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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO UTILITIES PROTECTION SERVICE BREAKS GROUND 44-Year-Old Company Stays in the Mahoning Valley

Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.) had their ceremonial ground breaking for the construction of their new building on June 21, 2016. O.U.P.S. has been operating in the Mahoning Valley for over 44 years and services the entire state of Ohio as the communication link between excavators and utility owners and operators.

The ceremony took place at the new home of O.U.P.S. at the SE corner of Mahoning Avenue and Bailey Road. The program began at 10:00 and concluded after lunch. Local leaders, dignitaries, and board members were present to celebrate the onset of construction. The decision and process to make the move has been several years in the making and would not have been possible without the support of the 21-member Board of Trustees.

Its first headquarters was located in the City Centre One Building in downtown Youngstown and currently resides at 4740 Belmont Avenue. Over the past 44 years, O.U.P.S. has grown from a six person call center taking just over 13,000 calls per year to a 50+ employee organization which processed over 1.2 million digging notifications in 2015. "We are very proud to be able to remain in the Mahoning Valley as our business continues to grow." said Roger Lipscomb, President/Executive Director.

Ohio Utilities Protection Service, (O.U.P.S.) was established in 1972. The service helps homeowners and professionals who plan to dig notify multiple utility companies with one free phone call to 811. Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities increases the likelihood of an unintentional damage, which can cause serious injuries, service disruptions and repair costs. An underground utility line is damaged every six minutes nationwide because someone decided to dig without first calling 811, according to CGA data.

About Ohio Utilities Protection Service

The Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.) is a not-for-profit protection service established to serve as the communications link between those with a desire to excavate and those who own, operate or maintain underground facilities throughout the State of Ohio.

The Ohio Utilities Protection Service's mission is to prevent damages to member facilities and promote public safety by providing an efficient and effective communication and education process. Serving the entire state, O.U.P.S receives more than one million excavation requests annually.

It is the law in Ohio (sections 3781.25-3781.32 & 153.64 of the revised code) to contact a protection service before digging. Learn more at www.oups.org.

About CGA

CGA is a member-driven association of 1,700 individuals, organizations and sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders. For more information, visit CGA on the web at www.commongroundalliance.com.

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