

DATE: June 7, 2024
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for June 11, 2024**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **June 11, 2024** 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 -May 2024

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -May 2024

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Cataracts-Dr. Jennewine

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Review of Ohio Department of Health's Healthy Housing & Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHLPPSS) Local Administrator Agreement

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Medical Director

Director of Nursing

Environmental Health Director

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Discussion, under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2024 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
May 14, 2024

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on May 14, 2024.

Members Present

Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Ruth Lolli
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD
Amy Sibcy

Health Department Staff Present

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

Absent and Excused

Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Joseph Richmond, MBA

ROLL CALL

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to excuse absent board members from the Board of Health meeting.
Roll call vote: Yes-4 (Lolli, Miller, Zollet, Sibcy). No-0. Motion Passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 2024

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the April 2024 minutes.
Roll call vote: Yes-4 (Lolli, Miller, Zollet, Sibcy). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-April 2024

Ms. Phillips Carter explained to the board that the Finance Department is only current through March 2024. The revenue presented in the April BOH meeting is only reflective of January 1st-March 31st. Ms. Phillips Carter included an email from the Finance Director stating that the department is behind on entering revenue totals and this is the most current report available to present to the BOH.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the financial report as presented in April.
Roll call vote: Yes-4 (Lolli, Miller, Zollet, Sibcy). No-0. Motion Passed.

Education Presentation- Health Benefits of Exercise Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine provided the board with an overview of the health benefits of exercise. Dr. Jennewine explained that adults need 150 minutes of moderately intense exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise weekly. Moderate intensity exercise should elevate the heart rate, but should still allow the individual to be able to talk while performing the action. Examples of moderate intensity exercises include: brisk walks, water aerobics, bicycling, ballroom dancing and general gardening. Vigorous exercise will only allow the individual to be able to speak a few words, as they will be out of breath. Examples of vigorous exercise include: jogging or running, swimming laps and hiking uphill or with a backpack.

Children and adolescents benefit from 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity daily as well as strength training twice a week.

In the United States almost 25% of adults do not get any physical activity, while just over 50% of adults get the recommended amount, less than 25% of adolescents meet the exercise recommendations and these numbers continue to decline.

Benefits of physical activity include: a 13% decrease in mortality and a 15% increase in quality of life. Benefits in children include: increased academic performance, cardiometabolic health, weight, reduced risk of chronic illness, improved mental health, improved musculoskeletal strength and improved blood pressure.

Dr. Jennewine explained that immediate benefits of exercise in adults include: improved sleep, mental health, blood pressure and energy. Long term benefits include: improved cognitive function, mental health, heart health, weight, balance and coordination, risk of cancer and bone strength. For adults aged 65 and older the immediate benefits remain the same and long-term benefits also include increasing the likelihood of independent living and increased social interactions.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

There were no travel authorizations requested.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Community Health Assessment (CHA) is complete and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is underway. The three areas of focus will remain infant mortality, chronic disease and mental health. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that all three health departments (City of Middletown, Butler County General Health District and City of Hamilton Health Department) are focused on increasing physical activity in all of Butler County. In order to promote physical activity, the three health departments will join together in giving away bikes, promoting walking groups, promoting "Walk with a Doc," and continuing line dancing at the Community Center.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Interact for Health Grant has increased to \$600,00 per year for four years. This grant remains focused on making the community healthier. MS. Phillips Carter informed the board that the NACHO Grant is due May 15th and CMHD is prepared to submit for this grant by the deadline.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the City Manager is holding a Town Hall Meeting in City Council Chambers on May 28th at 5:30pm in to address gun violence in the city.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the April Communicable Disease cases.

Campylobacteriosis	1
Chlamydia infection	24
COVID-19	29
CPO	2
Gonococcal Infection	8
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis C	8
HIV	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	5
Syphilis	1

Director of Nursing

In Ms. Corbin's absence, Ms. Phillips Carter presented the board with the Director of Nursing report. Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) deliverables have been completed and CMHD will be receiving \$24,000. The 2024-2025 grant will be forthcoming.

Cases of COVID continue to decrease. Free COVID test kits are still available at CMHD. Ms. Phillips Carter recommends testing for those that suspect they may have the virus and will be in contact with vulnerable populations.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has received 7 sets of plans in April. CMHD has licensed 3 new mobiles, bringing the total number of licensed mobiles to 22 in the city. Body art facilities have increased from 9 in 2023 to 13 in 2024.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has approved 3 new plans in April: Starbucks, an RFE and a mobile.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that all pools have paid for the 2024 licenses, inspections are still being scheduled.

All school inspections have been completed for the spring.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that she included an article in the packet that discussed Ohio tobacco licensing. Ms. Ealy stated after the Ohio senate voted to override the governor's veto, CMHD discussed discontinuing the program and refund businesses their license fees, however; after several cities filed a law suit, it was decided to hold off on refunding the license fees until the outcome of the court case. The court hearing will be held May 17, 2024. Ms. Ealy stated that more information will be available after the ruling.

Board Member Open Discussion

Mayor Slamka asked if present personnel committee members would like to stay after the conclusion of the BOH meeting to discuss the Health Commissioner's evaluation process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 AM. The next meeting will be held on June 11, 2024 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

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

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department

May 2024 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$7,310 Revenue Earned
- 626 Certificates Sold
- 27 Burial permits Processed

Environmental

- \$3,183 Revenue Earned

Indigent Services

- \$12,172 Spent of the \$20,000 Budget for Indigent Services for 2024
- 16 Applications approved (*1 waiting for invoice*)
 - 3 OD's
 - *Zero dollars in Reimbursements from the Embalmer's Association Program which 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
 - Award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity specific training.
 - *\$31,076.55 - Deposited to date*
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/2023-6/30/2024 - \$24,361.62
 - Deliverable based pass-through with BCGHD
 - *\$22,266.42 - Deposited to date*
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC Billing) 1/01/2024-12/31/2024
 - Yearly agreement. Payments approved quarterly
 - *\$33,615.99 - Deposited to date*
- Smoking State Reimbursement
 - *\$350.00 - Deposited to date*
- State Health Subsidy Reimbursements & Vital Statistics Reimbursements
 - \$19,349.93 – State Subsidy (January) OAC 3701-36
 - \$9,329.20 – State Subsidy (May) OAC 3701-36
 - \$3,902.73 – Vital Stats (February)
 - \$1,519.20 – Vital Stats (May)

City of Middletown

Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: Yes

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND				Target Percent:	41.67%
DEPT: 000						
Intergovernmental						
228.000.43310	PHHS GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43311	INJURY PREVENTION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43315	AIDS GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43316	CHIPS OUTREACH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	\$9,300.00	\$0.00	\$19,349.93	(\$10,049.93)	208.06%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43333	TOBACCO PREVENTION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43361	TATU GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	\$14,334.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,334.00	0.00%
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	\$123,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$123,000.00	0.00%
Intergovernmental Totals:		\$175,300.00	\$0.00	\$19,349.93	\$155,950.07	11.04%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$56,591.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,591.00	0.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$108,130.00	\$0.00	\$36,484.85	\$71,645.15	33.74%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$71.70)	\$71.70	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$180.00	10.00%
228.000.44220	BOARD OF HEALTH PERMITS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
228.000.44230	HEALTH-DUE STATE GOVERMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44240	SWIMMING POOL/LICENSE FEE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	\$620.00	\$0.00	\$530.44	\$89.56	85.55%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$63,000.00	\$0.00	\$61,815.42	\$1,184.58	98.12%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$26,014.75	(\$4,014.75)	118.25%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,331.36	\$168.64	95.18%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$61.00	\$29.00	67.78%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,200.00	43.86%

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,125.00	\$375.00	75.00%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$213.00	(\$213.00)	N/A
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$33,615.39	(\$13,615.39)	168.08%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$215.00	0.00%
228.000.44295	EPA(LANDFILL/HAZARDOUS)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Charges for Service Totals:	\$284,546.00	\$0.00	\$165,639.51	\$118,906.49	58.21%
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc						
228.000.46780	MISCELLANEOUS	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%
	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%
Reimbursements/Transfers						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,975.18	(\$20,975.18)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$140,000.00	30.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Reimbursements/Transfers Totals:	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,975.18	\$119,024.82	40.49%
	DEPT: 000 Totals:	\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$265,964.62	\$437,881.38	37.79%

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228 Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$265,964.62	\$437,881.38	37.79%

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
Grand Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$265,964.62	\$437,881.38	37.79%

Target Percent: 41.67%

City of Middletown

Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200

Account Access Group: N/A

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: Yes

Include Pre-Encumbrances: Yes

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used		
228	HEALTH FUND						Target Percent:	41.67%		
DEPT: 450										
Personal Services										
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$600,840.00	\$73,290.63	\$253,410.08	\$347,429.92	\$0.00	\$347,429.92	42.18%		
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.51211	PERS	\$84,118.00	\$6,891.02	\$35,081.37	\$49,036.63	(\$0.02)	\$49,036.65	41.70%		
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	\$24,034.00	\$0.00	\$1,754.71	\$22,279.29	\$22,279.29	\$0.00	100.00%		
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$23,019.86	\$80,128.14	\$0.00	\$80,128.14	22.32%		
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	\$8,712.00	\$687.31	\$3,202.56	\$5,509.44	\$0.00	\$5,509.44	36.76%		
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,941.00	\$152.10	\$760.50	\$1,180.50	\$1,180.50	\$0.00	100.00%		
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
	Personal Services Totals:	\$822,793.00	\$81,021.06	\$317,229.08	\$505,563.92	\$23,459.77	\$482,104.15	41.41%		
Contractual Services										
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$200.00	\$1,124.00	\$2,876.00	\$149.00	\$2,727.00	31.83%		
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIM	\$3,000.00	\$494.13	\$963.89	\$2,036.11	\$0.00	\$2,036.11	32.13%		
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$40.88	\$1,669.04	\$3,970.96	\$0.00	\$3,970.96	29.59%		
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$384.86	\$3,115.14	\$0.00	\$3,115.14	11.00%		
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	\$41,085.00	\$1,323.72	\$6,221.48	\$34,863.52	\$1,337.77	\$33,525.75	18.40%		
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$71,840.95	\$6,400.00	\$8,850.00	\$62,990.95	\$13,619.95	\$49,371.00	31.28%		
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	\$18,430.00	\$0.00	\$530.00	\$17,900.00	\$17,900.00	\$0.00	100.00%		
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$440.53	\$1,559.47	\$0.00	\$1,559.47	22.03%		
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$1,039.77	\$2,148.77	\$5,851.23	\$0.00	\$5,851.23	26.86%		
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$11,855.00	\$0.00	\$1,790.50	\$10,064.50	\$0.00	\$10,064.50	15.10%		
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$274.00	\$1,226.00	\$0.00	\$1,226.00	18.27%		
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
	Contractual Services Totals:	\$170,850.95	\$9,498.50	\$24,397.07	\$146,453.88	\$33,006.72	\$113,447.16	33.60%		
Commodities										

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$980.69	\$1,519.31	\$113.35	\$1,405.96	43.76%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53102	HARM REDUCTION SUPPLI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$38.38	\$161.62	\$0.00	\$161.62	19.19%
228.450.53510	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPME	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$196.22	\$3.78	\$0.00	\$3.78	98.11%
228.450.53620	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$400.12	\$99.88	\$10.54	\$89.34	82.13%
	Commodities Totals:	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,615.41	\$1,784.59	\$123.89	\$1,660.70	51.16%
Capital Outlay								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIA	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$872.74	\$3,927.26	\$0.00	\$3,927.26	18.18%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54360	OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Capital Outlay Totals:	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$872.74	\$3,927.26	\$0.00	\$3,927.26	18.18%
Refunds								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Refunds Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	DEPT: 450 Totals:	<u>\$1,001,843.95</u>	<u>\$90,519.56</u>	<u>\$344,114.30</u>	<u>\$657,729.65</u>	<u>\$56,590.38</u>	<u>\$601,139.27</u>	<u>40.00%</u>

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228 Total:		\$1,001,843.95	\$90,519.56	\$344,114.30	\$657,729.65	\$56,590.38	\$601,139.27	40.00%

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 5/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
Grand Total:		\$1,001,843.95	\$90,519.56	\$344,114.30	\$657,729.65	\$56,590.38	\$601,139.27	40.00%
Target Percent:							41.67%	

**Ohio Department of Health's Healthy Housing & Lead Poisoning Surveillance System
(HHLPPS)
Local Administrator Agreement**

Notice for security and privacy incident reporting:

Ohio Department of Health
Attn: Socrates H. Tuch, Senior Counsel/Privacy
Officer 246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-3543
Socrates.Tuch@odh.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Health
Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHLPPS)
246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
1-877-532-3723
hhlppss@odh.ohio.gov

The Local Administrator acknowledges that they are entering into a binding legal agreement (the “Agreement”) with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding the Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHLPPS).

ODH will provide Local Administrators and Users with access to the Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHLPPS) for the purpose of case management and monitoring of lead-related activities. These lead-related activities include medical management of children with blood lead levels at or above the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) blood lead reference value (BLRV) of 3.5 µg/dl; tracking the investigation and remediation of lead hazards in the home, school or daycare facilities of children with blood lead levels at or above the BLRV.

HHLPPS includes confidential data and contains Protected Information, including patient identifying information, protected health information, and personal information, as defined below.

The Local Administrator will adhere to, and monitor Users’ compliance with, the following terms and conditions:

A. Definitions

1. Protected Information includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Patient Identifying Information (“PII”) which means the name, address, social security number, fingerprints, photograph, or similar information by which the identify of a patient of a 42 CFR part 2 program can be determined with reasonable accuracy, either directly, or by reference to other information;

- b. Protected Health Information (“PHI”) which means individually identifiable information relating to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual, provision of health care to the individual, or the past, present, or future payment for health care provided to the individual, whether the information is in paper or electronic form; and
 - c. Personal information is defined in R.C. 1347.01(E) as any information that describes anything about a person, or that indicates actions done by or to a person, or that indicates that a person possesses certain personal characteristics, and that contains, and can be retrieved from a system by, a name, identifying number, symbol, or other identifier assigned to a person.
- 2. Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHLPPS) is a web-based data management platform that provides a centralized surveillance repository for blood lead data, environmental sampling results, and follow-up information for case management.
- 3. User means an employee of a local health department who is authorized to utilize HHLPPS under the Local Administrator’s supervision.
- 4. Local Administrator is the local department of health employee with supervisory authority over other employees of the local health department (the “users”) who utilize HHLPPS. The Local Administrator also utilizes HHLPPS and monitors compliance of employees under the Local Administrator’s supervision with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 5. Patient is the individual who is the subject of the Protected Information or if the patient is a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the patient.
- 6. Aggregated data is deidentified compiled datasets of testing results from HHLPPS used for the purpose of research and/or analysis.

B. The Local Administrator acknowledges that in receiving, using, disclosing, transmitting, transporting, maintaining, processing, or otherwise dealing with HHLPPS, including confidential and Protected Information received from or on behalf of ODH, it is fully bound by the provisions of the state and federal confidentiality and information disclosure laws, rules, and regulations applicable, which may include, but not limited to the Federal regulations governing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”), 45 CFR parts 160, 162, and 164; Ohio Revised Code 149.43, 3701.17, 3701.028, 3701.9310, 3701.9312, Chapter 3742, and Chapter 1347; and corresponding Ohio Administrative Code rules.

C. Protected Information, including medical, demographic, personal health information, and financial information of patients and their parent(s), legal guardian(s), and/or care giver(s), including but not limited to government assistance program participation and insurance status,

is strictly confidential. Protected Information may only be used for the purpose of providing direct patient care as described in Ohio Revised Code 3701.17 and as otherwise permitted by law, including by the following medical and public health professionals: case managers, data entry staff, health educators, lead investigators and risk assessors, public health nurses, and any individual responsible for assisting any of the aforementioned professionals for the purposes of this Agreement.

- D. The Local Administrator agrees to make available to the US Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Secretary's designee, its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use or disclosure of Protected Information in HHLPPS created, received, maintained, or transmitted by or on behalf of ODH, for purposes of determining compliance with HIPAA regulations, and this Agreement. To the extent permitted by law, the Local Administrator shall provide ODH with a copy of such internal practices, records and books that it provides to the Secretary pursuant to this paragraph. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Local Administrator shall have the right to redact any of its internal practices, records and books provided to ODH hereunder in any manner that it deems reasonably necessary to protect its proprietary and confidential information.
- E. The Local Administrator shall permit onsite inspection on DAS's premises by the State of Ohio (including but not limited to ODH, the Auditor of the State of Ohio, the Inspector General of Ohio, or any duly authorized law enforcement officials) and by agencies of the United States government to ensure the requirements of state and federal law, regulations, and this Agreement are met.
- F. The information contained within HHLPPS is the sole property of ODH and intended for use only by ODH and those authorized by ODH.
- G. The Local Administrator shall not disclose any information in HHLPPS that is created, received, maintained, or transmitted from or on behalf of ODH to any person or entity except as permitted by this Agreement or the law without the specific written authorization of the Director of ODH or designee. The Local Administrator shall restrict access to HHLPPS to its authorized personnel, agents, and subcontractors, who have a need for such access to perform the duties related to this Agreement. All such persons with access to HHLPPS will be advised of, and agree to comply with, all the applicable provisions of this Agreement.
- H. The Local Administrator agrees to provide the ODH Agency Contact with a complete listing of any and all of their personnel who shall have access to HHLPPS. The Local Administrator will also notify ODH within 7 days of the following personnel changes impacting HHLPS access: new employees who require access to HHLPPS, and exiting and existing employees who no longer require access to HHLPPS. The Local Administrator will require new employees who require access to HHLPPS to complete the HHLPPS New User Account Request Form and return it to ODH before access to HHLPPS will be granted.
- I. In no event shall Users or Local Administrators share HHLPPS log-in names and passwords.
- J. The Local Administrator understands that HHLPPS contains Protected Information and disclosure of Protected Information is breach hereof or failure to take appropriate safeguards

as required herein, whether intentional or unintentional, to protect the HHPSS may result in applicable sanctions and penalties and the termination of this Agreement and access to HHPSS.

- K. The Local Administrator agrees to use appropriate safeguards to prevent the unauthorized use or disclosure of HHPSS in all forms, and implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of any electronic Protected Information contained in HHPSS that it receives, transmits, or maintains from ODH against use or disclosure not provided for by this Agreement.
- L. Local Administrators and Users must inform each patient, or if the patient is a minor, the parent or legal guardian of the patient (the “patient”) that personal information, including but not limited to lead testing, heavy metals testing, demographic information, and housing data, will be entered into HHPSS and accessible by ODH, local health departments, and other governmental agencies.
- M. Local Administrators and Users must make all reasonable efforts to ensure that all information is entered with accuracy, including any edits or amendments to existing records and data, and uploads of documents and data. Local Administrators and Users must not intentionally input false, inaccurate, or misleading information into HHPSS or knowingly allow the input of such information into HHPSS.
- N. Testing data obtained from HHPSS may be used for the purposes of research or assessment of testing rates in aggregate form only, without personal identification information. Users must not remove or cause to be removed any records or data from HHPSS.
- O. When the Local Administrator or User is not present at the computer interface, HHPSS must be exited (the User must log off or their electronic device must be locked with a password unique to that User). Users must not divulge or share security codes or user authorizations.
- P. The Local Administrator will ensure that each individual User’s log-in name and password is disclosed only to the individual for whom the log-in credentials were established. If a User or Local Administrator finds that a breach of security has occurred, the User or Local Administrator shall notify ODH immediately. ODH will require any User whose account was involved in the breach to change their account password.
- Q. The Local Administrator agrees to have this Agreement reviewed for renewal every three (3) years, beginning in 2026. If it is determined that this agreement is not to be renewed, the Local Administrator shall provide the ODH Agency Contact with a complete listing of any and all of their personnel who have access to HHPSS. The Local Administrator and Users affiliated to the Local Administrator will no longer have access to HHPSS for purposes related to this Agreement after that date. The Local Administrators and Users will not keep copies of any records or data from HHPSS except as required by applicable law. At such time, the Local Administrator shall ensure log ins created, received, maintained, or transmitted from or on behalf of ODH are destroyed.

- R. Users and Local Administrators must report any violations of this Agreement to ODH Agency contacts immediately upon discovery.
- S. This agreement is binding. A copy signed by the legally responsible and authorized Local Administrator at each participating entity or facility (hereafter referred to as the "Signatory") must be on file with ODH. All parties designated as authorized Users under the authority of the Local Administrator signatory must agree to and abide by this agreement. The signatory is responsible for the use or abuse of HHPSS and the data therein, as well as any violation of this agreement, by those granted such authorization.
- T. Notwithstanding reporting for privacy and security incidents, any other notice or communications to ODH shall be provided to the following Agency contact:

Ohio Department of Health
Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Surveillance System
(HHPSS)
246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
1-877-532-3723
hhlpss@odh.ohio.gov

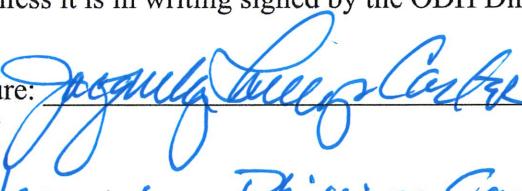
- U. The Local Administrator agrees to maintain and access HHPSS in accordance with security policies and procedures set forth in this Agreement and agrees to retain records in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local records retention laws, and corresponding Ohio Administrative Code rules.
- V. All provisions shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.
- W. The provision of data identified does not waive any exemptions provided to ODH and permitted by Ohio's Sunshine Laws, R.C. 149.43 et. seq.
- X. Upon breach or default of any of the provisions, obligations or duties provided for in this Agreement, ODH may exercise all administrative, contractual, equitable or legal remedies available, without limitation. The waiver of any occurrence of breach or default is not a waiver of subsequent occurrences, and ODH retains the right to exercise all remedies provided for in this Agreement.
- Y. If the Local Administrator fails to perform an obligation or obligations under this Agreement and thereafter such failure is waived by ODH, such waiver will be limited to the particular failure so waived and shall not be deemed to waive other failures hereunder. Waiver by ODH shall not be effective unless it is in writing signed by the ODH Director or designee.

Local Administrator Signature:

Date: 5 / 14 / 2024

Print Signatory's Name:

Approved as to form:


Benjamin J. Yoder, Law Director

Please retain a copy of this signed agreement for your records.



Butler County
General Health District

Figure 1: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Week for May 2024

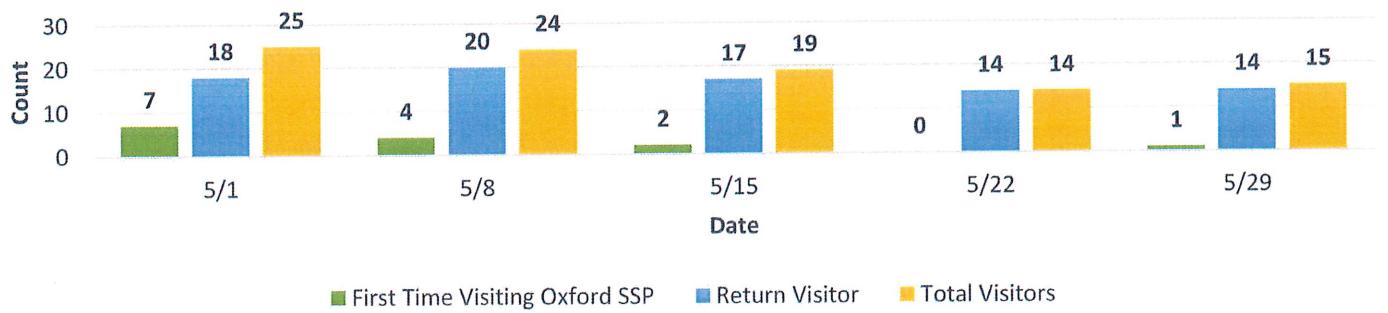


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024

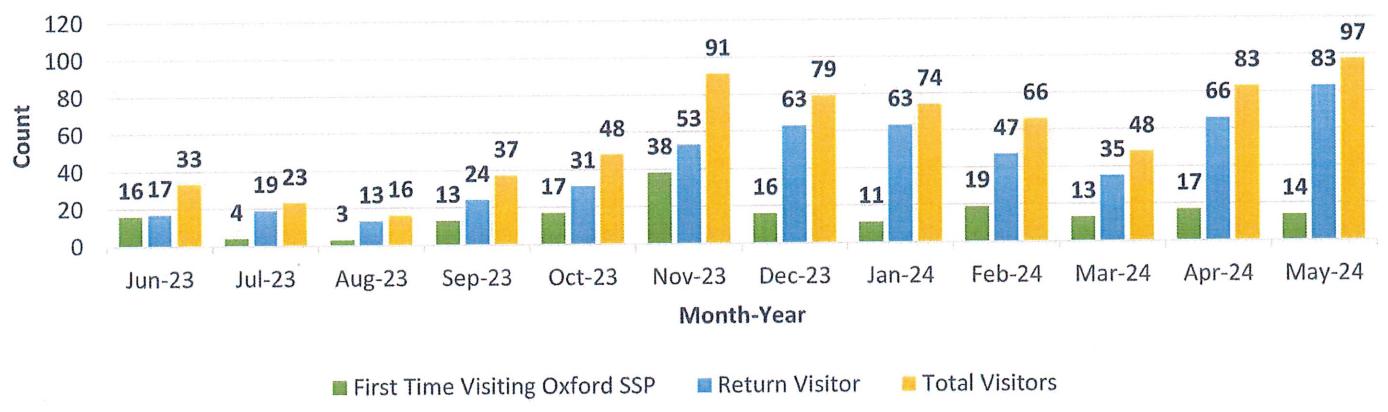
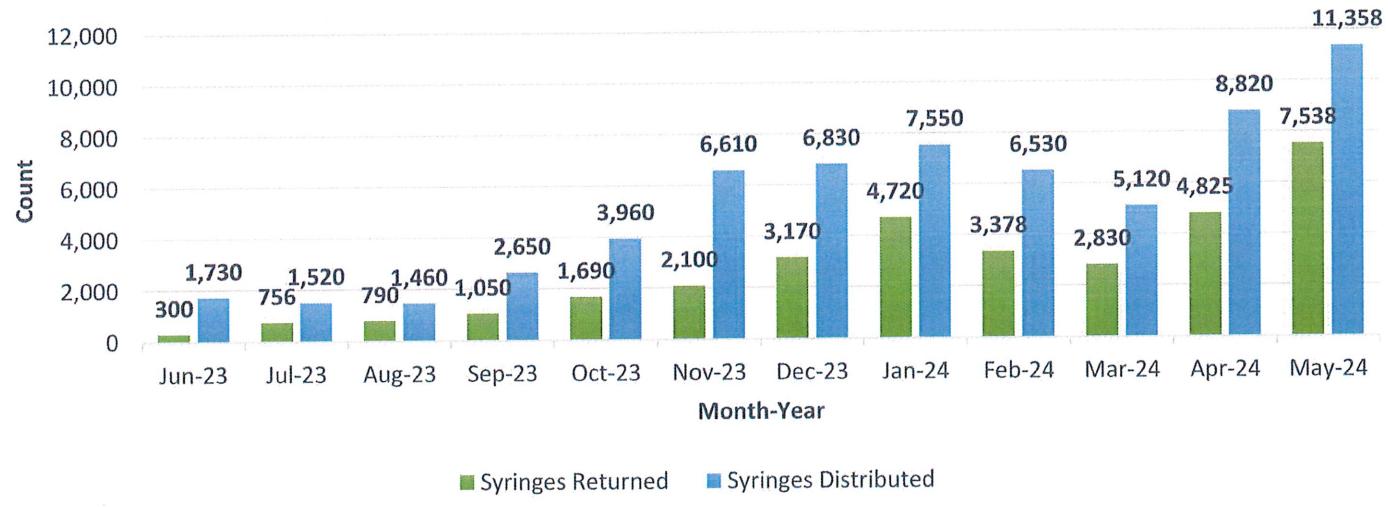


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024





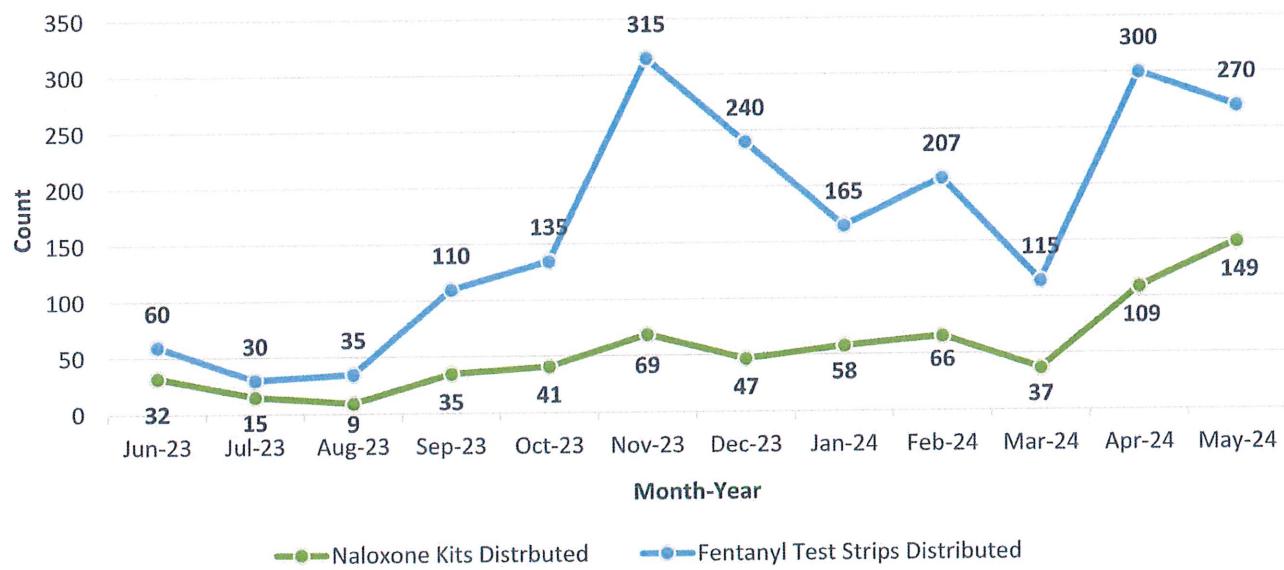
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Butler County
General Health District

Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code – City or County for the Oxford SSP Site by Visitors' Reported Home Residence for May 2024

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	2,671	4,210	63.44%
45013	1,790	2,500	71.60%
45015	500	500	100.00%
Hamilton Total	4,961	7,210	68.81%
Middletown			
45042	575	580	99.14%
45044	0	320	0.00%
Middletown Total	575	900	63.89%
45056 - Oxford	2,002	3,248	61.64%
Total	7,538	11,358	66.37%

Figure 4: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024





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General Health District

Figure 1: Fairfield SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024



Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Fairfield SSP Site for May 2024

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	15,904	19,000	83.71%
Clermont County, OH	70	150	46.67%
Hamilton County, OH	445	810	54.94%
Warren County, OH	30	80	37.50%
Pasco County, FL	520	560	92.86%
Total	16,969	20,600	82.37%



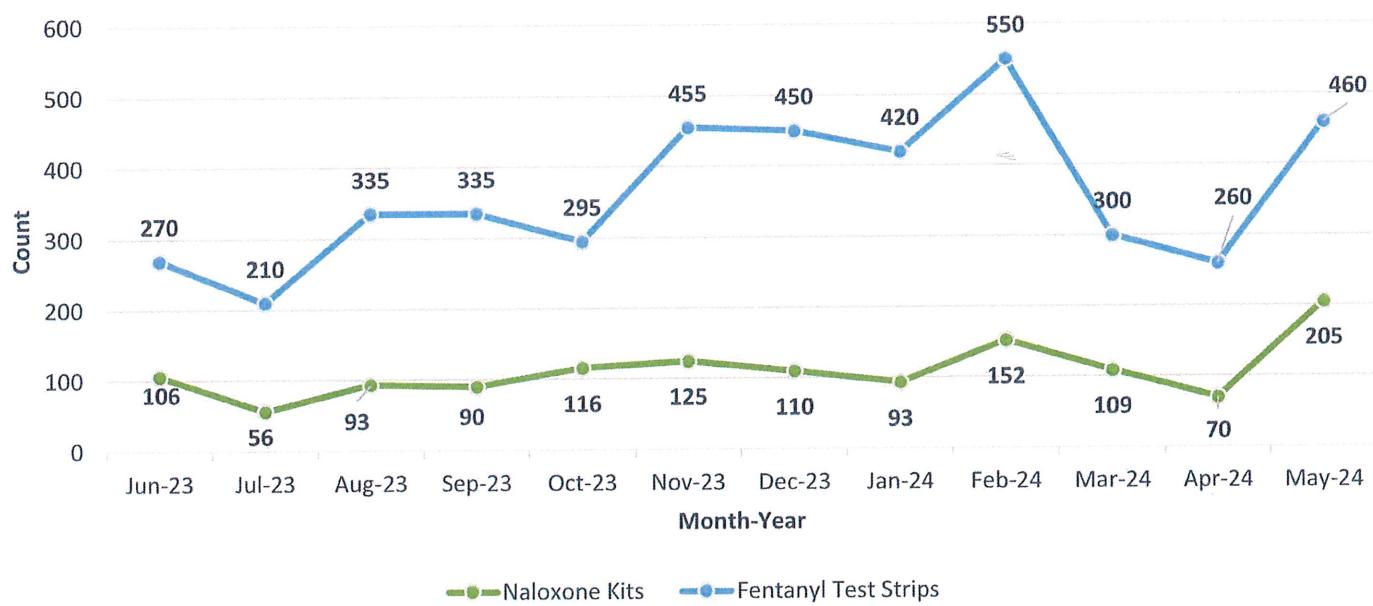
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Butler County
General Health District

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Fairfield SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for May 2024

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	3,532	4,670	75.63%
45013	7,303	8,310	87.88%
45015	1,777	1,880	94.52%
Hamilton Total	12,612	14,860	84.87%
Middletown			
45042	950	1,310	72.52%
45044	1,660	1,660	100.00%
Middletown Total	2,610	2,970	87.88%
45014 - Fairfield	650	890	73.03%
45050 - Monroe	0	40	0.00%
45055 - Overpeck	2	80	2.50%
45056 - Oxford	30	160	18.75%
Butler County Total	15,904	19,000	83.71%

Figure 3: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



Source: Butler County General Health District – Fairfield Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained June 3, 2024, Data is provisional and subject to change



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

May of 2024

Jordan Luttrell-Freeman, MPH
Jordan.Luttrell-Freeman@bcohio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 379
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B.

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, May 2024 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	7,159	63.0	-	-
Butler County	227	58.2	0.923	0.809 – 1.054

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 7.7% less likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are not statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (May 2024)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	217	78.6	↓30.4% from April 2024 (n=312)
Middletown City Health Department	80	156.8	↓2.4% from April 2024 (n=82)
City of Hamilton Health Department	82	129.4	↓18.0% from April 2024 (n=100)
Butler County (all inclusive)	379	97.1	↓23.3% from April 2024 (n=494)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (May 2024)

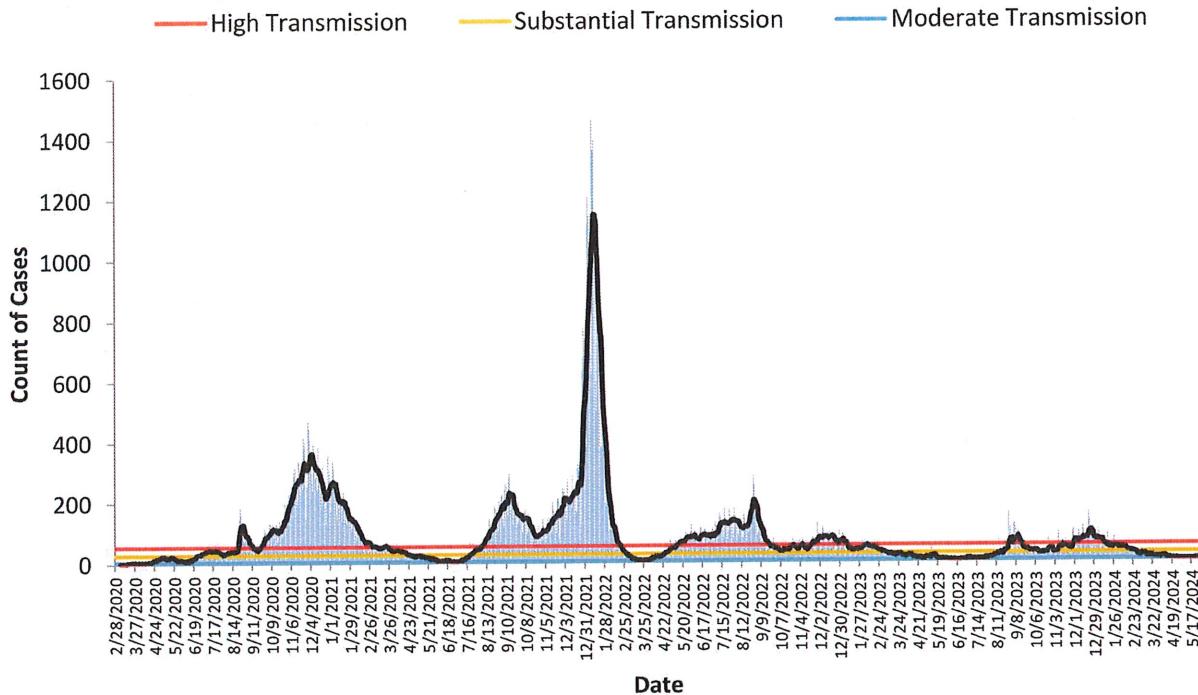
Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	33	↓5.7% from April 2024 (n=35)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	152	↓ 1.9% from April 2024 (n=155)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibrios and Yersiniosis)	16	↑23.1% from April 2024 (n=13)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Tetanus, and Varicella)	152	↓44.5% from April 2024 (n=274)

*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 May 1-31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 5/6/2024.

Table 4. *Diseases Reported in Butler County (May 2024)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. auris	7	3	0	10
Campylobacteriosis	3	1	0	4
Chlamydia infection	53	33	37	123
COVID-19	95	25	15	135
CPO	5	2	0	7
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	1
Cyclosporiasis	1	0	0	1
Gonococcal infection	9	7	5	21
Haemophilus influenzae - invasive disease	1	0	1	2
Hepatitis A	1	0	1	2
Hepatitis B	11	0	4	15
Hepatitis C	7	4	7	18
HIV	2	0	2	4
Influenza-associated hospitalization	3	0	3	6
Legionellosis	0	1	1	2
Lyme Disease	2	0	0	2
Malaria	1	0	0	1
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	3	0	0	3
Meningitis - bacterial	0	0	1	1
Pertussis	2	1	0	3
Salmonellosis	2	0	0	2
Shigellosis	1	0	0	1
Streptococcal - Group A - invasive	1	1	2	4
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive	2	1	0	3
Syphilis	1	1	2	4
Tuberculosis	2	0	1	3
Vibriosis (not cholera)	1	0	0	1
Total	217	80	82	379

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2020-2024*



*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 May 1-31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 5/6/2024.

Butler County Reportable Disease 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 2019 through 2024 and provides a 5-year average column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 5. * Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2019–2024)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5 Year Avg.	Up to 5/31/2024
Amebiasis	1	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	2	0	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	0	0	1	13	37	10.2	17
Campylobacteriosis	45	30	35	48	49	41.4	13
Chlamydia infection	1,631	1,512	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,445.8	569
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	26,420	39,521	49,323	12,192	31,864	3,536
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	4	10	11	12	93	26	25
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	2	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	4	6	5	7	7	5.8	5
Cyclosporiasis	2	0	0	1	3	1.2	1
Dengue	1	0	1	1	0	<1	1
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	11	14	15	17	17	14.8	3
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	1	1	1	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	4	14	7	13	10	1
Gonococcal Infection	732	651	480	473	413	549.8	154
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	10	7	6	11	18	10.4	10
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	1	0	1	<1	0
Hepatitis A	104	2	1	0	2	21.8	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	109	67	85	78	82	84.2	32
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	552	486	434	390	280	428.4	101
HIV	24	17	58	38	35	34.4	20
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	325	266	18	306	70	197	306
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	17	10	10	15	12	12.8	2
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	2	<1	0
Lyme Disease	3	2	0	2	2	1.8	2
Malaria	2	2	1	3	4	2.4	3
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	25	9	14	10	10	13.6	9
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	4	3	3	11	10	6.2	5
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	0	15	7	1	5.75	0
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	4	0	-	0
Mumps	1	0	0	0	0	<1	1
Pertussis	38	13	3	3	5	12.4	16
Salmonellosis	32	20	26	34	54	33.2	16
Salmonella Paratyphi	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	1
Shigellosis	7	8	3	6	7	6.2	7
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	2	0	1	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	24	27	24	34	39	29.6	19
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	0	1	0	1	1	<1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	59	31	33	40	43	41.2	20
Syphilis (all stages)	11	17	23	45	66	32.4	23
Tuberculosis (active)	8	6	7	8	7	7.2	6
Varicella	14	1	5	8	19	9.4	9
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	1	0	2	2	3	1.6	1
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Yersiniosis	1	0	1	2	4	1.6	0

*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 May 1-31, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 5/6/2024.



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

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For May 2024

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	City Tavern	5/29/2024	X							
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

May 2024

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	90	355
Death Certificates Filed	87	472
Birth Certificates Issued	301	1661
Death Certificates Issued	325	1768
Indigent Cremation Services	0	16

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	1	8
Falls	0	1
Motor Vehicle	0	1
Exposure to Elements	0	0
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	0
Homicide	0	0
Suicide	0	3
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	4
Could Not Be Determined	2	2
Pending Investigation	0	0

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

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees	0	3
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Animal Bite Events

Dog	10	30
Cat	1	4
Bat	1	1
Raccoon-Animal Exposure	1	1

Health Commissioner Notes

May 2024

T21 Update:

- Updated meeting with BC Policy and Advocacy Coalition
- May 17 ruling cities won and are able to license
- We are now ready to move forward on activities

Middletown Connect/Grant OHIZ

- Continue to meet with Ambassadors of all Census tracks
- Expungement Fair successful will meet at the Community HUB (Elks) Monthly
- Amanda Walk n Talk
- Amanda/Oneida Surveys June 17th, 20th and 22nd
- Ambassador Meetings for Amanda and Rosa
- Hub activities/Expungement 2nd meeting

BC Housing Meetings Continue

- Still holding ongoing meetings forming leadership

BC Cares

- Continue to meet every Wednesday at 1p to discuss community issues-Eclipse planning, homelessness
- Dr Rasmus with MHARS Board stated possible BC State of Mental Health will be held at Miami Hamilton

One Ohio Opiate

- Press Conference held 4/1/2024 info in packet
- RFP registration and process at OneOhio website

PHAB Community Health Improvement Phase

- Meeting set with Coordinators to pull together status updates for 3 groups
- Next meetings will be scheduled for the 3 sub-groups TBA
- CHIP is out for all to review

Senior Citizen Update

- Event Planner Manager discussed
- Job description posted
- Building issues

Internal/External Meetings and Tasks

- City Newsletter-Health page
- Amanda Task Force
- Webinar on Indigent Program

City of Middletown

- Indigent/Unclaimed Services and activities
- Continue to Meet w/ CM and assistant CM's
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meeting
- Council Review Meeting
- Amanda Meeting
- Town Hall Violence
- Met w/ PW Director and Middletown Connect
- Together we Can ODH Conference Calls
- YWCA Board Meeting
- CenterPoint program committee
- CenterPoint Board Meeting
- Middletown Rock
- Middletown Connect Core Meetings
- Infectious Disease meetings
- Walk with a Doc meeting
- Spring Conference
- Townhall on Violence
- Middletown Connect Evaluation Contract
- AOHC Health Commissioners/SW Ohio District Meeting Wright State
- City Employee Motivational Movie
- Spring cook out w/ City staff
- BC Youth Summit
- Article/info for newsletter

Phillips Carter, Jackie

From: Ealy, Carla
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 2:08 PM
To: Phillips Carter, Jackie
Subject: FW: Resignation

From: Chaney, Sarah <sarahc@cityofmiddletown.org>

Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 1:55 PM

To: Ealy, Carla <carlae@cityofmiddletown.org>

Subject: Resignation

Dear Carla,

Please accept this as my formal resignation from the City of Middletown Health Department. My last day will be July 5th, 2024 (four weeks from today). Thank you for your support during my time here. I have truly enjoyed working with you and everyone else in the department. Please let me know how I can help make the transition as smooth and possible.

Sincerely,

Sarah


MIDDLETOWN
City of Middletown Health Department

Your opinion matters! Click [here](#) to take the City of Middletown Health Department Survey!



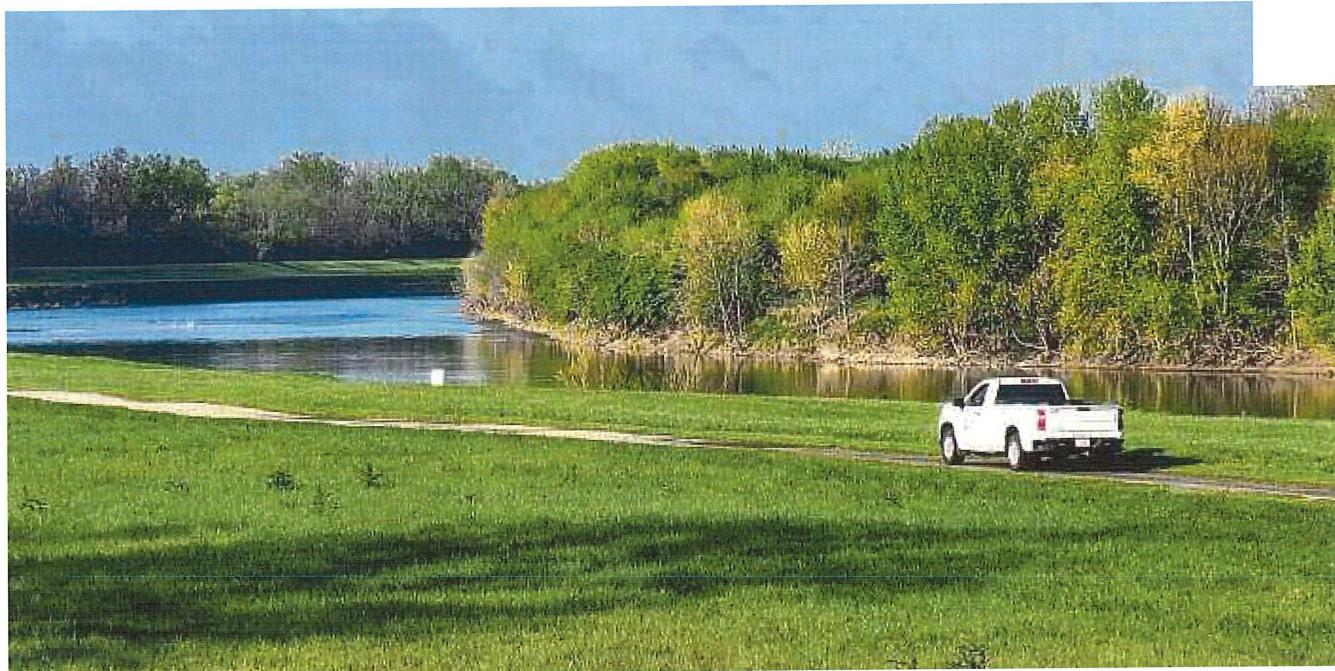
Sarah Chaney | Environmental Health Specialist
City of Middletown — Health Department
1 Donham Plaza
Middletown, Ohio 45042-1932
(513) 425-7849 Office
(513) 425-7852 Fax



Written communications to and from public officials or public employees, including e-mails, are subject to the Ohio Public Records Act, and in most cases must be made available to any person, including the media, upon request. E-mail, which qualifies as a public record, will be released, unless it clearly falls under a specific exemption in the state law.

Middletown council wants pause on flood rate reassessment

NEW DETAILS



A Miami Conservancy District vehicle along the Great Miami River in Middletown. City leaders want a full pause on MCD's flood risk assessments.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITER

Middletown City Council is joining its neighbors to the south questioning the Miami Conservancy District proposed flood protection reappraisal and asking for a pause until options can be explored.

Conservancy group leaders have said the flood protection agency isn't seeking to penalize any community but said funding is needed for infrastructure improvements that keep floodwaters at bay.

Under state law, conservancy districts cannot reappraise flood protection more frequently than every six years. This reappraisal is what the MCD is considering pausing.

Additionally, the MCD board of directors annually assigns the rate at which assessments are charged. These rates are approved by the Conservancy Court.

Hamilton council members have spoken at two Middletown City Council meetings, including Monday's special meeting, and asked for support in opposing the higher assessments.

While Middletown has not developed the areas along the river like the resurgence in Hamilton, 4,012 properties are affected, including much in the city's south end; Main Street in the city's historic neighborhood; the businesses district downtown; the airport; and property off Tytus Avenue in the Lakeside neighborhood, according to mapping and city council.

With the proposed increased assessment, the yearly assessments total in Middletown would increase from \$763,360 to \$1,312,980. Of that, the city payment would increase from \$278,759 to \$479,466, and non-government assessments from \$287,306 to \$494,165, according to city officials.

Council member Steven West said he has been contacted by a handful of residents who say "100 percent, this not good for my community."

He said "it's unreasonable" and having a "domino effect" after property tax increases from the recent state-mandated revaluation process.

The MCD reassessment will affect future growth in Middletown, not just Hamilton, he said.

Of the \$763,360 in assessments paid yearly by properties within Middletown's MCD assessment, residents, businesses and non-governmental organizations are anticipated to pay \$287,305 of that.

The city of Middletown is paying \$278,759 yearly in assessments, with the remaining balance of \$197,295 being paid by Butler County for properties within the city limits. An additional \$21,600 in delinquent assessments are owed by property owners, and those delinquencies collect interest. That brings the total of \$784,961 that will be owed this year under the current rate, including delinquencies, according to city officials.

Council member Zack Ferrell said the river affects all of Middletown, not just the people along the watershed.

He said the people getting hit with the assessment are small businesses and property owners who don't have the means to pay more.

"You can't just put this on the most vulnerable members of society. That's the opposite of what the government is supposed to do,"

Ferrell said. "It is more than unfortunate and it is more than unfair," he said.

Council member Paul Horn pointed to the exact areas hit by the reassessment as ones the city wants to revitalize.

"We are trying to revitalize downtown Middletown ... now how much more difficult is it going to be?" Horn said. "In addition, this is the history of Middletown. A lot of those houses are 100 or 200 years old. They are the foundation of this city. Yes, those people who live there can probably afford it, but it gets to a point when is it too much."

Council member Jennifer Carter lives in the affected area. She said wants to hear a solution.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka noted the importance of keeping the city safe from floodwater, the good work MCD does and that Middletown is not affected as much as Hamilton right now.

"However, I don't think necessarily that is the point," she said, noting a look at all the people who would benefit from reassessment is needed.

She said that even if the assessment was just "a couple dollars for everyone," a study of new funding streams is needed.

'I think it is fair to look at disbursing this among all of us who benefit, and it is timely," Slamka said.

The mayor said a letter specifically asking for a total pause in the reassessment would be sent to MCD.

"It sounds like what we are asking for and what we would like to see as well is a full pause of this for at least two years where we can have a diverse group of all the parties involved come together to take a look at the possibilities moving forward.

We want to pause at the 2012 assessment. Again a full pause, not a partial," Slamka said.

Last week, MaryLynn Lodor, MCD general manager, told this news agency she would recommend a partial pause in the process to the three-member MCD board of directors on Friday when they hold a special meeting in Hamilton City Council Chambers, 345 High St.

That will start with a 4 p.m. work session and a 5 p.m. board meeting. The meeting will be streamed live on the Journal-News and TVHamilton Facebook pages.

Movies in the Park returns to Middletown

THINGS TO DO



Audiences can expect to see blockbuster hits such as "Wonka," "Transformers" and other favorites at parks across Middletown this summer.

CONTRIBUTED

BY GINNY MCCABE - CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Middletown is partnering with local churches once again to host the popular Movies in the Park at parks across the city this summer.

"Movies in the Parks has been an incredible success for the city, and we are excited to once again be partnering with local churches to provide lasting memories for our children and residents through this event," said

Jeri Lewis, Middletown's community projects coordinator.

The five movies will be preceded by a family activity, and snacks will be provided by local churches.

At the first three movies, there will be character meet-and-greets that tie into the movies. The movie and snacks are free, and the event is open to the public.

A food truck will be on site at each Movies in the event, and items will be available for purchase. Boom Box Sliders will be the food truck on Friday, May 10, when Movies in the Park kicks off with "Transformers" in Sunset Park, in partnership with Axis Church.

"We start off things intentionally with activities until it gets dark. So, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., we engage kids and families in some sort of interactive activity. A lot of the movies this year have character meet-and greets.

So, characters from the movie will actually be there, which is pretty cool, especially with 'Transformers' being our kick-off," Lewis said.

The movie Friday will start at dusk. Local churches will have a booth set up and provide attendees with free popcorn, candy and drinks.

Actors in Transformer costumes on stilts will greet guests prior to the start of the movie.

Movies in the Park will be held monthly basis throughout the summer with the final movie in October. On Friday, Oct. 11, "Wonka" will be shown in the field behind the Middletown Event and Senior Center (formerly Central Connections.) The city is partnering with Kingswell.

"We added October. We've never done October before. We skipped September, because there are so many other things going on as far as festivals and other events," Lewis said.

On Friday, June 7, "Disney's The Little Mermaid" will be shown at Douglass Park, and the city is partnering with New Era Baptist Church. The Little Mermaid character will have a sing-along and a story time prior to the film.

This year, there will be a professional photographer who will take photos, and post them on the Middletown Ohio Events Facebook page. Families are also welcome to bring a camera/ cell phone and take photos.

On Friday, July 12, "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" will be shown at Goldman Park, with Breiel Church as partner.

On Friday, Aug. 9, residents will see "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" in Maple Park, with partner Restore Church.

This is the eighth year for Movies in the Park, and movies were selected based on an online survey with feedback from residents. The top five movies that were the most mentioned were chosen for this year.

"It's exciting to see the community come out. A lot of people have been coming to this for eight years, and they look forward to it," Lewis said.

The screens have been upgraded to a 30-foot or 55-foot screen, depending on where the movie will be shown. All of the parks are centrally located, and accessible from area neighborhoods.

The movie nights have drawn anywhere from 150 to 500 guests. Last year, "Top Gun: Maverick" attracted close to 500 guests.

To learn more about Movies in the Park, and other events sponsored by the city, visit the Middletown Ohio Events Facebook page. A rain plan is expected soon.

In the future, the movies are expected to be moved indoors in case of rain.

Watch the events page for the latest updates.

Families describe struggle to find needed medications

National shortage issue having an impact in region.



Corey and Kelley Carter stand with their son, Miles, 8, at a park near their home in Middletown. Drug shortages have reached an all-time high this year, and the Carter family has struggled to get the medication they need for their son.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

PUBLIC HEALTH

The number of drugs in shortage reached a record high this year and has pushed some local families to spend hours calling multiple pharmacies to try to find the medication, or even ration or go without the medication.

“It’s just total fear each month of what am I going have to do to get it,” said Kelley Carter of Middletown, who has been struggling to find pharmacies with her son’s ADHD medication in stock.

For the first three months of 2024, there were 323 active drug shortages, according to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Prior to 2022, the last high was in 2014 with 301 active drug shortages. This is also the highest record the trade organization has seen since it started tracking drug shortages in 2001.

Basic drugs are among those in active shortages, such as insulin, drugs specific to type 2 diabetes, standard of care chemotherapy, pain and sedation medications and ADHD medications, according to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Doctors struggle to find supply

Doctors are trying to help their patients navigate this shortage, as well, which has led to increased anxiety and concern for their patients.

‘It’s just total fear each month of what am I going have to do to get it.’

Kelley Carter

Middletown mother who has been struggling to find pharmacies with her son’s ADHD medication in stock

“It has consumed our days,” Dr. Miguel Parilo, of Premier Health’s Bull

Family Diabetes Center in Oakwood, said about finding diabetes medication in general.

Parilo may have upwards of 15 to 20 patients a day who need help coming up with an alternative plan if they cannot get access to their regular medication.

Some patients can switch to an alternative, while others may have more difficulty finding a medication that is available, works for them and is covered by their insurance or otherwise affordable.

One of the medicines Parilo's patients have been having difficulty finding is Humalog, or insulin lispro injection, specifically in the vials, which are generally what patients use when they are using an insulin pump, he said.

The drug company Eli Lilly discontinued its 3-millimeter vial of Humalog, according to the FDA. The drug company warned earlier this year that its alternative 10-millimeter would likely be in short supply through April because of these manufacturing changes, but the shortage has continued into May.

"I never envisioned having a shortage of a medication let alone a handful of medications, and it's happening from different manufacturers.

It's happening from medicines of different countries of origin, so the reasons for the shortage are unclear and seemingly multifactorial," Parilo said.

Hours spent calling pharmacies

Carter has spent hours of her time calling pharmacies to try to find her son's ADHD medicine, which she says does more than help him focus. The medicine, Focalin, helps him function and has improved his quality of life.

"He just could not do anything," Carter said what it was like for her son

before he was diagnosed with ADHD got treatment, saying he was unable to self-regulate or control his emotions without his medicine.

ADHD, or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, is a neurodevelopmental disorder.

It exhibits an ongoing pattern of inattention and/ or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

"Life was so overwhelming that he couldn't control himself in a lot of different ways, but with medicine... he's happy. He's smiling," Carter said. "He's able to function as a normal 8-year-old should versus not being able to control the emotions that he has."

The longest Carter has spent calling multiple pharmacies is more than four hours trying to find Focalin, and her husband has had to leave his job before in order to get to a pharmacy before it closes. She has to start with CVS pharmacies since her family's insurance requires going through CVS first, which can help her since CVS pharmacies can check within a 20-mile radius for other locations that may have it.

If she can't find the medicine at a CVS pharmacy, she has to get permission from her insurance to go through a different pharmacy.

"Once I get out of the CVS network, I then literally have to just start calling pharmacy after pharmacy after pharmacy," Carter said.

She's even gotten to the point where she will find a pharmacy that has it in stock, but it will get filled and bought out by someone else before her son's doctor could send the prescription to that pharmacy for it to be filled.

"There have been multiple times that, by the time the physician has seen it and called it in, we've lost the supply that they had, so then I have to start back over," Carter said.

If her son has to go without his medicine, he can start to experience withdrawal symptoms, like severe headaches.

Controlled substances under limits

Drug shortages can occur for many reasons, the FDA says, including manufacturing and quality problems, delays and discontinuations.

New DEA quota changes, along with allocation practices established after opioid legal settlements, are exacerbating shortages of controlled substances, which are 12% of all active shortages and include ADHD medication, according to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Drug manufacturers aren't meeting those quotas, the DEA says, saying the companies could have been producing more but chose not to do so.

For amphetamine medications like Adderall, in 2022, manufacturers did not produce the full amount that these limits permitted them to make, according to the DEA and FDA.

Based on DEA's internal analysis of inventory, manufacturing and sales data submitted by manufacturers of amphetamine products, manufacturers only sold approximately 70% of their allotted quota, according to a joint letter from the Anne M. Milgram, DEA administrator, and Dr. Robert Califf, commissioner for the FDA.

The DEA has also sought more transparency from drug manufacturers, including requiring drug companies submit anticipated production timelines, report monthly on amount of drugs being produced and shipped and report whether those drugs will be used domestically or exported.

Generic drugs in shortage

Generic drugs are less profitable, so drug companies have fewer incentives to make and sell those drugs.

About 70% of the proportion of drugs in a shortage in the U.S. are generic drugs, according to the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), a trade group representing the U.S. pharmaceutical industry.

When something becomes a generic drug, the profit margin continues to shrink and leads to a point where the manufacturer can't make any money on producing the drug, said Eddie Pauline, president and CEO of the Ohio Life Sciences Association, a trade group representing biotech and other life science industries in Ohio.

"In cases like that, there needs to be some sort of federal or state incentive to make a business case for it," said Pauline.

About 40% of generic drugs were supplied by one manufacturer, with the median number of manufacturer per drug was two, PhRMA says.

"Given the majority of prescription drug shortages are generic, lawmakers should prioritize public policies that spur infrastructure investments that could increase the resiliency of supply chains for medicines with a long history of drug shortages," PhRMA said in a statement.

Some point to the insurance companies, many of which won't cover certain medicines or brands, and/ or will require prior authorization, which can be time consuming and prone to errors.

If online submissions for prior authorization are not filled out correctly, sometimes the patient has to go through the process of submitting documents of their insurance carrier and medical records, said Alyssa Overton of Eaton.

"It was really ridiculous, but I'd have to then fill it out by hand and then compile the records and manually fax it," Overton said about helping others go through the prior authorization process.

Overton has had to go a week without her ADHD medication. Her

husband had to go without his medication for about six weeks due to challenges between their insurance carrier and their pharmacy following a data breach at United Healthcare, she said.

Families like the Carters have increasingly been having better luck finding access to the medicines they need, but they're still waiting for the other shoe to drop again.

"My blood pressure is actually increasing every month," Carter said. "...I will move mountains for my child. I will, if I have to, sit down on and call every pharmacy. It makes me sad, though, to think of the parents who don't have the capabilities or won't."

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

Middletown lands \$200K street safety grant

City plans evaluation of vehicle, pedestrian, bike data and needs.



Overnight rain saturated Central Avenue Wednesday morning, Jan. 24, 2024 in Middletown. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

Federal grant funding will allow Middletown to plan to make streets safer in the future for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists.

Middletown has been awarded a \$200,000 Safe Streets and Roads for All grant to develop a comprehensive safety action plan.

Council accepted the grant and authorized a \$50,000 match from the city's general fund at Tuesday night's meeting.

The plan will involve an evaluation of the current system, including roadway, pedestrian and bicycle transportation, plus an analysis of accident information to determine trends and contributing factors.

Headed by the city's public works department, a consultant will collect and review transportation data. Then the focus will turn to assessing high-risk locations and specific safety needs, according to the staff report.

The plan development will also include input from the public, public safety officials, area school district officials, the Ohio Department of Transportation and neighborhood associations, according to Scott Tadych, public works director.

Based on public input, technical analysis and direction of council, a final plan will include specific projects for implementation.

That plan will include infrastructure, behavioral and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads.

"It could include anything from striping in crosswalks to bump outs to (controlling) speed in the boulevard system.," Tadych said.

'The goal is zero fatalities. That is a challenge.' Scott Tadych public works director

The city often receives complaints from citizens concerned about road safety in certain areas, and those will also be "part of the mix" considered in the plan's priorities, he said.

Another component will be education for those using the streets.

"The goal is zero fatalities.

That is a challenge,"

Tadych said.

He estimated the planning process will take about nine months, with implementation starting next year. The amount of work that can be completed will depend on future funding streams, including other grants and city money.

Other area cities, including Hamilton, Trenton and Lebanon, have also received grant money.

Contact this reporter at 513- 543-9227 or email lauren.
pack@coxinc.com.

Butler County storm part of 11-tornado outbreak

No injuries, deaths reported; power restored for most.



Andy Stang cleans up a farm on Stillwell Beckett Road in Reily Twp. on Thursday, two days after Tuesday's tornadoes. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Damage from a tornado in Reily Twp. in Butler County on Thursday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Crews remove debris from a Warren County property on Browning Drive that was damaged by one of five twisters that moved through the area Tuesday night. Final damage assessments are expected soon. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

BY KRISTEN SPICKER - STAFF WRITER

TOP LOCAL STORY

Two Butler County tornadoes — one in and around Reily Twp., the other in Middletown — were part of an outbreak of 11 tornadoes in southwest Ohio on Tuesday evening, and at least two of those were EF-2 tornadoes with wind speeds of more than 110 mph.

Five of the tornadoes were confirmed in neighboring Warren County.

As of Thursday morning, no injuries or fatalities had been reported.

Storms moving through the region knocked down trees and power lines, causing power loss for tens of thousands of households.

Power had been restored to most Butler County homes by Wednesday.

Crews from the National Weather Service conducted storm surveys in southwest Ohio and parts of Indiana, confirming 10 tornadoes in Ohio and one in Indiana as of Wednesday. Final damage assessments are still pending for some of the twisters.

Here's what we know so far about the storms:

Butler County

A high-end EF-1 tornado near McGonigle traveled for 2.4 miles and reached wind speeds of 110 mph, according to NWS.

The tornado started at 8:20 p.m. on Bunker Hill Woods Road in Reily Twp.

The storm destroyed an outbuilding and caused significant damage to a home's roof and garage.

On Pierson Road, another outbuilding was destroyed and trees were snapped. The tornado traveled east, knocking down trees at the Indian Ridge Golf Club. Crews also noted tree damage on Eagle View Court and Lanes Mill Road near the golf club.

The tornado ended around 8:25 p.m. Its maximum path width reached 200 yards.

A brief EF-0 tornado was confirmed in southeast Middletown starting at 9:57 p.m.

The twister moved north on the west side of Cincinnati Dayton Road, damaging metal siding and roofing materials on multiple buildings, according to NWS.

A few semitrailers were overturned, and minor tree damage was also reported.

The tornado reached wind speeds of 80 mph and was 80 yards wide. It traveled for 0.3 miles and ended at 9:58 p.m.

Franklin County, Indiana

An EF-1 tornado was confirmed at the Hickory Woods Campground in Brookville.

It started around 8:56 p.m. east of Brookville Lake.

Crews observed downed, snapped and uprooted trees at the campground, as well as multiple overturned camping units and mobile homes, according to NWS.

Two outbuildings were destroyed, and additional tree damage was also reported near Ohio 101.

The tornado moved northeast, destroying an outbuilding and blowing over trees on Whitcomb Road.

It then headed southeast toward Liberty and Oxford pikes and Urban Road. NWS crews noted the roof was completely lifted off a twostory home as well an exterior wall collapsed on one side of the home.

The twister weakened as it moved along Springfield Road. The last damage was observed on State Line Road, just inside Butler County, Ohio. An outbuilding's roof had been damaged.

The tornado traveled 8.3 miles, reaching a maximum wind speed of 110 mph and maximum width of 300 yards, according to NWS.

It ended at 9:09 p.m.

Warren County

NWS confirmed five tornadoes in Warren County in the following areas:

- Shawhan Road northeast of South Lebanon.
- Mason Morrow Millgrove Road northeast of Morrow.
- Mason Morrow Millgrove Road south of Senior.
- U.S. 22 west of Clarksville.

A low-end EF-0 tornado touched down along Ohio 123 in Lebanon around 10:14 p.m.

Its maximum wind speeds were 65 mph and the path width reached 50 yards, according to NWS.

Most of the damage included downed trees and power poles. Crews reported the storm tossed a water tank from farm equipment into a field behind a residence.

There was sporadic tree damage as the tornado traveled 0.44 miles east-northeast across Wilmington Road before coming to an end at

10:15 p.m.

Additional final assessments are expected by the end of the week.

Clinton County

Crews confirmed a tornado north of Blanchester. Damage was reported along North Ohio 133 near Irvin Road.

A final assessment is expected by the end of the week.

Darke County

An EF-1 tornado touched down in Greenville, reaching maximum wind speeds of 110 mph. It started around 8:24 p.m. near the intersection of Greenville-Nashville and New Madison-Coletown roads, where multiple trees were uprooted, according to NWS.

The tornado traveled northeast, crossing Ohio 502 and causing minor damage to homes on Daly Road.

The twister's width increased as it moved into Greenville, snapping and uprooting trees in the Greenville Union Cemetery.

The tornado damaged trees throughout the city and also caused minor damage at multiple homes. Most of the impact was shingles and siding removed from the houses, according to NWS.

A press box at Greenville High School's football field was destroyed.

The twister left Greenville near the elementary school and moved along Kruckerburg Road, resulting in more damage to homes and outbuildings.

Crews also noted damage along Childrens Home Bradford Road.

The tornado ended near Gettysburg around 8:42 p.m.

It traveled 11.9 miles and had a maximum path width of 800 yards.

Mercer County An EF-2 tornado started Montezuma in Mercer County before traveling 6.4 miles and ending in New Bremen, Auglaize County. It had maximum wind speeds of 130 mph and a path width of 300 yards, according to the NWS.

The twister started at 8:20 p.m. in a field east of Harrison Road. Crews noted scour marks, but there wasn't any damage at that location.

The storm continued east, causing significant damage to trees and outbuildings. Two homes near Southland Road and Tri Township Road lost their roofs and had walls partially collapse, according to NWS. The tornado came to an end at 8:33 p.m., west of state Route 66.

A second EF-2 tornado was confirmed near Coldwater and reached maximum wind speeds of 120 mph.

It started at 7:50 p.m. on Siegrist Jutte Road in Fort Recovery, with a few downed trees. South of Ohio 129, wooded areas had sections with more than 70% tree loss, according to NWS. A few homes on Saint Peter Road had significant roof damage.

The tornado damaged and destroyed outbuildings at farms as it moved east. Most homes were limited to minor roof damage in the area, according to NWS.

The twister ended at 8:08 p.m. in Coldwater. Its maximum path width reached 400 yards.

Special needs students showcased at Middie Olympics

Hundreds of students go for gold at annual event.



Middletown students compete in an egg race, in which students compete while balancing eggs on wooden spoons, at the annual "Middie Olympics" May 8. The annual sports-themed celebration drew hundreds of special needs students from all 10 Middletown schools. They participated in modified races and other athletic and non-sport activities. "It means so much for all our community. ... We are showcasing all of our students with diverse abilities, and it means the world to them," said Middletown High School intervention specialist Meghan Davidson.

MICHAEL D. CLARK / CONTRIBUTED

BY MICHAEL D. CLARK - CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MIDDLETOWN

MIDDLETOWN – The universal joy of sports and friendly competition was showcased Wednesday in the annual “Middie Olympics” for hundreds of special needs students from this city’s school system.

Students from all 10 Middletown schools were joined by their families and friends in the sportsthemed celebration that saw them participating in modified races and other athletic and non-sport activities.

An opening ceremony started on the highest of notes as a skydiver glided down into the track stadium at Middletown High School.

A giant American flag billowed behind him while the famous Olympic theme song was played through stadium speakers.

Soon after, each of the participating schools’ athletes marched together behind their teams’ handcrafted banners.

Then teams of students split up and began – with the help of dozens of teachers, classroom assistants and district officials – to compete in a variety of competitions designed to allow those with physical challenges to join in the fun.

Events included an egg walk race, modified obstacle course, hula-hoop ring toss, soccer goal kicks, a competition between the schools and a banner contest.

Students scampered about the stadium’s synthetic football field and surrounding track while many family members happily looked. The four-hour event also included energetic dance music, snacks and lunch for the students and their fans.

For nearly 50 years, the Middletown district has made the spring Olympic-themed event one of the largest such celebrations for students with challenges in all of Butler County.

"It means so much for all our community. ... We are showcasing all of our students with diverse abilities, and it means the world to them," said Meghan Davidson, intervention specialist at Middletown High School and one of the co-chairs for the Middie Olympics.

"It shows what we are doing here at Middletown, and we are so proud of that and we want to showcase that for our community," said Davidson.

Except for a two-year pause for the COVID pandemic, the Middie Olympics has been a local tradition for nearly a half century, she said.

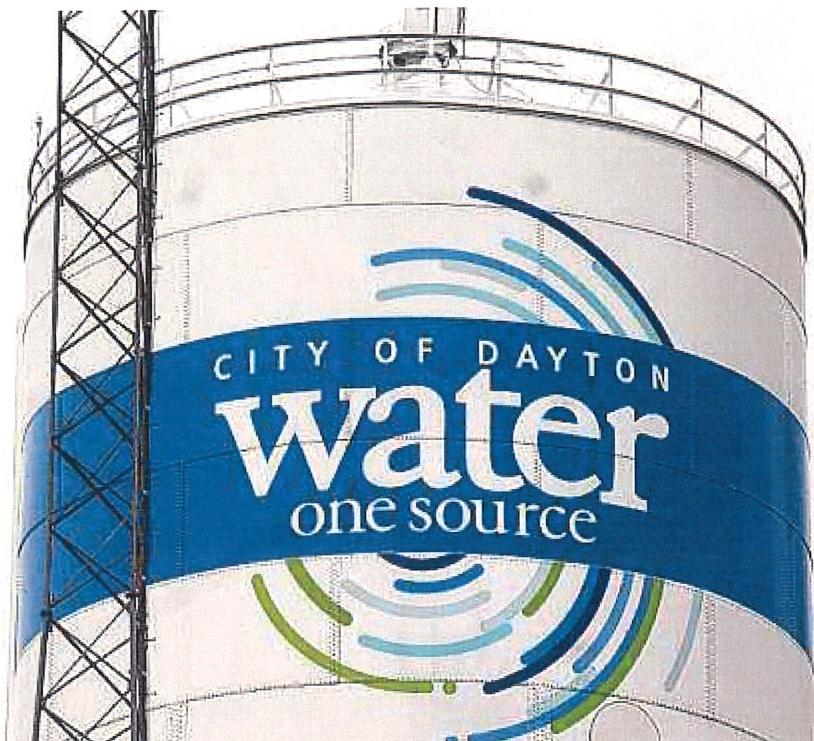
Numerous local businesses, community and county organizations help to fund the event.

Gazing around at the laughing and smiling students, Davidson said "this is their favorite day of the year"

"It means everything (to them) and that they are supported ... and showcased ... and they get to participate in events that are fully adaptable for them."

Water systems have 5 years to address PFAS under new federal rule, but who will pay for it?

CONTINUING COVERAGE



Beginning in 2029, public water systems that have drinking water with PFAS levels that violate one or more of the Environmental Protection Agency's new limits will be required to take action to reduce those levels.

CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

BY SYDNEY DAWES AND CORNELIUS FROLIK - STAFF WRITERS

Public water systems across the country have five years to come into compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's bold new limits

on toxic forever chemicals in drinking water.

The U.S. EPA adopted maximum contamination levels of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for the two most common types of PFAS (PFOS and PFOA) in April, dropping down from previous action levels of 70 ppt.

For Dayton, this has led to plans for a \$250 million upgrade to the city's public water system — the largest project of its kind in the country, city officials say.

As cities form strategies to come into compliance with the new rules, the question remains of how they will pay for water treatment upgrades and new testing standards. The EPA estimates it will cost \$772 million per year for drinking water systems to comply with the new guidelines.

Some Miami Valley leaders point to forever chemical lawsuits, federal funding and other methods to collect money needed to alleviate the effect of the toxic chemicals. Environmental advocates say polluters should be footing the bill for PFAS.

PFAS are a group of powerful, toxic chemicals created to be resistant to heat and other elements. The chemicals are very difficult to break down due to their chemical composition, which consists of strong bonds of fluorine and carbon atoms. Research into PFAS is ongoing, but multiple studies link exposure to the chemicals to harmful health impacts like cancer. PFAS at or above the U.S. EPA's previous minimum reporting levels was found in more than one in four public water systems, according to EPA data released in January.

"What's going to be really important moving forward is making sure that the costs of implementing all of this doesn't get passed onto the victims of contamination," said Robert Bilott, an Ohio environmental attorney and author.

New expectations for water quality

Public water systems must monitor for these PFAS and have three years to complete initial monitoring. Water systems must also provide the public with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027, according to the U.S. EPA.

A Journal-News investigation last year found more than a dozen Miami Valley public water systems had levels of a toxic, man-made chemical that exceeded the new drinking water standards.

PFAS are a group of powerful, toxic chemicals created to be resistant to heat and other elements. The chemicals are very difficult to break down due to their chemical composition, which consists of strong bonds of fluorine and carbon atoms.

Research into PFAS is ongoing, but multiple studies link exposure to the chemicals to harmful health impacts like cancer.

PFAS at or above the U.S.

EPA's previous minimum reporting levels was found in more than one in four public water systems, according to EPA data released in January.

The Environmental Working Group, an organization that advocates for issues related to health and the environment, applauded the new standards during an April 10 virtual press conference.

"What you see, I think, is a very dramatic statement about the scope, the scale and the severity of this issue," said Bilott. "And I think everyone in the public health sector should feel good that we're taking a step in the right direction."

There are thousands of different kinds of PFAS chemicals.

The EPA's new PFAS standards also include limits of 10 ppt for a class of PFAS called GenX chemicals and other forever chemicals variations.

Beginning in 2029, public water systems that have PFAS in drinking

water which violates one or more of these limits are required to take action to reduce levels of these PFAS in their drinking water. The U.S. EPA will also require notification to the public of every violation.

Dayton PFAS project

About 400,000 people in Dayton and Montgomery County get their drinking water from the city of Dayton's water system.

According to April water quality test results, the Ottawa Plant in Dayton has detected two kinds of forever chemicals – PFOS and PFHxS. Although the city reported it sampled for PFHxS below the new standard, PFOS levels were higher than 4 ppt.

The city said it fully expects to meet the EPA's five-year mandate, as long as there is funding available to pay for its proposed PFAS-treatment investments.

For a cost comparison to the \$250 million project, Dayton's general fund budget for 2024 is about \$214.5 million.

Dayton wants to build a new facility at its Ottawa Yards campus near the northeast edge of downtown that has the ability to treat manmade “forever chemicals” in up to 96 million gallons of water each day, which is the water production capacity at the Ottawa Water Treatment Plant.

The new advanced water treatment facility will try to combat and reduce PFAS in the water supply.

“The new EPA PFAS rule requires public water systems to complete initial monitoring testing by 2027,” said Michael Powell, director of Dayton’s water department.

“However, the city of Dayton has been very proactive regarding PFAS and has been routinely testing its drinking water for PFAS since 2017, further illustrating Dayton’s ability to make sound decisions regarding threats to the water system and our ability to collaborate with both the

U.S. and Ohio EPA."

PFAS treatment funding options

Dayton filed a \$300 million lawsuit against Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The case was transferred to a federal court in South Carolina in 2021 under a statute called "multi-district litigation." It was consolidated with some 10,000 other PFAS-related lawsuits.

Since then, little action has taken place.

A major contributor to groundwater contamination from PFAS in this area is runoff from firefighting foam used over decades at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Dayton International Airport because of its ability to extinguish jet fuel fires.

Powell said the city does not yet fully know what impact PFAS treatment will have on water rates.

Ohio EPA media coordinator Dina Pierce said her state agency is aware of Dayton's plans.

Nearly \$19 million has been awarded to Dayton for PFAS-related projects of its choosing, including blending water sources, water quality lab expansion, monitoring, production wells and other projects related to its drinking water source.

Roughly \$16.8 million of that funding is in principal forgiveness loans from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding intended for addressing emerging contaminants such as PFAS. Principal forgiveness is the portion of a loan that does not have to be repaid.

"Many Ohio public water systems are making similar efforts to plan and design PFAS treatment and mitigation systems," Pierce said.

“We look forward to continuing to work with Dayton as it determines the best way to treat PFAS in its drinking water.”

The Bipartisan Senate infrastructure bill in 2021 has provided \$10 billion to water utilities to address PFAS contamination.

“Utilities will have a lot of options,” EWG vice president of government affairs Melanie Benesh said. “They will have discretion and power to figure out the system and install the technology that works best for them.”

Plans developing for other cities

Other area cities, such as Bellbrook and Fairborn in Greene County, have settlement money coming from legal action they took against producers of the chemicals, like the 3M Co.

Leaders from both cities have said their cut of the \$12.5 billion 3M settlement will fund efforts to test and treat water for PFAS. Coming into compliance over the next five years with the new standards is a doable undertaking, both cities said.

Fairborn’s public water system has tested for PFAS contamination as early as last year, and results came in below the new forever chemical standards.

“We will continue to sample as required by the state or federal government,” said Meghan Howard, Fairborn’s communication manager.

“Given our current test results, we are not in a position that requires the installation of PFAS treatment. Should that change, we will take all necessary steps to operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.”

In Bellbrook, city leaders are hoping to avoid pushing the cost of PFAS remediation on residents and feel confident their participation in the 3M Co. class action lawsuit will hold toxic chemical producers accountable

and protect their city's water quality.

Bellbrook City Manager Rob Schommer said the city is still carving out what steps it will take to comply with the new rules. The city's most recent results listed on the Ohio EPA's PFAS testing database were below the reporting limit.

"Our efforts were and remain to be ahead of the curve for addressing the issue to remain diligent and proactive to keep our drinking water safe," said Schommer.

"We continue to monitor and test, and with the EPA regulations formalized, it will help more clearly define a path to make permanent monitoring and remediation practices."

Warren County, Middletown

Many other cities throughout the state that operate their own public water systems have not been named in forever chemical settlements.

Warren County's water treatment facility will add a \$9 million ion exchange water treatment system to its treatment processes.

Warren County sanitary engineer Chris Brausch said this effort will put the water treatment facility into compliance with the new rules by 2025 — four years ahead of the deadline.

"This has been on our radar for years," Brausch said.

Ion exchange has proven to be highly effective in filtering PFAS out of water. Warren County water treatment officials have already completed another \$45 million in work specifically geared toward PFAS remediation, Brausch said.

This includes a nanofiltration system, which softens water and filters out PFAS.

Warren County's Richard Renneker water system in 2021 was tested for PFAS, showing levels nearly as high as 50 ppt. New systems put in place at the water treatment facilities that serve people living in Lebanon and other parts of Warren County saw samplings of 8 ppt and less of forever chemicals in 2022.

For cities that do not have detectable amounts of PFAS in their drinking water, efforts will focus on consistent monitoring and sampling of drinking water, said Middletown water treatment facility manager Scott Belcher.

"We're concerned about protecting our aquifer.

We're a groundwater system," Belcher said. "So we're focusing on protecting our aquifer. And we're focused on testing."

The newspaper also reached out to Morrow and Phillipsburg to see what their leaders were planning to come into compliance with PFAS standards. Neither returned requests for comment.

Other federal agencies impacted

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base falls under the Department of Defense (DoD) and its water system detected these chemicals at among the highest levels in the state.

DoD in April said it has been preparing to implement the final rule both for its on-base drinking water systems and within its cleanup program.

For systems where DoD provides drinking water, the department has collected the necessary sampling information and is taking actions to ensure compliance within the required five-year timeframe.

The Department of Defense has said a significant number of additional wells will require treatment, and locations where known levels of PFAS in drinking water are the highest will be prioritized.

It's unclear where Wright Patterson Air Force Base falls on this spectrum.

The region's military base reported last year that three of its wells yielded samples with concentrations of PFAS above 70 ppt, with one well located at the base boundary and two on Wright-Patterson's Area A.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has pointed to multiple projects it has in development to address PFAS contamination in water at the Base, including \$29 million committed to the construction of PFAS treatment systems at the base.

Working ahead to regulate, eliminate PFAS

The Ohio EPA will be holding webinars to help water treatment leaders learn what steps they can take to come into compliance, what funding options exist and more.

Environmental and health advocates say the new limit is a powerful step on the path of minimizing harm related to PFAS.

"I think what you're seeing happen now worldwide are efforts underway to try to stop this stuff at the source, to try to restrict more of this coming out into the world and how these chemicals can be used," Billot said.

Brausch said guidance will also be needed for public water systems that create biowaste as they work to filter out PFAS to ensure safe disposal procedures.

"That's something that will need to be addressed down the road," he said.

City moves forward with Central Avenue senior center plan

Officials start search for manager for former Central Connections facility.



Central Connections held a ribbon cutting and tour of their renovated facility Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022 on Central Ave. in Middletown. The \$900,000 in renovations have turned the senior center into a recreation center with full restaurant and bar, bridal suite and rooms to host weddings, fitness room and more. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN

Middletown has taken a first step in establishing an event center manager to oversee the Central Avenue senior center formerly known as Central Connections, which will stay in city stewardship.

City Manager Paul Lolli said after receiving two proposals to operate the center, one from a church, the other from a group of individuals, the city decided to keep operations in-house. They are moving forward to hire a manager.

"We have not totally decided on a name, but we will drop Central Connections," Lolli said, adding the working name is the Middletown Event Center.

"But the priority is to take care of our senior citizens."

Lolli said officials will share plans for the center, 3907 Central Ave., at the May 21 council meeting.

The center manager will initially be responsible for scheduling and executing facility rentals, marketing the facility, developing facility policies and coordinating the daily schedule for senior citizen activities.

The proposed pay range is a salary between \$69,198.48 and \$99,918.00, according to city documents.

Lolli said a comprehensive look at the plan of operation for the center will be presented at the May 21 council meeting.

Last year, the city purchased Central Connections for \$1.8 million with American Rescue Plan Act funds from the Middletown Area Senior Citizens Inc.

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

This is the second time Middletown residents have invested in the center. Voters approved two five-year, 1-mill senior levies that generated \$7 million to provide or maintain senior services at the center. The levy expired on Dec. 31, 2022, after 10 years.

Counting the \$1.8 million purchase price, \$8.8 million in taxpayers' money has been spent on the center in the last 11 years.

Contact this reporter at 513- 543-9227 or email lauren.
pack@coxinc.com.

Abortion providers challenge more Ohio laws

Preliminary injunction continues to block many state restrictions.

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW - STAFF WRITER

CONTINUING COVERAGE

Abortion providers are continuing to challenge Ohio's laws restricting access to abortion, filing new lawsuits or submitting updated complaints to include new claims under the Ohio Reproductive Freedom Amendment passed last year also referred to as Issue 1.

Abortion providers recently filed an updated challenge against Ohio's law restricting how they can prescribe medication abortion to patients.

The law, which is currently under a preliminary injunction and not being enforced, requires physicians to be physically present where and when the initial dose of the drug is consumed.

Anti-abortion advocates called this court challenge "disturbing" but not surprising.

"Our concern is women's health," said Margie Christie, executive director of Dayton Right to Life. "... It's very concerning for us."

This law, if enforced, would prohibit doctors from prescribing abortion medication via telehealth visits.

“Complications happen,” Christie said about what anti-abortion advocates see as the need for these restrictions.

If doctors violated this law and it was enforced, it would result in a fourth-degree felony for the first offense and a third-degree felony for the second and subsequent offenses.

“These arbitrary, medically unnecessary anti-abortion restrictions profoundly limit Ohioans’ ability to exercise their constitutional rights. We urge the court to strike them down,” said Jessie Hill, cooperating attorney for the ACLU of Ohio.

The lawsuit, originally filed in 2021, is pending in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas. The law in question remains blocked by the preliminary injunction entered by the court on April 20, 2021.

The court already found, in issuing a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the ban, that telehealth medication abortion services are “safe, effective health care” and that a ban will delay and potentially preclude patients from accessing abortion care.

“We can all agree that health care needs to be more accessible, not less.

More than half of the patients we serve travel significant distances to us to receive care,” said Dr. Sharon Liner, medical director of Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region.

“Unnecessary restrictions that ignore the expertise of medical professionals exacerbate the strain on patients and providers.”

The telehealth restriction did not apply to patients seeking mifepristone, a drug that blocks a hormone called progesterone that is needed for a pregnancy to continue, for the treatment of a miscarriage.

The telehealth restriction was only for patients seeking an abortion, so Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge Alison Hatheway wrote this exception revealed the law was “in no way responsive to the purported risks of mifepristone.”

Abortion providers have sought to challenge other abortion restrictions in the state, including the 24-hour waiting period from when patients receive state literature on abortions to when they can undergo the procedure.

"That's what we anticipated to happen is for them to, one by one, roll back on the protections we put in place," Christie said.

"... We're just going to try to keep educating women."

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

Suicide prevention group holds awards celebration

BUTLER COUNTY

STAFF REPORT

The Envision Partnerships' Butler County Suicide Prevention Coalition held its first Member Appreciation Celebration on May 9 at 2935 Hamilton Mason Road, Hamilton.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the celebration was specifically to honor those who have dedicated significant time toward combating suicide and stigma in Butler County.

Awards included:

- Member of the Year: For unwavering dedication to suicide prevention in Butler County – Jessie Schoff, and
- Community Partner Award: For significantly impacting Butler County through dedicated efforts to prevent suicide and promote well-being within the community – Butler County Veterans Service Commission

Impact Awards included:

- For making a significant impact to LGBTQ+ suicide prevention – Michelle Minette
- For making a significant impact to launching Butler County's Local Outreach Suicide Survivors/Drug Overdose Survivor Support Team (LOSS/DOSS) – Carissa Piper

- For making a significant impact to improving mental health in the African American community – Pastor Trevor K. Phillips
- For making a significant contribution to Lethal Means Safety efforts – James Woods
- For making a significant impact to Older Adults Suicide Prevention – Joyce Kachelries, Michelle Morand, and Kelley Eversole.

Middletown park gets major facelift

'Middie purple' playground, basketball court are among improvements planned for \$357K project.



Gregory Rhodes shoots hoops on the basketball court at Sherman Park in Middletown on May 8. The park will get a new court, playground, upgraded walking paths, a shelter and benches. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



A new playground with a soft tile surface is planned for Sherman Park in Middletown. **CONTRIBUTED**

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

A Middletown park that hasn't been upgraded in four decades is the focus of a major facelift this summer.

Sherman Park, which has not had any new investment since 1981 when it was also the site of a school, will get more than \$350,000 in upgrades by Labor Day, including new playgrounds, a shelter, benches and a new "Middie purple" basketball court, according to Jeri Lewis, city community projects coordinator.

"(The) playground equipment is old, worn and only serves toddlers, and the basketball court is in despair," Lewis said.

In addition, the walking paths have deteriorated, the tree canopy was hazardous and unsightly, and the baseball backstop was falling down, she said.

Despite that, the well-weathered park surrounded by dense housing still got plenty of daily visitors.

Enter the park board and the development of a plan to transform the park into a centerpiece for the neighborhood as part of \$2 million earmarked this year for city parks improvements.

Tree-trimming is ongoing, but replacement of the backstop is completed.

Sherman Park, on Sherman Avenue, is one of the city's 12 neighborhood parks. Officials say the investment in Sherman will serve as a model of how other parks can be redeveloped.

"Once renovated, it will serve as a centerpiece for the neighborhood," Lewis said.

The \$357,000 project will have upgraded walking paths with gravel, four trash cans, a picnic table and steel shelter with a concrete pad underneath.

New playground equipment will be designed in sections for kids ages 2 to 5 years and ages 5 to 12.

The basketball court, which can also be used for hopscotch and four square, will be made of a durable interlocking tile system that is softer and does not retain heat like concrete or asphalt.

Also part of the project: Lighting and cameras will be installed for security.

"There has been a neighborhood cleanup, and we are engaging the community for ongoing upkeep and to take care of what we are going to put in there," Lewis said.

Also part of this year's parks improvement budget are upgrades in Goldman Park and to the restrooms at Smith Park.

Contact this reporter at 513-543-9227 or email lauren.pack@coxinc.com.

City offers aid for home improvements

Middletown residents in 3 neighborhoods can receive up to \$3K for exterior repairs.

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Neighborhood improvements continue in Middletown on the heels of last month's successful trash collection day with the launch of a program to help homeowners repair and improve the outside of their homes.

The city's Home Improvement Repair Program launched this week and is open to single-family, owner-occupied homes in the Oakland, Mayfield and Sherman neighborhoods, according to Devra Wells, city development services director.

Approved homeowners can receive up to \$3,000 for repairs and improvements. Up to 50% may be requested to be paid in advance of the project, with the balance to be paid as a reimbursement after completion. A homeowner can participate once a year.

Wells said \$100,000 has been set aside for the program to start and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

"This money is meant to help people who may not have the money upfront for a project," Wells said to the Middletown City Council on Tuesday.

In March, the council appropriated \$800,000 of ARPA funds to initiate

programs to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout the city.

The April Trash Bash, a citywide cleanup with four locations for dumping items including tires and some appliances, was such a success that another event featuring operation improvements is tentatively planned for July 13.

Improvement projects that are not eligible are swimming pools, spas and hot tubs; landscaping, plant materials or gardens; underground utilities and storm lines; play equipment; and new detached accessory structures or additions.

The program is the first of its kind in recent history, so staff cannot yet gauge the response.

"Hopefully, we will come back and say we need more money for different programs," Wells told the city council.

Applications must be submitted and assessed and properties inspected to verify the necessary repairs.

Homeowners will have 90 days after approval for work completion, and inspection will also happen after the repairs are completed with before-and-after photos.

To apply, complete the application at www.cityofmiddletown.org/DocumentCenter/View/6907/ Home-Improvement-Repair-Program-Packet and provide all supporting documentation to the city of Middletown Development Services Department at 1 Donham Plaza, third floor, Middletown, Ohio 45042. Note that applications must be submitted in person to the department.

Contact Cyndi Peters at the development services department at cyndip@cityofmiddletown.org or 513- 425-7939.

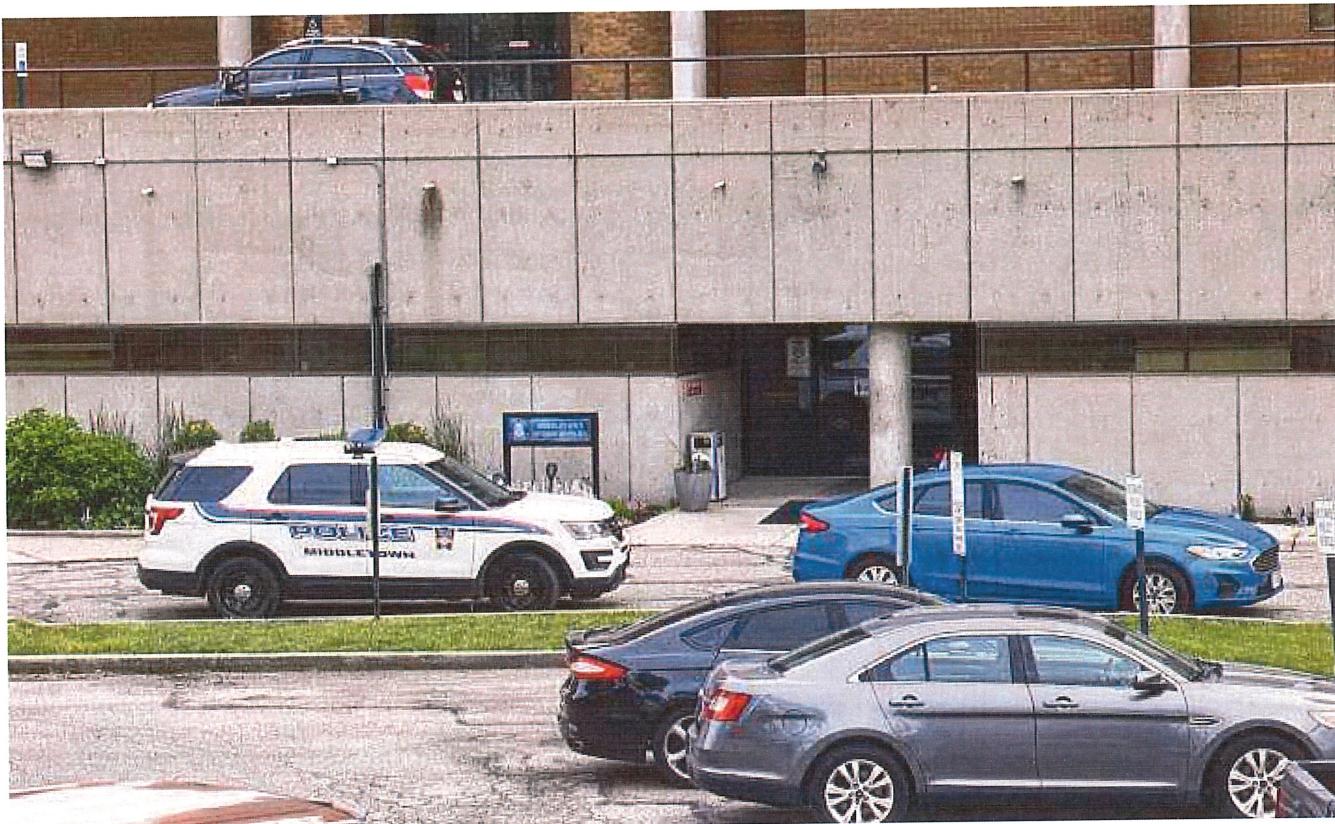
Contact this reporter at 513-543-9227 or email lauren.pack@coxinc.com.

Middletown town hall to focus on violence

City manager wants public input, says staffing, technology could help combat gun violence.



Middletown City Manager Paul Lolli speaks during the Middletown City Council meeting on Aug. 15, 2023. Lolli said residents and community leaders are invited to a Tuesday town hall meeting to discuss the recent rash of violence in the city.
NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Middletown Division of Police headquarters. Mayor Elizabeth Slamka and other city officials say hiring more officers could help curb gun violence. City Manager Paul Lolli said the force needs at least 10 more officers. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Middletown City Manager Paul Lolli said he wants to hear from the community in Tuesday night's town hall meeting to address recent violence in the city, including shots fired from moving vehicles.

"I want to hear what people have to say. We are not going to make any decisions, but I want to hear from citizens and different groups," Lolli said.

"One of my biggest concerns is we have had a rash of shots fired and shootings, and it appears they are shooting at each other in vehicles driving down the street. That's crazy," he told the Journal-News. "An

innocent person is going to get caught in the melee."

"Safer Communities for All: A Town Hall Meeting on Curbing Violence in Middletown" will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Middletown City Council chambers.

"The violence must stop, and we believe that by bringing the community together, we can collectively come up with lasting solutions that will make our city safer now and into the future," Lolli said.

He added there is always a way to address problems.

"And we hope we can find that solution that makes the streets safer for people," Lolli said.

Community and civic leaders, business owners, church leaders and residents are all invited to participate in the town hall meeting. The goal of the town hall is to have an honest discussion on how the community and city can come together to protect all people who live, work and visit Middletown.

Staffing and retention of police officers were a concern of council members during a special meeting last week to take a preliminary look at the city 2025 budget.

The division of police currently has an authorized force of 80 officers. But the force currently has 75 officers with seven in academy training, which takes months to complete. Newly trained officers are assigned to a training officer before patrolling alone, according to police and city officials.

"We are probably about 10 short," the city manager said.

Retention is a challenge and may require more financial resources in the form of pay raises.

The city will also have to identify as it grows “exactly how many police officers are we going to need, exactly how many firefighters are we going to need within the next five years,” especially in the East End, Lolli said.

He estimated the city will need a police force of “at least 90 police officers in the next five years, without a doubt.”

Councilman Steve West II called the uptick in crime early into the warm weather months not only violent but “brash.”

West said consideration of significant investments in technology and nontraditional measures, such as additional Flock cameras, is also needed, outside of an additional headcount of officers.

“Because … if they are going to shoot each other up, it is going to be a problem,” West said.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said after talking with residents and officers, she sees a need for more officers, and that speeding is a concern for many residents.

“Traffic officers is something I have been thinking about,” Slamka said.

Council members Zack Ferrell and Paul Horn supported investment in public safety with more officers but also with crime-fighting technologies.

Ferrell said nuisance abatement in city neighborhoods might make them less attractive to criminals.

“Is it an attractive city for crime?” Ferrell said. “What can we do outside of traditional policing to get this city to a point where we hold our head high?” Lolli called the issue “fluid,” and called for a twopronged approach.

“Sometimes it is not about having more police officers or more

firefighters. We really need to look at the technology that will be just as effective as more boots on the streets. But without a doubt, we need boots on the street," he said.

On May 17, occupants of vehicles on Roosevelt Boulevard were involved in a disturbance with shots fired during the early-morning hours. A female was dropped off at the hospital minutes later with a gunshot wound, and the driver of one of the cars then wrecked when he hit a pole.

One arrest has been made and a warrant is out for the arrest for another suspect who is on the run, according to police.

A 19-year-old man was killed in a drive-by shooting that injured two others on Sheffield Street in the early morning on May 12.

Shots were also reported the same night on Shafor Street and Central Avenue. No arrest was made.

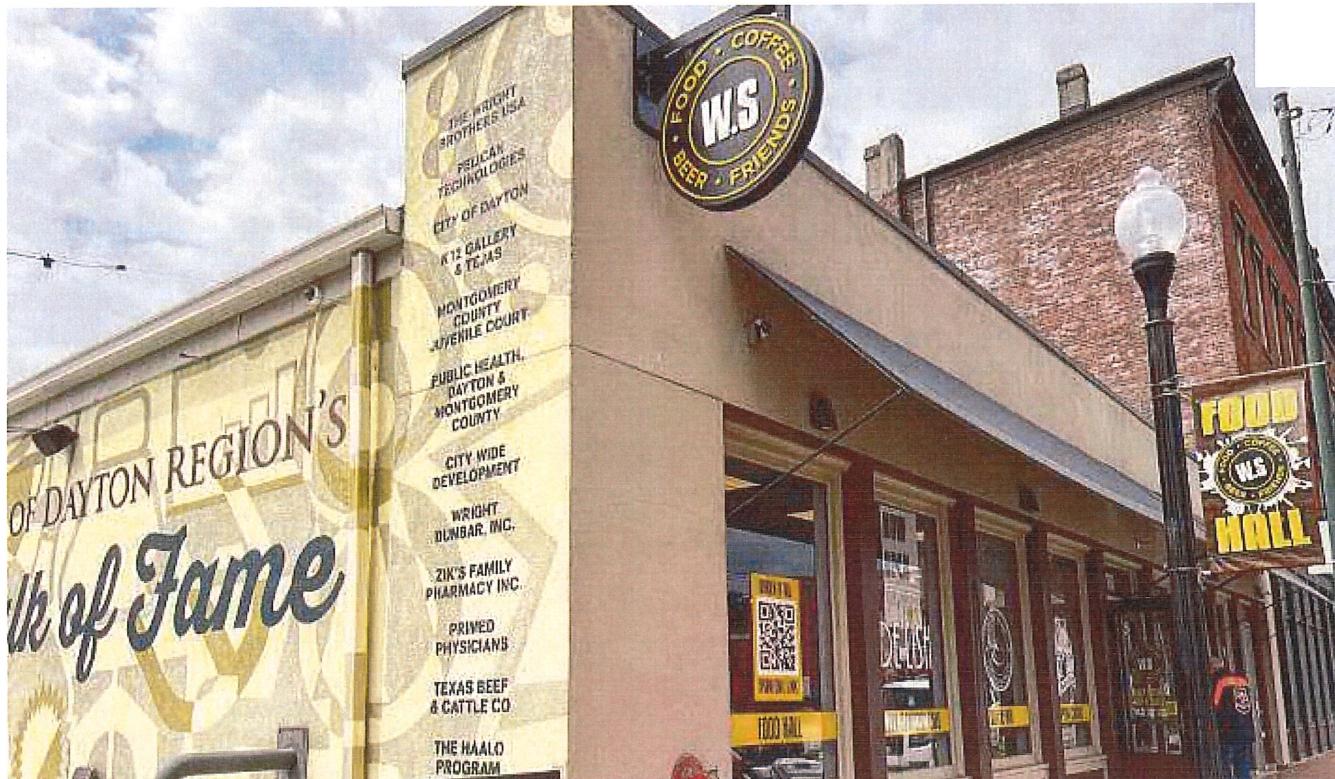
On April 16, a 26-year-old man was killed in an apparent road rage incident in the city's downtown. No charges have been filed yet.

On April 14, two people were shot in the legs at Middletown's Douglass Park on Minnesota Street. The case is still under investigation.

Contact this reporter at 513- 543-9227 or email lauren.pack@coxinc.com.

Mz. Jade's Soul Food to join W. Social Tap & Table

Owner says new spot will have customer favorites on the menu.



Mz. Jade's Soul Food will open at West Social Tap & Table, 100 W. Third St., in Dayton's Wright-Dunbar business district. CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

BY NATALIE JONES STAFF WRITER

The owner of Mz. Jade's Soul Food has confirmed she will open at W. Social Tap & Table food hall in Dayton's historic Wright-Dunbar District.

She expects to open within the next two weeks.

Mz. Jade's Soul Food is joining several other vendors in the food hall including ILLYS Fire Pizza, The Lumpia Queen, SOCA, Taco Street Co. and The Tap at W. Social.

Naiyozcia King, otherwise known as "Mz. Jade," recalled walking into W. Social about a year ago for Monday-night karaoke.

"As soon as I stepped inside of it I said man, I would kill it if I had a Mz. Jade's in here, and it's just crazy how it came back to me."

When the owners of De'Lish, a Cajun/creole comfort food concept, announced they were leaving the food hall May 11, King said she had many people messaging her on Facebook letting her know that there was a spot opening up.

"Next thing I knew, a couple days later, it was all in the making," King said.

Anthony Thomas, the owner of Taco Street Co., and Tae Winston, owner of the Entrepreneurs Shoppe, helped walk King through the process.

Mz. Jade's Soul Food will not have the full menu offered at the Middletown restaurant, but will have customer favorites including chicken, chicken wings, fish, pork chops, salmon patties and deep fried shrimp meals.

Sides include collard greens, macaroni and cheese, potato salad and candied yams. King said she is planning to have seafood boils on Saturdays.

King, who was born and raised in Arkansas before moving to Detroit, Michigan, started cooking with her grandmother when she was 6 years old.

"By the time I was 11, I could cook like I cook now," King said. "I learned

everything from my grandmother. She taught me everything that I know."

Her grandmother sold fish for a living and King recalled cleaning fish for a quarter when she was growing up.

She's the first person in her family to own a restaurant.

When asked about her secret to success, King said, "I put love in my food. People really don't get home soul food like they did back in the day."

Other factors that have contributed to her success include consistency, transparency and being community-based.

King said Dayton has been very supportive of her business.

About 60% of people who eat at her Middletown restaurant are from Dayton and surrounding cities like Beavercreek, Huber Heights, Vandalia and Xenia. She said she is looking forward to being a part of the growing historic business district.

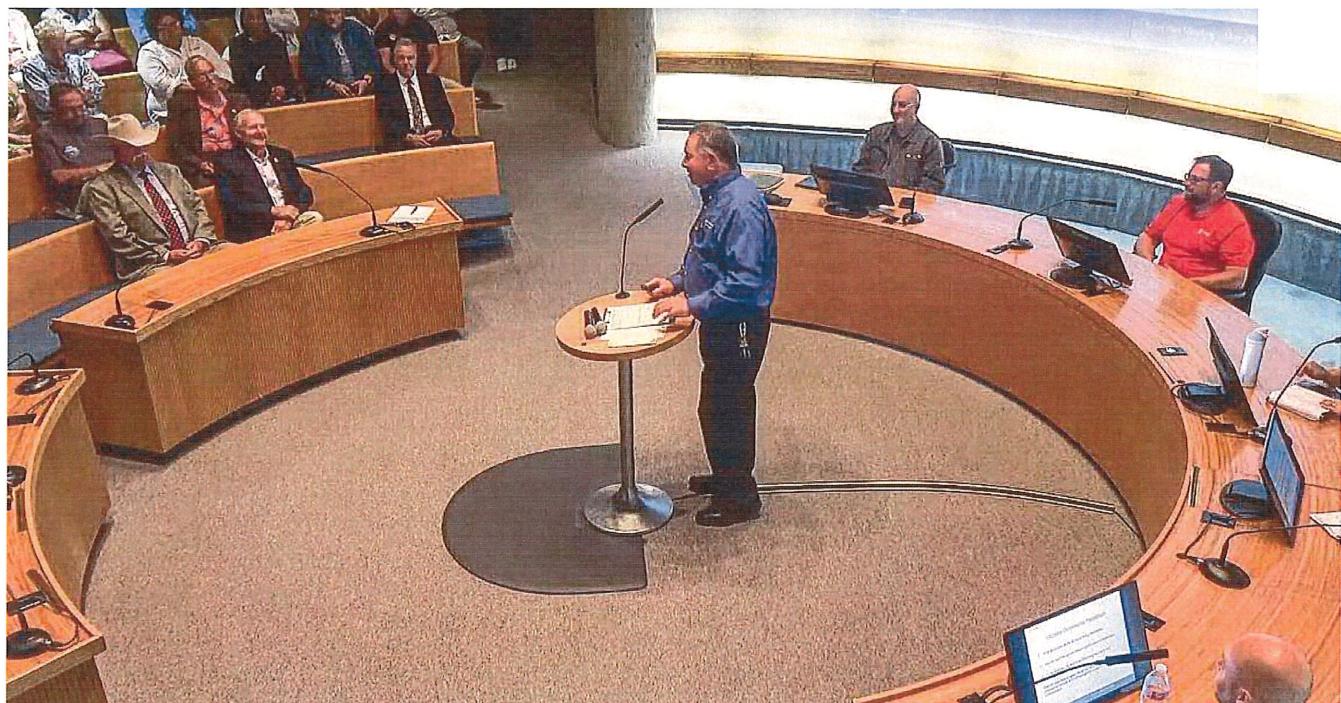
Dillin Corp., the developer of W. Social, is doubling its investment in Wright Dunbar with a multimillion-dollar project that will diversify the growing number of places to eat, drink and shop on West Third Street. Businesses in the works include Wright Dunbar Cigar Shoppe & Lounge, XO Burger Vibez + Cocktails, Haymarket Deli and Sweets and Saoko Tea and Wine Bar.

Contact this reporter at 937-409-9623 or email Natalie.

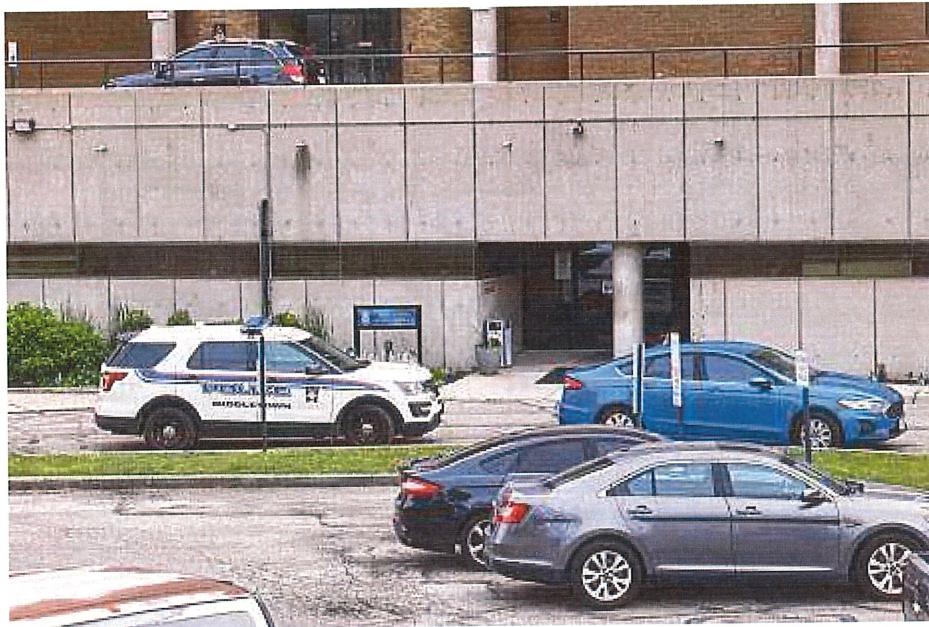
Jones@coxinc.com.

City residents turn out for town hall to stop violence

Middletown officials plan 2 more public forums, will seek help.



Middletown City Manager Paul Lolli speaks at a town hall meeting in city council chambers Tuesday. "We are not going to stop (gun violence) with words, folks. ... "It is going to take actionable prayer, actionable words – things that change behaviors," Lolli said. CONTRIBUTED



Middletown Division of Police headquarters. The department received 48 reports of shots fired in the city in the past two months, officials said. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Residents and officials filled council chambers Tuesday night to take up Middletown City Manager Paul Lolli on a chance to talk about recent violence in the city.

What was billed as “Safer Communities for All: A Town Hall Meeting on Curbing Violence in Middletown” turned into plans for at least two community discussions before winter with the goal of “zero homicides” in Middletown, according to Lolli.

In the past two months, police have received 48 reports of shots fired in the city, many from moving vehicles and one in Douglass Park. Three resulted in homicides.

“Totally unacceptable,” said Acting Police Chief Andy Warrick.

He noted, however, total “Part 1 crimes,” including murder, rape,

aggravated assault, robbery, burglary and car theft, are down in 2024.

He said police and city officials fear an innocent person will be hit by a stray bullet.

"We have got to hold these people accountable," Warrick said.

"Sugar-coating" the issue has been going on too long, Lolli said.

"This is a talk. It is about bringing the community together, and together coming up with solutions to stop this stuff," he said. "We are not going to stop this with words, folks. We aren't gonna stop this with prayer. Listen, yep, prayer can and will help. I believe in God just like most of us here.

But it is going to take actionable prayer, actionable words — things that change behaviors."

Lolli said the city will reach out at the state and federal levels and look at best practices used in other communities as well as seeking out assistance from the Peace Literacy Institute.

"We demand collaboration from neighborhoods, from our businesses, from our faith organizations and those willing to stand up and work together to stop the violence," he said, noting that more police officers will help, but a change in behavior has to happen.

"We are going to figure this out. We don't have a choice.

Failure is not an option, or we are not going to leave a very good Middletown for our children and grandchildren."

Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones and Butler County Commissioner Don Dixon were in attendance, offering help from the county level.

"It's pretty bad all over. It is all over the county," Jones said. "And it's not rocket science.

Society has changed ... we have got to start working with the youth."

Elizabeth Silas, whose nephew Benny Barefield was gunned down outside his Middletown home in 2018, pointed to a need to arrest and keep repeat offenders behind bars. Barefield's homicide remains unsolved, but arrests were made and charges were dropped after a grand jury did not return indictments. One suspect is now dead, the victim of a homicide, and another was recently arrested on a robbery charge.

"You have some of the same individuals involved in these robberies, that are involved in these home invasions, involved in these murders, and they may be incarcerated for a short period of time ... but some of these same individuals are wreaking havoc not just in Middletown, but throughout Cincinnati, throughout Hamilton.

... Some of these same individuals are still on the street," Silas said.

Ruth Kelly, president of the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance said, "We are doing effective, intentional prayer in the alliance."

Beginning in August, the alliance will go to every street where there is a church to pray, she said.

"We all need to be involved to make a change in the violence here in Middletown," Kelly said. "Even if you don't believe, we can still go out together to make a difference.

Until we start showing up in the streets speaking to young people, adults, everyone, there will not be a change in this city. The alliance stands behind everyone here."

Resident Angela Holbrook told the crowd of a faithbased event planned for June 23 in Douglass Park. Taking Back Our Streets will offer testimonials, food and music centered around standing up to gun violence and drug addiction.

All city council members attended the town hall, but it was not a council

meeting, and they did not speak.

Lolli said council and staff would glean what citizens had to say and develop a plan of action and perhaps a task force. He said he decided to hold quarterly town hall meetings, with the next one scheduled for Sept 24.

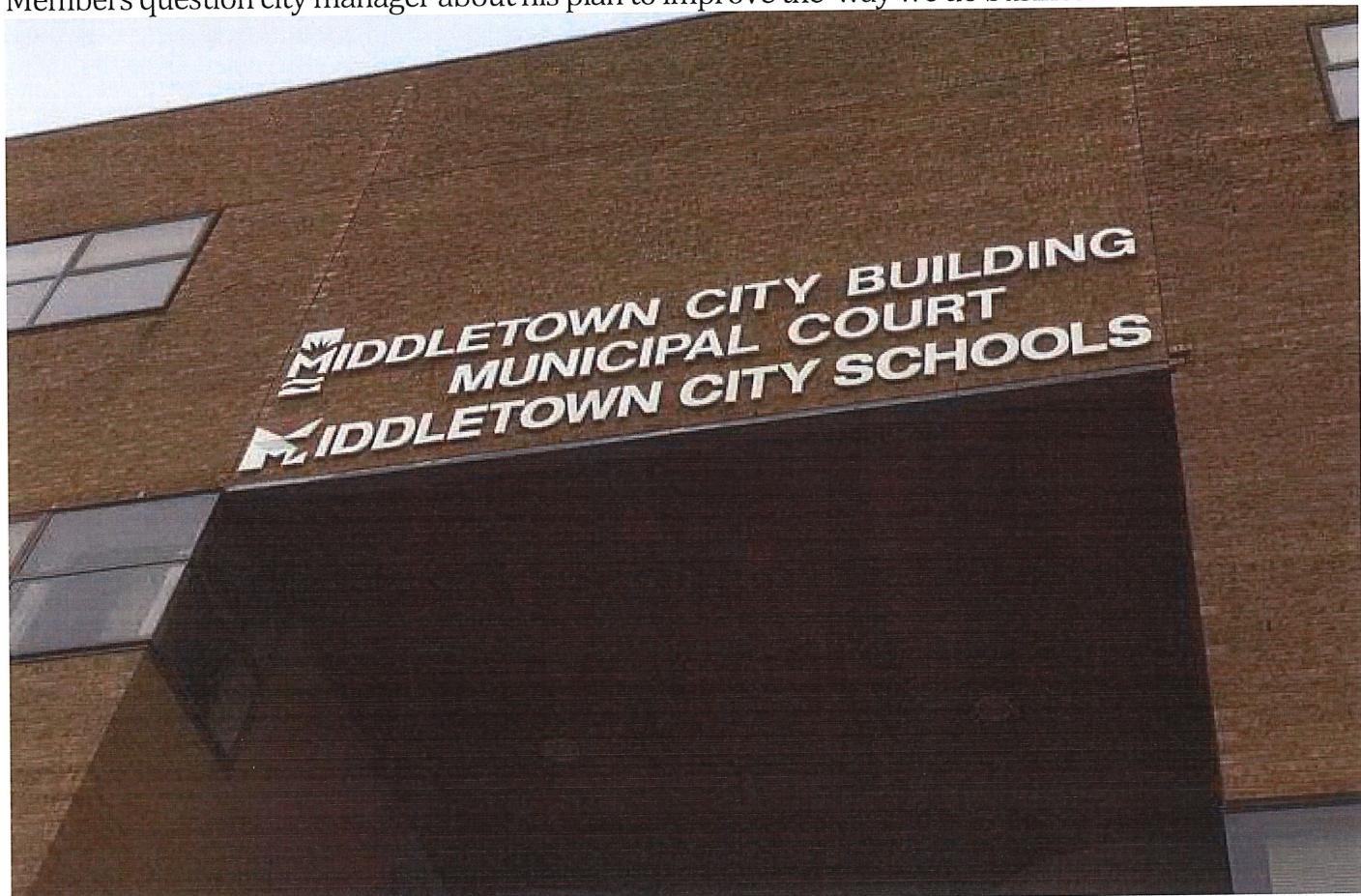
'Even if you don't believe, we can still go out together to make a difference. Until we start showing up in the streets speaking to young people, adults, everyone, there will not be a change in this city.'

Ruth Kelly President of the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance

Contact this reporter at 513- 543-9227 or email lauren.
pack@coxinc.com.

Middletown Council mulls restructuring with focus on enforcement to clean up the city

Members question city manager about his plan to improve the 'way we do business.'



Caption

Middletown City Council is considering combining two departments and adding new positions, including a process server and code enforcement supervisor, that city leaders say will make the city more user friendly and clean up the city.

City Manager Paul Lolli said for the past year he has been evaluating the "way we do business" providing services to residents and businesses, with a top priority being code enforcement that attracts people to the city.

At Tuesday night's council meeting, Lolli rolled out a proposed plan to streamline services by merging the current Economic Development Department and the

Development Services Department into a new department titled the Community and Economic Development Department.

The new department would be located on the third floor and led by a director and assistant director. Pay and benefits for those positions are accounted for in the current budget.

Lisha Morlan was hired at Tuesday's meeting as the new economic development director with the salary of \$114,681.84. She will fill the vacant position created by a resignation in 2022. Morlan was the assistant assistant economic development director.

Under the new plan, Morlan would be named the director of the new combined department, and an assistant director position would be created.

Proposed additional new positions include a code enforcement manager, which would be will be Devra Wells, current development services director; a grant writer, a process server (shared with other departments as needed) that will chase down non-compliant building owners and serve papers, and an additional city planner and economic development program manager.

The annual cost of the new proposed positions is \$508,443.78 with additional supplemental appropriation for 2024 of \$184,199.08 from the general fund and \$70,022.80 from the income tax fund.

Lolli said the new positions and restructuring will create a "one-stop shop" for residents and businesses to receive services and get help and to increase code enforcement to "full-time, detailed oversight on cleaning the city of Middletown up."

The city currently has five code enforcement specialists, and the proposed additional manager would be a sixth working in the field with others.

Councilman Zack Ferrell wanted to know what changes will happen other than new jobs to actually enforce city codes.

"You will have a code enforcement manager who does nothing but oversees code enforcement and nuisance abatement," Lolli said. He added with more oversight "you will see code violations being dealt with more immediately."

Ferrell said he would like to see more of a plan for the code enforcement before hiring positions.

Lolli said the new director and others will be tasked with developing a plan, and "I think you will see a big difference by the end of the year."

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said she thought it was “fair” to ask for a plan and what is going to be different moving forward and outlining the goals and outcomes.

“What is going to change is we are going to find people who are violating the code and we are going to force them to change,” Lolli said.

Councilman Steven West II said when looking at the plan as a whole, some positions are needed, but he questions code enforcement plan.

“Where I have a problem is … in the last 10 years there’s still the same caved-in roofs, broken windows, the same streets that constantly have litter on them.”

Residents are “constantly” complaining to council members about “blatant” code violations, West said. He sees alleyways filled with trash. “Where is the enforcement?” he asked.

“Does anybody in this city care?” he said. “Is this the answer? I don’t know because we have invested in raises and been supportive of moving staff around, at some point you have to look at it and go, ‘If somebody needs so much direct supervision, is it an organization problem where we put people, or is it a staff problem?’”

Councilwoman Jennifer Carter said spoke last.

“My turn: I don’t think we should make any move until the code specialists that we have now clean up first,” Carter said. “Let us clean up first and then maybe make a move after we see how they have cleaned up.”

Council is expected to approve appropriations for the new positions and salary changes at the June 18 meeting.

In Other News

About the Author



[Lauren Pack](#)



PRESS RELEASE

Ohio Judge Upholds Cities' Authority to Protect Kids and Public Health from Tobacco

Statement of John Bowman, Executive Vice President for U.S. Programs, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

May 17, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a big win for the health of Ohio's kids and communities, a Franklin County, Ohio, judge today sided with Columbus and other cities and declared unconstitutional a state law that would have stripped Ohio communities of their authority to enact measures aimed at reducing tobacco use. Judge Mark Serrott ruled that the state law violates the home rule provisions of the Ohio Constitution.

This ruling is a victory for kids and public health and affirms the authority of Ohio cities to address the devastating toll of tobacco use, which is the number one cause of preventable death. This decision allows Columbus and other communities that were parties to the lawsuit to continue enforcing their tobacco control laws, including laws prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products. Such laws are critical to stop the tobacco industry from continuing to addict kids with products like flavored e-cigarettes, menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. Tobacco companies also target Black, LGBTQ+ and other communities with flavored products like menthol cigarettes, contributing significantly to health disparities.

We applaud the leaders of Columbus and other Ohio municipalities that filed a lawsuit against the state law and fought for their right to protect public health. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids filed an amicus brief, joined by 11 other leading public health, medical and community groups, supporting this lawsuit.

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