Around The Township

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

WINTER 2012

Generating positive impact: Cops Shop with Kids

Thanks to the generosity of many Butler Township businesses and volunteer efforts of local police and fire department members, the sixth annual Cops Shopping with Kids event was a huge success. Their donations made it possible for police and fire department personnel to take local children in need shopping for clothing and other essentials.

The Butler Township Police Department worked with Murlin Heights Elementary, Smith Middle School and the Walmart store on Miller Lane to make the event happen. Walmart generously provided a pancake breakfast and pictures with Santa.

Each child was paired up with an officer who volunteered to help make the breakfast and shopping event a positive experience. The children shopped for clothing and other necessities, while the officers got to know the youngsters and build positive relationships with them for the future.

"The holiday season is all about sharing and giving back," said Police Chief John Cresie. "We are proud to build positive relations with children while providing them the essentials they need."

No increases for waste disposal

The Butler Township Trustees have decided not to raise any fees for 2013 in the Waste Management Department. There is a small surplus of money in this department, which will allow trash removal fees to remain the same. Trustees and staff will review the cash balance at the end of this year to see if any additional funds will be needed for 2014.

Take a moment for winter safety

Winter is here, and so are the reminders for ways you can help the fire and police departments provide the most efficient and effective emergency services.

- Make sure your home address is clearly visible from the street. Curb markings and mailbox signs covered by snow and ice can delay the arrival of crews. Address numbers are most valuable if they are visible on your house.
- Keep your driveways, front walks and steps clear of snow and ice. Snow and ice accumulating in these areas can make it extremely difficult and dangerous when emergency personnel need to move a patient from their residence to a medic unit parked in the street.
- In the winter, fire hydrants become hidden by snow, making them difficult, and at times, impossible to locate. With your help, firefighters will be able to locate the fire hydrants quickly. Make sure to visually check fire hydrants near your home to ensure they haven't become buried under snow or ice. If they have, please take a moment to clear them.

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Fire Department tightens belt, maintains service levels

Dipping property tax revenues and the elimination of State funding programs have made it more important than ever for Butler Township to make fire operations as efficient as possible in recent years. The belt-tightening is paying off: Since 2010, the budget has been reduced by $703,162, or 26 percent, with no interruption in the round-the-clock staffing of the community's two fire stations.

The following table shows the year-by-year breakdown:

	2010	2011	2012
Expenditures	$2,703,162	$2,007,969	$2,099,944
Revenues	$2,824,281	$2,561,595	$2,467,063

These savings have been achieved by combining these strategies:

Personnel

- In 2010 there were 61 employees on the fire department's roster; in 2012, that number was reduced to 53.
- In 2010, the staffing configuration called for nine certified personnel on-duty 24 hours a day, in addition to various officers and administrative assistants. Since then, the department has reduced staffing to a total of seven on-duty personnel around the clock, including the chief.
- Part-time firefighter hours were reduced by 36 percent, from 59,468 in 2010 to 37,772 in 2011.

Shopping for the best prices

- The department now comparison shops locally to get the best price possible on everything from motor oil to office supplies. Capital items are purchased from the State of Ohio bid list which saves the township time and money.

Training and certifications

- The Butler Township Fire Department has recently trained personnel to maintain some items such as self contained breathing apparatus, and perform annual testing on the equipment, eliminating the need for an outside vendor.

Combining purchasing power

- The Township decided in 2010 to jointly purchase operating equipment with the other departments in the township to further reduce costs. These purchases include items such as office supplies, vehicle and building maintenance, cell phones, electricity and gasoline.

Joint purchasing

- The fire department works cooperatively with other jurisdictions such as the cities of Riverside and Vandalia to purchase turnout gear, uniforms and capital equipment to lower the prices on the individual units purchased. When more than one medic unit or fire engine is purchased, vendors tend to lower their individual prices to each entity.

Reduction of fleet vehicles

- The fire department sold three large pieces of equipment and two staff vehicles in 2010, which brought in more than $200,000 in revenue. In 2011, one more staff vehicle and a boat were sold. In 2012, an old medic unit was sold. This reduction of the fleet has saved the department more than $100,000 a year in repairs and preventative maintenance costs.

Equipment purchases

- The fire department continues to see a decline in the number of runs that are being made each year. From 2010 to 2012, the total number of runs declined by 24 percent or 638 runs.

Year	Total	EMS	Fire
2010	2,576	1,555	1,021
2011	2,224	1,606	618
2012	2,301	1,708	593

As we make reductions in our fleet, we also have the responsibility to maintain our existing fleet of vehicles and equipment. In 2010, Butler Township purchased a new medic and it was put into service in January 2011. It is the department's fourth medic vehicle and replaces one that logged more than 100,000 miles. The old medic vehicle is being used as a reserve medic utilized when one of the other medics is out of service for maintenance.

In 2012, one additional medic was purchased and put into service. This medic replaced one that has logged 112,281 miles and is over 12 years old. In 2013, the township will replace a fire engine that is over 16 years old and has 64,236 miles on it. To purchase these vehicles, the department utilized a combination of Tax Increment Finance (TIF) dollars that comes from local commercial development along the Miller Lane area and fire levy funds. The new medic will enable us to continue serving the township residents.

Butler Township also plans to replace all of the department's radio equipment over the next three years by replacing three mobile units and eight portable radios a year, at an annual cost of about $46,000. The township was forced to upgrade the radios because the current radios can no longer be serviced through Motorola and must be updated for use with future radio system improvements.

"The township trustees are continually trying to reduce operating costs for the departments in Butler Township," said Township Administrator Kim Lapensee. "They believe in providing the best quality service while operating as efficiently as possible."

The new medic unit replaces one that is 12 years old and has logged more than 112,000 miles.

Working with neighbors to save money

Butler Township has decided to move into the new fire station on Peters Pike with the Vandalia Fire Department and embark on a new joint venture between the two entities. In May 2012, a two-person crew from the township moved to the new location. This joint venture allows both the township and the city crews to ride on the same pieces of equipment and respond to the same emergencies, depending on need.

In January of 2013, a two-person crew from the Vandalia Fire Department moved into the township's fire station on Little York Road, just west of N. Dixie Drive. This will allow the City of Vandalia to respond to the Poe Avenue and Benchwood areas south to Stop Eight Road. In 2013, the township will also make improvements to the main fire station on Little York Road, as the station is over 24 years old and in need of mechanical system improvements.

Finally the Township will add a new township meeting room/training room/multi-use space to the station so that the current meeting room on North Dixie Drive (former administration building) can be sold or demolished.

Township police technology upgrades save time, resources

In 2013, the police department will begin using two new technologies to both streamline operations and aid in the prosecution of crime. Both of these technologies have been purchased through the Tax Increment Financing Program (TIF) at no extra expense to the Township resident.

Data entry streamlined

The department has begun utilizing a computerized records management system tied into the Huber Heights Dispatch Center, and now allows officers to not only complete reports in their cars, but also search previous reports and contacts with individuals. In the past, these systems were not automated and relied on manual data entry.

Additionally, the system streamlines the reporting process and makes day-to-day report writing essentially paperless, reducing the cost of office supplies.

"By reducing redundancy in paperwork and increasing efficiency in the reporting process, we're giving officers more time for crime prevention and responding to calls for service," said Police Chief John Cresie.

In addition, Butler Township Police vehicles will soon be equipped with in-car video cameras. While this is not a new technology, it has not been utilized in Butler Township in the past. Video evidence is invaluable in prosecuting many crimes, particularly driving under the influence and other traffic offenses.

Video evidence also protects officers from false claims and complaints that are sometimes presented to either the courts or the police department.

Video evidence from the police vehicles is electronically transmitted to a centralized server, where it is stored under stringent evidence storage standards. There are no bulky VHS cassettes or DVDs to purchase, inventory, and maintain. Recordings from the vehicles can be replayed by officers in their vehicles or from the police department. Additionally, the system will automatically record a case to a DVD to be introduced as evidence at trial.

"We're aggressive about exploring opportunities to stretch resources and improve services," said Cresie. "The practical use of technology allows us to better serve the township and its citizens."

Township offices relocate to new Government Center building

The Butler Township Administration and Police Department have completed the move into the new Government Center located at 3510 Sudachi Drive. Township Trustees meetings will continue to be held at 8524 N. Dixie until the new town hall is relocated to Fire Station 88 on Little York Road. After that, the Trustees plan to sell the two properties on North Dixie.

Please be sure to update your trash bill mailings to the new address at 3510 Sudachi Drive.

Brush drop-off to return this spring

Free brush disposal will again be available to Butler Township residents every Saturday from April 13 through May 18 from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Service Department, 3710 West National Rd. The Township makes this service available as a convenience for Butler Township residents only. No commercial disposal will be permitted.

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.

Around The Township

3510 Sudachi Dr.
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Michael Lang, Vice President - x1196
Martin Russell - x1197

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Kim Lapensee, Administrator
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John Cresie, Police Dept.
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Dan Alig, Fire Dept.
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Jeff Bothwell, Development Director
(937) 898-6735 - x1113
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

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Trustees get down to business in 2013

The Butler Township Trustees met on December 27 to decide on various appointments, board positions and administrative matters. Here are the highlights:

- Chuck Metzner was re-appointed to the Zoning Commission for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2013.
- David Edwards was re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term beginning January 1, 2013.
- Doug Orange was chosen to serve as president of the Board of Trustees, Michael Lang will serve as vice-president and Martin Russell 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 Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28 at 7 p.m.; and instead of Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12 at 7 PM.
- 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 Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 21, the meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and instead of President's Day, Monday, February 18, the meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 19 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Waste Management 2013 Holiday Schedule

Waste Management will not pick up trash on the following days of 2013:

MEMORIAL DAY	5/27/13
INDEPENDENCE DAY	7/4/13
LABOR DAY	9/2/13
THANKSGIVING DAY	11/28/13
CHRISTMAS DAY	12/25/13
NEW YEARS DAY	1/1/14

If your service ***falls on or following*** one of these holidays, pickup will be delayed by one day. Friday service will be performed on Saturday for this week only.