Around The Township

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

FALL 2013

With JEDZ District passing, what's next?

With voter approval of the JEDZ District, the Butler Township Trustees have begun to restore public safety forces. Three additional police officers, originally lost to budget cuts in 2011 and 2012, have been hired and on the road since September.

All three had already been serving the Township as auxiliary or part-time officers and are fully trained. They include

- Amy Carter, who started her career with Butler Township in 2011 as an auxiliary officer and was made a part-time officer in 2013;
- Michael Day, who began as an auxiliary officer in 2012, but left to obtain a full-time job with Darke County in 2012; and
- Chris Hammond, who started with the Township in 2013 as an auxiliary officer and just finished field training.

Going forward, Butler Township and the City of Vandalia will appoint three individuals from each jurisdiction to serve on the JEDZ board that will oversee the tax collections for that district. Officials estimate the process will be finished by the end of 2013.

Neighborhood Watch staging a comeback

The Butler Township Police Department is currently working with two Neighborhood Watch groups. The Meeker Creek Neighborhood Watch has been active for eight months and continues to build support within the neighborhood.

The Turtle Creek Neighborhood Watch began a few months ago with a meeting of 110 concerned citizens in the Trustees' chambers. Neighbors gathered to discuss crime prevention measures and give the Police Department the opportunity to discuss how the residents and the police could work together to reduce crime.

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If you see something, say something

During crime investigations, police often talk to people who recall details such as a "strange car" or "someone I've never seen before" in their neighborhood. If only they had called the police department, it might have prevented someone from being victimized. Or at the very least, the person or vehicle could have been identified and used as an investigative lead.

So while you're preventing crime by keeping doors locked, bushes trimmed, good lighting in order, and valuables secured, don't lose sight of simply being vigilant. If you see something that doesn't look right or is out of place, say something. Don't hesitate to make that phone call to the Police Department at 233-2080 to reach the non-emergency dispatch center.

Thank you, voters!

The Butler Township Trustees and staff would like to thank township residents for voting to approve the contracts for the JEDZ with the City of Vandalia. Your support will set the Township in the right financial direction by providing funding for the Police and Road Departments, where deficits currently exist.

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"In each instance, the process began with a concerned citizen who came to the Police Department and asked how they could reduce crime in their neighborhood," said Police Chief John Cresie. "And we continue to find that Neighborhood Watch is effective in reducing crime."

How does Neighborhood Watch work?

The Neighborhood Watch Program is just one of many ways that the police department works to connect with the community. Through the program, the police department receives information from citizens about suspicious activity. This has led to a lull in the criminal activity in those neighborhoods.

The concept of Neighborhood Watch – residents actively watching out for one another – has been around for a long time, according to Cresie. When a Neighborhood Watch member sees unusual activity or suspicious behavior, they simply call the police and report the incident. The police respond and take the necessary actions to resolve the incident.

"It's a proven process that reduces crime and strengthens the sense of community in the neighborhood," said Cresie. "We see it working in our own township."

Interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch group in your area? Just call the Butler Township Police Department's non-emergency number at 890-2671 to get started.

New waste hauler in Township

Butler Township's residential trash-hauling contract with Waste Management expired on September 29. The company had served residents well since 2007. However, based on competitive proposals, a new contract with Rumpke began the week of September 30. Here are some details you need to know:

- All trash days for pickup will remain the same
- Rumpke will provide each household with a 35- or 95-gallon recycling container.
- You may still use your own garbage can or rent a trash toter from Rumpke for $3 a month.

For additional information, please look for the flyers from Rumpke in your mail. They will let you know about routes and days of recycling. You may also check the Township's website (http://www.butlertownship.com/) for more details.

Progressive Insurance opens offices, consolidates in Township

Butler Township has been working with Progressive Insurance Company for over a year now as they have developed the lot next to Fifth Third Bank. The company will open its doors for business on October 3, 2013.

The facility is over 17,000 square feet and will house over 50 employees from offices that are being consolidated in the area.

Brush Drop-Off back for fall cleanup

Free brush disposal is available to Butler Township residents every Saturday from October 12 through November 16, 2013, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Service Department, 3710 West National Road.

This program is for Butler Township residents only, so please bring an ID to verify residence in the township.

Please remember…

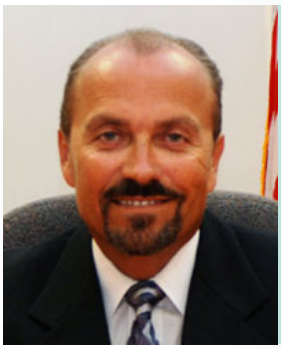
- This program is for brush only. NO construction materials, old firewood, yard waste, landscaping or lawn service debris will be accepted.
- Don't chop your brush and limbs too small, as this makes them more difficult to handle.
- All brush must be free of nails, wire, root balls and the like.
- Bring your ID to verify that you live in Butler Township.
- Enter through Polk Grove Cemetery.

Butler Township accomplishments for 2010 – 2013

Since 2010, the current board of Township Trustees has made great progress toward building a better Butler Township. In addition to reducing the operating budget, they have made major improvements to all Township facilities. Their accomplishments include…

- Reducing the overall operating budget by 16% from 2010 to 2013
- Implementing an employee contribution for health benefits and and reducing health care costs by more than $250,000 a year
- Increasing employees' contributions to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System from 0% to 100% of the employee contribution toward retirement
- Improving Township facilities that will last another 25 years (including the Government Center for the police and administration employees, and Fire Station 88)
- Paying down half the debt owed for the York Commons project (14 years early) and reducing the interest from 5% to 2.3% on the remaining balance
- Discontinuing the practice of giving out employee Christmas gifts and bonuses
- Identifying County errors in the Harson TIF that will net additional money each year
- Securing the return of full-staffing of the Police Department through the passage of the JEDZ
- Implementing a new, Township-branded design with a phased process of changing Township street signs
- Resolving litigation matters involving the fire and administration departments that had a negative impact on morale and cost the Township more than $250,000
- Entering into a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) with Vandalia that will lead to greater revenue for Township services
- Implementing shared services between Butler Township and Vandalia's Fire Departments, and
- Securing funding for the demolition of the former Rodeway Inn site.

For more Township news, please visit the website at www.butlertownship.com.



Trustee President Doug Orange

Trustee Mike Lang

Trustee Martin Russell

'What's wrong with the fire station?'

The renovation of Fire Station 88 is well underway. Once the work is completed, the facility will house the Fire Department and also provide space for Township meetings and community gatherings.

Why renovate?

"One question that we hear from time to time is, 'What's wrong with the fire station? It isn't that old!' said Fire Chief Dan Alig.

Many people are surprised to hear that the building is 24 years old and still had much original equipment, including three furnaces, two air conditioners, a water heater, bathroom fixtures and more.

"Just as an example, during demolition we unexpectedly found a structural wall in dire need of replacement and plumbing components behind a wall that were near failure," said Alig. "Most of the equipment had exceeded its life expectancy and needed more and more repairs."

At this time, interior walls for the Fire Department portion are being constructed. Utility work, such as plumbing, electrical and mechanical (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), is ongoing.

For the township meeting hall being added on the east end of the building, the foundation is poured, the walls are up, the trusses are set and the roof is being installed.

To contact the Butler Township Fire Department during construction, you may call 890-2491. As always, if you need to report an emergency, please call 911. For non-emergency calls to the dispatch center, please call 233-2080.

Around The Township

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Leaf pickup service available at no extra charge

Leaf pick-up this fall will be provided by the Township's residential trash hauler, Rumpke. The season will run from October 12 to December 14. To have your leaves picked up…

- Leave your filled leaf bags out for pick-up on your regular trash service day from October 12 through December 14.
- DO NOT rake your leaves into the street or gutter. They will not be picked up from there.
- DO NOT burn your leaves. This practice damages air quality and is illegal.

It's time for tricks and treats

Get ready, ghosts, goblins, princesses, superheroes, trick-or-treaters and parents. That scariest night of the year is right around the corner.

Beggar's Night is set for Thursday, October 31 from 6 to 8 P.M.

Parents, be sure that you and your youngsters follow the rules and play it safe during and after the trick-or-treating fun.

Residents, if you are handing out Halloween treats, be sure to leave on your porch light.