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

# Around The Township

SPRING 2013

# Q & A: Voters to decide on business district earnings tax

The Butler Township trustees have decided to place a question on the August ballot that will allow township residents to decide if the businesses that are part of the Miller Lane Business District will pay a 1% income and corporate tax.

If the issue is approved, the township would create a Joint Economic Development Zone or JEDZ District for that area.

Here are answers to questions you might have about the JEDZ District proposal:

### What is a JEDZ District?

A JEDZ District or Joint Economic Development Zone is a designated area where a township and a city impose an income tax on the employees and the businesses of that area and collect that earnings tax.

### Why is Butler Township pursuing the JEDZ option?

During the recent police levy campaign, Butler Township residents said that they are not willing to pay any additional property taxes to fund the police department or other township operations. They wanted the township to figure out a way to make the Miller Lane business district pay more toward the services they receive because that area is receiving more than 50% of the services but only paying 33% of the taxes collected.

### What taxes will be collected?

A 1% employee earnings tax and corporate tax is proposed for this district. The tax will be collected by the city of Vandalia and the collection will be shared by the city and the township. The JEDZ District itself will keep .5% of the tax collected for purposes of insurance and audits. The remainder will be divided, with 15% going to the city and 85% to the township.

### How will this affect Butler Township residents?

Unless you are a Butler Township resident working directly in the proposed district, you will not be affected by this income tax. This is

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## Roads to be repaved

As part of a four-year, township-wide paving plan, Butler Township will pave these roads in 2013:

- Antioch School Road
- Furnas Road
- Kley Road
- County Line Road
- Jackson Road

The proposed cost will be $330,000, which will be paid from the township's Road Levy Fund.

Butler Township will be able to take advantage of a reduced cost for asphalt by combining this repaving work with that of the Montgomery County Engineer's Office 2013 paving program.

*Furnas Rd.*

*Kley Rd.*

*Antioch School Rd.*

*County Line Rd.*

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an income tax determined by where you work. ***It will not affect your property taxes.***

### What are the boundaries of the JEDZ District?

The proposed district will ***include*** the area between Interstate 75 and the east side of North Dixie Drive from Benchwood to Maxton Road. It will also ***include*** all the area on the east and west sides of Miller Lane from Maxton to Little York Road.

It will ***exclude*** all residential properties on Benchwood Road, North Dixie Drive, and Maxton Road.

### How much money will be collected?

We are estimating that the township could potentially collect $750,000 in income tax per year from this area. This would delay – for a time – the immediate need for levies that would increase property taxes. It would also help the township regain the losses from recent state budget cuts and decreases in property tax collections.

### How will this money be used?

We plan to use half of the money collected to fund the police department at full staff. This would mean hiring back the three positions that were lost to budget cuts. This will help to put three officers back on the road at peak times and reduce overtime. The other half would be split between funding the road department and other capital projects.

### Have more questions?

For more information about the JEDZ District, please contact Township Administrator Kim Lapensee at 898-6735 during business hours.

To view the proposed map, please visit our website at www.butlertownship.com.

# Reserve and Part-time Officer Program a short-term solution

The Butler Township Police Department has expanded the Reserve and Part-time Officer Program as an immediate remedy to the police staffing shortage. But officials caution that it is only a short-term solution.

### A little history

In 2010, the Butler Township Police Department was 15 officers strong. Today it consists of 11 fulltime officers. In 2011, one patrol officer was laid off due to budget reductions. Also that year, after Chief Danny Hobbs retired, he was replaced by Captain Carl Bush, and the captain's position went unfilled at that time. In 2012, two additional patrol officers voluntarily resigned to take employment with other police agencies.

### Commitment to highest quality services

For the safety of township residents and the police officers, the Butler Township Police Department maintains at least two officers on patrol at all times. To do this, the township has often been forced to pay overtime due to the shortage of officers.

The department's mission is to provide "…the highest quality of services to the citizens of Butler Township in the most cost-effective manner while promoting a safe environment."

This commitment has led the township to expand the Reserve and Part-time Officer Program.

### What the terms mean

A reserve officer is a volunteer position filled by a sworn police officer who is fully qualified to patrol and make arrests. A part-time officer is a sworn police officer who is fully qualified to patrol and make arrests but works fewer than 29 hours weekly and fewer than 1500 hours annually.

Reserve officers are unpaid, and part-time officers are paid less than full-time officers. Neither category receives employee benefits.

### Training requirements

"The goal in expanding the program is to put more officers on patrol for law enforcement and crime prevention," said Police Chief John Cresie.

Each new officer is required to complete an intensive Field Training Officer Program to ensure they are fully qualified and trained to uphold the township's standards of law enforcement service.

### The downside

The disadvantage of using reserve and part-time officers, however, is the expense of training and equipping them considering they can readily be hired by another police agency.

"Reserve and part-time officers are much more likely to be short-term employees because they make attractive candidates for full-time positions in other police agencies," said Chief Cresie. "This program is a short-term solution to the long-term problem of maintaining the number of police officers necessary to ensure safety and the quality of services expected by township residents."

Chief Cresie encourages you to welcome the new officers if you see them around the community.

"They are here to help!" he said.

# Development director retires

Jeff Bothwell, who has served as Butler Township's development director for more than seven years, retired February 28, 2013.

"We're sad to see him go, but we know he'll enjoy his time off," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. "During his career with us, Jeff has had deep impact on the quality and character of developments in the township."

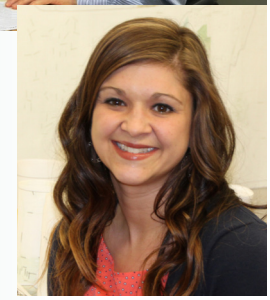
Among his achievements, Bothwell has rewritten the township's zoning code and sign regulations, which include innovative architectural standards. He also introduced the idea of a 30-year Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District with yearly payments to the schools, and sat on the Butler Township Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee.

He has also written and overseen successful grant applications that would later allow for ZED Industries' expansion and the Rodeway Inn demolition.

Bothwell helped to establish and expand the township's Joint Economic Development District with Dayton and Vandalia, and acted as staff to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission.

He has also been involved with guiding the appearance of Butler Township through the property maintenance code.

*Retiring Development Director Jeff Bothwell*



*Assistant Township Administrator Erika Vogel*

Bothwell will be replaced by Erika Vogel, whose credentials include experience in planning, zoning, code enforcement, and economic development. She previously served as Vandalia's city planner.

Vogel, who started her new job on March 25, will serve as the new assistant township administrator with increased responsibilities in code enforcement and human resources. By combining positions, the township will save about $65,000 annually after retirements occur over the next couple of years.

"Erika brings great credentials to her new job," said Lapensee. "She will be an outstanding asset to the township."

## Fire hydrants to be tested

To help ensure the continued safety of township residents and properties, the Butler Township Fire Department will conduct fire hydrant testing from April 22 to May 13. You may see crews in various parts of the township throughout this time.

You may also notice a discoloration of the water as the testing can stir up sediment in the water lines. The water will remain safe to consume, although you are encouraged to run your water for a few minutes prior to doing laundry, cooking, and bathing.

The fire department asks that if you notice fire hydrants in your area leaking water, or if you have questions about the testing, please call 890-2491.

*Butler Township Trustee Vice President Mike Lang*

## Governor names Lang to Clean Ohio Council

Township Trustee Mike Lang has been appointed by Governor John Kasich to the Clean Ohio Council, a body that reviews grant applications for Ohio's brownfield revitalization projects. Lang will be the township representative to the council.

"There was an opening on the board to represent the interests of Ohio townships and I received a nod from the governor," said Lang. "I am honored to serve and looking forward to this as an interesting and worthwhile opportunity."

# Around The Township

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Dayton, OH 45414

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(937) 890-2491
Doug Brunk, Public Works
(937) 890-1218

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Zoning Department
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Police, Non-emergency
(937) 890-2671
Fire, Non-emergency
(937) 890-2491

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## Brush drop-off set for spring

Butler Township makes spring cleanup easier by providing a free brush drop-off program for residents. The service is available every Saturday from April 13 through May 18 from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Service Department, 3710 West National Rd.

This service is for Butler Township residents only. No commercial disposal will be permitted.

Please remember….

- This program is for brush only. DO NOT BRING construction materials, old firewood, yard waste, landscaping or lawn-service debris, as they will not be accepted.
- Don't chop your brush and limbs too small because this makes them harder to handle.
- Make sure brush is free of nails, wire, root balls, and the like.
- Bring your ID to verify that you live in Butler Township.
- Please enter through Polk Grove Cemetery.

## Permanent Drug Drop Box now available

*Prescription Drug Drop Box*

The safest way to dispose of your unwanted drugs and prescriptions is by taking advantage of the Ohio Prescription Drug Drop Box Program, a free service now available in the Butler Township Police Department.

You can drop off your unwanted, unused, and expired prescription drugs and medications ***anytime during normal business hours***. Simply bring your medications to the police department at 3510 Sudachi Dr., where you will hand them over to an officer who will secure them for destruction in the drug box. It's that simple.