Around The Township

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

SUMMER 2016

Q&A: Police Department update

With public safety a priority of residents and township trustees alike, we've received many questions recently about police services and the status of the Butler Township Police Department. In this article, we'll try to answer those most frequently asked.

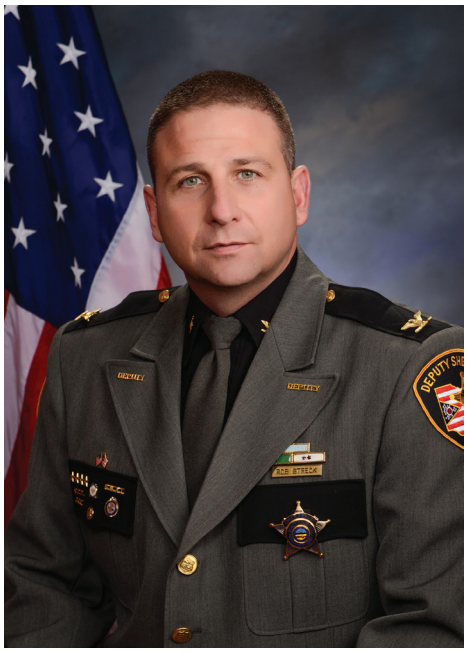
How did the changes in the department come about?

When John Cresie resigned in January 2016, the trustees voted to contract with the Sheriff's Office to provide the services of their chief deputy, Rob Streck, as the interim police chief for Butler Township through May 31.

On May 9, the Butler Township trustees voted 2-1 to enter into an operational agreement for complete police protection with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. That vote was rescinded by a unanimous vote on June 27, after the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office discovered an issue related to funding the contract.

What does this mean?

The township will not contract with the Sheriff's Office for police protection, and the trustees authorized Township Administrator Erika Vogel to advertise for the chief of police position. Applications were accepted through July 18.



Township Trustees voted to extend the contract for Acting Chief Deputy Rob Streck, through July 31, 2016.

Meanwhile, the contract with the Sheriff's Office was extended through July 31, and Acting Chief Rob Streck has been helping the township in the selection of a permanent police chief.

Continued on Page 2

Upcoming events

Mark your calendar for these summer events in and around Butler Township:

Every Friday evening through August
4 - 8 p.m.
Vandalia Community
Farmers Market
Seger Park
28 Kenbrook Road

August 2
6 - 8 p.m.
National Night Out
at Stonespring of Vandalia
4000 Singing Hills Blvd.

August 13
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Cruise-In to the Township
Come show off your ride at the 3rd Annual Cruise-In to the Township. All makes and models welcome.

In This Issue

National Night Out..... 2
New township administrator 3
Fire Department staffing 4
Budget Commission appointed..... 6
Willowbrook street repairs 8

Police services — *continued from Page 1*

What prevented the township from contracting with the Sheriff's Office for all police services?

While the trustees had voted to move forward with contract negotiations with the Sheriff's Office, the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office raised some questions regarding funding capabilities through the current language of the police levy. The current levy states the tax is necessary "for the purpose of providing and maintaining motor vehicles, communications, and other equipment used directly in the operation of a police department, or the payment of salaries of permanent police personnel…"

While the township would still be providing quality police protection to township residents and businesses through the contract (just as communities like Washington Township and Harrison Township do), there was no specific mention of contracting for those services in the levy's ballot language. This caused concern that the intention to contract services was not clearly expressed.

The Butler Township trustees received a letter from the Prosecutor's Office stating that "Butler Township may not be permitted to pay for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office's services through this specific levy." The trustees thoroughly reviewed this opinion and determined it was in the best interest of the township to rescind the decision to contract with the Sheriff's Office and work to stabilize the existing police force.

What is the current staffing situation of the police department?

The police department currently employs 15. This includes the chief, a lieutenant, three sergeants, nine patrol officers and one detective. We currently have one officer who is on military leave and a fourth sergeant position that will remain unfilled, due to a change in scheduling.

The Police Department will be going from 12-hour shifts to 8.5-hour shifts, in order to meet scheduling demands and increase department morale. On a 12-hour schedule, many times, officers end up working 18 hours in order to cover shifts. Reverting back to an 8.5-hour shift will also alleviate the need to fill the open sergeant position, saving the township approximately $90,000 a year.

What is the current funding status of the police department?

The police department has a budget of approximately $1,926,250. The current 4.9 mill levy, which was passed in 2006, brings in approximately $1 million, which equates to only half of the police department's budget.

The other half of the funds come from transfers from the general fund, including the JED-Z district income taxes. The current police levy cannot sustain the Butler Township Police Department much longer, because the general fund will not be able to continue subsidizing the police department at the current rate.

Township officials have been making cuts, such as the police sergeant position, the assistant township administrator position, capital projects and other areas in order to be able to continue to help fund the police department. However, the trustees will be considering a new tax levy in the very near future in order to continue to provide high-quality police protection for the township's residents and businesses.

If you have questions regarding the police department, please contact Township Administrator Erika Vogel or Acting Police Chief Rob Streck at 937-898-6735.

National Night Out: Mark your calendar

The Butler Township Police Department and Stonespring invite you to attend the 2016 National Night Out, an event designed to heighten drug and crime prevention awareness.

When: Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 6 – 8 p.m.

Where: Stonespring, 4000 Singing Hills Blvd. (Singing Ridge development)

The event will feature children's activities and raffles, provided by Stonespring and local businesses. In addition, food trucks will be available, and attendees will be able to win door prizes throughout the event.

Members of the Butler Township Police Department and the Butler Township Fire Department Patrol will be on site with their apparatus and vehicles on display.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Now in its thirty-third year, the program sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organizing to fight back against crime. Last year, more than 15,000 US communities held National Night Out events.

New township administrator named

Butler Township Trustees named Erika Vogel to the post of township administrator on May 23. Vogel had been serving as acting administrator since December 2015, after the resignation of Kimberly Lapensee.

The township first hired Vogel as the assistant administrator in 2013

In that position, she managed several roles, including, planning, zoning, property maintenance, economic development and human resources.

A University of Cincinnati graduate with a Master of Community Planning, Vogel has nearly 10 years of local government experience, including serving as Vandalia's first city planner. She also held a temporary position with the city of Piqua and intern positions with the cities of Kettering and Troy, in the planning and engineering fields.

"I'm so grateful to work among a wonderful team of employees at Butler Township," said Vogel. "I enjoy the opportunity to assist citizens and the business community every day."

To reduce the personnel budget in the General Fund, trustees made another change

Along with Vogel's appointment as township administrator, the trustees voted to eliminate the assistant township administrator position. The trustees are also studying options for a part-time or full-time planning and zoning manager to assume zoning and property maintenance duties.

These decisions, along with the reduction of the administrator's salary, will save the township $65,000 to $75,000 annually.

"There are some challenges ahead, as we look to find creative ways to balance the budget. I believe the Budget Commission will be a great addition to the township's budgeting process," Vogel said. "Moving forward, I hope we can encourage growth and development in our community in a balanced and organized fashion."

New business update

- A Goodwill retail store is coming soon to 6868 Miller Ln., the former site of the Lonestar Steakhouse, which closed over three years ago. The property was recently purchased by Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley for $1.4 million, and construction of the new store is now underway.
- Outback Steakhouse, located at 6800 Miller Ln., is taking on a new look, with an enhanced building design and new signage.
- A new restaurant is also coming to Miller Lane. The owner of Amar India, located near the Dayton Mall and Jeet India, in Beavercreek, plans to open "India Restaurant" at 7070 Miller Ln.
- Burger King has been granted a conditional use permit at the corner of Benchwood Road and Towne Center Drive, just west of Frisch's. They plan to open in early winter.

Recycling rules

The township's trash hauler, Rumpke, provides recycling service, with collections taking place every other week.

- Acceptable items include paper, plastic bottles and jugs, aluminum and metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and cardboard.
- Items not accepted include plastic bags, metal hangers and medical sharps.

For more information, please visit the Rumpke website at rumpke.com.

Fire Department plan ensures staffing

Like many other departments in the Dayton region, the Butler Township Fire Department has relied heavily in recent years on part-time personnel to ensure adequate round-the-clock staffing. However, it has become increasingly difficult to hire enough qualified individuals to meet the community's needs.

In 2015, the department studied the issue and developed a plan to ensure that enough personnel were available to fill the schedule consistently. As a result of this planning, six full-time personnel were hired.

The following individuals have joined the department:

- **Adam Marchal** has 15 years of experience, including eight years with Butler Township. He also serves as an assistant chief for the Pleasant Hill Fire District.
- **Chad Ferguson** has eight years of experience with multiple departments including Butler Township.
- **Andrew Fehskens** comes to us from Washington Township, where he gained more than nine years of experience in the fire service. He is a certified fire instructor and holds an associate's degree in Fire Science.
- **Brent Gallup** joins the department with 24 years of experience from the Clayton and Vandalia fire departments.
- **Justin Burneka** was hired from within the organization with three years of experience with Butler Township and the city of Vandalia.
- **Corey Mock** has nearly three years of experience, all with Butler Township. Corey started as a volunteer with the department and has advanced to this new position.

New additions to the Butler Township Fire Department (left to right): Justin Burneka, Adam Marchal, Andrew Fehskens, Chad Ferguson, Corey Mock and Brent Gallup.

How the trash collection system works

Butler Township established a Solid Waste Collection and Disposal District in 1998. This means that the trash collection service, provided by the contracted hauler, Rumpke, is mandatory for all owners of residential properties within the township.

Here are the details

- Rumpke bills the township for all residential households.
- In turn, Butler Township bills property owners for the trash collection service.
- If payment is not received, and your refuse bill becomes delinquent, your outstanding balance is assessed to your property taxes, along with an administrative fee of $100 and a 5% additional charge. Assessments take place once a year, during August.
- If desired, property owners of rental units may elect to have their tenants billed after completing an "Authorization to Invoice" form with Butler Township.

In addition...

Please remember to notify the township if your property becomes vacant. It's beneficial also to provide the realtor's contact information if your property is for sale and unoccupied.

Questions? Please contact Pam Luke at 937-898-6735 or email pluke@butlertownship.com.

Officer of the Year Brian Brown honored. Pictured here, (left to right): Trustee Vice President Nick Brusky, Trustee Joe Flanagan, Fiscal Officer Mark Adams, Trustee President Mike Lang, Officer Brian Brown and Acting Chief Rob Streck.

Self-initiator named 'Officer of the Year'

To be named the Butler Township Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2015, Officer Brian Brown did was what comes naturally to him. A self-initiator, Brown spent his shifts enforcing traffic laws, looking for suspicious activity and performing checks on vacant houses and permit holders.

He completed all of these tasks and still found time to patrol Butler Township's neighborhoods and make hundreds of contacts with residents just to say "hello" and ask how the residents were doing.

"Officer Brown consistently makes decisions based upon the needs of the residents, the township and the police department," said Township Administrator Erika Vogel. "His performance and actions are the essence of what is expected from a Butler Township patrol officer."

Both Brown's supervisors and peers submitted nominations recommending him for this award, which was presented at the trustees meeting on April 11.

Congratulations, Officer Brian Brown.

Fiscal Officer sworn in

Mark Adams was re-elected in November 2015, for his third term as Butler Township's fiscal officer. He was sworn into office at the trustees' meeting held on April 11, 2016. The fiscal officer's term runs from April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2020.

According to the Ohio Revised Code, the township fiscal officer oversees township funds and is responsible for keeping all township records.

New Service Department employee

Cory Welbaum has joined the Butler Township Service Department as a Service Worker II, following the retirement of two longtime department employees. Well qualified, he has worked in the construction field most of his life, including positions at Fryman and Kuck, Hoops Excavating and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Cory grew up in Brookville and currently resides in Troy with his wife and three children (soon to be four).

Cory Welbaum with his wife and children

Grant improves firefighters' safety

In the last edition of *Around the Township*, we featured an article about the township's injury-prevention measures for firefighters and EMS providers, funded with a federal Assistance to Firefighters grant. The new equipment has been installed, replacing standard ambulance cots with powered cots and loading systems. This significantly reduces the lifting strain on firefighters and EMS providers who are providing emergency medical treatment.

The total project cost is $120,000; 95 percent is being reimbursed by the grant, and the township is responsible for the remainder.

Trustees appoint residents to Budget Commission

The trustees voted unanimously on March 14 to establish a budget commission, to make recommendations to the Board of Township Trustees regarding the township's budget. These individuals serve on the budget commission:

- Jack Woods
- Ken Betz
- Gregory Brush
- Sherry Edwards
- David Mohler
- Mark Adams
- Erika Vogel

The budget commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month through September, in preparation for the 2017 budget. Meetings are held at 6 p.m. at the Township Meeting Hall.

We'll keep you updated on the budget commission's work in future issues of *Around the Township*.

Sign up now for notifications

Butler Township is now using the Hyper-Reach notification system for important for emergency notifications, weather alerts and other notices, such as boil-water advisories, evacuation orders and Amber alerts.

All information is collected on a secure website and used only in the case of emergencies. Your personal information is not shared with outside parties.

Landline phone numbers should already be registered in the Hyper-Reach system, but cell phones must be registered.

To register your cell phone and email address, please visit www.butlertownship.com and click on the Hyper-Reach icon.

Electric aggregation on November 8 ballot

In the upcoming November 8 election, Butler Township voters will have the opportunity to vote on the issue of "governmental aggregation." Here are answers to questions you might have about this ballot issue:

What is governmental aggregation?

In general, aggregation allows many customers to join together to form a buying group. Similarly, "governmental aggregation" refers to the situation in which a township organizes the pooling of its citizens to become the buying group. In this way, citizens may gain group-buying power for the purchase of electric from a retail supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. The township then seeks out offers on behalf of its constituents

Why is Butler Township pursuing governmental aggregation?

Aggregation provides the opportunity for residents and businesses to receive better pricing, terms and services on electric rates than would be available to an individual. Similar to garbage-collection rates, the township would have the authority to negotiate on behalf of its entire community, the difference being voters give trustees authority.

If the measure is passed, must all residents participate?

Your participation would be voluntary. As the consumer, you are in charge of your energy decisions and you can choose whether to participate or not.

Why is this measure on the ballot?

For a township to create an aggregation program, a majority of its voters must approve a referendum. Butler Township trustees approved a resolution providing for the referendum question to appear on the November 8 ballot.

What is the ballot language?

"Shall the township have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the township and enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity; such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person opts out?"

Have questions?

Please direct your questions about the program to the township's energy consultant, Trebel LLC, at 1-877-861-2772.

Enforcing maintenance codes keeps township beautiful

To keep the community attractive and preserve property values, Butler Township encourages property owners to care for their property and keep it nuisance free. According to local codes, a nuisance condition may exist when garbage, junk or debris is found on a property or when grass and weeds reach 8 inches in height.

Here's the process

When township inspectors find a nuisance violation, they send the property owner a notice. If the owner does not correct the violation in a timely fashion, the township may perform the work at a rate of $250/hour plus administration and assessment fees. If the work is beyond the township's capability, the township may hire a contractor to perform the work. In that case, the owner would be responsible for payment of the contractor's fees in excess of the township's established rate.

And a reminder...

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the rights-of-way in front of their property. The township is not responsible for maintaining the ditches or curb lawns.

Please help keep Butler Township beautiful by maintaining the rights-of-way.

Around The Township

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Trash Department
(937) 898-6735
Zoning Department
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Willowbrook to see sidewalk and street repairs

Butler Township has completed plans for concrete repairs and street resurfacing in the Willowbrook Subdivision. The township consulted with an engineering firm last year to evaluate the conditions of the concrete and pavement within that area. The firm provided plans indicating where work is needed to meet minimum standards.

The project will begin this summer and consist of concrete repairs, including sidewalks, driveway aprons, curb, gutter and curb ramps. Later phases will include the resurfacing of the streets over the next couple of years.

The Willowbrook Subdivision consists of the following roads: Benchwood Road, Autumn Ridge Road, Silver Rock Avenue, Walnut Ridge Road, Creekview Circle, Honeycutt Circle, Cedar Cliff Circle, Del Ray Avenue and Sunny Ridge Road (North and South).

Property owners will be responsible for the costs of the repairs of the sidewalks, driveway aprons curbs and gutters in front of their property. All affected property owners should have received notices providing information on payment methods. If you have questions pertaining to this project, please contact Doug Brunk, Service Department Supervisor, at 890-1218.

Have yard waste?

The Montgomery County Solid Waste District accepts yard waste, grass clippings, leaves and brush free of charge to Montgomery County residents. This service is offered year round.

The drop-off site is located at 1001 Encrete Ln., in Moraine.