

DATE: October 6, 2023
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for October 10, 2023**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **October 10, 2023** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -September 2023

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -September 2023

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

RSV-Dr. Jennewine

OLD BUSINESS

1. PHAB
2. Tobacco21 (T21)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations
2. Final Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 by Title Only- Food Fees
3. Final Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02 by Title Only-Campground Fees
4. 2023 3rd Quarter Report
5. Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2023 at 7:30am

It is the policy of the City of Middletown to make all public hearings and meetings accessible to all persons, in accordance with state and/or federal laws. If you have a disability which requires accommodation in order for you to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact us at 425-7851 or 425-7705 (TDD) at least forty-eight hours prior to the time of the meeting to advise the need for accommodation, and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the same.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
September 12, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on September 12, 2023.

Members Present

Mayor, Nicole Condrey, BS, President
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Ruth Lolli
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Amy Sibcy
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Sarah Chaney, BS, EHSIT
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Dr. Zollett to excuse Ms. Lolli from the Board of Health meeting.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Ms. Phillips Carter introduced Ms. Emily Miller as the Board of Health's (BOH) newest member. Ms. Miller is an Infection Prevention RN at Atrium Medical Center. Ms. Miller is a long-time Middletown resident. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Ms. Miller has worked closely with the health department both throughout the COVID pandemic and thereafter and will be a great addition to the BOH.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No citizens were present, Dr. Zollett commented that he had seen Mayor Condrey in the newspaper for winning an award with Team Fastrax.

Ms. Lolli arrived at 7:34 AM.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Condrey opened the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01(Food Fees).

There were no comments in favor or in opposition of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 (Food Fees).

Mayor Condrey closed the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01(Food Fees).

Mayor Condrey opened the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02(Campground Licensing Fees).

There were no comments in favor or in opposition to MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02(Campground License Fees).

Mayor Condrey closed the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02(Campground License Fees).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2023

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the August 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-August 2023

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to receive and file the August 2023 Financial Report.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Education Presentation- Rabies-Sarah Chaney, REHS

Ms. Chaney explained to the BOH that rabies is a deadly viral disease that attacks the brain, spinal cord and nerves of mammals. Rabies can be transmitted through contact with infected saliva, neural tissue, open wounds and mucous membranes. Rabies is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear, there are less than 20 recorded cases of humans surviving rabies. Signs and symptoms of rabies in animals include: being unusually tame, out at the wrong time of day, changes in temperament, or acting "strange" (trouble walking/eating/drinking). Signs and symptoms in humans include: flu-like symptoms, followed by a "neurologic period" which can include insomnia, paralysis, aggression, hyperactivity, fear of air being blown on the face, fear of and difficulty drinking liquids, hallucination and death.

Ms. Chaney explained the infectious path of the rabies virus. An animal is bitten by a rabid animal, the rabies virus from the infected saliva enters the wound. The rabies virus then travels through the nerves to the spinal cord and brain, this process can last approximately 3-12 weeks. The animal has no signs of illness during this time. When the virus reaches the brain, it multiplies rapidly and passes to the salivary glands. The animal begins to show signs of the disease at this time. The infected animal usually dies within 7 days of becoming sick.

Ms. Chaney informed the board that a bat strain of rabies has been found in Ohio, including Butler County. A raccoon strain entered the state at the Ohio-Pennsylvania border in 1997. The last human case of rabies in Ohio was in 1970.

Ms. Chaney presented the board with illustrated maps from 2018-2022 showing where rabies cases in Ohio had been identified.

Ms. Chaney explained that the Health Department monitors all animal bites reported in an effort to monitor and prevent cases of rabies. There has been an average of 65 animal bites reported to CMHD per year between 2019-2022. The majority of those bites reported were dog bites, however; cat, raccoon, bat and groundhog bites were also reported. The majority of animals reported for biting were not vaccinated at the time of the bite incident.

The Ohio Administrative Code states, "Whenever an individual is bitten by a dog or other non-human mammal, report of such bite shall be made within twenty-four hours to the health commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred."

Ohio Administrative Code also states, "Biting animals must be confined for no less than 10 days." The City of Middletown Codified Ordinance Chapter 1810.02 states, "Every dog, cat, or ferret in the city, greater than 6 months of age, must be currently vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian."

Ms. Chaney explained that Ohio Department of Health and United States Department of Agriculture have partnered together in an Oral Rabies Vaccination Campaign. Helicopters and ground vehicles drop 8 million oral rabies vaccinations in 16 eastern states from Maine to Alabama. These vaccines prevent westward and northward spread of the rabies virus. The 2023 cycle included 12 northeastern Ohio counties.

Ms. Chaney explained the CMHD procedure for bite and scratch incidents. Once a bite report has been received by CMHD, the animal is placed in quarantine for 10 days. Health inspectors conduct visual observation at the end of the 10-day quarantine. The owner must provide proof of current rabies vaccination within 5 days of the end of quarantine. If the animal dies or is euthanized before the 10-day quarantine period is over, the animal is sent to the ODH lab for rabies testing. Failure to vaccinate the animal will lead to court proceedings in order to obtain a current rabies vaccination.

Ms. Chaney explained that there have been 2 inspector-involved bites in 2023 when releasing an animal from quarantine. To ensure the safety of inspectors, contact is always minimized during on-site visits. The animal is usually viewed from a window/door/cage. In an update to CMHD policy, if the animal cannot be secured for visual observation, inspectors may view the animal from the car.

Ohio local health departments investigate about 20,000 animal bite and non-bite exposures every year contributing to community health and safety. This prevents rabies from re-emerging as a serious problem in the area and educates the public on vaccine requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Community Health Assessment (CHA) will be completed soon and she will present it to the board once it is available.

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that a flow chart illustrating tobacco retail density was included in the board packet. Ms. Phillips Carter explained that there are multiple strategies that can be employed to control tobacco density, stating that the one that makes the most sense for Middletown would be capping the number of tobacco retailers permitted to operate within the city. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the retail density number would come from the Zoning or Planning Commission and the City Manager will present it to City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Fall AOHC Conference will be held September 13-15 in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Phillips Carter, Ms. Ealy and Dr. Jennewine attend this event each year. The total cost of the conference was included in the packet; however, the trip usually costs a little less than what is projected due to CMHD staff rooming and ridesharing.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve the September travel requests.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Motion to Read MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 & 2023-02 by Title Only.

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to read MBHE Ordinances No. 2023-01 & 2023-02 by title only.

Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Lolli, Richmond, Sibcy, Zollett). No-0. Motion Passed.

Second Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 An Ordinance Amending Fees for the Licensing of Food Service Operations, Mobile Food Service Operations, Temporary Food Service Operations, Vending Machine Locations, Retail Food Establishments, Mobile Retail Food Establishments, and Temporary Retail Food Establishments.

Second Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02 An Ordinance Amending the License Fees for Recreational Vehicle Parks, Recreational Camps, Combined and Temporary Park-Camps.

Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

Mayor Condrey stated that she had heard the Middletown City School Board has rescinded funding for the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center Project.

Dr. Zollett asked why.

Mayor Condrey stated that there is a 3-4 million-dollar gap that the city was asked to cover, the city declined.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she was disappointed the project would not be moving forward.

Mayor Condrey stated with both the Senior Citizen Center (Central Connections) and the Community Center, she feels as though we are not addressing the racial divide that is present in the city and is hopeful that the community can bridge the gap.

Dr. Zollett commented that it is not the city's duty to bail out the Senior Citizen Center.

Mayor Condrey commented that the concern is that Middletown citizens paid off the building and if the city does not step in, citizen's tax money was wasted. Mayor Condrey stated that she feels like there may be an opportunity to combine the Senior Citizen Center and the Community Center, the issue would be deciding on a location and is hopeful that the city will be able to create something that tries to be inclusive of every age and race.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the problem of moving it to a central location is that you must invest in all areas of the community. Ms. Phillips Carter added that we need a plan that everyone can work towards together.

Mayor Condrey stated that she feels like we are not talking about the real issues and that is how we have gotten ourselves spread so thin.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Central Connections has signed an agreement with the City of Middletown allowing the city to lease the building. Ms. Phillips Carter states that the members of Central Connection are a delightful group of people. Volunteers have been staffing the front and have been identifying active and non-active members. Meetings with the City Managers will continue as updates are available.

Discussion

Mayor Condrey asked about the health benefits and aspects that had been offered at Central Connections.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there have been Premier Health screenings, but there have not been many participants.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that most members of Central Connections appear to be coming for socialization.

Mayor Condrey stated that Central Connections was presented in a light that made it out to be mission critical and lifesaving.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there are many different pockets of senior citizens residing in Middletown. There are seniors living in senior apartments such as Dublin House, residing at nursing homes and assisted living centers and independently living in the community.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there will be a meeting in Middletown today addressing the homeless/unhoused, she stressed that this is a county-wide issue not just a Middletown issue.

Mayor Condrey stated that the last meeting was held in Hamilton and it was made clear by County Commissioners that they would like the homeless housed in Hamilton City. Hamilton City staff does not want the initiative based in Hamilton City. It was addressed in the meeting that there is a need for the State to step in at a greater capacity.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she and Lisha Mooreland, Assistant Economic Development Director, met with Gem City Market in Dayton. Gem City Market is a co-op community market that provides an opportunity for fresh fruits and vegetables in areas that do not have grocery stores available to them and would like to add locations in other areas.

Ms. Mooreland is looking into areas that may be possible locations within Middletown.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she had provided them with copies of Middletown Connect's Year End Report. Middletown Connect held a press conference at the end of August, the next community areas of focus will be the Amanda and Wildwood areas.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the July Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	29
COVID-19	131
CP-CRE	1
Cryptosporidiosis	1
Gonococcal infection	12
Hepatitis B	2
Hepatitis C	8
Shigellosis	1
Syphilis	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that Ohio Department of Health has initiated pre-booking for ordering COVID vaccines for uninsured and underinsured populations. Patients that have insurance will be provided a list of pharmacies that will offer the vaccine.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that COVID cases are up 300% from July to August. Ms. Corbin explained that this could be due to groups congregating together more and school being back in session.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that wastewater surveillance is a great tool in monitoring upticks in COVID across the United States. Wastewater surveillance is currently occurring in Hamilton and Oxford..

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that plans to remodel Cassano's on Verity Parkway have been approved. Middletown City Schools Virtual Program plans have been approved. Plans for Verity Lodge Head Start program have been received and approved. Ms. Ealy stated that Middletown Quick Stop has had a change of owner. Close to Home on Roosevelt has closed and will reopen as Aaron's Garden. Buster's Bar has closed.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that two pre-administrative hearings are scheduled for this morning (9/12/2023). The first is with Taku and the second is with the new owner of both the Verity Parkway and Marie Drive Pizza Huts.

Ms. Phillips Carter added that pre-administrative hearings come prior to an administrative hearing which would be held with the Board of Health.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that inspectors have finished all outdoor pool inspections for the year and will continue quarterly inspections of indoor pools.

First round food inspections have been completed, second round inspections must be completed by the end of February.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM. The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2023 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary

Nicole Condrey, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department

September 2023 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$6,629 Revenue Earned
- 567 Certificates Sold
- 51 Burial permits Sold

Environmental

- \$2,323 Revenue Earned

Grants/Agreements Reimbursements

- Allotrac (MAC) Billing 3rd QTR Reimbursement - \$15,579

Indigent Services

- \$20,000.00 budgeted for 2023 – Budget exhausted – Expense-to-date = \$20,216
- 27 Applications approved to date
 - 3 OD's
 - 1 COD'S pending
 - \$0 Indigent Services Budget Remaining
 - Embalmer's Association Reimbursement Program ended May 2023

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027 - \$445,000
 - Multi-year project to support the development of current and future public health workforce
 - Original award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity specific training.
- Tobacco21 (T21) 8/01/2023-7/31/2025 - \$86,415
 - Two year grant through Interact for Health to support T21 program
 - Payments will be awarded twice a year
 - 8/29/2023-\$30,000 – *Deposited August 2023*
 - 12/30/2023-\$16,415
 - 6/30/2024-\$20,000
 - 9/30/2024-\$20,000

City of Middletown Budgetary Control Report

Period Ending October 4, 2023

Health & Environmental Fund	Current Year Appropriation	Supplements & Transfers	Carryover & Encumbrance	Total Appropriated	Month-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Balance	Encumbrance	Combined Encumbrance	Remaining Budget Percent
Personnel Services										
228.450.51110 Salaries & Wages	\$565,079.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$565,079.00	\$0.00	\$366,360.34	\$198,718.66	\$0.00	\$198,718.66	35.2%
228.450.51211 Pers	\$79,111.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$79,111.00	\$0.00	\$51,190.72	\$27,920.28	\$0.00	\$27,920.28	35.3%
228.450.51220 Worker's Compensation	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$947.18	\$21,655.82	\$21,655.82	\$0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230 Group Health Insurance	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,148.00	\$9,206.90	\$77,972.10	\$25,175.90	\$8,595.65	\$16,580.25	16.1%
228.450.51270 Medicare City Share	\$8,194.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,194.00	\$0.00	\$5,137.83	\$3,056.17	\$0.00	\$3,056.17	37.3%
228.450.51275 Life Insurance	\$1,899.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,899.00	\$0.00	\$1,368.90	\$530.10	\$0.00	\$530.10	27.9%
Personnel Services Totals	\$780,034.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$780,034.00	\$9,206.90	\$502,977.07	\$277,056.93	\$30,251.47	\$246,805.46	31.6%
Contractual Services										
228.450.52110 Travel & Training	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,313.10	\$1,686.90	\$0.00	\$1,686.90	42.2%
228.450.52111 Mandatory Training (Finance Chg.)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00	\$0.00	-\$50.00	0.0%
228.450.52120 Employee Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$150.32	\$1,746.71	\$1,253.29	\$0.00	\$1,253.29	41.8%
228.450.52222 Telephone Line Charges	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,640.00	\$2,039.66	\$5,229.77	\$410.23	\$0.00	\$410.23	7.3%
228.450.52310 Municipal Garage Charges	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$229.30	\$2,578.61	\$921.39	\$0.00	\$921.39	26.3%
228.450.52480 Other Professional Services	\$41,085.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,085.00	\$2,272.48	\$11,554.85	\$29,530.15	\$0.00	\$29,530.15	64.2%
228.450.52481 Workforce Development Grant	\$33,398.00	\$0.00	\$8,086.69	\$41,484.69	\$260.47	\$19,433.48	\$22,051.21	\$18,789.95	\$3,261.26	4.6%
228.450.52488 Health Department COVID	\$121,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,625.00	\$135,625.00	\$0.00	\$10,623.06	\$125,001.94	\$19,385.00	\$105,616.94	77.9%
228.450.52490 Outside Printing	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$378.45	\$1,621.55	\$0.00	\$1,621.55	81.1%
228.450.52510 Maintenance of Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,083.64	\$2,916.36	\$0.00	\$2,916.36	36.5%
228.450.52820 Licenses & Permits	\$11,340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,340.00	\$69.50	\$9,876.00	\$1,464.00	\$0.00	\$1,464.00	12.9%
228.450.52920 Memberships, Books & Periodicals	\$1,587.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.00	\$130.00	\$735.26	\$851.74	\$0.00	\$851.74	53.7%
Contractual Services Total	\$234,550.00	\$0.00	\$22,711.69	\$257,261.69	\$5,151.73	\$69,602.93	\$187,658.76	\$38,174.95	\$149,483.81	51.2%
Commodities										
228.450.53100 Office Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$162.23	\$1,739.84	\$760.16	\$0.00	\$760.16	30.4%
228.450.53210 Food	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$160.25	\$39.75	\$0.00	\$39.75	19.9%
228.450.53610 Small Tools & Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$65.19	\$247.27	-\$47.27	\$0.00	-\$47.27	0.0%
228.450.53710 Chemicals & Labs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.95	\$91.62	\$408.38	\$0.00	\$408.38	81.7%
Commodities Total	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$237.37	\$2,238.98	\$1,161.02	\$0.00	\$1,161.02	34.1%
Capital Expenses										
228.450.54310 Auto Depreciation	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$436.00	\$3,924.00	\$876.00	\$0.00	\$876.00	18.3%
Capital Expenses Total	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$436.00	\$3,924.00	\$876.00	\$0.00	\$876.00	18.3%
Health Fund Year-to-Date Totals	\$1,022,784.00	\$0.00	\$22,711.69	\$1,045,495.69	\$15,032.00	\$578,742.98	\$466,752.71	\$68,426.42	\$398,326.29	36.9%

*Some Charges have not been loaded by Finance for this month. Expenses incurred in these areas will not be seen on this report and/or amounts represented may be from the previous month.

04 OCT 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
 HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
 FOR THE PERIOD ENDED October 04, 2023

PAGE 001

	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined Unencumbered Amount	REM-%
☒										
☒	HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION									
228.450.51110 SALARIES & WAGES	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 366,360.34	\$ 198,718.66	\$ 0.00	\$ 198,718.66	35.2%
228.450.51120 OVERTIME WAGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51211 PERS	79,111.00	0.00	0.00	79,111.00	0.00	51,190.72	27,920.28	0.00	27,920.28	35.3%
228.450.51220 WORKERS COMPENSATION	22,603.00	0.00	0.00	22,603.00	0.00	947.18	21,655.82	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	103,148.00	0.00	0.00	103,148.00	9,206.90	77,972.10	25,175.90	8,595.65	16,580.25	16.1%
228.450.51240 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51270 MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	8,194.00	0.00	0.00	8,194.00	0.00	5,137.83	3,056.17	0.00	3,056.17	37.3%
228.450.51275 LIFE INSURANCE	1,899.00	0.00	0.00	1,899.00	0.00	1,368.90	530.10	0.00	530.10	27.9%
228.450.51290 EMPLOYEE AWARDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
PERSONAL SERVICES	780,034.00	0.00	0.00	780,034.00	9,206.90	502,977.07	277,056.93	30,251.47	246,805.46	31.6%
228.450.52110 TRAVEL & TRAINING	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	2,313.10	1,686.90	0.00	1,686.90	42.2%
228.450.52111 MANDATORY TRAINING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	<50.00>	0.00	<50.00>	0.0%
228.450.52120 EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	150.32	1,746.71	1,253.29	0.00	1,253.29	41.8%
228.450.52222 TELEPHONE LINE CHARGES - HEALTH A	5,640.00	0.00	0.00	5,640.00	2,039.66	5,229.77	410.23	0.00	410.23	7.3%
228.450.52230 POSTAGE AND POSTAL CHARGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52310 MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHARGES	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	229.30	2,578.61	921.39	0.00	921.39	26.3%
☒										
☒ 228.450.52340 EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE RENTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52410 LEGAL SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52420 MEDICAL SERVICE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52480 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	41,085.00	0.00	0.00	41,085.00	2,272.48	11,554.85	29,530.15	0.00	29,530.15	64.2%
228.450.52481 WORKFORCE GRANT CONTRACTUAL SERVI	33,398.00	0.00	8,086.69	41,484.69	260.47	19,433.48	22,051.21	18,789.95	3,261.26	4.6%
228.450.52482 SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52488 HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EXPENSES	121,000.00	0.00	14,625.00	135,625.00	0.00	10,623.06	125,001.94	19,385.00	105,616.94	77.9%
228.450.52490 OUTSIDE PRINTING	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	378.45	1,621.55	0.00	1,621.55	81.1%
228.450.52510 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	5,083.64	2,916.36	0.00	2,916.36	36.5%
228.450.52680 MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52820 LICENSES AND PERMITS	11,340.00	0.00	0.00	11,340.00	69.50	9,876.00	1,464.00	0.00	1,464.00	12.9%
228.450.52920 MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PERIODICAL	1,587.00	0.00	0.00	1,587.00	130.00	735.26	851.74	0.00	851.74	53.7%
228.450.52930 PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROCESSING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52940 INDIGENT BURIALS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	234,550.00	0.00	22,711.69	257,261.69	5,151.73	69,602.93	187,658.76	38,174.95	149,483.81	51.2%
228.450.53100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	162.23	1,739.84	760.16	0.00	760.16	30.4%
228.450.53101 SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.53102 HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.53210 FOOD	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	160.25	39.75	0.00	39.75	19.9%

04 OCT 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED October 04, 2023

PAGE 002

	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL			YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined Amount	
				APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE					Unencumbered	REM-%
228.450.54310 AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIATION	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	436.00	3,924.00	876.00	0.00	876.00	18.3%	
228.450.54320 OFFICE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
228.450.54360 OTHER EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
228.450.54370 COMPUTER SOFTWARE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
CAPITAL	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	436.00	3,924.00	876.00	0.00	876.00	18.3%	
TOTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	1,022,784.00	0.00	22,711.69	1,045,495.69	15,032.00	578,742.98	466,752.71	68,426.42	398,326.29	36.9%	
GRAND TOTAL FUND 228	1,022,784.00	0.00	22,711.69	1,045,495.69	15,032.00	578,742.98	466,752.71	68,426.42	398,326.29	36.9%	

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Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44210

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 Oct 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
VITAL STATISTICS	2023	JANUARY	8211.78	8211.78	8211.78
	2023	FEBRUARY	6931.82	15143.60	
	2023	MARCH	15077.02	30220.62	
	2023	APRIL	7890.19	38110.81	
	2023	MAY	6572.04	44682.85	
	2023	JUNE	7422.40	52105.25	
	2023	JULY	7393.48	59498.73	
	2023	AUGUST	8459.36	67958.09	
	2023	SEPTEMBER	1444.22	69402.31	
	2022	JANUARY	9943.78	9943.78	
	2022	FEBRUARY	12804.90	22748.68	
	2022	MARCH	9988.38	32737.06	
	2022	APRIL	7246.66	39983.72	
	2022	MAY	12784.71	52768.43	
	2022	JUNE	8441.08	61209.51	
	2022	JULY	7882.86	69092.37	
	2022	AUGUST	11438.70	80531.07	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	7582.86	88113.93	
	2022	OCTOBER	9745.86	97859.79	
	2022	NOVEMBER	7424.42	105284.21	
	2022	DECEMBER	8203.78	113487.99	
	2021	JANUARY	10859.20	10859.20	
	2021	FEBRUARY	8137.22	18996.42	
	2021	MARCH	11431.46	30427.88	
	2021	APRIL	13803.40	44231.28	
	2021	MAY	8012.54	52243.82	
	2021	JUNE	10141.38	62385.20	
	2021	JULY	9711.26	72096.46	
	2021	AUGUST	10607.62	82704.08	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	8905.68	91609.76	
	2021	OCTOBER	9698.06	101307.82	
	2021	NOVEMBER	8431.80	109739.62	
	2021	DECEMBER	9935.12	119674.74	
	2020	JANUARY	10015.20	10015.20	
	2020	FEBRUARY	9483.04	19498.24	
	2020	MARCH	12877.27	32375.51	
	2020	APRIL	4432.06	36807.57	
	2020	MAY	5381.40	42188.97	
	2020	JUNE	9390.42	51579.39	
	2020	JULY	6208.34	57787.73	
	2020	AUGUST	10881.84	68669.57	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	9347.00	78016.57	
	2020	OCTOBER	9432.98	87449.55	
	2020	NOVEMBER	9382.42	96831.97	
	2020	DECEMBER	9515.10	106347.07	
	2019	JANUARY	8291.04	8291.04	
	2019	FEBRUARY	8104.16	16395.20	
	2019	MARCH	10480.58	26875.78	
	2019	APRIL	8680.02	35555.80	
	2019	MAY	8659.81	44215.61	
	2019	JUNE	11201.45	55417.06	

228.000.44211

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHAR	2023	JANUARY	134.35		134.35	
	2023	FEBRUARY	-203.92		-69.57	
	2023	MARCH	173.00		103.43	
	2023	APRIL	-124.85		-21.42	
	2023	MAY	-134.30		-155.72	
	2023	JUNE	38.30		-117.42	
	2023	JULY	77.00		-40.42	
	2023	AUGUST	9.25		-31.17	
	2023	SEPTEMBER	-192.20		-223.37	
	2022	JANUARY	53.60		53.60	
	2022	FEBRUARY	138.15		191.75	
	2022	MARCH	-27.05		164.70	
	2022	APRIL	89.50		254.20	
	2022	MAY	-134.45		119.75	
	2022	JUNE	223.70		343.45	
	2022	JULY	-184.21		159.24	
	2022	AUGUST	-62.85		96.39	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	45.05		141.44	
	2022	OCTOBER	391.55		532.99	
	2022	NOVEMBER	-316.50		216.49	
	2022	DECEMBER	93.60		310.09	
	2021	JANUARY	-3.10		-3.10	
	2021	FEBRUARY	-49.80		-52.90	
	2021	MARCH	43.60		-9.30	
	2021	APRIL	107.90		98.60	
	2021	MAY	-123.80		-25.20	
	2021	JUNE	126.75		101.55	
	2021	JULY	0.45		102.00	
	2021	AUGUST	-103.75		-1.75	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	58.15		56.40	
	2021	OCTOBER	-90.20		-33.80	
	2021	NOVEMBER	98.45		64.65	
	2021	DECEMBER	6.70		71.35	
	2020	JANUARY	80.10		80.10	
	2020	FEBRUARY	43.55		123.65	
	2020	MARCH	-3.10		120.55	
	2020	APRIL	204.60		325.15	
	2020	MAY	-260.40		64.75	
	2020	JUNE	-131.75		-67.00	
	2020	JULY	86.80		19.80	
	2020	AUGUST	-68.20		-48.40	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	15.50		-32.90	
	2020	OCTOBER	35.85		2.95	
	2020	NOVEMBER	-18.60		-15.65	
	2020	DECEMBER	-94.55		-110.20	
	2019	JANUARY	41.40		41.40	
	2019	FEBRUARY	51.75		93.15	
	2019	MARCH	-43.65		49.50	
	2019	APRIL	25.50		75.00	
	2019	MAY	-12.94		62.06	
	2019	JUNE	116.25		178.31	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44215

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	2023	FEBRUARY	120.00		120.00	
	2023	MAY	60.00		180.00	
	2023	AUGUST	20.00		200.00	
	2022	MARCH	80.00		80.00	
	2022	JUNE	60.00		140.00	
	2022	AUGUST	160.00		300.00	
	2022	NOVEMBER	120.00		420.00	
	2022	DECEMBER	20.00		440.00	
	2021	FEBRUARY	160.00		160.00	
2021	MAY	40.00		200.00		
2021	DECEMBER	20.00		220.00		
2019	FEBRUARY	80.00		80.00		
2019	MAY	80.00		160.00		
Total					1020.00	

228.000.44280

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
VENDING LICENSE	2023	FEBRUARY	611.49		611.49	
	2023	MARCH	37.06		648.55	
	2023	JUNE	37.06		685.61	
	2022	FEBRUARY	51.96		51.96	
	2022	MARCH	571.56		623.52	
	2021	JANUARY	34.64		34.64	
	2021	FEBRUARY	17.32		51.96	
	2021	MARCH	629.52		681.48	
	2021	APRIL	-23.32		658.16	
	2020	FEBRUARY	617.52		617.52	
	2020	MARCH	17.32		634.84	
	2019	FEBRUARY	629.00		629.00	
	2019	MARCH	106.25		735.25	
Total					3337.38	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44281

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	848.00		848.00	
	2023	FEBRUARY	35233.00		36081.00	
	2023	MARCH	24797.19		60878.19	
	2023	APRIL	1072.50		61950.69	
	2023	MAY	863.00		62813.69	
	2023	JUNE	2054.50		64868.19	
	2023	JULY	3261.50		68129.69	
	2023	AUGUST	859.50		68989.19	
	2023	SEPTEMBER	417.00		69406.19	
	2022	JANUARY	323.00		323.00	
	2022	FEBRUARY	20502.50		20825.50	
	2022	MARCH	15041.50		35867.00	
	2022	APRIL	1560.25		37427.25	
	2022	MAY	70.50		37497.75	
	2022	JUNE	1211.50		38709.25	
	2022	JULY	1972.50		40681.75	
	2022	AUGUST	639.00		41320.75	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	643.50		41964.25	
	2022	OCTOBER	842.00		42806.25	
	2022	NOVEMBER	405.00		43211.25	
	2022	DECEMBER	900.00		44111.25	
	2021	JANUARY	199.36		199.36	
	2021	FEBRUARY	28067.00		28266.36	
	2021	MARCH	23096.00		51362.36	
	2021	APRIL	3939.50		55301.86	
	2021	MAY	1834.50		57136.36	
	2021	JUNE	1677.00		58813.36	
	2021	JULY	3537.50		62350.86	
	2021	AUGUST	1640.00		63990.86	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	946.00		64936.86	
	2021	OCTOBER	545.00		65481.86	
	2021	NOVEMBER	674.00		66155.86	
	2021	DECEMBER	567.00		66722.86	
	2020	JANUARY	795.00		795.00	
	2020	FEBRUARY	40896.32		41691.32	
	2020	MARCH	17632.75		59324.07	
	2020	APRIL	983.50		60307.57	
	2020	MAY	542.50		60850.07	
	2020	JUNE	507.00		61357.07	
	2020	JULY	1367.00		62724.07	
	2020	AUGUST	1470.00		64194.07	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	806.00		65000.07	
	2020	OCTOBER	-570.00		64430.07	
	2020	NOVEMBER	934.00		65364.07	
	2020	DECEMBER	1249.64		66613.71	
	2019	JANUARY	1179.00		1179.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	36346.50		37525.50	
	2019	MARCH	23426.25		60951.75	
	2019	APRIL	817.50		61769.25	
	2019	MAY	1609.50		63378.75	
	2019	JUNE	1004.00		64382.75	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44282

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	300.00		300.00	
	2023	FEBRUARY	13216.00		13516.00	
	2023	MARCH	8676.75		22192.75	
	2023	APRIL	482.50		22675.25	
	2023	MAY	1302.00		23977.25	
	2023	JUNE	2586.00		26563.25	
	2023	JULY	592.00		27155.25	
	2023	AUGUST	723.00		27878.25	
	2023	SEPTEMBER	185.00		28063.25	
	2022	FEBRUARY	12010.00		12010.00	
	2022	MARCH	3381.00		15391.00	
	2022	APRIL	166.00		15557.00	
	2022	MAY	300.00		15857.00	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	84.00		15941.00	
	2022	NOVEMBER	300.00		16241.00	
	2022	DECEMBER	471.00		16712.00	
	2021	FEBRUARY	12292.00		12292.00	
	2021	MARCH	11461.00		23753.00	
	2021	APRIL	391.00		24144.00	
	2021	JUNE	421.50		24565.50	
	2021	JULY	531.25		25096.75	
	2021	AUGUST	717.00		25813.75	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	185.00		25998.75	
	2021	OCTOBER	370.00		26368.75	
	2021	DECEMBER	323.00		26691.75	
	2020	JANUARY	234.00		234.00	
	2020	FEBRUARY	16938.00		17172.00	
	2020	MARCH	7535.00		24707.00	
	2020	APRIL	991.00		25698.00	
	2020	JUNE	95.00		25793.00	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	767.00		26560.00	
	2020	OCTOBER	673.00		27233.00	
	2020	NOVEMBER	580.00		27813.00	
	2020	DECEMBER	185.00		27998.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	17873.00		17873.00	
	2019	MARCH	6261.75		24134.75	
	2019	APRIL	300.00		24434.75	
	2019	MAY	185.00		24619.75	
	2019	JULY	150.00		24769.75	
	2019	SEPTEMBER	452.00		25221.75	
	2019	OCTOBER	374.00		25595.75	
	2019	NOVEMBER	335.00		25930.75	
Total					125395.75	

228.000.44284

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	2023	MARCH		210.00		210.00
	2021	OCTOBER		60.00		60.00
	2020	MARCH		150.00		150.00
	2019	JANUARY	300.00		300.00	
	2019	MARCH	120.00		420.00	
	2019	MAY	90.00		510.00	
	2019	JULY	30.00		540.00	
	2019	AUGUST	30.00		570.00	
Total			990.00			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44283

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 Oct 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	2023	JANUARY	2337.50		2337.50
	2023	FEBRUARY	205.00		2542.50
	2023	MARCH	155.00		2697.50
	2023	APRIL	47.23		2744.73
	2022	JANUARY	1361.25		1361.25
	2022	MARCH	802.98		2164.23
	2022	MAY	130.00		2294.23
	2022	JUNE	120.00		2414.23
	2022	SEPTEMBER	287.05		2701.28
	2022	OCTOBER	100.00		2801.28
	2022	DECEMBER	1940.00		4741.28
	2021	JANUARY	1730.00		1730.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	1180.00		2910.00
	2021	MARCH	295.00		3205.00
	2021	APRIL	2742.56		5947.56
	2021	MAY	15.00		5962.56
	2021	JULY	65.00		6027.56
	2021	AUGUST	180.00		6207.56
	2021	SEPTEMBER	3324.45		9532.01
	2021	OCTOBER	-74.00		9458.01
	2021	NOVEMBER	406.00		9864.01
	2021	DECEMBER	1750.00		11614.01
	2020	JANUARY	6583.25		6583.25
	2020	FEBRUARY	3840.00		10423.25
	2020	MARCH	3190.28		13613.53
	2020	APRIL	2075.00		15688.53
	2020	MAY	340.00		16028.53
	2020	JUNE	1315.00		17343.53
	2020	JULY	180.00		17523.53
	2020	AUGUST	140.00		17663.53
	2020	SEPTEMBER	156.62		17820.15
	2020	DECEMBER	1340.00		19160.15
	2019	JANUARY	2530.25		2530.25
	2019	FEBRUARY	476.25		3006.50
	2019	APRIL	188.75		3195.25
	2019	MAY	15.00		3210.25
	2019	JUNE	45.00		3255.25
	2019	AUGUST	240.00		3495.25
	2019	SEPTEMBER	208.25		3703.50
	2019	OCTOBER	2450.00		6153.50
	2019	NOVEMBER	4995.00		11148.50
	2019	DECEMBER	8935.00		20083.50

Total

58343.67

228.000.44285

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
SWIMMING POOL/SPA	2023	APRIL	3160.00		3160.00	
	2023	MAY	2560.00		5720.00	
	2023	JULY	-220.00		5500.00	
	2022	APRIL	3920.00		3920.00	
	2022	MAY	1829.00		5749.00	
	2022	JUNE	275.00		6024.00	
	2022	JULY	283.00		6307.00	
	2021	APRIL	3700.00		3700.00	
	2021	MAY	1945.00		5645.00	
	2020	APRIL	2320.00		2320.00	
	2020	MAY	660.00		2980.00	
	2020	JUNE	1985.00		4965.00	
	2020	JULY	440.00		5405.00	
	2020	AUGUST	220.00		5625.00	
	2019	APRIL	4440.00		4440.00	
	2019	MAY	1545.00		5985.00	
Total					29062.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44286

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 Oct 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
TATTOO LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	562.50		562.50
	2022	JANUARY	562.50		562.50
	2022	JUNE	250.00		812.50
	2022	DECEMBER	1500.00		2312.50
	2021	JANUARY	1000.00		1000.00
	2021	JULY	250.00		1250.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	500.00		1750.00
	2021	DECEMBER	750.00		2500.00
	2020	JANUARY	812.50		812.50
	2020	AUGUST	250.00		1062.50
	2020	DECEMBER	500.00		1562.50
	2019	JANUARY	1250.00		1250.00
	2019	DECEMBER	750.00		2000.00
Total			8937.50		

228.000.44287

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 Oct 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	2023	APRIL	163.00		163.00
	2022	MARCH	100.00		100.00
	2022	APRIL	113.00		213.00
	2021	APRIL	213.00		213.00
	2020	APRIL	100.00		100.00
	2020	MAY	113.00		213.00
	2019	APRIL	100.00		100.00
Total			902.00		

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44225

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	2022	MARCH	1200.00		1200.00	
	2022	DECEMBER	3000.00		4200.00	
	2021	DECEMBER	3000.00		3000.00	
	2020	DECEMBER	3000.00		3000.00	
	2019	JANUARY	40.00		40.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	150.00		190.00	
	2019	MARCH	300.00		490.00	
	2019	APRIL	20.00		510.00	
	2019	JULY	40.00		550.00	
	2019	OCTOBER	3000.00		3550.00	
Total			13750.00			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.49100

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
REIMBURSEMENTS	2023	JANUARY	7756.78		7756.78	
	2023	MARCH	3314.59		11071.37	
	2023	APRIL	3622.37		14693.74	
	2023	MAY	8046.96		22740.70	
	2023	JUNE	18195.00		40935.70	
	2023	JULY	11.74		40947.44	
	2023	AUGUST	5003.82		45951.26	
	2023	SEPTEMBER	30000.00		75951.26	
	2022	JANUARY	451.92		451.92	
	2022	FEBRUARY	775.00		1226.92	
	2022	MARCH	12263.09		13490.01	
	2022	APRIL	56288.07		69778.08	
	2022	MAY	4509.89		74287.97	
	2022	JUNE	22525.43		96813.40	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	20564.64		117378.04	
	2022	OCTOBER	3964.75		121342.79	
	2022	DECEMBER	15386.55		136729.34	
	2021	JANUARY	250.00		250.00	
	2021	FEBRUARY	1667.10		1917.10	
	2021	MARCH	11270.58		13187.68	
	2021	APRIL	134.34		13322.02	
	2021	MAY	3685.00		17007.02	
	2021	JUNE	46169.56		63176.58	
	2021	JULY	2325.00		65501.58	
	2021	AUGUST	8990.39		74491.97	
	2021	SEPTEMBER	19569.42		94061.39	
	2021	OCTOBER	1935.97		95997.36	
	2021	NOVEMBER	1800.00		97797.36	
	2021	DECEMBER	69141.70		166939.06	
	2020	FEBRUARY	9708.10		9708.10	
	2020	MARCH	33887.93		43596.03	
	2020	MAY	8285.37		51881.40	
	2020	JULY	10493.82		62375.22	
	2020	AUGUST	6512.59		68887.81	
	2020	SEPTEMBER	26994.04		95881.85	
	2020	OCTOBER	3943.65		99825.50	
	2020	NOVEMBER	8662.57		108488.07	
	2020	DECEMBER	25465.01		133953.08	
	2019	JANUARY	580.00		580.00	
	2019	FEBRUARY	1515.48		2095.48	
	2019	MAY	1578.76		3674.24	
	2019	JULY	24524.57		28198.81	
	2019	AUGUST	1336.04		29534.85	
	2019	OCTOBER	43347.25		72882.10	
	2019	NOVEMBER	348.39		73230.49	
	2019	DECEMBER	3241.04		76471.53	
Total					590044.27	

228.000.43370

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	2023	MARCH	35650.42		35650.42	
	2023	JULY	39310.05		74960.47	
	2022	JUNE	47808.32		47808.32	
	2022	SEPTEMBER	26792.77		74601.09	
	2022	DECEMBER	30438.44		105039.53	
Total			180000.00			

228.000.43368

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 Oct 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT	2023	MARCH	6538.40		6538.40
	2023	JULY	22002.50		28540.90
	2022	JANUARY	98050.00		98050.00
	2022	MAY	52157.10		150207.10
	2021	OCTOBER	9282.75		9282.75
	2020	AUGUST	19071.07		19071.07
	2020	OCTOBER	66715.14		85786.21
	2020	NOVEMBER	49304.97		135091.18
	2020	DECEMBER	32856.00		167947.18
Total			355977.93		

228.000.43367

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Account	Year	Month	Date 04 Oct 2023		
			Total	Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT	2023	MAY	65649.94	65649.94	65649.94
	2023	JUNE	49788.45	115438.39	115438.39
	2023	JULY	9561.61	125000.00	125000.00
	2022	MARCH	24022.00	24022.00	24022.00
	2021	JANUARY	8990.39	8990.39	8990.39
	2021	FEBRUARY	20000.00	28990.39	28990.39
	2021	MARCH	5000.00	33990.39	33990.39
	2021	AUGUST	18459.61	52450.00	52450.00
	2021	SEPTEMBER	229857.75	282307.75	282307.75
	2021	OCTOBER	-9282.75	273025.00	273025.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	98382.00	371407.00	371407.00
	2020	AUGUST	14903.27	14903.27	14903.27
	2020	SEPTEMBER	10268.82	25172.09	25172.09
	2020	OCTOBER	37951.91	63124.00	63124.00
	2020	DECEMBER	235997.00	299121.00	299121.00
Total			819550.00		

228.000.43330

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total	Month	Total	YTD
STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	2023	FEBRUARY	20100.36		20100.36	
	2023	MARCH	9329.20		29429.56	
	2022	MAY	9333.70		9333.70	
	2021	APRIL	9135.25		9135.25	
	2020	MARCH	9135.25		9135.25	
	2019	JULY	9135.25		9135.25	
Total			66169.01			

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43332

Date 04 Oct 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDI	2022	NOVEMBER	700.00	700.00
	2019	JANUARY	430.00	430.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	1320.00	1750.00
	2019	MARCH	190.00	1940.00
	2019	APRIL	820.00	2760.00
	2019	MAY	930.00	3690.00
	2019	JUNE	510.00	4200.00
	2019	JULY	1740.00	5940.00
	2019	AUGUST	810.00	6750.00
	2019	SEPTEMBER	1090.00	7840.00
	2019	OCTOBER	1350.00	9190.00
	2019	NOVEMBER	10.00	9200.00
Total			9900.00	

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES FOR THE LICENSING OF FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS, MOBILE FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS, TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS, VENDING MACHINE LOCATIONS, RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, MOBILE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS, AND TEMPORARY RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Middletown Board of Health, Butler and Warren Counties, Ohio:

Section 1

The following fees are hereby amended:

A. The annual City license fee for Food Service Operations and Retail Food Establishments, as defined in Section 3717.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, classified by risk and size as provided by the Regulations promulgated by the Public Health Council and Director of Agriculture, shall be:

	Commercial Less than 25,000 sq. ft.	Non-Commercial Less than 25,000 sq. ft.	Commercial 25,000 sq. ft. or More	Non-Commercial 25,000 sq. ft. or More
Level 1	\$146.00	\$73.00	\$225.00	\$112.50
Level 2	\$168.00	\$84.00	\$238.00	\$119.00
Level 3	\$351.00	\$175.50	\$925.00	\$462.50
Level 4	\$453.00	\$226.50	\$983.00	\$491.50

B. The annual City license fee for Mobile Food Service Operations and Mobile Retail Food Establishments as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, shall be ~~\$95.00~~ **\$110.00**.

C. The annual City license fee for Temporary Commercial Food Service Operations and Temporary Commercial Retail Food Establishments, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, shall be \$39.00 per day of the event. The City license fee for Non-Commercial Temporary Food Service Operations and Non-Commercial Temporary Retail Food Establishments shall be \$19.50 per day of the event.

D. The annual City license fee for Vending Machine Locations as defined in the Ohio Revised Code shall be ~~\$18.53~~ **\$19.73**.

E. The cost of a license for Retail Food Establishments, Mobile Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Food Service Operations, Vending, Food Service Operations and Mobile Food Service Operations may include an amount in addition to the fees set forth above, to be determined by the Public Health Council and Director of Agriculture pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.

F. Any licensee who fails to file a renewal application, postmarked on or before March 1, with the appropriate license fee, shall be assessed a penalty fee in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the City license fee, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3709.09.

Section 2

The fees charged under this ordinance shall be in lieu of all food service operation, retail food establishment, micro market, license and inspection fees required by this Board of Health on or with respect to the operation of, ownership of or employment by food service operations and retail food establishments within this State, except that a fee will be charged for the collection and bacteriological examination of any necessary water samples taken from food service operations, and a fee of \$300.00 for Facility and Equipment Review. The fee for an Expedited Facility and Equipment Review fee shall be \$600.00.

Section 3

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be in violation of and subject to the penalties provided in Section 3717.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4

Should any provision of the ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be thereby affected.

Section 5

This ordinance shall be effective beginning December 1, 2023.

Nicole Condrey, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading 8/8/2023
Second Reading 9/12/2023
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Board of Health and Environment

Approved as to form:

Ben Hodder/JAK
Law Director

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LICENSE FEES FOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS, RECREATIONAL CAMPS, COMBINED AND TEMPORARY PARK-CAMPS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Middletown Board of Health, Butler and Warren Counties, Ohio:

Section 1

The license fees for recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined and temporary park-camps are hereby amended as follows:

- (a) Each person, firm, governmental entity or corporation operating or proposing to operate recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined and temporary park-camp shall be charged an annual fee for the right to operate such parks as follows:
 - (1) For recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined park camps with 50 or fewer sites, the annual fee shall be ~~one hundred and fifty dollars~~ ~~(150.00)~~ **\$200.00**.
 - (2) For recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, combined park camps with 50 or more sites, the annual fee shall be ~~one hundred and fifty dollars~~ ~~(150.00)~~ **\$200.00** plus ~~one dollar~~ ~~(\$1.00)~~ for each additional site **over 50**.
 - (3) For a temporary park-camp with 50 or fewer sites the fee shall be ~~thirty-five~~ ~~(35.00)~~ **\$50.00** per day per event.
 - (4) **For a temporary park-camp with 50 or more sites the fee shall be \$50.00 plus \$1.00 per for each additional site over 50 per event.**
- (b) Any licensee who fails to file a renewal application, postmarked on or before April 30 with the appropriate license fee, shall be assessed a penalty of 25% of the City license fee as provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 3709.09.
- (c) The cost of the license for recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, and combined park-camps, as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 3729.01, shall include, in addition to the fees set forth above, an amount to be determined by the Public Health Council, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3729.02 and 3729.07.

Section 2

The Board of Health may suspend or revoke the license of a person who violates any of the regulations pursuant to Section 3729.08 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3

Whoever violates or fails to comply with any provisions of this Ordinance or the provisions of Chapter 3729 of the Ohio Revised Code shall be subject to the penalties provided in Ohio Revised Code Section 3729.99.

Section 4

This regulation shall be effective on December 1, 2023.

Nicole Condrey, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading 8/8/2023
Second Reading 9/12/2023
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN,
Board of Health and Environment

Approved as to form:

Ben Yoder/JAK
Law Director

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2023 Activity Quarterly Report- Third Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	39	63	33	346
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	16	24	30	145
Mobile FSO/RFE	2	0	0	14
Prelicense/Consultations	8	9	4	72
Inspection of Temporaries	21	4	4	49
Environmental School Inspections	0	1	5	26
Smoking Inspections	1	0	0	3
Swimming Pools Inspections	27	23	9	117
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	0	2	0	2
Animal Bites	6	14	6	90
Complaints	8	5	5	46
Level 1 Food Certification Training	0	0	0	5
Sewage Inspections	0	6	1	8

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	354	438	297	3135
Death Certificates Issued	312	279	270	2858
Birth Certificates Filed	76	87	70	654
Death Certificates Filed	68	98	65	747
Indigent Cremations	2	4	5	27
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	3	2	2	18
Falls	1	0	0	7
Exposure to Elements	0	0	0	2
House Fire	0	0	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	1	0	5
Undetermined	0	0	0	0
Suicide	1	3	0	7
Homicide	0	0	0	4
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	0	0	3
3 Pending Death Certificates				

Meetings/Conference Calls

Health Commissioner & Environmental Health Director:

- ODH Conference Call
- Harm Reduction Meeting
- Southwest Ohio Health Commissioner Meeting
- Southwest Executive Steering Committee Meeting
- Emergency Preparedness Meeting
- Suicide Prevention
- Unhoused/Homeless Meeting
- AOHC Conference Calls
- Southwest Ohio Food Roundtable
- Fall OAHC Conference

Community Meetings attended by Health Commissioner

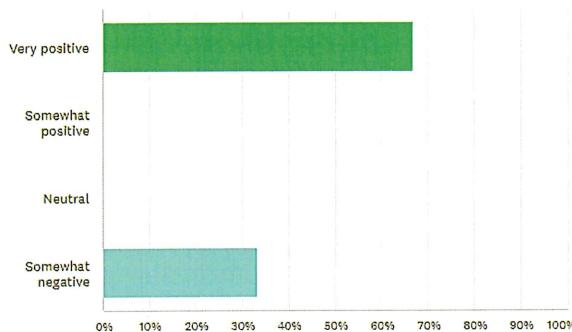
- Middletown Connect Core Meeting
- Centerpoint Board Meeting & Program Committee
- Regional Exchange Harm Reduction
- Family Children First Council (FCFC) And Executive Committee
- OneOhio Board Meeting
- YWCA Board Meeting
- “See My Neighborhood” Bus Tour
- “Walk and Talk” OHIZ Initiative
- 17 Strong Summit-Hamilton
- Mental Health and Addiction Meeting
- Ambassador Meeting

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2023

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	537	129	343	-	1009
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	0	0	-	0
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	0	0	-	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	0	5	3	-	8
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	2	3	1	-	6
Campylobacter	0	2	4	-	6
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	2	-	2
E Coli 0157 H7	1	0	1	-	2
Ehrlichiosis	0	0	0	-	0
Salmonella	1	0	0	-	1
Shigella	0	0	1	-	1
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1	0	-	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	1	-	2
Hepatitis B	7	7	8	-	22
Hepatitis C	25	23	16	-	64
Meningitis Bacterial	0	0	0	-	0
Meningitis Viral	0	2	0	-	2
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	1	1	0	-	2
Influenza-associated hospitalization	2	0	0	-	2
Varicella	0	0	4	-	4
Mumps	0	0	0	-	0
Malaria	0	0	1	-	1
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	-	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	-	0
Pertussis	0	0	0	-	0
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	1	8	4	-	13
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	0	1	-	1
Giardiasis	0	0	1	-	1
HIV	2	3	0	-	5
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	65	71	77	-	213
Gonococcal Infection	14	28	34	-	76
Syphilis	3	3	4	-	10

Overall, how would you rate the quality of your customer service experience?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



Customer Satisfaction Survey



SurveyMonkey

July 2023-September 2023

ANSWER CHOICES

- ▼ Very positive
- ▼ Somewhat positive
- ▼ Neutral
- ▼ Somewhat negative

TOTAL

RESPONSES

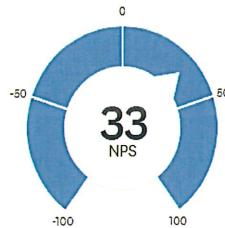
66.67%	4
0.00%	0
0.00%	0
33.33%	2
	6

How likely is it that you would recommend Health Department to a friend or colleague?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



1



DETRACTORS (0-6)

 33%
 2

PASSIVES (7-8)

 0
 0

PROMOTERS (9-10)

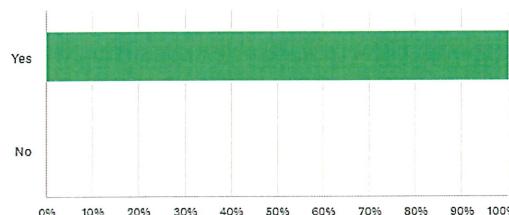
 67%
 4

NET PROMOTER® SCORE

33

Are our hours of operation sufficient to meet your needs?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

- ▼ Yes
- ▼ No

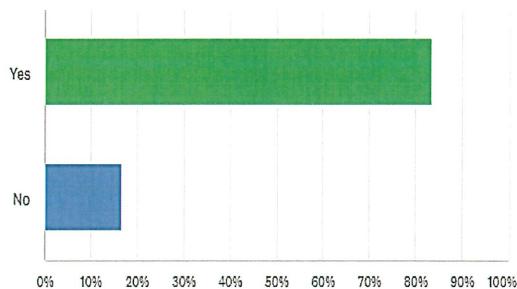
TOTAL

RESPONSES

100.00%	6
0.00%	0
	6

The wait time for service was reasonable.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0


ANSWER CHOICES
▼ RESPONSES

▼ Yes

83.33%

5

▼ No

16.67%

1

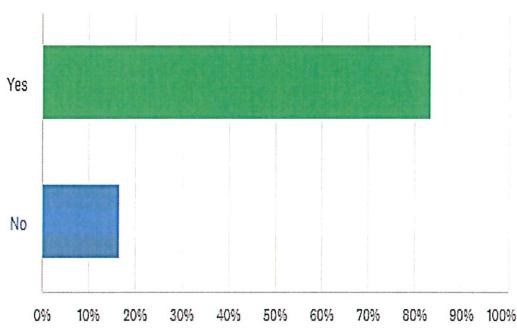
TOTAL

6

The staff was friendly and courteous.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

2


ANSWER CHOICES
▼ RESPONSES

▼ Yes

83.33%

5

▼ No

16.67%

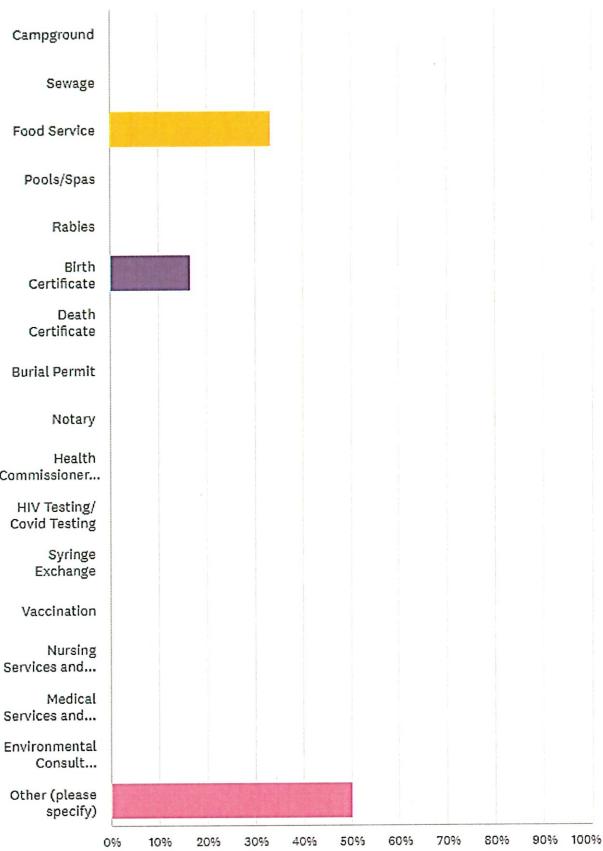
1

TOTAL

6

What type of service did you receive today?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



3

ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES	▼
▼ Campground		0.00%	0
▼ Sewage		0.00%	0
▼ Food Service		33.33%	2
▼ Pools/Spas		0.00%	0
▼ Rabies		0.00%	0
▼ Birth Certificate		16.67%	1
▼ Death Certificate		0.00%	0
▼ Burial Permit		0.00%	0
▼ Notary		0.00%	0
▼ Health Commissioner Request		0.00%	0
▼ HIV Testing/ Covid Testing		0.00%	0
▼ Syringe Exchange		0.00%	0
▼ Vaccination		0.00%	0
▼ Nursing Services and/or Consult		0.00%	0
▼ Medical Services and/or Medical Consult		0.00%	0
▼ Environmental Consult (Restaurant/Food Service/Safety)		0.00%	0
▼ Other (please specify)		Responses 50.00%	3

Total Respondents: 6



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Date of service.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES	▼
Date / Time		Responses 100.00%	6

Please leave your contact information if you would like to discuss your experience.

Answered: 3 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	▼	RESPONSES	▼
Name		Responses 100.00%	3
Company		Responses 66.67%	2
Address		Responses 100.00%	3
Address 2		Responses 66.67%	2
City/Town		Responses 100.00%	3
State/Province		Responses 100.00%	3
ZIP/Postal Code		Responses 100.00%	3
Country		Responses 0.00%	0
Email Address		Responses 100.00%	3
Phone Number		Responses 100.00%	3

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
2022 Activity Quarterly Report- Third Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	36	67	68	323
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	21	12	11	115
Mobile FSO/RFE	4	0	0	16
Prelicense/Consultations	0	2	0	21
Inspection of Temporaries	21	3	5	39
Environmental School Inspections	0	0	1	22
Smoking Inspections	1	0	0	7
Swimming Pools Inspections	19	19	2	90
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	0	0	2	2
Animal Bites	13	11	10	75
Complaints	6	3	3	32
Level 1 Food Certification Training	0	0	0	0
Temporary Parks/Park Camp Inspections	0	0	0	4
Sewage Inspections	1	0	7	39

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	447	538	371	3620
Death Certificates Issued	275	428	279	3270
Birth Certificates Filed	95	87	81	687
Death Certificates Filed	80	113	73	878
Indigent Cremations	5	3	5	23
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	6	6	6	37
Falls	0	0	0	3
Choking	0	0	0	0
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	1	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0
Suicide	0	0	1	5
Homicide	0	0	0	0
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	1	3	33
8 Pending Death Certificates				



CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2022

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	3463	624	1660	-	5747
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	0	0	-	0
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	0	0	-	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	3	1	2	-	6
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	3	3	1	-	7
Campylobacter	4	1	1	-	6
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	-	0
E Coli 0157 H7	0	0	0	-	0
Botulism	0	0	1	-	1
Salmonella	1	1	1	-	3
Shigella	0	1	0	-	1
Yersinia Enterocol	0	0	0	-	0
Hepatitis A	0	1	0	-	1
Hepatitis B	6	7	4	-	17
Hepatitis C	33	28	30	-	91
Meningitis Bacterial	0	2	0	-	2
Meningitis Viral	0	1	0	-	1
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	0	1	0	-	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	4	6	0	-	10
Varicella	1	1	0	-	2
Mumps	0	0	0	-	0
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	-	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	-	0
Pertussis	0	1	0	-	1
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	1	1	-	2
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	1	0	-	1
Giardiasis	1	1	0	-	2
HIV	4	2	2	-	8
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	90	113	65	-	268
Gonococcal Infection	48	57	34	-	139
Syphilis	1	1	2	-	4

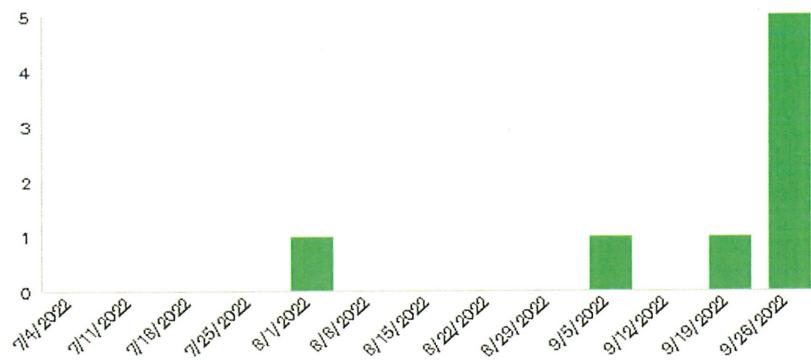
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS
3RD QUARTER 2022

Trends

Responses (by week)

First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: 7/4/2022 to 9/26/2022

Chart Type▼ Trend by...▼ Zoom▼



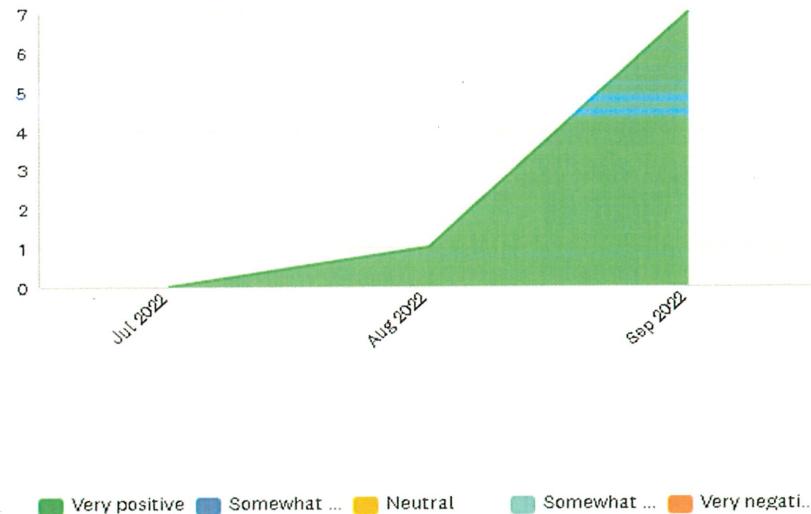
Weekly (Starting on the date)

Q1 (by month)

Chart Type▼ Display Options▼ Trend by...▼ Zoom▼

Overall, how would you rate the quality of your customer service experience?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0 First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: Jul 2022 to Sep 2022



Q2 (by week)

Chart Type ▾ Display Options ▾ Trend by... ▾ Zoom ▾

How likely is it that you would recommend Health Department to a friend or colleague?

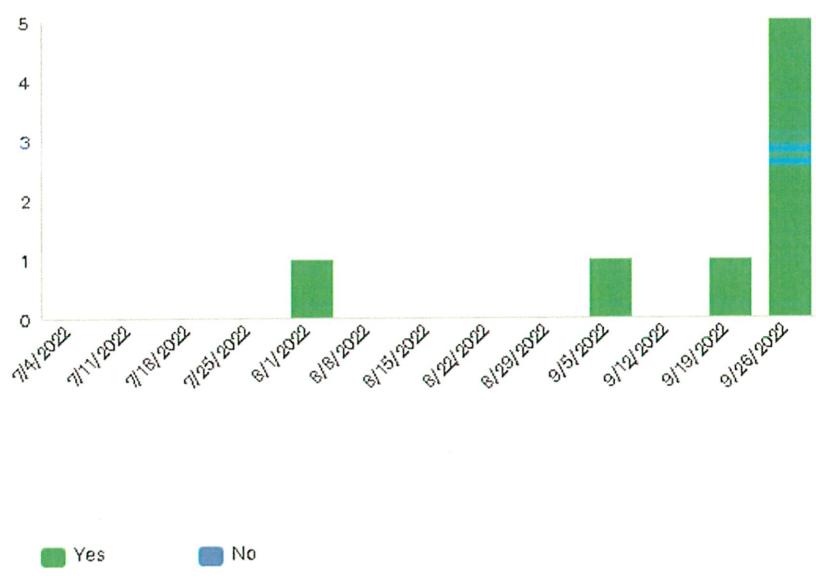
Answered: 7 Skipped: 1 First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: 7/4/2022 to 9/26/2022


Q3 (by week)

Chart Type ▾ Display Options ▾ Trend by... ▾ Zoom ▾

Are our hours of operation sufficient to meet your needs?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0 First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: 7/4/2022 to 9/26/2022



Q4 (by week)

Chart Type▼ Display Options▼ Trend by...▼ Zoom▼

The wait time for service was reasonable.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0 First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: 7/4/2022 to 9/26/2022

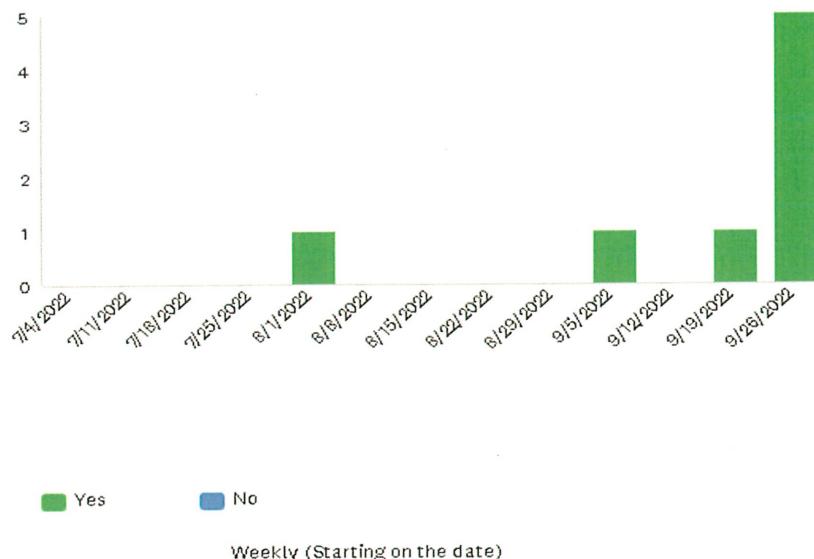
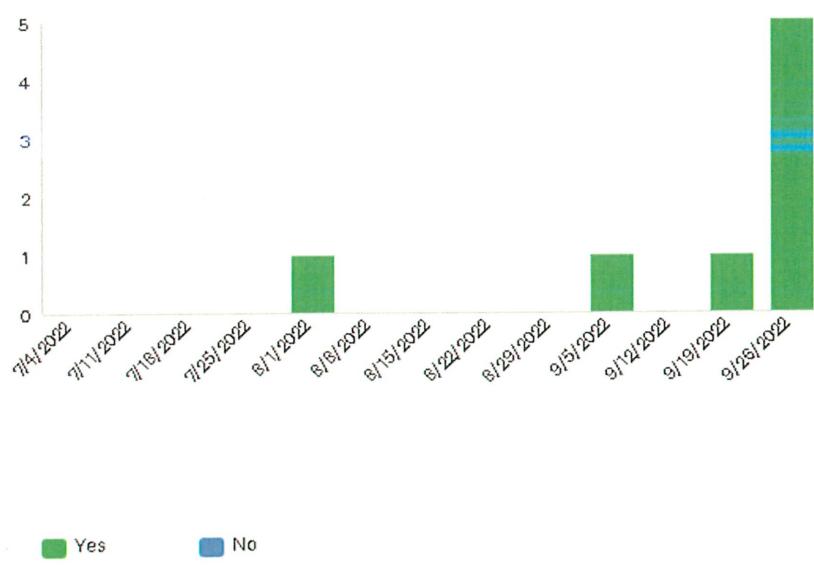

Q5 (by week)

Chart Type▼ Display Options▼ Trend by...▼ Zoom▼

The staff was friendly and courteous.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0 First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: 7/4/2022 to 9/26/2022

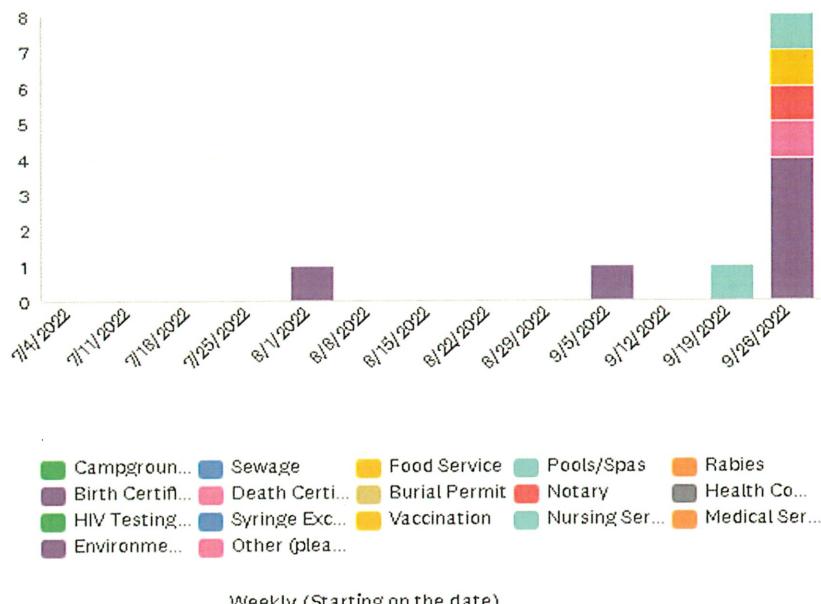


Q6 (by week)

Chart Type ▾ Display Options ▾ Trend by... ▾ Zoom ▾

What type of service did you receive today?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 0 First: 8/3/2022 Zoom: 7/4/2022 to 9/26/2022



Health Commissioner Notes

September 2023

T21 Update

Grant OHIZ

- Getting a lot of traction, City Council Meeting, County Commissioners, Community and parents,
- Middletown City Schools
- Middletown Candidate Forum

BC Housing Meetings Continue

- Meet today with City Mgr and Asst. to discuss unhoused population
- Continue to meet with Dr Rasmus MHARS Director, BC Commissioner C. Carpenter, Pastor Felix, D. Birk Police Chief and Paul Lolli City Manager

BC Cares

Commissioner Carpenter, Dan Bates, HC Eric Balster, ED Carrie Yeager, Dr Scott Rasmus, Tracy Koch; topics, homeless,

OneOhio Opiate

- Meetings Continue next meeting 10/31

PHAB

- Community Health Ax (CHA) meetings to discuss the data from survey
- First year annual report due in January

First Hispanic Heritage festival October 7, 2023

Internal/External Meetings and Tasks

City of Middletown

- Continue to Meet w/ CM and assistant CM's

Pre-Administrative Meetings

- Taku
- Pizza Hut

GEM City Market

- Met with Lisha Morlan Asst Economic Development Dir and Gem City Market re: community grocery store
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meetings
- YWCA Board Meeting

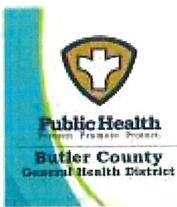
- CenterPoint Health 3-year Strategic Planning Session
- BC Commissioners presentation with City and Schools re: Robert Sonny Hill/CBI Expansion

Senior Citizen Update

- Staffing
- Taskforce
- Sustainability

AOHC Fall Conference

- Train Derailment East Palestine
- Importance of Building Public Health Workforce
- ODH Healthy Aging Grants



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

September of 2023

Leah Elliott, MPH

ElliotL@butlercountyohio.org

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 1,700
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms (CPO), and Hepatitis C

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, September 2023 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	37,834	332.9	-	-
Butler County	1,528	391.4	1.176	1.117-1.237

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 17.6% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (September 2023)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	1,161	420.7	↑23.4% from August 2023 (n=941)
Middletown City Health Department	235	460.5	↑26.3% from August 2023 (n=186)
City of Hamilton Health Department	304	479.6	↑33.9% from August 2023 (n=227)
Butler County (all inclusive)	1,700	435.5	↑25.6% from August 2023 (n=1354)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (September 2023)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	18	↓53.8% from August 2023 (n=39)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	172	↑17% from August 2023 (n=147)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	27	No Change from August 2023 (n=27)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Tetanus, and Varicella)	1,440	↑30.2% from August 2023 (n=1106)

Table 4.* Diseases Reported in Butler County (September 2023)

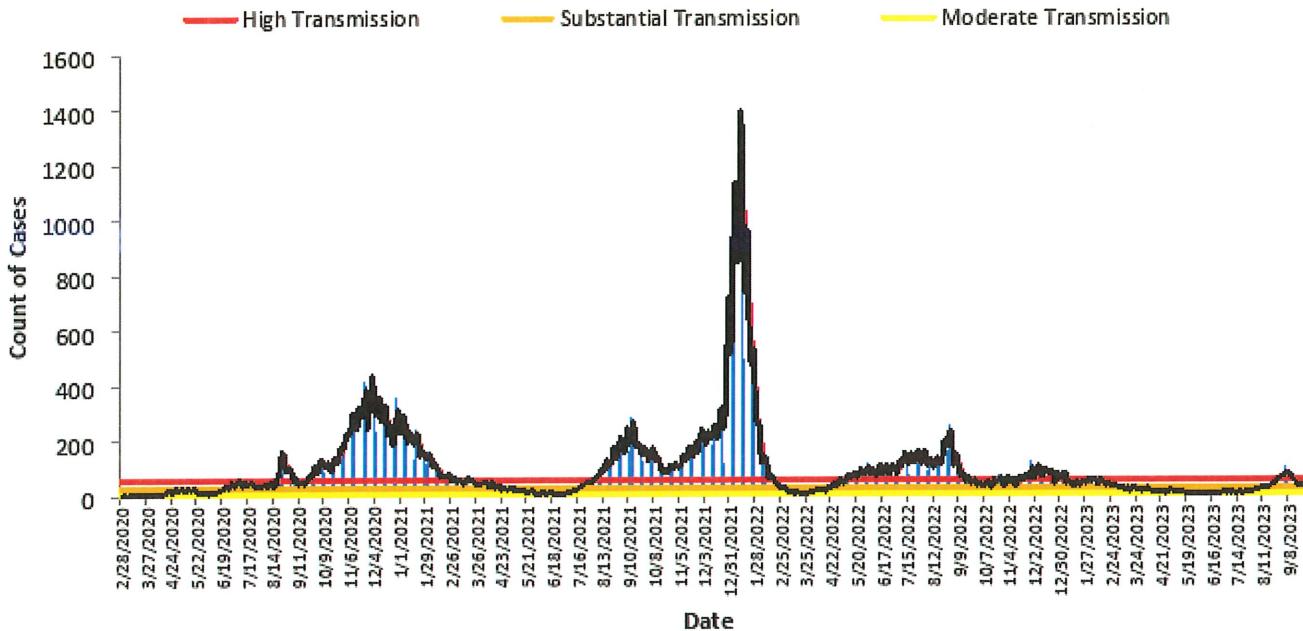
*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. *COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of September 1-30, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/5/2023

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. auris	8	0	0	8
Campylobacteriosis	3	4	1	8
Chlamydia	62	28	28	118
COVID-19	1012	170	251	1433
CPO	21	2	1	24
Cyclosporiasis	1	0	0	1
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	3	1	2	6
Giardiasis	1	1	0	2
Gonococcal infection	20	15	8	43
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1	0	0	1
Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	2	1	0	3
Hepatitis B	2	3	1	6
Hepatitis C	6	3	3	12
HIV	3	0	2	5
Legionellosis	0	1	0	1
Listeriosis	1	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	2	0	0	2
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	1	2
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	5	0	0	5
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	1	1	0	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive	1	1	1	3
Syphilis	3	1	2	6
Tuberculosis	0	0	1	1
Varicella	0	3	1	4
Total	1161	235	304	1,700

Butler County Reportable

Reportable Disease

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2020-2023*



*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of September 1-30, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/5/2023

Surveillance

Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2017 through 2022 and provides a 5-year average (2018-2022) column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 6.* Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2017–2023)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5 Year Avg.	Up to 8/31/2023
Amebiasis	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	2	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	0	0	1	13	-	27
Campylobacteriosis	33	45	30	35	48	38.2	33
Chlamydia infection	1,592	1,631	1,512	1,406	1359	1,500	1036
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	-	26,420	39,521	49323	38,421.33	7,406
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	4	10	11	12	9.25	77
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	6	4	6	5	7	5.6	6
Cyclosporiasis	4	2	0	0	1	1.4	3
Dengue	0	1	0	1	1	0.6	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	11	14	15	17	14.2	11
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	0	1	1	1	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	12	4	14	7	9.8	11
Gonococcal Infection	668	732	651	480	473	600.8	313
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	17	10	7	6	11	10.2	15
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	0	1	0	<1	1
Hepatitis A	304	104	2	1	0	82.2	1
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	166	109	67	85	78	101	63
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	750	552	486	434	390	522.4	215
HIV	43	24	17	58	38	36	29
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	479	325	266	18	306	278.8	29
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	16	17	10	9	15	13.4	10
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Listeriosis	1	0	0	0	1	<1	1
Lyme Disease	4	3	2	0	2	2.2	2
Malaria	2	2	2	1	3	2	3
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	16	25	9	14	10	14.8	7
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	4	3	3	11	4.8	8
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	-	-	15	7	-	1
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	-	4	-	0
Mumps	2	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Pertussis	16	38	13	3	3	14.6	2
Salmonellosis	32	32	20	26	34	28.8	43
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	0	2	0	<1	1
Shigellosis	45	7	8	3	6	13.8	7
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	23	24	27	24	34	26.4	33
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	3	0	1	0	1	1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	54	59	31	33	40	43.4	26
Syphilis (all stages)	47	11	17	23	45	28.6	52
Tuberculosis (active)	2	8	6	7	8	6.2	3
Varicella	13	14	1	5	8	8.2	10
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	2	1	0	2	2	1.4	3
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	<1	1
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	1	2	<1	4

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported.

^aCOVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of September 1-30, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/5/2023



City of Middletown Health Department

Middletown, Ohio

A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For September 2023

Business Name		Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1	Hart Industries (931 Jeanette)	9/8/23	X							To be investigated
2										
3										

Notes:

Billy T's owes \$1200 in fines, unpaid.

Buster's Bar owes \$200 in fines, unpaid. **This facility is closed for business and is for sale.**

City of Middletown Health Department

September 2023

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	70	654
Death Certificates Filed	65	747
Birth Certificates Issued	297	3135
Death Certificates Issued	270	2858
Indigent Cremation Services	5	27

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	2	18
Falls	0	7
Motor Vehicle	0	5
Exposure to Elements	0	2
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	1
Homicide	0	4
Suicide	0	7
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	3
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	3	6

**Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that died inside of city limits only

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees	0	5
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Animal Bite Events

Dog	6	77
Cat	0	12
Bat	0	0
Raccoon-Animal Exposure	0	1

September 12, 2023

Taku Japanese Restaurant
Ella Huang
4750 Roosevelt Blvd
Middletown, Ohio 45044
Licensee: Taku, LLC

Re: Pre-Administrative Hearing Outcome

Dear Ella Huang.,

A Pre-administrative hearing for Taku restaurant was held at City of Middletown Health Department on September 12, 2023. In attendance were Jackie Phillips, Health Commissioner; Carla Ealy, Director of Environmental Health; Janay Mourer, Environmental Health Specialist and Sarah Chaney, Environmental Health Specialist and yourself, Ella Huang. Factual evidence was presented from file records regarding the ongoing violations of Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Administrative Code, which prompted this hearing. The following inspection reports and corresponding violations were reviewed:

January 24, 2023 Standard/ Critical Control Inspection
January 27, 2023 Follow-up Inspection
February 3, 2023 Follow-up Inspection
August 24, 2023 Standard/Critical Control Inspection
August 28, 2023 Follow-up Inspection
September 3, 2023 Follow-up Inspection

Specifically, repeat violations of 3717-1-2.4 (B), (3.2) (C) and 4.5 (A)(3) were discussed.

The following are the action items:

Person-In-Charge/Knowledge: Provide person in charge training for Mr. Huang and at least one food employee whose primary language is in Chinese and an employee whose primary language is Spanish. The courses are offered in multiple languages. Online Food Safety Providers can be selected off of the list provided to you at the meeting.
Submit copies of the training certificates to the health department by October 12, 2023.

The facility must work to adopt a responsible food safety culture to ensure that all food safety rules are being followed.



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio
Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

If the same pattern of violations occurs, we will act immediately by scheduling a formal hearing with the Board of Health. The formal hearing may result in a menu limitation, suspension, or revocation of the Food Service Operation license.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Carla Ealy, REHS, 513-425-1818 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Sincerely,

Carla Ealy, REHS
Director of Environmental Health
City of Middletown Health Department

cc: Middletown Board of Health



City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio
Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

September 12, 2023

Rohit Patel
9563 High Line Pl
West Chester OH, 45011
Licensee: Roit Patel

Re: Pre-Administrative Hearing Outcome, Pizza Hut #36728, 4485 Maria Drive, Middletown OH

Dear Mr. Patel.,

A Pre-administrative hearing for Pizza hut #36728 was held at City of Middletown Health Department on September 12, 2023. In attendance were Jackie Phillips, Health Commissioner; Carla Ealy, Director of Environmental Health; Janay Mourer, Environmental Health Specialist and Sarah Chaney, Environmental Health Specialist and Jamie Douglas, Director of Operations, Pizza Hut. Factual evidence was presented from file records regarding the ongoing violations of Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Administrative Code, which prompted this hearing. The following inspection reports and corresponding violations were reviewed:

May 30,2023 Prelicensing Inspection
July 3, 2023 Standard Inspection
July 13,2023 Reinspection
August 2, 2023 Reinspection

Specifically, repeat violations of 3717-1-20 (B)3, were discussed.

The following are the action items:

Management and personnel Supervision

Obtain the Ohio Certification in Food Protection Certificate for Employee(s). Please notify our office once certificate has been received. Required information must be submitted to Ohio Department of Health no later than October 12, 2023.

If the same pattern of violations occurs, we will act immediately by scheduling a formal hearing with the Board of Health. The formal hearing may result in suspension, or revocation of the retail food establishment license.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Carla Ealy, REHS, 513-425-1818 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Sincerely,

Carla Ealy, REHS
Director of Environmental Health
City of Middletown Health Department

cc: Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department | One Donham Plaza, Middletown, Ohio 45042 | P: 513.425.1818 F: 513.425.7852

September 12, 2023

Rohit Patel
9563 High Line Pl
West Chester OH, 45011
Licensee: Roit Patel,

Re: Pre-Administrative Hearing Outcome, Pizza Hut #36731, 2201 Verity Parkway, Middletown OH

Dear Mr. Patel.,

A Pre-administrative hearing for Pizza Hut #36731 was held at City of Middletown Health Department on September 12, 2023. In attendance were Jackie Phillips, Health Commissioner; Carla Ealy, Director of Environmental Health; Janay Mouner, Environmental Health Specialist and Sarah Chaney, Environmental Health Specialist and Jamie Douglas, Director of Operations, Pizza Hut. Factual evidence was presented from file records regarding the ongoing violations of Chapter 3717 of the Ohio Administrative Code, which prompted this hearing. The following inspection reports and corresponding violations were reviewed:

May 24,2023 Prelicensing Inspection

July 24, 2023 Standard Inspection

Specifically, repeat violations of 3717-1-20 (B), were discussed.

The following are the action items:

Maintenance items remaining: Repair wall in Kitchen. Obtain a plumbing permit for the installation of the handsink. These items must be completed by October 12, 2023.

If the same pattern of violations occurs, we will act immediately by scheduling a formal hearing with the Board of Health. The formal hearing may result in a menu limitation, suspension, or revocation of the Food Service Operation license.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Carla Ealy, REHS, 513-425-1818 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Sincerely,



Carla Ealy, REHS

Director of Environmental Health
City of Middletown Health Department

cc: Middletown Board of Health



OCTOBER IS
**BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month was organized in 1985 and reserves the month of October to increase awareness, raise funds for research into breast cancer's cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The aim of this movement is to promote mammography as the most effective weapon against breast cancer.

Breast self-awareness along with a monthly self-exam and annual mammography can catch breast cancer early. To follow are awareness messages to help you do just that:

Know Your Risk. Talk with both sides of your family about health history and talk with a doctor about your risk of breast cancer.

Get Screened. Have a mammogram. Talk with your doctor about which tests are right for you and if you are at higher risk.

Know Your "Normal". See your doctor immediately if you notice any breast changes such as lumps, swelling, change in size, dimpling, discharge or pain. **6 OF THE 8 WARNING SIGNS OF BREAST CANCER ARE VISUAL!!**

Make Healthy Lifestyle changes. Maintain a healthy weight, exercise, limit alcohol.

Breast cancer is not limited to females. Less than 1% of all breast cancer diagnoses are for men and 10% of men diagnosed have a genetic link to the disease. Anyone with breasts can be susceptible to breast cancer, which calls notice to the self-examination being on the frontline for identifying issues.

This month, I have included a pink ribbon sticker and a bathroom card to remind all of monthly self-exams and how to do them.

Please stop by Your City of Middletown Health Department hallway to learn more about breast cancer and take some pink reminders to check your breasts! Also, please take the time to "Complete Middletown's Heart" by completing a heart with a name to:

"Support the fighters, admire the survivors, honor the taken and never give up hope."

2023

My Community, My Health

Our Assessment is Complete! Visit our website
www.cityofmiddletown.org/271/health then click the
Accreditation Page to see the full report!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Butler County
General Health District



MIDDLETOWN
City of Middletown Health Department



City of Hamilton
BUTLER COUNTY OHIO



PHAB
Advancing
Public Health
Performance



WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TELLS US



September 2023

Dear Friend and Behavioral Health Advocate:

I am inspired! It has been such an incredible year of service with our many Butler County communities. Our foundational programming just keeps getting stronger and the results are outstanding. Our professional team is bursting with new ideas that engage youth and the community in positive behavioral health and wellness. We are making a difference!

We seek to share just some of the highlights and outcomes of the last fiscal year. We continue to focus on the trends, the data and staff development to keep abreast of the best practices, processes and programs in the field of prevention and promotion. We maintain prevention provider certification through the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and employ the most Ohio Certified Prevention Specialists & Consultants in the county.

Prevention works seeks to push upstream to intervene earlier thus saving even more in future costs of treatment. Prevention is our Superpower!

Ohio is a national leader in prevention work and Envision Partnerships staff are leaders in Ohio. Our work on the regional and state level has been recognized but our passion is the day-to-day programs right here in Butler County.

Although optimistic, we are mindful of emerging and enhanced needs facing youth, families and communities. Among these are a decreased social connection and increased sense of loneliness; social media as a constant strain on youth mental health; and parents' perceptions of their kids' mental well-being is often not aligned with youth's experiences. Our responsive is proactive, collaborative and based in evidence and science.

We are thankful for our community partners and look toward many more projects together. If there is anything that we can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,

Lori Higgins, M.Ed., LSW, OCPC
President & CEO

2935 Hamilton Mason Road • Hamilton, OH 45011 • P 513 868-2100 • F 513 868-2267

Promoting Positive Behavioral Health

Funded by local United Ways and other sources



Dear Jackie,
Thank you for your incredible support, patience, and perseverance with tobacco Retail License. Congrats on Middletown Connect /6412 grant. I'm looking forward to even better things in 2024!
Sincerely, Kristina Hatta-Landfield

Only one Central Connections staffer remains

Board member refuses to say if or when former employees of Middletown senior center will be paid.

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

CONTINUING COVERAGE

MIDDLETOWN — As the city takes over running Central Connections, Middletown's senior citizens center, there is confusion if or when former employees will be paid.

Jim Berry, one of the 13 board members at Central Connections, said three of the four remaining employees had their positions terminated Friday.

Employees were supposed to be paid Friday by the Central Connections board for previous hours worked. When asked if they were paid, Berry said he "can't comment at this time."

Middletown is leasing the building from Middletown Senior Citizens Inc. for \$50 a month for the rest of the year, said City Manager Paul Lolli. He said that lease started last week, and he hopes to present legislation to City Council before the end of the year so it can vote whether to purchase the property for \$1.8 million.

Berry said he's "optimistic" the city will purchase the building.

If the city buys the facility with American Rescue Plan Act funds,

Middletown Senior Citizens Inc. would use that money to pay off its debt, according to Berry. How much debt is owed is still being finalized, he said.

Lolli said the city wanted to retain the two employees who were working the front desk, but they decided to leave.

Health Director Jackie Phillips is overseeing operations at Central Connections, and Jeri Lewis, the city's community projects coordinator, is working daily at the center that's open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, Lolli said.

Meanwhile, the husband of Diane Rodgers, the former executive director of Central Connections, is expected to appear for his preliminary hearing Wednesday morning in Middletown Municipal Court.

Vincent "Scott" Smith, 56, of Sabina, was charged with seven counts of passing bad checks, all felonies, according to the Middletown Division of Police and court records.

Smith allegedly wrote seven checks that totaled \$56,300 between June 1, 2022, and June 23, 2023, from his bank to Central Connections and the checks were returned for insufficient funds, according to the court document.

During his arraignment last month, Smith's bond was set at \$5,000, or 10%.

His bond was paid and he was released from jail, according to records.

Rodgers was terminated from her position at Central Connections on July 27 and is the target of criminal investigations regarding finances at the center, police Chief David Birk said.

No criminal charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

Rodgers hasn't publicly since she was terminated by the Central

Connections board of directors and escorted out of the building by Middletown police.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.
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As Ohio prepares to vote on abortion, misleading information about proposal is already spreading

Experts say amendment would not affect parental consent, gender-related surgeries, infanticide.



A crowd cheers as Jim Caviezel speaks during a "rosary rally" in Norwood, Ohio, on Aug. 6. As the campaigning for and against the nation's latest tug-of-war over abortion begins in earnest, Ohio voters are hearing false claims about Issue 1 from the measure's opponents. The issue will be on Ohio's November ballot.

DARRON CUMMINGS / AP

BY ALI SWENSON AND CHRISTINE FERNANDO - ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELECTION 2023

An effort to guarantee access to abortion rights in Ohio, a November ballot measure, is already fueling misleading claims about how it could influence abortion care, gender-related health care and parental consent in the state.

The proposed constitutional amendment would give Ohioans the right to make their own reproductive decisions. Backers say that since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned last year by the U.S.

Supreme Court, the proposal would restore a commonsense abortion protection that most Ohio voters can support.

But opponents argue it would do far more than that. Ads portray the amendment as a gateway to children getting abortions and gender-related surgeries without their parents' consent. Opponents also have falsely suggested the amendment would open doors to protecting abusers and legalizing infanticide.

The Associated Press spoke to numerous medical and legal experts, who explained what the amendment, known as Issue 1, would mean for Ohioans if it were to pass in November.

The amendment protects Ohio's right to restrict abortions later in pregnancy. If the amendment passes, Ohio can still restrict abortion beyond the point when a fetus can survive outside the womb. With modern medicine, that point, referred to as the point of viability, is typically about 23 weeks or 24 weeks into the pregnancy.

Yet opponents of the measure argue that the proposal would still allow for abortions "up to birth" because it lets doctors decide when a fetus is viable or not, and because it has an exemption allowing later abortions to protect the life or the health of the mother.

"They could have made it clear. They could have added weeks in there for viability," said Mehek Cooke, a lawyer working with the opposition campaign, Protect Women Ohio.

Independent medical and legal experts say this argument discounts that doctors have a duty to follow medical science.

The original language from the amendment's backers defined fetal viability as the fetus having "a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures."

"Obviously, it would be unprofessional for a doctor to say that a 9-month fetus had no possibility of survival outside the uterus unless there was some life-threatening birth defect," said Dan Kobil, a constitutional law professor at Capital University Law School in Columbus.

"The rationale offered that physicians have willy-nilly ability to define viability as anything they want is inaccurate."

Abortions later in pregnancy are exceedingly rare. In 2020, less than 1% of abortions in the United States were performed at or after 21 weeks, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The people who are getting abortions later in pregnancy are those who have incredibly heartbreakin situations, either some awful, terrible fetal anomaly that took a while to be diagnosed or some maternal medical condition that puts the mother's life at risk," said Mae Winchester, a Cleveland-based maternal fetal medicine specialist.

Experts say the idea of abortions "up to birth" is misleading in itself. Terminations later in pregnancy involve medication that induces birth early, which is different from a surgical abortion.

"Abortion at the time of birth, it's literally not a thing," Sarah Prager, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Washington, previously told the AP.

The amendment protects people who assist patients – not people who abuse them

Anti-abortion advocates have argued that the amendment “enables abusers” because it protects any person who “assists” someone in exercising their right to make reproductive decisions.

Ohio Right to Life, an anti-abortion group, reasoned in an online flyer that the amendment could therefore protect an adult man abusing a teenage girl or a teacher going behind a parent’s back.

But legal experts say these arguments would not stand up in court.

“I think that that is an incredibly creative and inaccurate reading of the amendment,” Kobil said. “Abusers do not assist their victims.”

“The idea that an abuser could, by coercing someone to obtain an abortion or to carry a pregnancy to term, somehow be protected or insulated from punishment for that coercion is simply inconsistent with the language of the second provision of the amendment,” he said.

David Cohen, a law professor at Drexel University, said the issue is straightforward.

“Abuse is illegal, so abusing someone is illegal under Ohio law,” he said.

Medical experts pointed out that there is some evidence that people seek abortions because they are in abusive relationships. Research has shown that when women in physically abusive relationships are denied abortions, they are more likely to stay with their abuser.

Infanticide is illegal.

The amendment doesn’t change that. An analysis of the amendment by the conservative Christian legal group Alliance Defending Freedom claims that it “opens the door to infanticide” because the proposal would block government officials from interfering with someone exercising their right to reproductive freedom.

That analysis questions whether exercising that right includes killing or neglecting a living child.

"Does it include 'having to care for a newborn baby?'" it says. "Does it include the 'right' to neglect or abandon the newborn?"

Numerous legal experts said the answer to those questions is an emphatic no. Infanticide is already illegal in the U.S., they said, and the amendment doesn't change that.

"That's just pure nonsense," Cohen said.

Experts: It's a stretch to say the amendment is about genderrelated health care

Opponents of the abortion amendment say its protection of "reproductive" decisions is unnecessarily broad and could include gender-related health care.

Frank Scaturro, a constitutional lawyer working with Protect Women Ohio, said that under the amendment, anything that alters the human reproductive system could be understood as a "reproductive decision."

Supporters say the proposal makes no mention of gender-related health care — precisely because it's not about that. The ballot language specifies that it protects reproductive decisions "including but not limited to" contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one's own pregnancy, miscarriage care and abortion.

Independent legal experts say it's a stretch to suggest that also means gender-related health care. That legal theory has not been attempted in other states.

Tracy Thomas, a University of Akron law professor who directs the school's Center for Constitutional Law, said the term "decision" could be essential in interpreting the language.

"A reproductive decision, to me, is a decision to reproduce or not to reproduce," she said. "The only word there that might arguably be raised (as tied to gender-related care) is fertility treatment. I think fertility treatment is IVF. It means treatment for the purpose of reproducing."

The amendment doesn't invalidate parental consent, though that could be challenged in court

The amendment does not change Ohio's existing parental notification and consent law, which requires minors to have parental permission — or a judicial exception in extreme cases — in order to get an abortion. That has not stopped the measure's opponents from arguing that it will be challenged in court, perhaps one day leading to a decision that would make the parental consent law unconstitutional.

Their argument is based on the use of the term "individual" in the amendment, which opponents claim applies to any gender and both adults and children.

Similar arguments related to parental consent were made ahead of Michigan's vote last year to codify abortion rights in the state's constitution, said Jessie Hill, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and consultant to the Issue 1 campaign.

"None of these things have come to pass," Hill said.

To be overturned, Ohio's existing parental consent law would have to be challenged in court and struck down by the state Supreme Court, which has a conservative majority.

Ohio post-COVID math scores lag, however English bounces back

Report finds better rebounds among suburban students.



Northwoods Elementary second graders in the class of teacher Mindy Ferguson work at their desks.

MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

BY EILEEN MCCLORY - STAFF WRITER

TOP STATE STORY

Ohio's language arts test scores have returned to pre-pandemic levels, but math scores have not made the same progress, according to a new report that looks at state student test scores from third to 10th grade.

The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio State University study also found there is more improvement in test scores among younger students than high school students, better scores in suburban districts than urban ones and more gains in achievement among Asian and white students than among Black and Hispanic students.

The report is meant to be a broad picture of the state of education achievement in Ohio, according to Ohio State professor Vladimir Kogan, who has been creating reports on test scores for the last three years.

Kogan said the increased scores in language arts could be because Ohio has been focused on improving student reading with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's initiative on the science of reading, which backs evidence-based curriculum using research on how the brain learns to read.

DeWine advocated for additional funds to be put into the recently passed budget for this rollout. The result was \$86 million for educator professional development, \$64 million for curriculum and instructional materials and \$18 million for literacy coaches.

"I don't know if there's a cause and effect relationship there," Kogan said. "But again, it could reflect kind of the prioritization at the state level that we've put on reading."

Math scores have remained stubbornly lower than English scores, though math scores have improved since 2020 levels. Elementary kids have smaller gaps compared to pre-pandemic in math than middle school kids.

Kogan said the state should be focusing on what the data shows are shortfalls, like the smaller gains in math scores than reading and data that shows older students are struggling to catch up more than younger students.

"Younger students have caught up more than older students, which I think is concerning because older students have less time left," before graduation, Kogan said.

He noted there's also a lot of variation district to district in test score improvements.

Some of the suburban schools are almost entirely recovered, while urban districts are still behind.

"One of the most concerning things is that the districts that fell behind the most initially have not caught up faster," Kogan said. "They're still the most behind."

Aaron Churchill, Ohio research director for the Fordham Institute, an education think tank, said students might have fallen behind in math because math builds on itself, so a student who lost instruction in fractions might be struggling in Algebra 1.

He suggested policy makers look at ways to help students, though he acknowledged there is not as much data to point to how to teach kids math in the same way there is to teach kids reading.

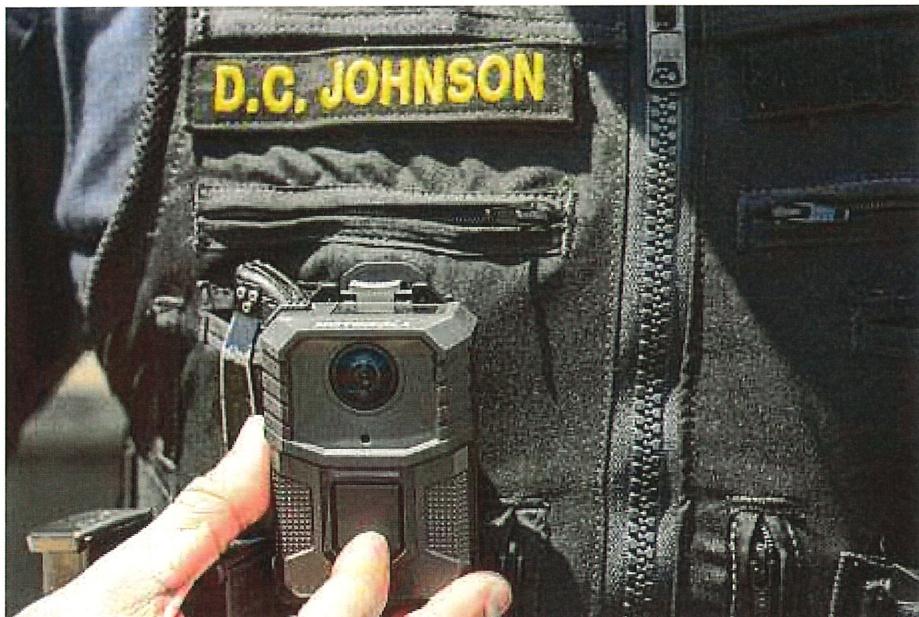
But repeating previous learning through tutoring and instruction may help, he suggested.

"I do think there needs to be some focus on math in particular," Churchill said.

The state has invested \$26 million in tutoring for six vendors who can provide services at no cost to schools, and invested in an online math tutoring platform, Zearn, that all Ohio students in grades 6-8 will have access at no cost through June 30, 2025.

Middletown to equip patrol supervisors with body cams

Council also approves spending \$43K to equip four new cruisers.



Body cameras similar to this Motorola version will be worn by officers of the Middletown Division of Police this year.

CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — The Middletown Division of Police is getting closer to equipping all of its cruisers with cameras and some of its patrol supervisors with body cameras that some residents have demanded for years.

During Tuesday night's City Council meeting, members authorized City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into a contract with Pro-Vision for the purchase of four in-cruiser camera systems for nearly \$43,000. The money will come from the Computer Replacement Fund, according to city documents.

The four video camera recording systems will be installed in the new Dodge Durango cruisers that the city has purchased.

The Pro-Vision cameras use the same system that the department already has installed in its other police vehicles, according to the staff report.

The police department also plans to start using 12 body cameras, possibly this week, then rolling out body cameras on all uniformed patrol officers, police Chief David Birk told the Journal-News.

He said each body camera costs \$3,300 for a five-year contract and that doesn't include paying redaction specialists \$65,000 to \$70,000 each year.

Lolli said he's unsure of the total cost of the cameras, but the city is considering applying for grants to offset the costs.

Body cameras are "all new to us" and by initially installing 12, the police department can determine how many hours are required to redact some of the footage, Birk said.

He hopes to have all uniformed officers wearing cameras by the end of October.

Middletown has about 40 patrol officers out of 73 officers total on the force, including detectives, narcotics and school resource officers.

Body cameras have proven over time to be "a benefit for police officers," according to Birk. Unlike some crime scene footage shot by citizens on their cell phones, body cameras show the complete incident from the officers'

perspective, he said.

Birk often tells his officers they work “in a fishbowl” due to the number of cell phones being used by the public.

Earlier this year, after the first police-involved fatal shooting in the city in 26 years, and after the grainy cruiser cam video was released, residents wanted to know why the police officers don’t wear body cameras.

On Feb. 25, after a traffic stop in the Walmart parking lot, one Middletown police officer shot and killed Victor Lykins, 47, of Middletown, who was a passenger in the vehicle driven by his brother.

In December 2022, Middletown police received a \$49,608 grant from the state to purchase body cameras.

Birk requested \$124,218. He said the city rejected the grant because it didn’t have the money to pay the salary and benefits for one or maybe two redaction specialists.

Birk said he’s a “big advocate” for body cameras because he thinks they “show the officers are doing what’s right.”

Council member Rodney Muterspaw, who served on the Middletown Division of Police for 30 years, five as police chief, agrees.

“Body cameras tell the story,” said Muterspaw, who added that without them, when a citizen files a complaint against an officer it’s “he said, she said.”

After George Floyd Jr. was murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis during an arrest made after a store clerk suspected Floyd may have used a counterfeit \$20 bill, on May 25, 2020, Muterspaw said body cameras became “a hot topic and really picked up steam again.”

Muterspaw said redaction specialists are important because not everything officers experience on the job should be seen by the public. He mentioned

an altercation between a husband and wife.

But he called body cameras “good things when used correctly.”

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612.

WHEN BODY CAMERAS ARE EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE

A law took effect in 2019 that gave guidance for using body cameras. It identified 17 instances in which video recorded by body cameras are exempt from disclosure.

Among them are:

- Inside a residence unless the incident involves “an adversarial encounter with, or a use of force by, a peace officer”
- Showing children
- A death or body, unless it was caused by a peace officer
- A nude body, unless the person consents
- “Grievous” bodily harm to a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic or other first responder

Survey asks businesses about homeless people

The number of responses wasn't overwhelming.

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

JOURNAL-NEWS IN-DEPTH

Butler County officials at all levels are trying to tackle the homeless issue that most say is pervasive, but a recent survey of Hamilton businesses says the problem isn't crippling operations.

Homelessness has become a hot topic this summer as Scott Rasmus, executive director of the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board, has been working to establish an Emergency Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center.

As part of his due diligence and with the help of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Dan Bates, he surveyed about 5,000 business people about the homeless issue. He only received 22 responses and 31.8% said they have no problems at all with the homeless and a dozen were below 50 on the 100 point scale gauging the severity of the problem.

Bates told the Journal-News he was surprised anyone responded at all — the first time they sent out the survey no one replied.

"Even though it's a problem for businesses, it's also not in their toolbox to solve," Bates said. "I think that they look at it as something that somebody needs to deal with, but that's not their expertise, and I think that's part of the

low response to the survey."

The bulk of the survey delved into the specifics of the issue, including main problems, cost, possible benefits like hiring opportunities and possible solutions.

Harassing and or scaring customers, using and in some cases "trashing" the restrooms, setting up camps near outdoor dining areas and a host of other complaints.

Bates said he hears the concerns often, and "the bigger concern with people is mental health. If you have someone who is obviously having some sort of crisis, the average business owner doesn't know how to deal with that."

"There are homeless people who are not frightening and don't scare business away. But those are not the ones that unfortunately we deal with so often," Bates said. "So when you deal with homeless people who are scaring customers away from businesses doors, that's a challenge. When you have homeless people that are defecating on people's front steps so they have to clean it before they can open their business, that's a challenge."

The survey also asked if participants were willing to help with the issue. Tyler McCleary, director of restaurant operations at Tano Bistro, was one of six who said he'll pitch in, and a it is good way is to provide jobs.

"I'm willing to give my time, thoughts, energy, anything I can do to help I'm willing to do so," he said.

"Tano and I were at a job fair for people at Serve City a couple months ago and we're willing to do that all the time. I think that there are quality people out there, just because people are homeless doesn't mean they aren't talented, they just fell on hard times."

Casey Thompson, proprietor of Beyoutiful Salon, said she has been involved in this issue and also wants to help.

She said she knows there aren't enough resources and while "some of them are comfortable living the life they live," more can be done for those who want help.

She suggested an informational pamphlet or handout with available resources.

"Provide them with some information. I would take a guess that a lot of them probably don't have resources to make a phone call, get on a laptop, those sorts of things," she said. "If we could readily have something available to hand them, that would be a great start and something that could easily be provided to all the businesses."

A meeting was convened last week by state Sen. George Lang to discuss homelessness and how to help the business community deal with the issue.

"Right now there's a renaissance going on in the city of Hamilton, I applaud the leaders and Middletown is really starting to build their business base up again.

I only want to see us put that on steroids, to see the business community in Butler County flourish and prosper..." he said. "I want to see that continue on, now if we can help the homeless out in the process that's a bonus, I hope we can figure out how to do that. But my prime directive is focused on the business community."

Rasmus, Commissioner Cindy Carpenter and Tammi Ector, executive director of Serve City in Hamilton and chair of the Butler County Housing and Homeless Coalition, argued for more "capacity" to give the homeless shelter and wrap around services to stabilize them.

Ector warned everyone about the consequences of inaction and told a little story. She said she and a colleague were leaving Spooky Nook recently and "a young man, no shirt, tatted up, no shoes on, just clearly mentally ill, on something, in need of stabilization ran through swinging his shirt over his head." She then yelled loudly mimicking the sound he made.

"If I seem like I'm being extra, it's truth. Spooky Nook is the second largest sports complex in the United States; let one of those little girls who come for a soccer tournament ... encounter that young man who needs to be stabilized," she said.

"We'll make the national news, and it'll shut Spooky Nook down, and all this great business revitalization here in Hamilton will be negatively impacted."

Contact this reporter at 937- 903-1808.

New twist in case tied to Central Connections

Middletown detective testifies that fired director's husband's signature doesn't match bounced checks.

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

CONTINUING COVERAGE

MIDDLETOWN — Even though a Middletown detective testified the signature on the defendant's court document didn't appear to match those on the seven bounced checks, the case against the husband of the former executive director of Central Connections was bound over to a Butler County grand jury.

Vincent "Scott" Smith, 56, of Sabina, was charged with seven counts of passing bad checks, all felonies, according to the Middletown Division of Police and court records.

Smith appeared Wednesday morning for his preliminary hearing before Middletown Municipal Court Judge James Sherron.

Smith's attorney, Christopher Deal, presented a pretrial release form that was signed by Smith.

The signature on that paper didn't appear to match Smith's signature on the bounced checks that totaled \$56,300, Middletown detective Patrick Glassburn said when questioned.

Despite this evidence, Sherron bound the case over to a grand jury for a possible indictment.

Glassburn, when asked by Prosecutor Zach Barnhart, testified that seven checks were written to Central Connections, Middletown's senior citizens center, on Smith's personal checking account and the checks were returned by First National Bank for insufficient funds.

The checks were written between June 1, 2022 and June 23, 2023, according to the court document. The check amounts ranged from \$2,800 to \$15,000, according to documents. Smith allegedly was attempting to return money taken from the Central Connections account, Sgt. Earl Nelson has said.

Sherron set Smith's bond at \$5,000, or 10% during his arraignment last month.

Smith posted bond and was released from jail.

Smith's wife, Diane Rodgers, was terminated on July 27 from her position at Central Connections and is the target of criminal investigations regarding finances at the center, according to police Chief David Birk. No criminal charges against Rodgers have been filed and the investigation is ongoing, he said.

Rodgers hasn't been seen publicly since she was terminated by the Central Connections board of directors and escorted out of the building by Middletown police.

Three women affiliated with Central Connections attended Wednesday's hearing. They plan to follow the case throughout, they said.

Sharon Collier, a Central Connections member, called the case "the most monumental thing I've ever seen, or witnessed or been any kind of part of.

It affected so many people.

It's amazing how things happened and what was allowed to happen by the people who were governing her."

Collier believes as police continue to investigate the possible thefts at Central Connections, they will charge more people than just Smith. Collier called him "the little penny in the pot. More will come. More will come."

Jeanne Terry, an instructor at Central Connections, said some members now attend her classes at other facilities.

Marilyn Easterly, another member, said the senior center "never will be the same."

She put most on the blame on the 13 board members who refused to listen to the concerns of the members after Rodgers was hired.

"We tried very hard to draw attention to what was going on," Easterly said. "But they were more impressed with what she said she was doing than the actual effects."

We can wait no longer for pedestrian safety changes

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK



A scene from the fatal pedestrian accident at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Clover St., the morning of Dec. 28, 2022.

MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF



Stucky





Mark Manovich, president of Historic South Park Inc., shares his concerns about traffic and public safety along Wayne Avenue at a Dayton City Commission meeting on Aug. 30.

CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

BY JOSHUA STUCKY

On any morning, you will find a tribe settled in for their morning coffee at Ghostlight Coffee on Wayne Avenue. We are, by this point, all on a first-name basis. It takes about 30 minutes daily to check in with each other before we set off for our various undertakings.

The large picture windows that sit at the corner of Clover and Wayne are a window on the world for us regulars. We see people biking, jogging, singing — you name it, there is something for everyone on Wayne Avenue.

On December 22, 2022, I arrived earlier than usual. I beat my three friends to the café and ordered drinks for all of us. I grabbed our favorite comfortable area and sat so I could, once again, look out onto life on the Avenue.

Stories, laughs, an occasional cough interrupted the silence. My eyes went to a woman and her dog on the corner of Clover and Wayne waiting patiently for the light to change so she could make her way across the street.

Waiting as she had done dozens of times before.

That crosswalk was always in question by the "Ghostlight Gang." It seemed too close to the road and the angle of the crosswalk made it hard to see up the street.

Later I learned the woman's name was Jennifer Johnson. Like her, you take your safety for granted. You are assured, no matter what light you wait at, all is well. My eyes went to Jennifer and her dog patiently waiting.

The first thing I heard was "OH MY GOD... OH MY GOD... she's been hit!"

I saw her in the road and where she had stood was a vehicle with a man partially thrust through his windshield.

"Let's go!" someone yelled. "She needs help!"

Among the Ghostlight Gang is a doctor and that morning a nurse was also present. There were kids and parents all looking out of the same window where, moments ago, Jennifer had been waiting patiently.

A group of us ran outside.

A gentleman quickly explained to me how to assist her. He knew CPR and needed my help. But he and I both knew there was no hope. There were voices of folks around us: "Grab the dog."

"My God, help the guy in the car!" "Is she alive?"

I looked at her and back at the window. There were the folks I share coffee with every morning looking out. When the police arrived — and they were very quick — an officer said, "Sir, you can move away."

"She's gone," I said to him. "She was there with her dog. She just wanted to get across Wayne."

“Sir, please move away.”

I moved back and felt a surreal anger and frustration: We knew it was dangerous!

Speeding cars, trucks flying by, drivers trying to make it through that yellow light – it’s all too dangerous.

And in that moment, I thought, we shouldn’t be waiting so patiently to make things safer for our neighbors.

I will never forget that day. I’ll never forget Jennifer and her dog.

I know our street can be designed differently to be safer.

That is why I am a member of the newly formed Wayne Ave. Traffic Safety Coalition. The Coalition was formed in response to the death of Jennifer and the other senseless crashes along Wayne Ave. The Coalition’s goal is to call on the City of Dayton to lower the speed limit from 35 to 25 on Wayne and make infrastructure improvements to the street that will naturally slow down traffic. The Coalition is made up of more than 20 other neighborhood associations, local businesses and partner agencies who want to see a safer, slower street for the neighborhoods along Wayne Ave.

After the death of Jennifer and other serious crashes, a mobile speed enforcement unit was installed at Park Drive.

The unit recorded nearly 20,845 speed violations during a 92-day period this past spring. Tickets were only issued to drivers exceeding 13 mph above the speed limit.

This means many of those violators were traveling at nearly 50 mph. A AAA traffic safety study found that the average risk of death for pedestrians hit by a vehicle traveling at 50 mph is 75%. That is a risk we can take no longer.

Members of our Coalition went to City Commission last week to ask the city to fund a “complete streets” project on Wayne Ave. I share my story to add to the sense of urgency. We’re not waiting patiently any longer for change to come.

Joshua Stucky is a community and human rights activist. He is a founder of the RubiGirls, proprietor of Square One Salons and a professor at Wright State University.

Initiative addresses 'significant health divide' in Middletown

Analysis shows residents in 3 Middletown areas die 12 1/2 years earlier than others in the city.



Deborah Houser, superintendent of Middletown City Schools, addresses the crowd at a Middletown Connect press conference, at Miami University Middletown.

RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

A community-driven initiative is taking steps to increase the life expectancy of residents who live in certain sections of the city.

The Safety Council of Southwestern Ohio, the city of Middletown Health Department and community partners are working to improve the “significant health divide” within the city’s neighborhoods, said Kristy Duritsch, executive director of the safety council.

The initiative is called Middletown Connect, said safety council’s DeAnna Shores.

Duritsch said recent health data analysis uncovered a stark life-expectancy gap of 12.5 years for residents who live in three census tracts near Rosa Parks Elementary School compared to those residing elsewhere. The data also showed discrepancies in education, crime and disease, according to Duritsch.

The collaborative alliance secured funding from the Ohio Department of Health to initiate the Ohio Improvement Zone project. The goal is to empower community residents to lead change by addressing the causes of health inequities and creating programs, policies and practices to drive significant improvements in health outcomes, Duritsch said.

Rhonda Molina, president of Strategic Innovations Group, was contacted 18 months ago by Health Commissioner Jackie Phillips and Duritsch to write a grant, she said during a recent press conference at Miami University Middletown.

She said after talking to some Middletown residents about their health issues, she realized the city was “ripe and ready” for the grant.

She added the city was prepared to attack the disparities in “a new and transformative way.”

Middletown Connect has received \$571,000 in three grants, Duritsch said. It

received \$300,000 from the Ohio Department of Health for Phase I (August 2022-August 2023), a \$156,000 extension through May 2024 from ODH, and a \$115,000 advancing health justice grant from Interact for Health.

Since August 2022, the group has gathered health data, contacted health improvement partners, engaged 28 ambassadors who are “really invested in their communities,” Molina said.

Those discussions revealed that the “assumptions we made were not accurate,” Molina said. The residents were concerned about safety issues such as unrestrained dogs, lack of lighting on walking paths and cracked sidewalks.

Then 41 people, including city leaders and ambassadors, took a bus tour and on three occasions, walked around the neighborhoods, stopping to pick up trash and talk to residents about their concerns, Shores said.

It was important, Shores said, for the leaders to see their communities and meet the residents.

She said the tours had “a great response” and created “a level of engagement” between leaders and residents.

Now, she said, residents know City Manager Paul Lolli and police Chief David Birk.

“It’s about connecting and building relationships,” Shores said.

The school district followed suit.

Deborah Houser, superintendent of Middletown City Schools, said the district typically takes its firstyear staff members on a bus tour around the city. But this year, all 1,000 district staff members participated in the bus tour as police officers served as tour guides.

She felt the tours were important because it’s “hard to serve when you don’t

understand the population you're serving."

Some of the teachers said they had never seen Barnitz Stadium, the district's high school football stadium on South Main Street, Douglass Park on Lafayette Avenue, the roller rink on Verity Parkway, the million-dollar homes and the ones boarded up with plywood.

"It's causing people to make different decisions," she said of the tour. "Moving people from awareness to action."

Shores said Middletown Connect has short- and longterm goals. Some of them already have been met. More residents have participated in mobile health clinics and know their health risks, she said.

"Everybody is on board and excited," she said. "It's a movement, really. How we can make you more empowered."

It will take years, she said, before Middletown Connect learns whether the initiative reached its ultimate goal: extending the lives of residents who live in three census tracts.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Butler County may invest up to \$8M on homelessness

Groups to submit proposals for how money may be spent.



Hamilton city manager Joshua Smith discusses local homelessness with Butler County commissioners during their meeting Monday in Hamilton.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

The Butler County commissioners have agreed to invest a substantial

amount of federal pandemic relief funds — possibly as much as \$8 million — to help jurisdictions countywide to fight the issue of homelessness.

The commissioners haven't voted on the issue yet, but after a debate about the homelessness issue Monday with Hamilton officials, Commissioner Don Dixon said he would like to commit \$7 million to \$8 million of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds to the problem.

He said the various communities dealing with higher public safety and other costs associated with the homeless population have a better handle on their needs, so he wants them to give proposals.

"I would suggest that we sit down and have a conversation and let those communities give us a blueprint on how they would handle it," Dixon said. "And we take that \$7 or \$8 million and maybe we can start something and get some traction and give some immediate help to them."

He said they still need to continue to lobby their state and federal lawmakers to pony up funds for the problem that goes far beyond Butler County.

Commissioner Cindy Carpenter said she has been meeting with officials in both Hamilton and Middletown and "that would be amazing" and she fully supports the move, but she suggested \$4 million as a possible investment.

Dixon told the Journal-News he offered the idea because officials in the two biggest cities have been telling them lately they are at the "breaking point" now.

The topic has been big this summer because of ongoing discussions about a planned Emergency Mental Health Crisis Stabilization Center tentatively planned for the now-vacant county nursing home in Hamilton. The cities believe it will heighten an already unmanageable homeless population.

Hamilton City Manager Joshua Smith, Mayor Pat Moeller and other city officials were at the Monday meeting because the commissioners were voting on memoranda of understanding with three wrap-around behavioral

health service providers for 50 additional Shelter Plus Care vouchers.

A year ago, the commissioners approved applying for 90 additional Permanent Supportive Housing program vouchers – known locally as Shelter Plus Care – that provide rental assistance and treatment for the homeless who also suffer from mental illness. The county currently has 63 vouchers and were approved for 50 more.

City officials worry programs like this make them a magnet for homeless people seeking out areas where there are plentiful services.

"We walk a very fine line and at some point we have to say enough is enough," Smith told the commissioners.

"Not because we are not compassionate, but because we already have a population we have to take care of that we don't even have the resources today to take care of. I can tell you from a public safety standpoint we're at a breaking point; we have to figure out how to improve this or hire more people."

The MOU agreements were the final phase of process.

The program is paid for with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) dollars and the county had to apply for the extra vouchers through the state.

The existing 63 vouchers are covering the cost for 72 housing units because the grant recipients must pay 30% of their income toward their own rent. The new \$1.3 million contract covers \$1.1 million for rent, \$112,889 in administrative costs and \$75,510 for wraparound support services from the behavioral health providers for the existing and new vouchers.

Participants may choose where they want to live as long as landlords are amenable and eligible under HUD rules. Mindy Muller, president and CEO of Community Development Professionals, has been administering the federal program for the county for 15 years.

She told the Journal-News that knowing the concerns officials in Hamilton and Middletown have, they made a concerted effort to broaden the base of landlords who agree to participate in the program. She said until the vouchers are dispersed she can't say where the new participants will be living.

The mayor said many of the homeless who are giving the city so many problems are those who flout the law and say "I choose to live by my own rules." Muller said the people in the program are not exacerbating the problem.

"I think this is part of the solution, it's not adding to the problem," Muller said.

"There is a very strict application process for these vouchers, these are not people who don't want help.

They are the people who have made that choice I'm no longer going to live on the streets, I want to get help."

The MOU item was approved although Dixon voted no and suggested the larger solution. He said he plans to make a motion next week to establish the program using ARPA funds. He said County Administrator Judi Boyko will be collecting some information for them but his idea is to distribute funds according to demonstrated need based on homeless population numbers.

"I'm not going to tell them how to run their railroad, they deal with it 24/7, 365, I don't claim to have that hands-on knowledge of the situation in each community," Dixon said. "So it's up to them now."

Commissioner T.C. Rogers didn't suggest an amount, but said from the start he wanted to devote some ARPA funds to helping the less fortunate.

"I believe that we will give them significant resources to help with their problem," he told the Journal-News.

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Team Fastrax wins 3rd national skydiving title at championships

MIDDLETOWN



From left: Yulyia Pangburn, John Hart and Nicole Condrey of Team Fastrax won a gold medal at last week's U.S. National Skydiving Championships in North Carolina.

CONTRIBUTED



Skydivers Nicole Condrey and Yulyia Pangburn and videographer John Hart won their third consecutive two-way Sequential Team gold medal last week in North Carolina.

CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — Sometimes you don't have to practice to be perfect.

Team Fastrax, the Middletown-based professional skydiving team, brought home 10 medals, including a three-time national title, during the U.S. Parachute Association National Skydiving Championships last week in Raeford, North Carolina.

Team Fastrax members were unable to practice on-site on Sept. 2 because they were performing before the Appalachian State football game against Gardner-Webb in Boone, N.C., said Team Fastrax member and Middletown Mayor Nicole Condrey.

Condrey and her skydiving partner, Yulyia Pangburn, won the two-way Sequential Team gold medal for the third consecutive year after winning the silver medal three years ago.

Each competition includes eight jumps, and the teams are judged by how many points they can score in 60 seconds. John Hart, co-owner of Team Fastrax, served as the team's videographer.

When the skydivers landed, Hart filed the video of the jump and it was scored by a panel of certified judges, Condrey said.

The team's success depends on the videographer, according to Condrey, who has been skydiving for 10 years.

Condrey and Pangburn scored 169 points and the second-place team scored 95.

When asked why she and Pangburn have been such a successful team, Condrey said: "Positive mental attitude and determination."

Hart added the team isn't afraid to try different things in the air.

"You don't get that good without commitment," he said.

Other Team Fastrax members also won medals at the nationals.

Curt Bartholomew captured five gold medals in Canopy Piloting that features skydivers traveling up to 90 mph, Hart said.

The four-way team won a bronze medal. Team members were Brian Pangburn, Kira Tsindiakina, Yulyia Pangburn and Hart. Mike Derge was videographer.

Jeannie Bartholomew won a silver medal in Free Style Canopy Piloting and Alex Hart won a silver medal in Canopy Piloting and a bronze medal in the overall category.

The success at the nationals means seven members of Team Fastrax, based at Middletown Regional Airport, have qualified for the U.S. Parachute Team and makes them eligible for the World Championships in 2024.

Hart said it's "unheard of" to have that many from one team qualify for the national team.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Middletown board abandons pre-school project, citing cost

Panel votes to move money to transportation after bidding for improvements comes in high.



The Middletown school board voted Monday night to shift more than \$4 million earmarked for improved pre-school classrooms in the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center to construct a new transportation building on Cincinnati Dayton

Road.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — After years of planning and securing funds for improved pre-school classrooms and programs at the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center, the project has been canceled due to lack of finances.

Board President Chris Urso said the Middletown City Schools District received one bid for the project that was \$4 million over projections.

Urso called it "a math problem."

School Treasurer Randy Bertram said the lone bid totaled more than \$12 million, including \$1 million in contingency and \$600,000 in architecture fees.

He said the district had received \$8.4 million guaranteed in funding.

The school district had committed \$4.175 million, the city of Middletown \$2.1 million, Butler County Commissioners \$1.5 million, state of Ohio \$300,000, Middletown Community Foundation \$300,000 and Atrium Medical Center \$25,000, according to Bertram.

Three years ago, the architect estimated the cost of the project at \$8 million, Bertram said.

Superintendent Deborah Houser said when the plan was designed years ago there was "no clue of hyper inflation."

The district also has to spend its Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund, a federal program administered by the Department of Education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, by Aug. 30,

2024.

Houser said that doesn't give the district, which "exhausted" every possible idea, enough time to shift plans at the center.

After discussion, the board voted unanimously Monday night to move the \$4.425 million earmarked for the preschool program to the Transportation Improvement Plan.

Bertram called improving the aging transportation facilities "a great use of resources."

He said the pole barn on Cincinnati Dayton Road will be demolished and replaced and improvements will be made to the parking lot and entrance and exit.

Board member Verlena Stewart, executive director of Community Building Institute, located in the community center, abstained from voting. But she was vocal about the plans being canceled.

"I can't express how disappointed I am in the work not being honored," Stewart said. "This is and was a worthwhile project."

She called the decision to cancel the project "disheartening."

Stewart attended numerous meetings where the project was discussed and plans were finalized.

"Our hearts were in the right place," she said. "It takes more than a few people around the table. It takes the community."

Stewart said she hopes Middletown continues with its efforts to renovate the center.

"We owe it to the kids," she said. "We owe it to the community."

The pre-school program at the center was moved to Rosa Parks Elementary School due to the pending construction at the community center, according to Stewart.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Dog Day Downtown returns to Middletown

CLOSER LOOK



Dog Day Downtown will be 5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 in Middletown. Pictured are participants at a

BY GINNY MCCABE - CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Community members and their furry friends are gearing up for Friday when Middletown hosts its 8th Annual Dog Day Downtown.

"Everybody loves their fur babies, so this brings everybody out. We have a great turnout with families and kids coming down and bringing their dogs. It's really a fun event to see so many people gathered together with their fur babies," said Mica Glaser-Jones, owner of The Windamere Event Center, a member of the Downtown Middletown, Inc. Promotions Committee and a lead organizer for the event.

Dog Day Downtown will be 5-8 p.m. and is free.

Performance Dogs of Ohio will entertain at 6:30 in the greenspace by White Dog Distilling Co. & Bourbon Bar. Spectators will see a canine dog show with stunts, tricks and Frisbees.

There will also be a new photo booth by Pic Me this year with a backdrop by Balloon Dog as well as a Bow Wow Boutique at Governor's Square. Bow Wow Boutique will stock outfits, toys, leashes and more, and items can be purchased on a donation basis.

There will also be a "Rainbow Bridge" on the window at The Pendleton Art Center in Middletown.

"We have an artist creating a big rainbow on the windows, and we've been collecting pictures.

We put a post out, asking for pictures of people's fur babies that have passed. We will hang up all the pictures and it will serve as a memorial," Glaser-Jones said.

The event was originally created by Kara Goheen, an animal lover, who passed away unexpectedly in 2020. Goheen was involved with Downtown Middletown, Inc., and organizers continue the event in her honor. A few events were considered "her babies," including Dog Day Downtown and Hocus Pocus.

Goheen was originally from New York, and her family still travels to Middletown to support the event.

Dog Day Downtown will include free treat stops, pampering, a D J, a photo booth, as well as retail and discounted drink specials. Many activities will be in and around Governor's Square and booths will run along Broad Street toward Manchester. There will also be activities near White Dog Distilling Co. & Bourbon Bar and DC Roadhouse.

There will be complimentary nail trims by Animal Arts Academy, micro-chipping by All Paws Matter, and a variety of participating vendors to visit. There will be a DJ and a limited number of goodie bags will be available for attendees from the DMI tent at Governor's Square.

Giveaways will include doggie bandanas, reflector tags, dog bones, a plush dog, and more. There will also be raffle baskets on display.

White Dog Distilling Co. & Bourbon Bar will host an "After Paw-Ty" with live music by Randy and the Haskells on stage outside as well as music by Matthew Allen inside.

Participating animal rescues will include PAWS Adoption Center, All Paws Matter, Joseph's Legac, and New Ales Miami Valley Pit Crew. There will also be a face painter on site for the kids.

"We enjoy seeing everyone coming downtown with their dogs, and we love when our downtown is busy, and people get to see everything that the businesses can offer them. Dog Day Downtown is also about keeping Kara's memory going, and honoring her with this event," Glaser-Jones said.

The event attracts community members from Middletown and beyond. On average, 400 to 500 guests attend Dog Day Downtown.

The event is sponsored by Downtown Middletown, Inc., Middletown Community Foundation, Kara Goheen Friends and Furball Fund, Balloon Dog Events, PetSuites, Hollywood Feed and Paws & Remember.

HOW TO GO

What: Dog Day Downtown

When: 5-8 p.m. Friday

Where: Downtown Middletown, various spots

Cost: Free. Items are available for purchase. Free treats will also be available for pups.

More info: Online at downtownmiddletown.org. Friendly, vaccinated and leashed dogs are welcome to attend. The downtown Middletown DORA district is in operation seven days a week, from noon to midnight. Raffle baskets will be available at the event. Each attendee will receive one free raffle ticket; others are available for purchase.

Middletown set to break ground on new fire station

The headquarters will be the 1st of 4 new fire department facilities for growing community.



© App Architecture

An artist's rendering shows the Middletown Division of Fire headquarters to be built at Yankee Road and Cherry Street. The city will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Monday.

CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — The city of Middletown and its fire department will celebrate the first of four fire stations being built in the city over the next two years.

The Middletown Fire Department will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for its new headquarters, Station 83, at 1:30 p.m.

Monday at the future site of the headquarters at Yankee Road and Cherry Street, formerly the Garfield School site.

"This is a significant moment for the fire department in Middletown and for the health and safety of our citizens," said fire Chief Thomas Snively.

He said building four fire stations "bodes well for the future as our community continues to grow."

City and fire officials have said building the four stations is needed to better serve the communities that have experienced population shifts and growth. The oldest station in the city is 70 years old.

There is a need for new fire stations since the current stations have outgrown their useful life and do not meet the current standards and codes of modern-day fire stations, fire officials have said.

None of the existing stations have sprinklers and their sleeping areas do not meet the minimum requirements for egress.

Additionally, the current stations do not meet accessibility requirements and lack essential facilities, according to fire officials.

The construction of the new headquarters and Station 82 is expected to be completed by November 2024. Stations 81 and 85 will begin construction in August 2024 and are expected to be completed by June 2025.

Once the new stations are completed, city leadership will determine the

future use of the former station sites.

The projected cost for the construction of the four new stations is estimated to be \$26.8 million.

This summer, the escalating cost of building the four stations was heavily debated during City Council meetings.

In May 2022, voters overwhelmingly approved a 1-mill property tax levy expected to generate \$16.9 million that, at the time, residents were told was enough to cover the construction cost of the four stations.

But since then, due to escalating construction and material costs, the projected price tag is \$9.9 million over earlier estimates, using worst-case scenarios, according to city leaders.

To offset the gap in funding, City Manager Paul Lolli has said the city could use \$4.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. When Jim Palenick was city manager, he frequently said the city couldn't use ARPA money on the fire stations.

Lolli said the city is still considering options for the more than \$5 million shortfall in funding. He said possibilities may be presented Tuesday night to City Council.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

EARLIER ESTIMATED COSTS OF BUILDING MIDDLETOWN'S 4 FIRE STATIONS

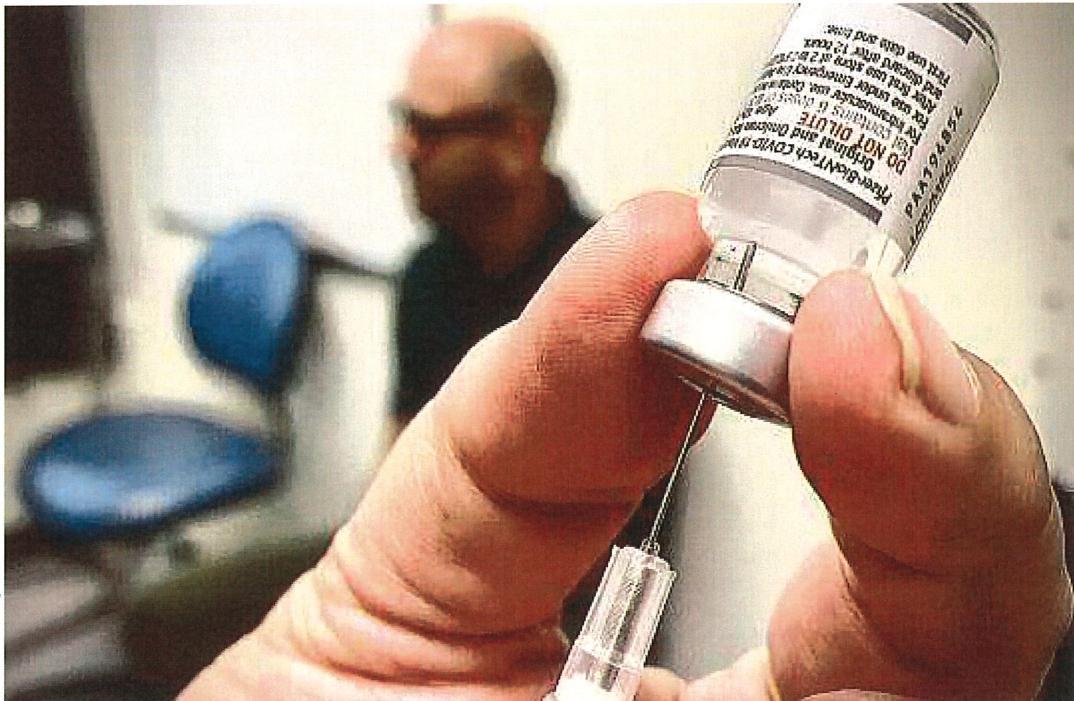
- New fire headquarters location replacing the 1.38-acre site on Roosevelt Boulevard: A 3.6-acre site at Yankee Road and Cherry Street owned by the city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of Garfield school. Size: 24,300 square feet. Total cost: \$10.5 million.

- Station No. 81 location replacing 0.28-acre site on Clinton Street: A 2.85-acre site at Henry Avenue and Charles Street owned by the city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of the Jefferson school. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million.
- Station No. 85 location replacing 0.86-acre site at Central Avenue and Breiel Boulevard: A 2-acre parcel at Sophie Avenue and Stolz Drive encompassing the undeveloped, southern portion of Dowling Park owned by the city. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million.
- No. 82 location replacing 0.88-acre site on Dixie Highway: A 2.7-acre site at Ohio 122 and Atrium Boulevard acquired from Premier Health/Atrium Medical Center. Size: 11,800 square feet. Cost: \$5.9 million.

SOURCE: CITY OF MIDDLETOWN/APP ARCHITECTURE

Ohio's COVID numbers up slightly as FDA OKs fall shots

COVID, flu and RSV vaccines all coming ahead of virus season.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved updated COVID-19 vaccines last week, as well as authorizing them for emergency use for some age groups.

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

PUBLIC HEALTH

The number of COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths in Ohio were up slightly last week as the fall flu and cold season approaches.

Statewide trends for COVID-19 showed an increase of 9,690 cases, up from the three-week average of 8,706 cases, according to the Ohio Department of Health. The actual number is most likely higher due to not every case being reported. There were 259 people hospitalized last week in Ohio, up from the three-week average of 198. There were 12 ICU admissions and 19 died from COVID-related symptoms.

Nationally, COVID hospitalizations increased by 8.7% earlier this month, and deaths increased by 4.5%, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved updated COVID-19 vaccines last week, as well as authorizing them for emergency use for some age groups.

"Vaccination remains critical to public health and continued protection against serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death," said Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

The updated mRNA vaccines are each approved for individuals 12 years of age and older and are authorized under emergency use for individuals 6 months through 11 years of age, the FDA said. The previous bivalent Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized for use in the U.S.

The CDC is also recommending everyone 6 months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness this fall and winter.

"We have more tools than ever to prevent the worst outcomes from COVID-19," said CDC director Dr. Mandy Cohen. "CDC is now recommending updated COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 6 months and older to better protect you and your loved ones."

This is the first fall and winter virus season where vaccines are available for the three viruses responsible for most hospitalizations: COVID-19, RSV, and flu.

The latest COVID vaccines are expected to be available soon, so those looking to keep up with their vaccinations or to get vaccinated for the first time should check with their individual providers.

"The ordering and the shipping process is beginning, but each provider's going to have their own supply chain and timing," said Dan Suffoletto, public information manager for Public Health - Dayton and Montgomery County.

ODH also expects updated COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to be available to Ohioans, including to those without insurance.

"If you have medical insurance, and that includes Medicare or Medicaid, vaccines should be covered as a preventive health service, which means you likely will have no out-of-pocket costs," said Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, ODH director.

"Those without insurance can take advantage of several programs to ensure they can continue to get free vaccines, as well."

ODH will continue to offer vaccines free of charge to eligible children, including those who are uninsured, through the federal Vaccines for Children program. For uninsured adults, the CDC has created the Bridge Access Program, which will be in effect through the end of 2024. As part of that program, the CDC has contracted with CVS, Walgreens, and eTrue North pharmacies to allow them to continue offering free COVID-19 vaccinations to the uninsured.

Public Health - Dayton and Montgomery County will have COVID and flu vaccines available soon, as well as the RSV immunization shots for newborns.

The immunization shots for infants are not vaccines, but they are monoclonal antibodies that will provide passive immunity.

There are two RSV vaccines available for older adults, but those will not be

available at the health department. Adults 60 and older need to consult a health care provider in order to determine if they should get an RSV vaccine.

"We will treat the COVID-19 vaccine like most other vaccines the health department carries," said Nate Smith, communications coordinator for the Clark County Combined Health District. For those with insurance, the Local Public Health Services Collaborative will need to be an in-network provider for those individuals to receive vaccines through the health district. The health district will also offer vaccines to individuals without insurance through federal programs.

The Clark County Combined Health District will offer Moderna vaccines for clients who have private insurances, Smith said.

"We pre-ordered a limited number of doses based on the demand we were seeing,"

Smith said. Those doses have already been allocated, but the health district will be ordering more doses.

The Warren County Health District also has a small number of flu vaccines, but once more is available, the department will be offering them to anyone 6 months and older, said Allison Combs, public information officer for the department. They are also planning on offering the updated COVID vaccines once they become available, and they are still in the planning stages with the RSV vaccines.

Each year, it's estimated that between 60,000-160,000 older Americans are hospitalized and 6,000-10,000 die due to RSV infection, said Hiba Betka, CVS Health pharmacy leader.

"With this in mind, it's especially important to protect at-risk populations from severe illness," Betka said.

Public Health and health care providers also recommend getting the flu vaccine earlier rather than later.

"It's important to get the flu shot every year because the body's protection from the vaccine declines over time. Also, flu viruses can vary from year to year, so receiving a new vaccine formulation is required to provide optimal protection," Betka said.

WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED?

Flu: Per the CDC, an annual flu vaccination is recommended for anyone six months of age and older, with rare exception.

COVID-19: Individuals 5 years of age and older regardless of previous vaccination are eligible to receive a single dose of an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least two months since the last dose of any COVID-19 vaccine, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Individuals 6 months through 4 years of age who have previously been vaccinated against COVID-19 are eligible to receive one or two doses of an updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (timing and number of doses to administer depends on the previous COVID-19 vaccine received).

Unvaccinated individuals 6 months through 4 years of age are eligible to receive three doses of the updated authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or two doses of the updated authorized Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised may get additional doses of updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

RSV: In June 2023, the CDC recommended RSV vaccination for adults 60 or older using shared clinical decision-making with a pharmacist or health care provider.

Two monoclonal antibody products – nirsevimab (Beyfortus) and palivizumab (Synagis) – can help protect babies and young children from severe disease from an RSV infection.

Nirsevimab is recommended for all infants younger than 8 months who are born during – or entering – their first RSV season (typically fall through spring). A dose of nirsevimab is also recommended for some children between the ages of 8 and 19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV and who are entering their second RSV season.

Palivizumab is limited to children under 24 months of age with certain conditions that place them at high risk for severe RSV disease. It must be given once a month during RSV season.

To find a COVID-19 vaccination location, visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). Individuals can also check with their local pharmacy. To schedule an appointment through CVS, visit [CVS.com](https://www.CVS.com) or [MinuteClinic.com](https://www.MinuteClinic.com). They can also call 1-800-SHOP-CVS or their local pharmacy for help with scheduling. Patients can schedule vaccinations through Walgreens by visiting [Walgreens.com](https://www.Walgreens.com).

Middletown: A city committed to building, buying and selling

City Council authorizes purchase of Central Connections for \$1.8M.



The city of Middletown purchased the former AK Research Building for \$225,000 two years ago and plans to sell it to El Ceramics for \$1,000 provided payroll commitments

are met.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — The city is buying, selling and building property, while funding options for one of its largest construction projects continue to be considered.

City Council voted Tuesday night to authorize City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into an agreement to purchase the Central Connections property, 3907 Central Ave., for \$1.8 million with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Council also approved the sale of the former CERTA Building, or AK Research Center, 705 Curtis St., to El Ceramics for \$1,000, provided payroll commitments are met.

And city staff and council members discussed ways to finance the \$9.8 million shortfall after the cost of building fire headquarters and three fire stations has continued rising.

Buying Central Connections building

Central Connections found itself in financial difficulty after Diane Rodgers, its executive director, was terminated in July. She is under investigation for possible theft, though no charges have been filed, according to Middletown police.

In August, City Council unanimously approved leasing the property for \$50 a

month through the end of the year to keep “critical services” operating, Lolli said.

The center is being run by city employees.

Now the city is purchasing the property and continuing to operate the center until a management team can be hired, Lolli said.

Mayor Nicole Condrey said the city doesn’t have to operate the center, but without the city’s assistance, Lolli said Central Connections would have to close.

The \$1.8 million purchase price will go to the Middletown Area Senior Citizens Inc. to pay off an unknown amount of debt, city officials have said.

This will be the second time Middletown residents have invested in the center.

Voters approved two fiveyear, 1-mill senior levies that generated \$7 million to provide or maintain senior services at the center.

After Rodgers was terminated and escorted out of the building by police, and the center lost its contract with the Council on Aging, the board laid off the entire staff, closed Saturdays and Sundays and reduced hours and services through the week.

While Rodgers, hired in 2021, hasn’t been criminally charged, her husband, Vincent “Scott” Smith, 56, was charged with seven felony counts of passing bad checks totaling \$56,300.

The charges were bound over to a Butler County grand jury.

Selling CERTA/AK Research Building

A building the city purchased for \$225,000 from CERTA Middletown two years ago is being sold to EI Ceramics, a ceramic refractory company in the metals industry, for \$1,000.

EI Ceramics officials approached the city about purchasing the 9.5-acre property at 705 Curtis St. to consolidate into one location in Middletown, according to a staff report.

The company will place an additional \$224,000 into an escrow account held by the city until EI Ceramics achieves certain payroll commitments within approximately three years after closing, according to documents.

EI Ceramics is planning to invest several million dollars to remediate and remodel the property to suit its operational needs, the city said. The company also plans to consolidate its workforce of over 70 employees with an estimated annual payroll, once fully operational, of more than \$4 million, according to a staff report.

Condrey applauded city staff for pulling off what she called “a real big win for Middletown.”

Council member Tal Moon said it's a “great reuse” of the property.

Funding headquarters, three fire stations

Earlier this week, the city celebrated the ground-breaking of the Middletown Division of Fire headquarters at the corner of Yankee Road and Cherry Street.

Within the next two years, the city plans to construct headquarters and three fire stations at a cost of about \$26.8 million. The city, thanks to \$16.9 million being generated by a 1-mill property tax levy voters overwhelmingly passed in May 2022, has enough funds to build fire headquarters and Station 82, Lolli said.

But due to the increased cost of the stations, the city finds itself about \$9.9 million short using a “worstcase scenario,” said assistant City Manager Nathan Cahall.

Cahall said staff is recommending borrowing the money and paying it back over about 20 years. He said for every \$1 million the city borrows, the annual debt service is \$67,000.

The city also could borrow some of the money and use about \$1.1 million of the city’s uncommitted ARPA funds, he said.

That legislation may be voted on at one of the next two council meetings, Oct. 3 or Oct. 17.

Cahall called it “a very important decision and also very difficult.”

Lolli cautioned against using ARPA funds due to the expected increase cost of demolishing and remediating the former Middletown Paperboard property.

The lowest bid for demolishing the property was \$2.2 million and Lolli “guessed” the remediation would cost an additional \$1 million to \$2 million.

He hopes to have the property cleared by the end of the year. He said when the “eyesore” is gone it will be a “great thing for Middletown.”

The property may be “ready to do something” in early 2025, Lolli said.

Contact this reporter at Rick.McCrabb@coxinc.com.

FIRE STATION DETAILS

■New fire headquarters location replacing the 1.38-acre site on Roosevelt Boulevard: A 3.6-acre site at Yankee Road and Cherry Street owned by the

city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of Garfield school. Size: 24,300 square feet. Total cost: \$10.5 million. Expected completion: November 2024.

- Station No. 81 location replacing 0.28-acre site on Clinton Street: A 2.85-acre site at Henry Avenue and Charles Street owned by the city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of the Jefferson school. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million. Construction begins in August 2024, expected completion by June 2025.
- Station No. 85 location replacing 0.86-acre site at Central Avenue and Breiel Boulevard: A 2-acre parcel at Sophie Avenue and Stolz Drive encompassing the undeveloped, southern portion of Dowling Park owned by the city. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million. Construction begins in August 2024, expected completion by June 2025.
- No. 82 location replacing 0.88-acre site on Dixie Highway: A 2.7-acre site at Ohio 122 and Atrium Boulevard acquired from Premier Health/Atrium Medical Center. Size: 11,800 square feet. Cost: \$5.9 million. Expected completion by November 2024.

SOURCE: CITY OF MIDDLETOWN/APP ARCHITECTURE

CENTRAL CONNECTIONS: A TIMELINE

Nov. 6, 2012: Middletown taxpayers pass a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the Middletown Area Senior Center.

Aug. 16, 2015: The name of the Middletown Area Senior Center is changed to Central Connections.

May 2, 2017: Middletown taxpayers renew a five-year, 1-mill levy to provide or maintain senior services at the center.

November 2021: Diane Rodgers is hired as executive director. She says she moved from Reno, Nev., where she oversaw a senior center and worked with the homeless population, to be closer to her daughter who lives in New York.

July 29, 2022: Rodgers signs for a mortgage loan through First Financial Bank for \$450,000, then does a loan modification that increases the amount to \$650,000, according to the Butler County Recorder's Office. Her signature and job title are listed on the loan that matures on July 29, 2024.

Nov. 1, 2022: Ribbon-cutting is held to celebrate the \$1.5 million in renovations of Central Connections, 3907 Central Ave.

Dec. 31, 2022: Senior citizens center levy expires after generating \$7 million over 10 years.

May 5, 2023: D.E.R. Development Co. files a lien against Central Connections, saying the company is owed \$266,594.52, plus allowable interest.

May 31, 2023: Rodgers files vandalism report at Central Connections. Middletown police say that leads to the investigation of center's finances.

July 24, 2023: The Council on Aging terminates its three-year contract with Central Connections. Fifty employees are laid off.

July 25, 2023: Nearly 75 senior citizens and former and current employees of Central Connections attend a meeting in the café with Rick Fishbaugh, board president, and Rodgers.

July 27, 2023: Rodgers is terminated as executive director of Central Connections and escorted out of the building by Middletown police.

Aug. 3, 2023: During a special City Council meeting and after an executive session, City Manager Paul Lolli announces council has agreed to move forward with the possible purchase of the Central Connections building and

land and for an unknown amount that will come out of the city's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund.

Aug. 5, 2023: In an email to the Journal- News, attorney Tyrone Borger, who is representing Rodgers, writes that he and his client have been "informed that there is an ongoing investigation. As such, while my client would like to comment and clear up several misconceptions. She is taking my advice and refusing to comment on any allegations at this time."

Aug. 9, 2023: Middletown Police Chief David Birk says his department is working with the Ohio attorney general's Bureau of Criminal Investigation into the criminal investigation into the finances of Central Connections.

Aug. 11, 2023: Central Connections announces more layoff and the closing of the cafe and bar. The hours are reduced to 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Aug. 15, 2023: City Council votes unanimously to allow City Manager Paul Lolli to enter into a lease agreement with Central Connections. The lease is \$50 per month. By the end of 2023, the city has the right to purchase the building and property for \$1.8 million.

Aug. 21, 2023: Vincent "Scott" Smith, husband of the former executive director, arrested and charged with seven counts of passing bad checks, all felonies.

Aug. 23, 2023: Smith appears in Middletown Municipal Court for his arraignment. Judge James Sherron sets Smith's OR bond at \$5,000.

Sept. 6, 2023: A Middletown detective testifies that Smith's signature on the seven bounced checks doesn't match his signature on a court document. The charges against Smith are bound over to a Butler County grand jury by Middletown Municipal Court Judge James Sherron.

Sept. 19, 2023: Middletown City Council authorizes city manager to enter into an agreement to purchase Central Connections property for \$1.8 million, using ARPA funds.

Narcan now available over the counter without a prescription

Effort increases availability, reduces stigma, advocates say.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved selling overdose antidote naloxone over-the-counter earlier this year. MATT ROURKE / AP





Nationally, drug overdose persists as a major public health issue. In the 12-month period ending in February 2023, more than 105,000 reported fatal overdoses occurred. "We think that everybody should have Narcan or naloxone on hand," said Dawn Schwartz, Community Overdose Action Team project manager. "Addiction is a very secretive disease."

SAMANTHA WILDOW / STAFF

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW
STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Over-the-counter Narcan is now appearing in area pharmacies, available without a prescription, and advocates hope the move will both decrease stigma around substance use disorder and increase its availability.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration first approved Narcan, a naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, for over-the-counter, nonprescription use in late March with the medication starting to hit the shelves this month. Narcan is medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the

standard treatment for opioid overdose, according to the FDA.

"Our hope is that this will help to destigmatize substance use disorder in allowing people to see that it is finally being recognized as an actual disease, as a brain disease, and can be treated medically—can and should be treated medically — like other illnesses and diseases," said Dawn Schwartz, Community Overdose Action Team project manager.

In July, the FDA also approved another naloxone nasal spray called RiVive for over-the-counter use. The timeline for availability and the price will be determined by the manufacturer, the FDA said.

"We know naloxone is a powerful tool to help quickly reverse the effects of opioids during an overdose.

Ensuring naloxone is widely available, especially as an approved OTC product, makes a critical tool available to help protect public health," said FDA commissioner Robert M. Califf.

Advocates also hope this will increase access and availability of Narcan.

Nearly 200 people, or 196 to date, have died from an accidental overdose in Montgomery County, according to preliminary figures from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office.

Nationally, drug overdose persists as a major public health issue. In the 12-month period ending in February 2023, more than 105,000 reported fatal overdoses occurred, which were primarily driven by synthetic opioids like illicit fentanyl, according to the FDA. In 2021, approximately 106,699 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S., of which more than 75% involved an opioid, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"We think that everybody should have Narcan or naloxone on hand," Schwartz said. "Addiction is a very secretive disease, and a lot of times we

hear from parents and loved ones that they had no idea ... about their loved one's drug use until they witnessed them overdosing or they find something in a room."

Those who may be taking prescription opioids should also consider having Narcan or naloxone on hand in case they accidentally overdose, as well.

"We also have to remember that even those who are legally prescribed opiates, they do have the ability to accidentally overdose," Schwartz said.

Someone may forget that they already took their medication and may consume more, accidentally triggering an overdose.

"Narcan is there, so it's no different to us than knowing CPR, first aid, or maybe having an AED on hand, it's another lifesaving mechanism, so we think everybody should have it," Schwartz said.

People who experience an overdose should still seek further medical attention even if the symptoms of the overdose get reversed from using Narcan.

"Narcan allows people to reverse overdoses for enough time for them to get further medical attention for the overdosing person,"

Schwartz said. People should also let first responders know if they've administered Narcan or naloxone after an overdose, along with how many doses were administered, in order for the first responders to continue treatment, she said.

The cost of over-the-counter Narcan is about \$45 to \$50, so if someone can't afford to get it from a pharmacy, there are free options available through Public Health - Dayton and Montgomery County; Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS); Harm Reduction Ohio; Save Point Ohio; and Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With

Naloxone), the latter of which is a network of opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution programs coordinated by the Ohio Department of Health.

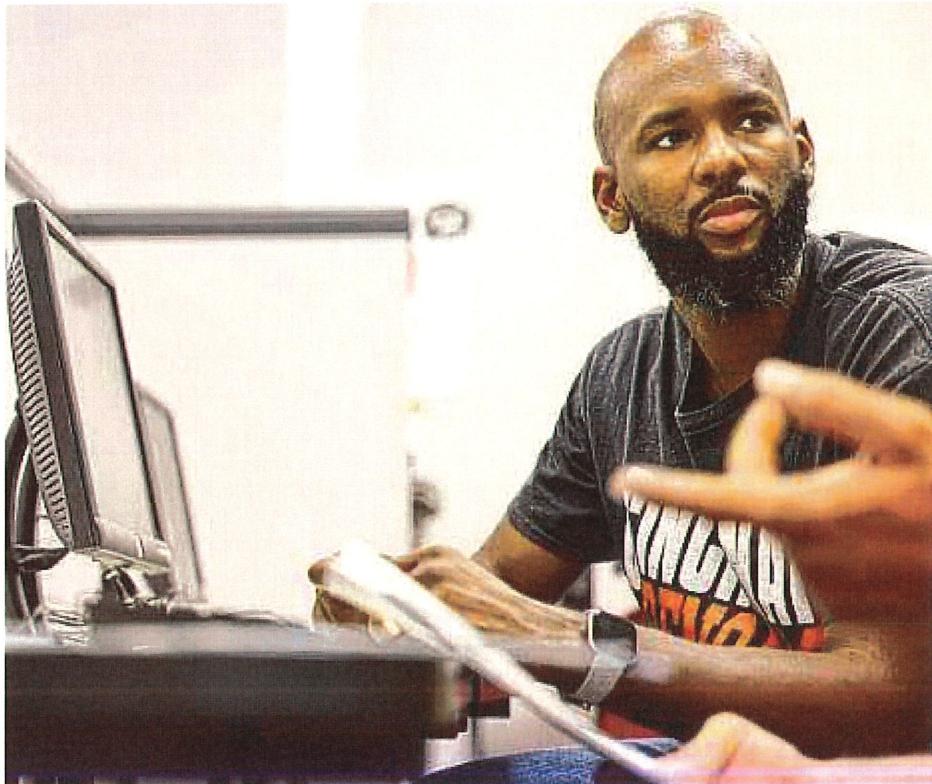
Businesses and churches can consider getting a NaloxBox, which contains naloxone or Narcan and is similar to a mounted Automated External Defibrillator (AED), making this medication accessible to anyone in the event of an opioid drug overdose. The box is free and provided by Public Health or Montgomery County ADAMHS.

To obtain Narcan or a NaloxBox, contact Schwartz at Public Health at (937) 225-6026.

Contact this reporter at 937-503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

County offers multiple avenues to help homeless, needy

Homeless man says unemployment system a 'big cause' in uptick.



Career advisor Marques Ingram helps a client get started on a computer in the resource room Monday at Ohio Means Jobs in Fairfield.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

CLOSER LOOK

Help for the homeless and underprivileged is a priority for many Butler County leaders, as evidenced by the recent allocation of \$8 million to the cause, but officials also say there are already many sources available.

The Butler County commissioners awarded \$8 million in pandemic relief funds to Fairfield, Hamilton, Middletown and Oxford and all the townships last week to help the needy. A homeless man from Middletown named Michael reached out to the Journal-News recently and identified the arduous unemployment system as a chief concern.

"I think that's a big cause with the up-rise in homelessness, if people get laid off they're going to lose their home because they're not getting their unemployment for a month," Michael said. "This is the first time in my life I've ever been homeless ever, and now mind you bad decisions have contributed to getting me here, but if I would have received unemployment in the first week or two I wouldn't be here."

He called Butler County Job and Family Services but was told he needed to apply in-person for public assistance, which meant traveling to Hamilton. He noted it's hard for the homeless in other locations to get to the county seat.

BCJFS Executive Director Julie Gilbert told the Journal-News her offices cannot help with unemployment benefits — that is purely a state function — they are responsible for food stamps and other assistance and provide it in numerous locations.

She said they do have a representative from the state stationed at the Ohio Means Jobs office in Fairfield and many other services.

"There are representatives at our Ohio Means Jobs center from the state who help them with that, if they are collecting unemployment or trying to get

unemployment they do need to come in or they can go online, they just need to prove they're looking for employment," she said.

"But many people who are on unemployment come into our resource room, it has free internet, they have access to job opportunities, they have access to a fax machine, a printer and things that help them get information out to prospective employers."

Amy Miller, who operates the OMJ center, said they have been getting an average 1,000 people a month at the center and the numbers are increasing.

She said the state employee is there to offer "meaningful assistance" — a state phrase — to people, like help with password resets and other tasks, "but everything is done either online or by phone through OD JFS."

Michael said it has taken him hours on end trying to get his unemployment benefits and was told it was due to a backlog back to May.

Dasia Clemente, a spokeswoman from the state, told the Journal-News it's not a backlog it's high call volume — more than 31,000 calls last week.

"While we continue to explore ways to improve customer service, we encourage individuals to apply on-line, as it is the quickest and easiest way to apply," Clemente said. "It is also important to point out that once an application is made it can take several weeks or more to process, as they generally require us to collect additional information from the claimant and their former employer."

Gilbert said for all other public assistance such as food stamps, her employees in Hamilton are there to assist people, but they also have an outreach person out in the field to help.

He is equipped with a computer so he can help people do whatever they would normally do in their offices.

"We've been exploring other options on are there other places that would benefit from us spending some time in their space,"

Gilbert said adding that would probably require more staff. "That is always a struggle with us in that we are hiring and we do have a workforce shortage.

There is a desire to do more outreach however with the workforce we currently have it's difficult."

Miller said for said those with transportation issues they have an arrangement with the Butler County Regional Transportation Authority so buses from Hamilton, Middletown and Oxford stop at the OMJ office.

Shawn Cowan, BCRTA communications manager, said they also have free training for new riders on how to use the system.

"Travel training is tailored to the individual needs of the rider and includes route planning, getting to a bus stop, knowing which stop to disembark at, reading the bus schedules, and booking trips if using our BGo service," she said. "The Hamilton Oxford Connector (R3) and the Job Connector (R6) currently have stops at Ohio Means Jobs."

Contact this reporter at 937- 903-1808 or email Denise.

Callahan@coxinc.com.

MORE DETAILS

OUTREACH TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Monday: The Dream Center in Middletown: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday: The New Life Mission in Hamilton: 9 a.m. to noon

Wednesday: Oxford Family Resource Center: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday: New Life Mission in Hamilton: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday: Zion Lutheran Church in Hamilton: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Leaders debate potential regulations on tobacco, vape shops

More than 40 businesses sell traditional tobacco products in the city, with 90% carrying vape products.

BY MICHAEL D. PITMAN - STAFF WRITER

FAIRFIELD

Fairfield leaders plan to do something about the city's overabundance and proximity of tobacco and vape stores.

City staff wants to curb the number of tobacco and vape stores, which are defined as establishments that dedicate at least 30% of their retail space to tobacco and/or vape (also known as e-cigarette) products and accessories.

"When you read the data, and you really dig into it, it's quite striking," said Development Services Director Greg Kathman. "It's an evolving topic, not only for this local region, but statewide and even national. Things are changing pretty rapidly on this."

In Fairfield, there are 42 businesses that sell traditional tobacco products, and of those, nearly 90% sell vape products. A dozen of those businesses are almost exclusively vape shops.

The issue is that youth are purchasing or have access to these products. In Ohio, it's illegal to sell or distribute any tobacco products, including e-

cigarettes, to anyone under 21, as of late 2019.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, smoking leads to more than 480,000 deaths annually in the United States and harms youths who smoke. The CDC reports nicotine harms a developing brain and impacts attention, learning, mood, and impulse control. The agency also reports nicotine use in adolescence may increase the risk for future addiction to other drugs.

E-cigarettes, or vapes, have been the most commonly used tobacco product among U.S. youth since 2014, and in 2020, nearly 20% of high school students reported using a vape within the previous 30 days.

"As a resident, it sounds like we got our hands tied in what we have right now," said Fairfield Superintendent Billy Smith. "You can't fix it today, but you can think towards the future."

Fairfield staff proposed five measures City Council could take in order to address the growing number of tobacco and vape shops. There are five along Pleasant Avenue and Nilles Road in the city's Town Center area.

While Fairfield City Council isn't prepared to do everything being proposed by staff, the body is ready to take some action, even though some of the measures won't have a big impact on the current tobacco and vape shops in the city.

First, the council is prepared to consider improved zoning regulations for any new tobacco and vape shop — again, defined as an establishment that devotes at least 30% of its display floor to tobacco and vape products, accessories and devices — by implementing set back standards. Specifically, city staff is recommending that no future tobacco or vape store be within 1,000 feet from another such store, and 1,000 feet from any educational facility, day care, park or library. They would also only be permitted within certain districts, primarily on Ohio 4 and in the city's downtown.

These regulations would not impact any current tobacco or vape store, as they would be grandfathered in. However, that grandfather protection ends if the use of the storefront changes or it remained vacant for at least six months.

"Planning commission will still need to review this, (City Council) will still need to review this, but this is the draft we came up with in consultation with our consultant and looking at some other communities," Kathman said.

The council will also consider updating the city's codes related to smoking prohibitions to include vaping, and establishing the smoking age to be 21. While these are state laws, Fairfield's practice is to mirror local laws to reflect state laws.

The third initiative is to have enhanced enforcement efforts, which the police department already does, but this will include increasing the enforcement efforts to prevent sales to underage buyers. It would also look to cite the owners, not the clerks who sell tobacco or vape products to someone under 21. This would include pursuing personal accountability, increased financial liability and/or criminal charges against store owners.

"When looking at the different options and recommendations, there's a focus on what's going to work and what will actually be effective," said City Law Director Steve Wolterman. "As much effort as the police department has done — and they've done a great job in the past — unfortunately, these businesses don't view those fines and penalties associated with sales as a deterrent to them containing to do it. It's the cost of business, instead."

Another that may not be considered at this point in time would be to ban flavored tobacco products in e-cigarettes. Federal law prohibits cigarettes from containing flavors other than tobacco or menthol, but that does not apply to e-cigarette products. Five states and 370 local governments have either restricted or prohibited the sale of flavored tobacco products since

2019.

The cities of Columbus and Bexley passed legislation to ban the sale of all flavored tobacco products beginning in 2024. While other local governments have discussed similar action, none have taken the same measures as Columbus and Bexley.

An initiative that could take place before any flavor ban would be a tobacco retailer licensing program, but further discussion and metrics from neighboring communities are needed before a decision can be made.

Fairfield will also consider implementing a temporary moratorium on new tobacco and vape stores in the city.

It could be a six- or nine-month ban as the administration and council further discuss the matter.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-6538 or email Michael.
Pitman@coxinc.com.

82 Hamilton tobacco retailers are licensed 6 months into new program



Caption

Credit: Gerry Broome

NEWS

By Michael D. Pitman

2 hours ago



Advertisement

As Fairfield considers changes to its zoning and local laws concerning tobacco and vape retailers, the city of Hamilton is moving along with its newly enacted licensing program.

In 2022, Hamilton City Council established a licensing program for tobacco and vape shops to obtain an annual \$250 license, which went into effect on March 1 this year. This ordinance ensures proper training of clerks and employees and the enforcement of the sale of tobacco and vape products to those under 21.

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10/3/2023

Hamilton Department of Health Director Cindy Hogg said 82 licensed tobacco retailers are in the city.



By Indianapolis Prize

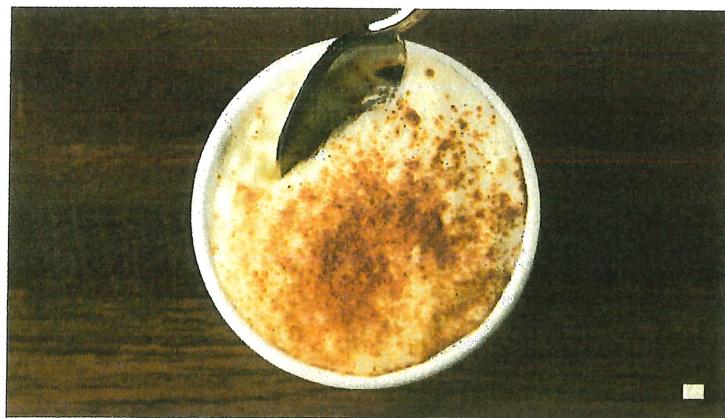
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Dr. Pablo Borboroglu recognized as 2023 Indianapolis Prize Winner

"We are in the process of conducting unannounced compliance checks for these retailers," she said. "We continue to work with the tobacco retailers to help them understand the city ordinance."

The city's health department has completed about 75% of the compliance checks, and since the licensing ordinance became effective, the health department has issued four civil citations against licensed tobacco retailers under the ordinance.

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"These civil citations were all for selling tobacco products to underage persons," Hogg said. "All four licensed retailers paid their fines without contesting their violations."

Last month, Fairfield city staff presented City Council with several options to curb the number of tobacco and vape shops opening in the city, especially in proximity of each other. The issue for city officials around these types of businesses is youth are purchasing or have access to these products, and in Ohio, as of late 2019, it's illegal to sell or distribute any tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to anyone under 21 years old.

There are several tobacco and vape stores within a few hundred feet of each other along Pleasant Avenue and Nilles Road, and tobacco and vape shops are defined as establishments that have at least 30% of their retail space dedicated to tobacco and/or vape (also known as e-cigarette) products and accessories.

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According to the city, there are 42 businesses in Fairfield that sell traditional tobacco products, and of those establishments, nearly 90% sell vape products. A dozen of those businesses are almost exclusively vape shops.

The city is considering a few regulations, including limiting the location of new shops, adopting state codes into the local codes, and enhancing enforcement efforts. The city is not at this time considering a licensing program nor a ban on flavors, though other states and local governments have or will ban flavored tobacco and vape products, including the cities of Columbus and Bexley in Ohio.

Fairfield will also consider implementing a temporary moratorium on new tobacco and vape stores in the city. It could be a six- or nine-month ban as the administration and council further discuss the matter.

In Other News

1 240 local students to tour eight companies, learn about jobs in...

2 Jamaican restaurant Yard Vybz Nyaminz opens in West Chester Twp.

3 Traffic signals throughout Butler County to get \$1M in technology...

4 Miami University considers eliminating majors in the humanities

5 23-minute police pursuit through multiple Butler County cities ends...