

DATE: December 6, 2024
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for December 10, 2024**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **December 10, 2024** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -November 2024

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -November 2024

EDUCATION PRESENTATION HIV-Dr. Jennewine

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-04-Pay and Benefits
3. Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2024-05-2025 Health Department Budget

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Medical Director

Director of Nursing

Environmental Health Director

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025 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
November 12, 2024

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on November 12, 2024.

Members Present

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

Health Department Staff Present

Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

Absent

Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Taylor, a Family Nurse Practitioner-Certified student at University of Cincinnati and employee of Primary Health Solutions, introduced herself and joined the meeting to observe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 2024

Motion: Ms. Kash moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the October 2024 minutes.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT-October 2024

Mayor Slamka noted that health department revenue appeared to be trending well and asked if that was an accurate assessment.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that was correct and that the health department appears to have good support from City Council, noting that the health department received \$250,000 from opioid funds to support the 2025 budget. Mayor Slamka asked for clarification on what is considered “other expenses” as shown on the financial reports included in the packet.

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that “other expenses” usually goes unspent, but is available if needed in events such as an extra nurse in cases of tuberculosis or additional Registered Environmental Health Specialists in cases of emergency.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the October Financial Report.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations

Ms. Pennington, will be attending the Ohio Environmental Health Association Leadership Class in Columbus, November 13th and 14th. This travel authorization is for mileage and food only.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the travel authorization.

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

Budget Discussion

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the health department continues to work on a succession plan for after her retirement. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that combined, she and Ms. Ealy have over 54 years of experience in the health department and that senior staff is costly. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that city council has been supportive in providing the health department with what is needed and allowing the department to carry over funds from previous years. CMHD will be supplemented by opioid funds received for efforts during the opioid crisis for the 2025 budget.

Mayor Slamka stated that it appeared there was only enough money left to cover approximately three more indigent cremations for 2024 and asked if the indigent budget would be increased for 2025.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that indigent funds come from the City's General Fund, she will look into it to see if the acting city manager plans to increase the budget for 2025.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Ms. Kash had graciously stepped in for Dr. Patrick when he was unable to finish his term on the Board of Health, but his term will be expiring at the end of December and Ms. Kash has decided to resign after many years of serving the board with dedication. There will be one open seat on the board and at this time, City Council has received 3 applications. City Council will appoint the newest board member to begin serving their term in January 2025.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the October Walk with a Doc was successful. Walk with a Doc is held the third Saturday of each month at Rosa Parks Elementary School.

The State of the City Address will be held tonight at the Event Center of Middletown.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the 14th Annual Red Carpet Luncheon will be held at the Fitton Center in Middletown on Thursday, November 14th.

Ms. Phillips Carter took a moment to thank all Veterans for their service, noting that while Veteran's Day is just one day, we come across veterans every day and should take time to thank them.

Medical Director

In Dr. Jennewine's absence, Ms. Corbin reported the October communicable disease case numbers.

C. auris	1
Chlamydia infection	22
COVID-19	68
Giardiasis	1
Gonococcal Infection	18
Hepatitis B	1
Hepatitis C	9
Pertussis	2
Streptococcus pneumoniae-invasive	1

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the board that she attended the Ohio Public Health Association Conference. Ohio receives 38 cents per capita for health department subsidies. There are large disparities state-to-state in subsidy amounts awarded and conversation is moving toward trying to even out some of those disparities.

Mayor Slamka asked if there is consideration being given to bringing the Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) back to Middletown.

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that it has been discussed, due to SEP having a mobile unit.

Ms. Corbin stated that Public Health Emergency Preparedness will be sending out save-the-dates for the chemical table-top exercise in February.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that she has finished submitting invoices for the 2024 Workforce Development Grant and is waiting to hear more about the 2025 grant.

Mayor Slamka inquired about how Fairfield SEP has a needle return rate of 116%.

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that often times one person will bring back not only their needles, but also other's needles. While a one-to-one needle exchange rate would be ideal, the Center for Disease Control states needle exchange programs should be on a needs-based basis.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD received four sets of plans in October. Three of those were for micro markets and one was for a Food Service Operation (FSO). The FSO will be a new hibachi restaurant.

CMHD approved five sets of plans in October. Three of those were micro markets, one mobile and one FSO. Ms. Ealy explained that many vending machines have been switched out for micro markets which are a type of unmanned convenient store.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD has completed all T21 re-inspections, every tobacco facility is now in compliance with T21 requirements. 2025 T21 applications were sent out October 1, 2024 and are due by December 31, 2024.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that septic renewal permit applications have been sent to 686 homeowners and are due by December 31, 2024. CMHD will begin septic inspections in spring of 2025.

Ms. Ealy stated that temporary food vendors were present and inspected by CMHD at the Fall Festival and Nightmare Manor in October.

Ms. Ealy shared the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) survey results in the board packet. ODH approved the FSO program with no action plan. ODA approved the RFE program with an action plan that requires a correction in the department's non-emergency enforcement ordinance. Results from the 2023 pool survey were also included in the packet. The program was approved with no action plan, but recommendations mentioned in the survey will be implemented.

Mayor Slamka stated that she noticed a smoking complaint being contested on the smoking report and asked if that could be explained.

Ms. Ealy explained that a facility can always contest the complaint.

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that smoking reports are made by customers directly to the State of Ohio. The State then reports it to local health departments and local health departments then go out and investigate the complaint.

Board Member Open Discussion

Mayor Slamka congratulated Ms. Phillips Carter as Her Story Legend. Mayor Slamka explained that ten women are recognized annually for their innovations and being a catalyst for positive change and Ms. Phillips Carter was among the recipients of this award.



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

Mayor Slamka encouraged board members to attend the State of the City Address Tuesday, November 12th at 6pm at the Event Center of Middletown. The Robert Sonny Hill Humanitarian award will also be given at the State of the City Address.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30AM. The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2024 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

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

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department

November 2024 Financial Notes

Vital Statistics

- \$7,020 Revenue Earned
- 600 Certificates Sold
- 49 Burial permits Sold

Environmental

- \$12,949 Revenue Earned

Indigent Services (*no changes in November*)

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

Current Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) 7/01/2023-11/30/2027 - \$445,000
 - Multi-year project to support the development of current and future public health workforce
 - Award granted to CMHD \$435,000
 - \$10,000 awarded to all LHD's in Ohio for equity specific training.
 - **\$67,145.78 - Deposited to date**
 - The state has added Accreditation efforts to the WF grant in the amount of \$50,000 (*funding not received yet*).
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/2024-6/30/2025 - \$23,837.70
 - **\$6,286.53 Deposited to date**
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC Billing) 1/01/2024-12/31/2024
 - Yearly agreement. Payments approved quarterly
 - **\$47,140.23- Deposited to date**
- Smoking State Reimbursement
 - **\$2,612.15 - Deposited to date**
- Tobacco21 Grant (T21) 08/01/2023-07/31/2025 \$86,415.00
 - Final payment received and deposited
 - **Deposited to date \$86,415.00**
- State Health Subsidy Reimbursements & Vital Statistics Reimbursements
 - \$19,349.93 – State Subsidy (January) OAC 3701-36
 - \$9,329.20 – State Subsidy (May) OAC 3701-36
 - \$3,902.73 – Vital Stats (February)
 - \$1,519.20 – Vital Stats (May)

City of Middletown

Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 11/30/2024

Account Access Group: N/A

		Include Inactive Accounts: No				
Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND				91.67%	
				Target Percent:		
Revenue						
Intergovernmental						
228.000.43310	PHHS GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	\$9,300.00	\$0.00	\$28,679.13	(\$19,379.13)	308.38%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	\$14,333.00	\$0.00	\$14,333.00	\$14,333.00	0.00%
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	\$14,334.00	\$0.00	\$14,334.00	\$14,334.00	0.00%
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	\$123,000.00	\$0.00	\$55,854.22	\$55,854.22	54.59%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	\$175,300.00	\$0.00	\$79,475.09	\$79,475.09	54.66%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$56,591.00	\$0.00	\$56,590.00	\$1.00	100.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$108,130.00	\$3,603.62	\$89,006.73	\$19,123.27	82.31%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	\$73.80	\$448.94	(\$448.94)	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$180.00	\$20.00	90.00%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$30.45	\$2,969.55	1.02%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	\$620.00	\$0.00	\$1,220.90	(\$600.90)	196.92%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$63,000.00	(\$39.00)	\$69,267.42	(\$6,267.42)	109.95%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$22,000.00	\$146.00	\$30,214.25	(\$8,214.25)	137.34%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$3,500.00	\$2,220.00	\$5,870.79	(\$2,370.79)	167.74%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$61.00	\$29.00	67.78%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	\$5,700.00	\$0.00	\$4,490.00	\$1,210.00	78.77%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,175.00	\$325.00	78.33%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$213.00	(\$213.00)	N/A
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$47,140.23	(\$27,140.23)	235.70%
228.000.44289	MOBILE HOME PARKS	\$215.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$215.00	0.00%
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Charges for Service Totals:	\$284,546.00	\$6,004.42	\$305,908.71	(\$21,362.71)	107.51%
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc						
12/4/2024 3:22 PM	Page 1 of 2					

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 11/30/2024

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228.000.46780	MISCELLANEOUS	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%
	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,000.00	0.00%
Rebursements/Transfers						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$74,245.20	(\$74,245.20)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Rebursements/Transfers Totals:	\$200,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$274,245.20	(\$74,245.20)	137.12%
	Revenue Totals:	\$703,846.00	\$8,504.42	\$675,978.82	\$27,867.18	96.04%
228 Total:		\$703,846.00	\$8,504.42	\$675,978.82	\$27,867.18	96.04%
Grand Total:		\$703,846.00	\$8,504.42	\$675,978.82	\$27,867.18	96.04%
	Target Percent:					91.67%

City of Middletown

Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200

Account Access Group: N/A

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 11/30/2024

Include Inactive Accounts: No
Include Pre-Encumbrances: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used	Target Percent:	91.67%
228	HEALTH FUND									
Health Admin										
Personal Services										
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$600,840.00	\$46,535.11	\$535,402.39	\$65,437.61	\$0.00	\$65,437.61	89.11%		
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.51211	PERS	\$84,118.00	\$6,514.94	\$78,504.95	\$5,613.05	\$0.00	\$5,613.05	93.33%		
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	\$24,034.00	\$0.00	\$1,754.71	\$22,279.29	\$0.00	\$22,279.29	100.00%		
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	\$103,148.00	\$7,247.81	\$82,421.59	\$20,726.41	\$0.00	\$20,726.41	79.91%		
228.450.51231	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	\$8,712.00	\$650.75	\$7,933.44	\$778.56	\$0.00	\$778.56	91.06%		
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,941.00	\$152.10	\$1,656.20	\$284.80	\$0.00	\$284.80	100.00%		
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
Personal Services Totals:		\$822,793.00	\$61,100.71	\$707,673.28	\$115,119.72	\$22,564.09	\$92,555.63	88.75%		
Contractual Services										
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$66.00	\$3,353.31	\$646.69	\$0.00	\$646.69	83.83%		
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILLEAGE REIM	\$3,000.00	\$151.82	\$2,065.50	\$934.50	\$0.00	\$934.50	68.85%		
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$40.94	\$3,589.47	\$2,050.53	\$0.00	\$2,050.53	63.64%		
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	\$3,500.00	\$156.65	\$2,613.86	\$886.14	\$0.00	\$886.14	74.68%		
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	\$41,085.00	\$661.74	\$17,214.47	\$23,870.53	\$0.00	\$23,870.53	41.90%		
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$71,840.95	\$0.00	\$9,770.00	\$62,070.95	\$0.00	\$62,070.95	31.28%		
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	\$3,815.00	\$0.00	\$3,815.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	100.00%		
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$162.00	\$1,291.31	\$708.69	\$0.00	\$708.69	64.57%		
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,426.66	\$1,573.34	\$0.00	\$1,573.34	80.33%		
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$11,855.00	\$248.00	\$7,762.50	\$4,092.50	\$0.00	\$4,092.50	65.48%		
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$274.00	\$1,226.00	\$0.00	\$1,226.00	18.27%		
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A		
Contractual Services Totals:		\$156,235.95	\$1,487.15	\$58,176.08	\$98,059.87	\$12,699.95	\$85,359.92	45.36%		

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2024 to 11/30/2024

As Of: 1/1/2024 to 11/30/2024

Target Percent: 91.67%

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MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PAY RANGES AND CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR
EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE MIDDLETOWN DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

Section 1

(A) Effective January 1, 2025 the salaried classifications within the service of the Middletown Department of Health and Environment are hereby established in pay ranges as follows:

Job Classifications	Salary Ranges for Employees Hired:
Administrative Assistant	184
Director of Environmental Health	177
Director of Environmental Health / Assistant Health Commissioner	176
Director of Nursing	177
Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training	184
Health Clerk	195
Health Commissioner	168
Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Coordinator	181
Public Health Nurse	182
Registered Environmental Health Specialist	182
Vital Statistic Deputy Registrar	186
Vital Statistics Registrar	184

All employees shall be paid in the Range provided above, except as otherwise stated herein, and the salary ranges above shall be equivalent to those set forth in the most current ordinance establishing pay ranges for City of Middletown employees. A table showing Exempt, Supervisory, Unclassified and Classified positions is included as Exhibit A.

(B) The Assistant Health Commissioner/Director of Environmental Health, Director of Environmental Health, Director of Nursing, Health Commissioner and Medical Director positions are exempt employees.

(C) Adjustments for Health Commissioner. Any Health Commissioner who obtains or possesses a masters or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university, or

receives or possesses certification or licensure deemed by the City Manager to be similar or equivalent to such a degree in a field related to his/her employment, shall be paid one range higher than their regular rate of pay.

(D) Implementation of Reclassifications.

(1) All reclassifications included in Section 1(A) of this Ordinance shall be implemented by providing a step increase to the affected employee on his/her next anniversary date. If an affected employee is scheduled to receive a step increase regardless of the reclassification, no additional increases in base pay will be provided during 2024 2025 except for the scheduled step increase.

(2) However, any affected employee whose scheduled step increase in 2024 2025 would not result in an amount equivalent to or higher than Step A of the new Range assigned to the position occupied by the affected employee shall be placed in Step A of the new Range effective January 1, 2024 2025. These employees shall be given a new anniversary date of January 1.

(3) Any part-time employee affected by a reclassification in this Ordinance shall be assigned to a step in the new Range for that position at the step equivalent to at least four percent (4%) higher than their present rate of pay.

(4) The procedures for implementation of the reclassifications set forth in Section 7 of the City's Pay and Benefits Ordinance are not applicable to the reclassifications set forth in Section 1(A) of this Ordinance.

Section 2

The position of Medical Director shall be on call at all times and available to handle any health-related emergency affecting the community. The schedule of the Medical Director shall be determined by the Health Commissioner. The Medical Director shall be paid an annual salary in the amount of \$13,000.00 to be paid monthly in twelve (12) equal increments.

Section 3

Employees of the Middletown Department of Health and Environmental shall receive benefits and be subject to the pay policies as set forth in the most current ordinance establishing the pay policy and benefits for City of Middletown employees.

Section 4

In the event of a public health pandemic declaration, the City Manager may, at their sole discretion, award exempt employees of the Middletown Board of Health cash bonus payments to those who are working over and above their regular work week

without overtime compensation. Cash bonus payments may not exceed five percent (5%) of an exempt employee's annual salary.

Section 5

This ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and general welfare, to wit: to allow the ordinance to be effective on January 1, 2025, and shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption.

Elizabeth Slamka, President
Middletown Board of Health

Adopted:
12/10/2024

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, Secretary
Middletown Board of Health

Law Director

EXHIBIT A

Table of Exempt (E), Supervisory (S), Unclassified (UC) & Classified (C) Positions

Job Classifications	E	S	UC	C
Administrative Assistant			X	
Director of Environmental Health	X	X	X	
Director of Environmental Health / Assistant Health Commissioner	X	X	X	
Director of Nursing	X		X	
Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training				X
Health Clerk				X
Health Commissioner	X	X	X	
Public Health Accreditation Board Coordinator			X	
Public Health Nurse	X		X	
Registered Environmental Health Specialist				X
Vital Statistics Deputy Registrar				X
Vital Statistics Registrar				X

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05

A REGULATION APPROVING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Middletown Board of Health was created under authority of the laws of the State of Ohio and the Charter of the City of Middletown to administer all programs and activities of the City of Middletown Health district and its department, the City of Middletown Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Middletown Board of Health of the City of Middletown Health District may make such order and regulations as are necessary for the public health, for the prevention or restriction of diseases and for the prevention, abatement or suppression of nuisances; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the City of Middletown Board of Health of the City of Middletown Health District, State of Ohio, that said board hereby approves the fiscal year 2025 budget request of the Department of Health in the amount of \$1,002,190 (as described in the attached document); and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the City of Middletown Board of Health certifies that the funds requested in the fiscal Year 2025 budget request as described previously are necessary for the Board of Health and the City of Middletown's Health District's Health Department to perform their responsibilities and duties as set out in Section 3707.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the Charter of the City of Middletown, Ohio.

Adopted by the City of Middletown Board of Health of the City of Middletown Health District, this 10th day of December, 2024.

Elizabeth Slamka, Mayor, President,
City of Middletown Board of Health

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH,
BSN, RN, Health Commissioner,
City of Middletown Health
Department, Board of Health
Secretary

DATE ADOPTED:
December 10, 2024

Approved as to form:
Law Department, City of Middletown

EXHIBIT A

FROM:	Unappropriated	GENERAL FUND (Fund #100)	\$	54,959,952.00
TO:	Accounts of 101	City Council	\$	206,849.00
		Personal Services	\$	152,849.00
		All other expenditures	\$	54,000.00
	Accounts of 111	City Manager	\$	1,007,347.00
		Personal Services	\$	652,747.00
		All other expenditures	\$	354,600.00
	Accounts of 131	Finance Administration	\$	398,369.00
		Personal Services	\$	331,284.00
		All other expenditures	\$	67,085.00
	Accounts of 132	Treasury	\$	269,048.00
		Personal Services	\$	251,178.00
		All other expenditures	\$	17,870.00
	Accounts of 136	Information Systems	\$	878,684.00
		Personal Services	\$	746,184.00
		All other expenditures	\$	132,500.00
	Accounts of 137	Purchasing	\$	114,714.00
		Personal Services	\$	108,814.00
		All other expenditures	\$	5,900.00
	Accounts of 142	Human Resources	\$	658,328.00
		Personal Services	\$	373,178.00
		All other expenditures	\$	285,150.00
	Accounts of 150	Law	\$	1,455,107.00
		Personal Services	\$	581,057.00
		All other expenditures	\$	874,050.00
	Accounts of 160	Community & Economic Development	\$	2,213,937.00
		Personal Services	\$	1,712,537.00
		All other expenditures	\$	501,400.00
	Accounts of 165	Communications	\$	233,795.00
		Personal Services	\$	96,245.00
		All other expenditures	\$	137,550.00
	Accounts of 211	Fire Administration	\$	555,522.00
		Personal Services	\$	536,672.00
		All other expenditures	\$	18,850.00
	Accounts of 212	Fire Operations	\$	11,771,734.00
		Personal Services	\$	9,790,230.00
		All other expenditures	\$	1,981,504.00
	Accounts of 213	Fire Training/Prevention	\$	917,371.00
		Personal Services	\$	907,739.00
		All other expenditures	\$	9,632.00
	Accounts of 221	Police Administration	\$	1,426,892.00
		Personal Services	\$	1,181,512.00
		All other expenditures	\$	245,380.00
	Accounts of 222	Criminal Investigation	\$	1,554,747.00
		Personal Services	\$	1,502,747.00
		All other expenditures	\$	52,000.00
	Accounts of 223	Narcotics	\$	737,175.00
		Personal Services	\$	707,175.00

	All other expenditures		\$	30,000.00
Accounts of 224	Uniform Patrol	\$ 8,623,472.00	\$	7,459,897.00
	Personal Services		\$	1,163,575.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 225	Police Services	\$ 563,839.00	\$	542,839.00
	Personal Services		\$	21,000.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 226	Police & Fire Dispatch	\$ 1,833,836.00	\$	1,719,836.00
	Personal Services		\$	114,000.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 229	Jail Management	\$ 1,771,394.00	\$	1,290,427.00
	Personal Services		\$	480,967.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 260	Building Inspection	\$ 662,392.00	\$	540,892.00
	Personal Services		\$	121,500.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 261	Building Maintenance	\$ 935,256.00	\$	538,456.00
	Personal Services		\$	396,800.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 408	Event Center	\$ 441,331.00	\$	157,331.00
	Personal Services		\$	284,000.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 411	Community Center	\$ 196,000.00	\$	196,000.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 413	Recreation	\$ 208,007.00	\$	112,207.00
	Personal Services		\$	95,800.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 512	Engineering	\$ 293,026.00	\$	146,526.00
	Personal Services		\$	146,500.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 542	Parks Maintenance	\$ 1,144,663.00	\$	667,110.00
	Personal Services		\$	477,553.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 590	Street Lighting	\$ 545,000.00	\$	545,000.00
	Other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 901	Debt Service	\$ 8,766,811.00	\$	8,766,811.00
	Other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 911	Non-Departmental	\$ 3,550,306.00	\$	212,156.00
	Personal Services		\$	3,338,150.00
	All other expenditures		\$	
Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	\$ 1,025,000.00	\$	1,025,000.00
	Other expenditures		\$	
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND (Fund #100)	\$ 54,959,952.00	\$	54,959,952.00
FROM: Unappropriated	PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY FUND (Fund #200)	\$ 4,308,280.00		
TO: Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	\$ 4,308,280.00		4,308,280.00
	Other expenditures		\$	

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY FUND			\$ 4,308,280.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	STREET LEVY FUND (Fund #201)	\$ 7,479,867.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Transfers Out	\$ 7,479,867.00
		Other expenditures	\$ 7,479,867.00
TOTAL STREET LEVY FUND			\$ 7,479,867.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	AUTO & GAS TAX FUND (Fund #210)	\$ 3,855,758.00
TO:	Accounts of 524	Electronic Maintenance	\$ 811,202.00
		Personal Services	\$ 439,226.00
		All other expenditures	\$ 371,976.00
	Accounts of 541	Street Maintenance	\$ 2,728,288.00
		Personal Services	\$ 1,524,356.00
		All other expenditures	\$ 1,203,932.00
	Accounts of 543	Grounds Maintenance	\$ 316,268.00
		Personal Services	\$ 114,554.00
		All other expenditures	\$ 201,714.00
TOTAL AUTO & GAS TAX FUND			\$ 3,855,758.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	CONSERVANCY FUND (Fund #215)	\$ 251,500.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Conservancy	\$ 251,500.00
		Other expenditures	\$ 251,500.00
TOTAL CONSERVANCY FUND			\$ 251,500.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Fund #220)	\$ 6,185,000.00
TO:	Various Accts	Capital Improvements	\$ 6,185,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$ 6,185,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND			\$ 6,185,000.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	ACQUISITION FOR PARKS (Fund #225)	\$ 150,000.00
TO:	Various Accts	Miscellaneous	\$ 150,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$ 150,000.00
TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND			\$ 150,000.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	HEALTH FUND (Fund #228)	\$ 1,002,190.00
TO:	Accounts of 450	Health Administration	\$ 1,002,190.00
		Personal Services	\$ 892,910.00
		All other expenditures	\$ 109,280.00
TOTAL		HEALTH FUND	\$ 1,002,190.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	EMS FUND (Fund #229)	\$ 30,000.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	EMS	\$ 30,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL EMS FUND			\$ 30,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	CITY INCOME TAX FUND (Fund #230)	\$ 34,811,606.00
TO: Accounts of 133	Taxation	\$ 930,821.00
	Personal Services	\$ 819,541.00
	All other expenditures	\$ 111,280.00
Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	\$ 33,880,785.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 33,880,785.00
	TOTAL CITY INCOME TAX FUND	\$ 34,811,606.00

FROM: Unappropriated	COURT COMPUTERIZATION FUND (Fund #240)	\$ 60,000.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Court Computerization	\$ 60,000.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 60,000.00
	TOTAL COURT COMPUTERIZATION FUND	\$ 60,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND (Fund #242)	\$ 15,000.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Law Enforcement Trust	\$ 15,000.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 15,000.00
	TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND	\$ 15,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	MANDATORY DRUG FINE FUND (Fund #243)	\$ 212,475.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Mandatory Drug Fine	\$ 212,475.00
	Personal Services	\$ 62,475.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 150,000.00
	TOTAL MANDATORY DRUG FINE FUND	\$ 212,475.00

FROM: Unappropriated	PROBATION SERVICES FUND (Fund #245)	\$ 164,050.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Probation Services	\$ 164,050.00
	Personal Services	\$ 127,550.00
	All other expenditures	\$ 36,500.00
	TOTAL PROBATION SERVICES FUND	\$ 164,050.00

FROM: Unappropriated	TERMINATION PAY FUND (Fund #246)	\$ 650,000.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Termination Pay	\$ 650,000.00
	Personal Services	\$ 650,000.00
	TOTAL TERMINATION PAY FUND	\$ 650,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	INDIGENT DRIVER ALCOHOL/TRTMT FUND (Fund #247)	\$ 17,500.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Indigent Driver Alcohol/Treatment	\$ 17,500.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 17,500.00
	TOTAL INDIGENT DRIVER ALCOHOL/TRTMT FUND	\$ 17,500.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	CIVIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (Fund #249)	\$	525,000.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Civic Development	\$	525,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	525,000.00
		TOTAL CIVIC DEVELOPMENT FUND	\$	525,000.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	MUNICIPAL COURT FUND (Fund #250)	\$	2,079,104.00
	Accounts of 120	Municipal Court	\$	2,079,104.00
		Personal Services	\$	1,922,350.00
		All other expenditures	\$	156,754.00
		TOTAL MUNICIPAL COURT FUND	\$	2,079,104.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	POLICE GRANTS FUND (Fund #251)	\$	220,267.64
TO:	Accounts of 037	STEP Grant	\$	23,860.00
		Personal Services	\$	23,860.00
	Accounts of 038	IDEP Grant	\$	22,421.00
		Personal Services	\$	22,421.00
	Accounts of 039	JAG Byrne Grant - BWC	\$	33,660.00
		Other expenditures	\$	33,660.00
	Accounts of 041	COSSUP Grant	\$	115,776.64
		Other expenditures	\$	115,776.64
	Accounts of 050	JAG Byrne Grant	\$	6,213.00
		Other expenditures	\$	6,213.00
	Accounts of 055	JAG Memorial Grant	\$	12,422.00
		Other expenditures	\$	12,422.00
	Accounts of 056	JAG Memorial Grant	\$	5,915.00
		Other expenditures	\$	5,915.00
		TOTAL POLICE GRANTS FUND	\$	220,267.64

FROM:	Unappropriated	COURT IDIAM FUND (Fund #252)	\$	20,000.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	IDIAM	\$	20,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	20,000.00
		TOTAL COURT IDIAM FUND	\$	20,000.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND (Fund #253)	\$	217,962.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Court Special Projects	\$	217,962.00
		Personal Services	\$	106,962.00
		Other expenditures	\$	111,000.00
		TOTAL COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	\$	217,962.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	HOME PROGRAM FUND (Fund #254)	\$	1,846,007.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Home Program	\$	1,846,007.00
		Other expenditures	\$	1,846,007.00
		TOTAL HOME PROGRAM FUND	\$	1,846,007.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	NUISANCE ABATEMENT FUND (Fund #260)	\$	531,000.00
	Accounts of 115	Nuisance Enforcement	\$	531,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	531,000.00
		TOTAL NUISANCE ABATEMENT FUND	\$	531,000.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	SENIOR CITIZENS LEVY FUND (Fund #262)	\$	50.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Senior Citizen Services	\$	50.00
		Other expenditures	\$	50.00
		TOTAL SENIOR CITIZENS LEVY FUND	\$	50.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	FIRE STATION LEVY FUND (Fund #263)	\$	1,044,470.00
	Accounts of 990	Fire Station Levy	\$	1,044,470.00
		Other expenditures	\$	1,044,470.00
		TOTAL FIRE STATION LEVY FUND	\$	1,044,470.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	ONE OHIO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND (Fund #267)	\$	518,797.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	One Ohio Opioid Settlement	\$	518,797.00
		Personal Services	\$	318,797.00
		Other expenditures	\$	200,000.00
		TOTAL ONE OHIO OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	\$	518,797.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND RETIREMENT FUND (Fund #305)	\$	422,590.00
TO:	Accounts of 901	General Obligation Bond	\$	422,590.00
		Other expenditures	\$	422,590.00
		TOTAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND FUND	\$	422,590.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BOND RETIREMENT FUND (Fund #325)	\$	124,620.00
TO:	Accounts of 901	Special Assessment Bond	\$	124,620.00
		Other expenditures	\$	124,620.00
		TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BOND FUND	\$	124,620.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	EAST END-TOWNE BLVD TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #340)	\$	471,365.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	East End/Towne Blvd Tax Increment	\$	471,365.00
		Other expenditures	\$	471,365.00
		TOTAL EAST END-TOWNE BLVD TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$	471,365.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	DOWNTOWN TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #345)	\$	100.00
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TO:	Accounts of 990	Downtown Tax Increment	\$	100.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		100.00
		TOTAL DOWNTOWN TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		100.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	AERONCA TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #350)	\$	50.00	
TO:	Accounts of 990	Aeronca Tax Increment	\$	50.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		50.00
		TOTAL AERONCA TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		50.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	AIRPORT/RIVERFRONT TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #355)	\$	35.00	
TO:	Accounts of 990	Airport/Riverfront Tax Increment	\$	35.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		35.00
		TOTAL AIRPORT/RIVERFRONT TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		35.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	MILLER ROAD NORTH TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #360)	\$	300.00	
TO:	Accounts of 990	Miller Road North Tax Increment	\$	300.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		300.00
		TOTAL MILLER ROAD NORTH TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		300.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	TOWNE MALL/HOSPITAL TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #370)	\$	4,316,700.00	
TO:	Accounts of 990	Towne Mall/Hospital Tax Increment	\$	4,316,700.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		4,316,700.00
		TOTAL TOWNE MALL/HOSPITAL TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		4,316,700.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	RENAISSANCE NORTH TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #371)	\$	814,853.00	
TO:	Accounts of 990	Renaissance North Tax Increment	\$	814,853.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		814,853.00
		TOTAL RENAISSANCE NORTH TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		814,853.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	RENAISSANCE SOUTH TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #372)	\$	1,407,000.00	
TO:	Accounts of 990	Renaissance South Tax Increment	\$	1,407,000.00	
		Other expenditures	\$		1,407,000.00
		TOTAL RENAISSANCE SOUTH TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$		1,407,000.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	SAWYERS MILL TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #373)	\$	981,300.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Sawyers Mill Tax Increment	\$	981,300.00
		Other expenditures	\$	981,300.00
		TOTAL SAWYERS MILL TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$	981,300.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	MADE INDUSTRIAL PARK TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #376)	\$	35.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Made Industrial Park Tax Increment	\$	35.00
		Other expenditures	\$	35.00
		TOTAL MADE INDUSTRIAL PARK TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$	35.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	SOUTH YANKEE RD TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #377)	\$	35.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	South Yankee Rd Tax Increment	\$	35.00
		Other expenditures	\$	35.00
		TOTAL SOUTH YANKEE RD TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$	35.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	TOWNE MALL TAX INCREMENT FUND (Fund #378)	\$	160,000.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Towne Mall Tax Increment	\$	160,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	160,000.00
		TOTAL TOWNE MALL TAX INCREMENT FUND	\$	160,000.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	STORM WATER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (Fund #415)	\$	1,375,000.00
TO:	Various Accts	Storm Water Capital Reserve	\$	1,375,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	1,375,000.00
		TOTAL STORM WATER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$	1,375,000.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT FUND (Fund #429)	\$	1,294,866.00
TO:	Varous Accts	CD Act 1974	\$	1,294,866.00
		Other expenditures	\$	1,294,866.00
		TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT FUND	\$	1,294,866.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	EAST END DEVELOPMENT FUND (Fund #480)	\$	130,000.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	East End Development	\$	130,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	130,000.00
		TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT FUND	\$	130,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUND (Fund #481)	\$ 656,258.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Downtown Improvements	\$ 656,258.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 656,258.00
	TOTAL DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUND	\$ 656,258.00

FROM: Unappropriated	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOND SERVICE FUND (Fund #485)	\$ 8,912,213.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Economic Development Bond Service	\$ 8,912,213.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 8,912,213.00
	TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOND SERVICE FUND	\$ 8,912,213.00

FROM: Unappropriated	AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUND (Fund #492)	\$ 435,000.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Airport Improvements	\$ 435,000.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 435,000.00
	TOTAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$ 435,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	WATER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (Fund #494)	\$ 7,810,000.00
TO: Various Accts	Water Capital Reserve	\$ 7,810,000.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 7,810,000.00
	TOTAL WATER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$ 7,810,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (Fund #495)	\$ 19,390,706.00
TO: Various Accts	Sewer Capital Reserve	\$ 19,390,706.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 19,390,706.00
	TOTAL SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$ 19,390,706.00

FROM: Unappropriated	COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND (Fund #498)	\$ 770,000.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Computer Replacement	\$ 770,000.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 770,000.00
	TOTAL COMPUTER REPLACEMENT FUND	\$ 770,000.00

FROM: Unappropriated	PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FUND (Fund #499)	\$ 611,850.00
TO: Accounts of 990	Property Development	\$ 611,850.00
	Other expenditures	\$ 611,850.00
	TOTAL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FUND	\$ 611,850.00

FROM: Unappropriated	WATER FUND (Fund #510)	\$ 12,325,861.00
TO: Accounts of 560	Water Administration	\$ 699,246.00
	Personal Services	\$ 458,356.00
	All other expenditures	\$ 240,890.00

Accounts of 561	Water Treatment	\$	4,030,489.00	
	Personal Services			\$ 1,328,203.00
	All other expenditures			\$ 2,702,286.00
Accounts of 562	Water Maintenance	\$	2,288,198.00	
	Personal Services			\$ 1,595,288.00
	All other expenditures			\$ 692,910.00
Accounts of 901	Debt Service	\$	292,200.00	
	Other expenditures			\$ 292,200.00
Accounts of 902	Administrative Support	\$	1,807,488.00	
	Other expenditures			\$ 1,807,488.00
Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	\$	3,208,240.00	
	Other expenditures			\$ 3,208,240.00

TOTAL WATER FUND \$ 12,325,861.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	STORM WATER FUND (Fund #515)	\$	2,684,292.00	
TO:	Accounts of 461	Storm Water Maintenance	\$	1,639,712.00	
		Personal Services			\$ 1,054,166.00
		All other expenditures			\$ 585,546.00
	Accounts of 902	Administrative Support	\$	119,580.00	
		All other expenditures			\$ 119,580.00
	Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	\$	925,000.00	
		All other expenditures			\$ 925,000.00

TOTAL STORM WATER FUND \$ 2,684,292.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	SEWER FUND (Fund #520)	\$	17,001,402.00	
TO:	Accounts of 580	Sewer Administration	\$	628,511.00	
		Personal Services			\$ 406,021.00
		All other expenditures			\$ 222,490.00
	Accounts of 581	Water Reclamation	\$	3,927,277.00	
		Personal Services			\$ 1,884,099.00
		All other expenditures			\$ 2,043,178.00
	Accounts of 582	Sewer Maintenance	\$	1,728,085.00	
		Personal Services			\$ 1,047,526.00
		All other expenditures			\$ 680,559.00
	Accounts of 583	Public Works & Utilities Admin.	\$	1,083,930.00	
		Personal Services			\$ 1,033,180.00
		All other expenditures			\$ 50,750.00
	Accounts of 901	Debt Service	\$	870,037.00	
		Other expenditures			\$ 870,037.00
	Accounts of 902	Administrative Support	\$	1,807,488.00	
		Other expenditures			\$ 1,807,488.00
	Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	\$	6,956,074.00	
		Other expenditures			\$ 6,956,074.00

TOTAL SEWER FUND \$ 17,001,402.00

FROM: Unappropriated AIRPORT FUND (Fund #525) \$ 981,553.00

TO:	Accounts of 525	Airport	\$	981,553.00
		Personal Services	\$	136,553.00
		All other expenditures	\$	845,000.00
		TOTAL AIRPORT FUND	\$	981,553.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	TRANSIT FUND (Fund #530)	\$	4,130,170.00
TO:	Accounts of 530	Transit	\$	4,130,170.00
		Personal Services	\$	25,515.00
		All other expenditures	\$	4,104,655.00
		TOTAL TRANSIT FUND	\$	4,130,170.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	WELLFIELD PROTECTION FUND (Fund #546)	\$	360,606.00
TO:	Accounts of 902	Administrative Support	\$	34,606.00
		Other expenditures	\$	34,606.00
	Accounts of 990	Wellfield Protection	\$	326,000.00
		Other expenditures	\$	326,000.00
		TOTAL WELLFIELD PROTECTION FUND	\$	360,606.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FUND (Fund #555)	\$	4,805,067.00
TO:	Accounts of 905	Litter & Waste Collection	\$	95,185.00
		Personal Services	\$	46,685.00
		Other expenditures	\$	48,500.00
	Accounts of 990	Solid Waste Disposal	\$	4,709,882.00
		Other expenditures	\$	4,709,882.00
		TOTAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FUND	\$	4,805,067.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	MUNICIPAL GARAGE FUND (Fund #605)	\$	5,528,059.00
TO:	Accounts of 550	Municipal Garage	\$	5,528,059.00
		Personal Services	\$	745,822.00
		Other expenditures	\$	4,782,237.00
		TOTAL MUNICIPAL GARAGE FUND	\$	5,528,059.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND (Fund #661)	\$	7,959,200.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Employee Benefits	\$	7,959,200.00
		Other expenditures	\$	7,959,200.00
		TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND	\$	7,959,200.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	POLICE RELIEF & PENSION FUND (Fund #725)	\$	1,461,663.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Police Pension	\$	1,461,663.00
		Other expenditures	\$	1,461,663.00
		TOTAL POLICE RELIEF AND PENSION FUND	\$	1,461,663.00

FROM:	Unappropriated	FIRE RELIEF & PENSION FUND (Fund #726)	\$	1,967,722.00
TO:	Accounts of 990	Fire Pension	\$	1,967,722.00
		Other expenditures	\$	1,967,722.00

TOTAL FIRE RELIEF & PENSION FUND			\$ 1,967,722.00
FROM: Unappropriated	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ESCROW FUND (Fund #736)	\$ 25,000.00	
TO: Accounts of 990	Community Development	\$ 25,000.00	
	Other expenditures	\$ 25,000.00	
TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ESCROW FUND			\$ 25,000.00
FROM: Unappropriated	2025 SIDEWALK, CURB & GUTTER (Fund #896)	\$ 500,000.00	
TO: Accounts of 990	Concrete Repairs	\$ 500,000.00	
	Other expenditures	\$ 500,000.00	
TOTAL 2024 SIDEWALK, CURB & GUTTER			\$ 500,000.00
TOTAL	ALL OTHER FUNDS	\$ 176,011,354.64	\$ 176,011,354.64
TOTAL	GENERAL FUND	\$ 54,959,952.00	\$ 54,959,952.00
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 230,971,306.64	\$ 230,971,306.64

FUND SUMMARY FOR FUND 228
HEALTH FUND

	2023 ACTUAL	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
BEGINNING BALANCE: JANUARY 1	\$849,664	\$683,519	\$420,021
REVENUES:			
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$271,148	\$175,300	\$115,000
Charges for Services	323,998	284,546	341,510
Miscellaneous Revenue	-	44,000	-
Transfers	105,871	200,000	250,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$701,017	\$703,846	\$706,510
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$1,550,681	\$1,387,365	\$1,126,531
EXPENDITURES:			
Personal Services	\$770,787	\$822,793	\$892,910
Contractual Services	88,391	136,351	100,580
Commodities	3,189	3,400	3,900
Capital Outlay	4,796	4,800	4,800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$867,162	\$967,344	\$1,002,190
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31	\$683,519	\$420,021	\$124,341

HEALTH FUND
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

	Actual Expenditures 2023	Amount Budgeted 2024	Department Budget 2025
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (177)	1	1	1
DIRECTOR OF NURSING (177)	1	1	1
HEALTH COMMISSIONER (168)	1	1	1
ACCREDITATION COORDINATOR (181)	1	1	1
REG. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPEC (182)	1	1	1
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPEC - IN TRAINING (184)	1	1	1
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (184)	1	1	1
VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRAR (184)	1	1	1
MEDICAL DIRECTOR (NG)	0.5	0.5	0.5
PERSONAL SERVICES:			
228.450.51110 SALARIES & WAGES	\$ 568,347.84	\$ 600,840.00	\$ 670,630.00
228.450.51211 PERS	77,534	84,118	93,888
228.450.51220 WORKERS' COMPENSATION	11,551	24,034	26,825
228.450.51230 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	103,562	103,148	90,018
228.450.51270 MEDICARE - CITY SHARE	7,984	8,712	9,724
228.450.51275 LIFE INSURANCE	1,808	1,941	1,825
Total - PERSONAL SERVICES	770,787	822,793	892,910
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES:			
228.450.52110 TRAVEL AND TRAINING	2,522	4,000	4,000
228.450.52111 MANDATORY TRAINING	50	-	-
228.450.52120 EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT	2,262	3,000	3,000
228.450.52222 TELEPHONE LINE CHARGES	5,975	5,640	5,640
228.450.52310 MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHARGES	3,357	3,500	3,500
228.450.52480 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	19,303	41,085	41,085
228.450.52481 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT	22,153	55,771	20,000
228.450.52488 HEALTH DEPT COVID 19 EXPENSES	11,578	-	-
228.450.52490 OUTSIDE PRINTING	860	2,000	2,000
228.450.52510 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	8,098	8,000	8,000
228.450.52820 LICENSES AND PERMITS	11,149	11,855	11,855
228.450.52920 MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PERIODICAL	1,083	1,500	1,500
Total - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	88,391	136,351	100,580
COMMODITIES:			
228.450.53100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,646	2,500	2,500
228.450.53210 FOOD	204	200	200
228.450.53610 SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	247	200	500
228.450.53710 CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLIES	92	500	700
Total - COMMODITIES	3,189	3,400	3,900
CAPITAL OUTLAY:			
228.450.54310 AUTO & TRUCK DEPR	4,796	4,800	4,800
Total - CAPITAL OUTLAY	4,796	4,800	4,800
Grand Total	\$ 867,162	\$ 967,344	\$ 1,002,190

City of Middletown

	Full Year Actual Revenue 2023	June Actuals	Initial Budget 2024	Next Year Departmental Budget
Grand Total	701,017.25	-411,096.92	-703,846.00	-706,510.00
43 Intergovernmental	271,148.30	-46,538.31	-175,300.00	-115,000.00
228.000.43310 PHHS GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43320 HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43330 STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	29,429.56	-28,679.13	-9,300.00	-15,000.00
228.000.43331 IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43332 BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDICAP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43360 PHI GRANT	0.00	0.00	-14,333.00	0.00
228.000.43362 CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRANT	0.00	0.00	-14,333.00	0.00
228.000.43363 EARLY START GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43364 CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43365 H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43366 US HHS STIMULUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43367 COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (CO-20)	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43368 COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (CT-20)	28,540.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.000.43369 HARM REDUCTION GRANT	0.00	0.00	-14,334.00	0.00
228.000.43370 PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GRANT	88,177.84	-17,859.18	-123,000.00	-100,000.00
44 Charges for Service	323,998.38	-216,744.56	-284,546.00	-341,510.00
228.000.44197 ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	54,942.00	-28,295.00	-56,591.00	-59,420.00
228.000.44210 VITAL STATISTICS	96,654.51	-52,277.99	-108,130.00	-100,000.00
228.000.44211 VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGES	-78.62	-78.75	0.00	0.00
228.000.44215 PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	240.00	-20.00	-200.00	-200.00
228.000.44225 IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	3,000.00	0.00	-3,000.00	-3,000.00
228.000.44280 VENDING LICENSE	734.67	-920.90	-620.00	-750.00
228.000.44281 FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	74,141.19	-64,925.92	-63,000.00	-80,000.00
228.000.44282 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	30,850.25	-27,860.25	-22,000.00	-35,000.00
228.000.44283 HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	4,299.17	-3,331.36	-3,500.00	-4,200.00
228.000.44284 FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	240.00	-61.00	-90.00	-240.00
228.000.44285 SWIMMING POOL/SPA	5,500.00	-4,020.00	-5,700.00	-6,000.00
228.000.44286 TATTOO LICENSE	2,562.50	-1,125.00	-1,500.00	-2,500.00
228.000.44287 PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	163.00	-213.00	0.00	-200.00
228.000.44288 MAC BILLING	50,749.71	-33,615.39	-20,000.00	-50,000.00

228.000.44290 MOBILE HOME PARKS	0.00	0.00	-215.00	0.00
228.000.44844 CREDIT CARD FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
46 Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc	0.00	0.00	-44,000.00	0.00
228.000.46780 MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	-44,000.00	0.00
49 Reimbursements/Transfers	105,870.57	-147,814.05	-200,000.00	-250,000.00
228.000.49100 REIMBURSEMENTS	105,870.57	-27,814.05	0.00	0.00
228.000.49330 FROM INCOME TAX	0.00	-120,000.00	-200,000.00	-250,000.00
228.000.49385 FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and Play

City of Middletown
Health Department
Middletown, Ohio

City of Middletown Health Department 2025 Meeting Dates

2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Health Commissioner Notes

November 2024

Budget 2025

- Ready to adopt/approve 2025 Budget Resolution
- Pay and Benefits Ordinance

Middletown Connect/Grant OHIZ

- All Ambassadors meeting focus on community issues
- Activities and dates in Packet and emailed to Board
- Middletown Connect Core Meetings
- Walk with a Doc 11/21 Dr. Jim Byers Chiropractic
- Walk with a Doc 12/21 Dr Feldman Pediatric
- New grants and funding opportunities

BC Cares

- Continue to meet every Wednesday at 1p to discuss community issues

PHAB

- Chronic Disease Committee met to discuss initiatives re: CHIP
- Workforce Development Activities
- Annual Report received and PHAB response

Internal/External Meetings and Tasks

- Food Safety Health Moment Facebook

Meetings Internal/Activities

- Indigent/Unclaimed Services and activities
- Weekly Sr. Staff Meeting
- Council Review Meeting
- Middletown Connect
- Together We Can ODH Weekly
- Infectious Disease Call
- Septic Discussions

Community Participation/Events

- CenterPoint Program Meeting
- CenterPoint Board Meeting-CEO search

- Miami University-Regionals Hamilton Speech STI/STD
- AOHC Mtg
- SWOH District Mtg
- YWCA Board Meeting
- Prevention Advocacy and Policy Coalition meeting
- Miami University Regionals Holiday Party
- Infectious Disease meetings
- YWCA strategic meeting retreat
- BC Board of Development and Disabilities



Butler County General Health District

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

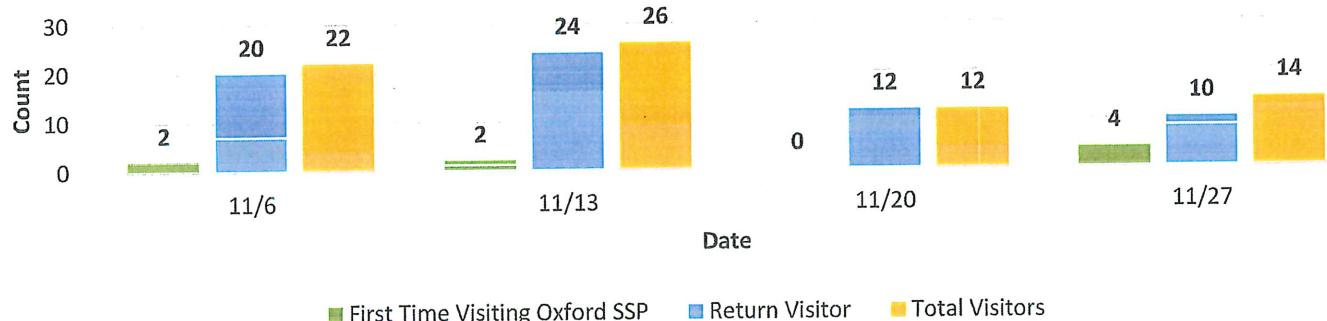


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2023 and 2024

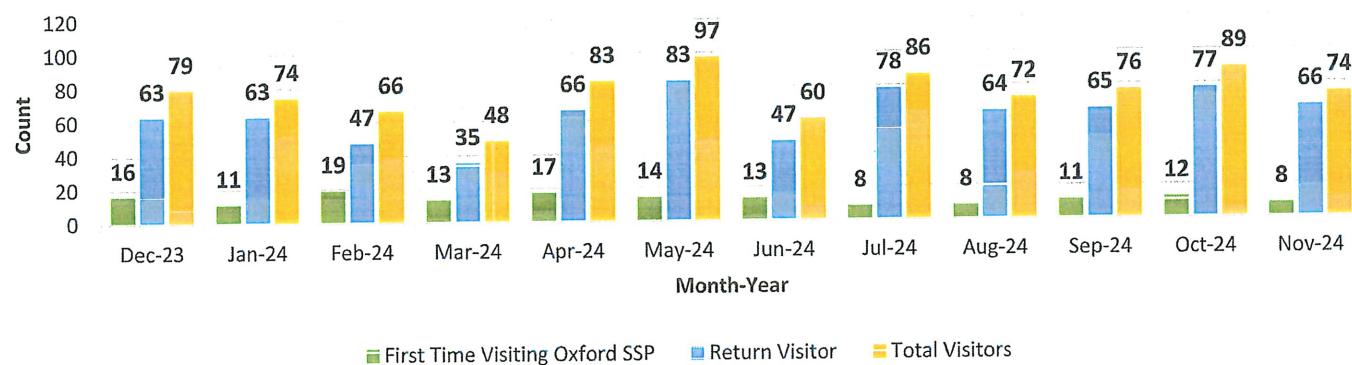
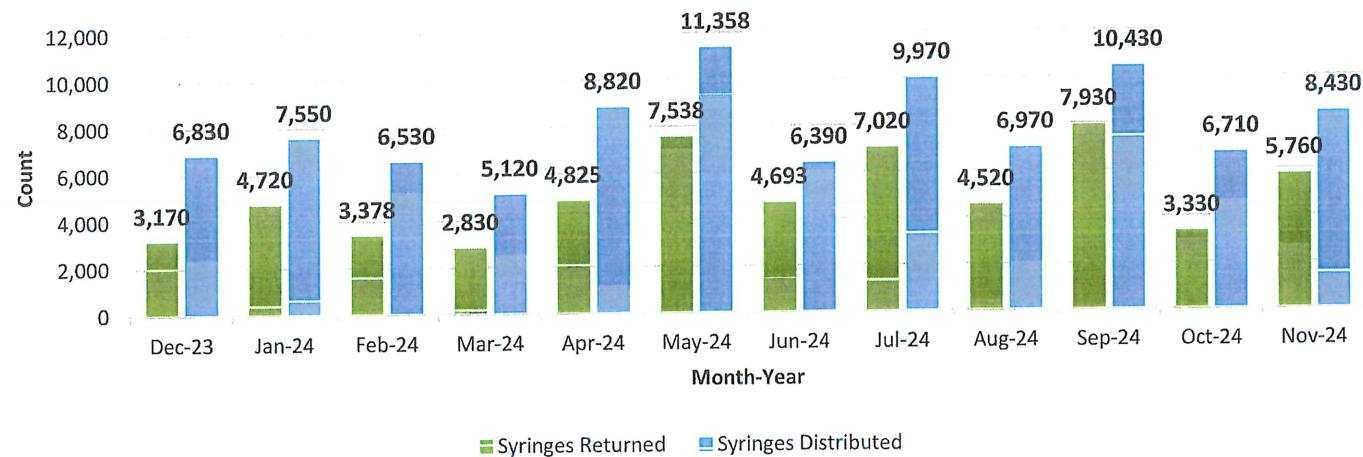


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2023 and 2024



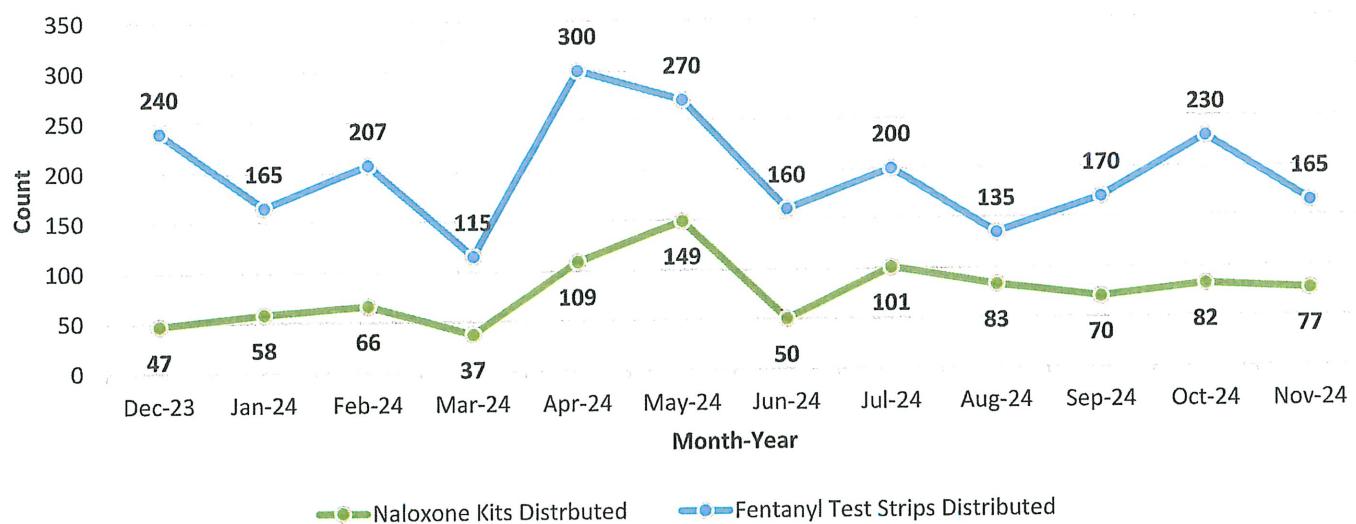


Butler County
General Health District

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

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	960	2,400	40.00%
45013	970	1,840	52.72%
Hamilton Total	1,930	4,240	45.52%
Middletown			
45042	240	240	100.00%
45044	340	480	70.83%
Middletown Total	580	720	80.56%
45014 - Fairfield	1,200	1040	115.38%
45056 - Oxford	2,050	2,390	85.77%
Fayette County, IN	0	40	0.00%
Total	5,760	8,430	68.33%

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





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

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

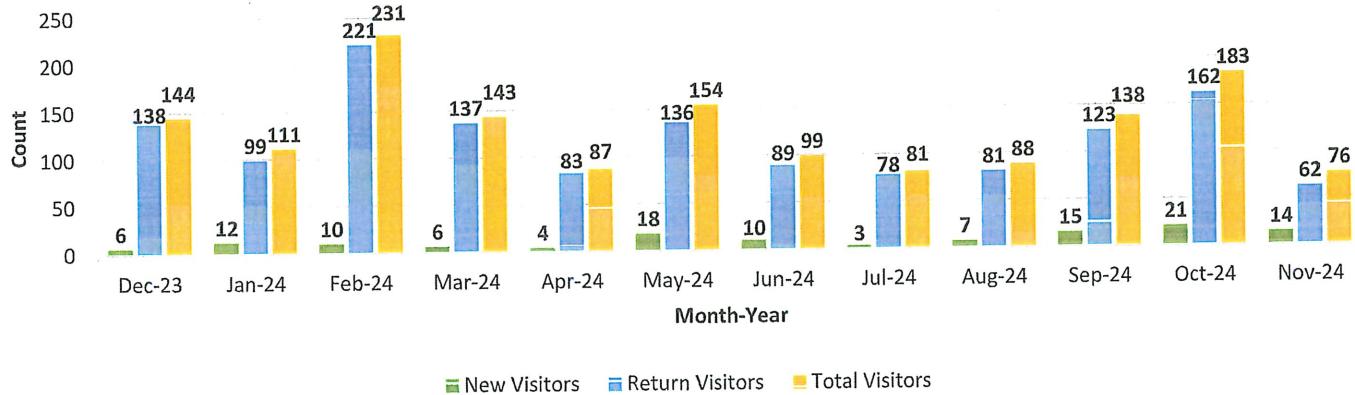


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2023 and 2024

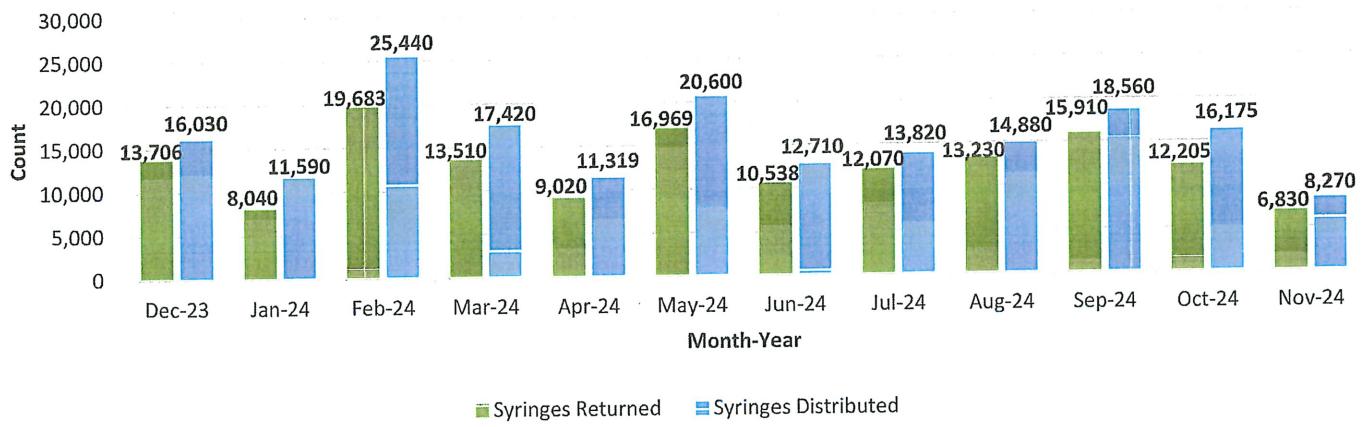


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Fairfield SSP Site for November 2024

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	6,220	7,850	79.24%
Hamilton County, OH	610	420	145.24%
Total	6,830	8,270	82.59%



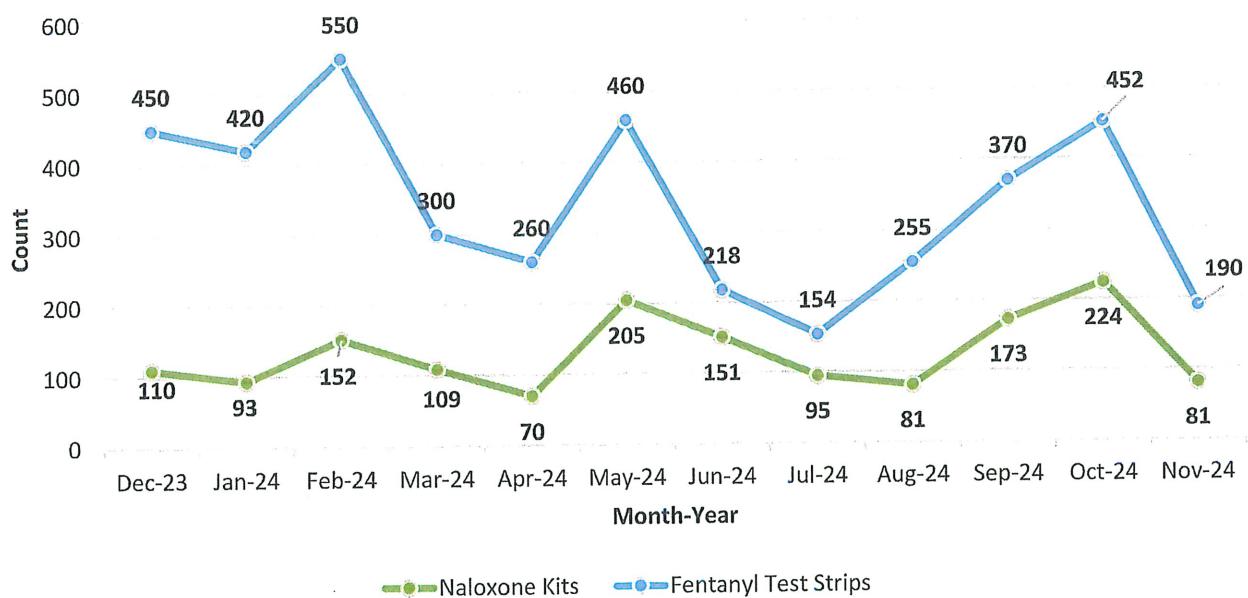
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

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

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	2,330	3,010	77.41%
45013	1,790	2,390	74.90%
45015	1,060	1,100	96.36%
Hamilton Total	5,180	6,500	79.69%
Middletown			
45042	0	40	0.00%
45044	620	690	89.86%
Middletown Total	620	730	84.93%
45014 - Fairfield	420	620	67.74%
Butler County Total	6,220	7,850	79.24%

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



City of Middletown Health Department

November 2024

Vital Statistics

	MONTHLY	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	61	797
Death Certificates Filed	62	973
Birth Certificates Issued	299	3791
Death Certificates Issued	301	3682
Indigent Cremation Services	1	30

Deaths Filed

Accidental

Drug Overdose	1	20
Falls	0	2
Motor Vehicle	0	5
Exposure to Elements	0	0
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	0
Homicide	0	2
Suicide	0	5
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	4
Could Not Be Determined	0	3
Pending Investigation	8	8

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

Environmental Inspections

	MONTHLY	YTD
Food Service Operations(FSO)	40	443
Retail Food Establishments(RFE)	30	213
Prelicense/Consultations	11	82
Sewage Inspections	0	8
School Inspections	11	42
Vending Locations	13	28
Temporary FSO/RFE	0	30
Mobile FSO/RFE	0	28
Complaints	7	41
Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	5
Swimming Pools	2	87
Tattoo	4	15
Temp Park/Park Camp	1	7
Jail Inspection	0	1
Site Visit (Septic)	0	0
Well Inspection	0	0
T-21	0	45
Temporary Body Art	0	1

Level 1 Certification Training

Number of Attendees

0

Animal Bite Events

Dog	3	68
Cat	0	7
Bat	0	2
Raccoon/skunk-Animal Exposure	0	3



Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

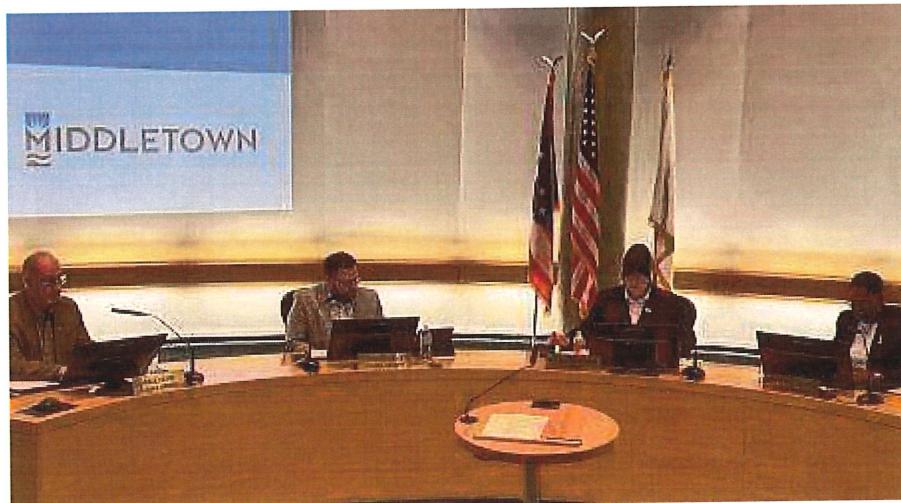
For November 2024

Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (30 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1 @ The Square	Complaint 8/11/24							X	No appeal filed
2 Hart Industries	Complaint 11/13/24		X						No violations observed, dismissed 11/26/24
3									

Notes:

Police staffing top 2025 priority in Middletown

City hopes to add officers, but projected total would still be well below national average.



The four new Middletown City Council members attend their first meeting together earlier this year. It was the first time in city history where four new members were elected or appointed in the same year. From left: Paul Horn, Steve West II, Mayor Elizabeth Slamka and Jennifer Carter. The four are expected to vote on a budget for 2025 later this month. RICK MCCRABB / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

After several meetings and bit of retooling, Middletown's 2025 budget is poised for approval by council this month with a focus on police staffing to assure public safety in the city's developing East End.

The 2025 budget is one of "planned deficit spending" with projected revenue of approximately \$51.5 million and \$54.9 million in expenditures after two years of "purposely supplanting and growing the general fund

balance knowing when we got to a critical mass there was an opportunity for the city to make significant and strategic investments in people, projects and programs," said Acting City Manager Nathan Cahall.

While council is onboard with spending down a part of the "rainy day" fund, sustainability of positions is a concern.

The 2024 general fund year end balance is expected to be about \$22 million and \$18.7 million in 2025, according to staff reports.

"(The) financial forecast for the general fund sees that level of planned general fund deficit spending ending in 2026 with the fund maintaining approximately 35% reserve balance into the future," according to the budget proposal.

As council wrangled with personnel spending questions, it was clear public safety is the first priority.

The city's purchase of the Towne Mall to guide future development, ground breaking this year on an aquatic center, the Renaissance Pointe event center and retail project and several residential developments has council focused on the division of police staffing needs.

The police department general fund budget for 2025 will be \$16,176,263. In addition, there is \$289,743 budgeted from other specific funding sources that can be used for police activities, according to the staff proposed budget report.

During a recent work session, Councilman Paul Lolli, the former city manager, said in 2023 there were informal discussions to bring the police department's authorized officer number to 90 by the year 2026.

Currently that number from the chief down to patrol is 82. The 2025 budget originally proposed an additional two officers as well as an additional dispatcher and corrections officer. After council input, the number of additional officers increased to three.

But at the work session, council also questioned if that number was enough.

Lolli said that 90-officer goal was low based on the national average of 110 officers for a city with a 50,000 population.

“We need more officers on the street,” Lolli said, adding that with the East End development the population will increase.

Council members all agreed more officers were needed, but how many in one year is the question without eating too far into reserves.

Council members Steve West II and Paul Horn also pushed to explore converting the current fire station on South Dixie Highway into a police substation once the division of fire moves into new stations all slated for completion in 2025.

The newest proposed budget calls for a total of six new officers in 2025 bringing the total up to 88.

Middletown's JD Vance to be VP: Here's his 'rags to riches story'

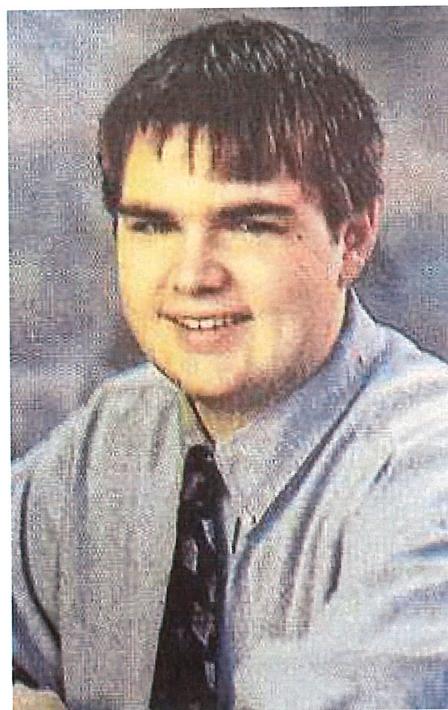
CLOSER LOOK



Ohio Senate candidate JD Vance meets with supporters after casting his ballot at a polling location in Cincinnati, in 2022. JEFF DEAN / AP



JD Vance speaks as former President Donald Trump listens at a U. S. Senate campaign rally at Wright Bros. Aero Inc. at Dayton International Airport on Nov. 7, 2022, in Vandalia. MICHAEL CONROY / AP



Vice President-Elect JD Vance was known as James Hamel when he graduated from Middletown High School in 2003. PHOTO FROM YEARBOOK

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

James David “JD” Vance, already a U.S. Senator, will become the country’s vice president after the victory by Donald Trump on Tuesday.

This is a far cry from his humble beginnings growing up in Middletown. His father left home when JD was a young boy, and his mother struggled with drug addiction his entire life.

When Vance first rose to political prominence with his Senate win, this newspaper chronicled this time in Middletown and beyond to help readers understand how his life unfolded and why he was now one of Ohio’s most notable political figures.

Early beginnings

JD Vance credits his “Mamaw” for raising him and being his role model.

He called her “a tough woman, very disciplined and very firm” and the reason he graduated from Middletown High School in 2003, served in the U.S. Marines during the Iraq War, graduated from Ohio State University, received his law degree from Yale Law School, wrote a best-selling book, “Hillbilly Elegy,” co-founded Narya, a venture capital firm in Cincinnati, and now is one of the 100 U.S. senators.

“Her discipline kept me on a pretty good path myself,” Vance said during a phone interview with this news agency days after his Senate swearing in ceremony.

“Some kids from a troubled family don’t have a guiding hand. She was a saving grace and kept me from the other chaos.”

Without that guidance, Vance doesn’t know where he would be today. Maybe a high school dropout. Or possibly a man with a criminal record. He wouldn’t be one of Ohio’s two state senators. That’s for certain, he said.

There were years, he said, when some of the neighborhood kids didn't have new school clothes, so his mamaw made sacrifices to purchase them back-to-school items.

"I was very much influenced by her sense of empathy and love for people around me," he said.

Her "world views" also shaped Vance as an adult and will guide some of his decisions in Washington.

He said his mamaw was "a blue collar Democrat" who believed people deserve good jobs, who believed people deserved prosperity, but expected them to work.

'There is a lot of work to be done'

Vance, now 40, never figured to enter politics until several years ago when he moved back to Ohio, and then Portman announced he was retiring. By this time, Vance was an accomplished author of "Hillbilly Elegy," which Director Ron Howard turned into a movie with many scenes shot in and around Middletown.

"A lot of things were going right for me," he said. So he decided to run for senate. He called running a campaign "a job interview" and said he had some ideals that voters would either accept or reject.

"Now the hard part starts," he said.

That's because Vance, a Republican, like others from his party in Washington, faced an uphill battle with a Democratic president and divided congress, with Republicans having the majority in the House and the minority in the Senate.

He said politicians need to address the "terrible" energy crisis that's raising prices across the board and the open southern borders that are allowing illegal weapons and drugs to enter the country.

Democrats, he said, are blind to those issues. "They don't see any reason to work with us," Vance said.

So Vance, who has opened local offices in Columbus, Cleveland and Toledo, hopes to find particular issues and rely on his principles and priorities to "get something done," he said. People don't want those working in Washington to "sit on their hands and yell at each other," he said.

He called being elected "an incredible honor" that also comes with a responsibility. "There is a lot of work to be done," he said.

Regardless of what happens in Washington, Vance tries to stay grounded by helping his wife, Usha, raise their three young children.

For him, "a good day" is having no one sick in the family, eating breakfast with them and driving the kindergartner to school, he said.

Rooted in southwest Ohio

Vance was born in Middletown in 1984 as James Donald Bowman, the son of Donald Bowman and Bev Vance.

After his parents divorced, he was adopted by his mother's third husband.

Throughout his years in Middletown, Vance went by James Hamel, his stepfather's surname, until changing to Vance in honor of his grandparents.

At Middletown High School, Vance was elected vice president of the Class of 2003. A picture in the high school yearbook, *The Optimist*, shows Vance and the other three class officers, all females.

Brenda Lansaw, who has worked in the MHS counselor's office for more than 25 years, remembers Vance as "a pretty quiet kid" who didn't seek the spotlight.

She met Vance through his good friend, Nate Ellis, Lansaw said.

She never could have predicted so much success for Vance 20 years ago, she said. "He really has put himself out there," she said.

Nancy Nix, Butler County's auditor, certainly likes what she sees in Vance. Nix and her husband, Bob Leshnak, are "big supporters" of Vance, she said. They attended his first fundraiser in 2021.

After reading Vance's book, Nix became interested in the man behind the words. After meeting him, she realized Vance "was special and his intellect knows no bounds."

Nix lived in Middletown for 23 years and most of her longtime friends still live there. She called Vance's journey from Middletown to Washington "a rags to riches story."

After he won his senate seat, She said she didn't see Washington changing Vance.

She expects him to become a spokesman for the Senate and to push his policies — closing the borders, lowering inflation and assisting drug addicts — that align with her priorities.

"He's the new generation," Nix said. "He's exactly what this country needs."

‘We are going to have a friend in the White House’

Once a Trump critic. Vance will serve as VP to the 47th president.



Molly Steele (left) and Nicole DiMuzio take a selfie during the Butler County Republican Party election results watch party Tuesday at Lori's Roadhouse in West Chester Township. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Butler County Commissioner TC Rogers gets a photo taken during the Butler County Republican Party election results watch party Tuesday at Lori's Roadhouse in West Chester Township. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY RICK MCCRABB CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This wasn't your normal Tuesday night at Lori's Road House, a massive West Chester Twp. country bar and concert venue.

Sure, throughout most of the night, a lady standing on stage gave line dancing lessons as nearly 50 people, mostly wearing blue jeans and cowboy boots, tried to follow along as the music blared throughout the building.

But the real party was taking place in a corner of the room as members of the Butler County Republican Party held a celebration to mark the end of their months on the campaign trail.

By the end of the night, when it appeared Donald Trump would be elected the 47th president of the United States and his running mate, JD Vance, a Middletown native, would be Ohio's first elected vice president, most of the party-goers had called it a night.

But before that they came out in droves to support Trump and Vance. Just over 62% of voters in Butler County voted in favor of the Republican candidates.

In his hometown of Middletown, the Trump/Vance ticket received 62 percent of the vote.

Tuesday's night event attracted some of the biggest names in Butler County politics, but also those who worked tirelessly for local and national candidates, said Jennifer Barlow, Trump 2024 campaign chair for Butler County.

People watched the results on Fox News on large-screen TVs flanked by life-size cardboard cutouts of Trump and Vance. They posed for selfies in a photo booth that included plastic bags as props in reference to President Joe Biden calling Trump supporters "garbage."

Barlow organized the party after putting her life on hold to volunteer for the campaign.

"I do it because I love my country," Barlow said. "I need to help the country be as good as it can be. I have grandchildren and children and I need the country to be a good place for them."

She believes Trump and Vance will "take our country in the right direction."

Barlow has been impressed by Vance, a 2003 Middletown High School graduate who was elected to the U.S. Senate two years ago. Vance, 40, has become the third-youngest vice president in American history.

"He's a very kind man and I'd trust him with my child," she said. "I wish he was my son."

She believes Vance's upbringing in Middletown and his Appalachian roots, both well documented in his best-selling 2016 book, "Hillbilly

"Elegy," and in the 2020 film adaptation directed by Ron Howard, formed him into the man he is today.

"We are as we grow," Barlow said. "We are what we learned. He went through so much turmoil and he came out of that in such a positive way."

Vance's mother, Beverly Aikins, took to Facebook on Wednesday to celebrate her son's win.

"Too big to rig," she wrote.

"Popular vote by more than five million. Two hundred seventy seven electoral votes and still counting. Trump Vance 2024."

Kim Harsch, 61, of West Chester, recently retired from GE Aerospace. She hopes Trump and Vance improve the economy.

"Who can withstand the last four years?" she asked.

"People can not afford groceries."

The youngest person at the Republican rally was Ben Nguyen, 17, a senior at Lakota West High School. He wore a Trump red baseball hat and an X marked on his hand indicated to the bartenders he was too young to drink alcohol.

But his youth didn't stop him from soaking in the excitement of having a Butler County native as vice president.

"We are going to have one of our own in the White House," he said. "We are going to have a friend in the White House who will remember all the people in Middletown, Ohio."

After Trump's second term ends in four years, Vance could be in line to be the next president.

Few could have predicted Vance's meteoric rise in the political arena.

Once an outspoken critic of Trump, Vance was credited by the former president for helping him return to the White House. Just eight years ago, when Trump was preparing for his first presidential run, Vance questioned whether he was "America's Hitler" and later labeled him a "moral disaster."

Then Vance's opinions shifted dramatically by 2020.

He slowly embraced Trump's politics, then was endorsed by Trump during the 2022 Ohio Senate race when Vance narrowly defeated Democratic congressman Tim Ryan for Ohio's open seat created when U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, retired.

"People's opinions change," Vance has said about his thoughts on Trump.

Two days after Trump survived an assassination attempt in Butler, Pa., he called Vance and offered him the vice president position.

After being selected, during interviews, Vance repeated unverified claims about Haitian immigrants allegedly eating pets in Springfield, Ohio. While there was no evidence to support these claims, Vance said it was important to draw attention to pressing issues such as immigration.

"If I have to create stories so that the American media pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that's what I'm going to do," Vance had told CNN.

On Tuesday morning, Vance, accompanied by his wife, Usha, and their three young children voted at St. Anthony of Padua Church on Victory Parkway.

After meeting with local and national media for about five minutes, Vance turned and started to walk toward one of the U.S. Secret Service vehicles. But first, his two sons wanted to jump off a wall and into their father's arms.

On Wednesday, Vance took to X and thanked Americans for making him the vice president.

“THANK YOU! To my beautiful wife for making it possible to do this. To President Donald J. Trump, for giving me such an opportunity to serve our country at this level.

“And to the American people, for their trust. I will never stop fighting for ALL of you.”

Middletown police promotions fill command staff

Officers promoted to lieutenant, sergeant positions.



New Middletown Police Lt. Anthony Gibson (left) and Lt. Trey Porter (right) were promoted Tuesday night by Chief Earl Nelson (at podium). CITY OF MIDDLETOWN /CONTRIBUTED

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Six Middletown police officers were promoted this week and this completes the Middletown Division of Police command staff for the first time in nearly a year after the departure of the former chief.

Sergeants Trey Porter and Anthony Gibson were promoted to the two open lieutenant positions and officers Jordan Wagers, Lindsey Schwarber, Adam Cox and Detective Jason Wargo were promoted to

sergeant.

There are now a total of 10 filled sergeant positions and two lieutenants. One lieutenant's position was added and another vacant when Malcomb Tipton was promoted to deputy chief earlier this year.

Deputy Chiefs Andy Warrick and Ryan Morgan, who was also promoted from sergeant to major in August along with Tipso make up the top tier of the command staff.

"This is a great group of individuals we are going to promote tonight," police Chief Earl Nelson said at Tuesday night's council meeting. "I want to reassure council and the citizens of Middletown that these individuals we are putting in leadership roles are going to be great."

Nelson, a 19-year veteran of the force, was named police chief in August after months of two acting chiefs at the helm.

Per department policy, promotions from the chief down must be internal and are done through civil service testing and interview evaluations.

Nelson said when he was named chief that his goal was to have all the command staff in place by the end of the year.

The two new lieutenants have a combined 25 years of experience. Porter is a 12-year veteran and served as a assistant SWAT team commander and former detective.

Gibson is a 13-year veteran, who served as a K-9 supervisor and jail commander.

The four new sergeants bring a combination of 47 years of experience to the their new rank.

Schwarber, a seven-year-veteran and daughter of former police chief Greg Schwarber, is an experienced K-9 handler and a field training

officer.

Jordan Wagers, a nine-year veteran, is a training officer, a SWAT team leader and a former detective in the narcotics division.

Adam Cox, an eight-year veteran, was a field training officer and a team leader for the SWAT team.

Jason Wargo, a 23-year-veteran, was most recently the department's lead evidence technician and Taser and training instructor.

Nelson said the new command structure will "streamline information getting out to the public."

It is the first time since the departure of former police Chief David Birk in December and his eventual retirement that the police command staff is filled.

Cost of food, housing, fuel ‘particularly alarming’

Local pantries struggling to meet families’ needs



Barb Martin picks an order at the Salvation Army emergency food pantry Thursday in Middletown. Martin averages more than 100 hours a month of volunteer time at the food pantry. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Members of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce help at a Shared Harvest food drive. CONTRIBUTED

BY RICK MCCRABB CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At a time when groceries, gasoline and housing are costing consumers more, local foodbanks and food pantries are seeing an increased need for their services.

Shared Harvest Foodbank, the Fairfield-based organization that supplies local food pantries, and its affiliates distributed food to more than 49,000 residents throughout southwest Ohio in October, said Executive Director Terry Perdue.

He said based on current trends, it is expected that this number may increase by an average of 1,000 people each month through the end of

the year.

Jane Fiessinger, coordinator of the Middletown Salvation Army food pantry, said it serves about 1,000 Middletown, Monroe, Trenton and Madison Twp. families a month. That number has doubled in the last three years, and some are first-time clients, she said.

The overall rising costs of food, housing, fuel, and other essentials are impacting the ability for families to afford basic necessities, Perdue said. Those impacted most are seniors on fixed incomes and families with young children, he said.

This is “particularly alarming” as food pantries are already struggling to keep food on the shelves to meet the growing demand, he said.

There are 27 food pantries in Butler County, 13 in Warren County and four in Preble County, according to a listing on the Shared Harvest website.

Food insecurity is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life due to limited financial resources.

In 2022, the most recent data available, overall food insecurity increased from 10.4% in 2021 to 13.5% in 2022, according to the USDA. That change reflects the largest one-year increase since 2008, which amounts to 44 million people, or one in every seven.

Founded in 1983 by Tina Osso, Shared Harvest, which serves Butler, Warren, Preble, Darke and Miami counties, is seeking donations of food to support families throughout the winter, according to Perdue.

Most needed items are canned vegetables, combination foods such as soup, mac & cheese, canned raviolis, proteins such as peanut butter, beans and canned meats such as tuna and chicken.

Additionally, Perdue said, a \$15 sponsorship will help provide a holiday

meal to an average family of four.

Shared Harvest's mission is to find, rescue, and distribute food to people living in poverty through an efficient network, utilizing the public and private sectors and to raise awareness of the impact of poverty.

The Middletown Salvation Army pantry is open Monday through Friday and it doesn't limit how many times clients can receive food, Fiessinger said. She described the assistance "as needed" to get families "over the hump."

It all comes back to simple math, Fiessinger said. While inflation has doubled, assistance hasn't doubled. She said some families are "desperate" for food.

"They depend on us," she said.

‘A Very Merry Middletown’ ushers in season

A 67-day celebration of the holiday season will start Friday.



Holiday lights are installed and the outdoor ice skating rink is being prepared Wednesday to bring about “A Very Merry Middletown.” NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Holiday fun begins this week with the unveiling of the downtown ice rink and will continue through season as part of “A Very Merry Middletown.”

The 67-day celebration that’s a collaboration between the city, Light Up Middletown, Holiday Whopla Inc. and Downtown Middletown Inc., will begin Friday with the unveiling of the Holiday Whopla Ice Skating Rink

located at 39 N. Broad St. Avinne Kiser, one of the founders of Holiday Whopla, said she is pleased that the event has welcomed new participants, businesses and sponsors, which is key to its long-term success.

With several groups planning events, Kiser said the decision was made to create the umbrella organization of "A Very Merry Middletown" to let visitors know about all the holiday happenings in the city.

"There is something to do pretty much every day," Kiser said, noting while the rink will open Friday, all the surrounding Whopla attractions will start Thanksgiving Day and the Santa Parade will be the following Saturday, Nov. 30.

"With all the wonders Middletown has to offer during the holiday season, I am thrilled that Very Merry Middletown includes them all.

Very Merry Middletown is an excellent way to bring new people into our city to enjoy the delights of the season our residents already know and love. We are excited for this opportunity to promote Middletown," said Mayor Elizabeth Slamka.

The skating rink and festive surroundings offer families an array of experiences in addition to ice skating including immersive light displays, and photos of Santa and Mrs. Claus every Friday and Saturday from Nov. 29 to Dec. 21.

The rink will host special events such as skating with holiday characters, ice skating lessons and the option to rent a cozy heated igloo. Visitors can enjoy the ice-skating rink through Jan. 20, 2025.

One of the season's highlights, Light Up Middletown, begins Thanksgiving night, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. Visitors can drive through a 96-acre holiday wonderland at Smith Park on Tytus Avenue.

It is the 25th year for the light display that has grown, bringing holiday

magic to families all over the tri-state area.

A Very Merry Middletown has a variety of festive events throughout the holiday season including free carriage rides after the parade, shopping, drinking, and dining in the city's historic downtown.

"We couldn't have asked for a better team to bring one of the region's most significant and splendid holiday celebrations to our remarkable city," said DMI Executive Director Jeff Payne.

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

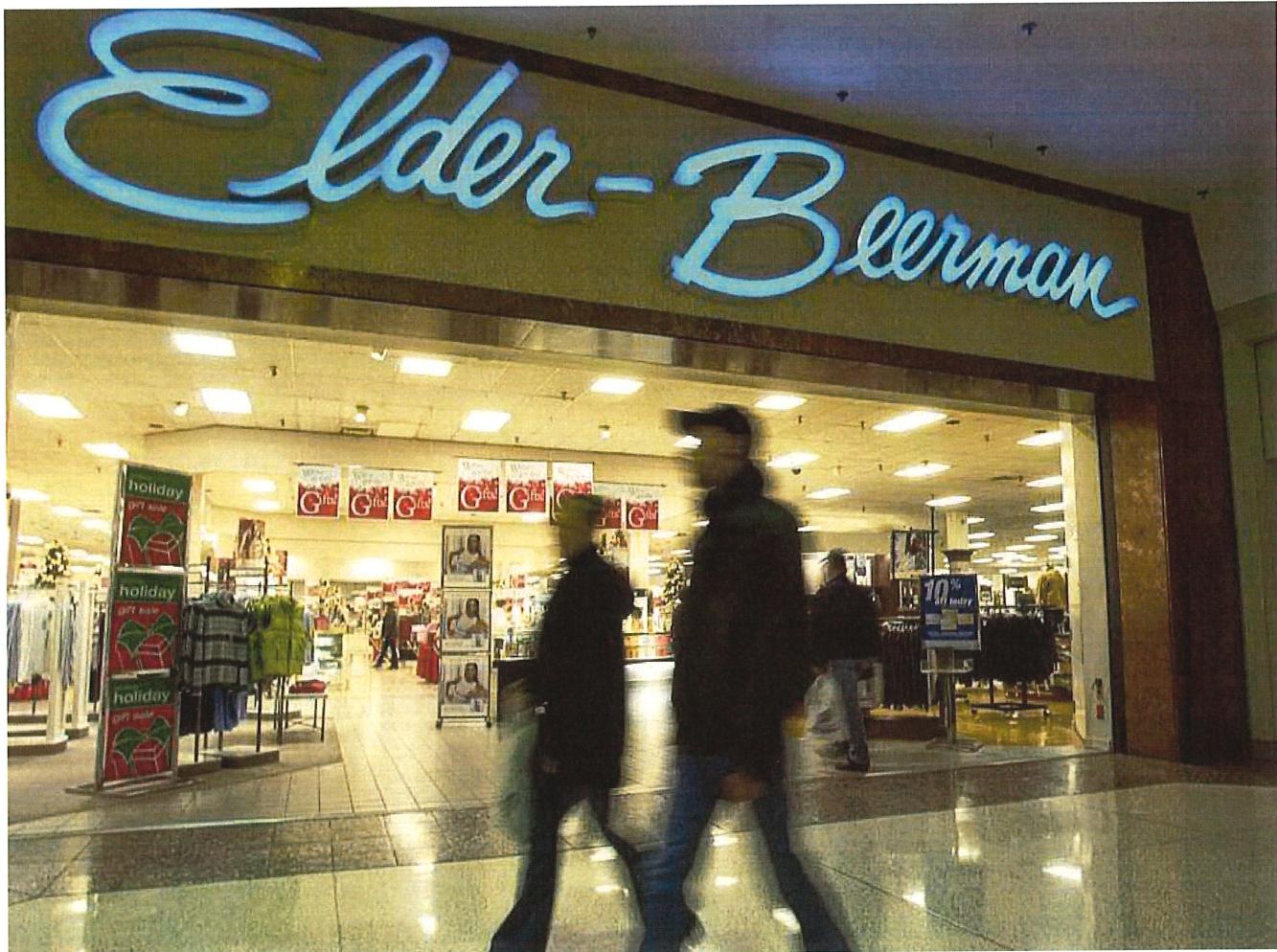
Leaders seek public input on future of Towne Mall

Middletown residents can share ideas in online survey, Dec. 16 town hall meeting.



Planet Fitness is the only anchor tenant at Middletown's 32-acre Towne Mall, which was purchased by the city in July. Like many other shopping centers, the mall has suffered tenant losses as shopping habits changed over the last decade.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Milwaukee-based Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. announced Nov. 2, 2016, that it would close its Elder-Beerman store in Towne Mall Galleria in Middletown. Have ideas about the future development of the largely empty mall in Middletown's East End? City leaders want to hear your thoughts through an online survey at www.cityofmiddletown.org/forms.aspx?fid=65. Participants will be entered into a drawing for a gift card, and the survey will close Dec. 13. STAFF

BY LAUREN PACK STAFF WRITER

Have ideas about the future development of the largely empty Towne Mall in Middletown's East End? Now is your chance. City leaders want to hear your thoughts through an online survey.

Once city leaders review survey results, a town hall meeting is planned for Dec. 16 at the mall, and beginning early next year there will be a

council strategic planning session, followed by a formal request for proposals to developers likely in February, according to Councilman Paul Lolli.

The city finalized the \$10 million purchase of the four-parcel, 32-acre mall in July to guide what goes on the land, a gateway to Middletown in the middle of surging development along Interstate 75.

No specific plan for the land or the existing building has been announced in the past three months since the purchase, but Acting Middletown City Manager Nathan Cahall said council is trying to decide how best to move forward with the property.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said council and city staff want to hear from "residents and stakeholders" as they work on a plan for the site.

"We are asking, 'What would you like to see there?' And it can be anything. It can be outside the box, whatever you would like," Slamka said.

She noted one of the questions on the survey addresses what takes people out of Middletown and what they leave the city to do.

"It helps us understand what our residents and stakeholders would like to see there and what would make a difference in their lives," Slamka said.

"I think it is just a great way to begin this question as a city of what do we want to be there. It is a very important gateway into the city."

To take the survey, visit www.cityofmiddletown.org/forms.aspx?fid=65.

Those who take the survey can also enter to win a drawing for a \$25 gift card.

The survey will close Dec. 13.

The survey announcement Friday via social media garnered more than 300 responses even before the survey went live.

Middletown made an offer to purchase Towne Mall last year with the intent of placing Renaissance Pointe at the location but withdrew the offer. Renaissance Pointe is a nearly 51-acre mixed-use \$200 million development at Ohio 122 and Union Road that will include an event center, retail and offices, hotels, restaurants and residential units.

Ground-breaking for that project was in the summer.

The Towne Mall, like many others across the nation, has suffered in recent years with loss of tenants and shifts in shopping trends. It now includes one large tenant, Planet Fitness.

When the city's Towne Mall purchase was announced, two council member, one of whom is no longer in office, said they envisioned the project as a teardown of the mall, possibly using state brownfield remediation grant money, to have the land shovel-ready for a developer.

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

'We are asking what would you like to see there. And it can be anything. It can be outside the box, whatever you would like.' Elizabeth Slamka
Middletown mayor

GOODBYE, BIG BOY

MIDDLETOWN



The Frisch's restaurant on Germantown Road in Middletown is one of several in the area that have closed recently after eviction notices were filed. In 2015, the buildings and land for 73 Frisch's restaurants were sold to NNN, with Frisch's Inc. leasing back the properties to continue operations. Eight were sold. However, court documents reveal that Frisch's Inc. began falling behind on its \$1.2 million monthly lease payments in April for the remaining 65 restaurants. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

Middletown State of the City: Renaissance 'is here and here to stay'

Mayor Slamka touts 2024 cultural events, business development.



Citizens and city leaders and staff attend Middletown's State of the City address at the Middletown Event Center on Tuesday. NICK GRAHAM PHOTOS / STAFF



Mayor Elizabeth Slamka delivers the State of the City address on Tuesday.

BY LAUREN PACK | STAFF WRITER

In her first State of the City address, Middletown Mayor Elizabeth Slamka pointed to a plethora of activities, improvements and ongoing developments that are moving the city forward in a renaissance that "is here and it is here to stay."

"The state of our city is bright, the state of our city is now," Slamka said.

More than 100 citizens, city leaders and employees gathered at the Events Center of Middletown on Central Avenue on Tuesday night to hear about the city's 2024 accomplishments.

Slamka, who took office in December along with three new council members, thanked city staff members for their work during changes in leadership during the past year.

This year, Middletown was the focus of national and international media coverage with the election of native son JD Vance as the nation's next

vice president.

Slamka said with the spotlight, "(We) have been able to showcase what it means to be Middletown strong, Middletown resilient, Middletown soaring."

That has happened by "illustrating our illustrious blue-collar steel-making identity while also welcoming arts and culture," she said. "We have achieved much in this last year and we have much left to do."

Residents' quality of life was a focus this year with "high-quality events in every corner of Middletown" planned by staff and community organizations, including A Very Merry Middletown, Light up Middletown, the Ohio Challenge, Food Truck Fridays, farmer's markets, Arts in the Park and a St. Patrick's Day parade and the city's first comic expo.

An investment has been made in updating and refurbishing several city parks, including Smith, Goldman, Sherman and Oakland parks.

Slamka pointed to the tear-down of the former paperboard plant that was in ruins for years from vandalism and a massive arson fire.

"What was once an eyesore is no more," Slamka said, noting the site's future development is part of the city's rebirth.

Several projects began or were announced this year that will mean more jobs and better programs in the city, including the renovation and expansion of the Robert "Sonny" Hill Community Center that stalled in previous years and the proposed Cleveland-Cliffs' overhaul of ironmaking systems and installing a new environmentally friendly system at Middletown Works.

"Economically, the project will secure the existing 2,500 jobs at Middletown Works while also adding 170 new jobs to the plant. The designing and building of the state-of-the-art manufacturing facility will bring 1,200 construction jobs to Middletown during the peak construction phase,"

Slamka said. "This significant investment will allow the city of Middletown to continue to grow a strong workforce with our largest employer with opportunities for Middletown residents to prosper."

Three new initiatives in the city's East End "will completely transform and revitalize the I-75 corridor, attracting the tens of thousands of individuals driving the major interstate every day to choose stops in Middletown," she said.

Those projects are the city's purchase of the largely empty Towne Mall for \$10 million with the intention to control the development of that land.

"Assistant City Manager Ashley Combs is currently in the process of asking residents and stakeholders to complete a short survey for what they would like to see at the site. Staff is asking everyone to think outside the box and look at the site as if it were a clean slate and we were starting afresh in building something new," Slamka said.

Also in the I-75 corridor, council approved funding for the construction of an aquatic center at the Atrium Family YMCA.

"This new water attraction will allow today's children and their families to create lasting summer memories right here in Middletown," the mayor said. Completion is slated for summer 2025.

In one of the largest investments of the past decade, the city broke ground in June on the transformative Renaissance Pointe project.

It will be anchored by an arena/event center with surrounding retail, restaurants, and residential units.

"This \$200 million investment at the intersection of State Route 122 and Union Road will allow Middletown to compete with other municipalities with large developments along the highway, such as Union Center, Liberty Center, the Monroe Outlet Mall, Austin Landing and the Dayton Mall," Slamka said.

“The city expects Renaissance Pointe to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors a year, spending their money and patronizing businesses in Middletown.”

Overuse of social media a threat to kids' health

Area teens, experts say technology can exacerbate mental health challenges.



Springboro High School junior Rhiannon Price said she learned about disordered eating and self harm on Twitter, and that heavy social media use worsened her depression. JIM NOELKER / STAFF



From left: Cheryl Ferenczi, Rick Price and Rhiannon Price. Of her struggles with depression and an eating disorder, Rhiannon Price said, "I completely forgot how severe it was. ... Talking about this now, I'm like, 'I can't believe I did that.'" JIM NOELKER / STAFF



MENTAL HEALTH **MATTERS**

KIDS IN CRISIS

BY EILEEN MCCLORY AND SAMANTHA WILDOW STAFF WRITERS

Editor's note: This story contains mention of self-harm. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 to the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, 24/7.

For Rhiannon Price, joining Twitter, the social media platform now known as X, wasn't just about connecting with friends and seeing trending topics.

It was where she learned to starve herself and where she found a "sponsor" who encouraged her to do it.

"I would post pictures of my body completely malnourished and have people comment on it," Price said.

Price, now a junior at Springboro High School, experienced depression during her freshman year.

From stressful and time-consuming extracurricular activities to an eating disorder, her mental health struggles were exacerbated by people she met online. But she eventually found hope.

"It was very, very rough for a very long time," Price said. "Then last summer, I was getting into school and something like snapped, and I was just like, 'This can't be my life anymore. I got to get better' and I did. And that's when I stopped self-harming, and I got rid of everything that was terrible in my life."

Dr. Kelley Blankenship, the division chief of psychiatry at Dayton Children's Hospital, said social media can be tricky to navigate.

It's a key way for kids to connect with their friends, but their parents didn't grow up with it, so they don't have experience navigating that as a teenager.

"Social media isn't bad," she said. "It's just that kids have to be able to use it in a safe manner."

In investigating the role of technology and social media in worsening youth mental health, our investigation found that children and teens today are some of the first people to grow up with social media, as well

as technology like texting and instant private messaging, which can keep adolescents in constant communication with others.

Teens who spoke with the newspaper said even if social media hasn't touched their own mental health, they have seen its effects on their friends.

Experts in adolescent behavior and neuropsychology agree that a high level of social media use is linked in multiple studies to worse mental health outcomes.

The world on the web

Online, there are perfectly curated photos portraying people's best looks and best lives, displayed for everybody else to see.

Adolescents can start to compare themselves and their lives to those pictures online, one local expert says, making them feel like everyone on social media is living better lives, has more friends, and has better looks.

"It really presents – to especially female adolescents – really presents to them this world which they're never going to achieve or never live up to," Blankenship said.

Several studies, including a 2023 Yale study reviewing brain scans of 9- and 10-year-olds, have linked overuse of the platforms to worse mental health outcomes.

Young adults are the first generation who grew up with this amount of technology at their fingertips. Smartphones weren't invented until 2007 and they became more common during the 2010s. Instagram was released in 2010.

Snapchat was released in 2011. TikTok became big in 2020, when the pandemic forced millions of people out of work and school and into their homes. And the pandemic changed how many people use social media.

"Kids were not having many social interactions, they did not have the predictive routine of wake-and-sleep schedules, and may have experienced fear about how the pandemic would play out," said Sheree Coffman, a student assistance coordinator.

"Many kids relied more heavily on social media for connection, which sometimes worsened mental health."

Price, while in the midst of her mental health struggles, found herself seeking out others who could relate, but the support she and others found perpetuated the harm.

"I would use Twitter as a way to connect to other people who were also going through it, but not in like a healthy way," she said.

They set up rules for each other that worsened their eating disorders.

"There were kids younger than me," Price said. "There were 13-year-olds on that app, and we would just have a group chat almost of just, 'What did you guys eat today?' or, like, 'What was the calorie count?'"

Cheryl Ferenczi, Price's mom, and Rick Price, her dad, shared the shock they felt when they found out what their daughter was going through and the other ways in which she was hiding her eating disorder, which included purging.

"I felt my heart stop," Ferenczi said. "It was just, I can't explain it. There are no words." "Shocked is the understatement," Rick Price said.

Rhiannon Price also struggled with self-harm, which she was introduced to in seventh and eighth grades before it really took hold during her freshman year.

"It was just terrible," she said. "It was very difficult to overcome that. It was something that I struggled with very greatly. It was one of the only things that would produce dopamine for me."

Ferenczi knew something was going on because she was consistently running out of Band-Aids, she said.

Looking back, Price realized she suppressed a lot of these memories, she said, trying to forget about it.

"I completely forgot how severe it was. ... Talking about this now, I'm like, 'I can't believe I did that,'" she said.

She isn't opposed to looking back at her memories of this time in her life, though, because it's something she knows other people are still going through, she said.

Hundreds of notifications a day

Other teens have found themselves struggling with social media use.

High school junior Grace Weigand said she suffered from anxiety, and said limiting her time on social media has helped her manage the condition.

Weigand said she finds herself comparing her own life to others on social media.

"You have to remember that's not real," she said.

She has to stop scrolling and ask herself what she can do about it. "There's nothing I can do to change that," she said. "I just like to focus on who I am, you know?" Weigand said she limits social media time on her phone. On an iPhone, a "screen time" feature can allow a parent, guardian or user to limit time on apps.

To help herself concentrate while she's doing homework, Weigand puts her phone away and silences notifications.

She said she received between 126 and 162 notifications on her phone during the week of Aug. 31 to Sept. 4.

According to a Common Sense Media study, youth ages 11 to 17 get a median of 237 notifications on their phone each day.

Sophomore Will Ross said in middle school, he spent a lot of time on his phone. His middle school experience coincided with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, when kids were out of school, learning remotely and not seeing their friends.

"I was playing video games all day and on TikTok," he said.

He and his friends still use a lot of technology to connect.

They'll FaceTime each other just to hang out. They'll film a TikTok together. They'll send Snapchat messages.

But Ross said he found he was more sad in the middle school days when he spent more time on his phone.

"Now, I feel really good about my use since I'm really busy," he said. "I think that's the best way to limit your screen time."

However, he, like Weigand, finds himself falling into the comparison trap of social media. For him, it's comparing himself to teens going pro in soccer or lifting more than he can. (Ross said he has not dealt with mental health problems.) "I think I'm pretty resilient.

I'm pretty confident," he said. "But sometimes that makes me feel less confident about myself."

Sophomore Gerry Smith said he thinks he spends too much time on his phone. Instagram and Snapchat are his primary social media platforms, but he said he likes to FaceTime and text his friends as well.

Smith went to school near Columbus for a few years and still has friends who live there. His phone is the primary way he keeps in touch with them.

But his screen time is around nine to 10 hours per day on average, which he says he knows is higher than many of his friends.

"Most kids my age aren't supposed to be on the phone all the time," he said.

"Some kids are playing sports and others getting out.

Spending almost 10 hours a day just on my phone? Whoa ... is that good? Is that good for me?"

'It's the emotion that's completely destroying you'

For Price and her family, their healing journey had setbacks they had to overcome, including Price not feeling ready to address her depression.

"I didn't really want it to go. I was just OK with having it, but it was something that I was also very miserable with," Price said.

She felt comforted in the emotion, she said, because it was something she was used to for a long time.

Price was hospitalized four times. There, she met other adolescents who felt similarly, she said.

"You need to identify the fact that that's not you telling you that you need to stay.

It's the emotion that's completely destroying you that's telling you that you need to stay in this feeling," she said. "I think it's good to identify that."

Price's depression continued until she and a friend who was going through a similar experience decided they both needed a change.

She quit a stressful afterschool activity and set boundaries around

social media.

"I'm the happiest I've been in a very long time," she said.

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Cox First Media, including the Journal-News, Springfield News-Sun and Dayton Daily News, continues in-depth reporting on mental health for children and adults. Read more at DaytonDailyNews. com.