



Around The Township



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

Fall 2019



It's a Party in the Park **Free Event**

Mark your calendar for October 5

To celebrate fall – and our resilient community – Butler Township will host the 2019 “Party in the Park,” a family-friendly event and fun time for all ages. With live music, food trucks, craft beer, a petting zoo, wagon rides and other children’s activities, it will have all the makings of a perfect fall festival.

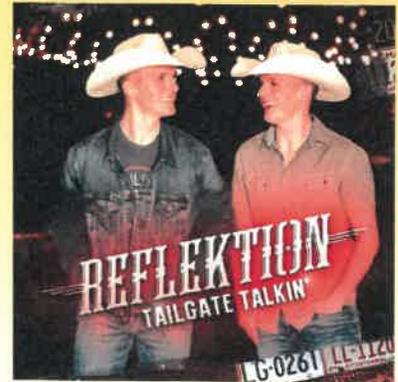
When: Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where: Art Van Atta Park,
3180 Benchwood Rd.**

A variety of beers will be offered from several popular craft breweries. Tastings will be offered at \$20, for a commemorative glass and fifteen 4-ounce drink tickets. Individual beers & wine will be \$5.

Country music singer-songwriters “ReFlektion,” a duo from Piqua made up of twin brothers Jared and Justin Younce, are the headliners. They play original songs and cover a variety of modern country music.

“Like” our page on Facebook @BTpartyinthepark, or visit www.butlertownship.com for the schedule of events and updates.



Live Entertainment

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Kylie Miller

11:30 am – 1:00 pm Southbound

1:30 pm - 2:30 p.m.
Velvet Crush Unplugged

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Reflektion

Petting Zoo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Kids can enter to win a
free bike!**



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A Proven Team Working for the Township

By Trustee Joe Flanagan

Butler Township has seen many positive changes in recent years. In making those changes, we, as township trustees, have kept our eyes on the goal of achieving the highest service level at the lowest cost. Here are some examples of the progress we've made:

Police staffing and budget

Just a few years ago, Butler Township was struggling to put minimum police personnel on the street, with only eight officers available, and many of them working double shifts. Today, we have 18 officers, including a canine officer and two full-time detectives. Officers now work normal shifts, and the reestablished part-time and auxiliary officer program offers additional support.

When the township went to the voters for a police levy in 2016, the department was dealing with serious financial issues, including the need to balance the police budget with transfers from the general fund. This could not be sustained. When the township electorate voted to increase funding for the police, the department budget was put in the black and has remained there.



\$1 million saved

A budget review found that, due to a former administrative oversight, the cost of sidewalk repairs in one area of the township were being incorrectly charged over two years to the township budget. This represented an expense of \$1 million. However, sidewalk repair costs in Butler Township, as in most other jurisdictions, are assessed to adjoining property owners. When we discovered the error, we took a vote of the board to revert the sidewalk program to an assessment project and also secured a grant for an additional \$50,000. And so, nearly \$1,000,000 was saved.

Citizen participation

Three years ago, the Butler Township Trustees created a citizens Budget Review Commission, comprised of five township residents, plus the administrator and the fiscal officer. This commission reviews the expenses and budgets of all departments and makes recommendations to the board of trustees, ensuring financial stability for the township.

Behind all our actions are the efforts of three independent trustees. We have evolved to work as a team to meet the goal of always striving to provide the highest level of service to our citizens.

Township's Business Base Growing

Commercial development and redevelopment remain strong in Butler Township, with a variety of businesses investing in the community.

Hotel boom

Two new hotels are under construction, bringing the total number of hotels in the township to 16 and the total number of rooms to 1,580, many of which are at full capacity of weekends. Butler Township's Miller Lane area is home to approximately 25 percent of Montgomery County's total hotel base. In lodging tax alone, the township receives over \$800,000 in revenue, annually.

"It's unique for a township to have so many hotels" said Township Administrator Erika Vogel. "We're fortunate to be able to bring so many visitors into our business district to lodge and dine."

In addition...

Minster Bank is nearing the construction phase of its new local branch on the vacant lot at the corner of North Dixie Drive and Reinwood Drive. The township was able to sell just under an acre of land to the bank for this project.

Skyline Chili has recently completed a remodeling and facelift at its location on Miller Lane.



Rendering of the new Minster Bank in Butler Township

Tornadoes Devestate Parts of Butler Township



Butler Township experienced significant amounts of damage from the Memorial Day tornadoes that ripped through the Miami Valley. Fortunately, no major injuries were reported, although 168 Butler Township properties were affected, including 54 that were destroyed or incurred major damage.

The most significant damage occurred in the area of Cricket Lane and Coppersmith Avenue off of Brantford Road, as well as on Sunny Ridge Road off of North Dixie Drive. A few businesses also sustained damage.

The township's cost for clean-up and brush removal was approximately \$190,000.

Township personnel respond

In the first hours after the event, fire, police and service crews assessed damage and cleared roadways. The township provided roll-off dumpsters and portable toilets in the heavily impacted neighborhoods for residents and volunteers to use during their cleanup efforts.

"The dumpsters were a huge help for many residents," said Township Administrator Erika Vogel. "It was important just to have a place to start putting all the debris."

More than grateful for the help

Curbside tree limb and brush removal began exactly one week after the tornadoes and continued for two weeks. Crews and dump trucks from Huber Heights, Kettering, Miamisburg and the Miami Conservancy District came to help. There was also an amazing outpouring of help and service by individuals and organizations from around the Miami Valley and beyond.

"We're more than grateful for the many people who reached out to help with cleanup and recovery," said Vogel. "We can't thank the other jurisdictions enough for sparing their equipment and staff time to assist us."



Who's Responsible for the Roads?

To Report a Pothole

Potholes are bound to show up with the freezing and thawing of pavements during the winter months. The Butler Township Service Department encourages you to report potholes on township roads to the township at 937-890-1218 ext.1302. For county roadways, call the Montgomery County Engineer's Office at 937-837-2528.

Roads Paved in 2019

Butler Township resurfaced three roads this summer, including Kinmont Road, Kershner Road and Coover Mill Court. The projects came in just under the budgeted amount of \$290,000.

Several major thoroughfares in the township are maintained by the Montgomery County Engineer's Office and not Butler Township. These are typically the major roadways that cross jurisdictions. Plowing, salting, asphalt repair and pothole repair are the responsibility of the county on the following roadways:

- Dog Leg Road
- Frederick Pike
- Heathcliff
- Lightner Road
- Little York Road
- Martindale Road
- North Dixie Drive
- Old Springfield Road
- Peters Pike



Summer Events in the Township



- Many township residents took advantage of the free Butler Township Community Shred Day on Saturday, June 8. The event made it easy to dispose of personal documents safely and securely. Shred Day is sure to return in 2020. Thank you, Day Air Credit Union, for sponsoring the event.

- A big crowd came out again this year for the food trucks, booths and music at the Fourth of July Star Spangled Celebration. The highlight, of course, was the incredible fireworks display, co-sponsored by Butler Township and the city of Vandalia.



- National Night Out brings together township government, law enforcement, businesses and community members to let criminals know we are united against crime. On August 6, the event was held at Stonespring Nursing Home with activities, games and prizes to kids of all ages. Township officials cooked and served up 600 free hot dogs. Thanks to Stonespring, numerous township businesses and Sergeant Amy Carr, who helped to make the event a big success.



- It was the best turnout ever for the 6th Annual Cruise-In to Butler Township on August 10. Blue skies and bright sunshine brought folks out to see the more than 80 vehicles on display on Commerce Center Drive.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

When you “fall back” one hour for the fall time change on Sunday, November 3, remember to replace the batteries in all your smoke alarms.



Carbon Monoxide Detectors Available

In 2018, approximately 430 people in the U.S. died from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. This type of tragedy can easily be prevented with a carbon monoxide detector in your home. Again this year, the Firefighters and Company Federal Credit Union has generously donated carbon monoxide detectors for Butler Township to make available to residents. These detectors are available, free of charge,

on a first-come, first-served basis.



If your household does not have a carbon monoxide detector, please contact the Butler Township Fire Department at 937-890-2491.



Trick or Treat

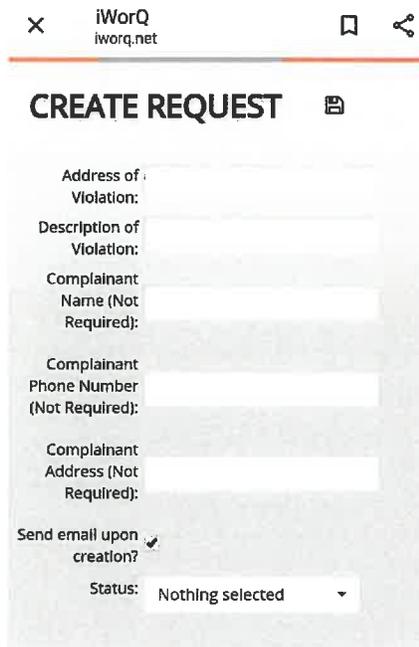
Beggars' Night for Butler Township is set for Thursday, October 31, from 6-8 p.m. If you plan to participate, be sure to turn on your porch light.

Bringing You Tech-Enhanced Services

Online zoning permits and more

Butler Township has launched an upgrade of the zoning permit software to make it easier for applicants and improve processing. The new system, called IWorq, features a customer portal where anyone can apply for zoning permits and submit property maintenance complaints. The system also allows the code enforcement officer to record violations from the field so notices can be generated on-the-spot.

You can find a link for IWorq on the township's website at www.butlertownship.com. If you have questions about permits, you may also call the office at 937-898-6735.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL iworq.net. The page title is "CREATE REQUEST". The form contains the following fields: "Address of Violation:", "Description of Violation:", "Complainant Name (Not Required):", "Complainant Phone Number (Not Required):", and "Complainant Address (Not Required):". There is a checkbox for "Send email upon creation?" which is checked, and a "Status:" dropdown menu currently set to "Nothing selected".

Online payment

Many residents have asked the township to consider paperless billing and online payments. This fall, keep an eye out for updates and availability of online bill payment for residential trash customers. For a small convenience fee, trash bills will be payable by credit card, debit card, eCheck or text message and available via your computer, smart phone, tablet, telephone, mail or in person. Residents will be able to view their bills online and schedule future payments.

Visit www.butlertownship.com, or call 937-898-6735 with your trash-billing questions.

Website improvements

Coming soon to a device near you is Butler Township's new website. The site, which promises to be mobile- and user-friendly, is being developed by Catapult Creative of Dayton.



Citizens Learning about Police Work

The first Butler Township Police Citizen's Academy is underway, having started September 11 and running through October 23.

During the seven week, participants are learning about the inner workings of the police department. Topics include criminal investigation, traffic and accident investigation, evidence collection and response to resistance. Students will also ride along with officers.

"Since this was our first academy, we wanted to limit the number of students to ensure we were able to meet each participant's needs," said Police Chief John Porter. "We hope to grow the enrollment in future classes, giving more residents the opportunity to become involved."

The next academy will be held next spring and is open to all Butler township residents. For more information, please visit the township's website at www.butlertownship.com.

Help Keep Storm Water Clean

Keeping contaminants out of storm water helps to protect the environment and waterway ecology. Here are some everyday ways you can help:

- Do not dump chemicals, oil and cleaning fluids down storm drains. Recycle used oil and antifreeze.
- Do not litter.
- Pick up pet waste. If left on the ground, it causes bacteria in storm drains.
- Keep the storm gutters and ditches free of leaves, dirt and debris.

If you see anyone illegally dumping or discharging chemicals in gutters, ditches or storm drains, please report them immediately by calling 937-890-1218 ext. 1302.

Plan and Practice Your Escape

Fire Department Advises

The theme of this year's Fire Prevention week, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape," emphasizes the importance of a home escape plan and the value of practicing it. This advice is critical, according to Butler Township Fire Chief Dan Alig, because today's homes burn faster than ever.

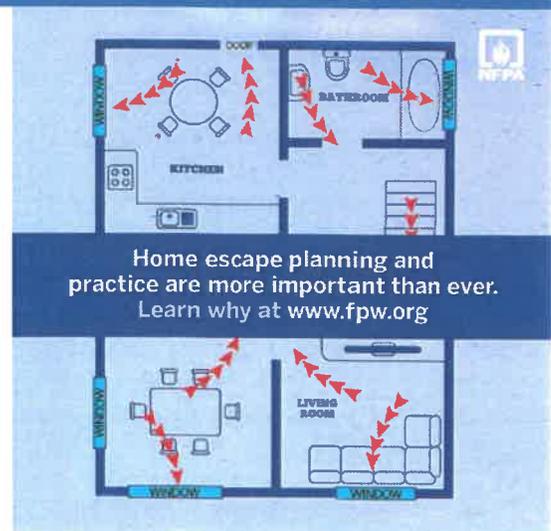
National statistics show that home fires are occurring far too often: On average, seven people per day died in a home fire during the period of 2012 to 2016.

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape

planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out.

A home escape plan includes working smoke detectors on every level of the home, in every bedroom and near all sleeping areas. And then be sure to practice the plan.

"Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go," said Chief Alig. "No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately."



For more general information about home escape planning, visit the Fire Prevention Week organization at www.fpw.org.

Fire Department at Full Staffing



(l-r) Fulltime Firefighter/Paramedics Tyler Ullery and David Grantonic

A recent promotion and the resignations of two part-time firefighters have given the Fire Department the opportunity to hire two new firefighter/paramedics. This brings total full-time staffing to the 18 positions required to ensure the community is well protected.

Meet the individuals who are working to protect the Butler Township community:

Tyler Ullery brings years of experience to the department. He began in Brookville as a part-time firefighter/EMT in 2005. He was hired full-time by the city of Riverside in 2010 as a firefighter/paramedic. He also continues to serve his hometown of Brookville as a part-time lieutenant. He is certified in water rescue, rope rescue, self-contained breathing apparatus maintenance, as well as a certified fire instructor.

David Grantonic has been with Butler Township as a part-time firefighter/EMT since March 2015. He completed paramedic certification in 2018. He is certified as a fire safety inspector and in rope rescue. He has gained additional experience working part-time for the Vandalia Fire Division and a private EMS agency.

Public Safety Officers Honored

The Vandalia Butler Lions Club recognized three Butler Township staff members with top honors:

Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Boone was recognized as this year's Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year. His work through critical incidents shows his dedication and drive to perform well under pressure. Ryan has been with the fire department since 2008.

Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Grant was recognized as the 2019 Firefighter of the Year. Mike spent many hours this year creating and implementing a cancer-prevention program within the fire department. Mike continues to keep his colleagues up to date on new

developments that could be lifesaving. Mike has been with the fire department since 2017.

Patrol Officer John Ashworth was named the 2019 Officer of the Year. After returning in the fall of 2017 from a 20-month deployment with the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf, John re-established his assignment as the School Resource Officer at Smith Middle School. Once he realized additional funds were needed to support the school's annual week-long field trip to Camp Kern, John raised enough money for nine students who otherwise would not have been able to go. John also arranged for donations of extra socks and rain gear for every child attending. John has been with the police department since 2005.



Lions Club award winners (l to r): Officer John Ashworth, Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Boone and Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Grant

Police Make Staffing Changes



Sergeant Amy Carr



Officer Emily Crist



Officer James Hawkins



Officer Gary Jackson

Several staff changes have been made recently in the Butler Township Police Department:

Sergeant Amy Carr was promoted as Butler Township's first female sergeant, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Sgt. Mark Morgan. Her prior experience includes service in the Military Police Division of the U.S. Army and in an auxiliary position with Clay Township. She was hired as an auxiliary officer in Butler Township in 2011 and promoted to full-time in 2013. Amy made history when, in 2015, she was named the department's first female K9 officer.

Officer Emily Crist was sworn in as a part-time officer. She comes to the township with 17 years of experience and education, having studied criminal justice at Otterbein College and Sinclair College. Emily holds certifications as an evidence technician, accident reconstructionist, animal humane officer, emergency medical technician and level II firefighter. She is also currently employed part-time with Englewood Police Department. In her limited spare time, she teaches at the Greene County Career Center Police Academy and Sinclair College Police Academy.

Officer James Hawkins comes to the Butler Township with 12 years of police experience from Clay Township Police Department where he served as a sergeant and detective. He fills the vacancy resulting from a promotion within the department. James and his wife enjoy travel and fostering canines for the Miami Valley Pit Crew Rescue.

Officer Gary Jackson, formerly a part-time officer in the department, was promoted to full-time status to fill a vacancy. He has been with Butler Township since May 2017.



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Township Trustees

(937) 898-6735
Joseph Flanagan – x1197
Michael Lang – x1196
Kenneth Betz – x1199

Fiscal Officer

(937) 898-6735
Mark Adams - x1198

Township Administrator

(937) 898-6735
Erika Vogel - x1113

Police/Fire/EMS

Emergency
9-1-1
Non-Emergency Dispatch
(937) 233-2080

Fire Department Admin.

(937) 890-2491
Chief Dan Alig – x1403

Police Department Admin.

(937) 890-2671
Chief John Porter – x1231

Service Department

(937) 898-6735
Jeff Barnett, Director - x1302

Trash Department

(937) 898-6735 x1119

Zoning Department

(937) 898-6735 x1111

Property Maintenance

(937) 898-6735 x1121

Leaf Pickup Begins October 8

As a Butler Township resident, you will again this fall have your leaves picked up as part of the regular trash-removal service. The program runs from October 8 through December 12. Simply leave your filled bags out for pickup on your regular trash-service day.

Please do not rake your leaves to the street or gutter. They will not be picked up from there.

Brush Drop Off on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Butler Township Service Department, 3710 West National Rd.

- This service is available to residents only. No contractors or landscapers.
- You will be asked to show a current valid ID as proof of residence in the township.
- Do not chop brush and limbs too small. Remove nails, wire and root balls.
- Items such as construction materials, concrete, hardscape materials, old firewood or lawn service debris will not be accepted.

For more information, check the township's website at www.butlertownship.com