

DATE: August 4, 2023
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for August 8, 2023**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **August 8, 2023** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -July 2023

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -July 2023

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Mosquito-Borne Illnesses in the United States- Dr. Jennewine

OLD BUSINESS

1. PHAB
2. Tobacco21 (T21)
3. BOH Vacant Position

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. 1st Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-01 by Title Only- Food Fees
3. 1st Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2023-02 by Title Only-Campground Fees
4. Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2023 at 7:30am

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

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
July 11, 2023

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on July 11, 2023.

Members Present

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

Health Department Staff Present

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

Absent

None.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

Mayor Condrey informed board members that an application has been submitted to fill the vacant spot on the board. It is possible that City Council will vote on it and have a decision as early as next week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 13, 2023-Regular Session

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the June 13, 2023 Board of Health meeting minutes.

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

June 20, 2023-Special Session with City Council

Motion: Mr. Richmond moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the June 20, 2023 special session with City Council and Board of Health meeting minutes.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-June 2023

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to receive and file the June 2023 Financial Report.

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

Education Presentation- Emergency Preparedness-Olivia Hall

Ms. Hall presented the board with an overview of emergency preparedness. Ms. Hall explained that emergency preparedness plans began in earnest after 9/11. A Public Health emergency is defined as anything that acutely affects Public Health.

The National Preparedness Goal (2nd Edition) states that the goal of emergency preparedness is, "A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk."

Emergency plans are broken down by federal, state, regional, county and local levels as well as by organizational, agency, departmental, divisional and individual levels. The plans that affect City of Middletown Board of Health are the CMHD Emergency Operations Plans and the CMHD Emergency Response Plans. Ms. Hall stressed that emergency plans are living documents, the planning never ends and plans are constantly being updated and revised.

Ms. Hall stated that emergency plan topics cover anything that would affect Public Health including, but not limited to: epidemics and pandemics, natural disasters, bioterrorism, terrorism and civil unrest.

The Board of Health has multiple roles in emergency preparedness. The first role is to represent CMHD's interests in larger systems. The BOH will use their backgrounds and disciplines for the staffing of emergency operations such as dispensing medicines and vaccines and aid in communication and education. The BOH also helps with preparation and planning by authorizing and approving CMHD emergency response plans.

OLD BUSINESS

PHAB

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that this week is the end of the data gathering portion of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Focus groups will be held on Wednesday and Thursday of this week (July 12-13, 2023).

Tobacco 21 (T21)

Ms. Phillips informed the board that Interact for Health has received CMHD's grant application. The grant will assist with additional financial support for T21 programming.

Discussions

Dr. Zollett asked what happens now with T21 after the special meeting with the BOH and City Council.

Mayor Condrey stated that it is up to City Council what happens from here regarding implementing a retail density number, stating that the Legal Department recommends that any capping/retail density goes through the Planning Commission or City Council.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the topic could be revisited, Councilman Muterspaw stated he had no problem with capping the number of tobacco retailers in the city to the current number (69), but had an issue with decreasing the number.

Dr. Zollett stated that he felt that the special meeting held between BOH and City Council was intimidating toward BOH members and it was an eye opener.

Ms. Sibcy commented that it turned into quite a show and she will excuse herself from attending any future meetings with City Council as she found it to be disrespectful and not productive.

Mayor Condrey stated that she does not plan to make any recommendations to City Council regarding retail density.

Mayor Condrey stated that she is unsure if the Planning Commission is aware that they can propose those recommendations.

Ms. Lolli asked why the Legal Department is recommending that retail density recommendations come from the Planning Commission and not the BOH.

Mayor Condrey stated that the Legal Department had informed her that if the City were to be questioned later, it would carry more weight coming from the Planning Commission.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that she was proud of BOH members for the way they conducted themselves at the special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

No travel requests.

Approval of Maternity Licensure-Atrium Medical Center

Ms. Carter Phillips explained that the BOH is responsible for approving the Maternity Licensure for Atrium Medical Center each year.

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the Maternity Licensure.

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

Review of Smoke Free Investigations Provider Agreement

Ms. Ealy explained that the Smoke Free Investigations Provider Agreement is between CMHD and Ohio Department of Health (ODH). There has been a fee change this year that will reimburse CMHD \$175 for each smoking investigation that is completed. Ms. Ealy further explained that smoking complaints are made to ODH and then turned over to CMHD. CMHD then investigates each complaint and is reimbursed for their time by ODH.

Discussion of 2024 Environmental Fees

Ms. Ealy explained to the board that CMHD is required to conduct a cost analysis each year. The time CMHD staff spends in each program dictates the fees that are charged. If more time is spent in a program the fees may increase, as less time is spent in a program the fees may decrease. CMHD is not recommending any food, pool or private water fee changes for 2024. Mrs. Ealy stated that there will be a new fee for water sampling of new off-lot discharging systems. Sampling is required for these types of systems. Ms. Ealy explained that CMHD needs to create the fee in case newer types of systems are installed that require sampling. Ms. Ealy recommended a sampling fee of \$75.00, there would be a separate lab fee required at the homeowner's expense. The health department would have to drive the sample to a lab in Cincinnati. Mayor Condrey asked about Mileage due to having to take the sample to Cincinnati. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that staff would use the city vehicle so there would be no paid millage.

Ms. Phillips Carter also asked about the cost of the lab fee. Ms. Ealy stated she did not know the lab fee cost.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that staff would gather more information on the cost and bring back next month.

Ms. Ealy stated there would not be an increase to the Body Art Program. Campground fees will increase from \$150.00 to \$200.00 and the Temporary Campground fees will increase from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per event. There will be a small fee increase for Vending licenses and Mobiles licenses.

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to accept the fee changes as proposed.

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

Board Member Topic-Open Discussion

Mayor Condrey stated that Senator Lang's office is hosting the Butler County Homeless Meeting on August 14th in Hamilton. Mayor Condrey stated that more mental health facilities need to be available to those in need.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she attended the "17 Strong" Summit. This is a City of Hamilton initiative. It is a neighborhood program that has been around for approximately ten years; the City of Hamilton has been heavily involved with this project and has seen great success.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the Ambassadors of Middletown Connect decided to beautify the area of Yankee Road and 8th Avenue. The Amanda area is the next census tract to begin Middletown Connect initiatives.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that she had been interviewed by Dan Monk of WCPO in regards to a report naming the “ten worst restaurants in Butler County.” Six of the ten restaurants named were Middletown restaurants based on inspection reports. Ms. Phillips Carter explained that you cannot compare apples and oranges. There are many different factors that need to be included, such as inspection frequency. Middletown businesses may be inspected and/or followed up on more frequently than other jurisdictions, there may be more 24-hour businesses which naturally lead to the possibility of more violations than businesses that are only operating limited hours.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board of Dottie Emrick’s passing. Ms. Emrick was a long time Middletown resident that had worked with Shalom for many years. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that Ms. Emrick was an amazing woman and will be deeply missed by the community.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the June Communicable Disease cases.

Chlamydia infection	19
Coccidioidomycosis	1
COVID-19	33
CP-CRE	3
Gonococcal infection	10
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1
Hepatitis B	3
Hepatitis C	9
HIV	2
Meningitis-aseptic/viral	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae (invasive disease)	3
Streptococcal-Group A (invasive disease)	5
Syphilis	2

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that she is currently following up on a multi-drug resistant bacterial infection that has been found at local nursing homes. Ms. Corbin stated that two facilities are in the process of being screened for the infection.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that plans have been approved for Bigsby Coffee. Middletown Food Mart LLC on Verity Parkway has been licensed. Plans have been received for Cancun, located at the old Golden Corral site. Plans have been received for the Headstart program that will be at Rosa Parks Elementary school. Angry Chicken has completed their expansion. Mobile plans have been received for Highland Food Truck.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Runaway Tacos refused to allow the health inspector to conduct an inspection. Ms. Ealy contacted Runaway Tacos to inform the owner that inspections are not optional and they must allow the inspectors to come in and inspect the facility. Ms. Ealy also contacted the Legal Department to see what the next steps are to obtain an inspection warrant if this should happen again. A letter was also sent to the owner of the facility.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to move to executive session at 8:46AM.

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

Executive Session Ended at 9:27AM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27AM. The next meeting will be held on August 8, 2023 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

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

Nicole Condrey, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department July 2023 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$7,995 Revenue Earned
- 666 Certificates Sold
- 64 Burial permits Sold

Environmental

- \$3,708 Revenue Earned

Grants/Agreements Reimbursements

- Enhanced Operations (EO-22) \$9,561.61 deposited (FINAL PAYMENT-Grant Complete)
- Covid Needs (CN-22) \$22,002.50 deposited
- Workforce 22 (WF-22) \$39,310.05 deposited (FINAL PAYMENT-Grant Complete)
- Smoke free contract \$125.00 deposited
- Covid Needs (CN-22) final invoice processed \$6,538.40 payment pending

Indigent Services

- \$20,000.00 budgeted for 2023
- 19 Applications approved through July 2023
 - 3 OD's
 - 2 COD'S pending
 - \$5,852 Indigent Services Budget Remaining

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027
 - Multi-year project, 7/1/2023-11/30/2027
 - Original award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - Additional \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity training.
 - New Award amount \$445,000

City of Middletown Budgetary Control Report

Period Ending August 3, 2023

Health & Environmental Fund		Current Year Appropriation	Supplements & Transfers	Carryover & Encumbrance	Total Appropriated	Month-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Balance	Encumbrance	Combined Encumbrance	Remaining Budget Percent
Personnel Services											
228.450.51110	Salaries & Wages	\$565,079.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$565,079.00	\$22,162.52	\$302,039.45	\$263,039.55	\$0.00	\$263,039.55	46.5%
228.450.51211	Pers	\$79,111.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$79,111.00	\$0.00	\$39,086.03	\$40,024.97	\$0.00	\$40,024.97	50.6%
228.450.51220	Worker's Compensation	\$22,603.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,603.00	\$9.94	\$947.18	\$21,655.82	\$21,655.82	\$0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230	Group Health Insurance	\$103,148.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,148.00	\$8,595.65	\$60,169.55	\$42,978.45	\$8,595.65	\$34,382.80	33.3%
228.450.51270	Medicare City Share	\$8,194.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,194.00	\$310.30	\$4,238.35	\$3,955.65	\$0.00	\$3,955.65	48.3%
228.450.51275	Life Insurance	\$1,899.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,899.00	\$152.10	\$1,216.80	\$682.20	\$0.00	\$682.20	35.9%
Personnel Services Totals		\$780,034.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$780,034.00	\$31,230.51	\$407,697.36	\$372,336.64	\$30,251.47	\$342,085.17	43.9%
Contractual Services											
228.450.52110	Travel & Training	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,110.85	\$2,889.15	\$0.00	\$2,889.15	72.2%
228.450.52111	Mandatory Training (Finance Chg.)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00	\$0.00	-\$50.00	0.0%
228.450.52120	Employee Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$305.63	\$1,302.63	\$1,697.37	\$0.00	\$1,697.37	56.6%
228.450.52222	Telephone Line Charges	\$5,640.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,640.00	\$170.84	\$3,146.13	\$2,493.87	\$0.00	\$2,493.87	44.2%
228.450.52310	Municipal Garage Charges	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$674.87	\$2,183.91	\$1,316.09	\$0.00	\$1,316.09	37.6%
228.450.52480	Other Professional Services	\$41,085.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,085.00	\$1,342.13	\$8,571.48	\$32,513.52	\$0.00	\$32,513.52	70.7%
228.450.52481	Workforce Development Grant	\$33,398.00	\$0.00	\$8,086.69	\$41,484.69	\$970.94	\$17,053.01	\$24,431.68	\$21,087.95	\$3,343.73	4.7%
228.450.52488	Health Department COVID	\$121,000.00	\$0.00	\$14,625.00	\$135,625.00	\$1,220.00	\$7,373.10	\$128,251.90	\$21,065.00	\$107,186.90	79.0%
228.450.52490	Outside Printing	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$378.45	\$1,621.55	\$0.00	\$1,621.55	81.1%
228.450.52510	Maintenance of Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,562.10	\$3,194.56	\$4,805.44	\$0.00	\$4,805.44	60.1%
228.450.52820	Licenses & Permits	\$11,340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,340.00	\$1,982.00	\$4,025.00	\$7,315.00	\$0.00	\$7,315.00	64.5%
228.450.52920	Memberships, Books & Periodicals	\$1,587.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,587.00	\$0.00	\$388.00	\$1,199.00	\$0.00	\$1,199.00	75.6%
Contractual Services Total		\$234,550.00	\$0.00	\$22,711.69	\$257,261.69	\$8,228.51	\$48,777.12	\$208,484.57	\$42,152.95	\$166,331.62	57.0%
Commodities											
228.450.53100	Office Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$218.46	\$1,577.61	\$922.39	\$0.00	\$922.39	36.9%
228.450.53210	Food	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$127.75	\$72.25	\$0.00	\$72.25	36.1%
228.450.53610	Small Tools & Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$42.31	\$182.08	\$17.92	\$0.00	\$17.92	9.0%
228.450.53710	Chemicals & Labs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$75.72	\$424.28	\$0.00	\$424.28	84.9%
Commodities Total		\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$260.77	\$1,963.16	\$1,436.84	\$0.00	\$1,436.84	42.3%
Capital Expenses											
228.450.54310	Auto Depreciation	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$436.00	\$3,052.00	\$1,748.00	\$0.00	\$1,748.00	36.4%
Capital Expenses Total		\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$436.00	\$3,052.00	\$1,748.00	\$0.00	\$1,748.00	36.4%
Health Fund Year-to-Date Totals		\$1,022,784.00	\$0.00	\$22,711.69	\$1,045,495.69	\$40,155.79	\$461,489.64	\$584,006.05	\$72,404.42	\$511,601.63	47.4%

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

03 AUG 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED August 03, 2023

PAGE 001

	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined Unencumbered Amount	REM-%
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION										
228.450.51110 SALARIES & WAGES	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 565,079.00	\$ 22,162.52	\$ 302,039.45	\$ 263,039.55	\$ 0.00	\$ 263,039.55	46.5%
228.450.51120 OVERTIME WAGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51211 PERS	79,111.00	0.00	0.00	79,111.00	0.00	39,086.03	40,024.97	0.00	40,024.97	50.6%
228.450.51220 WORKERS COMPENSATION	22,603.00	0.00	0.00	22,603.00	9.44	947.18	21,655.82	21,655.82	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51230 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	103,148.00	0.00	0.00	103,148.00	8,595.65	60,169.55	42,978.45	8,595.65	34,382.80	33.3%
228.450.51240 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.51270 MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	8,194.00	0.00	0.00	8,194.00	310.30	4,238.35	3,955.65	0.00	3,955.65	48.3%
228.450.51275 LIFE INSURANCE	1,899.00	0.00	0.00	1,899.00	152.10	1,216.80	682.20	0.00	682.20	35.9%
228.450.51290 EMPLOYEE AWARDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
PERSONAL SERVICES	780,034.00	0.00	0.00	780,034.00	31,230.01	407,697.36	372,336.64	30,251.47	342,085.17	43.9%
228.450.52110 TRAVEL & TRAINING	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00	1,110.85	2,889.15	0.00	2,889.15	72.2%
228.450.52111 MANDATORY TRAINING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	<50.00>	0.00	<50.00>	0.0%
228.450.52120 EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	305.63	1,302.63	1,697.37	0.00	1,697.37	56.6%
228.450.52222 TELEPHONE LINE CHARGES - HEALTH A	5,640.00	0.00	0.00	5,640.00	170.84	3,146.13	2,493.87	0.00	2,493.87	44.2%
228.450.52230 POSTAGE AND POSTAL CHARGES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52310 MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHARGES	3,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	674.87	2,183.91	1,316.09	0.00	1,316.09	37.6%
228.450.52340 EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE RENTAL										
228.450.52410 LEGAL SERVICES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52420 MEDICAL SERVICE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52480 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	41,085.00	0.00	0.00	41,085.00	1,342.13	8,571.48	32,513.52	0.00	32,513.52	70.7%
228.450.52481 WORKFORCE GRANT CONTRACTUAL SERVI	33,398.00	0.00	8,086.69	41,484.69	970.94	17,053.01	24,431.68	21,087.95	3,343.73	4.7%
228.450.52482 SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52488 HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EXPENSES	121,000.00	0.00	14,625.00	135,625.00	1,220.00	7,373.10	128,251.90	21,065.00	107,186.90	79.0%
228.450.52490 OUTSIDE PRINTING	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	378.45	1,621.55	0.00	1,621.55	81.1%
228.450.52510 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	1,562.10	3,194.56	4,805.44	0.00	4,805.44	60.1%
228.450.52680 MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52820 LICENSES AND PERMITS	11,340.00	0.00	0.00	11,340.00	1,982.00	4,025.00	7,315.00	0.00	7,315.00	64.5%
228.450.52920 MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PERIODICAL	1,587.00	0.00	0.00	1,587.00	0.00	388.00	1,199.00	0.00	1,199.00	75.6%
228.450.52930 PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROCESSING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.52940 INDIGENT BURIALS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	234,550.00	0.00	22,711.69	257,261.69	8,228.51	48,777.12	208,484.57	42,152.95	166,331.62	57.0%
228.450.53100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	218.46	1,577.61	922.39	0.00	922.39	36.9%
228.450.53101 SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.53102 HARM REDUCTION SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.53210 FOOD	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	127.75	72.25	0.00	72.25	36.1%

[illegible]

03 AUG 2023

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT ADMINISTRATION
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED August 03, 2023

PAGE 002

	CURRENT YEAR APPROP'S	SUPP. APP'S & TRANSFERS	CARRY-OVER ENCUMBRANCES	TOTAL APPROPRIATED	MTD-EXPENSE	YTD-EXPENSE	UNEXP-BALANCE	ENCUMBRANCE	Combined Unencumbered Amount	REM-%
228.450.54310 AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIATION	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	436.00	3,052.00	1,748.00	0.00	1,748.00	36.4%
228.450.54320 OFFICE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.54360 OTHER EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
228.450.54370 COMPUTER SOFTWARE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
CAPITAL	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00	436.00	3,052.00	1,748.00	0.00	1,748.00	36.4%
TOTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	1,022,784.00	0.00	22,711.69	1,045,495.69	40,155.29	461,489.64	584,006.05	72,404.42	511,601.63	47.4%
GRAND TOTAL FUND 228	1,022,784.00	0.00	22,711.69	1,045,495.69	40,155.29	461,489.64	584,006.05	72,404.42	511,601.63	47.4%

228.000.44210

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
VITAL STATISTICS	2023	JANUARY	8211.78	8211.78
	2023	FEBRUARY	6931.82	15143.60
	2023	MARCH	15077.02	30220.62
	2023	APRIL	7890.19	38110.81
	2023	MAY	6572.04	44682.85
	2023	JUNE	7422.40	52105.25
	2023	JULY	7393.48	59498.73
	2022	JANUARY	9943.78	9943.78
	2022	FEBRUARY	12804.90	22748.68
	2022	MARCH	9988.38	32737.06
	2022	APRIL	7246.66	39983.72
	2022	MAY	12784.71	52768.43
	2022	JUNE	8441.08	61209.51
	2022	JULY	7882.86	69092.37
	2022	AUGUST	11438.70	80531.07
	2022	SEPTEMBER	7582.86	88113.93
	2022	OCTOBER	9745.86	97859.79
	2022	NOVEMBER	7424.42	105284.21
	2022	DECEMBER	8203.78	113487.99
	2021	JANUARY	10859.20	10859.20
	2021	FEBRUARY	8137.22	18996.42
	2021	MARCH	11431.46	30427.88
	2021	APRIL	13803.40	44231.28
	2021	MAY	8012.54	52243.82
	2021	JUNE	10141.38	62385.20
	2021	JULY	9711.26	72096.46
	2021	AUGUST	10607.62	82704.08
	2021	SEPTEMBER	8905.68	91609.76
	2021	OCTOBER	9698.06	101307.82
	2021	NOVEMBER	8431.80	109739.62
	2021	DECEMBER	9935.12	119674.74
	2020	JANUARY	10015.20	10015.20
	2020	FEBRUARY	9483.04	19498.24
	2020	MARCH	12877.27	32375.51
	2020	APRIL	4432.06	36807.57
	2020	MAY	5381.40	42188.97
	2020	JUNE	9390.42	51579.39
	2020	JULY	6208.34	57787.73
	2020	AUGUST	10881.84	68669.57
	2020	SEPTEMBER	9347.00	78016.57
	2020	OCTOBER	9432.98	87449.55
	2020	NOVEMBER	9382.42	96831.97
	2020	DECEMBER	9515.10	106347.07
	2019	JANUARY	8291.04	8291.04
	2019	FEBRUARY	8104.16	16395.20
	2019	MARCH	10480.58	26875.78
	2019	APRIL	8680.02	35555.80
	2019	MAY	8659.81	44215.61
	2019	JUNE	11201.45	55417.06
	2019	JULY	9050.64	64467.70
	2019	AUGUST	10175.44	74643.14

228.000.44211

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHAR	2023	JANUARY	134.35	134.35
	2023	FEBRUARY	-203.92	-69.57
	2023	MARCH	173.00	103.43
	2023	APRIL	-124.85	-21.42
	2023	MAY	-134.30	-155.72
	2023	JUNE	38.30	-117.42
	2023	JULY	77.00	-40.42
	2022	JANUARY	53.60	53.60
	2022	FEBRUARY	138.15	191.75
	2022	MARCH	-27.05	164.70
	2022	APRIL	89.50	254.20
	2022	MAY	-134.45	119.75
	2022	JUNE	223.70	343.45
	2022	JULY	-184.21	159.24
	2022	AUGUST	-62.85	96.39
	2022	SEPTEMBER	45.05	141.44
	2022	OCTOBER	391.55	532.99
	2022	NOVEMBER	-316.50	216.49
	2022	DECEMBER	93.60	310.09
	2021	JANUARY	-3.10	-3.10
	2021	FEBRUARY	-49.80	-52.90
	2021	MARCH	43.60	-9.30
	2021	APRIL	107.90	98.60
	2021	MAY	-123.80	-25.20
	2021	JUNE	126.75	101.55
	2021	JULY	0.45	102.00
	2021	AUGUST	-103.75	-1.75
	2021	SEPTEMBER	58.15	56.40
	2021	OCTOBER	-90.20	-33.80
	2021	NOVEMBER	98.45	64.65
	2021	DECEMBER	6.70	71.35
	2020	JANUARY	80.10	80.10
	2020	FEBRUARY	43.55	123.65
	2020	MARCH	-3.10	120.55
	2020	APRIL	204.60	325.15
	2020	MAY	-260.40	64.75
	2020	JUNE	-131.75	-67.00
	2020	JULY	86.80	19.80
	2020	AUGUST	-68.20	-48.40
	2020	SEPTEMBER	15.50	-32.90
	2020	OCTOBER	35.85	2.95
	2020	NOVEMBER	-18.60	-15.65
	2020	DECEMBER	-94.55	-110.20
	2019	JANUARY	41.40	41.40
	2019	FEBRUARY	51.75	93.15
	2019	MARCH	-43.65	49.50
	2019	APRIL	25.50	75.00
	2019	MAY	-12.94	62.06
	2019	JUNE	116.25	178.31
	2019	JULY	44.10	222.41
	2019	AUGUST	-7.80	214.61

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44215

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	2023	FEBRUARY	120.00	120.00
	2023	MAY	60.00	180.00
	2022	MARCH	80.00	80.00
	2022	JUNE	60.00	140.00
	2022	AUGUST	160.00	300.00
	2022	NOVEMBER	120.00	420.00
	2022	DECEMBER	20.00	440.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	160.00	160.00
	2021	MAY	40.00	200.00
	2021	DECEMBER	20.00	220.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	80.00	80.00
	2019	MAY	80.00	160.00

Total

1000.00

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44281

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	848.00	848.00
	2023	FEBRUARY	35233.00	36081.00
	2023	MARCH	24797.19	60878.19
	2023	APRIL	1072.50	61950.69
	2023	MAY	863.00	62813.69
	2023	JUNE	2054.50	64868.19
	2023	JULY	3261.50	68129.69
	2022	JANUARY	323.00	323.00
	2022	FEBRUARY	20502.50	20825.50
	2022	MARCH	15041.50	35867.00
	2022	APRIL	1560.25	37427.25
	2022	MAY	70.50	37497.75
	2022	JUNE	1211.50	38709.25
	2022	JULY	1972.50	40681.75
	2022	AUGUST	639.00	41320.75
	2022	SEPTEMBER	643.50	41964.25
	2022	OCTOBER	842.00	42806.25
	2022	NOVEMBER	405.00	43211.25
	2022	DECEMBER	900.00	44111.25
	2021	JANUARY	199.36	199.36
	2021	FEBRUARY	28067.00	28266.36
	2021	MARCH	23096.00	51362.36
	2021	APRIL	3939.50	55301.86
	2021	MAY	1834.50	57136.36
	2021	JUNE	1677.00	58813.36
	2021	JULY	3537.50	62350.86
	2021	AUGUST	1640.00	63990.86
	2021	SEPTEMBER	946.00	64936.86
	2021	OCTOBER	545.00	65481.86
	2021	NOVEMBER	674.00	66155.86
	2021	DECEMBER	567.00	66722.86
	2020	JANUARY	795.00	795.00
	2020	FEBRUARY	40896.32	41691.32
	2020	MARCH	17632.75	59324.07
	2020	APRIL	983.50	60307.57
	2020	MAY	542.50	60850.07
	2020	JUNE	507.00	61357.07
	2020	JULY	1367.00	62724.07
	2020	AUGUST	1470.00	64194.07
	2020	SEPTEMBER	806.00	65000.07
	2020	OCTOBER	-570.00	64430.07
	2020	NOVEMBER	934.00	65364.07
	2020	DECEMBER	1249.64	66613.71
	2019	JANUARY	1179.00	1179.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	36346.50	37525.50
	2019	MARCH	23426.25	60951.75
	2019	APRIL	817.50	61769.25
	2019	MAY	1609.50	63378.75
	2019	JUNE	1004.00	64382.75
	2019	JULY	1029.50	65412.25
	2019	AUGUST	506.00	65918.25

228.000.44282

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	300.00	300.00
	2023	FEBRUARY	13216.00	13516.00
	2023	MARCH	8676.75	22192.75
	2023	APRIL	482.50	22675.25
	2023	MAY	1302.00	23977.25
	2023	JUNE	2586.00	26563.25
	2023	JULY	592.00	27155.25
	2022	FEBRUARY	12010.00	12010.00
	2022	MARCH	3381.00	15391.00
	2022	APRIL	166.00	15557.00
	2022	MAY	300.00	15857.00
	2022	SEPTEMBER	84.00	15941.00
	2022	NOVEMBER	300.00	16241.00
	2022	DECEMBER	471.00	16712.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	12292.00	12292.00
	2021	MARCH	11461.00	23753.00
	2021	APRIL	391.00	24144.00
	2021	JUNE	421.50	24565.50
	2021	JULY	531.25	25096.75
	2021	AUGUST	717.00	25813.75
	2021	SEPTEMBER	185.00	25998.75
	2021	OCTOBER	370.00	26368.75
	2021	DECEMBER	323.00	26691.75
	2020	JANUARY	234.00	234.00
	2020	FEBRUARY	16938.00	17172.00
	2020	MARCH	7535.00	24707.00
	2020	APRIL	991.00	25698.00
	2020	JUNE	95.00	25793.00
	2020	SEPTEMBER	767.00	26560.00
	2020	OCTOBER	673.00	27233.00
	2020	NOVEMBER	580.00	27813.00
	2020	DECEMBER	185.00	27998.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	17873.00	17873.00
	2019	MARCH	6261.75	24134.75
	2019	APRIL	300.00	24434.75
	2019	MAY	185.00	24619.75
	2019	JULY	150.00	24769.75
	2019	SEPTEMBER	452.00	25221.75
	2019	OCTOBER	374.00	25595.75
	2019	NOVEMBER	335.00	25930.75
Total			124487.75	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44280

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
VENDING LICENSE	2023	FEBRUARY	611.49	611.49
	2023	MARCH	37.06	648.55
	2023	JUNE	37.06	685.61
	2022	FEBRUARY	51.96	51.96
	2022	MARCH	571.56	623.52
	2021	JANUARY	34.64	34.64
	2021	FEBRUARY	17.32	51.96
	2021	MARCH	629.52	681.48
	2021	APRIL	-23.32	658.16
	2020	FEBRUARY	617.52	617.52
	2020	MARCH	17.32	634.84
	2019	FEBRUARY	629.00	629.00
	2019	MARCH	106.25	735.25
	Total		3337.38	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44283

Date 03 Aug 2023

Account	Year	Month	Total Month	Total YTD
HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	2023	JANUARY	2337.50	2337.50
	2023	FEBRUARY	205.00	2542.50
	2023	MARCH	155.00	2697.50
	2023	APRIL	47.23	2744.73
	2022	JANUARY	1361.25	1361.25
	2022	MARCH	802.98	2164.23
	2022	MAY	130.00	2294.23
	2022	JUNE	120.00	2414.23
	2022	SEPTEMBER	287.05	2701.28
	2022	OCTOBER	100.00	2801.28
	2022	DECEMBER	1940.00	4741.28
	2021	JANUARY	1730.00	1730.00
	2021	FEBRUARY	1180.00	2910.00
	2021	MARCH	295.00	3205.00
	2021	APRIL	2742.56	5947.56
	2021	MAY	15.00	5962.56
	2021	JULY	65.00	6027.56
	2021	AUGUST	180.00	6207.56
	2021	SEPTEMBER	3324.45	9532.01
	2021	OCTOBER	-74.00	9458.01
	2021	NOVEMBER	406.00	9864.01
	2021	DECEMBER	1750.00	11614.01
	2020	JANUARY	6583.25	6583.25
	2020	FEBRUARY	3840.00	10423.25
	2020	MARCH	3190.28	13613.53
	2020	APRIL	2075.00	15688.53
	2020	MAY	340.00	16028.53
	2020	JUNE	1315.00	17343.53
	2020	JULY	180.00	17523.53
	2020	AUGUST	140.00	17663.53
	2020	SEPTEMBER	156.62	17820.15
	2020	DECEMBER	1340.00	19160.15
	2019	JANUARY	2530.25	2530.25
	2019	FEBRUARY	476.25	3006.50
	2019	APRIL	188.75	3195.25
	2019	MAY	15.00	3210.25
	2019	JUNE	45.00	3255.25
	2019	AUGUST	240.00	3495.25
	2019	SEPTEMBER	208.25	3703.50
	2019	OCTOBER	2450.00	6153.50
	2019	NOVEMBER	4995.00	11148.50
	2019	DECEMBER	8935.00	20083.50
Total			58343.67	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44284

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	2023	MARCH	210.00	210.00
	2021	OCTOBER	60.00	60.00
	2020	MARCH	150.00	150.00
	2019	JANUARY	300.00	300.00
	2019	MARCH	120.00	420.00
	2019	MAY	90.00	510.00
	2019	JULY	30.00	540.00
	2019	AUGUST	30.00	570.00
Total			990.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44285

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
SWIMMING POOL/SPA	2023	APRIL	3160.00	3160.00
	2023	MAY	2560.00	5720.00
	2023	JULY	-220.00	5500.00
	2022	APRIL	3920.00	3920.00
	2022	MAY	1829.00	5749.00
	2022	JUNE	275.00	6024.00
	2022	JULY	283.00	6307.00
	2021	APRIL	3700.00	3700.00
	2021	MAY	1945.00	5645.00
	2020	APRIL	2320.00	2320.00
	2020	MAY	660.00	2980.00
	2020	JUNE	1985.00	4965.00
	2020	JULY	440.00	5405.00
	2020	AUGUST	220.00	5625.00
	2019	APRIL	4440.00	4440.00
	2019	MAY	1545.00	5985.00
Total			29062.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44286

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
TATTOO LICENSE	2023	JANUARY	562.50	562.50
	2022	JANUARY	562.50	562.50
	2022	JUNE	250.00	812.50
	2022	DECEMBER	1500.00	2312.50
	2021	JANUARY	1000.00	1000.00
	2021	JULY	250.00	1250.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	500.00	1750.00
	2021	DECEMBER	750.00	2500.00
	2020	JANUARY	812.50	812.50
	2020	AUGUST	250.00	1062.50
	2020	DECEMBER	500.00	1562.50
	2019	JANUARY	1250.00	1250.00
	2019	DECEMBER	750.00	2000.00
Total			8937.50	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44287

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	2023	APRIL	163.00	163.00
	2022	MARCH	100.00	100.00
	2022	APRIL	113.00	213.00
	2021	APRIL	213.00	213.00
	2020	APRIL	100.00	100.00
	2020	MAY	113.00	213.00
	2019	APRIL	100.00	100.00
Total			902.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.49100

Date 03 Aug 2023

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

Total

555040.45

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.44225

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	2022	MARCH	1200.00	1200.00
	2022	DECEMBER	3000.00	4200.00
	2021	DECEMBER	3000.00	3000.00
	2020	DECEMBER	3000.00	3000.00
	2019	JANUARY	40.00	40.00
	2019	FEBRUARY	150.00	190.00
	2019	MARCH	300.00	490.00
	2019	APRIL	20.00	510.00
	2019	JULY	40.00	550.00
	2019	OCTOBER	3000.00	3550.00
Total			13750.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43370

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	2023	MARCH	35650.42	35650.42
	2023	JULY	39310.05	74960.47
	2022	JUNE	47808.32	47808.32
	2022	SEPTEMBER	26792.77	74601.09
	2022	DECEMBER	30438.44	105039.53
Total			180000.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43368

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT	2023	MARCH	6538.40	6538.40
	2023	JULY	22002.50	28540.90
	2022	JANUARY	98050.00	98050.00
	2022	MAY	52157.10	150207.10
	2021	OCTOBER	9282.75	9282.75
	2020	AUGUST	19071.07	19071.07
	2020	OCTOBER	66715.14	85786.21
	2020	NOVEMBER	49304.97	135091.18
	2020	DECEMBER	32856.00	167947.18
	Total		355977.93	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43367

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT	2023	MAY	65649.94	65649.94
	2023	JUNE	49788.45	115438.39
	2023	JULY	9561.61	125000.00
	2022	MARCH	24022.00	24022.00
	2021	JANUARY	8990.39	8990.39
	2021	FEBRUARY	20000.00	28990.39
	2021	MARCH	5000.00	33990.39
	2021	AUGUST	18459.61	52450.00
	2021	SEPTEMBER	229857.75	282307.75
	2021	OCTOBER	-9282.75	273025.00
	2021	NOVEMBER	98382.00	371407.00
	2020	AUGUST	14903.27	14903.27
	2020	SEPTEMBER	10268.82	25172.09
	2020	OCTOBER	37951.91	63124.00
	2020	DECEMBER	235997.00	299121.00
Total			819550.00	

Monthly Receipt History for Account number

228.000.43330

Account	Year	Month	Date 03 Aug 2023	
			Total Month	Total YTD
STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	2023	FEBRUARY	20100.36	20100.36
	2023	MARCH	9329.20	29429.56
	2022	MAY	9333.70	9333.70
	2021	APRIL	9135.25	9135.25
	2020	MARCH	9135.25	9135.25
	2019	JULY	9135.25	9135.25
Total			66169.01	

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-01

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

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

Section 1

The following fees are hereby amended:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2

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

Section 3

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

Section 4

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

Section 5

This ordinance shall be effective beginning December 1, 2023.

Nicole Condrey, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading _____
Second Reading _____
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

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

Approved as to form:

Ben Yoder / JAR
Law Director

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02

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

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

Section 1

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

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

Section 2

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

Section 3

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

Section 4

This regulation shall be effective on December 1, 2023.

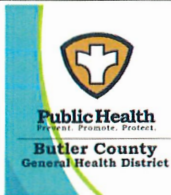
Nicole Condrey, President
Board of Health and Environment

First Reading _____
Second Reading _____
Third Reading _____
Date Adopted _____
Effective Date _____

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

Approved as to form:

Ben Goden / JAK
Law Director



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

July of 2023

Jordan Luttrell-Freeman, MPH
Luttrell-freemanj@butlercountyohio.org

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 486
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B.

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

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	11,982	105.0	-	-
Butler County	362	92.7	0.88	0.80-0.98

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 12% less 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 (July 2023)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	296	107.3	↑28.1% from June 2023 (n=231)
Middletown City Health Department	87	170.5	↓6.5% from June 2023 (n=93)
City of Hamilton Health Department	103	162.5	↑32.1% from June 2023 (n=78)
Butler County (all inclusive)	486	124.5	↑24.6% from June 2023 (n=402)

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

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	35	↓14.6% from June 2023 (n=41)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	124	↑5.1% from June 2023 (n=118)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	21	↑50.0% from June 2023 (n=14)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, Haemophilus influenzae, Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella)	280	↑42.9% from June 2023 (n=196)

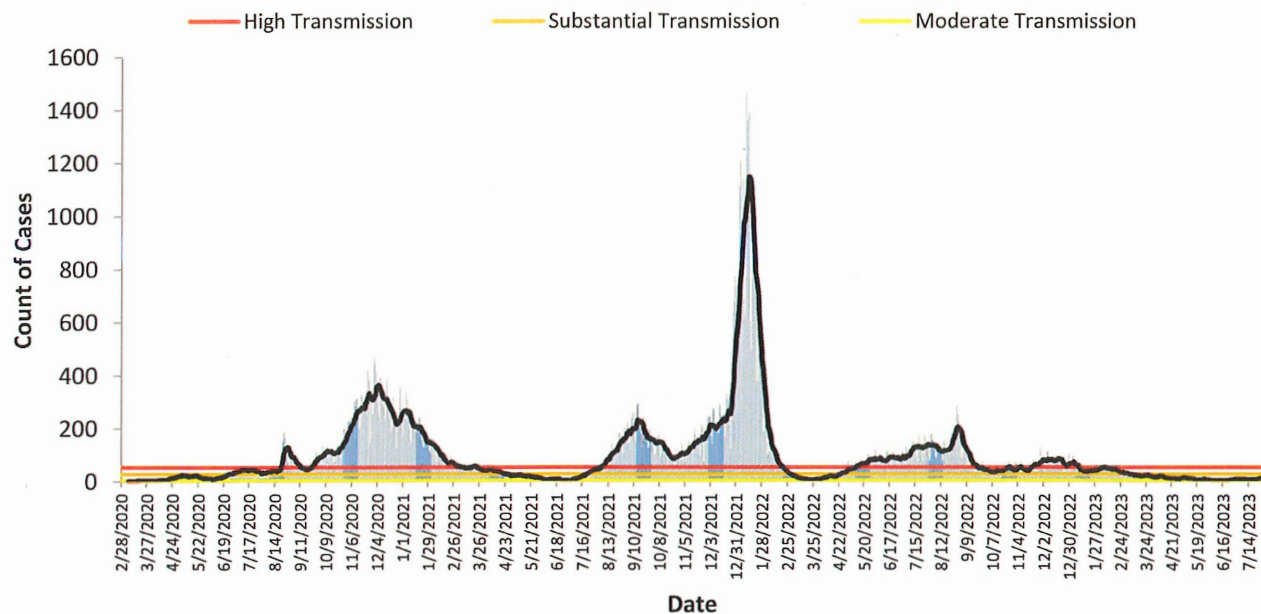
*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika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

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of July 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 8/3/2023

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

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	Middletown City Health Department	City of Hamilton Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. Auris	1	0	0	1
Campylobacteriosis	2	0	0	2
Chikungunya Virus	1	0	0	1
Chlamydia infection	49	20	25	94
COVID-19	180	42	56	278
CP-CRE	5	3	0	8
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	0	1
Cyclosporiasis	2	0	0	2
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	0	0	1
Gonococcal infection	9	7	7	23
Hepatitis A	2	0	0	2
Hepatitis B	6	3	4	13
Hepatitis C	9	5	8	22
HIV	2	0	0	2
Legionellosis	1	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	6	0	0	6
Malaria	1	1	0	2
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	0	1
Meningitis- bacterial	1	0	1	2
Pertussis	1	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	9	0	0	9
Shigellosis	2	0	0	2
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	1	2	1	4
Syphilis	2	2	1	5
Varicella	0	1	0	1
Vibriosis (not cholera)	1	0	0	1
Yersiniosis	1	0	0	1
Total	296	87	103	486

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



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

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of July 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 8/3/2023

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 2017 through 2022 and provides a 5-year average (2018-2022) column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5 Year Avg.	Up to 7/31/2023
Amebiasis	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	2	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	0	0	1	13	-	8
Campylobacteriosis	33	45	30	35	48	38.2	19
Chlamydia infection	1,592	1,631	1,512	1,406	1359	1,500	766
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	-	-	26,420	39,521	49323	38,421.33	4,785
CP- CRE (not reportable prior to 2019)	-	4	10	11	12	9.25	35
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1	2	0	1	1	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	6	4	6	5	7	5.6	4
Cyclosporiasis	4	2	0	0	1	1.4	2
Dengue	0	1	0	1	1	0.6	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	11	14	15	17	14.2	4
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	0	0	1	1	1	<1	0
Giardiasis	12	12	4	14	7	9.8	6
Gonococcal Infection	668	732	651	480	473	600.8	205
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	17	10	7	6	11	10.2	14
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Hepatitis A	304	104	2	1	0	82.2	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	166	109	67	85	78	101	53
Hepatitis C - acute/chronic/perinatal	750	552	486	434	390	522.4	180
HIV	43	24	17	58	38	36	19
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	479	325	266	18	306	278.8	29
Legionellosis - Legionnaires' Disease	16	17	10	9	15	13.4	8
Hansen's disease	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Listeriosis	1	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Lyme Disease	4	3	2	0	2	2.2	0
Malaria	2	2	2	1	3	2	1
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	16	25	9	14	10	14.8	5
Meningitis - bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	4	3	3	11	4.8	6
Meningococcal dz. - Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	-	-	-	15	7	-	1
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	-	-	4	-	0
Mumps	2	1	0	0	0	<1	0
Pertussis	16	38	13	3	3	14.6	2
Salmonellosis	32	32	20	26	34	28.8	34
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	0	2	0	<1	0
Shigellosis	45	7	8	3	6	13.8	5
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	0	0	2	0	1	<1	0
Streptococcal - Group A - invasive	23	24	27	24	34	26.4	29
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	3	0	1	0	1	1	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae - Invasive	54	59	31	33	40	43.4	21
Syphilis (all stages)	47	11	17	23	45	28.6	34
Tuberculosis (active)	2	8	6	7	8	6.2	2
Varicella	13	14	1	5	8	8.2	6
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	2	1	0	2	2	1.4	3
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	<1	0
Yersiniosis	0	1	0	1	2	<1	4

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

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of July 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 8/3/2023

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

*COVID-19 cases are sorted by Event Date (the earliest public health knows about the case). All other reportable diseases are sorted by Date Reported to ODH. This is due to the data entry delay that occurred during the fourth wave of COVID-19. Report reflects time period of July 1-31, 2023 unless otherwise noted. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 8/3/2023



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

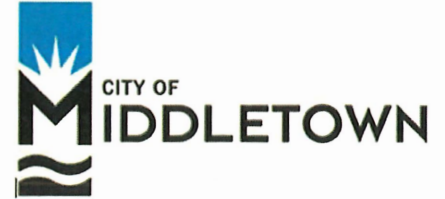


Figure 1: Middletown SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2022 and 2023



Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2022 and 2023

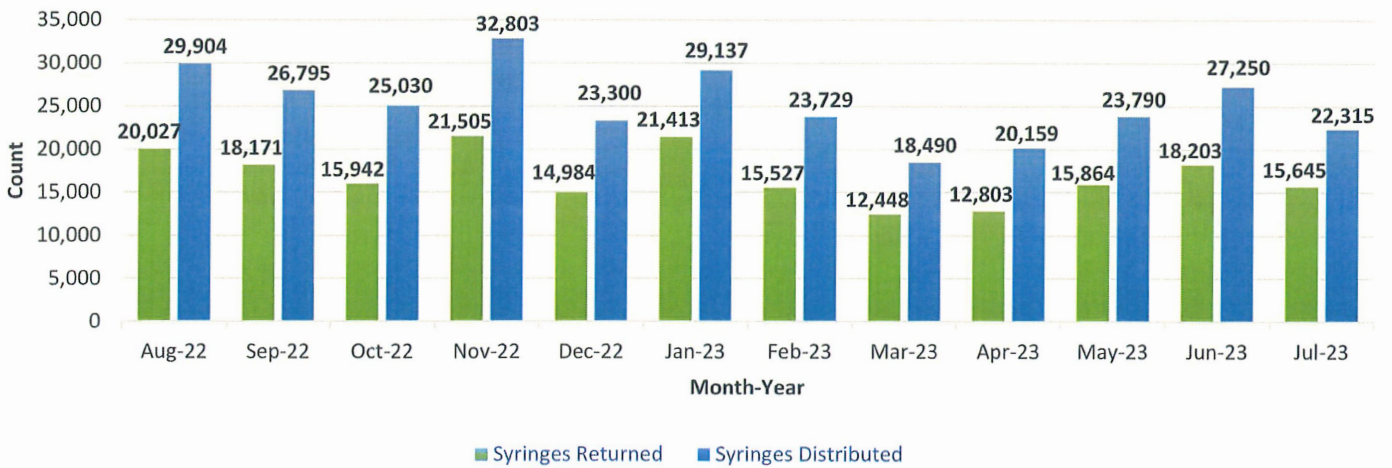


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Middletown SSP Site for July 2023

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	13,915	20,085	69.28%
Miami County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Montgomery County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Preble County, OH	230	260	88.46%
Warren County, OH	1,500	1,890	79.37%
Total	15,645	22,315	70.11%

Source: Access Counseling Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative Middletown Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained July 28, 2023



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

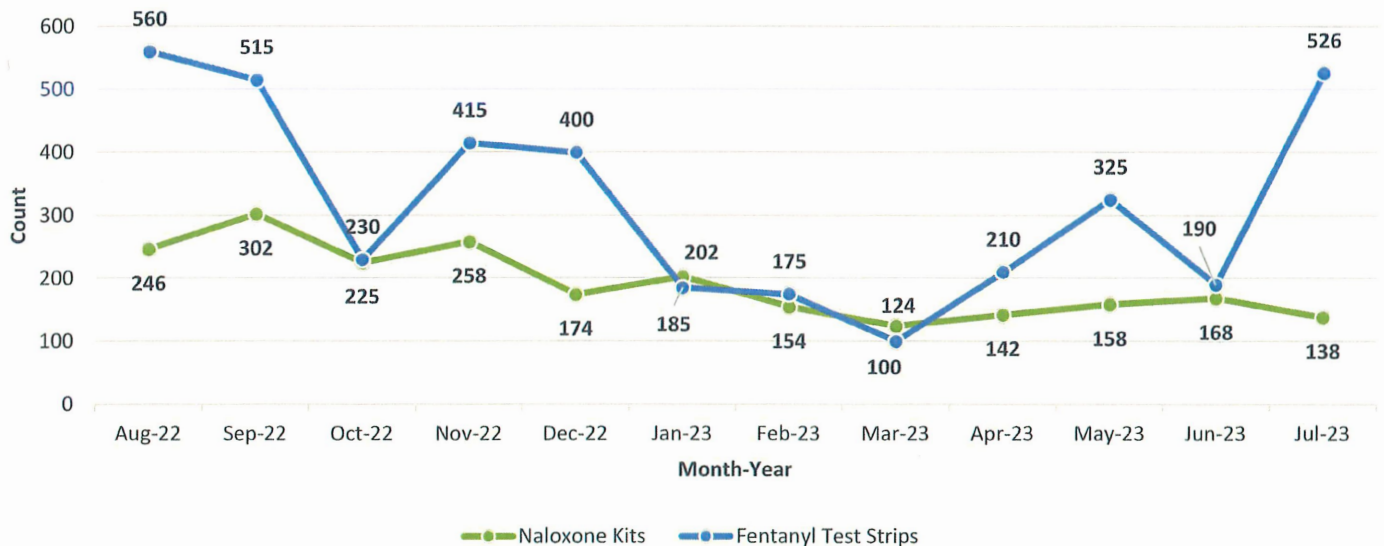


CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Middletown SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for July 2023

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Middletown			
45042	4,958	6,070	81.68%
45044	6,330	9,785	64.69%
Middletown Total	11,288	15,855	71.20%
Hamilton			
45011	1,277	2,660	48.01%
45013	950	1,090	87.16%
45015	150	190	78.95%
Hamilton Total	2,377	3,940	60.33%
45014 - Fairfield	0	40	0.00%
45050 - Monroe	150	150	100.00%
45067 - Trenton	100	100	100.00%
Butler County Total	13,915	20,085	69.28%

Figure 3: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed by Month for the Middletown SSP Site for 2022 and 2023



Source: Access Counseling Regional Harm Reduction Collaborative Middletown Syringe Service Program Site, Data is provisional and subject to change, Data obtained July 28, 2023

City of Middletown Health Department

July 2023

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	76	497
Death Certificates Filed	68	584
Birth Certificates Issued	354	2400
Death Certificates Issued	312	2309
Indigent Cremation Services	2	18

Deaths Filed

Accidental		
Drug Overdose	3	14
Falls	1	7
Motor Vehicle	0	4
Exposure to Elements	0	2
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	1
Homicide	0	4
Suicide	1	4
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	3
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	9	9

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

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees	0	5
---------------------	---	---

Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	39	259
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	16	91
Prelicense/Consultations	8	59
Sewage Inspections	0	1
School Inspections	0	20
Vending Locations	0	0
Temporary FSO/RFE	21	41
Mobile FSO/RFE	2	14
Complaints	8	36
Smoking Complaint Inspections	1	3
Swimming Pools	27	85
Tattoo	0	0
Temp Park/Park Camp	0	3
Jail Inspection	0	0
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0

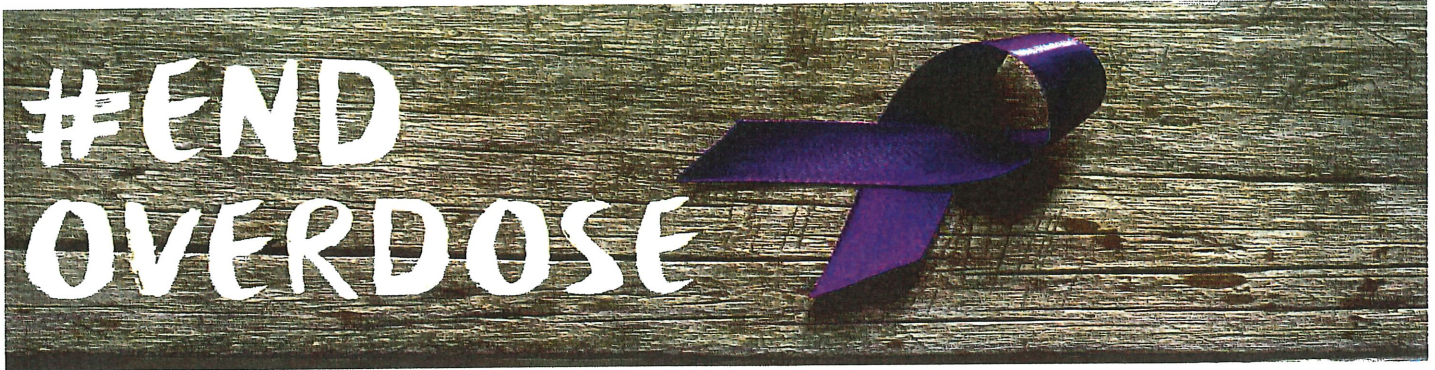
Animal Bite Events

Dog	6	57
Cat	0	9
Bat	0	0
Raccoon-Animal Exposure	0	1

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For JULY 2023

Business Name		Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1	City Tavern	6/13/23	X	X						No violations observed at time of investigation
2										
3										
Notes: Billy T's owes \$1200 in fines, unpaid. Buster's Bar owes \$200 in fines, unpaid.										



With 14 overdoses in our community to date, this is an important and home-hitting topic. For the entire month of August join in the world largest campaign to end overdose, remember those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind. This year's theme is "Recognizing those people that go unseen". We acknowledge all the people in our communities that are affected by overdose and yet go unseen for their pain and efforts. These people can be friends and family, the first responders that daily save lives, and health care workers that lend compassion on a daily basis.

Prevention is critical to reducing overdoses and overdose deaths. Supporting prevention activities targeting high risk individuals and education should be a collaborative effort with health and human service providers. Promoting responsible prescription of medication to protect patient safety is an example of this.

Harm reduction strategies minimize negative consequences of drug use. Needle exchanges are examples of reducing harm to people currently on drugs. These services, though can be controversial, allow a safe place for drug users to exchange their needles for clean unused needles if efforts to reduce the amount of infectious disease transmissions.

Evidence based treatment reduces substance use, can reduce health harms, and overdoses. New therapeutic approaches are initialized to break barriers and cultural enhancements to those that might be reluctant and allow them to access the most effective treatments. Increasing social functioning can also result in improved engagement and retention.

Recovery support includes peer support groups, workforce integration, and housing services which is important aid to a recovering person. Strengthening these efforts not only promotes accessibility and quality of life it, as well as providing tools within the lifespan of a recovering addict.

The drug crisis continues to change. Community support is integral to saving lives and helping those recovering move forward without judgement and compassion.

Please stop by Your City of Middletown Health Department to learn more about ending overdose.

Brown, Laura

From: MKeefer@funeral.ohio.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Brown, Laura
Subject: Automatic reply:

[EXTERNAL E-MAIL]: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

In reference to House Bill 33, the State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors has suspended accepting applications for reimbursement, beginning July 1, 2023, to its Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program until further notice.

Thank you.

State of Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Melissa Keefer

'People are glad we're back;' Aimee's Produce owner says business good

MADISON TWP.



Sophie Griffith, 15, whose parents own Aimee's Produce in Madison Twp., checks the condition of the tomatoes.

The stand opened last month and business has been "good," said Nancy Griffith, one of the owners. NICK

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

MADISON TWP. — A popular produce stand has received its final license from the Butler County Health Dept. that will allow for an expanded menu.

Aimee's Produce, which opened last month, will be permitted to sell meat, cheese, eggs and butter and hopes to add "grab and go" sandwiches soon, said Nancy Griffith, one of the owners.

Before that, working with a variant license, the stand was permitted to sell goods and unaltered produce like whole watermelons, she said.

7/2/2023

Griffith operated Mocking-birds Café for nine years, including eight years on Central Avenue in Middletown.

She closed the restaurant and purchased the former Peggy's Produce Market, 380 Middletown-Eaton Road.

Since opening, Griffith described business as "good" and the Madison Twp. community as "very welcoming."

"People are glad we're back," she said. "They're happy the space is open."

Aimee's Produce features a wide variety of fruits and vegetables from seedless watermelons, South Carolina peaches, Kentucky red, green and orange tomatoes, potatoes, Indiana melons, pickles, jelly and local honey, Griffith said.

The stand is open six days a week, and when it's closed on Sunday, owners purchase goods to refill their stock, she said.

"It's an adventure," she said.

The business is owned by Griffith, her husband, Tim, and Michael Stafford.

It's a family business since the Griffith's three daughters, Mary Grace, Kimberly and Sophie, all have worked there.

Last year, Peggy and Larry Landers closed Peggy's that operated for nearly 10 years.

They cited the difficulty hiring employees and increased prices as two reasons.

But more than those two economic indicators, Landers said, after battling breast cancer, she had a deeper appreciation of family and friends.

HOW TO GO

WHAT: Aimee's Produce

WHERE: 380 Middletown- Eaton Road, Madison Twp.

HOURS: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Saturday

PHONE NUMBER: 513- 465-5038

Unauthorized vapes pouring into the U.S.

Despite crackdown on flavors, surge shows FDA can't control the market.



A list of flavors of disposable electronic cigarette devices made by the Chinese brand HQD is displayed at Vapes N Smoke in Pinecrest, Fla.

REBECCA BLACKWELL / ASSOCIATED PRESS



Under pressure from politicians, parents and major vaping companies, the FDA recently sent warning letters to more than 200 stores selling popular disposables, including Elf Bar, Esco Bar and Breeze. Pictured are a few of the varieties of disposable electronic cigarette devices made by Esco Bars. REBECCA BLACKWELL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY MATTHEW PERRONE -ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP NATIONAL STORY

The number of different electronic cigarette devices sold in the U.S. has nearly tripled to over 9,000 since 2020, driven almost entirely by a wave of unauthorized disposable vapes from China, according to tightly controlled sales data obtained by The Associated Press.

The surge stands in stark contrast to regulators' own figures, which tout the rejection of some 99% of company requests to sell new e-cigarettes while authorizing only a few meant for adult smokers.

The numbers demonstrate the Food and Drug Administration's inability to control the tumultuous vaping market more than three years after declaring a crackdown on kid-friendly flavors.

Most of the disposable e-cigarettes, which are thrown away after they're used up, come in sweet and fruity flavors like pink lemonade, gummy bear and watermelon that have made them the favorite tobacco product among teenagers.

They are all technically illegal, but their influx has turned the FDA's regulatory model on its head.

Instead of carefully reviewing individual products that might help adult smokers, regulators must now somehow claw back thousands of illegal products sold by under-the-radar importers and distributors.

Most disposables mirror a few major brands, such as Elf Bar or Puff Bar, but hundreds of new varieties appear each month.

Companies copy each other's designs, blurring the line between the real and counterfeit.

Entrepreneurs can launch a new product by simply sending their logo and flavor requests to Chinese manufacturers, who promise to deliver tens of thousands of devices within weeks.

Once a niche market, cheaper disposables made up 40% of the roughly \$7 billion retail market for e-cigarettes last year, according to data from analytics firm IRI obtained by the AP. The company's proprietary data collects barcode scanner sales from convenience stores, gas stations and other retailers.

More than 5,800 unique disposable products are now being sold in numerous flavors and formulations, according to the data, up 1,500% from 365 in early 2020. That's when the FDA effectively banned all flavors except menthol and tobacco from cartridge-based e-cigarettes like Juul, the rechargeable device blamed for sparking a nationwide surge in underage vaping.

But the FDA's policy, formulated under President Donald Trump, excluded disposables, prompting many teens to simply switch from Juul to the newer flavored products.

"The FDA moves at a ponderous pace and the industry knows that and exploits it," said Dr. Robert Jackler of Stanford University, who has studied the rise of disposables.

"Time and again, the vaping industry has innovated around efforts to remove its youth-appealing products from the market."

Adding to the challenge, foreign manufacturers of the prefilled devices don't have to register with the FDA, giving regulators little visibility into a sprawling industry centered in China's Shenzhen manufacturing center.

Under pressure from politicians, parents and major vaping companies,

the FDA recently sent warning letters to more than 200 stores selling popular disposables, including Elf Bar, Esco Bar and Breeze. The agency also issued orders blocking imports of those three brands. But IRI data shows those companies accounted for just 14% of disposable sales last year. Dozens of other brands, including Air Bar, Mr.

Fog, Fume and Kangvape, have been left untouched.

The FDA's tobacco director, Brian King, said the agency is "unwavering" in its commitment against illegal e-cigarettes.

"I don't think there's any panacea here," King said.

"We follow a comprehensive approach and that involves addressing all entities across the supply chain, from manufacturers to importers to distributors to retailers."

The IRI data obtained by the AP provides key insights beyond figures released last week by government researchers, which showed the number of vaping brands in the U.S. grew nearly 50% to 269 by late 2022.

IRI restricts access to its data, which it sells to companies, investment firms and researchers. A person not authorized to share it gave access to the AP on condition of anonymity. The company declined to comment on or confirm the data, saying IRI doesn't offer such information to news organizations.

To be sure, the FDA has made progress in a mammoth task: processing nearly 26 million product applications submitted by manufacturers hoping to enter or stay on the market. And King said the agency hopes to get back to "true premarket review" once it finishes plowing through that mountain of applications.

But in the meantime disposable vape makers have exploited two loopholes in the FDA's oversight, only one of which has been closed.

The FDA's authority originally only referenced products using nicotine from tobacco plants. In 2021, Puff Bar and other disposable companies switched to using laboratory-made nicotine.

Congress closed that loophole last year, but the action gave rise to another backlog of FDA applications for synthetic nicotine products.

Under the law, the FDA was supposed to promptly make decisions on those applications.

The agency has let most stay on the market while numerous others launch illegally.

An earlier loophole came from a decision by Trump's White House, which was made without the FDA's input, according to the previous director of the agency's tobacco program.

"It was preventable," said Mitch Zeller, who retired from the FDA last year. "But I was told there was no appeal."

In September 2019, Trump announced at a news conference a plan to ban non-tobacco flavors from all e-cigarettes — both reloadable devices and disposables. But political advisers to the president worried that could alienate voters.

Zeller said he was subsequently informed by phone in December 2019 that the flavor restrictions wouldn't apply to disposables.

"I told them: 'It doesn't take a crystal ball to predict that kids will migrate to the disposable products that are unaffected by this, and you ultimately won't solve the problem,'" Zeller said.

Juul's fall and the flood of disposables

In retrospect, the government's crackdown on Juul now seems relatively simple.

In September 2018, FDA officials declared teen vaping an "epidemic," pointing to rising use of Juul, Reynolds American's Vuse and other brands.

Within weeks, FDA investigators conducted an unannounced inspection

of Juul's headquarters. Congressional committees launched investigations, collecting hundreds of thousands of company documents.

By October 2019, Juul had dropped most of its flavors and discontinued all advertising.

"In a way, we had it good back then, but no one knew," said Dorian Fuhrman, co-founder of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes.

Parents, health groups and major vaping companies essentially agree: The FDA must clear the market of flavored disposables.

But lobbying by tobacco giant Reynolds American, maker of the best-selling Vuse e-cigarette, has made some advocates hesitant about pushing the issue.

Reynolds and Juul have seen sales flatline amid the surge in disposables, according to the IRI data. Disposable e-cigarettes generated \$2.74 billion last year.

The economic barriers to entry are low: Chinese manufacturers offer dozens of designs and flavors for as little as \$2 per device when ordering 10,000 or more.

The devices sell in the U.S. for \$10 to \$30.

"If you have \$5 billion you probably can't start a traditional cigarette company," Jackler said. "But if you have \$50,000 you can just send your artwork and logo to one of these companies and it will be on a pallet next week."

Esco Bars come in flavors like Bubbleberry, Citrus Circus, Bahama Mama and Berry Snow.

The Austin, Texas company behind the brand, Pastel Cartel, racked up more than \$240 million in disposable sales before the FDA blocked its Chinese imports last month.

CEO Darrell Suriff says his company has gone to great lengths to comply

with the FDA, spending \$8 million on an application that the agency refused to accept.

He's appealing that decision and considering challenges to the import ban.

"We're a company that does very positive things for society and the community, and the government just attacked us," said Suriff, who added that he recently purchased new cars for several longtime employees.

Import alerts are one of the FDA's strongest tools to block illegal products, but industry experts say they're easy to skirt.

"Chinese companies tend to just rename their products and change their shipping address so then the products can easily be marketed again," said Marc Scheineson, a former FDA attorney who now consults for tobacco clients.

The FDA's import ban against Chinese manufacturer Elf Bar, the best-selling disposable in the U.S., demonstrates the weaknesses of the whack-a-mole approach. The alert doesn't mention several other brands made by the company, including Lost Mary and Funky Republic.

Made by iMiracle Shenzhen, Elf Bar alone has generated nearly \$400 million in U.S. sales since late 2021, the IRI data shows. The company recently rebranded its U.S. products to EB Design, due to a trademark dispute.

iMiracle criticized the FDA's recent actions in an emailed statement, saying the agency is "dead-set on eliminating all vaping products from the U.S. marketplace."

The company said it would defend its adult customers by "fighting back" against the agency's actions.

National retail chains tend to avoid disposables. But new distribution networks have sprung up, according to those in the industry. A wholesaler will import a shipping container of disposables and then sell the contents to smaller distributors, who then sell the products to local

independent stores out of vans or trucks.

Outdated and unfinished rules

The 2009 law that gave the FDA authority over the tobacco industry was focused on cigarettes and other traditional products made by a handful of huge U.S. companies.

The aim was to subject tobacco manufacturing and ingredients to the same kind of scrutiny and inspections as foods and medical supplies.

Today's vape manufacturers, based almost exclusively in China, weren't part of the discussion.

Fourteen years later, the FDA hasn't finalized manufacturing rules that would extend its authority to foreign vaping factories. In fact, regulators only released a draft regulation in March.

"FDA theoretically has the authority to inspect foreign manufacturing facilities," said Patricia Kovacevic, an attorney specializing in tobacco regulation. "But practically speaking, the inspection program that the FDA has in place only happens in the U.S."

Of more than 500 tobacco-related inspections conducted since the FDA gained authority over e-cigarettes, only two were in China, according to the agency's public database. Those two inspections took place at Shenzhen factories used by major U.S. vaping firms, which have filed FDA applications for their products.

Currently, those applications are essentially the only way that FDA learns exactly where and how e-cigarettes are produced. Many disposables have simply skipped the process altogether.

The FDA itself recognizes the problem, stating in its proposed guidelines: "Covering foreign manufacturers is necessary to assure the protection of the public health," and noting "numerous reports of battery fires and explosions," with Chinese e-cigarettes.

The agency has been playing catch-up on the vaping issue for over a

decade.

The FDA announced plans to start regulating the products in 2011, and it took regulators another five years to finalize rules.

Once implemented in August 2016, no new e-cigarettes were supposed to enter the U.S. and companies on the market had to submit applications for review by September 2020. Only products that could help smokers — by reducing cigarette exposure — while not appealing to youngsters were supposed to win authorization.

With limited resources, the FDA used “discretion” to delay decisions on many applications, allowing products — including major brands like Vuse — to stay on the market for years.

The backlog now includes thousands more e-cigarettes using synthetic nicotine. To date the FDA has only authorized about two dozen e-cigarettes from three manufacturers.

None are disposables.

“Any product that doesn’t have authorization is on the market illegally,” King says.

Industry representatives say the FDA’s refusal to approve more options has forced it into an untenable position.

“When an agency declares that everything on the market is illegal, it puts itself in the position of being completely unable to enforce its own regulations,” said Tony Abboud, of the Vapor Technology Association.

Police called 33 times this year to bar where 2 were shot

Police ask for information on suspects possibly involved in Monday's shootings at J-Rocks Bar.



Middletown police say two people were shot Monday morning in the parking lot of J-Rocks Bar, 3008 Tytus Ave. A resident who lives near the bar said she and other nearby residents feel unsafe because police are often called there for various reasons. RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

MIDDLETOWN

7/4/2023

MIDDLETOWN — The neighbor of a Middletown bar where a double shooting occurred at 2 a.m. Monday said police have been summoned there numerous times, and called the establishment a nuisance.

Police are looking for two suspects who allegedly shot two people in the parking lot of J-Rocks Bar, 3008 Tytus Ave.

One victim was shot in the head, though Sgt. Earl Nelson said the injury doesn't appear to be life-threatening. That 42-yearold man was taken to Atrium Medical Center, and then to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton.

A hospital official said the man wasn't listed as a patient there Monday afternoon.

While police were investigating the shooting, they learned another male was at Kettering Health Middletown with multiple gunshot wounds, according to the police report obtained by this news agency.

Nelson said a fight in the bar spilled out into the parking lot, and that's when the shots were fired. He said police are searching for two or three suspects in the shooting.

Police said one suspect's vehicle fled the scene, then crashed and he fled on foot. Officers attempted a K-9 track that was unsuccessful, they said.

Police are looking for Matthew Andrew Martin, 26, identified as one of the alleged shooters.

Warrants for felonious assault have been issued for his arrest, according to police.

A woman who lives near the bar told the Journal-News she heard four shots, then a possible car crash. She said police have responded to the bar several times over the last year.

The Journal-News checked the calls for service at or near the bar's address and found police have been called there 33 times in 2023 for a wide range of reasons. Monday was the first time this year police have been there on a report someone was shot, according to records.

The neighbor said she supports small businesses, but she said nearby residents don't feel safe.

The bar was open at 10 a.m. Monday, eight hours after the shooting. There is a sign near the front door that reads: "Members Only."

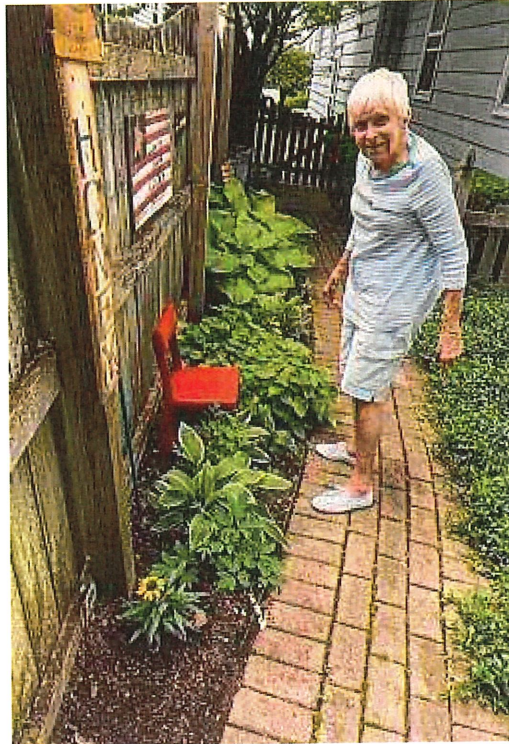
Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call detective Kristi Hughes at 513-425- 7733 or detective Patrick Glassburn at 513-425-7724.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.

McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Middletown volunteer was 'example of a faithful servant'

Dottie Emrick served at church-based shelter for many years.



Dorothy Louise Emrick, a longtime volunteer for Serving the Homeless Alternate Lodging Of Middletown and a 60-year member of Breiel Boulevard Church of God, died June 30. She was 89.

CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

DOROTHY EMRICK, 89

MIDDLETOWN — A woman whose life was dedicated to helping the less fortunate and serving her church family is being remembered for those selfless acts of kindness.

7/6/2023

Dorothy Louise Emrick, a longtime volunteer for Serving the Homeless Alternate Lodging Of Middletown (SHALOM) and a 60-year member of Breiel Boulevard Church of God, died June 30. She was 89.

Emrick was a native of West Liberty, Kentucky. Her family moved to Middletown in 1940.

She graduated from Middletown High School in 1953, remained close to her classmates and was looking forward to attending her 70-year class reunion, a friend said.

In 1955, she married Charles Emrick, and they raised three children, Kim, Karen and Kip.

Emrick graduated from Miami University and completed a 40-year career in nursing.

As a member of Breiel Boulevard Church, she served in a variety of ways, most enjoying the ministries that served the homeless, hungry, and marginalized in the community.

"Dottie was truly a blessing to all that knew her and she was a wonderful blessing to the least of these who have sought the services of SHALOM over the many years," said Bill Fugate, volunteer coordinator at the shelter.

"Dottie was a living example of a faithful servant. The love that she freely poured out upon the homeless will be dearly missed by all, but we give great thanks for her faithfulness to the less fortunate and our mission."

Fugate said part of Emrick's volunteer efforts at SHALOM included attending the daily intakes. Fugate and Emrick frequently went on prison visits together.

"I can recall that there was a time when I questioned whether our prison visits were appreciated and doing any good, and Dottie quickly reassured me that we were exactly where Christ wanted us to be and that we were doing exactly what He has called all of us to do," Fugate said.

She was preceded in death by an infant brother, Jerry; sister Margaret Travis; husband, Charles; and children Karen Bartel and Kip Emrick.

She is survived by brother Samuel Potter; daughter Kim (Doyle Williams); daughter-in-law Michelle Emrick; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4-5 p.m. Friday at Breiel Boulevard Church of God, followed by a memorial service at 5 p.m. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m.

Friday at the North Monroe Cemetery.

In honor of Emrick's love of hats, attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite hat, the family said.

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

Middletown projects over budget

School board, city council discussing ways to finance 4 fire stations, community center.



Renovation plans for the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center include a full-size gym and additional parking, at a cost of \$4.4 million, or 30% of the total project cost. The renovation project is \$5.7 million over revenue, according to city officials.
NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

MIDDLETOWN — Two of the city's biggest projects in recent history are as much as \$15.5 million over earlier projections due to increased construction costs, officials said.

Now members of city council and the Middletown School Board are trying to create ways to progress with the projects by raising additional funds or reducing their magnitude.

Using worst-case scenarios, the building of four fire stations is \$9.8 million over projections and renovating the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center is \$5.7 million over revenue.

The city planned to build four fire stations after voters in May 2022 overwhelmingly approved a 1-mill property tax levy. At the time, the levy was expected to generate enough revenue (\$16.9 million) to replace the city's aging fire stations and headquarters.

But since then, the cost has risen to \$26.4 million, which includes \$22.3 million in construction, \$2.6 million in soft costs, \$1.1 million in fees and \$616,917 in contingencies.

The city was always going to pay for furnishing the fire stations.

At about the same time, the cost of constructing and renovating the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center, 800 Lafayette Ave., has increased. Construction estimates are \$14.8 million, according to school treasurer Randy Bertram. Of that, \$9.1 million has been secured, leaving the project as much as \$5.7 million short.

There are several additional resource possibilities totaling \$4 million, including: \$1.8 million in potential sponsorships; \$1 million from Cleveland-Cliffs, the Middletown steelmaker; \$750,000 in valued engineering savings; \$250,000 from an education source to be named later, and \$250,00 in potential memberships, Bertram said.

When talking about additional potential sponsors, Bertram said: "Our well is not empty."

A large portion of the cost of the center is projected to be spent on a full-size gymnasium that school board members and city officials hope can be a revenue generator through rentals. The gym, with additional parking, is expected to cost \$4.4 million, or 30% of the total project cost.

If a full-size gymnasium is built, and if the school receives nearly \$3 million in donations, it would be \$2.8 million short of projections.

The district would then apply for a block grant, Bertram said.

One possibility is to borrow the \$2.8 million for 20 years. Based on percentages from 3.75% to 4.25%, Bertram said the yearly payments would be between \$202,000 and \$230,000.

School board member Cathie Mulligan said a fullsize gym is the key to the project's success.

Without it, she said, the city will "miss the mark completely" and "be the laughing stock of humanity."

"It's important to finish the job and do it right," added school board member Todd Moore.

The center has received \$8.1 million in combined pledges from the school district (\$4 million), city of Middletown (\$2.6 million) and Butler County Commissioners (\$1.5 million). The center's leadership asked the commissioners for \$6 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, but was awarded \$1.5 million, the same given to similar community center projects in Hamilton and Oxford.

Bertram said the district already has committed free transportation for students from school to the center, valued at \$150,000 a year.

The district also plans to donate its used kitchen equipment to the center, valued at \$100,000, he said.

City council met with the school board during a special meeting Wednesday night to discuss the community center, then the City Council met and the escalating cost of the fire stations was on the agenda.

Council member Zack Ferrell asked if fire headquarters could be renovated instead of rebuilt. City Manager Paul Lolli, the city's former fire chief, said fire headquarters is in the worst condition of all the stations.

Vice Mayor Monica Nenni said the city promised voters that four stations would be built if they passed the levy and not following through would be a "disservice" to voters and firefighters.

City leaders said the plan is to award the contract to construct two fire stations this fall and the other two in the early spring of 2024.

Lolli told council he and staff would create a possible financial plan for

the fire stations and discuss at the next meeting on July 18.

At an earlier council meeting, Lolli promised residents the city would make "good, informed decisions."

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

ESTIMATED COSTS OF MIDDLETOWN'S 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

Greek Fest leaders hope to add days

The one-day event is set for July 29 in Middletown.



Greek Fest, which celebrates Greek food and culture, returns for one day and is scheduled for July 29 at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2500 Grand Ave., Middletown.

CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

OUR TOP STORY

MIDDLETOWN — The major fundraiser for a Middletown church is returning this year for a oneday celebration, and organizers hope to return the Greek Fest to three days in the future.

7/8/2023

Due to COVID-19 three years ago, Greek Fest was a drivethrough festival in 2020 and 2021 and was held for one day last year, said Christina Papakirk, one of the organizers.

This year's event that celebrates Greek food and culture will be held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 29 at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2500 Grand Ave.

Eventually, organizers want the Greek Fest to return to its three-day schedule.

"We're working our way back," said Papakirk, who added the Middletown Greek Fest, founded in 1968, is the longest-running Greek Fest in the area.

Dancers from a Greek church in Dayton also will perform and a disc jockey will play music throughout the day.

On the menu outside in the Food Court will be gyros, spanakopita (spinach and cheese stuffed inside layers of buttery phyllo pastry), tiropita (cheese tucked inside layers of phyllo pastry) and loukoumades (tender doughnut holes covered with syrup, also known as honey balls).

Water and soft drinks will also be offered for sale.

Homemade Greek pastries will be available for sale and pre-order pickup downstairs in the church's dining room, according to Papakirk, who urged preorders.

This year's handmade pastry offerings include: baklava (layers of nuts and phyllo pastry soaked in syrup), kourabiedes (sweet almond butter cookies covered in powdered sugar), and koulourakia (a braided buttery cookie).

While Greek Fest will offer many of the food options that have made it one of the area's most popular festivals, it has added church tours this year. Papakirk said visitors can walk around the church and learn more

about Greek Orthodox Christianity. Since the church has no permanent priest, Papakirk said church members will lead the tour and answer questions.

While some of the church's founding members have died, Papakirk said a "small core group" of members are working on rewriting the church's vision and mission as a way to "start the next chapter" in the church's history.

"We're small, but mighty," Papakirk said, repeating a quote from the late Dolores Revelos, a longtime Greek Fest volunteer.

Papakirk said proceeds from Greek Fest support the many ministries of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church and allow contributions to be made to various philanthropic organizations in the Middletown community and beyond.

On Sundays, when a visiting priest is unavailable, the members hold "a reader service," she said.

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

HOW TO GO

WHAT: Middletown Greek Fest

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 29

WHERE: Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2500 Grand Ave., Middletown

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.facebook.com/MiddletownGreekFest>

HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?

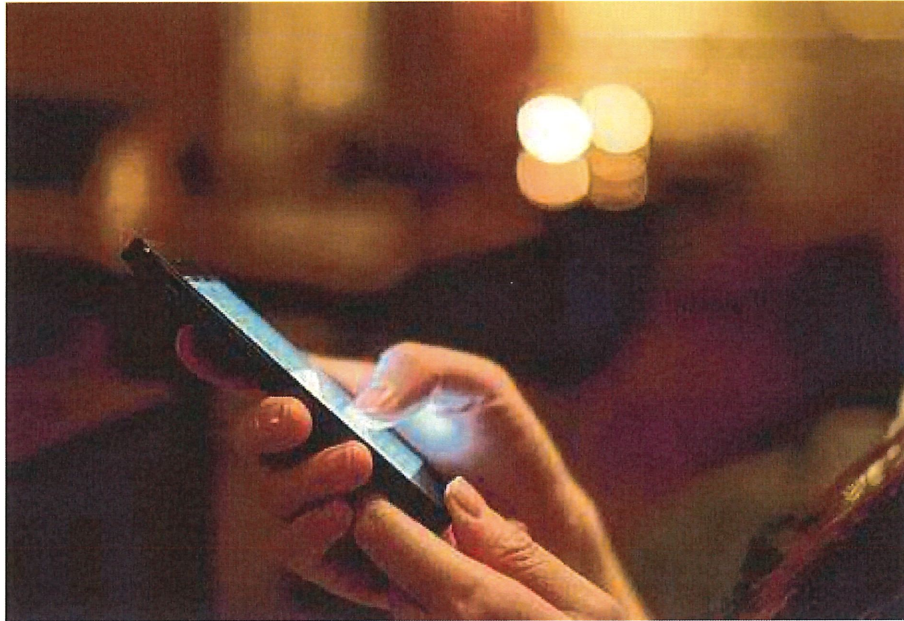
The Journal-News has started this "Good News" feature that will run every Saturday in the ePaper.

If you have a story idea for a future feature, please send it to staff writer and columnist Rick McCrabb at rick.mccrabb@coxinc.com or by postal

mail to Journal-News, c/o The Benison, 100 S. Third St., Hamilton, OH
45013.

Ohio's 988 line sees over 12K calls and texts monthly

Mental health and anti-suicide resource launched a year ago.



Ohio's 988 crisis call, texting and chat lifeline has seen more than 12,000 requests for help on average each month since the hotline launched. FILE

BY SYDNEY DAWES -STAFF WRITER

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ohio's 988 suicide and crisis lifeline saw an average of more than 12,000 calls, texts and chats each month from people in need since the resource launched last year.

State officials say that number is expected to increase to roughly 14,000 requests for help each month by the end of the year.

7/10/2023

"The demand for mental health services for youth and families has never been greater," Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) director Lori Criss said on Friday during a press conference with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine.

"We know that reducing stigma and making help visible and accessible and easy to connect to can save lives."

July 16 will mark one year since the launch of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Ohio and across the nation. This transition was part of a federal law that required states to move from their 1-800 hotline numbers to 988.

By calling or texting 988 or chatting 988lifeline.org, a person will connect to care and support for any mental health or substance use-related distress.

The state budget signed by DeWine earlier this week includes \$46.5 million in funding to sustain operation of the lifeline for the next two years.

"We are working to strengthen and expand Ohio's crisis care system to help anyone who is in a mental health or addiction crisis — and their family members — quickly connect to help close to home," said DeWine. "The 988 lifeline is a 24/7 resource for Ohioans, and it is saving lives."

Ohio has 19 call centers, which are independent community providers answering the calls and texts through the 988 lifeline.

Montgomery County is served by the crisis call center located in Butler County, while Greene County's call center also serves Clark, Champaign, Madison and Logan counties.

Roughly 88% of calls made to the crisis centers are answered in Ohio, with less than 2% rolling over to a national backup center, according to Ohio 988 administrator Doug Jackson.

The state estimates that 11% of calls are voluntarily ended by the caller before they are answered.

"We knew this first year would provide us with a great deal of insights and learning opportunities that were important to document and use in evaluations as 988 grows and becomes a more widely known and used resource," Jackson said.

Montgomery County Alcohol Drug Addiction Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) and nonprofit RI International also operate their own crisis hotline, called Crisis Now, which launched before the 988 lifeline became active.

Montgomery County residents who are experiencing a mental health crisis can also call 833-580-CALL (2255).

Contact this reporter at Sydney.Dawes@coxinc.com.

Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival turns 20

A balloon glow and tethered rides, skydiving and laser light shows among the planned activities.



The opening day of The Ohio Challenge hot air balloon festival last featured a balloon glow, fireworks and skydivers from Team Fastrax, craft vendors, food and more. This year's event returns to Smith Park in Middletown on July 21 and 22. See more photos from last year's event at Journal-News.com NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY GINNY MCCABE -CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MIDDLETOWN

The Ohio Challenge will celebrate its 20th anniversary with colorful hot

7/10/2023

air balloons, laser light shows, balloon glows, skydiving, tethered balloon rides, a car show, a Kid's Zone and more.

"This is the 20th year for The Ohio Challenge, so this is a huge year for us. Every year, it's grown by five or 10 percent, having more people come in. Last year, for the two-day event, we had 17,000 to 18,000 people in attendance," said Kathy Stites, event manager, The Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Sponsored by Selection.com and StartSkydiving.com, The Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival at Smith Park/Middletown Regional Airport will be 5 to 10:30 p.m. July 21-22.

Stites said organizers are hoping to have flights go up on Saturday and Sunday mornings, between 6 and 7 a.m., if the weather permits.

There is no charge to enter Smith Park gate to see the flights.

"Everybody loves the balloons, and they're so fascinating to see. Whether they go up, or when they glow, it's just something special," Stites said.

She said while the balloons are glowing, community members will have the opportunity to walk among the balloons.

"People can walk up to the balloons, so it's pretty cool," Stites said.

Another thing that's new, she said, is each balloon pilot is going to have a card, similar to a trading card or a baseball card that they can give to guests. The cards will include a pilot bio, and more information about their balloon.

"Attendees will be able to walk up to a pilot, and they will be handed a card," she said.

There have been other enhancements and improvements made, which will add to the experience.

"This year, we have a new sound system. So, the sound system is going to be great.

You are going to be able to hear people better, and you'll hear about everything that is going on. We will stream music, and you'll be able to hear that better as well as the announcements and different things," said Stites.

The skydiving events by Start Skydiving will be livestreamed on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. In the past, skydivers have typically done three drops. Stites said, this year, the skydivers will be doing more jumps.

"The Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center will host a new Kid's Zone.

"There has not been a Kid's Area in a couple of years. With help from a local Girl Scout Troup, the Kid's Zone will feature face painting and other fun activities," Stites said.

Tethered balloon rides will be available again this year for \$20 per person.

"This year, we will be offering two tethered balloon rides. Last year, the line was so long. It was after 11 p.m. on Saturday night before everyone was finished with their rides. So, this year, there will be two tethered balloon rides," Stites said.

Other popular features of the festival include fireworks on both nights, laser light and pyrotechnics shows, and balloon glows, which will occur throughout the festival. There will also be food, craft and other vendors.

"A lot of the same stuff we had last year, we are back to doing, but there will be more of it," Stites said. "We're trying to have some of the balloons fly out of Smith Park, and if they fly out of Smith Park, they won't glow. So, half of the pilots will fly out and not glow, and the other half will glow. We are working to try to make sure we get some flights both nights."

Cronin Ford, one of the festival's sponsors, will be doing a key drop for the balloon pilots both days. A key will be placed on a 30-ft. pole and the balloon operators try to obtain the key while they are up in the air.

Each night, one balloonist will have the opportunity to win \$1,000 if they retrieve the key.

HOW TO GO

What: The Ohio Challenge When: 5-10:30 p.m. July 21-22 Gates will open at 4 p.m.

Where: Smith Park/Middletown Regional Airport, 2301 Wedekind Drive, Middletown.

Cost: Walk-in admission is \$5 per adult, ages 13 and up (children ages 12 and younger are free). \$15 per vehicle, which includes parking, festival admission and a free shuttle service (good for everyone in the car). Vehicles should enter via Middletown Regional Airport entrance.

Online: ohiochallenge.com

Plans fall through for wine bar at former Journal site

The Middletown building's owner hopes to recruit another investor to fill the basement.



Raymond Scott, who bought the former Middletown Journal building in 2020, said he spent \$240,000 replacing 70 windows. Plans for a bar in the building's basement have been canceled, Scott said. He is offering nine months of free rent to entice a new tenant.

RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN

7/12/2023

MIDDLETOWN — Those wanting to celebrate a new downtown business with a glass of wine will have to wait a little longer.

The former Middletown Journal building was expected to welcome 3 Roses Wine Cellars, possibly as soon as the end of this month, Michael Penrod, the business owner, told the Journal-News earlier this year.

But Raymond Scott, who owns the building at First Avenue and Broad Street, said Penrod has pulled his plans to open a winery in the basement. Scott said Penrod, who has another business location in northeast Ohio, never signed a contract and never invested in the property.

Matthew Talley, vice president of 3 Roses Wine Cellars, said Penrod and Scott “didn’t see eye to eye” on some of the design aspects so they decided not to go forward with the project.

Despite this setback, Scott is confident the renovations of the former Journal building will slowly continue.

“This will happen,” he told the Journal-News on Tuesday.

The basement, he said, “defines itself” when it comes to a potential bar and restaurant and shouldn’t be used as office space. He’s seeking another investor for the 3,000-square-foot portion of the basement, he said.

As a way to encourage a business venture, Scott said he’s offering nine months of free rent.

Scott, who owns Rabbit Laser USA on Hook Drive, has renovated other Middletown commercial properties and residences, he said.

He purchased the newspaper building for \$128,000 at a 2020 sheriff’s sale, and since then has invested \$240,000 replacing 70 windows in preparation of renting space in the three-story, 34,000-squarefoot building.

Earlier this year, Penrod sounded excited about the potential of the winery.

"I can see his vision for the building," Penrod said of Scott's elaborate plans.

"It's starting to take shape.

This building has a lot of character."

Scott's plans for the newspaper building include two banquet halls that seat 150 to 200 people, a warming kitchen, 27 offices, space for 30 to 40 cubicles, one apartment for short-term use, retail space on the first floor, and possibly a remote-control car track in the basement, where the printing press was located.

At the time, Penrod believed having a winery in the basement would be beneficial for those renting the banquet halls for wedding receptions, bridal parties, class reunions, anniversaries and birthdays. The winery is called 3 Roses because Penrod's mother, sister and daughter are named Rose.

In the last two years, Scott has torn down walls, removed debris, painted walls and started converting some of the space. The two banquet halls appear to be the closest to being operational. He hopes to have them open by the end of the year.

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

Soda sweetener aspartame now listed as possible cancer cause. But it's still considered safe



By MARIA CHENG and JONEL ALECCIA, Associated Press

Updated July 14, 2023

The World Health Organization's cancer agency has deemed the artificial sweetener aspartame a "possible" cause of cancer, while a separate group looking at the same evidence said it still considers the sugar substitute safe

The World Health Organization's cancer agency has deemed the sweetener aspartame — found in diet soda and countless other foods — as a "possible" cause of cancer, while a separate expert group looking at the same evidence said it still considers the sugar substitute safe in limited quantities.

The differing results of the coordinated reviews were released early Friday. One came from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a special branch of the WHO. The other report was from an expert panel selected by WHO and another U.N. group, the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Lyon, France-based cancer agency periodically reviews potential cancer hazards, but doesn't determine how likely they are to cause cancer in their evaluations which range from "possibly" carcinogenic to "probably" to cancer-causing.

Aspartame joins a category with more than 300 other possible cancer-causing agents, including things like aloe vera extract, Asian-style pickled vegetables and carpentry work.

The guidance on use of the sweetener, though, isn't changing.

"We're not advising consumers to stop consuming (aspartame) altogether," said WHO's nutrition director Dr. Francesco Branca. "We're just advising a bit of moderation."

Here's a look at the announcement:

WHAT IS ASPARTAME?

Aspartame is a low-calorie artificial sweetener that is about 200 times sweeter than sugar. It is a white, odorless powder and the world's most widely used artificial sweetener.

Aspartame is authorized as a food additive in Europe and the U.S. and is used in numerous foods, drinks such as Diet Coke, desserts, chewing gum, medications including cough drops and foods intended to help with weight loss. It's in tabletop sweeteners sold as Equal, Sugar Twin and NutraSweet.

Aspartame was approved in 1974 by the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) with an acceptable daily intake of 50 milligrams per kilogram of body weight. According to the FDA, a person weighing 132 pounds (60 kilograms) would need to consume about 75 aspartame packets to [reach that level](#).

U.N. experts evaluated the safety of aspartame in 1981 and set the safe daily limit slightly lower, at 40 milligrams of aspartame per kilogram.

David Spiegelhalter, an emeritus statistics professor at Cambridge University, said the guidance means that "average people are safe to drink up to 14 cans of diet drink a day ... and even this 'acceptable daily limit' has a large built-in safety factor."

WHAT DID THE TWO GROUPS SAY?

WHO's cancer agency, IARC, convened its expert group in June to assess the potential of aspartame to cause cancer. It based its conclusion that aspartame is "possibly carcinogenic" on studies in humans and animals that found "limited" evidence that the compound may be linked to liver cancer.

In a separate evaluation, experts assembled by WHO and the food agency updated their risk assessment, including reviewing the acceptable daily intake. They concluded there was “no convincing evidence” at the currently consumed levels that aspartame is dangerous; their guidelines regarding acceptable levels of consumption were unchanged.

The move comes weeks after the WHO said that non-sugar sweeteners [don't help with weight loss](#) and could lead to increased risk of diabetes, heart disease and early death in adults.

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT GETTING TOO MUCH?

Not as long as you don't exceed the guidelines. The FDA said scientific evidence continues to support the agency's conclusion that aspartame is “safe for the general population,” when used within limits.

Almost any substance can be dangerous in excessive amounts, said David Klurfeld, a nutrition expert at the Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington.

“The dose makes the poison,” said Klurfeld, who previously served on an IARC panel. “Even essential nutrients like vitamin A, iron and water will kill you within hours if too much is consumed.”

SO WHAT SHOULD CONSUMERS DO?

WHO's Branca said it was acceptable for people to consume a “pretty large” amount of aspartame without suffering any ill effects. “High consumers” might want to cut back, he said.

Dr. Peter Lurie, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which previously nominated aspartame for IARC review, said there's an easy choice for consumers.

“At least when it comes to beverages, our message is your best choice is to drink water or an unsweetened beverage,” he said.

Most people, though, probably don't pay much attention to IARC evaluations. The agency has previously classified processed meat like hot dogs and bacon as cancer-causing, noting in particular its link to colon cancer. That move surprised even others in the scientific community — the U.K.'s biggest cancer charity reassured Britons that eating a bacon sandwich every so often wouldn't do them much harm.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY?

Food and beverage producers say there's no reason to avoid products with aspartame.

"There is a broad consensus in the scientific and regulatory community that aspartame is safe," the American Beverage Association said in a statement.

WHO's Branca said the agency advises food manufacturers in general to "use ingredients that do not require the addition of too much sugar." After the latest assessments of aspartame, Branca said that using sweeteners "is probably not the way forward."

Restaurant owner opens 2nd venture in city's downtown

Mr. Hot Dog menu features chili cheese dogs, the No. 1 seller.



Rachelle Edwards, a Middletown native, has opened her second restaurant on Central Avenue. She owns Mr. Hot Dog and the Potato Bar inside the Pendleton Art Center.



BY RICK MCCRABB -STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN

MIDDLETOWN — At the outset of COVID-19, when Rachelle Edwards, a nurse, became concerned she may spread the virus to her family, she walked away from nursing and opened a potato restaurant in the Pendleton Art Center.

That was in April 2020, and now Edwards, 54, has opened another downtown restaurant.

Edwards said since the Potato Bar has been successful, she decided to open Mr. Hot Dog recently.

Members of Downtown Middletown Inc. and Mayor Nicole Condrey attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday morning that included Edwards and several family members.

Her son, Chris Edwards, manages the Potato Bar while she concentrates on running the hot dog business, she said. Having a restaurant in the Pendleton allows her to operate her catering business to those who rent the second floor, she said.

The name "Mr." in the hot dog restaurant's name comes from the first name of her silent partner, Magellan, and her first name, Rachelle.

While the Potato Bar has thrived, Edwards said it doesn't attract families because some kids don't like potatoes. In the three weeks since Mr.

Hot Dog opened, Edwards has seen many families walk through the door at 1218 Central Ave.

She called hot dogs "fun, friendly food" that brings families together.

Edwards, who has returned to nursing, said she has talked to customers who are thankful to have a hot dog dining option downtown because they miss the Liberty Restaurant that was known for its hot dogs.

The "let's be frank" menu features chili cheese dogs (No. 1 seller), chili spaghetti, Polish sausages and chili cheese bowls. The feature hot dogs include Chicago (peppers, dill spear, diced onions, tomato slices, sweet relish and mustard), Cowboy (barbecue sauce, baked beans, diced onions and bacon), Molly (mustard, sweet relish, ketchup, barbecue sauce, pulled pork) and Mac Dog (macaroni and cheese, barbecue sauce and shredded cheese).

The restaurant seats about 25 people with outdoor space for eight, she said.

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

HOW TO GO

WHAT: Mr. Hot Dog

WHERE: 1218 Central Ave., Middletown

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday-Saturday

PHONE: 513-217-1868

Other downtown restaurants

There are several restaurants in downtown Middletown including: Triple Moon Coffee Co., 1100 Central Ave.

The Slice, 1300 Central Ave.

N.E.W. Ales Brewing, Steel City Pizza, 1330 Manchester Ave.

Potato Bar, 1105 Central Ave.

Swire Inn, 64 S. Main St.

@ The Square, 1045 Central Ave.

Primo Italian Steakhouse, 6 S. Broad St.

Mz Jade's, 1131 Central Ave.

West Central Wine, 1120 Central Ave.

Hector's Taco Shop, 1126 Central Ave.

Brent's Smokin' Butts, 1206 Central Ave.

Mr. Hot Dog, 1218 Central Ave.

Merkle's Tavern, 1224 Central Ave.

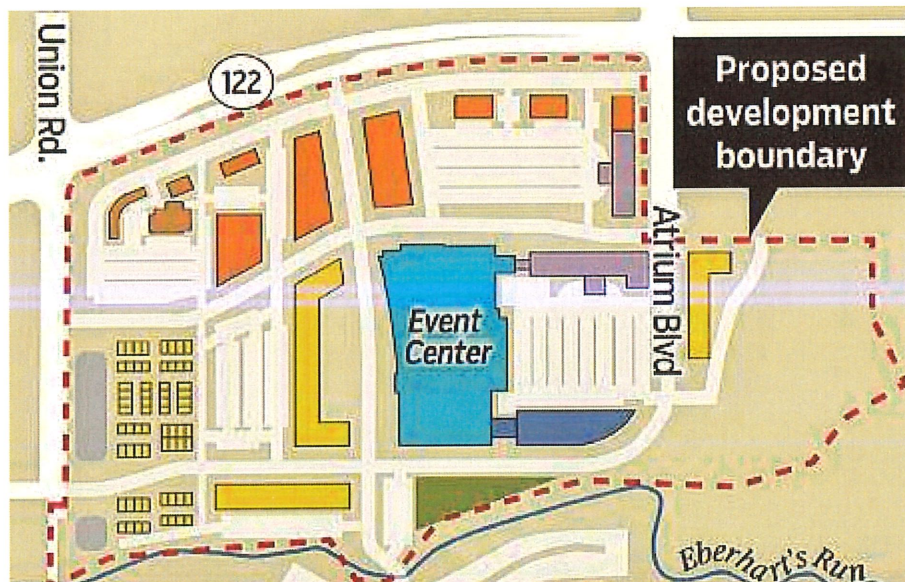
Middletown idea could make spot a 'destination,' two officials say

A 3,000-seat event center is part of plan for East End.



This property in Middletown's East End has the attention of developer Todd Duplaine, who envisions an event center and other uses.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Proposed development

Legend

-  Event center
-  Medical office building
-  Retail/food & beverage
-  Convenience store
-  Hotel
-  Multifamily residential
-  Townhomes residential



A map of the proposed development at Middletown's East End.

MARK FRIESTEDT / CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

JOURNAL-NEWS IN-DEPTH

MIDDLETOWN — Two officials closely tied to one of the largest projects in the city could barely contain their enthusiasm during a presentation at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Todd Duplaine from Woodward Development and Martin Russell, executive director of the Warren County Port Authority, updated council on a major East End development that is scheduled to include a 3,000-seat multipurpose event center, Class A retail and office, hotels, restaurants and a variety of residential products on the 50 acres at the southeast corner of Ohio 122 and Union Road.

They said the Event Center and other businesses could be open by the summer of 2025.

Duplaine said what is being called Renaissance Pointe will be “a very transformational project” for the city and could be a \$200 million investment in the East End.

The Event Center will be the anchor of the development, and while it won't open for at least two years, Russell said it's 65% booked, according to prelease agreements and letters of intent. He couldn't release more details due to contractual agreements, he said.

“People want to be here,” said Russell, who added it has the potential to be the “destination” of southwest Ohio.

Duplaine added: “This is the time, and this is the opportunity.”

He compared the possibility of the East End development to the rebirth seen in downtown Dayton in the late 1990s. At the time, he said, no one was investing in Dayton, not even the city. But when the city built a field for the Dayton Dragons, a Class A farm team of the Cincinnati Reds, that started what has become a \$2 billion investment in that downtown area, he said.

The Event Center has the potential to draw 425,000 visitors a year, Duplaine said.

The location of the project will benefit from being between two major markets, Dayton and Cincinnati, two hospitals, Atrium Medical Center and Kettering Health Middletown, and population growth to the East of Interstate 75.

The project will attract full-service, high-end hotels, premium and fast-food restaurants, townhomes that would sell in the \$325,000 to \$425,000 range

and a medical complex that could complement the two East End hospitals, Duplaine said.

Council member Rodney Muterspaw said the track record of the organizations Deplaine and Russell represent is "impeccable," so it's "a no-brainer for me."

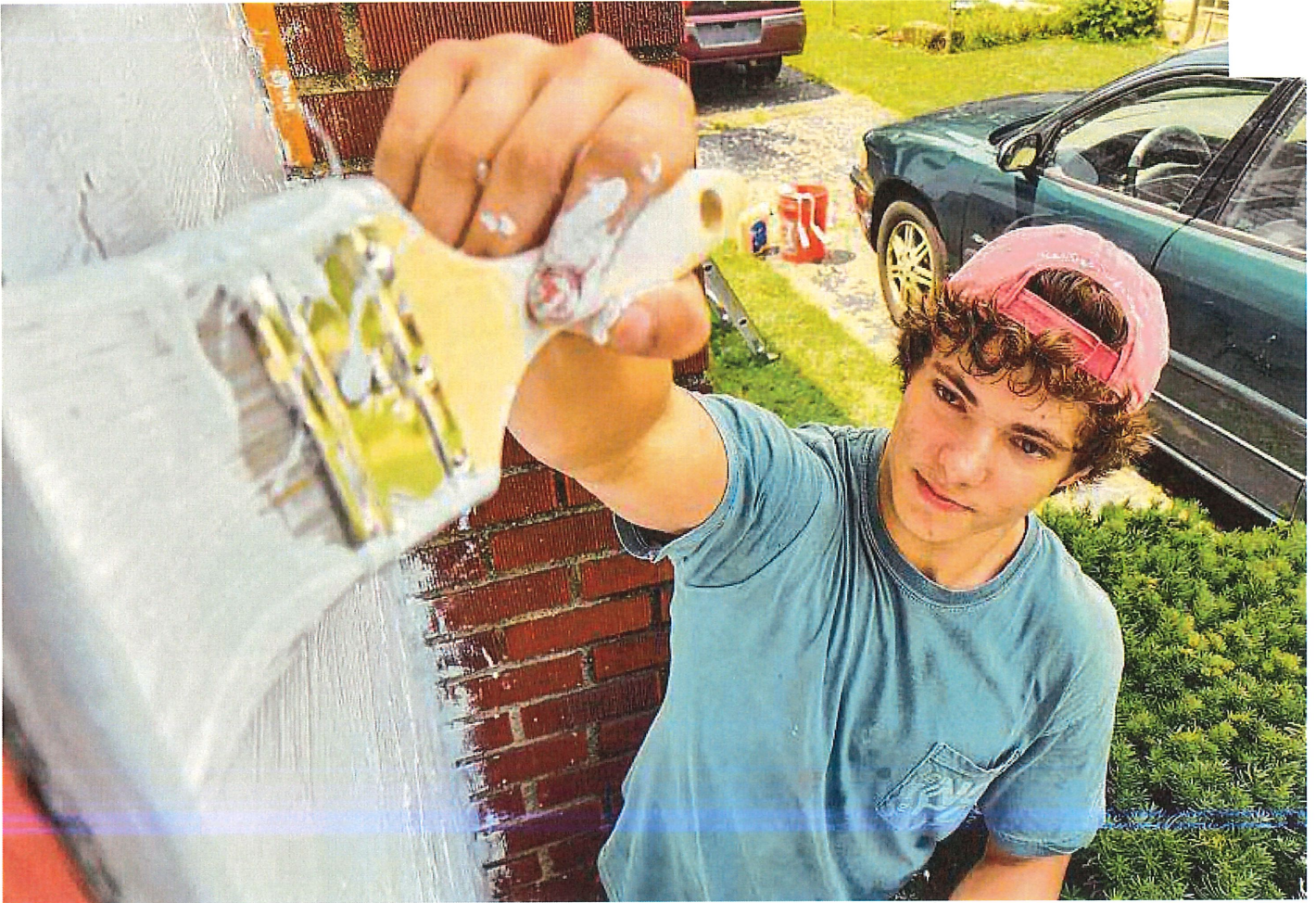
The city is pledging upwards of \$4.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds in support of the project.

The city also will be responsible for installing certain public infrastructure improvements on and around the project site.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612.

80 teens on mission to help repair homes

Butler County residents benefit from volunteer program.



Volunteer Evan Gill paints Anita Grewe's house, in Middletown, on July 18. SELF (Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families), in partnership with Catholic HEART Workcamp, hosted volunteers from across the country to provide free home repairs to low-income Butler County homeowners.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN - STAFF WRITER

7/21/2023

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

Volunteers from all over the country were hard at work in Butler County this week helping low-income homeowners with repairs and general sprucing-up projects.

Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families coordinates the home repair projects through its Neighbors Who Care: Home Repair program. What started as a one-week event in 2010 has become a year-round, volunteer-driven initiative.

Anita Grewe, a 59-year-old Middletown homeowner who is disabled, had a crew of teens painting her home this week.

It's a task she couldn't possibly handle after two hip and knee replacements and both her hands repaired.

"I'm eaten up with arthritis; they say my bones (are like that of) an 87-year-old woman." She said the help was invaluable.

"I thought, 'these kids, how much do they know about painting?' I'm older than all of them, two or three or four times as old, and I don't know much, so what are they going to know about this stuff?" she said. "I'll tell you, they all got the paint brushes together and before I knew it they was painting it. ... It was just wonderful."

The Catholic HEART Workcamp sent 260 teen volunteers on a mission trip to Cincinnati on Sunday and 80 of them spent the week helping homeowners with repairs like mobility modifications, interior and exterior painting and other projects to help homeowners live more safely at home and avoid costly code violations.

Evan Gill traveled from Pennsylvania. Tuesday was his 17th birthday.

"I just power-washed it, cleaned it off and now we're making it look brand

new," he said about Grewe's house.

"It feels pretty great because we talk to the people, the residents and we find out about their stories, and it's really heartwarming to know that we're making a difference, and helping people in ways they can't do themselves."

Casey Rose Colcombe, 17, of Pittsburgh, was with a group that helped demolish an above-ground pool in Hamilton. It wasn't your typical yard project. Before they could tear down the pool "we had to cut all these trees down in this forest" that was inside the pool. Then they had to use clippers before they could mow the lawn "because it was completely overgrown."

Colcombe said she and her group were there on Monday and Tuesday and were hoping to help the homeowner, who is disabled, with more projects on Wednesday.

"That's pretty exciting and that's something I'm striving for and our group is striving for, because we're ultimately here to help," she said. "I think it would be very rewarding to connect with her more personally and see her life, and help her in ways she couldn't even envision when we first showed up."

Group Mission Trips, another faith-based mission trip organization, helped repair a dozen homes in June. SELF executive director Jeffrey Diver said the group gets volunteers of all ages to help with the home repair program, but it is especially good to see young people pitch in.

"It's extremely exciting to have young people who've committed time out of their summer to go and help those who are less fortunate with home repairs," Diver said.

"It kind of restores your faith in the future when you see these young folks working hard."

SELF offers a host of multifaceted programs, many designed to help the less fortunate lift themselves up economically, and others to help them out in emergencies.

Beyond their usual endeavors, the Butler County commissioners partnered with the agency on a huge undertaking to dole out millions in federal pandemic assistance.

The county was awarded \$20.4 million in emergency rent and utility assistance from the federal government, and that money is almost gone after helping 2,772 people keep the lights on and stay in their homes.

SELF also received other funds and all told has spent \$27.7 million helping 5,455 residents.

Diver said they have around \$1.8 million left to disburse. In the spring, the agency had a backlog of more than 200 applications and briefly suspended the program May 26 — which has happened a couple of times — to get caught up. They plan to reopen applications in early August.

Although the pandemic hit more than three years ago, Diver said people are still qualifying for funding because they have either caught COVID-19 or have been economically harmed by it.

Contact this reporter at 937- 903-1808 or email Denise.Callahan@coxinc.com.

Senior center contract to deliver meals ended

Central Connections, Council on Aging both say they were ones to cancel; 50 Middletown jobs lost.

BY RICK MCCRABB - STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN

MIDDLETOWN — Central Connections, a senior citizens and events center on Central Avenue, has terminated its contract with the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio as a way to save thousands of dollars a week, said Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

But a representative from the Council on Aging told the Journal-News the agency terminated the contract with the senior center due to its unstable finances and for not correcting several contract breaches.

"A number of concerns" was the reason for the termination that is effective today, said Paula Smith, director of communications for the council.

Central Connections is trying to reorganize its finances and may file for bankruptcy, Fishbaugh said.

The center was delivering 4,000 to 5,000 meals a week to area seniors and losing at least \$1 per meal, according to Fishbaugh.

"We simply couldn't sustain it," he said of the program.

With no meal delivery services, the center will lay off about 50 employees, Fishbaugh said.

He said those employees will be paid through Aug. 1.

“Not an easy day,” he told the Journal-News in an exclusive interview.

As part of the program, Fishbaugh said seniors were

permitted to order congregate meals in the cafeteria and pay what they wanted. He said a large percentage paid nothing for the \$4 meals. That service no longer will be permitted, he said.

Smith said the Council on Aging found a temporary place for seniors who typically ate congregate meals at Central Connections.

She said First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Ave., will provide the free meals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, starting Tuesday.

The plan is for COA to find a permanent place for the meals to be served within one week, Smith said.

Besides meal delivery and transportation, members will still be able to eat in the cafeteria and participate in all the facility's programs, Fishbaugh said.

According to letters from the Council on Aging, obtained by the Journal-News, Central Connections has made the several breaches of the agreement, including:

- Providing no response for a financial sustainability plan that was originally requested on June 2 by COA, and again requested by COA as part of the subsequent quality action plan;
- Providing no response or an incomplete response to the following items requested as part of the quality action plan: results from the most recently

completed audit, statements from vendors on their letterhead that Central Connections is in good standing, a complete list of employees who have resigned or are leaving in addition to who are staying;

- Providing inadequate meal production and was unable to deliver services on June 16 and 19 due to staff work stoppage and unscheduled closures; missed deliveries on June 14 and June 15 without notifying the case manager or COA.

In a July 5 letter sent by certified mail, the COA said "immediate and sustained resolution of these breaches is vital so that COA can resume a productive relationship with Central Connections to serve home delivered meals to homebound older adults in the region."

Dated July 24 and signed by Suzanne Burke, CEO of the Council on Aging, the letter was a "notice of termination" of Elderly Services Program Agreement for the provision of home delivered meals by and between Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and Central Connections.

The letter said Central Connections had 10 days to correct the breaches and since it didn't, the contract was terminated.

"COA has now concluded that Central Connections is unable to provide consistent, quality service at a level that meets COA's requirements," the letter read.

Last month, several employees contacted the Journal-News to say they hadn't been paid.

Diane Rodgers, hired as executive director in 2021, said a "banking error" caused numerous payroll checks to be returned for insufficient funds.

She said the Middletown senior center switched banks, and after the center made "a large deposit" of checks, the bank held the funds for a few days and that's why some employee payroll checks were returned.

The error was quickly corrected and the eight employees were paid, Rodgers told the Journal-News.

"We should have known better," she said when asked about the bank holding the funds until the checks cleared. "That's our fault."

Rodgers predicted 2024 will be "really good financially" for the center, 3907 Central Ave. She said most weekends at the event center are booked through June and the restaurant and bar are experiencing larger crowds. She said those businesses are operating in the black and they're funding other projects and programs at the center.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.

McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Central Connections fallout spurs search for new leader

Executive Director Diane Rodgers, her attorney failed to meet last week with Middletown detectives.



Executive director Diane Rodgers, hired in 2021, oversaw the \$1.5 million renovation of Central Connections that she said was vital to its financial stability.

But now Middletown police are investigating possible criminal charges for theft against Rodgers.

NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB AND LAUREN PACK - STAFF WRITERS

ONLY IN THE JOURNAL-NEWS

8/1/2023

MIDDLETOWN — The future of Middletown's senior center appears unclear days after the board terminated the contract of its executive director.

Diane Rodgers, hired in 2021, oversaw the \$1.5 million renovation of Central Connections that she said was vital to its financial stability. She said the center needed to generate additional revenue by opening an event center to host weddings and parties if it wanted to survive.

The center had 600 members two years ago and now has 2,790 members, Rodgers said last week during a meeting with members and residents.

But now Central Connections is searching for an interim executive director at the same time Middletown police are investigating possible criminal charges for theft against Rodgers and events are being canceled after about 50 of the 70 employees were fired or laid off.

On Thursday, the board announced it had terminated Rodgers' contract, according to Rick Fishbaugh, board president.

She was fired "for cause," he said. "That's all I can give you."

When asked Rodgers' salary, Fishbaugh refused to answer.

Rodgers and her attorney, Tyrone Borger, were scheduled to meet with Middletown detectives on Friday, but they failed to show, Police Chief David Birk told the Journal-News. He said detectives are continuing to investigate any potential crimes committed by Rodgers.

He said the department may request assistance from the Butler County Sheriff's Office due to the nature of the potential white-collar crimes.

An investigation was opened about a month and a half ago when Rodgers filed a vandalism report concerning an employee, according to Sgt. Earl Nelson.

"Things went from there," Nelson said. He said the allegation against the employee was investigated and no charges were filed.

As of Monday, no charges have been filed against Rodgers. The Journal-News reached out to her attorney, but received no response.

When Diane Rodgers was hired in 2021, part of the process was performing a background check, said Rick Fishbaugh, board president of Central Connections. He said the background check was clean, but it only included Ohio.

Nelson said Rodgers has a criminal history in California, one of the states she lived before moving to Ohio.

"We have been looking at this for a while, I know people thought we weren't, but we were," Nelson said.

Police also obtained consent to search the property at 3907 Central Ave., said Byron McCauley, the city's communications manager.

When Rodgers was hired in 2021, part of the process was performing a background check, said Fishbaugh, then a board member. He said the background check was clean, but it only included Ohio.

Rodgers, who oversaw a senior center and worked with the homeless population in Reno, Nev., was interested in moving from the West Coast to be closer to her daughter, Naomi Smith, a Seton Hall graduate who lives in New York, Rodgers told the Journal-News in January 2022.

"That was an error made," Fishbaugh said when asked about the background check.

"In hindsight we all wish we had done better. All of us on the board want to see the center continue."

Rodgers, who was escorted by police out of the building on Central Avenue on Thursday, was unavailable for comment.

Due to recent media coverage in the Journal-News, Fishbaugh said the center where "funding is a big part" is seeing people and organizations shying away from promised donations.

Employees will be paid on Tuesday, as promised, according to Fishbaugh.

"We are reviewing where we are at," said Fishbaugh, who earlier told the Journal-News the center may file for bankruptcy.

The Central Connections café was closed Saturday because several servers called off sick, Fishbaugh said. The center also has canceled its Rolling Through The Decades Music Festival/Car Show scheduled for Aug. 5 due to recent employee layoffs that left the center with "insufficient staff to cover this event," according to its Facebook page.

Fishbaugh said the goal is to have at least one board member at the center at all times.

On July 25, about 75 people packed the cafeteria to meet with Rodgers and Fishbaugh.

Those who spoke were upset that Central Connections no longer has a contract with Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio to provide home-delivered meals and other social services to seniors.

Fishbaugh said the center was serving 4,000 to 5,000 meals a week and losing about \$1 per meal. He said the three-year contract with Council on Aging was set to expire this year. He said the center profited off the contract the first year, broke even the second year and was losing money this year.

Plus, he said, the cost of fuel also drove up the price of delivering the meals.

Central Connections stopped delivering meals on July 25, one day after laying off 50 employees. Since then, First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Ave., has provided meals for seniors, said Paula Smith, director of

communications for the Council on Aging.

She said the church will provide congregate meals from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday. The plan is for COA to find a permanent place for the meals to be served within a few weeks, Smith said.

Partners in Prime, Meals on Wheels Southwestern Ohio and Warren County Community Services have stepped in to cover all home-delivered meals to clients, according to Smith.

Meals on Wheels will also provide meals for the seven congregate sites Central Connections previously served, she said.

Smith said COA is working to connect transportation clients and clients receiving supportive services with new providers.

Meanwhile, Fishbaugh said now that the center isn't affiliated with COA, it will seek another company the center can contract with to provide home-delivered meals.

He some of the employees who lost their jobs on July 26 may be rehired if a new contract is signed.

Many of those in attendance blamed Rodgers for the financial troubles at the center. Instead of renovating the center, that money would have been better served caring for the seniors, they said.

Contact this reporter at 513-581-7612 or email Rick.

McCrabb@coxinc.com.

Child nicotine poisonings rise as e-cig sales surge



LIZ SZABO | KFF HEALTH NEWS

Updated August 1, 2023 at 11:03 AM



Hospital toxicologist Dr. Ryan Marino has seen up close the violent reactions of children poisoned by liquid nicotine from electronic cigarettes. One young boy who came to his emergency room experienced intense nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting, and needed intravenous fluids to treat his dehydration.

Kids can also become dizzy, lose consciousness, and suffer dangerous drops in blood pressure. In the most severe case he's seen, doctors put another boy on a ventilator in the intensive care unit because he couldn't breathe, said Marino, of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Thousands of kids a year are [exposed to the liquid nicotine](#) in e-cigarettes, also known as vapes. For a toddler, even a few drops can be fatal.

Cases of vaping-related nicotine exposure reported to poison centers [hit an all-time high in](#) 2022 — despite a [2016 law](#), the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act, that requires child-resistant packaging on bottles of vaping liquid. In what doctors call a major oversight, the law doesn't require protective packaging on devices themselves.

Refillable vapes are designed to hold liquid nicotine in a central reservoir, making them dangerous to kids, Marino said. Even vapes that appear more child-resistant — because their nicotine is [sealed inside a removable cartridge](#) — present a risk, because the cartridges can be pried open. And some disposable e-cigarettes, now the top-selling type on the market, allow users to take [thousands of "puffs"](#) and [contain as much nicotine](#) as multiple packs of cigarettes.

Many e-cigarettes and liquids seem [designed to appeal to kids](#), with pastel packages, names such as "[Candy King](#)," and [flavors such as bubble gum and blue raspberry](#). That makes vapes far more tempting — and hazardous — than traditional cigarettes, which have lower doses of nicotine and a bitter taste that often prompts children to quickly spit them out, said Dr. Diane Calello, the

executive and medical director of the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System.

“Nicotine liquid is an accident waiting to happen,” Calello said “It smells good and it’s highly concentrated.”

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who co-sponsored the 2016 legislation, said he would push to expand the childproof packaging requirement to disposable and pod-based e-cigarettes.

“Every day that FDA allows flavored e-cigarette products to remain on the market is another day that children can be enticed by these dangerous, and sometimes deadly, products,” he said.

The number of reports to poison control centers about e-cigarettes has more than doubled since 2018, according to an analysis by the FDA. Poison control centers reported more than 7,000 vaping-related exposures in people of all ages from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

According to the FDA, 43 of those exposures resulted in hospitalization and an additional 582 in other medical treatment. About half of poison center reports had no information about whether patients needed medical care.

Nearly 90% of exposures involved children under 5. Authors of the report say their numbers likely underestimate the problem, given that poison control centers aren’t contacted in every case.

A [1-year-old died](#) from vaping-related nicotine poisoning in 2014. The new FDA report also mentions the apparent suicide of an adult via e-cigarette poisoning.

A spokesperson for the vaping industry said companies take safety seriously.

“All e-liquid bottles manufactured in the United States conform to U.S. law,” said April Meyers, the president of the board of directors and CEO of the Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association, which represents the vaping industry. “Not only are the caps child-resistant, but the flow of liquid is restricted so that only small amounts can be dispensed.”

Yet many vaping products are made outside the U.S., which has [recently been flooded](#) with illegal e-cigarettes, mostly from China.

The increasing number of nicotine exposures among kids — especially curious toddlers who put virtually everything they can grab into their mouths — likely reflects the sheer volume of e-cigarette sales, said Natalie Rine, the director of the Central Ohio Poison Center at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

E-cigarette unit sales [grew 47%](#) from January 2020 to December 2022, rising from 15.5 million every four weeks to 22.7 million, according to a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“This isn’t something that parents see as a really big risk,” Marino said. “But with the popularity of e-cigarettes, the risk isn’t going away any time soon.”

One effective strategy to reduce e-cigarette sales has been to ban flavored products. California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington, D.C., [have banned all flavored e-cigarettes](#), while Utah and Maryland have banned some flavors. A study showed overall e-cigarette sales [dropped 25% to 31%](#) in states after flavor bans, compared with states that didn't ban them.

Some doctors say the country needs to do more to protect children.

“If the numbers are rising, then the law ain't working,” said Dr. Carl Baum, a professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at Yale School of Medicine.

Pediatrician Dr. Gary Smith said the lack of child safety requirements for e-cigarette devices is a major problem. Refillable e-cigarettes are relatively easy for kids to open.

Although most poison control center reports don't include brand information, disposable e-cigarettes — including Elfbar, Puff Bar, and Pop Vape — were some of the most common products mentioned in the FDA analysis. Elfbar is now known as EB Design.

Expanding the federal law to include devices would be “an important step,” said Smith, president of the Child Injury Prevention Alliance, an Ohio-based advocacy group that works to prevent injuries in children.

In addition, federal officials should limit the nicotine concentration in vape juices to make them less toxic, as well as ban candy-like flavors and colors on packaging, Smith said.

“The public health response should be comprehensive,” Smith said.

Kids have been known to pick up a vape and begin puffing, in imitation of their parents, Calello said.

Even if children don’t inhale the aerosol, sucking on a vape exposes their skin to nicotine, which can be absorbed into the bloodstream, said Dr. Robert Glatter, an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. Glatter noted that e-cigarette liquids also [contain numerous harmful chemicals](#), including arsenic and lead, which is toxic at any dose; carcinogens such as acetaldehyde and formaldehyde; and benzene, a volatile organic compound found in auto exhaust.

Fortunately, children who inhale nicotine get a much lower dose than those who ingest it, reducing the risk of serious harm, said Marc Auerbach, a professor of pediatric emergency medicine at Yale School of Medicine.

Only about 2% of exposures in the FDA study were recorded as having a moderate or major effect.

That may be because little kids who get into dangerous liquids — from vape juice to household cleaning products or gasoline — usually spill most of it,

Baum said. “They often end up wearing it rather than swallowing it,” Baum said.

Although Dr. Stephen Thornton has seen a lot of children with nicotine exposure, he said, the human body has ways of protecting itself from toxins. “Fortunately, when kids do ingest these e-cig nicotine products, they self-decontaminate. They vomit — a lot — and this keeps the mortality rate very low, but these kids still often end up in emergency departments due to all the nausea and vomiting,” said Thornton, an emergency medicine physician and medical director of the Kansas Poison Control Center.

The FDA [urges parents and guardians](#) of young children to keep e-cigarettes and vaping liquid out of reach and in its original container.

For emergency assistance, call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222 to speak with a poison expert, or visit PoisonHelp.org for support and resources.

*[KFF Health News](#), formerly known as Kaiser Health News (KHN), is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at [KFF](#) — the independent source for health policy research, polling, and journalism. **Follow [NBC HEALTH](#) on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#).***

Amid failed compliance checks, Oxford restricts new tobacco businesses, adds licensing requirements

More than 100 vapes confiscated at Talawanda High School in past six months.



NEWS

By Sean Scott – Staff Writer

August 2, 2023

Oxford is cracking down on tobacco businesses in town to limit sales to minors.

At a meeting Tuesday, Oxford City Council voted unanimously to pass two ordinances to add licensing and density requirements for businesses selling tobacco products and raising the minimum age to buy tobacco products to 21.

Oxford currently has 27 businesses licensed through the county to sell tobacco, including eight specialty shops and six gas stations. On High Street alone, eight businesses sell tobacco products within a third of a mile. Under the new density regulations, which cap tobacco licenses at one per 1,500 residents at the time of the last decennial census, Oxford can have a maximum of 16 license-holding businesses.

Assistant city manager Jessica Greene said current businesses will be grandfathered in. If a business closes, though, the city won't grant a new license because it's already over its new limit.

Amy Macechko, a wellness coordinator for Talawanda School District and the director of the [Oxford Coalition for a Healthy Community](#), said the new city measures tie in to the work Talawanda has been doing to reduce the use of tobacco products among students. She said the district approaches tobacco use as a health issue and focuses on education and awareness, as well as helping make resources available to help young people quit.

"This is an epidemic across our country with young people today ... It definitely impacts the health of our students and the overall safety of our school," Macechko said.

At a July 18 city council meeting, Oxford Police Lt. Geoff Robinson said [more than 100 vapes had been confiscated](#) at Talawanda High School in the past six months. The new ordinances will also prevent tobacco retailers from opening within 500 feet of "a youth-oriented facility" to limit access to minors.

State and federal laws already set the minimum age of sale of tobacco products to 21, but Oxford is strengthening that position by passing its own legislation. In compliance checks this June, Oxford Police Chief John Jones said several stores sold products to underage costumers, including Red Ox Drive-Thru and Miami Smoke Shop. VIP Smoke Shop failed four separate times.

Jones said the department also did compliance checks last March and August. In March, Oxford Hookah Lounge and Popular Smoke and Vape failed, while Popular Smoke and Vape failed again in August, as well as VIP Smoke Shop.

"Our youth are telling us they're getting [tobacco products] through a variety of means, so implementing a tobacco retail license is a policy that can definitely help reduce access when it comes to retailers in the community," Macechko said.

The city council also discussed future measures to look into to further curb tobacco use in minors, including a ban on flavored products and signage explaining the dangers of tobacco use. Assistant City Manager Jessica Greene said the city would look into more options and bring them forward "at the right time."

"It might be a while," Greene said, "but we'll make sure we can start inching that along."