



# Around The Township

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

SPRING 2015

## Revenue losses force Service Department cuts

The winter edition of "Around the Township" featured a story about anticipated cuts in Service Department services due to a 27 percent loss in funding over the past five years. The biggest losses have come from reductions in property tax revenues and funds previously distributed by the state of Ohio.

To balance the budget, the Township must cut back services. The following measures will be taken, effective immediately:

- **Limited grass mowing throughout the township** – Residents will be responsible for mowing their own rights-of-way along all township roads, even if a ditch is involved. Township crews will mow only the cemeteries, around Township-owned buildings and along the highways.
- **Elimination of brush and limb program** – The Township will no longer provide this program. The Montgomery County Solid Waste District offers free drop-off for all Montgomery County residents at its facility on Encrete Lane in Dayton. Township residents also have the option of bundling their limbs with their regular trash pickup as long as the bundles do not exceed 4 feet in length by 2 feet in diameter. Low-volume customers must co-mingle grass clippings and leaves with their trash in their



35-gallon waste wheeler. Do not put out extra bags.

- **Reduced plowing and salting on township roadways** – This reduction was implemented this past winter in an effort to cut overtime hours spent plowing snow and the amount of salt used. (Salt supplies across the Midwest were greatly limited this past winter, so the supply on hand at the beginning of the season had to be made to last.)

These measures will save the Township an estimated \$100,000 in 2015.

"We've already put in place all the operational efficiencies available to us," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. "State law requires that we balance our budget, so we have no choice but to reduce services."

## Service Department re-caps winter

The winter of 2014-15 was mild compared to the previous year. Here are the key statistics:

- Crews applied 400 tons of salt at a cost of \$22,000.
- Crews worked 180 hours of overtime for a total of \$7,000.
- Repairs amounting to \$3,000 were made to trucks and other equipment.
- Trucks were kept moving with \$5,100 spent on 1,550 gallons of diesel fuel.

"Mother Nature was kinder this past winter than in recent years," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. "It made our job of keeping residents safe on the roadways just that much easier."

### In This Issue

Villager Inn demolition update.....	2
Miller Lane street lighting .....	2
Discolored water alert.....	3
Police schedule reduces cost.....	3
Cruise in returns .....	4

## Two retire from Township

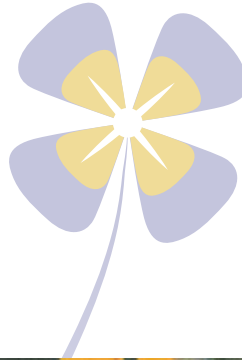


**Captain Mike Blakesly** has retired from the Butler Township Fire Department after 38 years of service. He started his career with the Township as a volunteer in 1976, the same year he graduated from high school. He grew through the ranks, serving as a firefighter, paramedic and fire inspector.

He earned an associate degree in fire science from Sinclair Community College in 2000.

For much of his career, Blakesly was responsible for fire inspections and prevention activities, including the "Passport to Safety," a safety-village-type of program in the schools. He is known to many school children and their parents as "Fireman Mike."

Blakesly is married with two daughters and lives in Vandalia. He has served on the Vandalia City Council since 1998.



**James Vance** will retire on April 30 after nearly 34 years of service to Butler Township. He joined the road department in 1981 as a service worker. He was promoted to group leader and supervised many road department maintenance activities in the field.

Vance is married with two children and lives in Butler Township.



## Welcome to the Township

**Gauntlet Awards & Gifts**  
9153 N. Dixie Dr.  
[www.gauntletawards.com](http://www.gauntletawards.com)

Celebrating 40 years in business, Gauntlet Awards & Gifts has moved from Vandalia to the shopping center behind North Dixie Hardware. The company specializes in trophies, plaques, gifts, engraving and promotional items for fundraising, team sports and businesses.



## Street lighting for Miller Lane corridor

Butler Township has received a request from some Miller Lane businesses to install street lights from Benchwood Road to Little York Road.

To move forward with this installation, the Township needs to receive 51 percent of the petitions that were sent to all property owners abutting Miller Lane. After these petitions are received, the Township will move forward with creating the lighting district. This will allow for the assessment of those owners for electricity and maintenance of the poles on an annual basis.

## Villager site to be development-ready



The demolition of the old Villager Inn was held up over the winter months due to permitting issues and asbestos removal. The property owner had to hire a new contractor to obtain the necessary permits and clear the site properly.

There are currently no proposals for redevelopment, but the leveled site will allow the owner to market the property as development-ready.



Arby's restaurant on Maxton Road: Lighting helps deter crime.

## Prevent crime through environmental design

Did you know you can use landscaping design and structural features to make your home or business less appealing to criminals?

Crime Prevention by Environmental Design is a practice that works on a simple principle: Make your home or business so unattractive to thieves that they bypass it to find another where they're less likely to be caught.

### One of the best commercial examples is right here in Butler Township.

Arby's restaurant on Maxton Road was constructed in a way that creates few "blind" corners for thieves to hide inside. Also, the outside lighting illuminates everything but the dumpster area.

"I would encourage you to drive by Arby's at night to see where planning ahead has created an esthetically pleasing design and a safer, more secure environment," said Police Chief John Cresie.

It should be noted, in the last two years, the Police Department has not had to respond to a single theft from a motor vehicle (smash and grab) offense at this location.

"Thieves prefer the dark so they can't be seen or identified," said Cresie. "Most police calls for thefts and property crimes are generated from dark spaces."

### Light up!

It costs 12 cents per hour to power a 100-watt light bulb. This makes turning on a light at bedtime and switching it off in the morning a cost-effective crime-prevention technique that's easy for anyone.

For more information about this concept, search the Internet for "crime prevention through environmental design." There are numerous resources available to give ideas on how to make your home or business a safer place.

## Discolored water alert

To ensure that fire hydrants are in good working order in the event of an emergency, the Butler Township Fire Department will conduct fire hydrant testing throughout the township from April 27 through May 30.

Residents may notice a discoloration of the water, as the testing stirs up sediment in the lines. The water remains safe to consume, however. You are encouraged to run your water for a few minutes prior to washing laundry and cooking to check for discoloration.

If you notice fire hydrants in your area leaking water, or have any questions, please contact the Fire Department at 890-2491.

## Need to park an RV, boat or trailer?

Recreational equipment, including RVs, boats and trailers, may be parked or stored on a residential property as long as they are located behind the front foundation of the residence and no closer than 3 feet to a side property line.

## New police work schedule reduces overtime costs

During 2015, the Butler Township Police Department introduced a new scheduling plan to increase the flexibility and

effectiveness of the force. Now based on 12-hour shifts, the new work schedule creates four squads, each consisting of a sergeant and two patrol officers.

the reduced amount of overtime necessary to maintain two cars on the road at all times," said Police Chief John Cresie.

The plan requires the hiring of one additional officer, which will restore the police department to its 2010 staffing level of 16 sworn officers.



"The schedule's main advantage is the increase of road-patrol coverage and







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Police, Non-emergency

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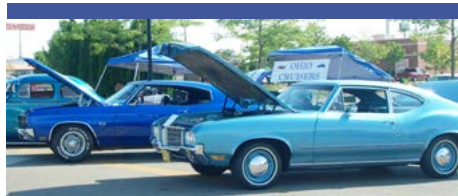
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## Road Paving for 2014

The Butler Township Trustees have scheduled paving for the following roads this summer:

- Frost Road
- Evermur
- Meeker Woods
- Engle Road

Residents will be notified before the work begins, and every effort will be made to minimize the disruption to the neighborhood during the course of the paving project.



## Cruise-In to Butler Township returns

The Second Annual Cruise-In to Butler Township will be held Saturday, August 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All vehicles, makes and models are welcome.

Sponsored by Butler Township, the Chamber of Commerce and Walmart, the event takes place in the York Commons Business District, along Commerce Center Drive, in front of Walmart. Registration is donation only, which benefits Dayton Children's Medical Center.

Hope to see you there!

*Mark your calendar for July 3*

## Celebrate Independence Day with us

You won't want to miss your hometown Independence Day event this year. Butler Township and the city of Vandalia will present the Star-Spangled Celebration on Friday, July 3, at the Vandalia Sports Complex on Stonequarry Road.

The fun begins at 7 p.m. with music, entertainment, family activities, food vendors and a good time for everyone. Fireworks will follow at 10 p.m.

Mark your calendar and plan to join your friends and neighbors for a celebration to remember.