

DATE: October 4, 2024
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for October 8, 2024**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **September 10, 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 -September 2024

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -September 2024

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)- Dr. Jennewine

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations
2. Third & Final Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-01 by Title Only-Food Fees
3. Third & Final Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-02 by Title Only-Pool Fees
4. 2024 3rd Quarter Report

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 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
September 10, 2024

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on August 13, 2024.

Members Present

Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Ruth Lolli
Joseph Richmond, MBA
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD
Amy Sibcy
Jeff Bonnell
Sally Kash, MS, RN
Emily Miller, BSN, RN

Health Department Staff Present

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

Absent and Excused

None.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Slamka opened the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-01(Food Fees).
There were no comments in favor or in opposition of MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-01 (Food Fees).
Mayor Slamka closed the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-01(Food Fees).

Mayor Slamka opened the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-02(Pool Fees).
There were no comments in favor or in opposition to MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-02(Pool Fees).
Mayor Slamka closed the public hearing for MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-02(Pool Fees).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2024

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve the August 2024 minutes.
Roll call vote: Yes-7 (Lolli, Zollett, Sibcy, Bonnell, Kash, Miller, Richmond). No-0. Motion Passed.

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-August 2024

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the Finance Department is current on the Expense Report, and the Revenue Report is current through the end of July 2024.
Mayor Slamka stated that she had noticed the indigent expenses are approximately \$1800 over the budgeted amount for 2024 and asked how the indigent program will operate for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she has already spoken with City Manager, Nathan Cahill, and additional funds will be appropriated from the general fund. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that CMHD has seen an increase in indigent cremations in 2024 noting that the city may need to increase the budget for indigent cremations in 2025.

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the July Financial Report.

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

Education Presentation- Mosquito Borne Illness-Dr. Jennewine

Dr. Jennewine provided the board with an educational presentation on mosquito borne illnesses. Mosquito borne illnesses are diseases caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites that are transmitted by mosquitos. The most common viruses spread by mosquitos are: West Nile, Zika, Chikungunya, Equine Encephalitis, Dengue Fever and La Crosse Encephalitis. The most commonly spread protozoa illness is Malaria.

Mosquito borne illnesses are spread by mosquitos biting an infected animal and obtaining the parasite. The infected mosquito then bites a human or animal. The animal or human then contracts the illness.

Symptoms of mosquito borne illnesses include: non-specific flu-like symptoms, headache/neck pain and confusion.

The most common mosquito borne illness in the United States is West Nile Virus. The virus can infect humans, horses and birds. Eighty percent of cases are asymptomatic.

Equine Encephalitis is rare in the United States. The virus can infect humans, horses and birds. Equine Encephalitis occurs in infrequent, local outbreaks and are the most serious mosquito borne illness with the highest mortality rate.

Zika Virus is predominantly found in the Caribbean and Central/South America. Most cases of the Zika Virus in the United States are found in individuals who have recently traveled to affected areas. Most infected individuals have mild to no symptoms, but the virus can be transmitted from mother to fetus causing severe birth defects.

Chikungunya Virus and Dengue Fever are very rare in the United States and are usually related to travel. There is no treatment for viral spread mosquito borne illnesses, only supportive care.

Malaria has a mortality rate of up to 20% if left untreated. World-wide it is responsible for 600,000 deaths annually and there are 2,000 travel-related cases in the United States annually. Malaria requires urgent treatment. Treatments include oral and intravenous medications.

Prevention of mosquito borne illnesses include draining standing water, covering doors and windows and repellants such as DEET or Picaridin.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Phillips Carter, Ms. Ealy and Dr. Jennewine will be traveling to Columbus for the Fall Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) Conference September 18-20, 2024.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Kash to approve travel authorizations.

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

Motion to Read MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-01 & 2024-02 by Title Only.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Dr. Zollett to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-01 & 2024-02 by title only.

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

2nd Reading of MBHE Ordinance No.2024-01-Food Fees

An Ordinance Amending Fees for the Licensing of Food Service Operations, Mobile Food Service Operations, Temporary Food Service Operations, Vending Machine Locations, Retail Food Establishments, Mobile Retail Food Establishments, and Temporary Retail Food Establishments.

2nd Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-02 by Title Only-Pool Fees

A Regulation Establishing a Schedule for Implementing Fees for the Licensing of Public Swimming Pools, Public Spas, and Special Use Pools

Approval of MBHE No. Resolution 2024-001-Air Pollution Control Regulations and Declaring an Emergency

A Resolution Adopting Local Air Pollution Control Regulations and Declaring an Emergency.

Ms. Ealy explained that South West Ohio Air Quality Agency (SWOAQA) has updated the contract to include current air pollution regulations.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve MBHE Resolution No. 2024-001.

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

Approval of MBHE Resolution No. 2024-002-Regarding Articles-Requirement to Cease Use and Declaring an Emergency

A Resolution Authorizing the City's Health Commissioner or any Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training to Take Action Under Ohio Administrative Code Sections 901:3-4-12 and 3701-21-28 Regarding Articles-Requirement to Cease Use and Declaring an Emergency.

Ms. Ealy explained that the existing resolution is from 2001 which gave CMHD the ability to use cease-use for articles in retail food establishments. This resolution includes recent code updates which now gives CMHD the ability to also use cease-use for articles in food service operations.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve MBHE Resolution No. 2024-002.

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

Approval of MBHE Resolution No. 2024-003-Embargo of Food and Declaring an Emergency

A Resolution Authorizing the City's Health Commissioner or Any Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health Specialist-In-Training to Take Action Under Ohio Administrative Code Sections 901:3-4-15(F) and 3701:21-27 Regarding Embargo of Food and Declaring an Emergency.

Ms. Ealy explained that this is the same as the existing resolution, with updated language by the Law Department.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve MBHE Resolution No. 2024-003.

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

Approval of Agreement to Provide Air Pollution Control Services-Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

Ms. Ealy explained that the existing Air Pollution Agreement with Hamilton County was approved in January, SWOAQA updated the contract to current air pollution regulations.

Motion: Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the Agreement to Provide Air Pollution Control Services.

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

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that HUD Housing is currently working on their 5-year strategic plan. Ms. Phillips Carter attended a meeting in Butler County focused on developing strategic ways to address housing concerns with the community. At the time of this meeting, only 36 surveys have been collected. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she will continue to send out the survey, as she is trying to receive feedback from as many people as possible. There are community grants available for low to mid income families, and this survey will help determine how the funds are spent. Ms. Phillips Carter thanked board members for approving the travel authorization authorizing herself and Deanna Shores to attend the Policy Link Conference in Atlanta last month. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the conference was largely beneficial and the issues of homelessness, transportation, housing, drugs and the importance of policies. This conference is held every two years.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that there was a large spike in overdoses this past weekend. Of the seven reported in Butler County, four of them were Middletonians and three of those were women.

Ms. Phillips Carter reported to the board that the Robert “Sonny” Hill Community Center broke ground yesterday as renovations and additions have begun.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the August Walk with a Doc had been successful and is proving to be a great resource for Middletown community members. The next Walk with a Doc is scheduled for September 21st.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Middletown Connect’s annual update meeting for policy makers will be held September 27th at Miami University Middletown.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the first Middletown Comic Expo is scheduled for September 14th at Miami University Middletown. CMHD has licensed a temporary food vendor and a temporary body art vendor.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the 2nd Annual Hispanic Festival will be held September 28th. CMHD will be at the festival working a booth and conducting temporary food inspections.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the August communicable disease cases.

C. auris	1
Campylobacteriosis	1
Chlamydia infection	22
COVID-19	312
CPO	1
Gonococcal Infection	8
Hepatitis B	2
Hepatitis C	5
Pertussis	1
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board CMHD has just received a new shipment of Narcan. Ms. Corbin stated that anyone that requests Narcan can receive it after going through a brief training. Each recipient is supplied with two doses.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that ODH has completed a site visit and approved CMHD to administer adult vaccinations. CMHD will be receiving the influenza vaccine in the upcoming weeks.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that in the month of August, CMHD has: received two sets of plans, approved one set of plans, issued seven licenses, received two change of ownerships and licensed one temporary food vendor.

Ms. Ealy stated that all 70 tobacco retailers in Middletown have been issued their T21 licenses. Inspections have been completed on all 70 facilities, 41 follow-up inspections are required.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is currently conducting their survey on the Retail Food Establishment program. The survey will conclude the afternoon of September 10th.

Ms. Ealy stated that Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will be conducting their Food Service Operation survey at the end of September.

Ms. Ealy explained to the board that the food code had rule updates. One major update requires facilities preparing food containing allergens must display written notification.

Ms. Ealy stated that CMHD Registered Health Environmental Specialist and Health Specialist-in-Training will be inspecting vendors at the 2nd Annual Hispanic Festival and the Middletown Comic Expo.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has collected smoking violation fees from two facilities. CMHD receives 90% of the fee charged, with 10% going to ODH.

Board Member Open Discussion

Dr. Zollett asked for clarification on the difference between birth certificates issued and birth certificates filed, as seen in the Vital Statistics Report. Ms. Phillips Carter explained that birth certificates filed is the number of births that have occurred in the city, while birth certificates issued is the number of certificates sold at the CMHD office.

Mayor Slamka shared that she had found an enlightening quote by Ms. Phillips Carter referring to addiction as a disease. Mayor Slamka added that she had come across a short video discussing addiction that she would like to share with the board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42AM. The next meeting will be held on October 8, 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

September 2024 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$7,273.58 Revenue Earned
- 622 Certificates Sold
- 52 Burial permits Sold

Environmental

- \$1,663.00 Revenue Earned

Indigent Services

- \$21,867.00 Spent of the \$20,000 Budget for Indigent Services for 2024
- Applications approved (*2 waiting for invoices*)
 - 3 OD's
 - *Zero dollars in Reimbursements from the Embalmer's Association Program which ended May 2023*
 - The current indigent budget for the fiscal year of 2024 will only cover three more indigent services.

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.
 - \$42,033.87 - *Deposited to date*
 - The state has added Accreditation efforts to the WF grant in the amount of \$50,000.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/2024-6/30/2025 - \$23,837.70
 - Deliverable based pass-through with BCGHD
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC Billing) 1/01/2024-12/31/2024
 - Yearly agreement. Payments approved quarterly
 - \$47,140.23- *Deposited to date*
- Smoking State Reimbursement
 - \$2,262.15 - *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 10/31/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: Yes

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND				83.33%	
Revenue						
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	\$28,679.13	(\$19,379.13)	308.38%
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	\$42,033.87	\$80,966.13	34.17%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	\$175,300.00	\$0.00	\$70,713.00	\$104,587.00	40.34%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$56,591.00	\$0.00	\$42,442.50	\$14,148.50	75.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$108,130.00	\$0.00	\$73,816.37	\$34,313.63	68.27%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$504.99	(\$504.99)	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	\$30.45	\$2,969.55	1.02%
228.000.44230	HEALTH-DUE STATE GOVERNMENT	\$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	\$920.90	(\$300.90)	148.53%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$63,000.00	\$0.00	\$67,933.42	(\$4,933.42)	107.83%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$29,176.25	(\$7,176.25)	132.62%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,431.36	\$68.64	98.04%
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	\$4,490.00	\$1,210.00	78.77%

Revenue Report

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024

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	\$47,140.23	(\$27,140.23)	235.70%
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	\$271,305.47	\$13,240.53	95.35%
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	\$51,201.20	(\$51,201.20)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$140,000.00	\$60,000.00	70.00%
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	\$191,201.20	\$8,798.80	95.60%
	Revenue Totals:	\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$533,219.67	\$170,626.33	75.76%

Revenue Report					
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024					
Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected
228 Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$533,219.67	\$170,626.33
					75.76%

Revenue Report						
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024						
Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
Grand Total:		\$703,846.00	\$0.00	\$533,219.67	\$170,626.33	75.76%
					Target Percent:	83.33%

City of Middletown Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200

Account Access Group: N/A

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024

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: 83.33%	
Health Admin								
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$600,840.00	\$22,725.90	\$442,332.15	\$158,507.85	\$0.00	\$158,507.85	73.62%
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	\$0.00	\$65,475.07	\$18,642.93	\$0.00	\$18,642.93	77.84%
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	\$60,678.16	\$42,469.84	\$0.00	\$42,469.84	58.83%
228.450.51231	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
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	\$0.00	\$6,302.42	\$2,409.58	\$0.00	\$2,409.58	72.34%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,941.00	\$0.00	\$1,352.00	\$589.00	\$589.00	\$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	\$22,725.90	\$577,894.51	\$244,898.49	\$22,868.29	\$222,030.20	73.02%
Contractual Services								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,673.31	\$1,326.69	\$0.00	\$1,326.69	66.83%
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	\$0.00	\$1,714.62	\$1,285.38	\$199.06	\$1,086.32	63.79%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$3,507.60	\$2,132.40	\$40.93	\$2,091.47	62.92%
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	\$1,530.70	\$1,969.30	\$0.00	\$1,969.30	43.73%
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	\$0.00	\$14,965.46	\$26,119.54	\$149.40	\$25,970.14	36.79%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$71,840.95	\$0.00	\$9,770.00	\$62,070.95	\$12,699.95	\$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	\$3,815.00	\$14,615.00	\$14,615.00	\$0.00	100.00%
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$901.31	\$1,098.69	\$0.00	\$1,098.69	45.07%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,821.27	\$3,178.73	\$0.00	\$3,178.73	60.27%
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	\$7,514.50	\$4,340.50	\$0.00	\$4,340.50	63.39%
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	\$0.00	\$51,487.77	\$119,363.18	\$27,704.34	\$91,658.84	46.35%

Expense Report

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
Commodities								
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,564.42	\$935.58	\$63.32	\$872.26	65.11%
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	\$71.38	\$128.62	\$19.00	\$109.62	45.19%
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	\$410.66	\$89.34	\$0.00	\$89.34	82.13%
	Commodities Totals:	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,242.68	\$1,157.32	\$82.32	\$1,075.00	68.38%
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	\$3,490.96	\$1,309.04	\$0.00	\$1,309.04	72.73%
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	\$3,490.96	\$1,309.04	\$0.00	\$1,309.04	72.73%
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
	Health Admin Totals:	\$1,001,843.95	\$22,725.90	\$635,115.92	\$366,728.03	\$50,654.95	\$316,073.08	68.45%

Expense Report

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228 Total:		\$1,001,843.95	\$22,725.90	\$635,115.92	\$366,728.03	\$50,654.95	\$316,073.08	68.45%

Expense Report

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 10/31/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
Grand Total:		\$1,001,843.95	\$22,725.90	\$635,115.92	\$366,728.03	\$50,654.95	\$316,073.08	68.45%

Target Percent: 83.33%

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

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

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

Section 1

The following fees are hereby amended:

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

	Commercial Less than 25,000 sq. ft.		Non-Commercial Less than 25,000 sq. ft.		Commercial 25,000 sq. ft. or More		Non-Commercial 25,000 sq. ft. or More	
Level 1	\$146.00	\$176.00	\$73.00	\$88.00	\$225.00	\$260.00	\$112.50	\$130.00
Level 2	\$168.00	\$194.00	\$84.00	\$97.00	\$238.00	\$276.00	\$119.00	\$138.00
Level 3	\$351.00	\$376.00	\$175.50	\$188.00	\$925.00	\$950.00	\$462.50	\$475.00
Level 4	\$453.00	\$478.00	\$226.50	\$239.00	\$983.00	\$1,008.00	\$491.50	\$504.00

B. The annual City license fee for High Risk Mobile Food Service Operations and Mobile Retail Food Establishments shall be ~~\$110.00~~ **\$135.00** and Low Risk Mobile Food Service Operations and Retail Food Establishments shall be **\$67.50** as defined in the Ohio Revised Code.

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

D. The annual City license fee for Vending Machine Locations as defined in the Ohio Revised Code shall be ~~\$19.73~~ **\$20.40**.

E. The cost of a license for Retail Food Establishments, Mobile Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Retail Food Establishments, Temporary Food Service Operations, Vending, Food Service Operations and Mobile Food Service Operations

may include an amount in addition to the fees set forth above, to be determined by the Public Health Council and Director of Agriculture pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code.

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

Section 2

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

Section 3

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

Section 4

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

Elizabeth Slamka, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading 8/13/2024
Second Reading 9/10/2024
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

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

Approved as to form:

Ben Lyden/jak
Law Director

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEES FOR THE LICENSING OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS, PUBLIC SPAS, AND SPECIAL USE POOLS.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Board of Health & Environment of the City of Middletown Health District, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1

- A. The annual City license fee for public swimming pools, public spas, and special use pools, as defined in Division (G) (H) and (I) of Section 3749.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, as provided by the regulations promulgated by the Public Health Council, shall be:

Public

Individual pool	\$220.00 \$245.00
Individual spa	\$220.00 \$245.00
Individual special use	\$220.00 \$245.00

Additional at same facility

Individual pool	\$100.00
Individual spa	\$100.00
Individual special use	\$100.00

- B. The total cost of a license for public swimming pool, public spa, and special use pool shall include an amount in addition to the fees set forth above, to be determined by the Public Health Council, pursuant to Sections 3749.03 and 3749.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- C. Any licensee who fails to file a renewal application, postmarked by April 30th of each year with the appropriate license fee, shall be assessed a penalty fee in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the City license fee, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3709.09.

Section 2

This Ordinance does not supersede and replace MBHE Ordinance No. 2014-003 adopted on November 11, 2014, except to the extent that such sections are inconsistent with this Ordinance.

Section 3

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

Elizabeth Slamka, President
Board of Health & Environment

First Reading 8/13/2024
Second Reading 9/10/2024
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

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

Approved as to form:

Ben Goder / JAK
Law Director

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2024 Activity Quarterly Report- Third Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	28	63	54	382
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	18	16	18	163
Mobile FSO/RFE	5	3	0	27
Prelicense/Consultations	9	13	10	62
Inspection of Temporaries	9	1	4	22
Environmental School Inspections	0	0	7	28
Smoking Inspections	0	1	1	4
Swimming Pools Inspections	27	4	0	84
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	1	2	1	8
Animal Bites	9	6	10	68
Complaints	3	10	4	30
Level 1 Food Certification Training	0	0	0	3
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	0	0	5
Sewage Inspections	0	0	0	1
Tobacco 21	0	2	31	33
Temporary Body Art	0	0	1	1

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	395	480	328	3138
Death Certificates Issued	314	340	294	3042
Birth Certificates Filed	81	74	82	662
Death Certificates Filed	80	94	77	810
Indigent Cremations	4	6	0	29
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	1	1	3	14
Falls	0	0	1	2
Exposure to Elements	0	0	0	0
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	0	4
Undetermined	0	0	1	3
Suicide	0	1	0	4
Homicide	0	0	0	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	0	0	4
5 Pending Death Certificates				

Meetings/Conference Calls

Health Commissioner & Environmental Health Director:

- ODH Conference Call-Together We Can
- REHS Interview
- Unhoused/Homeless Meeting
- AOHC Conference Calls/All Members Call
- Amanda Task Force Meeting
- Council Prep Meeting
- Health Department Staff Meeting
- Event Center Interviews
- Butler County Cares Meeting
- Senior Staff Meeting
- Council Prep
- Infectious Disease Meeting
- Amanda Sewer Project Meeting
- NACCO Grant Planning
- Heat Advisory Message
- Fall AOHC Conference
- SWOH Executive Steering Committee
- Family Children First Council (FCFC) and Executive Committee
- Policylink Conference-Atlanta, Georgia

Community Meetings attended by Health Commissioner

- Southwest Ohio Health Commissioner Meeting
- Southwest Executive Steering Committee Meeting
- Middletown Connect Core Meeting
- Centerpoint Board Meeting & Program Committee
- One Ohio Press Conference
- Family Children First Council (FCFC) and Executive Committee
- YWCA Board Meeting
- Policy Advocacy Meeting
- Middletown Connect Amanda and Rosa Parks Ambassador Meeting
- Annual Health Improvement Parter (HIP) Meeting
- Housing Meeting & CDBG Survey
- Community Engagement
- Met with Miami University Middletown-Kelly Fields
- BCDD Board Meeting
- Suncoke CAP
- Robert "Sonny" Hill Ground Breaking

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT
REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2024**

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	460	73	666	-	1199
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	0	0	-	0
C. auris	0	3	6	-	9
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	0	0	-	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	5	3	2	-	10
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	1	1	0	-	2
Campylobacter	0	2	1	-	3
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	0	-	1
E Coli Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	0	1	-	2
Salmonella	3	0	1	-	4
Shigella	1	0	0	-	1
Dengue	1	0	0	-	1
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0	0	-	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	-	1
Hepatitis B	5	4	7	-	16
Hepatitis C	14	25	13	-	52
Meningitis Bacterial	0	0	0	-	0
Meningitis Viral	0	0	1	-	1
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	1	0	0	-	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	60	5	0	-	65
Varicella	2	0	0	-	2
Mumps	1	0	0	-	1
Tuberculosis	1	0	1	-	2
Lyme Disease	1	0	0	-	1
Pertussis	5	2	4	-	11
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	0	0	-	0
CPO	3	4	5	-	12
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	1	1	-	2
Giardiasis	0	0	1	-	1
HIV	3	3	4	-	10
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	77	80	67	-	224
Gonococcal Infection	19	24	28	-	71
Syphilis	5	3	5	-	13

2024 3rd Quarter Customer Survey Results

Q1



Show Benchmark

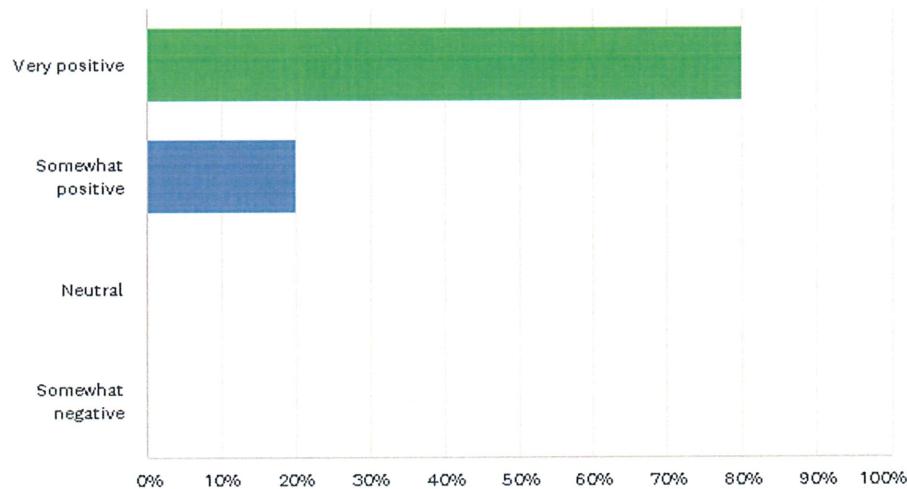


Customize

Save as

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

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



Q2



Show Benchmark

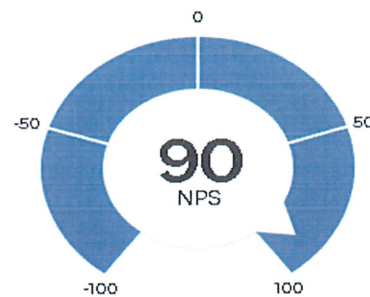


Customize

Save as

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

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



DETRACTORS (0-6)	PASSIVES (7-8)	PROMOTERS (9-10)	NET PROMOTER® SCORE
0	10%	90%	90
0	1	9	

Q3

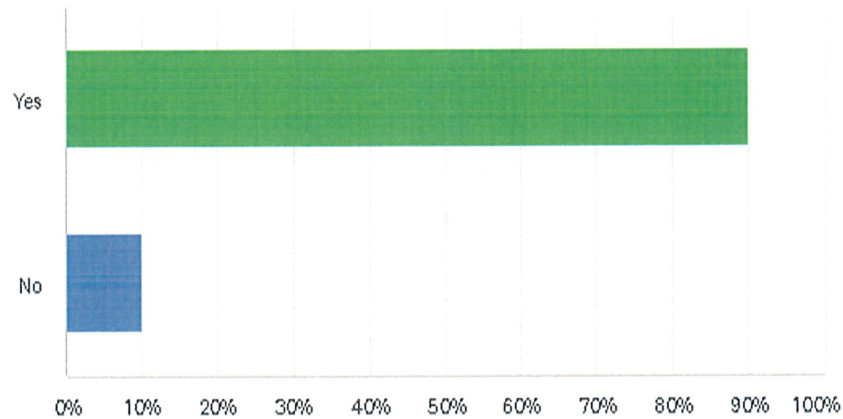


Customize

Save as ▼

Are our hours of operation sufficient to meet your needs?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



Q4

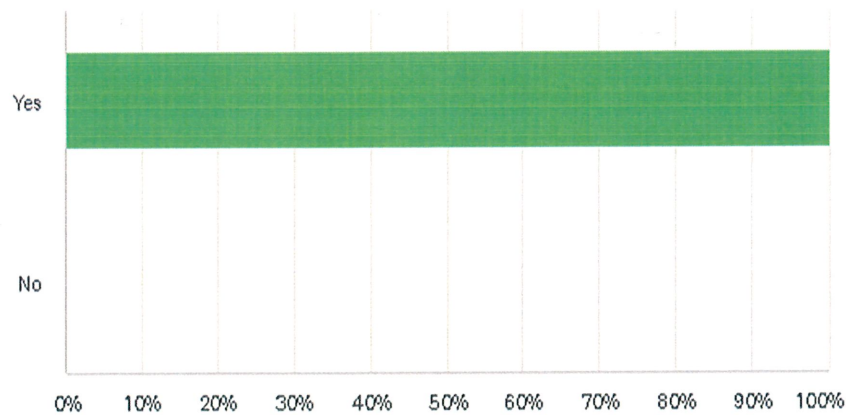


Customize

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The wait time for service was reasonable.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



Q5

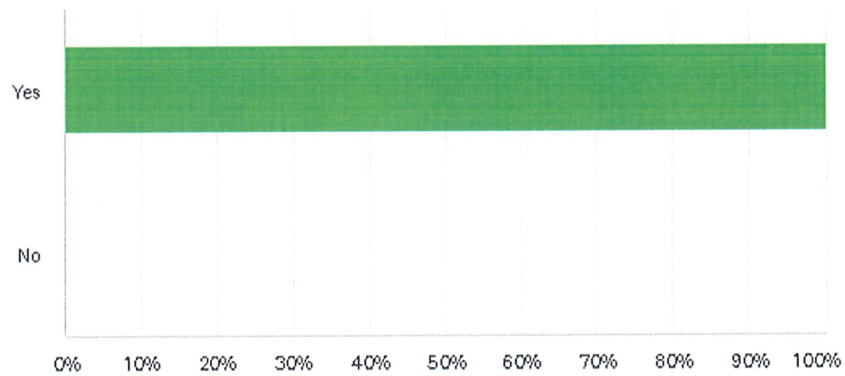


Customize

Save as ▼

The staff was friendly and courteous.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2023 Activity Quarterly Report- Third Quarter

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

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

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2023

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

Health Commissioner Notes

September 2024

T21 Update:

- T21 Letters sent
- Will continue to license

Middletown Connect/Grant OHIZ

- All Ambassadors meeting focus on housing and voter registration
- Health Improvement Partner Annual Meeting
- Middletown Connect Core Meetings
- Expungement Fair activities continues now focus on voter's registration
- Walk with a Doc 9/21
- Suncoke presentation-Middletown Connect

BC Cares

- Continue to meet every Wednesday at 1p to discuss community issues
- Dr Rasmus will be the speaker for Walk with a Doc in October 19th
- Joint Butler County Health Commissioners and Health partners Red Carpet Luncheon 11/14

PHAB

- Executing the Community Health Improvement
- Walk with a Doc/waking program
- Infant Mortality

Senior Citizen Update

- Event Planner Manager hired- Angie Smith
- First large event is Imaginary Library luncheon 10/5

Internal/External Meetings and Tasks

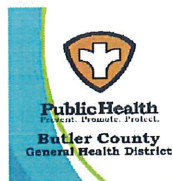
- City Newsletter-Health Minute Fall Edition

Meetings/Activities

- Indigent/Unclaimed Services and activities
- Continue to Meet w/ Acting CM
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meeting
- Council Review Meeting
- Middletown Connect
- Meeting with Mayor re: Housing
- Meeting in Commissioners Office/Hamilton Re: Housing
- AOHC Fall Conference-Dublin
- Indigent Meetings and BC Coroner
- YWCA Board Meeting
- BC Housing Meeting-Modern Psychiatry
- Amanda Task Force Meeting

Community Participation/Events

- CenterPoint Board Meeting
- Infectious Disease meetings
- AOHC SWO meeting
- Together We Can ODH Weekly Cal
- Robert Sonny Hill Ground Breaking
- Equity "debriefing" meeting InterAct



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

September of 2024

Leah Elliott, MPH

Leah.Elliott@bcOhio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 1,498
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis B, and colonized *Candida auris* cases.

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

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	34,814	305.6	-	-
Butler County	1,322	336.3	1.1	1.042-1.163

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 10.0% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

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

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	907	329.1	↓23.8% from August 2024 (n=1,190)
Middletown City Health Department	291	565.3	↓17.8% from August 2024 (n=354)
City of Hamilton Health Department	300	476.2	↓42.5% from August 2024 (n=522)
Butler County (all inclusive)	1,498	381.1	↓27.5% from August 2024 (n=2,066)

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

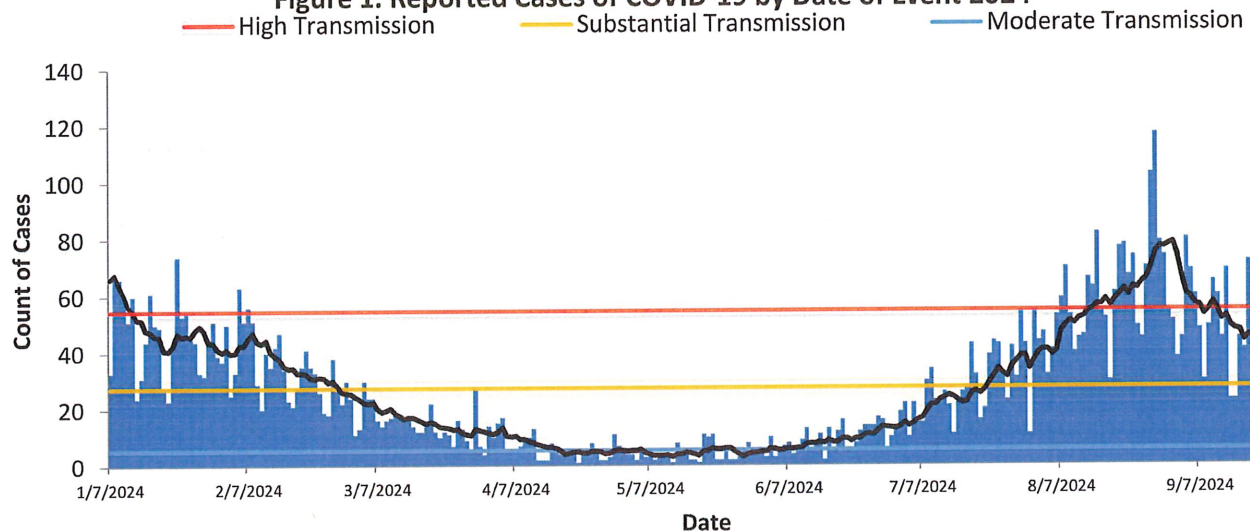
Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	24	↓27.3% from August 2024 (n=33)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	155	↑38.4% from August 2024 (n=112)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	16	↑6.7% from August 2024 (n=15)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , Tetanus, and Varicella)	1,268	↓32.9% from August 2024 (n=1,890)

*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. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of September 1 - 30, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/3/2024.

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

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. auris	5	3	8	16
Campylobacteriosis	7	0	0	7
Chlamydia infection	66	21	21	108
COVID-19	783	238	240	1,261
CPO	5	2	0	7
Giardiasis	1	1	0	2
Gonococcal infection	13	15	11	39
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	8	2	5	15
Hepatitis C	3	2	4	9
HIV	0	1	2	3
Lyme Disease	3	0	1	4
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	3	0	1	4
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	2	0	0	2
Pertussis	1	1	0	2
Salmonella Typhi	1	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	1	1	1	3
Shigellosis	0	0	1	1
Streptococcal - Group A - invasive	1	1	2	4
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive	0	0	1	1
Syphilis	1	3	1	5
Varicella	2	0	0	2
Yersiniosis	0	0	1	1
Total	907	291	300	1,498

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 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. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of September 1 - 30, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/3/2024.

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 9/30/2024
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	43
Campylobacteriosis	45	30	35	48	49	41.4	36
Chlamydia infection	1,631	1,512	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,445.8	947
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	26,420	39,521	49,323	12,192	31,864	7,773
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	4	10	11	12	93	26	43
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	2	0	1	1	0	<1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	4	6	5	7	7	5.8	9
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	8
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	1	1	1	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	4	14	7	13	10	2
Gonococcal Infection	732	651	480	473	413	549.8	264
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	10	7	6	11	18	10.4	11
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	57
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	552	486	434	390	280	428.4	177
HIV	24	17	58	38	35	34.4	35
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	325	266	18	306	70	197	314
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	17	10	10	15	12	12.8	8
Listeriosis	0	0	0	1	2	<1	0
Lyme Disease	3	2	0	2	2	1.8	5
Malaria	2	2	1	3	4	2.4	3
Measles – imported outside Ohio	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	25	9	14	10	10	13.6	20
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	4	3	3	11	10	6.2	10
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	27
Salmonellosis	32	20	26	34	54	33.2	29
Salmonella Paratyphi	0	0	0	0	1	<1	1
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	2
Shigellosis	7	8	3	6	7	6.2	12
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	2	0	1	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	24	27	24	34	39	29.6	27
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	0	1	0	1	1	<1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	59	31	33	40	43	41.2	29
Syphilis (all stages)	11	17	23	45	66	32.4	46
Tuberculosis (active)	8	6	7	8	7	7.2	12
Varicella	14	1	5	8	19	9.4	10
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	1

*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. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of September 1 - 30, 2024, unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/3/2024.

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet										
For September 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	@ The Square	Complaint 8/11/24				X				Letter of Warning delivered 9/16/2024
2										
3										
Notes:										

City of Middletown Health Department

September 2024

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	82	662
Death Certificates Filed	77	810
Birth Certificates Issued	328	3138
Death Certificates Issued	294	3042
Indigent Cremation Services	0	29

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	3	14
Falls	1	2
Motor Vehicle	0	4
Exposure to Elements	0	0
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	0
Homicide	0	2
Suicide	0	4
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	4
Could Not Be Determined	1	3
Pending Investigation	5	5

**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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Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	45	372
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	18	163
Prelicense/Consultations	10	62
Sewage Inspections	0	1
School Inspections	7	28
Vending Locations	9	10
Temporary FSO/RFE	4	22
Mobile FSO/RFE	0	27
Complaints	4	30
Smoking Complaint Inspections	1	4
Swimming Pools	0	84
Tattoo	1	8
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	5
Jail Inspection	0	0
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0
T-21	31	33
Temporary Body Art	1	1

Animal Bite Events

Dog	7	56
Cat	2	7
Bat	0	2
Raccoon/skunk-Animal Exposure	1	3

September 20, 2024

WALK WITH A DOC NEWSLETTER



Good morning!

On Tuesday, I had an interesting discussion with one of our newest residents, James François. James is a brilliant young man from Haiti.



It was 4:15 p.m. shortly after we all finished nine hours of rounding on a rather long list of patients. For their level of training, the interns and residents are doing very well.

I had just returned to my office to focus on research. For those of you who have not seen my cardiology office, the room is dominated by a pair of over-stuffed mahogany soft faux leather chairs and it smells like a Colorado pine forest just before a heavy rain. I had already traded the white coat for my satin smoking jacket and my sore feet were securely propped up on my hand-carved black walnut desk. My wind down for the day had begun as it always does, with a corn cob pipe in my right hand and a Shirley Temple in my left. Then, just as I sat down with my stack of Archie comics, the door opened. I wonder why he didn't knock? I met James for the first time Monday, and I liked him - great sense of humor and again, very smart.

"Busy day, huh? After you left, the team told me you started the walkadoc thing. I had heard about it before, but I just checked your [website](#). You guys have a lot of chapters?"

"Check out the next block in the newsletter, James. Now we are blessed with even more. Fire away"

"Do you mind if I turn the music down?" He was already walking past my chair to the console.

I recently found a Motown station on Spotify that I like.

He didn't wait until he fully returned from the stereo to get started. His voice was now softer that he wasn't competing with Stevie Wonder.

"So you guys go every week or every month, right? This is not like an annual fundraising walk, right? This is different than those?"

Why does everyone use the word 'so' to start sentences anymore? I'm just as guilty.

"Yeah, we have a differ...."

"You, guys are TOTALLY different. Almost opposite. My understanding is that their approach is to raise as much money as possible. Then, feed the cash to the researchers so they can work on new treatments and cures for their diseases of interest."

"That's generalizing but pretty accurate and thank goodness they do that."

"Right on. So here's the way I understand YOU guys. You guys never charge anyone. Ever. Walk with a Doc says, 'Hey, 80% of cardiovascular disease is preventable. You can get rid of 80% of heart disease for free - so why not start **their**? You guys help Bill or Susan see the way and your walking right alongside them at the park. Just put on a pair of shoes, walk 20-30 minutes a day, and that's all you need to do."

"I would've spelled 'their' t-h-e-r-e in that usage, but other than that, yes that's exactly correct"

"Wait, I'm not done," James said.

"Sure"

"So, Walk with a Doc says: Let's first wipe out 80% of cardiovascular disease, 50% of Alzheimer's, 47% of arthritis, 58% of diabetes, 53% of breast cancer with stuff we already do every day. Stuff that is enjoyable, even can give you a buzz, and only 5-10% of the public is doing. Then, we can use all that money from these organizations

to treat the hard stuff that no one has found a cure for yet. When you guys are walking each week, you are actually curing all those diseases AT THAT TIME. You cut out the middle man. You guys are live-action, wipe it out now, talk about it later."

"You're a quick study, James"

"Wait, if you don't ever charge, how do you keep the lights on?"

"We collaborate with groups that share our vision with groups like the [Texas Medical Association](#), [AARP](#), and the [Hass Avocado Board](#). They make the movement possible."

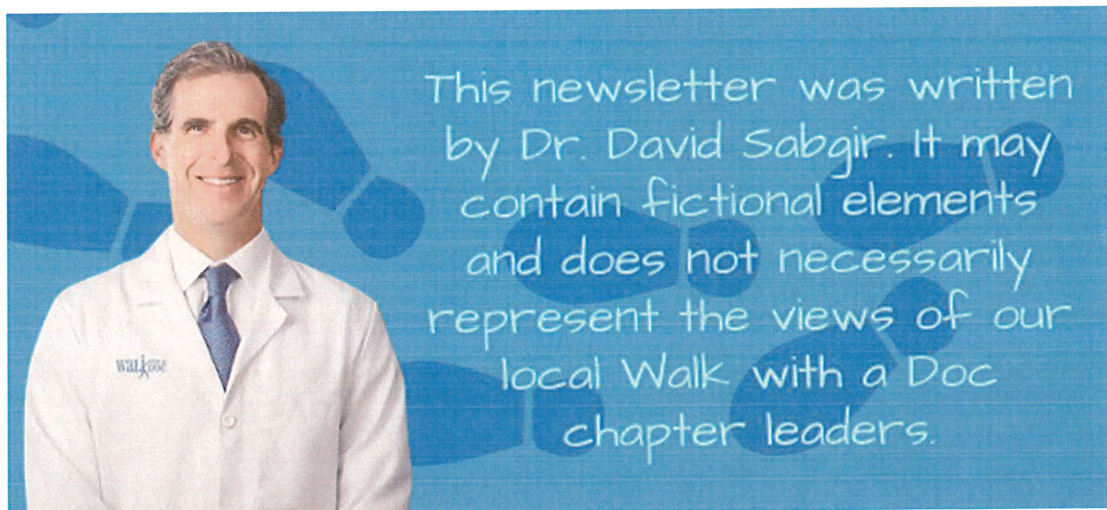
"Of course. That makes a lot of sense. Dr. Sabgir, I have to say the Shirley Temple doesn't shock me but I'm surprised to see you smoking a pipe?"

So, then I blew a soap bubble from my pipe to make sure he knew it wasn't tobacco.

Happy Friday!

David

Disclaimer: I don't have a personal office, let alone any soft mahogany leather chairs or black walnut desks. No smoking jacket either. It's okay, I'm still very happy.



Welcome New Walk Chapters



1. Premier Partner: **Merritt Island, FL**, AARP
2. **Boston, MA**, Dr. Kristene Tadese & Dr. Annel Fernández

Find a local chapter in your area

No Walk in your area?

1. Share the program with your local healthcare professionals - [click here](#).
2. Get notified when a chapter starts in your area - [click here](#).
3. Join us virtually in the meantime - [click here](#).

***Thank you to the donors whose generous support provided scholarship funding that helped launch these new Walk chapters. If you'd like to help get more people walking in other communities, [click here to make a donation](#).

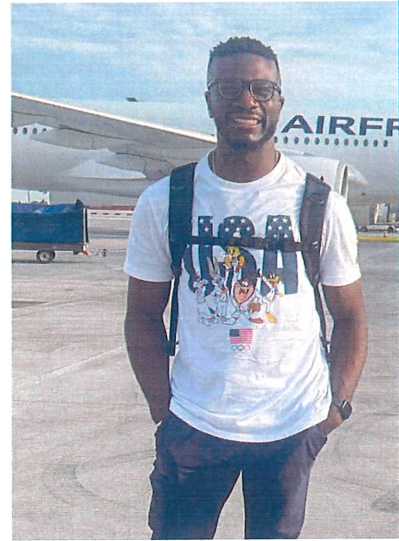
Featured Walk Leaders

We recently had two Walk with a Doc leaders from [Texas](#) who traveled to Paris for the Olympics!!

[Dr. Tiffany Nguyen](#) and her sister, Dr. Julie Haywood, were both selected to participate in the Paris 2024 Marathon Pour Tous. Amateur athletes from around the world were able to run the Olympic marathon route at night, following in the footsteps of the outstanding Olympic athletes.

[Dr. Benedict Ifedi](#) served as a volunteer physician working with Team USA in the Olympic Village medical clinic. In the clinic, he treated athletes of all sports for various musculoskeletal issues and colds/respiratory infections.

Way to go Dr. Nguyen and Dr. Ifedi!



WWAD Swag

Shirts, hats, bumper stickers, water bottles, and more! Support Walk with a Doc and look good while doing it.

[Click here to visit the shop](#)



Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

-David and the WWAD Team

Follow our social media channels for WWAD updates, health tips, and more!



WWAD Facebook Group

About Walk with a Doc:

As an international non-profit organization, Walk with a Doc is committed to inspiring communities through movement and conversation with walking groups led by local doctors, healthcare providers, or medical students.

Started in 2005 by Dr. David Sabgir, a cardiologist in Columbus, Ohio, the program now extends to over 560 communities throughout the world. The walks are a fun, free, and safe place to get physical activity, learn about health, and meet new people.

Learn more at www.walkwithadoc.org

Enjoying the WWAD newsletter? Share [this link](#) with a friend or share on social media:



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email



Inspiring communities through movement and conversation.

‘Deplorable conditions’ at Middletown apartments leaves councilwoman in tears



Caption

By [Lauren Pack](#)

A recent drive through an apartment complex where she previously lived left Middletown council member Jennifer Carter in tears as she saw parking lots full of overflowing trash.

Trailbridge Townhomes in the 600 block of Lafayette Avenue, formerly People's Place, was built in 1972 for families to pay rent on a sliding scale according to what they could effort.

"It was my first apartment. I was thrilled," said Carter.

Recently at the urging of a resident, Carter revisited the complex and found children playing outside where eight dumpsters were overflowing and trash piled around.

"I cried as I rode through that lot," she said during last week's council meeting. "It is immoral to have to have that trash and children in the same environment."



When she contacted city staff, they were in agreement. Acting City Manager Nathan Cahall said correcting the situation became a top enforcement priority.

Cahall called the conditions "deplorable"

"What is upsetting as well is that it has gotten to this point before it was caught," he said. "We are taking action. We are going to move heaven and earth to clean that place up"

The city issued a nuisance violation and must give the owners time to clean up the issue. That time has expired and it appears property owners stopped paying for trash hauling service, Cahall said.

He said it is a “unique situation all around” because the complex is owned by a private company that appears to be in “habitual non-compliance.”

Caption



Credit: Nick Graham

Both city staff and Carter were in contact with a person who said they are the manager, but nothing was done.

The complex on 2.6 acres is owned by Peoples Landmark LLC, according to the Butler County Auditor's Office.

In March, the company was issued a letter from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office cancelling its business entity and stating "this entity may no longer transact business in Ohio."

The company failed to provide a valid undated statutory agent, according to the secretary of state's office.

Cahall said the city worked to haul away as much trash as possible on Wednesday and the trash company, Republic, has agreed to pick up what city workers could not. When the owners are found they will be assessed for the cost of the cleanup that has already taken place.

ADVERTISING

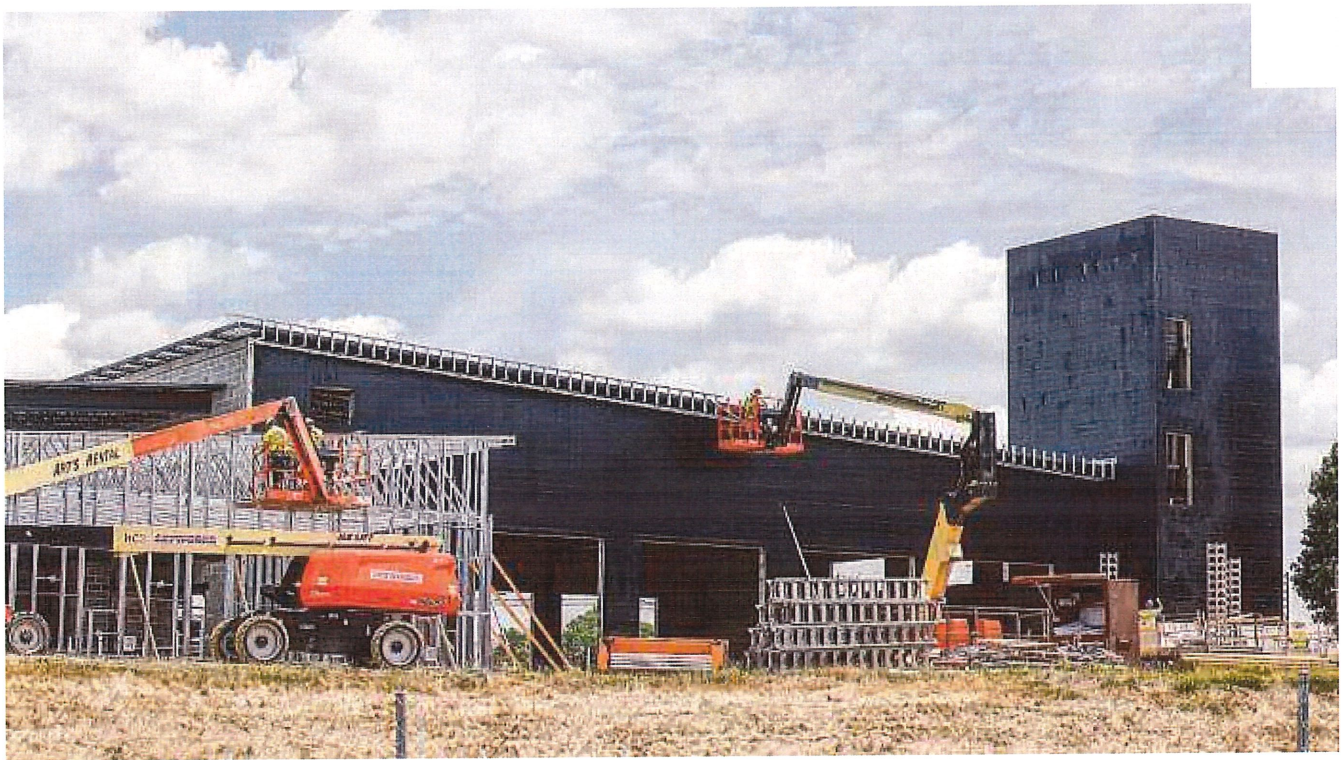
The city has also opened a parallel investigation involving the health commissioner and Cahall said they are contacting regional office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development because the owners do receive HUD vouchers.

"We are trying to track down ownership. Folks are paying rent to somebody," Cahall said.

Calls placed by the Journal-News to the two phone numbers found for Peoples Landmark LLC were not answered.

Middletown firefighters expect to get a Christmas present of 2 new firehouses

2 more slated for completion in summer 2025; all 4 new stations will cost \$26.8M.



Construction continues on the new Middletown Fire Station 83 Headquarters on Yankee Road in Middletown on July 8. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Middletown Fire Chief Thomas Snively said he expects operations at two new firehouses to start around Jan. 1.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

On Middletown Fire Chief Tom Snively's drive to work he, like others, watches the progress of the construction of the city's new fire stations.

"It's really happening," Snively said. "We are all really excited."

And by Christmas, two of four new firehouses, including the headquarters on Yankee Road, are tentatively scheduled for occupancy.

After groundbreaking last September on the headquarters and Station 82 on Dixie Highway near Atrium Medical Center, construction continued this summer and when completed, all four of the city's decades-old fire

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

"We are probably going to be moving in Christmas Eve through the first of the year.

So Merry Christmas to us," Snively said. Completion will happen by about Jan. 1 when trucks will start "running" from the new locations.

Foundations are poured and underground plumbing work is underway on the last two stations, on Clinton Street and Breiel Boulevard and Central Avenue.

Completion of those stations is expected in May or June.

"Optimistically by summertime next year we have migrated from all the existing sites to the new ones," said Acting City Manager Nathan Cahall.

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

"It will be a lot safer, a lot healthier environment and a lot more room for storage," Snively said. He said all four will have tornado shelters, as required by state law, and fitness rooms.

Snively, who plans to retire in mid-June, said he is in the process of ordering furnishings and appliances for the new stations.

"I am really enjoying it.

I have a construction background.

... I did my own addition on my house and I like building stuff," he said.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF FOUR FIRE STATIONS

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

Station No. 81 location replacing 0.28-acre site on Clinton Street: A 2.85-acre site at Henry Avenue and Charles Street owned by the city as acquired from the Middletown City Schools and former site of the Jefferson school. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million.

Station No. 85 location replacing 0.86-acre site at Central Avenue and Breiel Boulevard: A 2-acre parcel at Sophie Avenue and Stolz Drive encompassing the undeveloped, southern portion of Dowling Park owned by the city. Size: 10,200 square feet. Cost: \$5 million.

No. 82 location replacing 0.88-acre site on Dixie Highway: A 2.7-acre site at Ohio 122 and Atrium Boulevard acquired from Premier Health/Atrium Medical Center. Size: 11,800 square feet. Cost: \$5.9 million.

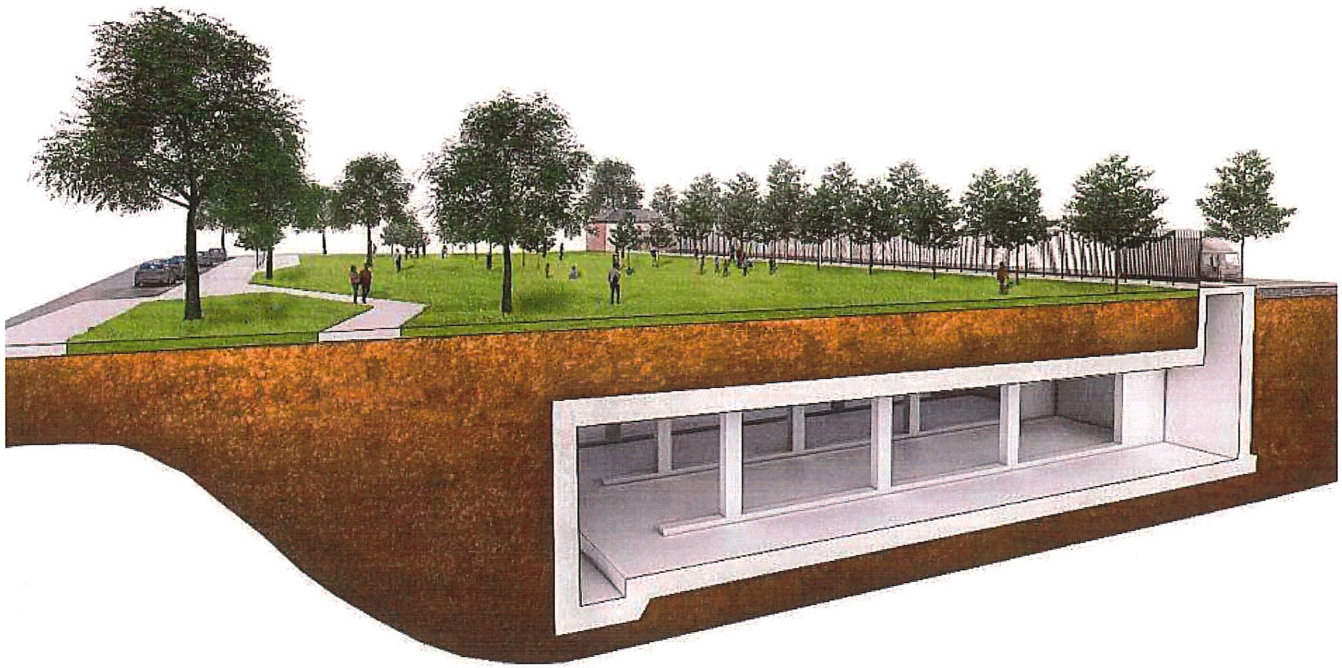
SOURCE: City of Middletown/App Architecture

Massive Middletown project will provide cleaner water

\$53M underground reservoir will reduce sewer overflows.



Construction is underway for the combined sewer overflow basin project on North Main Street in Middletown. When complete, by 2026, an urban park will sit atop the basin. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



A cutaway view of the underground water storage basin being built in Middletown. The basin will be on the west side of North Main Street, between Columbia Avenue and Manchester Avenue. CITY OF MIDDLETOWN / CONTRIBUTED

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

What is being built on Main Street in Middletown? What is the huge crane being used for? Why are they digging a giant hole? All are common inquiries received by the Journal-News about the ongoing \$53 million project to install a storage tank reservoir system underground in Middletown.

By 2026, the 5 million-gallon tank and water movement system to help reduce combined sewer overflows will be in place and an urban park will be on top of it, but for now the project will keep North Main narrowed and plenty of construction equipment in and out of the site.

Like the 80 to 90 Ohio cities that have combined storm and sanitary systems, Middletown needs to comply with the federal Clean Water Act by reducing the number of overflows during heavy rain events, according

to the city work department.

During a “typical year,” Middletown experiences 50 overflows, a number that will be reduced to six after the storage basin is operational by the end of 2025 as required by the federal directives, according to Scott Tadych, public works director.

The concrete storage tank will hold the water there for 24 or 48 hours, then slowly pump it back to the main interceptor sewer line that goes to the wastewater treatment plant. That will “significantly reduce” the overflows into the hydraulic canal upstream of the Great Miami River, he said.

By capturing and treating these excess flows before they are released into the environment, rivers, streams and the community will be cleaner and healthier.

The mass excavation began last fall with a hydraulic hammer striking pilings 40 feet into the ground on the 4-acre construction site at North Main Street and Manchester Avenue. The pilings framed the structure to provide support during construction.

Acting City Manager Nathan Cahall recently gave the city council an update, noting there have been a few unexpected issues but the project is progressing from the excavation phase.

“When you dig halfway to China you are going to find something you don’t expect,” Cahall said.

“So we have been dealing with a few things there, making sure we don’t bust into a strata of ground water and defeat the purpose (of the project).”

Construction has moved on to pouring layers and layers of concrete to form the compartments of the basin.

Cahall said that will continue for "quite some time."

Then the mechanical components will be installed that will move the water from the tank to the treatment plant.

The last component, when the reservoir is operational, will be creating a greenspace, with a preliminary plan calling for an event lawn, a permanent home for the Holiday Whopla's ice and roller rink and benches and landscaping.

"We are going to have a nice urban park design there ... maybe some food truck vendor rallies and maybe a venue for some summer concerts," Cahall said.

To fund the project, the city borrowed the money and the loan will be paid back over time through the city's sewer fund. The project is being built by the design build team of Gresham Smith and Shook Construction. In 2018, the city took a significant step forward by negotiating with the EPA to develop a long-term control plan. The centerpiece of this plan is the storage reservoir, he said.

This is the city's third storm water project, following the Sunset Park infrastructure improvements and the Lakeside redirection, according to Tadych.

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

'When you dig halfway to China you are going to find something you don't expect. So we have been dealing with a few things there, making sure we don't bust into a strata of ground water and defeat the purpose (of the project).'

Nathan Cahall
Middletown's Acting City Manager

Go Green Hamilton check healthy food access

Residents being asked to offer feedback to help improve food system.



Go Green Hamilton has partnered with community organizations to conduct a food assessment survey to determine if the Hamilton population has access to fresh and healthy foods. Pictured in this Journal-News file photo is Christina Burkart organizing produce at the Kroger Marketplace at Crossings of Beckett on Princeton Glendale Road near Tylersville Road in West Chester Twp. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF FILE

Go Green Hamilton is seeking input from city residents about their eating and cooking habits, where they buy food and diet needs for a food system assessment with the goal of getting residents to eat healthier foods.

"This is very important for our community because it tracks the availability of healthy food for our community, whether our folks are getting enough food or if they're not getting enough of the right kind of food," said Jeff Gambrell, who is representing Go Green Hamilton, a subcommittee of the Healthy Hamilton Coalition. "The main goal of a food system assessment is to improve a community's food system via an increase access to healthy food."

The anonymous 25-question survey, which is open until the end of the year, takes less than 10 minutes to take, according to Go Green leaders.

The appraisal of the Hamilton food system will look at four key areas: nutrition and food security, economic well-being, territorial equity, and environmental protection.

The survey is the first phase of the project, which is in English and Spanish, and Gambrell said no personal information is asked.

However, they do ask which of the city's 17 neighborhoods they reside and basic demographic information, like household income.

"The meat and bones of the survey is focused on whether or not if healthy food is affordable for their household, whether or not an individual would be interested in free cooking classes or community gardens, or things like that to help support them to get the nutrition that every household deserves," said Gambrell, who is also the volunteer services and community engagement manager for Serve City, a homeless shelter in Hamilton.

Others partnering with this assessment, includes Miami University Hamilton, Hamilton HUGS, the YMCA, Jee Foods, Hamilton City Schools, Kettering Health, and the city of Hamilton.

Mayor Pat Moeller said, "I think it's a great assessment and things we need to know about."

Hamilton City Council member Carla Fiehrer is a part of Family Promise Butler County that is dedicated to address the needs of families struggling with homelessness.

"We really do need to be keying into something that's more healthy instead of taking the easy way of what they more like," she said.

This survey would also help Go Healthy Hamilton apply for more grants, Gambrell said.

"We know that there are issues with food insecurity, not just in the city of Hamilton, this is a nationwide issue, and we know there are funding options out there, both private and public — millions of dollars — but in order to access those grants, we have to have the data to back it up," he said.

Phase 2 of this assessment conduct focus group sessions, called Food for Thoughts, which includes attending various gatherings and inviting neighbors to participate in a discussion on how food insecurity impacts them personally. Participants would receive a free meal at the sessions.

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

GO GREEN HAMILTON SURVEY

Go Green Hamilton and its several community partners are seeking information to help them identify barriers to food access in the greater Hamilton community. The anonymous 25-question survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete, and is in English and Spanish. For the

English version: <https://shorturl.at/xd1L7> For the Spanish version:
<https://tinyurl.com/5eee9y9r>

140 townhouses planned in Middletown

City council approves zoning change for development on Towne Boulevard.



Maple Ridge, a 140-unit single-family residential development, is proposed on Towne Boulevard in Middletown. CONTRIBUTED



According to submitted plans, the Maple Ridge townhouses will be priced from \$310,000 to \$400,000. CONTRIBUTED

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

A new 140-unit townhouse development is being proposed on Towne Boulevard in Middletown.

A zoning change from business to a planned unit development was approved by Middletown City Council following a public hearing Tuesday night for the development of 16.3 acres on the east side of Towne Boulevard.

J.A. Development and engineer Bayer Becker submitted the plans to the city's planning commission, which approved the zoning change and plan,

sending it to the public hearing and council approval.

The project, Maple Ridge, calls for single-family attached residences with three distinct elevations, along with two pocket parks and 20% green space, according to staff reports and Adam Cristo, of J.A. Development.

Developers said the development is a “good buffer” between a neighboring commercial area and an apartment complex.

The 12 townhouses facing Towne Boulevard will have garages in the back so that the view of people driving or walking will be porches and the building facades, according to the developers.

The price point for the residences is estimated at \$310,000 to \$400,00, according to the plans.

Councilman Paul Horn asked about a plan for an HOA to manage the community and about requirements for the residences to remain owner-occupied.

“We are trying to get out of the business of renters, since we have plenty of them,” Horn said, noting a nearby large apartment complex.

“We want people to come live here and own here.”

Cristo said an HOA will be in place and the residences will be offered for sale individually. If the owner chooses to rent for part of the year, the same HOA standards would be in place.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said she “appreciates” the development, but there may be more opportunity for noise reduction and more trees.

No one spoke for or against the project during the public hearing.

The proposed plan, perhaps with some changes, will be back before

council in the form of a resolution in the future.

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

City was key part of Underground Railroad

Event today will exhibit how freedom-seekers crossed the Ohio River and made it to Middletown.



Abdul Shakur Ahmad has assembled an extensive collection of maps, news clipping and photos to tell the story of Middletown's contribution to justice and freedom for enslaved people. MICHAEL G. ARMOUR JR. / CONTRIBUTED



The Underground Railroad exhibit at the Pendleton Arts Center in Middletown on Central Avenue.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

The rich history of the Underground Railroad in Middletown is a passion project for Abdul Shakur Ahmad and that's why he is highlighting the city's role it played safely transporting enslaved people to freedom with an observance this weekend at the Pendleton Art Center.

September is International Underground Railroad Month.

In June 2022 with the passage of Ohio HB 340, Ohio became the 12th state to designate the month in remembrance and to honor the history of Ohioans who contributed to the underground railroad's mission.

Through extensive research, Ahmad has learned that freedom-seekers crossed the Ohio River into the free state of Ohio.

Abolitionists and communities along the Great Miami River and Miami-Erie Canal helped them escape by providing food and shelter.

From Middletown, freedom-seekers connected with other underground railroad safe houses west to Oxford, northwest to West Elkton in Preble County and northeast to Springboro.

The public is invited to learn what Ahmad and other area historians and learned during an observance from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. This year's observance will also include an exhibit from the relatives of the William Still, who wrote "The Underground Railroad" in 1872.

Ahmad, a native of Middletown who played basketball at Wright State University, has assembled a extensive collection of maps, news clipping and photos to tell the story of the city's contribution to justice and freedom for enslaved people. The display in the basement of the Pendleton on Central Avenue.

"It is in the 'down under' at the Pendleton now. It has been up for a couple years," Ahmad said.

Fittingly the arts center now sits at the location of the large house belonging to Dr. Andrew Campbell and his wife, Laura, that was a safe haven to freedom-seekers on their route for freedom.

The Underground Railroad was a planned escape route for enslaved people to Canada, included houses called stations, and those who assisted in their escape were called conductors.

"The knowledge has always been there, we are just trying to make the Pendleton and downtown Middletown a destination where people can come and enjoy themselves and at the same time learn something that they know," Ahmad said.

Ahmad pointed to historical markers in the city recounting the Underground Railroad's history, including Douglass Park named for Frederick Douglass, social reformer, abolitionist.

Over the years some history has been included in the Canal Museum and in 2012, Sam Ashworth, a Middletown historian, and Ahmad collaborated on a one-hour documentary called "Long Path to Freedom."

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

Middletown Pride partners with Sorg for movie series

MIDDLETOWN



The Sorg Opera House has partnered with Middletown Pride for Queer Movie Matinee, a series of LGBTQIAthemed movies at the historic venue on South Main Street. The first event will feature the film "Love, Simon," about a gay high school student's journey to self-acceptance, on Sept. 29.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

9/12/2024

Middletown Pride has partnered with the Sorg Opera House to launch a series of LGBTQIA-themed movies at the historic venue on South Main Street and is planning more activities throughout the year.

"Our most common feedback from Middletown Pride festival attendees this year was a desire for more activities for the community throughout the year," said Middletown Pride Committee Spokesperson T. Duane Gordon.

"Especially our young adult and high school-aged population who may not be able to go to bars and other activities outside of Middletown."

Kicking off the Queer Movie Matinee event will be the 2018 high school love story "Love, Simon" at 2 p.m. Sept. 29. Admission will be \$5 at the door.

The screening will be hosted by Hamilton drag performer Roxie D. Mocracy.

Seating will be general admission.

Concessions sold by the Sorg Opera House and supporting the renovation and operation of the historic theater will be available.

If the event is successful, Middletown Pride and the Sorg hope to partner for additional screenings of LGBTQIA-centered films throughout the year, Gordon said.

"It is our intention to do a series once every couple of months, and the Sorg is excited about the potential partnership with us," Gordon said.

"Love, Simon," a spinoff of the television series "Love, Victor" on Disney+, focuses on a closeted Atlanta-area high school student who is outed when his messages to another anonymous gay student on the school message board get hacked and released to the entire school, forcing a

journey of self-acceptance.

It is rated PG-13.

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

18 apply to fill vacant Middletown Council seat

2 former council members, former city manager are among the applicants.



Middletown City Council has received applications from 18 people who want to fill the seat Zack Ferrell gave up. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

There are some familiar names in the list of 18 residents who submitted a resume to fill the Middletown City Council seat vacated this month by Zack Ferrell, including two former council members and former city manager Paul Lolli.

Ferrell resigned hours before the Sept. 17 council meeting effective

9/18/2024

immediately citing business and family obligations for his departure. He and his wife have purchased a house outside the city. He was elected to council in November 2021.

City Council had 30 days from the vacancy to fill the seat and sent notice for applications with 5 p.m. Thursday as the deadline.

They received 18 letters of interest.

Lolli, who left his 33-year-career with the city's fire department rising to the rank of chief, took over as the city manager in 2022. He retired from that position in July after a council executive session.

Also on the list of those expressing interest in the appointment are former council members Joe Mulligan and Dora Bronston and Larry Mulligan III, son of former mayor Larry Mulligan Jr.

Other citizens who applied are:

- Peter Ainsworth
- Kristi Asbury
- Meredith Blake
- Jimmy Calhoun
- Corey Carter
- Charles Castle
- Bill Click
- Bill Cofield
- Thomas Evans
- Mark Morgan
- Taylor Osborne-Clairey

- Chuck Ostrovski
- Colton Patak
- Cassidy Zimmerman.

Council will hold a special meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday and go into executive session to begin interviewing candidates.
Council's regular meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

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

Middletown Works project still in plans, according to company

Cleveland-Cliffs continues to be in negotiations related to award-specific terms.



Cleveland-Cliffs is committed to plans announced in March to overhaul the ironmaking systems and install a new environmentally friendly system at Middletown Works, the company announced Monday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

STAFF REPORT

Cleveland-Cliffs is committed to plans announced earlier in March to overhaul the ironmaking systems and install a new environmentally friendly system at Middletown Works, the company announced Monday after its CEO said he had some concerns about a federal grant coming to the steel maker.

9/19/2024

"The company continues to be in active negotiations with the Department of Energy related to the award-specific terms and conditions.

Cliffs remains optimistic about receiving final approvals and proceeding with this carbon-friendly and high-return project," the company said in a statement.

"The project confirms Cleveland-Cliffs as a world-class technological leader in steelmaking," said Lourenco Goncalves, Cliffs' chairman, president and CEO. "Following our recent real life trials with hydrogen-reduction at Indiana Harbor and Middletown, and our well recognized success in Direct Reduction in Toledo, this project is a natural next step."

The company told the Journal-News in March it would receive \$500 million in federal funding that would be used to help to decarbonize its Middletown plant and would keep 2,500 jobs at the plant.

A recent story from Politico stated the company's commitment was in jeopardy; the news release issued Monday is in response to that report.

"I'm still trying to figure out if it even makes sense with the grants because the grant is \$500 million; the entire project is \$1.6 billion. I still have to pony up \$1.1 billion," Goncalves told Cleveland.com.

"I'm not going to do it if the government and the general public are not really supportive of that."

He told the newspaper that even with the help of the federal grant, the steel produced would carry higher costs, a price buyers — mostly in the auto industry — he said are unwilling to pay.

"There are only two ways to fix that: One is they change their minds and pay. So far, not very successful. The other way is for me to go back to what I was before and emit more," Goncalves said. "That's a decision that I'm going to have to make very soon."

The release on Monday said that if the project is awarded, the company will replace its existing blast furnace at its Middletown Works Facility in Middletown with a 2.5mtpa Hydrogen-Ready Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) Plant and two 120 MW Electric Melting Furnaces (EMF) to “feed molten iron to the existing infrastructure already on site, including the BOF, Caster, Hot Strip Mill, and various finishing facilities.”

Middletown Works “will maintain its existing raw steel production capacity of approximately 3 million net tons per year and will no longer use coke for iron production. The EMF technology is well-established and, together with the injection of hydrogen in blast furnaces, is a preferred route for meaningful reduction in carbon emissions for integrated steelmakers worldwide,” the release states.

The flex-fuel DRI plant and EMFs will require 170 additional jobs. The project will result in 1,200 building trades jobs during peak construction, according to the company.

In addition to emissions reduction in high-quality iron and steel making, the byproduct of the electric melting furnaces can be used as a Portland cement substitute, resulting in significant reductions in emissions, energy usage, and consumption of raw materials associated with cement manufacturing.

Hilary Lewis, steel director for Industrious Labs, called the hydrogen plant “a crucial step toward revitalizing American manufacturing, fostering healthier communities and creating futureproof jobs. With this investment, the Biden administration has notched its first win in the global transition to green steel.”

The process will dramatically reduce carbon emissions intensity, and will consolidate Middletown Works as the most advanced, lowest GHG emitting integrated iron and steel facility in the world, according to the company.

“The facility will have the flexibility to be fueled by natural gas, which

would reduce current ironmaking carbon intensity by over 50%; a mix of natural gas and clean Hydrogen; or clean Hydrogen, which would reduce current ironmaking carbon intensity by over 90%," the company said.

"The net capital outlay for Cliffs will be approximately \$1.3 billion, net of capital avoidance on the existing blast furnace and coke plants, over a 5-year period primarily starting in 2025 and expected to conclude by 2029, the company said.

Cliffs' portion will be funded using liquidity on hand and its own free cash flow generation.

"The Middletown site offers enough available space to construct the new facility without encumbering the existing processes, effectively eliminating interference risks during the construction and commissioning phase," it announced.

Middletown council member resigns

Zack Ferrell recently purchased a home outside of Middletown.



Middletown council member Zack Ferrell has resigned. STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Zack Ferrell resigned Tuesday from Middletown City Council, citing business and family obligations for his departure.

"This will be my official resignation from council effective immediately. I have enjoyed every minute of working with you all, but between my new marriage, starting and growing a family, a business that I am blessed to say is thriving, my brother moving in a few months out of state, aging grandparents, and losing two close family members to me in the last few months, I am ready to be selfish with my time," Ferrell said in the email.

"I want to go to volleyball practices in the evenings, stop by my grandparents' house when I have free time, and hang out with friends without the stress over the next hot topic item in Middletown falling on

my shoulders.”

The council member, elected in November 2021, and his new wife purchased a home outside the city limits in Warren County on Aug. 1, according to Warren County recorder’s office records.

Ferrell said ahead of Tuesday’s council meeting he is “mentally exhausted” and would step away from that meeting so “(council) can discuss a plan for the city to go on without me.”

“I’m not a hero and I don’t need a farewell party tonight,” Ferrell said. “I’m nothing more than a regular guy that served his city when called.”

Kristy Duritsch, executive director at Safety Council of Southwestern Ohio, told the Journal-New she did inquire at the end of July about Ferrell’s status on council and the process to replace him due to his marriage and home purchase.

“I had a simple question and I sent the email,” Duritsch said. That email was sent to the clerk of council.

She said there was talk about a possible residency issue, “but no one would ask. So I said I would.” Duritsch said she was told that when there was an answer, she would be informed.

The Journal-News has requested copies of the emails.

Ferrell said in his letter of resignation, “I’ve committed 20-plus hours a week to this job over the course of three years, and I don’t have it in me anymore. If I can’t be fully committed and fully vested, it’s time for someone else to come in and take my place.”

Ferrell pointed to the accomplishment of his goals while in office, including new construction on Roosevelt and the old Lincoln School site, the aquatic center construction, Robert “Sonny”

Hill community center renovations, the groundbreaking of Renaissance

Pointe and the city's purchase of the Towne Mall.

Other accomplishments include the addition of five more police officers, securing funds to tear down the paperboard factory, the renovations of multiple parks that hadn't been touched in so many years, "and last but not least, the shutdown of Hollywoodland," Ferrell said in the email.

"I sold my house in Madison Twp. to come back to Middletown to run for council and I don't regret one second of it. I will continue to invest into this community and grow and develop my city the best way I know how," he said.

"Thank you goes out to all my family and friends along with so many business leaders that have sat and spent time with me to help me be a better vice mayor.

At Tuesday's meeting, Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said: "It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of Councilman Zack Ferrell. He sent out an email to us this afternoon. ... It is effective immediately." Council has 30 days to name a replacement.

People can submit a letter of interest and a resume to the city to be considered for appointment to fill the remainder of the unexpired term that expires Dec. 31, 2025.

Candidates must live within the city, be a registered voter and at least 18 years old. Letters of interest should include full legal name and current residential address, the city says.

Letters and resumes should be emailed to Clerk of Council Amy Schenck at amys@cityofmiddletown.org or delivered to the City Council office at 1 Donham Plaza, Second Floor, Middletown, Ohio 45042 before 5 p.m. Sept. 26. Applications will be reviewed and considered by city council and in-person interviews will be scheduled

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

Sewer line extension set to begin in Middletown

City leaders say \$880K project will kick start Union Rd. development.



A \$880,000 project to extend sewer lines along Middletown's Interstate 75 corridor that city officials say will "kick start" development in years to come is set to begin. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

A \$880,000 project to extend sewer lines along Middletown's Interstate 75 corridor that city officials say will "kick start" development in years to come is set to begin.

The project appropriation of ARPA funds was approved late last year by council, but bidding was slowed down by environmental concerns of the Indiana brown bat habitat, according to Acting City Manager Nathan Cahall.

Tuesday night, city council approved a contract with Stauffer Site Services to proceed with the North Union Road sewer extension project that will consist of installation of 3,125 linear feet of sanitary sewer line.

The cost of the project is \$884,275 and is 30% lower than the engineer's estimate, according to the staff report.

The new sewer line will run from north of Atrium Medical Center through two vacant properties that are zoned for commercial development, according to Cahall.

"This is seen by our development department as a good strategic investment since these are pieces of land along the I-75 corridor," Cahall said.

Companies exploring building and locating on the land are often not choosing these sites in the city limits because there is no sewer line.

"They want shovel ready locations," Cahall said. "Hopefully it will kick start development activity on the properties in years to come."

The city's comprehensive development plan calls for the land to be a primary business center including office parks or low impact industrial

uses.

“It is seen to be a job center and a new burgeoning income tax base area for our community,” Cahall said.

The construction is expected to begin in the next few weeks and be finished by late in the first quarter of 2025.

“With the nature of the project, we can work through the winter, because it is not like a road project where it will get too cold to pave,” Cahall said.

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

Middletown seeks owner of housing complex

City cleans up trash, takes action to address 'deplorable' conditions.



Trash overflows from dumpsters at Trailbridge Townhomes on Lafayette Avenue in Middletown.



Middletown city officials are trying to contact Peoples Landmark LLC, owner of Trailbridge Townhomes, and filed a nuisance violation. NICK GRAHAM PHOTOS / STAFF



Middletown City Council member Jennifer Carter said she was appalled and driven to tears to find children playing around eight overflowing trash dumpsters.

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

A recent drive through an apartment complex where she previously lived left Middletown council member Jennifer Carter in tears as she saw parking lots full of overflowing trash.

Trailbridge Townhomes, in the 600 block of Lafayette Avenue, formerly People's Place, was built in 1972 for families to pay rent on a sliding scale based on what they could afford.

"It was my first apartment. I was thrilled," said Carter.

Recently, at the urging of a resident, Carter revisited the complex and found children playing outside where eight dumpsters were overflowing and trash piled around.

"I cried as I rode through that lot," she said during last week's council meeting. "It is immoral to have to have that trash and children in the same environment."

When she contacted city staff, they were in agreement. Acting City Manager Nathan Cahall said correcting the situation became a top enforcement priority.

Cahall called the conditions "deplorable."

"What is upsetting as well is that it has gotten to this point before it was caught," he said. "We are taking action. We are going to move heaven and earth to clean that place up"

The city issued a nuisance violation and must give the owners time to clean up the issue.

That time has expired and it appears property owners stopped paying for trash hauling service, Cahall said.

He said it is a "unique situation all around" because the complex is

owned by a private company that appears to be in "habitual noncompliance."

Both city staff and Carter were in contact with a person who said they are the manager, but nothing was done.

The complex on 2.6 acres is owned by Peoples Landmark LLC, according to the Butler County Auditor's Office.

In March, the company was issued a letter from the Ohio Secretary of State's Office canceling its business entity and stating "this entity may no longer transact business in Ohio."

The company failed to provide a valid undated statutory agent, according to the secretary of state's office.

Cahall said the city worked to haul away as much trash as possible on Wednesday and the trash company, Republic, has agreed to pick up what city workers could not.

When the owners are found they will be assessed for the cost of the cleanup that has already taken place, he said.

The city has also opened a parallel investigation involving the health commissioner and Cahall said they are contacting regional office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development because the owners receive HUD vouchers.

"We are trying to track down ownership. Folks are paying rent to somebody," Cahall said.

Calls placed by the Journal-News to the two phone numbers found for Peoples Landmark LLC were not answered.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM STILL HIGH ACROSS STATE

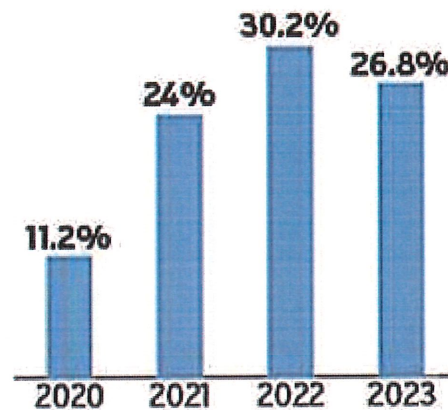
Districts with high rates include Springfield and Middletown.



Officials with Middletown City Schools recently announced the district is joining the "Stay in the Game!" Attendance Network, using new resources to encourage students to attend each school day. The program joins a district-created system launched this year called "Middie Minutes Matter," and school officials said the multi-prong approach reflects their determination to improve student attendance.
FILE

Lower absentee rate

Chronic absenteeism, when students miss 10% or more of the school year, has improved statewide but not back to pre-pandemic levels.



Source: Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

BY EILEEN MCCLORY STAFF WRITER

Almost every area charter and public school still has more students missing 10% or more of school days compared to before the pandemic, data from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce show.

Statewide, chronic absenteeism in the 2023-24 school year dropped to 25.6% from 26.8% in the 2022-23 school year, according to ODEW. In the 2018-19 school year, the chronic absenteeism rate was 16.7%.

"I think it amounts to a little over 400,000 kids who are chronically absent," said Aaron Churchill, Ohio research director for the Fordham Institute, referencing this year's data. "That's a significant number."

Churchill said some of the reasons for the high chronic absenteeism rates include students who got used to being at home during the

pandemic and parents who are now more likely to keep their kids at home if they're sick.

Digital charter schools had some of the lowest chronic absenteeism rates in the area and charter high schools that work with students at risk of dropping out had some of the highest. However, the state allows digital charter schools to count attendance while students are logged in, Churchill pointed out. He also noted that chronic absenteeism is higher in high schools.

Middletown had a chronic absenteeism rate of 44.5% last school year.

The district has been working on getting kids to come to school, launching a project called "Middie Minutes Matter" that encourages students to attend, and partnering with the "Stay in the Game!" Attendance Network, sponsored by professional Ohio sports leagues including the Cleveland Browns and FC Cincinnati.

"We know that attendance is one of the most significant predictors of academic achievement. By joining the 'Stay in the Game!' Attendance Network, we're doubling down on our commitment to ensuring every Middie is present and engaged in their learning every day,"

Suzanna Davis, Middletown senior director of student services, said.

In Springfield, superintendent Bob Hill congratulated the district on lowering its chronic absenteeism rate from the prior year.

The school had a rate of 38% last year.

"The correlation between improved student performance metrics and the reduction in chronic absenteeism is significant," Hill said in a statement. "Our team is excited to build on this positive momentum."

Cedar Cliff, a small Greene County district, had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism in the area among the traditional public school districts, at 7.8%.

Northridge had the highest rate of chronic absenteeism among local traditional public schools, at 48.3%.

Northridge superintendent Dave Jackson said there are a “ton of exciting things” happening, but the high chronic absenteeism rate has meant the gains in student achievement are not as high as the district would like.

“That is crippling us in a lot of ways,” Jackson said.

“If our kids attended, I think we’d see even bigger gains.”

Northridge updated the district’s reading curriculum, seeing major gains in third grade reading scores.

At the beginning of the 2023- 24 school year, 21% of kindergartners were at or above the appropriate early literacy level, and by the end of the year, that number had increased to 66%.

Jackson said the district is looking to do something similar with math. He noted that more students were graduating from the school district as well.

But when kids miss school, they miss instruction time.

“If kids aren’t here, how can you teach them?” Jackson said.

Dayton’s largest school district, Dayton Public, had a 45% chronic absenteeism rate in 2023-2024, down from the previous year’s 46.9%.

DPS superintendent David Lawrence said in August he planned to hold discussions with students and parents about the importance of coming to school.

Lawrence is holding a community meeting for back-to-school expectations at noon Thursday at 115 S. Ludlow St., Dayton.

Another meeting is set for 6 p.m. Thursday at Stivers School for the Arts.

Brooke Spurlock contributed to this story. Contact this reporter at 937-694-2016 or email eileen.mcclory@coxinc.com.

Husted: Cleveland-Cliffs' plan good for community

Ohio lieutenant governor toured parts of Middletown Works.



Cleveland- Cliffs Metal Works produces roll metal for products consumers use everyday like vehicles and appliances. JIM NOELKER / STAFF



Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted poses with Cleveland Cliffs Metal Works workers in the Hot Strip Mill on Thursday. Husted was touring the plant to promote training and Ohio manufacturing. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted got an up close — and sometimes hot — look at what happens inside the gates of Cleveland-Cliffs.

Husted, who said he's touring manufacturing plants and training facilities around the state, visited Middletown Works on Thursday afternoon and saw the steelmaker's maintenance apprenticeship training center, then walked along parts of the 1/4-mile hot strip mill where temperatures exceed 100 degrees.

Patrick Bloom, senior vice president of government relations for Cleveland-Cliffs, the company that purchased AK Steel in Middletown for

\$1.1 billion in 2020, said Husted's visit was a "great opportunity" to highlight the work of the Middletown Works employees and International Association of Machinists union workers.

The goal, Bloom said, was to show Husted how important Cleveland-Cliffs is to the manufacturing economy in the U.S., the state and the southwest Ohio region. Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest flat-rolled steel producer in North America, officials said.

The company is the third largest employer in Butler County with 2,486 employees, according to the Butler County Development office.

Miami University, the top employer, has 3,644 employees, followed by Cincinnati Financial Corp's 3,500.

After meeting with Cleveland-Cliffs officials privately, Husted talked exclusively with this news organization about his visit and the future of the steelmaker.

He was convinced the company's management and the union are working together and that "same team" approach is vital to "compete with the rest of the world when you're talking about steel."

Then he added: "That's how we win in America."

The company told this newspaper in March it would receive a \$500 million grant, part of a \$1.6 billion project, that would be used to help to decarbonize its Middletown plant and install a new environmentally friendly system.

A recent report from Politico stated the company's commitment was in jeopardy.

Then the company issued a news release in response to that report.

"The company continues to be in active negotiations with the Department of Energy related to the award-specific terms and

conditions. Cliffs remains optimistic about receiving final approvals and proceeding with this carbon-friendly and high-return project," the news release stated.

"The project confirms Cleveland-Cliffs as a worldclass technological leader in steelmaking," said Lourenco Goncalves, Cliffs' chairman, president and CEO. "Following our recent real life trials with hydrogen-reduction at Indiana Harbor and Middletown, and our well recognized success in Direct Reduction in Toledo, OH, this project is a natural next step."

Husted was asked about those recent news reports.

He was told by company officials during a private meeting Thursday that the plan is "going forward."

That is "good for this facility," he said. "Anytime you invest in a facility and you invest millions or billions over time, that means it's secure. When you have the latest machinery and equipment that means you're making a product that the market wants. When you invest in it you can't move a steel mill, move hundreds of millions of dollars in investments very easily.

"That gives more security to this community and the people who work here."

18 apply to fill vacant Middletown Council seat

2 former council members, former city manager are among the applicants.



Middletown City Council has received applications from 18 people who want to fill the seat Zack Ferrell gave up. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

There are some familiar names in the list of 18 residents who submitted a resume to fill the Middletown City Council seat vacated this month by Zack Ferrell, including two former council members and former city manager Paul Lolli.

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immediately citing business and family obligations for his departure. He and his wife have purchased a house outside the city. He was elected to council in November 2021.

City Council had 30 days from the vacancy to fill the seat and sent notice for applications with 5 p.m. Thursday as the deadline.

They received 18 letters of interest.

Lolli, who left his 33-year-career with the city's fire department rising to the rank of chief, took over as the city manager in 2022. He retired from that position in July after a council executive session.

Also on the list of those expressing interest in the appointment are former council members Joe Mulligan and Dora Bronston and Larry Mulligan III, son of former mayor Larry Mulligan Jr.

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