

Why is a police levy needed?

• Township residents have not passed a police levy in 10 years. In 2006, voters passed a levy to replace the 4.9-mill levy, but turned down an increase of 2-mill levy, which was also requested that same year. Prior to that, the last levy passed was in March 2000, when the voters approved the 4.9-mill levy, thereby eliminating eight previous levies totaling 5.6 mills. Those eight levies were small amounts passed between 1976 and 1989. Overall, there has not been a millage increase for the police department since 1989, 27 years ago.

• The average expenditures in the police department over the last three years (2012-2015) have been \$1,637,206, while the average property tax generated by the current police levy over the last three years is only \$953,133 per year.

• Personnel costs make up an average of 84 percent of the total police budget, and operating costs make up the other 16 percent. Major capital purchases, such as police vehicles are not funded by the police budget. Fortunately, the township has been able to purchase police vehicles through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) programs, generated by developments.



• Other revenue sources come from property taxes, JED-Z funds generated from the business district, service contracts and miscellaneous fines and fees collected. The police budget has also been supplemented by the general fund, at an average of \$350,000 per year, over the past seven years. It is critical to end the general fund transfer for the economic viability of the township. (See “Budget commission recommends police levy” on page 8.)

• While the costs to run a police department have continued to rise and calls for service have increased 15 percent per year, on average, the township has not been able to increase staffing or service delivery. Staffing is currently down two officers, and those positions will not be filled if the levy is unsuccessful.

• If the levy is not passed, services will be reevaluated in order to reduce the budget by at least \$300,000, annually.

What could these reductions mean for police services?

• Minimum staffing would be re-evaluated (from two- to one-officer minimum on the road at all times)

• Open positions would remain unfilled

• Response times would increase

• Pro-active patrol of neighborhoods would decrease

• Detective services would be reduced, eliminating misdemeanor investigations

• Additional programs and services could be reduced or eliminated

Porter Sworn in as Police Chief



Porter was sworn in at the trustees' meeting on September 12, 2016.

The Butler Township trustees have named John M. Porter as the new chief of police. Porter brings more than 27 years of law enforcement experience to the position.

Porter started his career in law enforcement with Madison Township in 1983 as a dispatcher. He is a 1985 graduate of the Miami Valley Career Technology Center police academy and became a full-time officer for Madison Township in 1989.

Over the course of his 27-year law enforcement career, Porter has also served as

a detective, sergeant, captain, and finally as the deputy chief over the department.

Porter has been married to his wife, Jackie, for 26 years, and they have two children.

“I look forward to working with the residents and businesses in Butler Township,” the new chief said. “I believe the community has great potential for continued growth, prosperity and success.”

Your Police, Your Community: About Your Police Department

Like many law enforcement agencies, the Butler Township Police Department has seen an increase in calls for service in recent years. For example, calls for police service have increased by 13.2 percent in 2014 and another 16.1 percent in 2015. In the first half of 2016, the department had 8,043 calls for service, for an average of 44 calls per day.

Even as the need for services is growing, the department struggles to maintain a full force. The authorized 16-officer staff is currently at 13, due to one military deployment and two other officers leaving to work for other departments. The two open positions may remain unfilled, depending upon the results of the November 8 election.

Staffing Adjustments

To maintain a two-officer minimum staffing requirement and cover every shift, the department recently made several adjustments, such as pulling a detective back from Ohio's Bulk Currency Smuggling Task Force and placing him on road patrol. When necessary, the detective and lieutenant are called to cover road patrol. In addition, the patrol officers have been switched from 12-hour shifts to 8.5-hour shifts, which are easier shifts to fill.

Officers' Workloads

Butler Township's one detective is a busy individual, with more than 100 active cases assigned for investigation. By comparison, Vandalia assigns about five cases per detective, and Englewood, 10.

In addition to road and neighborhood patrols, officers are responsible for vacation house checks, and business checks, and special community events, such as National Night Out, the Cruise-In-to-Butler Township, Shop with Cops and others.

K-9 Program

The K-9 Zorro has been put to work on 76 incidents this year. This includes 57 times for narcotic detection and 19 for patrol, which involves tracking a suspect or an area search for a suspect or evidence.



The Butler Township Police Department (L to R): Chief John Porter, Det. Kevin Sink, Sgt. Todd Stanley, Off. Benton Smith, Off. David Naas, Off. Chris Hammond, Off. Jason Leslie, Off. Zorro, Sgt. Mark Morgan, Off. Scott Hammond, Sgt. Lonnie Bilbrey, Off. Amy Harlow, Off. Brian Brown, Lt. Chris Guthrie. (Not Pictured: Off. John Ashworth, currently serving with the U.S. Navy in Africa.)

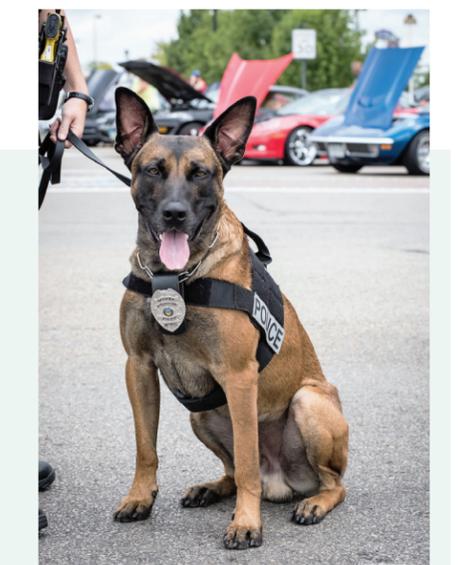
Of those incidents, 31 have resulted in narcotics being found and 20 of those resulted in charges being pursued. Approximately half of these incidents occurred outside of Butler Township on mutual aid response. Zorro has also assisted with school searches.

Outstanding community support provides Zorro with the food, medical services and equipment he needs. These are made possible through donations, grants and donated services from Dixie Veterinary Clinic.

K-9 A Hero

Zorro's special talents made a critical difference in a September 2015 incident. Officers were called to a traffic crash, but before they arrived, an intoxicated person ran from the scene on foot. The K-9 was able to track the person to a wooded area, where he was found unconscious. Officers removed him, and he received medical treatment.

Zorro's handler, Officer Harlow, said she does not believe they would have located



the person without the K-9, because of the dense wooded area in which he was hidden.

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years

Did you know that over time, smoke alarms wear out? In fact, manufacturers recommend replacing them at least every 10 years from the manufacture date.

To emphasize that fact, this year's Fire Prevention Week theme was "Don't Wait – Check the Date!"

If you need assistance with changing batteries, or help replacing your smoke alarm, please contact Butler Township Fire Department at 937-890-2491. If you provide the battery or smoke alarm, we will set up an appointment and assist you with changing these items.

Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced every six months. A good time to change your smoke alarm batteries is when we change our clocks. This year, we'll "fall back" November 6.

Leaf Pickup Runs Through Dec. 15

The leaves are coming down, and Butler Township residents will again receive leaf pick-up as part of the trash removal service. Here are the details:

- Leave your filled leaf bags out for pick up on your regular service trash day.
- Leaf pickup runs from October 15 through December 15.
- DO NOT rake your leaves into the street or gutter. They will not be picked up from there.

If you have any questions about leaf pickup, please contact Rumpke Waste at 461-0004 or Butler Township at 937-898-6735.

When is Trick or Treat?

Trick or treating in Butler Township will be held Monday, October 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.



Hints for Halloween Happiness

Parents, if you plan to get into the Halloween spirit this year, or allow your kids to go trick-or-treating, here are some safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

If you're giving out treats:

- To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove from the porch and front yard anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.
- Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Wet leaves or snow should be swept from sidewalks and steps.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.

If your children are trick-or-treating:

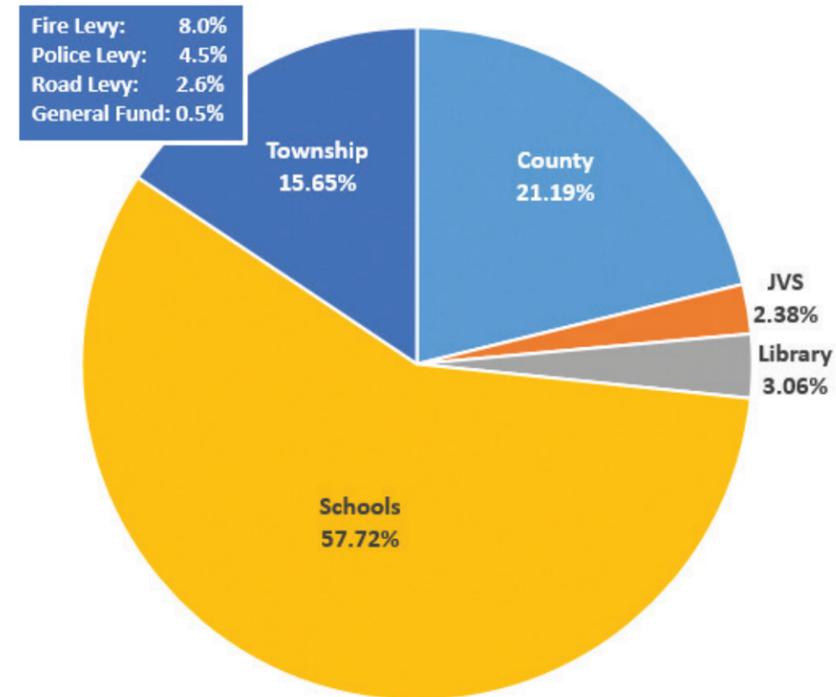
- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind trick-or-treaters:
 - ♦ Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
 - ♦ Remember reflective tape for costumes and trick-or-treat bags.

- ♦ Carry a cellphone for quick communication.
- ♦ Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- ♦ If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- ♦ Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- ♦ Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks. Never cross between parked cars or out of driveways.
- ♦ Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
- ♦ The Butler Township Police Department should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

How Are Property Taxes Distributed?

Residents sometimes inquire where their property taxes go. The chart below shows the distribution.

As you can see, the township receives only 15.65 percent of the total property taxes you currently pay. The police department receives only 4.5 percent of your total property taxes.



Camp Fire Rules

Open burning such as camp fires are allowed in Butler Township for recreational purposes only, including the cooking of food, warmth or pleasure. Such fires are governed by the Ohio Fire Code, and no permit is needed. However, there are a few common-sense rules that must be followed. You can find these rules on the township's website at www.butlertownship.com, under the fire department tab.

Bonfires require a permit, and all other burning is considered illegal by the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency. Please contact the Butler Township Fire Department at 937-890-2491 for more information.

Township Welcomes New Business

A new Goodwill retail store has opened on Miller Lane.

Butler Township welcomes several new businesses:

- Township officials participated last month in a ribbon cutting for the Goodwill retail store on Miller Lane.
- Springhill Suites is set to open on November 15, 2016
- Burger King is being constructed at the corner of Towne Center Drive and Benchwood Road, with opening slated for January 2017.
- Home 2, a Hilton-brand hotel, which plans to move forward with construction following the final development plan approval process with the township's zoning commission.



New Inspector's Work Helps Maintain Property Values

The township has hired a new, part-time property maintenance/zoning inspector. Heather Wendel is now responsible for enforcing the Property Maintenance Code and zoning regulations, taking property violation complaints from residents and inspecting properties to ensure that codes are being followed.

She also patrols neighborhoods for a more proactive and educational approach to code enforcement.

A Dayton resident for most of her life, Heather has a professional background that includes employment as an environmental consultant with a small, local company, where she gained experience working with government officials, reviewing property records and conducting inspections.

"Heather addresses issues in an official capacity to keep the community attractive and help preserve our property values," said Township Administrator Erika Vogel.



Heather Wendel, Zoning Inspector

If you have a question or concern involving a particular property, please contact Heather at 937-898-6735 ext. 1121 or hwendel@butlertownship.com.



Did You Know...

Nationwide, 23 highway workers and one law enforcement officer are killed in roadside accidents monthly?

For the protection of everyone who works and travels on roadways, Ohio's Move Over Law requires motorists to cautiously shift over one lane — or slow down if changing lanes is not possible — when passing any vehicle with flashing or rotating lights on the side of a road. Fines are doubled for this type of violation.

Cruise-In to Butler Township



The Cruise-In to Butler Township was held on Saturday, August 13, in the York Commons Business District.

Butler Township would like to thank the event's many co-sponsors: Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce, Sam's Club, Digital Cowboy, Neff Insurance Agency, Thein Financial, Day Air Credit Union, Mid USA Credit Union, Abbey Credit Union and Universal 1 Credit Union.

All proceeds from this fun, community event went to the Butler Township K-9 Fund to support Zorro. Special thanks to Sam's Club for its donation of \$1,000.

Additional Issues on the November 8 Ballot

In addition to the police levy, Butler Township voters will be deciding on two important issues:

Issue # 42: Electric Aggregation

The issue of electric aggregation will be on the November 8 ballot. By voting for aggregation, it will allow your local officials to purchase electric generation at a discounted rate through group purchasing power.

What is aggregation?

Governmental aggregation is an easy way for a large group of consumers to save money on their energy bills. Under governmental aggregation, local officials bring citizens together to gain group buying power for the purchase of competitively priced electricity from a retail generation supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

What is the ballot question?

Shall Butler Township have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in Butler Township, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

Yes No

What are the program's features?

Aggregation = More Choice
Approval by voters provides more choice to decide what's best for your electric needs.

Opt-In or Out at Any Time

Aggregation programs give you more choices when it comes to utilities. Participation is completely voluntary, and there are no contracts or added fees. If you decide it is not right for you, you can "opt out" at any time.

No Interruption of Service

Whether you opt-in or opt-out, your service continues as usual, with no change.

Still have questions? Contact the Township's Energy Consultant at 1-877- 861-2772.

Issue # 43: Limited Home Rule

Township trustees voted to put limited home rule on the ballot in 2015, in response to residents' displeasure with the township's limited powers to enforce speeds and weight limits on township roads. At the request of residents, the board of trustees have agreed to put the issue back on the ballot in the November 8 election.

What is "limited home rule"?

Generally, limited home rule broadens some of the powers of local self-government and limited police powers and allows the township to enact legislation that will promote and improve the quality of life for the residents.

How does the ballot language read?

Shall the unincorporated territory of Butler Township adopt a limited home rule government, under which government the board of

township trustees, by resolution, may exercise limited powers of local self-government and limited police powers?

For adoption of a limited home rule government

Against adoption of a limited home rule government

Adopting limited home rule will allow the township to...

- Pass curfew restrictions for minors
- Limit speeds and weight limits on township roadways
- Institute emergency traffic/parking regulations
- Pass nuisance and public safety resolutions
- Enforce zoning codes with broader power
- Regulate noise or lighting nuisances
- Regulate panhandlers, transient dealers and solicitors
- Deal with other jurisdictions with broader powers
- Regulate public gatherings and concerts
- Adopt animal control regulations and impound animals

Home rule townships MAY NOT adopt resolutions in the following areas:

- Taxes
- Encroachment upon duties of the trustees
- Changing the structure of township government
- Criminal offenses
- Civil fines in excess of \$1,000
- Subdivision and utility regulations
- Standard building codes
- Alter township power regarding agriculture
- Hunting, trapping, fishing or the possession use or sale of firearms
- Water and sewer regulations

Need more info before you vote?

Join us for special voter information sessions being held in the upcoming weeks before the election. See page 1 of this newsletter for details.



