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## The Village of Botkins

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Dear Members of Village Council and Residents of Botkins,

I am pleased to report that the state of the Village of Botkins is **STRONG!**

That strength comes from the people of this community and from the many accomplishments we have achieved together. Botkins continues to be a place where families choose to live, businesses choose to invest, and neighbors look out for one another.

What an amazing year 2025 has been for Botkins! As I reflect on the past year, I cannot help but be amazed at the growth and improvements that were accomplished.

Across Ohio and throughout the nation, communities face growing challenges related to aging infrastructure. In 2025, Botkins reaffirmed its commitment to meeting those challenges head-on. The Village invested more than \$500,000 in infrastructure improvements on South Sycamore Street, West Walnut Street, and West South Street. These projects included new road surfaces, sidewalks, and upgraded water mains. Beyond improving the appearance of our neighborhoods, these upgrades enhance safety, reliability, and functionality—benefits that will serve our residents for decades to come.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue investing in our infrastructure with a major reconstruction project on South Street. This two-phase project will include new road surfaces, replacement of storm and water lines, new sidewalks, and upgraded street lighting. Phase one is scheduled to begin in March, and when complete, this project will significantly improve safety, accessibility, and quality of life for residents while adding long-term value to our community.

Another highlight of 2025 was the revitalization of the Cole Field area. Thanks to community grants, civic boards, fundraising efforts, and strong local support, many of these improvements were achieved while minimizing the burden on taxpayers. Cole Field has become a true point of pride for our village. In 2026, we will continue enhancing this space and formally dedicate it as a park at The Botkins Carousel this summer.

Residential growth also continued in Botkins this past year. In 2025, eight new homes were completed in the Hageman Woods Estates subdivision. Phase One is nearly complete, with just one lot remaining, while Phase Two is already underway with several lots sold. This level of interest reflects the confidence families have in Botkins and the strong sense of community that defines our village. I look forward to continued growth through 2026 and 2027.

The Village of Botkins is excited to include a new police cruiser in its upcoming budget. This investment ensures that our officers have reliable, modern equipment to serve and protect the community effectively.

Our local police department stands as a pillar of safety and trust within the community. Their commitment goes beyond enforcing laws—they work tirelessly to build relationships, foster understanding, and ensure that every resident feels secure. Their dedication reflects not only professionalism but also genuine care for the well-being of every citizen. I thank Chief Jordan and our auxiliary officers for their service to our village, and I pray for their safety in that effort.

Another significant improvement to our emergency services is the acquisition of a new grass truck for the fire department. This vital upgrade will replace our 1994 grass truck, which has faithfully served our townships and community for nearly 32 years. The new vehicle will allow the fire department to operate more reliably and efficiently, improving our service to neighboring townships. This investment is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Village of Botkins, as well as the residents of Pusheta township and Dinsmore township, and supports a comprehensive 10-year plan addressing the Fire Department's future needs.

The Botkins Fire Department exemplifies courage and selflessness. Whether battling fires, performing rescues, or providing life-saving medical assistance, they are not only our protectors; they are our neighbors, family, and friends. I am deeply thankful for all those who have served and continue to serve

I am truly grateful to serve such a strong and blessed community. Together, we have accomplished much, and I am confident that the best days of Botkins are still ahead. I look forward to a successful and exciting 2026.

Sincerely,

Lance Symonds

Mayor, Village of Botkins