



Around The Township

Serving the needs of the citizens and businesses of **Butler Township**

FALL 2014

Residents invited to new fire station

Come visit the newly remodeled Butler Township fire station. An open house will be held on Sunday, October 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The location is 3780 Little York Road.

Tours of the new fire station and the Township Hall will be available. There will also be free giveaways and light refreshments.

Fire, medic and police vehicles will be on display for those who want to get a closer look. The Butler Township Police Department will also be on hand to provide the child "Ident-A-Kid" finger printing program.

Parking will be limited at the fire station. Please watch for additional parking spaces.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Leaf pick-up season is here

Leaf pick-up season will run from October 14 to December 11 in Butler Township this year. Here are the details:

- Leave your filled leaf bags out for pick-up on your regular trash service day from October 14 through December 11.
- DO NOT rake your leaves into the street or gutter. They will not be picked up from there.

Heathcliff Bridge project planned in 2015

Montgomery County, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation, is rehabilitating the Heathcliff Bridge over the Stillwater River in the city of Clayton and Butler Township in 2015. The existing bridge carries approximately 5,400 vehicles a day and is structurally deficient. Built in 1968, it is near the end of its serviceable life.

The project will include a new, four-span plate girder bridge on new abutments and rehabilitated piers. It will be 328 feet long and 28 feet wide.

Road closure

Heathcliff Road will be closed to traffic for approximately 120 days during construction, which is to begin in the summer of 2015 and be completed in December 2015. The detour for the project will be State Route 48 to Dog Leg Road to Frederick Pike to Meeker Road.

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Heathcliff Bridge —
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The construction cost estimate is \$1.7 million. Federal funds were secured through the County Engineers Association of Ohio for 80 percent of the construction cost.

Construction on the Meeker Road and Frederick Bridges under Interstate 70 will be underway by the Ohio Department of Transportation in 2015, but the construction of Meeker Road and Frederick Pike will be phased so that both roads are not closed at the same time. Only one of the roads will be closed during the period Heathcliff Road is closed.

For additional information

Please visit the Montgomery County website at http://www.mcohio.org/government/engineer/heathcliff_bridge.html, or contact Stephanie Goff, Senior Engineer/Project Manager at 937-496-7565, or goffs@mcohio.org.

National Night Out: United in the fight against crime

If there's one thing police know, it's that the fight against crime takes the entire community. And that's why the Butler Township Police Department invited all residents to participate in the 31st annual National Night Out program on August 5.

National Night Out sets aside one day for a law enforcement officials to heighten drug and crime prevention awareness; generate support for local anti-crime programs; strengthen police, community, and business partnerships; and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organizing together to fight back against crime.

This event was hosted for the third year in a row by the police department. Free to the public, it was made possible thanks to the sponsorship of Stonespring of Vandalia-Butler and donations from local businesses.

The local gathering featured food and

refreshments as well as the chance to win one of two bikes and various gift cards. Fun activities and prizes were also available for the kids.

Last year, more than 15,000 U.S. communities held similar events.



Police Department offers women's self-defense class

Responding to a request from the Turtle Creek Neighborhood Watch, the Butler Township Police Department conducted a women's self-defense class on July 19, hosted by the Christian Life Center. The goal was to provide information about how women can protect themselves through personal awareness and defend themselves if they are attacked.

The class drew about 25 women ranging in age from 17 to 70.

The class was instructed by Officer Kevin Sink, police defensive tactics instructor, and Officer Amy Carter, crime prevention officer. Officer Sink began the training with a presentation on how to become aware of potential threatening situations and react to them safely.

The second portion of the class was a hands-on course in basic defensive tactics. The class

was divided into groups of two so that each class member could learn the defensive techniques and then practice them on each other with coaching from the police officers.

"Officers Sink and Carter made the class fun and informative," said Police Chief John Cresie. "While there was a lot of good-natured fun, the students approached the training seriously and took away a great deal of information and self-confidence."

This was the first basic self-defense class taught by the police department. According to Cresie, the department will present another basic class and then follow up with a more advanced class for those interested.

Stay tuned to this newsletter or periodically visit the township's website at www.butlertownship.com for updates.

Annexations: Can they be stopped?

Shock has been a common reaction among Butler Township residents over the most recent city of Union annexations and the subsequent re-zoning of those properties.

“I know many are wondering why Butler Township hasn’t done more to protect the residents from annexation,” said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. “It’s very simple: State law is not on our side.”

The law states that if a property owner wants to annex their property to a city, and the city agrees, there is nothing a township can do to stop that action from happening.

There are three main ways of annexing property

Type 1 – An owner must sign a petition asking the city to accept their property, and the city is required to pay the township a lump sum payment for the loss of property taxes over a certain period of time. This must be approved by the county commission.

Type 2 – The city is not permitted to re-draw its boundaries, and the property stays within the township forever. The township continues to collect money for all levies and must split the inside millage it receives in the remaining property taxes with the city forever. This also

must be approved by the county commission.

Majority – The city can annex large amounts of properties as long as it has a majority of signatures. Taxes are then split on a sliding scale over a 12-year period. County commissioners have discretion with this request.

Majority annexation has been around a long time, but Types 1 and 2 annexations were more recently created by the legislature in 2002. Descriptions of all types can be found in Section 709.023 of the Ohio Revised Code.

How often has Butler Township been annexed?

Over 1,197 acres in Butler Township has been annexed to the city of Union. The township has filed objections to every annexation filed since 2000, but has never been successful in winning appeals or stopping the annexations.

“The good news is that any annexation filed after 2002 must provide buffers to neighboring properties,” said Lapensee. “The term ‘buffers’ is not clearly defined, but the property owner next door does have recourse with the courts if the city does not follow the law.”

Where do we go from here?

Townships can do little to stop annexation except for providing their own utilities and competing against their neighbors for development, or incorporating as a city.

“Whatever Union’s plans may be, Butler Township will continue to oppose any development of annexed areas for industrial purposes,” Lapensee said. “But at this point, we can either sit by and watch them drive by us on the bus, or we can start to control our own destiny.”

Lapensee encourages township residents to email her at klapensee@butlertownship.com to let her know your thoughts. Should Butler Township incorporate and put a stop to any further annexations, or should it find a way to provide water and other utilities so the need to annex is eliminated?



Change your clocks, change your smoke detector batteries

A good time to remember to check your smoke alarm and change batteries is when you change your clocks twice a year, as Daylight Savings Time begins and ends. That day falls on November 2 this fall.

Since most fatal fires occur at night, every home should be equipped with working smoke alarms to provide an early warning.

Call the Butler Township Fire Department at 890-2492 for tips on smoke alarm placement and other fire safety concerns.

Police, businesses form partnerships

Last year, the police department began to conduct regular meetings with the hotel owners and managers in the Miller Lane Business District. The goal has been to hear their concerns and discuss how the police department could help them ensure that visits to the township are pleasant and safe.

“That program has been a resounding success,” said Police Chief John Cresie.

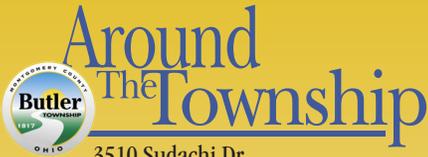
Now the department is building on that success

Police officials hope to extend that working relationship to all business owners and managers within the Miller Lane Business District. The police department hosted the

first meeting on August 13 to discuss the creation of a Miller Lane Business District Neighborhood Watch.

Forming the Business Watch will allow business owners and managers to meet with the police department regularly to discuss their concerns. This positions the department to work with them to address those issues.

“We believe that opening the lines of communication is an important first step,” said Cresie. “Working together as partners with the business community will help the Police Department to make every visitor’s – and resident’s – experience in Butler Township pleasant and safe.”



3510 Sudachi Dr.
Dayton, OH 45414

Township Trustees

(937) 898-6735

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(937) 898-6735 - x1198

Kim Lapensee, Administrator

(937) 898-6735 - x1121

Erika Vogel, Ass't Twp Admin.

(937) 898-6735 x1113

John Cresie, Police Dept.

(937) 890-2671

Dan Alig, Fire Dept.

(937) 890-2491

Doug Brunk, Public Works

(937) 890-1218

Trash Department

(937) 898-6735

Zoning Department

(937) 898-6735 - x1111

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(937) 890-2671

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Cruise-in draws crowd

The first-ever Cruise-In to the Township, held on Saturday, August 16, was a big success. A community event, the cruise-in raised over \$1,000 for Dayton Children's Medical Center.

Cruise into the Township was hosted by Butler Township with support from the Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce and Walmart. Many businesses also contributed to this fun event.



Fall brush drop-off changes



Butler Township will no longer offer free brush and limb drop-off services to township residents. The Montgomery County Solid Waste District now offers free yard waste drop off to all Montgomery County residents. The hours of operation are year round, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The North Transfer Facility is located on Webster Street in Vandalia and the South Transfer Facility is located on Encrete Lane in Dayton.

When is Trick or Treat?

Beggar's Night is set for Friday, October 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Parents, be sure that you and your youngsters follow the rules and play it safe during and after the trick-or-treating fun.

