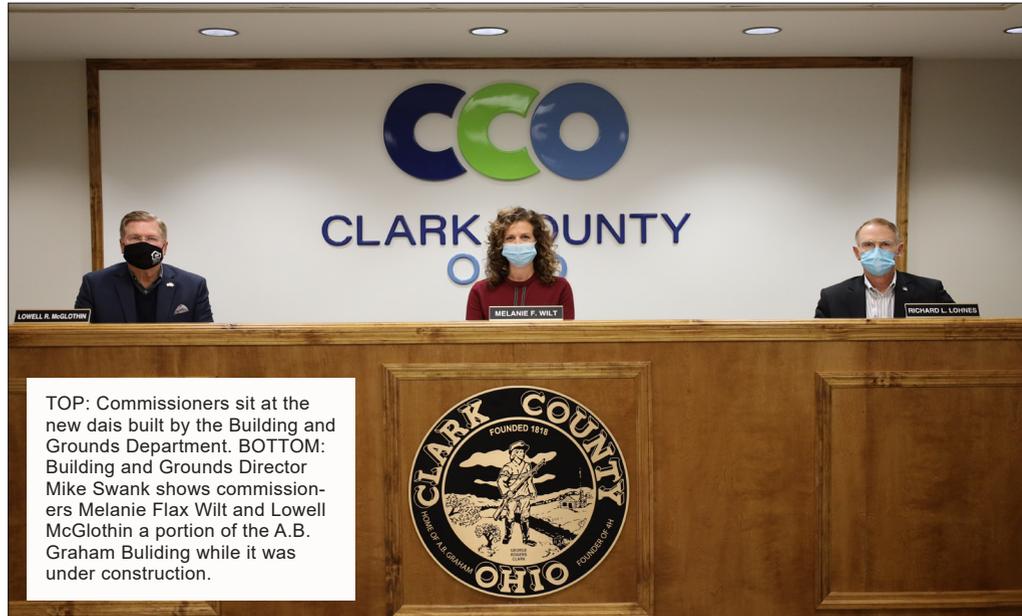
“The move is critical in allowing us to increase public safety and provide better customer service at the courthouse, both for our residents and our employees,” Hutchinson said.



TOP: The sign residents see as they walk into the new Commission Office on the third floor of the Springview Government Center.
BOTTOM: The new third floor conference room.



Building and Grounds



The Clark County Building and Grounds Department accomplished several key goals in 2020 and played a huge role in the county's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The department was responsible for setting up COVID barriers in various county offices as the county prepared to re-open its buildings to the public, including the downtown courthouses, the Public Safety Building, the Springview Government Center, the Clark County Solid Waste District and the Clark County Dog Shelter. The department also set up COVID barriers in the A.B. Graham Building and the third floor of Springview as both buildings re-opened to the public.

The department completed several other projects in Clark County buildings, including:

- Completing fifth floor renovations for the Clark County Probate Court inside the Clark County Municipal Courthouse.
- Purchasing a new snow plow for the Clark County Garage.
- Installing a new grease trap for the kitchen at the Clark County Jail.
- Set up records file system in Clark County storage for Title Department in the Municipal Court basement.
- Renovated Room 151 for Commission chambers for public commission meetings.
- Rebuilt the stone wall signage in front of the Springview entrance.

Commission



The Commission department worked with other departments throughout the year to coordinate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while also completing several other major projects, including the A.B. Graham and Springview renovations, the Clark County brand redesign and the 9-1-1 Center groundbreaking. The department also used technology to continue to host weekly public County Commission meetings.

843
Resolutions

296
Contracts

2
Bids

Community and Economic Development



LEFT: The Clark County Land Reutilization Corp. installed a swing at the Clark County Sunflower Field in Springfield. RIGHT: Laura Allen accepts a credit card payment for the first time in Clark County Community and Economic Development Department history.



\$550K
 CARES Act Funding
 Distribution

29
 Land Bank properties
 transferred

3,822
 Inspections

2,329
 Permits

60
 New home builds

The Clark County Community and Economic Development Department made huge strides in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Building and Zoning Divisions began offering remote inspections and implementing remote inspection software. The division completely overhauled its permitting process to make it more efficient, including adopting a new business- and resident-friendly fee schedule as well as accepting credit card payments. The division also signed a cooperative building inspection agreement with the City of Springfield to share inspectors for back-up services.

The Development Division administered several new programs to help residents through the pandemic, including more than \$550,000 in CARES Act assistance to 100 households, non-profit organizations and small businesses in Clark County. The division provided financial assistance and helped secure a short-term lease on a local hotel to allow Interfaith Hospitality Network to combat the homeless crisis exacerbated by the pandemic. The division also conducted the annual Tax Incentive Review Council, which recommended the continuation of abatements for nearly \$98 million in investment, creating 343 jobs and retaining 1,103 jobs. It also used Community Development Block Grant funding to pave Beach Drive in New Carlisle.

The Finance and Administration Division processed more than 2,300 permits, collecting nearly \$675,000 in revenue. The division paid more than 10,000 invoices and began providing financial services for both the Information Systems Department and the Clark County Coroner's Office. The division continued to provide financial services to both the Clark County Land Re-Utilization Corp. and the Upper Valley Mall.

Administrative services to the Clark County Land Reutilization Corp. were also provided by the department. The land bank entered into a joint venture agreement with Dillin Corp. to develop Champions Park — a multi-million dollar development that will reimagine the frontage of the Clark County Fairgrounds into a retail venue. The land bank provided land for the Clark County Sunflower Field and developed a park like setting along the bike bath with the installation of flowerbeds and benches. The land bank also completed the \$2.2 million Neighborhood Initiative Program that demolished 132 blighted structures throughout Clark County.



Clark County Community and Economic Development Director Ethan Harris and Economic Development Coordinator Alex Dietz pose for a photo with Tecumseh Superintendent Paula Crew and Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken owner Scott Griffith after speaking at a New Carlisle Rotary Meeting.

Dog Warden



A family from Columbus, Ohio was reunited with their dog at the Clark County Dog Shelter thanks to a microchip after it was found at the campground at the C.J. Brown Reservoir.

The Clark County Dog Warden’s office handled more than 800 dogs in 2020 and finished the year with a 92 percent success rate, despite changing hours and procedures due to the pandemic.

The Dog Warden’s Office showed its continued excellence in serving dogs and pet owners in Clark County. In December, a two-year-old dog named Ruby was reunited with its owner after it was rescued from a lake on Eagle City Road – by an off-duty dog warden. Deputy Nicole Miller was off the clock when she received the call from dispatchers about a dog stuck on a lake and immediately jumped into action. With the help of the Springfield Fire Rescue Division and the German Twp. Fire Dept., Miller was able to reach Ruby and reunite her with her owner. The story was featured in the Springfield News-Sun and WHIO-TV.

In July of 2020, a dog missing for nearly a month was recently reunited with its owner thanks to the Dog Warden’s Department. Gucci was missing from her Columbus area home when dog wardens found her near the campgrounds at C.J. Brown Reservoir, where campers were feeding her hot dogs and hamburgers. Thanks to a microchip, the shelter was able to contact her owner and set up a redemption appointment. The owner was fearing the worst and had no idea how the dog made it all the way to Clark County.

“We can’t stress enough the importance of licensing and microchipping your dog,” said Dog Warden Sandi Click. “If your dog goes missing, a microchip or a license can save their life and get them back to their home.”



Emergency Management Agency

The Clark County Emergency Management Agency was at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, working hand-in-hand with the Clark County Combined Health District to help residents stay safe during a time of uncertainty.

The EMA's first duty during the pandemic was to distribute personal protective equipment to local agencies from the Ohio EMA, including masks, gloves and gowns to hospital workers, nursing home providers and other first responders.

The agency coordinated a weekly meeting between other Clark County agencies working together to slow the spread of the virus, including the health district, the hospital, government, fire departments, police departments, business leaders, social services, local utilities departments and nursing homes.

In September, the Board of Clark County Commissioners hired Michelle Clements-Pitstick as director of the Clark County Emergency Management Agency. Clements-Pitstick previously served as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Clark County Combined Health District. She took over for longtime leader Lisa D'Allessandris, who served as director for 12 years.

As the pandemic worsened during the holidays, Clements-Pitstick, EMA staff and volunteers worked to distribute masks to the public, distributing more than 100,000 masks to every corner of Clark County.



445K+
PPE delivered to local community

670
PPE deliveries

200K+
Federal/State funds into Clark County

Job & Family Services



A Child Abuse Prevention month sign at the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services shows the number of people who advocated for children in 2020.

In 2020, despite the pandemic, the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services continued to meet the needs of the citizens of Clark County. In late March, the majority of the staff began working remotely.

The BenefitsPlus division continued to meet the financial and medical needs of Clark County residents. More than 33,800 individuals received over \$46.5 million dollars in food assistance. Medical Assistance remained a need in the community with an average of over 48,000 residents receiving assistance. More than 2,250 individuals received over 3.7 million in TANF. 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 200 children including 113 in kinship care and 47 in foster care. FCS also provided service to an average of 191 children in their homes each month. Clark County FCS had nearly 3,190 child abuse/neglect referrals in 2020, an average of nearly 9 per day. The Child Advocacy Center continued to work with the Multi-Disciplinary Team on 251 cases. Adult Protective Services received 557 referrals regarding abuse, neglect and exploitation of seniors. With the closure of schools in the

spring, referral numbers dropped. However, later in the year the numbers returned to their normal levels.

The Child Support Enforcement Agency distributed \$24.8 million in Child Support collections. CSEA had more than 12,930 cases. Over 97% of children born out of wedlock had paternity established. Support Orders were established for over 93% of the cases. While the Division could not engage in the typical outreach activities, they remained responsive to customers. In cooperation with local courts, Child Support hearings were held via video conferencing.

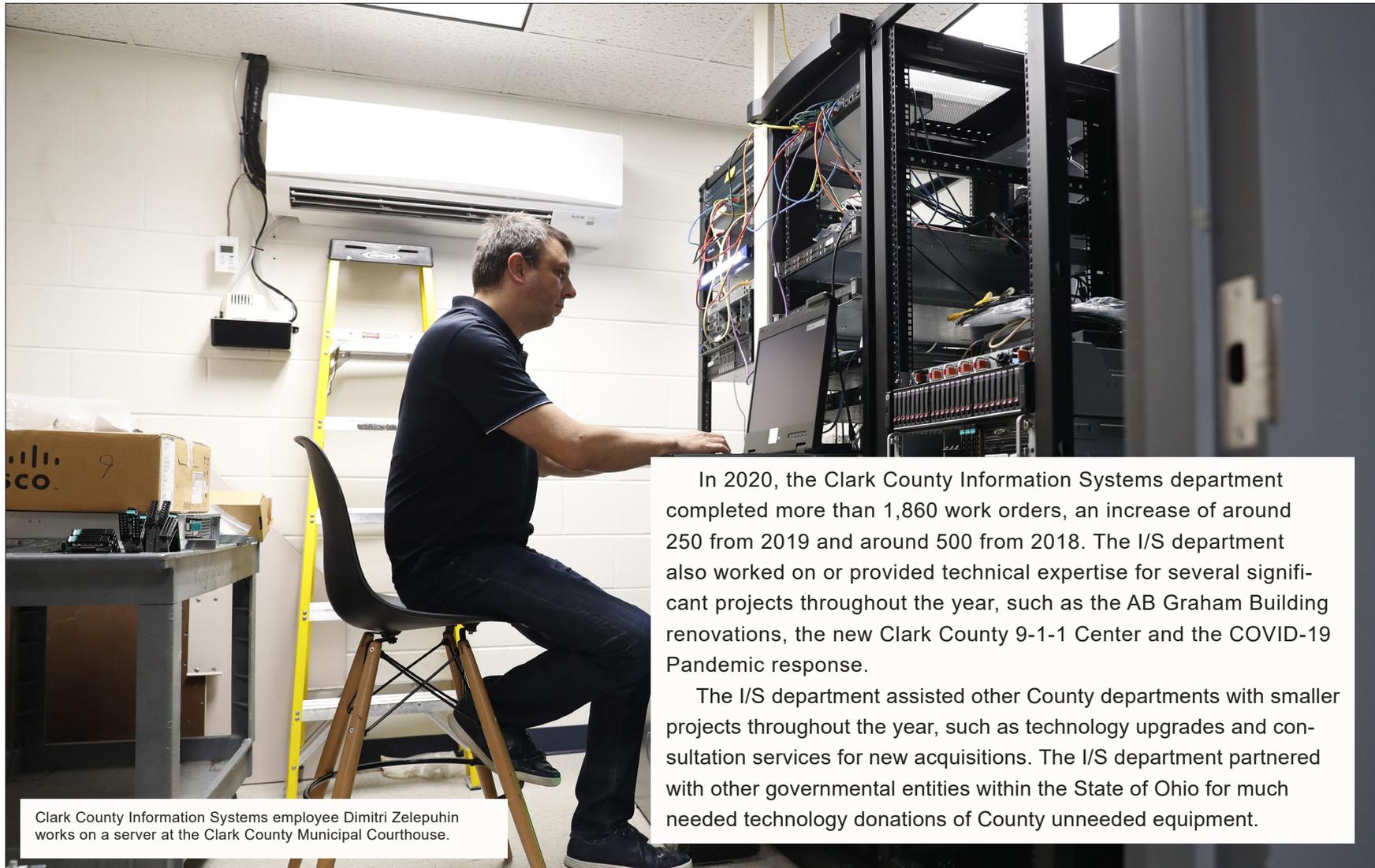
OhioMeansJobs continued work with over 1,100 Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program youth (ages 14-24). OhioMeansJobs provided many services to these individuals, including comprehensive guidance and counseling, work experience, supportive services, leadership development opportunities and education concurrent with workforce prep activities. Additionally, the Job Center posted 551 jobs from 334 employers which resulted in placing 281 individuals in jobs, with an average starting wage of \$13.15 per hour. Typical hiring events were not possible. OMJ staff worked with the Chamber and the State to host virtual job fairs.



Scenes from the annual Christmas Party held by Clark County Family and Children's Services staff for foster children in conjunction with Project Jericho. The party was held as a drive-through event this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Information Systems



Clark County Information Systems employee Dimitri Zelepuhin works on a server at the Clark County Municipal Courthouse.

In 2020, the Clark County Information Systems department completed more than 1,860 work orders, an increase of around 250 from 2019 and around 500 from 2018. The I/S department also worked on or provided technical expertise for several significant projects throughout the year, such as the AB Graham Building renovations, the new Clark County 9-1-1 Center and the COVID-19 Pandemic response.

The I/S department assisted other County departments with smaller projects throughout the year, such as technology upgrades and consultation services for new acquisitions. The I/S department partnered with other governmental entities within the State of Ohio for much needed technology donations of County unneeded equipment.

Personnel

With the advent of COVID-19, Personnel staff members adapted methods of delivery and interaction to keep the public, employees and staff safe in 2020.

The office processed over 300 personnel actions, adopted several new policies, held or participated in hundreds of virtual meetings, rolled out online participation for benefits enrollment for approximately 800 employees in the fall of 2020.

The Personnel department also developed a new employee-only County Wellness Facebook page in March that has 272 employee members. The Facebook page provides another method to communicate and promote wellness interactions as employees worked virtually. Although many wellness activities had to be adapted to comply with enhanced safety needs to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, the Personnel office sponsored, coordinated and facilitated more than 100 COVID-safe on-site and virtual wellness activities. Activities included educational webinars, physical fitness options and mental health opportunities. Over 60 percent of eligible county employees participated enough to receive a discount on health insurance premiums for 2021.

Due to cooperative activities of personnel staff and several other elected officials' offices, the county has saved over \$200,000 on liability insurance premiums over the past 11 years. The personnel office continues to offer comprehensive assistance for the full range of activities outlined in chapter 124 of the Ohio Revised Code which include but are not limited to 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.



Solid Waste District

314
 Environmental
 Enforcement calls

180
 Enforcement
 Cleanups

123
 Enforcement
 Investigations

114
 Tons of Trash Collected
 By PRIDE Crews

543
 Bags of Trash from
 Twp. Roadways



Styrofoam chairs at the Clark County Sunflower Field



The Solid Waste District's Cleanup Litter Box



The Clark County Sunflower Field

4,812
 Hours of PRIDE
 Crew Service

57
 Tons of
 Electronics Collected

2,600+
 Specialty Recycling
 Customers

7,000+
 Educational Video
 Views

3,000+
 Cleanup Supplies
 Donated to Residents

Utilities

The Clark County Utilities Department provided essential services to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the rest of the world was in quarantine, utility employees worked every day to ensure residents had access to safe drinking water and sanitary sewer treatment services.

The department was one of the few to continue working in the field despite the pandemic. It also worked split shifts and worked in different locations to make sure trained staff were available at all times in the case of an emergency.

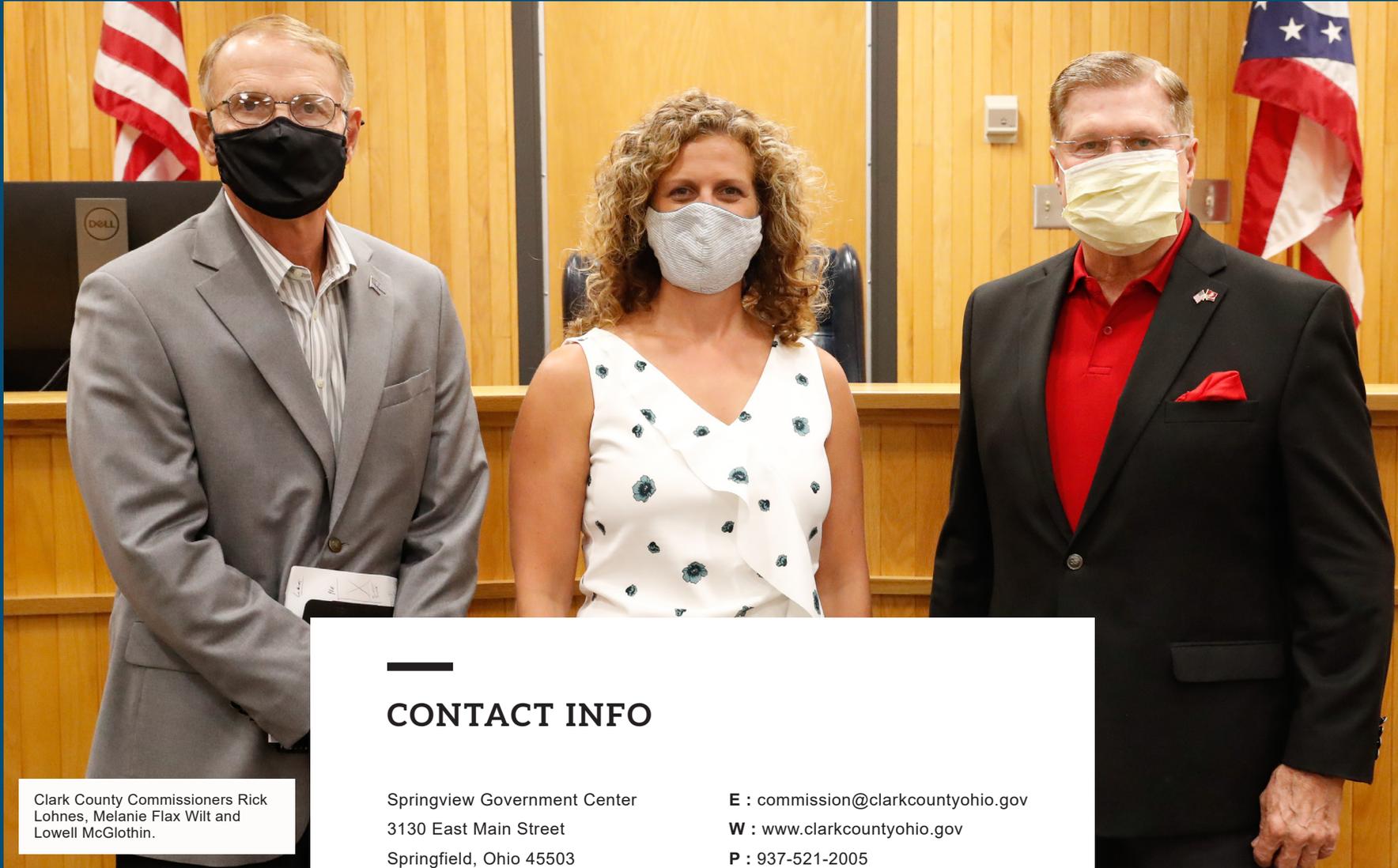
The department made several key improvements for residents, including limiting rate increases to only three water districts with the majority of customers receiving no rate increases and negotiated a deal with the City of Springfield to consolidate customer districts.

The department upgraded most of its customers to a new remote meter reading software, eliminating the need for employees to enter residents during the pandemic. It also implemented a web-based work order system between office and field staff to optimize efficiency and decrease the need for direct employee interaction.

Utilities Director Chuck Bauer participated in Clark County's first Facebook live event, discussing water and sewer rates in Moorefield Twp. with City of Springfield Service Director Chris Moore. Bauer also filmed a YouTube video educating residents about how small changes to water usage can affect their water and sewer bill in a big way. The videos received more than 3,000 views.



Clark County Utilities employees fix a water main break in German Twp.



Clark County Commissioners Rick Lohnes, Melanie Flax Wilt and Lowell McGlothlin.

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