



Around The Township

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

FALL 2015

Be sure to vote November 3

Voters to decide limited home rule for Township government

Butler Township trustees have placed on the November 3 ballot a measure that would allow the Township to exercise limited powers of local self-government as well as limited police powers.

Under the proposed “limited home rule” government, Township trustees would be able to adopt resolutions in areas that are currently not within its authority as a statutory township.

Nearly 50 Ohio townships have adopted home rule government.

An important point for voters to understand is that adopting the limited home rule form of government **does not mean higher taxes.**

Here are some commonly asked questions about limited home rule government:

How is the limited home rule form of government different from what we have now?



Butler Township is currently a statutory township, which means it has only the powers granted to it by the state of Ohio. The Township government may adopt zoning regulations, create a police and/or fire district, impose civil fines for property maintenance and traffic violations and provide general maintenance of township roads and cemeteries.

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Leaf pick-up service scheduled

Leaf pick-up will be provided as part of your trash removal service again this fall. Here are the details:

Leave your filled leaf bags out for pick-up on your regular trash service day from October 13 through December 15.

DO NOT rake your leaves into the street or gutter. They will not be picked up from there.

If you have questions about leaf pick-up, please contact please contact Rumpke Waste at 461-0004 or Butler Township at 898-6735.

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Safety grant pays for Township's bucket lift

In recent years, the Butler Township staff has been working closely with the safety coordinator from the Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) to determine ways to improve employee safety.

When asked if they had particular requests for safety equipment, Service Department Supervisor Doug Brunk recommended the purchase of a bucket lift. He felt the Department could use this equipment instead of ladders and other less safe means to replace street signs and traffic lights, trim trees in the right-of-way and complete other general maintenance tasks. It could also be needed in emergency situations, such as a severe weather event.

"We felt that this intervention was the perfect opportunity to make working conditions safer for our Service Department employees," said Assistant Township Administrator Erika Vogel.

The Township applied for a Bureau of Worker's Compensation grant and received \$31,500 toward the \$42,000 cost of the bucket lift. The Township's match was \$10,500.

The bucket lift was put into service in July, following training on the equipment.

"The bucket lift will greatly reduce the risk of potential injuries," Vogel said. "The new equipment will allow our employees to feel more confident and secure when performing their job duties at difficult heights."



Perfect time to prevent crime

As you create your to-do list for fall clean up around the yard, be sure to include some simple tasks that will help protect you, your loved ones and property from crime. Here are some ideas:

Trim the bushes. Cut back – or even remove – bushes that criminals can hide behind. Stand in the street and look closely at where a thief could hide. Criminals work in the dark and shadows. If they have nowhere to hide, they might move on.

Turn on the lights. Inspect your outdoor lighting. Clean the glass on light fixtures. If a lightbulb has discoloration, it's probably ready to burn out; so change it. In dark areas, consider adding a motion-detector light fixture. Most importantly, turn those lights on!

Talk to neighbors. Make the commitment to watch out for each other. Let your neighbors know when you'll be gone. If it's feasible,

give the neighbor permission to inspect the property during your absence. Encourage a call to the police if something doesn't look right. Officers never consider it a bother, and they will always respond.

Inspect door and window locks. Be sure your door locks feel tightly secured with no "play" or looseness. Any gap between the door knob and the door makes it easy for a criminal to pry it open. Check all window locks, as well.

Lock car doors. Also, remove or hide any valuables inside.

"Crime prevention involves all of us," said Butler Township Police Detective Kevin Sink. "The police count on you to be their eyes and ears in your neighborhood."

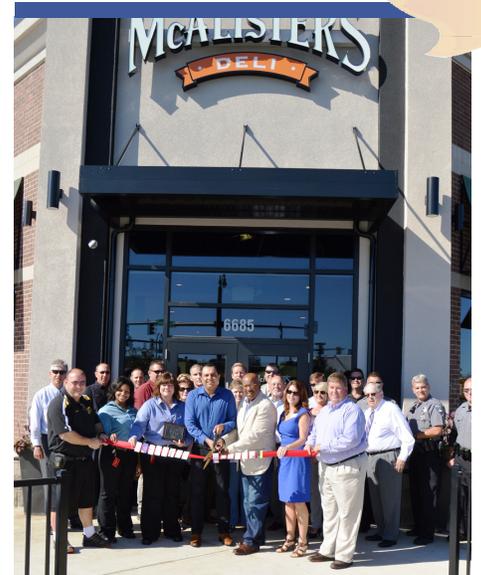
To contact the Police Department, call 233-2080 anytime, day or night.

Safety first during open burning

Although outdoor recreational fires can be an enjoyable activity, safety precautions and fire code regulations must be followed. No permit is required in Butler Township.

Always have a way to extinguish the fire, whether it's a garden hose or fire extinguisher, in case of an emergency. Also ensure that everyone – especially children – keeps a safe distance away from the fire.

For more information on open burning, please visit the Township's website at www.butlertownship.com. Click on the Fire Department link, where you will find the Open Burn Provisions for further guidance and regulations.



McAlister's Deli open for business

Butler Township's newest eatery was recently opened with an official ribbon cutting. McAlister's Deli at 6685 Miller Lane offers a variety of sandwiches, baked potatoes, salads, soups, sweets and sweet tea. Stop in for great meal.

Limited Home Rule — *continued from Page 1*

Limited home rule expands the powers of a statutory township, permitting the trustees to enact legislation not specifically prohibited by the Ohio Revised Code.

What specifically can the trustees do under limited home rule?

Under limited home rule, Butler Township trustees would be permitted to enact legislation in these areas:

- Setting curfew restrictions for minors
- Limiting speed on township roadways
- Passing nuisance and public-safety resolutions
- Prohibiting the storage of abandoned junk vehicles
- Enacting legislation to control noise and lighting

- Regulating emergency traffic, parking, activities of transient dealers, solicitors and street vendors as well as public gatherings and concerts
- Working with other political jurisdictions
- Impounding animals, and
- Regulating part-time employment of off-duty police officers.

What is the Township prohibited from doing under limited home rule?

No resolution adopted by the trustees may be in conflict with the laws of the state of Ohio. This means that the Township **MAY NOT**...

- Impose new taxes unless voted upon by the general population
- Modify the structure of the township government

- Create criminal offenses or impose criminal penalties
- Revise subdivision regulations, road construction standards, storm water regulations or building code requirements, or
- Establish regulations regarding hunting, trapping, fishing or the possession, use or sale of firearms.

If passed, when would the new form of government go into effect?

If the home rule issue is approved by the voters, it will become effective January 1, 2016.

If you have questions about the proposed limited home rule government, please call Township Administrator Kim Lapensee at 898-6735 during business hours.

Officer's Night Out: Year FOUR and Growing!

The Butler Township Police Department and the Stonespring Transitional Care Center hosted the fourth annual Officer's Night Out on August 4.

Amid the family fun of inflatable slides, an obstacle course, ball houses, pony rides, food vendors, members of the Police and Fire departments spent time with township residents in a relaxed and informal setting.

"Our goal is to build closer working and personal relationships with the people we serve," said Police Chief John Cresie. "There was a lot of good company, good food and fun to go around."

Thanks to all residents who participated, and a special thanks to Stonespring Transitional Care Center for supporting Officer's Night Out every year.

"We've already started planning for next year, and we're looking forward to seeing even more people there," Cresie said.



Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm

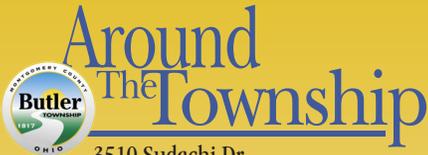
"Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP" is Fire Prevention Week's life-saving message for 2015.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, about one-half of all US home fire deaths occur at night between 11 p.m.-7 a.m. A working smoke alarm in the home reduces the risk of dying by half.

The Butler Township Fire Department and the Association recommend placing a working smoke alarm in every bedroom. It is also important to have a working smoke alarm in the hallway between the bedrooms and on every level of the home.

Change your clock, change your batteries

You should also test your smoke alarm regularly and replace the batteries when needed. Make it your routine to change the batteries when you change your clocks to daylight saving time on November 1 and back again on March 13, 2016.



3510 Sudachi Dr.
Dayton, OH 45414

Township Trustees

(937) 898-6735

Doug Orange, President - x1196

Michael Lang, Vice President - x1199

Nicholas Brusky, Trustee - x1197

Mark Adams, Fiscal Officer

(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

Police, Non-emergency

(937) 890-2671

Fire, Non-emergency

(937) 890-2491

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Trick or treat time

All the tiny ghosts and goblins will be taking to the streets for Beggars' Night, Saturday, October 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.

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

If you're driving during this time, please watch out for the children.



Partners make 2nd Annual Cruise-In a success

The weather was beautiful and the crowd was great at the 2nd Annual Cruise-In to Butler Township on August 22. Participants registered 52 vehicles, and proceeds were donated to Dayton Children's Medical Center.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful co-sponsors, including Abbey Credit Union, Day Air Credit Union, The Digital Cowboy, Mid USA Credit Union, Universal 1 Credit Union, the Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce and Walmart, for making this event a success.