Around The Township

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

WINTER 2015

Cops shop with kids

Holiday spirit filled the air at the Miller Lane Walmart recently, as 20 local children enjoyed a great breakfast, pictures with Santa and shopping with a cop.

On December 13, the Butler Township Police Department hosted the eighth annual "Cops Shopping with Kids" event, with support from a Walmart Foundation grant.

Through the program, an officer accompanies each child and helps them select items they need, such as clothing, boots and coats. They may also choose a toy for themselves or gifts for family members.

"Our thanks goes to Walmart, the Butler Township Fire Department and the Vandalia Police Department, who helped to make this special event possible," said Police Chief John Cresie.

Township adopts salt-conservation policy

Many government jurisdictions around the country are reporting road-salt shortages this winter. Butler Township — and most other area communities — are among them.

Butler Township typically participates with other southwest Ohio jurisdictions to purchase its road salt supply. The group has learned there's not enough salt to go around this year due to last year's severe winter.

Butler Township currently has about 1,000 tons of salt, not enough for a typical winter. And no more salt will be available this season.

Salt-conservation policy

The township will implement a salt-conservation policy to deal with the salt shortage. Here is what township residents can expect:

- Crews will plow all roadways but will salt only primary and secondary roads, which are most traveled.
- Crews will apply a chemical to increase the salt's effectiveness, especially in low temperatures.
- Crews will plow residential streets during business hours once snow has stopped falling.

"We know this will be challenging for many residents, but we're asking for everyone's cooperation to get through this situation," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee.

In This Issue

Villager Inn demolished 2
Police host regional training 2
New police officers 3
Trustees get down to business 3
Service Department budget cuts 4
Trash fee increase 4

Fire Department news

Fire Station Open House

Township residents were welcomed during Fire Prevention Week to an open house at the newly remodeled fire station on Little York Road.

The Butler Township Fire Department thanks the following for supporting the event:

- V-B Octagon Club for kids' face painting
- Batteries Plus for free smoke-detector batteries
- Rite Aid pharmacists for flu shots
- Grandview Hospital for pizza

CPR Class

Sixteen area residents recently learned to save lives at a class on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillators (AED).

The class was taught by fire department personnel who are certified American Heart Association instructors.

If you're interested in learning these skills, please call the Fire Department at 890-2491. Classes are free to Butler Township residents.

Economic development update

Business is good in the township as two retailers are leasing additional space in the Miller Lane area to accommodate growth.

Batteries Plus and Luxury Nail Spa are expanding their stores in response to customer demand. Batteries Plus is moving from a 1,600-square-foot space next to Luxury Nail Spa, into a 1,900- square-foot space across the street in the newly constructed commercial building.

The new building also features two popular restaurants: Fazoli's, which opened late August, 2014; and McAlister's Deli, which is slated to open by spring of 2015.

Luxury Nail Spa has seen tremendous growth and is often packed on the weekends. The salon will double in size, from 1,600 square-feet to 3,200 square-feet.

With its expansion and an investment in new equipment of approximately $100,000, Luxury Nail Spa will have more pedicure and manicure stations as well as a party room for birthday or wedding groups to have a private space.

Villager Inn property under demolition

The old Villager Inn and Pop's Diner, located on the north end of Miller Lane, are being torn down. C & L Enterprises began demolition of these structures in early November. The Days Inn building, located closest to Miller Lane, will remain, while the two abandoned structures are being removed.

The demolition of this run-down property has been a priority as it is visible from three major corridors in the township, including Interstate 75, Little York Road and Miller Lane.

Demolitions of the abandoned Pop's Diner and Villager Inn will remove these eyesores from the Butler Township landscape.

Township police host training class for Ohio officers

Three police chiefs and 18 police officers from 14 Ohio police agencies converged on the Butler Township Town Hall Training Facility for two days this fall to refresh their skills and reinforce their dedication to law enforcement.

The Butler Township Police Department hosted the "Blue Courage" training, which was provided by the Ohio Association Chiefs of Police and financially supported through a grant from the US Department of Justice.

The training enabled police officers to

- Learn tactical and critical incident survival and ensure officer readiness to both prevent and recover in the aftermath of such events
- Reignite a sense of passion, purpose and commitment to policing
- Awaken their moral compass and the courage to do what is right
- Improve decision making skills under pressure
- Develop an understanding of how to build relationships and trust with the community
- Reinforce an organizational culture of learning, critical thinking, tolerance and curiosity.

"This course was a perfect example of what the township trustees had in mind when they decided to create a training facility," said Butler Township Police Chief John Cresie. "Hosting training sessions such as 'Blue Courage' will allow Butler Township police officers to receive necessary training while building positive relationships with other police agencies throughout Ohio."

New police officers serving community

Officer Brian Brown sworn in by then-Township Trustee President Mike Lang.

New police officer joins force. Pictured here (l to r): Police Chief John Cresie, Officer Benton Smith, Trustee Vice President Mike Lang, Trustee President Doug Orange, Trustee Nick Brusky and Fiscal Officer Mark Adams.

Two new police officers are on duty in Butler Township.

Officer Brian Brown

One of the new additions to the Butler Township Police Department is Officer Brian Brown, a retired US Air Force Master Sergeant with more than 22 years of service. Brown's last military assignment was at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He stayed on at the base to become a civilian claims examiner after retirement.

Despite his civilian job, Brown wanted new challenges and opportunities to serve his community, so he attended the Clark State Community College Police Academy and graduated in July 2014.

He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southwestern College-Professional Studies and an associate's degree in criminal justice and paralegal studies from the Community College of the Air Force.

"Our community is fortunate to have someone of Officer Brown's caliber serving in law enforcement," said Police Chief John Cresie. "His experience and educational credentials are perfectly suited for the position."

Brown hails from Kansas City, Missouri. He has been married to his wife Kristen for 21 years, and the couple has two teenaged children.

Officer Benton Smith

Another new officer with the Butler Township Police Department is Benton Smith. With prior law enforcement experience, he brings excellent credentials to the job.

A Fairborn High School graduate, Officer Smith holds an associate's degree in law enforcement/police science from Sinclair Community College and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ashford University.

Smith joined the United States Coast Guard in 2003 and became a Coast Guard federal boarding officer, training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy in Charleston, South Carolina.

After nine years, Smith completed his active duty career and moved back home to Dayton. He continues to serve as an active reservist with the Coast Guard in Louisville, Kentucky.

Smith earned his associate's degree in December 2012 and began his law enforcement career with the Germantown Police Department as an auxiliary police officer and a full-time officer with the Grandview Medical Center Police Department.

"Officer Smith is well trained and well educated in law enforcement," said Chief Cresie. "He's an outstanding asset to our department."

Officer Smith has been married to his wife Shaunna since 2011, and they have one son.

Trustees get down to business in 2015

The Butler Township Trustees met on December 29 to decide on various appointments, board positions and administrative matters. Here are the highlights:

- Richard Heyne was reappointed to the Zoning Commission for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2015.
- Pete Baldauf was reappointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2015.
- Doug Orange was chosen to serve as president of the Board of Trustees, Michael Lang will serve as vice president and Nick Brusky will serve as a trustee.
- Trustee meetings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. The exceptions are as follows:
  - Instead of meeting on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, all at 7 p.m.
  - Trustees will meet only once a month over the summer months, as follows: June 8, July 13, and August 10, all at 7 p.m.
- Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively. The exceptions are as follows:
  - Instead of meeting on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19, the meetings will be held Tuesday, January 20 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.
  - Instead of meeting on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 16, the meetings will be held Tuesday, February 17 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Around The Township

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit 137
Dayton, OH

Cutbacks needed to balance Service Department budget

The Service Department budget has been dramatically affected in recent years by losses in property tax revenues and cuts in local government funding previously provided by the state of Ohio. As a result, Butler Township trustees will face important decisions to balance the budget after 2015.

The Service Department operates from six funds, including motor vehicle registrations, gasoline taxes, road/bridge taxes, cemetery fees, road levy and a permissive license plate tax. Since 2009, funding from these sources has decreased by 27.5 percent.

What will the cutbacks be?

Butler Township Trustees will be considering cutbacks in the Service Department after 2015. These cuts may include elimination of mowing rights-of-way along all township roadways, reduction in paving of township roadways, elimination of overtime for snow plowing during the winter and discontinuance of street sweeping during the summer.

Look for a survey in 2015

Township residents will have the opportunity to express their thoughts on service priorities. The township will send out an opinion survey in 2015 and use the results to guide their decisions.

"The trustees have many choices, but as a local government, we don't have a choice when it comes to balancing our budget," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee.

Trash fee increases for 2015

The Butler Township Trustees have decided to raise trash fees for 2015 by 25 cents per month. The new monthly rates for 2015 will be $16 for regular full service and $14.75 for low-volume service.

As part of the trash-hauling contract, Rumpke's rates will continue to increase 3 percent over the next several years.