



DATE: November 7, 2025
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN-Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for November 11, 2025**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **November 11, 2025** 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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 2025
(motion and approval)

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT- Unavailable due to cyber incident

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Third & Final Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03-HSTS & Private Water Fees
(motion to read by title only)
(motion to adopt)
3. Approval of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Contract
(motion to approve)
4. Review of ODH Immunization Initiative Agreement

REPORTS

Health Commissioner-Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Medical Director-Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Director of Nursing-Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Environmental Health Director-Carla Ealy, BS, REHS

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025 at 7:30AM.

It is the policy of 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 502-527-1280 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
October 14, 2025

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on October 14, 2025.

Members Present

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

Health Department Staff Present

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

Absent and Excused

None.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING- MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03-HSTS & Private Water Fees

Ms. Ealy stated that she has not received any comments regarding the proposed fee changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –September 2025

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the September Board of Health minutes.

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that August and September financial reports are unavailable at this time due to the cybersecurity incident.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations-None.

Second Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03- HSTS & Private Water Fees by title only

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03 by title only.

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

Adoption of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-04-By Emergency-Registered Service Providers to Collect Effluent Samples

City of Middletown Health Department is currently working with a contractor to install a system that will require effluent sampling to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). These types of systems are also required to have a contract with a registered service provider for ongoing maintenance and servicing.

Because these systems must be under contract, the approval granted to the contractor would also authorize them to collect effluent samples. Without this approval, only the health department can collect the effluent sample.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-04 by title only.

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

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Baggett to adopt MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-04-Registered Service Providers to Collect Effluent Samples.

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

Approval of CMHD Public Health Worker Agreement-DeAnna Shores

Ms. Phillips Carter explained that the Workforce Development Grant required specific language to be added to the current contract.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Sibcy to approve the CMHD Public Health Worker Agreement.

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

Approval of Contract for HSCloud Suite

Ms. Ealy explained that this contract is a special price offered to local health departments wishing to return to HealthSpace as opposed to continuing with Accela. This is a five-year contract which will be paid in annual installments.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Baggett to approve the contract for HSCloud Suite.

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

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the Association of Health Commissioners Conference was exceptional.

Ms. Phillips Carter noted that here were four short dynamic "TED TALKS." These focused on: endocrine disrupting chemicals, gun violence, where the mind meets the map (increased incidence of strokes in certain areas of Ohio) and tobacco regulation. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that all four were excellent discussions.

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the schedule for the unhoused shelters will be forthcoming; Shalom will be opening as usual.

Ms. Phillips Carter stressed the importance of trust on a local level. While politics can vary widely, the importance of a local health department is in the relationships and trust built with the community.

Medical Director

In Dr. Jennewine's absence, Ms. Corbin reported the September communicable disease cases.

C. auris	1
COVID-19	91
Chlamydia infection	23
Gonococcal Infection	5
Hepatitis C	2
Lyme Disease	1
Pertussis	2
Strep Pneumoniae-invasive	1
Streptococcal-Group B-in newborn	1
Syphilis	3

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the Board that as of October first, COVID is no longer reportable by case. Cases will now be reported by hospitalization, in the same way that flu cases are reported.

Ms. Corbin stated that the Health Fair was a success, noting a large turnout of vendors. The Health Collaborative donated a mobile sink to CMHD, allowing environmental staff to demonstrate proper handwashing at the health fair. Ms. Corbin informed the board that the After-Action Report meeting will be held October 17th at 9:30am.

Ms. Corbin stated that the 27% of the PHEP Contract that had previously been withheld was released, amounting to \$5,500 for CMHD. Five additional deliverables are required.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the Board that during September CMHD received one plan review-DHL micromarket. Irie Smoothie Mobile was licensed. CMHD also processed two changes of ownerships-Umbrella Restaurant and Bar (side by side facilities with separate licenses) and issued eight temporary food licenses.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD is still working closely with two failing septic systems located on Finley Street and Windsor Road.

CMHD continues to complete septic inspections and is still coming across some systems that have never been pumped. A system that was installed illegally without permits was also discovered while inspecting. Ms. Ealy stated that CMHD continues to share the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) grant information available to homeowners. Ms. Ealy stated that she reapplied for this grant in September for the year 2026.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that there are 684 homes with septic systems that require an OM permit. 109 homes did not pay for the permit, and the fees were assessed to property taxes. One homeowner refused to allow inspectors onto his property to conduct the inspection.

Board Member Open Discussion

Mayor Slamka inquired how word was being spread to homeowners about the availability of grant funds to assist with septic repairs.

Ms. Ealy stated that letters are being mailed to homeowners and inspectors will begin taking information sheets with them to the properties at the time of inspections. The information is also available on our website.

Ms. Lolli informed the Board that Walk With a Doc will be held Saturday, October 19th at Sunset Park. A chiropractor will be speaking, focusing on spinal health and back pain.



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

Mayor Slamka informed the board that the 8th Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon will be held November 6th at the Middletown Event Center. It is open to the public, but there are a limited number of seats. Guests are asked to register by October 30th at hospicecareofmiddletown.org.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21AM. The next meeting will be held on November 11, 2025, at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN

Secretary

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FEES CHARGED BY THE MIDDLETOWN BOARD OF HEALTH AS AUTHORIZED BY THE OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND OHIO REVISED CODE IN O.A.C. 3701-28 AND R.C. 3701.344 FOR PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS, AND O.A.C. 3701-29 AND R.C. 3718.06 FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Middletown Board of Health, Middletown, Ohio, that:

Section 1

The fees authorized by Ohio Administrative Code 3701-28 and R.C. Section 3701.344 for Private Water Systems are hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto.

Section 2

The fees authorized by Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29 and R.C. 3718.06 for Sewage Treatment Systems are hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto.

Section 3

The amended fees herein shall begin on December 1, 2025.


Elizabeth Slamka, President

1st Reading: 9/19/2025
2nd Reading: 10/14/2025
3rd Reading: 11/11/2025
Adopted: 11/11/2025


Jacquelyn Phillips Carter
Health Commissioner

Approved as to form:

Law Director

EXHIBIT A

Private Water Samples	Current Fee	New Fee
Total Coliform Samples (per sample)	\$65.00	\$65.00 plus lab cost
Nitrate Samples (per sample)	\$35.00	\$65.00 plus lab cost

Private Water Systems	Current Fee	New Fee
Installation of a Private Water System (Well) <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling; includes 1 water sample.</i>	\$100.00	\$250.00
Alteration of a Private Water System (Well) <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling; includes 1 water sample.</i>	\$100.00	\$225.00
Installation of a Private Water System (Non-well) <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling: Cisterns, Ponds, Springs, Hauled Water Storage Tanks. Includes 1 water sample. For ponds, turbidity lab fee required in addition to permit fee.</i>	\$100.00	\$250.00
Sealing of a Private Water System <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling</i>	\$30.00	\$75.00
Well Conversion <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling; includes 1 water sample.</i>	\$100.00	\$225.00
Construction of a Test Well <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling; includes 1 water sample.</i>	\$100.00	\$200.00
Alteration of a Test Well <i>Single-family / Non Single-family dwelling; includes 1 water sample.</i>	\$100.00	\$200.00
Water Haulers (per truck)	\$65.00	\$65.00
Application for a Variance	\$30.00	\$30.00
Water Survey for Real Estate Closing <i>Includes 1 water sample</i>	\$100.00	\$300.00

Penalty fee of 25% of the permit fee for each new installation, alteration or sealing will be assessed if work has commenced prior to a permit being issued per R.C. 3709.09. This additional fee shall not be charged for an alteration of new construction performed in compliance with O.A.C. 3701-28-03(H).

EXHIBIT B

Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) / Gray Water Recycling Systems (GWRs)	Current Fee	New Fee
Permit for the operation of HSTS / GWRs		
Mechanical		
Surface Discharging – 1 year permit	\$40.00	\$40.00
Non-Surface Discharging – 3 year permit	\$40.00	\$40.00
Non-mechanical – 5 year permit	\$40.00	\$40.00
Inspection for operation of an HSTS / GWRs	\$20.00	\$20.00
Registration of Septage Haulers	\$105.00	\$105.00
Vehicle Permit for Septage Haulers	\$25.00	\$25.00
Registration of Installers	\$140.00	\$140.00
Registration of Service Providers	\$140.00	\$140.00
Permit for new or replacement HSTS / GWRs <i>Includes 12-month inspection</i>	\$266.00	\$290.00
Permit to alter an existing HSTS / GWRs	\$200.00	\$250.00
Site review application	\$65.00	\$125.00
Abandonment of HSTS/GWRs	\$15.00	\$25.00
Subdivision Review		
First Lot	\$95.00	\$95.00
Each Additional Lot	\$55.00	\$55.00
Addition Review (Pool, Garage or Room Addition)	\$30.00	\$30.00
Variance	\$30.00	\$30.00
HSTS Effluent Testing (per sample)	\$65.00	\$65.00 plus lab cost

Each registration shall expire on December 31 of the year in which registration occurred.

Penalty fee of 25% of the permit fee will be assessed if work has commenced prior to a permit being issued for a new installation or alteration per R.C. 3709.09.

Contract PHEP/CRI #2026-2/Amendment #1

Pursuant to the Contract executed by the City of Middletown Health Department, One Donham Plaza, Middletown, OH 45042 and the Butler County Board of Health, 301 S. Third Street, Hamilton, OH 45011, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. Scope of Service A (1):

A. Contract Requirements:

1. Contractor will submit all grant documentation as directed by the Board and ODH by the assigned deadline outlined in **REVISED** Attachment B – Deliverable Details. **Deliverable – Objective 1 and Deliverable – Objective 2.2 have been restored. Deliverable – Objective 5.1 and 5.2 have been added.**

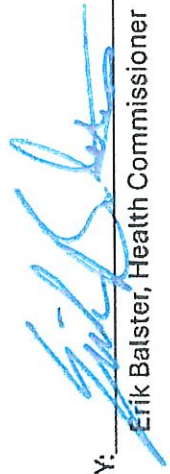
Section 3. Compensation and Method of Payment A (1)&(2):

A. Compensation:

1. The Board agrees to pay the Contractor up to but not in excess of **\$23,284.55** as full and complete compensation for the deliverables required and outlined in this Agreement.
2. Payment will be reimbursed upon completion of deliverables as described in the PHEP Deliverables Summary **REVISED** (Attachment B).

Motion # 2025-10-007

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Tax ID 31-6000061

BY: 
Erik Balster, Health Commissioner

10/21/2025
Date

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT Tax ID 31-6000139

BY: 
Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, Health Commissioner

11/11/2025
Date

Approved as to form:


Law Department

Attachment B
Award Amounts and Deliverable Details

City of Middletown PHEP FY2026
Funding by Deliverable

Deliverable	Amount
1.1	1,571.43
2.1	1,833.62
2.2	1,571.78
3.1	785.89
3.2	785.89
4.1	2,095.47
5.1	1,164.28
5.2	1,164.28
5.3	0.00
5.4	0.00
6.1	1,309.82
6.2	1,833.62
7.1	1,047.85
8.1	3,929.33
9.1	1,571.78
10.1	2,619.51
11.1	0.00
12.1	0.00
13.1	0.00
Totals:	\$23,284.55

Deliverable Details

Deliverable – Objective 1: AFN Whole Community Inclusive Planning Overview

Capability: 1, 2, 6, 7

Description: Whole community planning includes planning for those with disabilities and other access and functional needs. Building relationships and collaborating among disability organizations and their networks while creating sustainable relationships is an increased focus. *Prepared4All: Whole Community Inclusive Emergency Planning* aims to build, develop, and strengthen the whole community planning concept. The emergency response coordinator or planning designee will complete the *Prepared4All: Whole Community Inclusive Emergency Planning* virtual training. Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 1. 1: By June 12, 2026**, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS a certificate of completion for the *Prepared4All: Whole Community Inclusive Emergency Planning* online training course that is dated after July 1, 2025. 6%

Deliverable – Objective 2: Integrated Preparedness Planning Capability: 1

Description: Integrated preparedness planning incorporates the whole community to plan and synchronize all aspects of preparedness, including training and exercise, to address capability gaps and improve overall preparedness.

All subrecipients will attend the ODH Statewide Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) to identify and discuss exercise program priorities that will advance the State of Ohio's preparedness. Workshop attendance is necessary to collaborate on statewide training and exercise planning efforts among all PHEP and HPP subrecipients.

In addition, PHEP Core subrecipients will attend the drill planning session facilitated by the Regional Public Health Coordinators (RPHCs). During the planning session, PHEP Core subrecipients will complete the *BP3 Capstone Drill Worksheet*. The worksheet will outline how the subrecipient plans to conduct the capstone drill in BP3. Attendance at the regional planning session is necessary to collaborate regional exercise activities for the capstone exercise track.

Additional information and requirements for completing this deliverable are located in the BP2/SFY26 Exercise Deliverable Technical Assistance document.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 2. 1: By August 29, 2025**, the Emergency Response Coordinator, or designee, must provide representation at the ODH Statewide IPPW and must complete the participant feedback survey and upload into GMIS the verification of attendance. 7%
- **Objective 2. 2: By May 29, 2026**, the ERC or designee will attend the regional drill planning meeting then submit their completed BP3 Capstone Drill Worksheet into GMIS.

Deliverable – Objective 3: Tactical Communications Drill Capability: 6

Description: The establishment of a tactical communications strategy is essential to ensuring the availability of redundant communications in the event of a public health emergency. The purpose of this deliverable is to develop, refine, and sustain redundant, interoperable communications systems. Upon the completion of this deliverable, redundant communications systems will be tested and a report indicating message response rate will be generated.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

The subrecipient must conduct alerting drills using the agency's redundant communication system to prompt agency- designated staff to respond to the activation of a dispensing campaign, simulated emergency, or volunteer activation. Template language for messaging is available, but not required.

1. The subrecipient must conduct two alerting drills via the agency's redundant communication system.
 - a. The subrecipient must report the completed action on the Communications Worksheet.
 - b. The subrecipient must attach a report from the alerting system that reflects responder acknowledgment rate of 75% or above within four hours of drill activation. If 75% acknowledgment is not achieved, the alerting drill must be conducted again until 75% acknowledgment is achieved prior to GMIS submission.
2. MARCS Radios: The subrecipient must participate in scheduled biannual MARCS radio checks conducted by ODH and include verification on the Communications Worksheet.
- **Objective 3. 1: By September 12, 2025**, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS the Communications Worksheet and alerting system message summary report. **3%**
- **Objective 3. 2: By March 13, 2026**, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS the Communications Worksheet and alerting system message summary report. **3%**

Deliverable – Objective 4: Build a Community Profile Capability: 1

Description: The purpose of building a community profile is to help each jurisdiction understand the unique challenges and needs of vulnerable populations in their community so they can better prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, incidents and crises. This template is designed to help each jurisdiction build a community profile based on readily available data from two ODH dashboards: The Ohio Health Improvement Zones dashboard and the Community Well-being: Social Determinants of Health dashboard. Integrating Social Vulnerability and Social Determinants of Health factors, a community profile can help LHDs proactively identify where funding, programs, and policies can make the greatest impact, creating opportunities for narrowing health, educational, economical, and community disparity outcomes for Ohioans.

Supporting information will be provided in the ODH "Build Your Community Profile" Template.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 4. 1: By October 13, 2025**, the subrecipients must fully complete the ODH "Build Your Community Profile" Template and upload it into GMIS. **7%**

Deliverable – Objective 5: Recruitment or Engagement Activities
Capacity: 15

Description: Preplanning recruitment events is crucial for aligning MRC training needs. It ensures a steady pipeline of qualified candidates while optimizing resources like trainers, venues, and materials. This approach allows for customized training that addresses skill gaps and maximizes strengths. By organizing recruitment and training processes strategically, organizations can improve their volunteer experience. Preplanning also enhances scalability, helping the organization adapt to growth, seasonal demands, or strategic changes, leading to a more agile and effective MRC volunteer cadre.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objectives 5.1:** by January 12, 2025, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS a completed *Recruitment or Engagement Planning Template*. 6%
- **Objectives 5.2:** by June 12, 2026, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS a completed *Recruitment or Engagement Planning Template*. 6%

Deliverable – Objective 6: Inventory Management Assessment

Capacity: 8, 9

Description: The establishment of an inventory management system is essential to ensuring medical countermeasures (MCMs) are tracked and deployed during a response and assists in daily operations. The purpose of this deliverable is to assess current inventory management system capabilities. Upon completion of the deliverable, subrecipients will also have identified best practices and areas for improvement for MCM inventory, tracking, and deployment efforts.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 6. 1:** By November 13, 2025, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS the completed Inventory Management Workbook, and the supporting evidence, in accordance with the requirements detailed in the form. 5%
- **Objective 6. 2:** By June 13, 2026, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS a completed Inventory Spreadsheet for all PHEP-funded material. 7%

Deliverable – Objective 7: Communicating with Specific Vulnerable Populations Capability: 6

Description: Subrecipients will fully complete the ODH-provided rubric regarding communicating/messaging to specific segments of the disability and other access and functional needs communities. Subrecipients will describe how they will communicate with three (3) actionable population segments, as determined by ODH and detailed in the rubric, plus two (2) population segments of their choice from the ODH "Build Your Community Profile" Template, during a specified incident scenario.

Supporting information will be provided in the Targeted Communications Rubric. Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 7. 1:** By September 12, 2025, the subrecipient must complete the Targeted

Communications Rubric based on the incident scenario and upload it into GMIS. 4%

Deliverable – Objective 8: Administrative Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (TTX) and After-Action Report/Improvement Plan Capability: 1, 3, 6

Description: Subrecipients conduct exercises and complete subsequent after-action reports/improvement plans (AAR/IPs) to capture demonstrated performance, local capability, and identify gaps. During this TTX, subrecipients will test their BP1 administrative preparedness plan by discussing various fiscal, legal, and administrative authorities and practices governing funding, procurement, contracting, and hiring. Additionally, subrecipients will discuss how these authorities can be modified, accelerated, and streamlined during an emergency to support public health preparedness, response, and recovery at state, territorial, local, and tribal levels of government. Subrecipients may use any scenario of choice other than a biological incident to complete the exercise.

Supporting information on the TTX can be found in the BP2/SFY26 Exercise Deliverable Technical Assistance document.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 8. 1: By March 12, 2026**, the subrecipient must submit into GMIS the completed AAR/IP for the planned Administrative Preparedness TTX following requirements listed in the *PHEP AAR/IP Template*. 15%

Deliverable – Objective 9: Biological Discussion-Based Exercise Capability: 1, 3, 8, 15

Description: Subrecipients conduct exercises to demonstrate performance, local capability, and to identify gaps. Exercising how the jurisdiction will respond in the event of a biological incident is critical to the public health system. Biological incident response can be exercised through a game.

PHEP subrecipients will conduct a discussion-based exercise game and evaluate the ability of the jurisdiction to distribute, dispense, and/or administer medical countermeasures using a mass dispensing/vaccination site. The exercise must have a biological incident scenario and can either utilize the ODH-provided exercise materials or the subrecipient may generate their own exercise materials. Subrecipients must include access and functional needs (AFN) partners in the game. Upon completion of the exercise, subrecipients will and submit the sign-in sheet and exercise materials. Supporting information on the game and associated data elements can be found in the BP2/SFY26 Exercise Deliverable Technical Assistance document.

Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 9. 1: By February 26, 2026**, the subrecipient must conduct a discussion-based exercise game with a biological incident scenario that includes AFN partners and submit into GMIS the exercise materials and sign-in sheet. 6 %

Deliverable – Objective 10: Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Recovery Annex Development/Update Capability: 2

Description: A Recovery Plan, or Annex, provides the framework to coordinate the federal, state, local, and private sector recovery from either short-term or long-term consequences of a disaster affecting a jurisdiction. The purpose of the Recovery Plan is to: 1. Outline a framework that can

2025-2026 PHEP Contract – Amendment #1

be used to assist the community in re-establishing vital services (public health, medical services and mental/behavioral health) after a disaster while increasing the community's ability to recover from future disasters; and 2. Provide the coordination necessary for the LHD to recover if needed.

The Recovery Plan/Annex directs the coordination and management of the LHD's efforts to limit public health and medical impacts from an incident. Specifically, this plan/annex will outline agency coordination with the goal to reduce morbidity and mortality within the jurisdiction.

Subrecipients will fully complete the Recovery Annex Rubric before submission to ODH. Depending on the status of planning for recovery operations previously undertaken by the LHD, an existing Recovery Plan (or Annex to the LHD's ERP) may require update, or a new LHD ERP Recovery Annex may need to be developed. It is allowable to cite information within the rubric that addresses the rubric from other LHD ERP documents, if not specifically within a Recovery Annex to the LHD ERP.

Supporting information will be provided in the Recovery Annex Rubric. Successful Completion of the Deliverable(s) Includes:

- **Objective 10.1: By February 12, 2026**, the subrecipient must fully complete the Recovery Annex Rubric and upload both the completed Recovery Annex Rubric and Recovery Plan/Annex into GMIS. 10%

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OUTBREAK RESPONSE IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVE AGREEMENT

The facility identified below ("Facility") hereby agrees to the terms and conditions of this Ohio Department of Health Outbreak Response Immunization Agreement ("Agreement"):

Facility Name ("Facility"): City of Middletown Health Department		5-digit PIN (<i>if known</i>)22257	TDDD License No: 010015050	
Mailing Address: 1 Donham Plaza	City: Middletown	County: Butler	State: Ohio	Zip Code:45042
Email Address: chandra.corbin@cityofmiddletown.org		Telephone No.: 513-727-3667		

In order to be valid, this Agreement must be completed and signed by an authorized representative of Facility and returned to via email to: Immunize@odh.ohio.gov.

1.0 PURPOSE. The Outbreak Response Immunization Initiative allows eligible Ohioans to receive outbreak vaccines at no cost when an outbreak is declared by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). In the event a pandemic outbreak is declared, the Facility hereby agrees that this Agreement shall apply to the ordering and distribution of ODH-issued pandemic or outbreak vaccine by the Facility.

2.0 TERM. The term of this Agreement shall be from the date of execution by Facility through September 30, 2030, unless this Agreement is renewed or terminated pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement prior to the termination date.

3.0 VACCINE(S) TO BE PROVIDED. Any ODH-issued outbreak or pandemic vaccines.

4.0 FACILITY AGREES TO.

4.1 Enroll as a designated site in an ODH developed application process to order and administer ODH-issued pandemic or outbreak vaccine.

4.2 Comply with established immunization schedules, dosages and contraindications as specified by the ODH Immunization Program

4.3 Participate in ODH Immunization Program Outbreak Response Initiative compliance site visits including unannounced visits, and other educational opportunities associated with Outbreak Response Initiative requirements.

4.4 Maintain valid Security Agreement on file with ODH for ImpactSIIS, the State Immunization Registry, (ohioimpactsiis.org). Accurately record vaccine doses administered to patients in ImpactSIIS. This may be done by direct entry or an interface between Facility's electronic health record (EHR) system and ImpactSIIS.

4.5 Reconcile vaccine inventory in ODH Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS).

4.6 Immunize eligible patients with publicly funded vaccine(s) at no charge for the vaccine. Although an administration fee may be allowable, publicly funded vaccine(s) should be provided to eligible patients regardless of ability to pay.

4.7 Administer vaccine at the Facility by authorized providers.

4.8 Administer vaccine according to an ODH-defined tier-by-tier framework based on federal and state outbreak strategy.

4.9 Distribute the most current Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) each time a vaccine is administered and report clinically significant adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

4.10 Comply with the requirements for vaccine management outlined in this Agreement, all applicable licensing, registration, and certification requirements and all applicable federal, state and local laws. This includes, but is not limited to:

4.10.1 Order and maintain appropriate vaccine inventories.

4.10.2 Be available to receive vaccine deliveries 9 am – 4 pm Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays).

4.10.3 Store vaccine under proper storage conditions. Refrigerator and freezer vaccine storage units; temperature monitoring equipment and practices must meet ODH storage and handling requirements according to [CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#).

4.10.4 Notify ODH of any vaccine temperature excursions. Quarantine the suspected non-viable vaccine in the storage unit until the vaccine manufacturers and ODH determine the vaccine to be either viable or non-viable. Do not administer the suspected spoiled vaccine. Post a sign on the vaccine storage unit indicating that the vaccine must not be used until viability is determined.

4.10.5 Cooperate with ODH action steps if vaccine is determined to be non-viable.

- 4.11 Cooperate with ODH to recall patients for revaccination if vaccine administered was non-viable or administered incorrectly.
- 4.12 Notify ODH Immunization Program within two (2) business days of any changes to the address where facility stores and maintains the vaccines and notify ODH Immunization Program immediately upon discovering any loss of or damage to vaccines. All notices to ODH Immunization Program must be sent to:
- Ohio Department of Health, Outbreak Response Immunization Program
Bureau of Infectious Diseases,
246 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-4643
Email: immunize@odh.ohio.gov.
- 4.13 Implement practices to keep protected health information confidential and comply with applicable state and federal confidentiality and disclosure laws, rules, regulations and policies, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA").
- 4.14 Hold ODH and the State of Ohio harmless from any and all liability, suits, losses, judgments, damages, or any other demands arising out of or related to the actions or omissions of the Facility, its employees, providers, consultants and agents, while performing its duties under this Agreement.
- 4.15 Maintain and make available all records relating to vaccine records and supporting documentation for audit by the State of Ohio and agencies of the United States government for a minimum of three years after termination of this Agreement. If an audit, litigation, or other action is initiated during this time period, Facility shall retain such records until the action is concluded and all issues resolved or the three years end, whichever is later.
- 5.0 FACILITY CERTIFIES, AFFIRMS, AND WARRANTS.**
- 5.1 The person executing this Agreement on behalf of their respective entity (including but not limited to its officers, directors, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, providers, and agents) hereby represents and warrants it has the right, power, legal capacity, and appropriate authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of such parties for which they sign.

6.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

- 6.1 The obligations of ODH are subject to §126.07 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).
- 6.2 Facility agrees to good faith consult with ODH to resolve any disagreements that may arise under or relating to this Agreement before referring the matter to any other person or entity for settlement.
- 6.3 Facility agrees that no agency, employment, joint venture, or partnership has been or will be created between ODH and Facility pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 6.4 Facility or ODH may cancel this Agreement at any time and for any reason upon thirty (30) days advance written notice sent to the other party by regular mail or personal delivery. If Facility breaches any terms or conditions of this Agreement, ODH may cancel the Agreement immediately without a thirty (30)-day notice. Upon termination of this Agreement, Facility will properly maintain and return any unused publicly funded vaccine(s) in viable condition as directed by the Ohio Department of Health.
- 6.5 This Agreement may be renewed or extended, subject to the same terms and conditions of this Agreement and subject to any federal and state directives, regulations, and laws relating to the subject matter of this Agreement, upon issuance of written renewal or extension by ODH and written acceptance from Facility of such renewal or extension.
- 6.6 This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, and the venue for any disputes will be exclusively with the appropriate court in Franklin County, Ohio. Each paragraph of this Agreement is an independent paragraph. If a court finds any full or partial paragraph of this Agreement unconstitutional, void, or legally ineffective, the finding does not affect the validity or effectiveness of any other full or partial paragraph.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Facility has duly executed this Agreement by their authorized representatives on the date set forth below.

FACILITY

[Signature, Blue Ink Please]

[Print Name & Title]

Date



Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

September of 2025

Josh Melegari, MPH
josh.melegari@bcchoio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 862
- Most Frequently Reported: COVID-19, Chlamydia, Gonococcal Infection, Hep C, Pertussis

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, September 2025 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	15999	136.7	-	-
Butler County	740	189.6	1.387	(1.28-1.49)

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 38.7% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (September 2025)

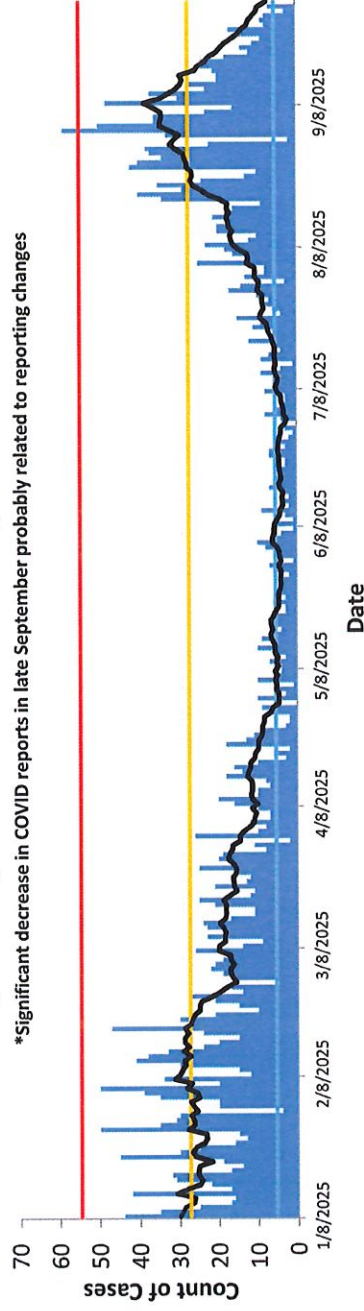
Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	551	199.7	↑7.2% from August 2025 (n=514)
Middletown City Health Department	130	254.7	↓15.0% from August 2025 (n=153)
City of Hamilton Health Department	181	285.6	↓16.6% from August 2025 (n=217)
Butler County (all inclusive)	862	220.8	↓2.5% from August 2025 (n=884)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (September 2025)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	26	↓10.3% from August 2025 (n=29)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	128	↓6.6% from August 2025 (n=137)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	8	↓46.7% from August 2025 (n=15)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, Haemophilus influenzae, Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella)	684	↑1.6% from August 2025 (n=673)

Figure 1. Reported Cases of COVID-19 by Date of Event 2025*

*Significant decrease in COVID reports in late September probably related to reporting changes

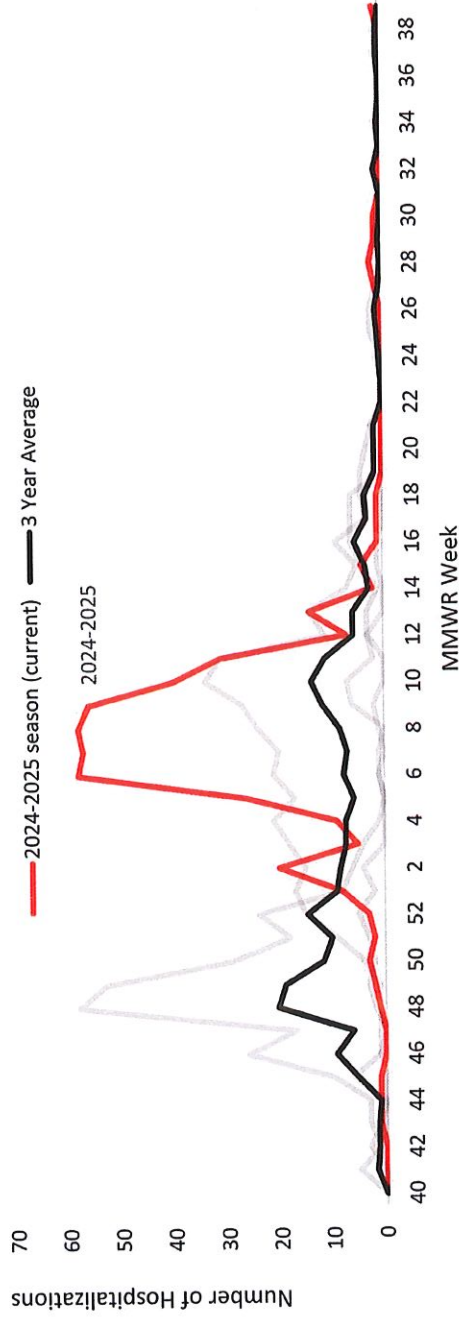


*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include Gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of September 1 – 30, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/06/2025.

Table 4. * Diseases Reported in Butler County (September 2025)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	City of Hamilton Health Department	Middletown City Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
C. auris	1	2	1	4
COVID-19	436	142	91	669
CPO	2	0	0	2
Campylobacteriosis	1	0	0	1
Chlamydia infection	60	20	23	103
Cryptosporidiosis	0	2	0	2
Giardiasis	1	1	0	2
Gonococcal infection	12	3	5	20
Hepatitis A	2	0	0	2
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	2	1	0	3
Hepatitis B - Perinatal Infection	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis C - chronic	13	7	2	22
Influenza-associated hospitalization	1	0	0	1
LaCrosse virus disease (other California serogroup virus disease)	1	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	2	1	1	4
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	1	0	0	1
Pertussis	5	1	2	8
Salmonellosis	1	0	0	1
Strep Pneumoniae - invasive	3	0	1	4
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	0	1	0	1
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	0	0	1	1
Syphilis	2	0	3	5
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	1
Varicella	2	0	0	2
Vibriosis (not cholera)	1	0	0	1
Total	551	181	130	862

Figure 2. Confirmed Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by MMWR Week with Past 3-Years and 3 Year Baseline Average for Butler County Residents



*Data is provisional and subject to change-- Table 1 does not include Gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of September 1 – 30, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 10/06/2025.

Butler County Reportable Disease Surveillance

Table 5 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2020 through 2025 and provides a 5-year average column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 5. * Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2020–2025)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Avg.	Up to 9/30/2025
Amebiasis	0	1	1	0	0	<1	0
Botulism- wound	0	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	2	0	0	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	0	1	13	37	57	21.6	43
Campylobacteriosis	30	35	48	49	42	40.8	42
Chlamydia infection	1,512	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,208	1361.2	855
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	26,420	39,521	49,323	12,192	9303	27351.8	4296
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	10	11	12	93	58	36.8	41
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	1	1	0	0	<1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	6	5	7	7	12	7.4	5
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	1	3	1	1.0	0
Dengue	0	1	1	0	1	<1	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	15	17	17	12	15.0	4
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	1	1	1	0	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	4	14	7	13	5	8.6	3
Gonococcal Infection	651	480	473	413	369	477.2	228
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	7	6	11	18	14	11.2	4
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	1	0	1	0	<1	0
Hepatitis A	2	1	0	2	0	1.0	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	67	85	78	82	69	76.2	46
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	486	434	390	280	234	364.8	171
HIV	17	58	38	35	44	38.4	0
Hansen's disease	0	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	266	18	306	70	333	198.6	399
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	10	10	15	12	14	12.2	12
Listeriosis	0	0	1	2	0	<1	0
Lyme Disease	2	0	2	2	5	2.2	3
Malaria	2	1	3	4	3	2.6	1
Measles – imported outside Ohio	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	9	14	10	10	26	13.8	6
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	3	11	10	11	7.6	3
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	3	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	0	15	7	1	0	4.6	0
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	4	0	0	1.3	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Pertussis	13	3	3	5	65	17.8	67
Salmonellosis	20	26	34	54	36	34.0	29
Salmonella Paratyphi	0	0	0	1	1	<1	0
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	2	0	1	2	1.0	0
Shigellosis	8	3	6	7	12	7.2	9
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	2	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	27	24	34	39	31	31.0	14
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	1	0	1	1	0	<1	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	31	33	40	43	40	37.4	36
Syphilis (all stages)	17	23	45	66	55	41.2	39
Tuberculosis (active)	6	7	8	7	13	8.2	16
Varicella	1	5	8	19	11	8.8	2
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	0	2	2	3	2	1.8	2
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	0
Yersiniosis	0	1	2	4	4	2.2	2

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Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
P: 513-863-1770
F: 513-863-4372
health.bcohoio.gov

Figure 1: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Week for October 2025

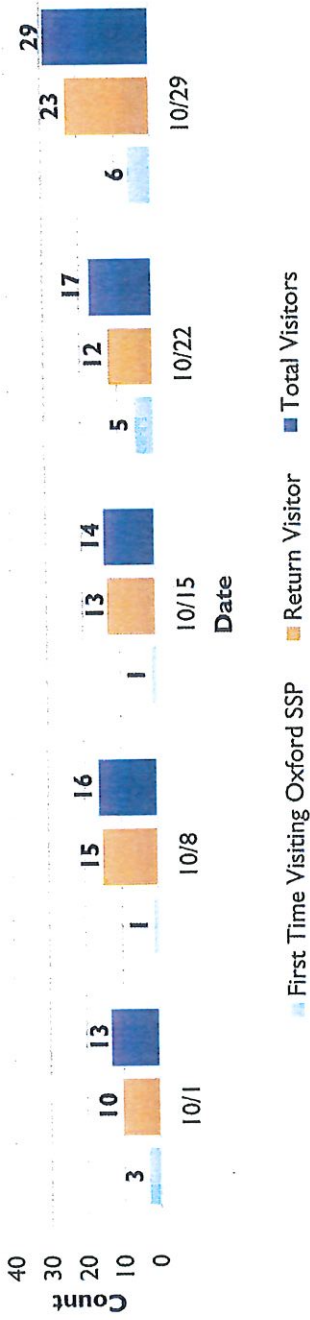


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2024 and 2025

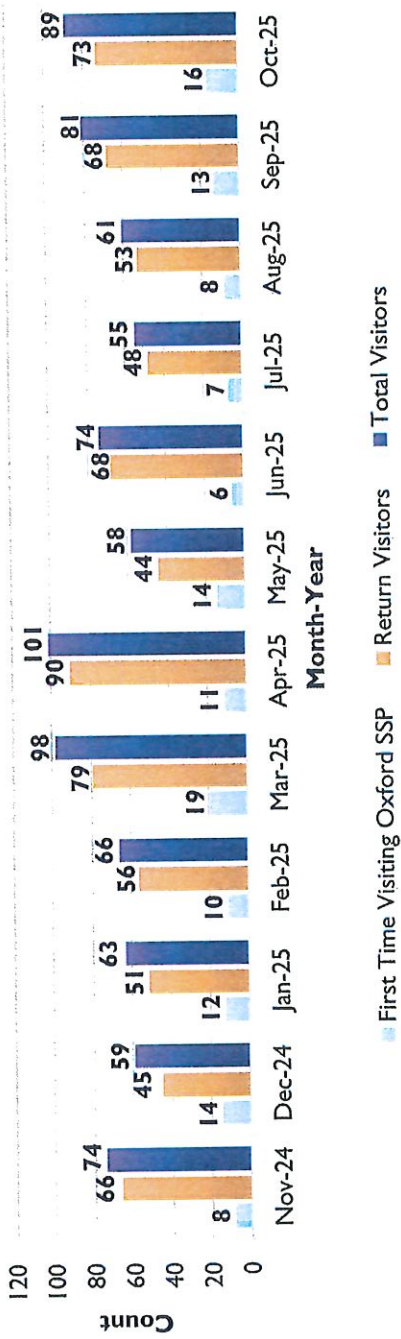
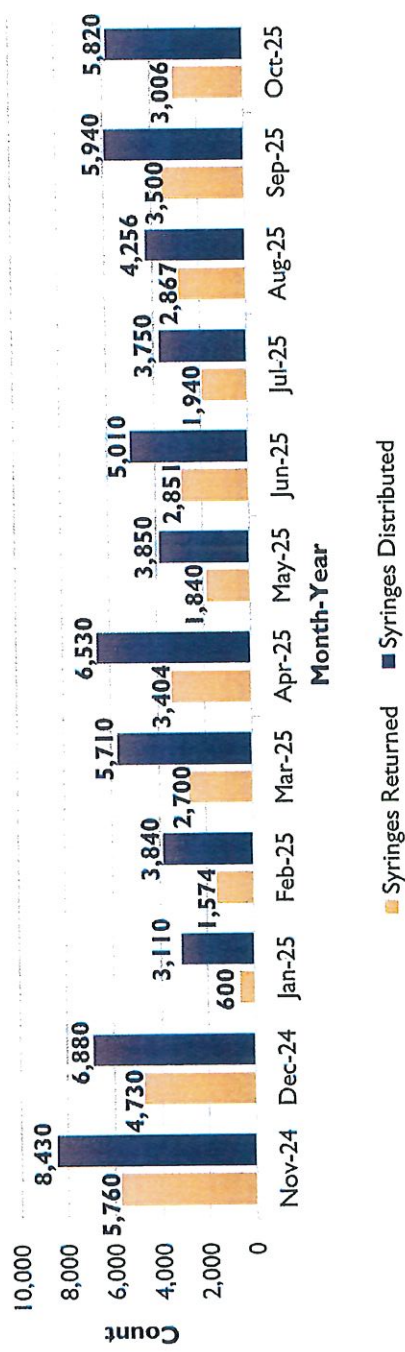


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2024 and 2025



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department



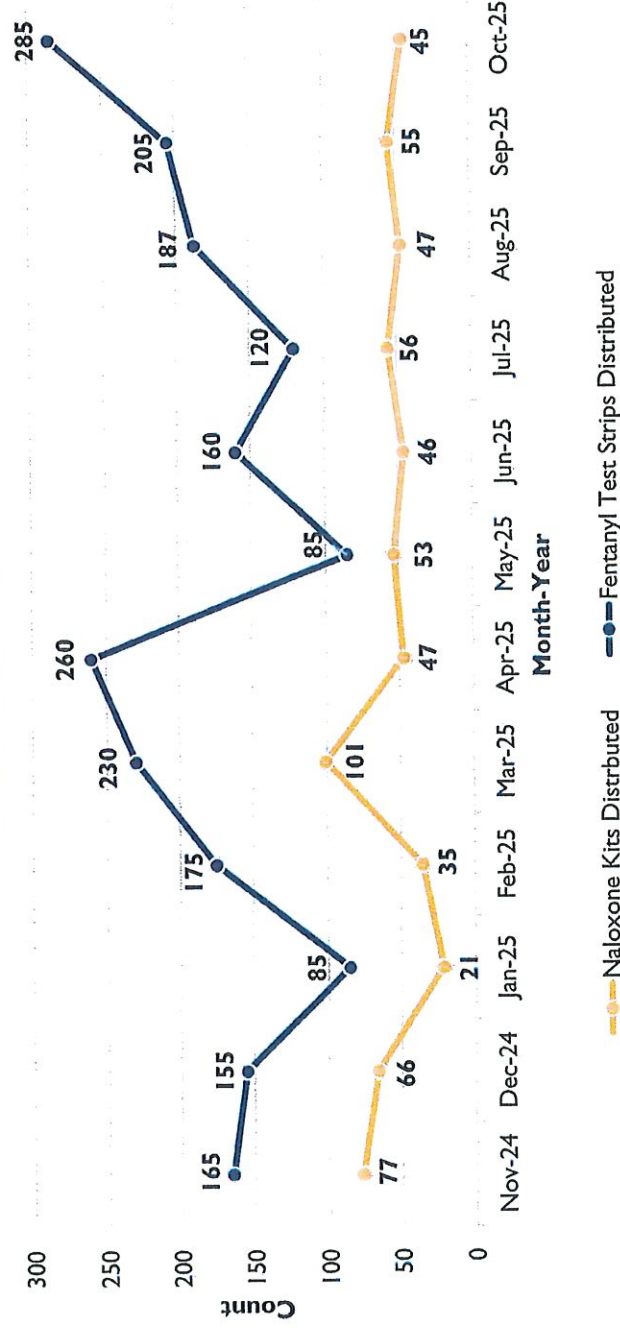
Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
P: 513-863-1770
F: 513-863-4372
health.bcohoio.gov

Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code – City or County for the Oxford SSP Site by Visitors' Reported Home Residence for October 2025

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	370	1,330	27.82%
45013	626	1,740	35.98%
45015	200	280	71.43%
Hamilton Total	1,196	3,350	35.70%
45004 - Collinsville	0	40	0.00%
45014 - Fairfield	60	100	60.00%
45044 - Middletown	100	180	55.56%
45056 - Oxford	1,650	2,150	76.74%
Total	3,006	5,820	51.65%

Figure 4: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Oxford SSP Site for 2024 and 2025



Source: Butler County General Health District – Oxford Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained November 3, 2025; Data is provisional and subject to change



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For October 2025

Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (60 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments

Notes:

No smoking complaints for the month of October 2025.



City of Middletown Health Department

October 2025

Vital Statistics		Monthly	YTD	Environmental Inspections		Monthly	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed		92	800	Food Service Operations (FSO)		52	430
Death Certificates Filed		76	873	Retail Food Establishments		29	171
Birth Certificates Issued		342	3964	Prelicense/Consultations		8	94
Death Certificates Issued		252	3370	Sewage Inspections		328	459
Indigent Cremation Services		2	19	School Inspections		7	32
				Vending Locations		6	8
				Temporary FSO/RFE		5	45
				Mobile FSO/RFE		2	22
Deaths Filed				Complaints		1	47
Accidental		0	18	Smoking Complaint Inspections		0	4
Drug Overdose		0	8	Swimming Pools		0	86
Falls		1	4	Tattoo		1	8
Motor Vehicle		0	0	Temp Park/Park Camp		1	1
Exposure to Elements		0	0	Jail Inspection		1	1
Choking		0	0	Site Visit (Septic)		1	1
Fire		0	0	T21 Inspections		31	76
Homicide		2	4	Well Sealing Permits		1	2
Suicide		0	4	Septic Abandonment		0	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths		0	1	Plans Received		0	11
Could Not Be Determined		0	0				
Pending Investigation		3	3				

** Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that expired within city limits only

Level 1 Certification Training		Animal Bites	
Number of Attendees		Dog	
0	14	Cat	58
		Bat	8
			2



Water Development Authority

Mike DeWine, Governor
R. Gregory Browning, Chairman
Michael Fraizer, Executive Director

August 20, 2025

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter
Health Commissioner
Middletown
One Donham Plaza
Middletown, OH 45042

Subject: 2025 - HSTS
OWDA Account#: 11521; HS390598-0012

On August 4, 2025, the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) approved a loan for the project listed above in the amount of \$150,000.00. OWDA has encumbered funds for this project as per the attached project cost breakdown.

Enclosed are the following documents for your records:

- Project Cost Breakdown
- Fully executed copy of the loan agreement
- Certificate of Encumbrance
- Guide for Disbursement and Repayments

Also enclosed is the OWDA loan application fee invoice in the amount of \$0.00. Please remit payment at your earliest convenience.

Should you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me by email at kkillian@owda.org or by phone at (614) 466-0228. For questions regarding the disbursement process, please contact Christine Okonak by email at cokonak@owda.org or by phone at (614) 728-0174.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Killian
Loan Officer

Enclosures

Ohio Water Development Authority

Project Cost Breakdown

Account: 11521
LGA: Middletown
County: Butler
Project: 2025 - HSTS
Trustee: Huntington National Bank
Funding Source(s): Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (Construction) with Coop Date of 08/04/2025

ID#: HS390598-0012

Encumbrance Detail

TS	Technical Services	\$150,000.00
		\$150,000.00
Total Loan Amount		\$150,000.00

CERTIFICATE OF COMMITMENT AND ENCUMBRANCE

Date: 08/20/2025

For the following Funds:
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

From:	To:
Ohio Water Development Authority 480 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-5603	Huntington National Bank Business Service Center Attn: Corporate Trust 7 Easton Oval - EA4E63 Columbus, Ohio 43219

In Accordance with the below noted Trust Agreements ⁽¹⁾, by and among the Ohio Water Development Authority and the Huntington National Bank, as Trustee of the above referenced funds, the undersigned certify the following statements concerning the below listed project:

Project Name:	Middletown
Project Description:	2025 - HSTS
Loan Account Number:	11521
Eligible Project Cost:	\$150,000.00 ⁽²⁾

The Ohio Water Development Authority has or is about to enter into an agreement with the above named Project which will commit the Ohio Water Development Authority to finance the Eligible Project Costs from the above referenced funds held at Huntington National Bank.

Moneys in the amount of the Eligible Project Costs set forth above are in, or are in the process of collection for the above referenced funds and are free from any other encumbrance. Said moneys are encumbered for the purpose of paying the Eligible Project Costs have been incurred by the Project and payment has been requested by the Ohio Water Development Authority according to the Trust Agreements.

In witness whereof, the undersigned has hereunto set his/her hand.



Executive Director
Ohio Water Development Authority

08/20/2025

Date

Notes:

- (1) Section in regards to Water Pollution Control Loan Fund trust agreement.
- (2) The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund project encumbrance is \$150,000.00.

Health Commissioner October 2025

Summary

Cyber Incident August-present

Office programs and activities functioning approx. 30%-70%

Had our “Hot Wash” for the event although we are still in the recovery phase

- Deactivate phones, Gmail accounts, notifications of status

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- Program Provides
 - Food for Schools and Daycares, Elderly, Food Education and Safety, Farmers Markets
 - Updates enclosed

Centerpoint Program Committee

Centerpoint Board Meeting

Septic Discussions

- Educate residents in the focus area (Amanda)
- Town Hall Meeting (March 2025-tba)
- Health Dept finalizing 5-yrar inspection cycle
- Discuss expected outcome; EPA grant application, and other assistance

AOHC Conference Call

Prevention Advocacy and Policy Coalition

- Intoxicating marijuana ban
- Keep an eye on Delta 8 and Delta 9 sales
- Agreed to continue to host Butler County Community Health Conversations

Middletown Connect

- Health Improvement Partners (HIP Team) Data Walk
- Middletown Connect Strategic and Sustainability meeting 1 of 4

We have a student that started with the Department Wednesday 11/5- RISE Student Intern Program (MCS uses respect, integrity, social and enrichment) for 5 weeks

BC Board of Disabilities Mtg-Declared Fiscal Emergency

YWCA Hamilton Board Directors Meeting-Strategic and contingency planning

City of Middletown Health Department (CMHD) staff meeting

Candidate Forums- New Councilman Joe Mulligan and Councilman Paul Lolli re-elected

Community Foundation Annual Meeting

Community Activities:

Community Building Institute

- Turkey Trot 11/8
- Ribbon Cutting -Open House 12/17

Walk with a Doc 11/15 9a

Veteran's Luncheon 11/11 Legion

Food Drive 11/10/2025

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS



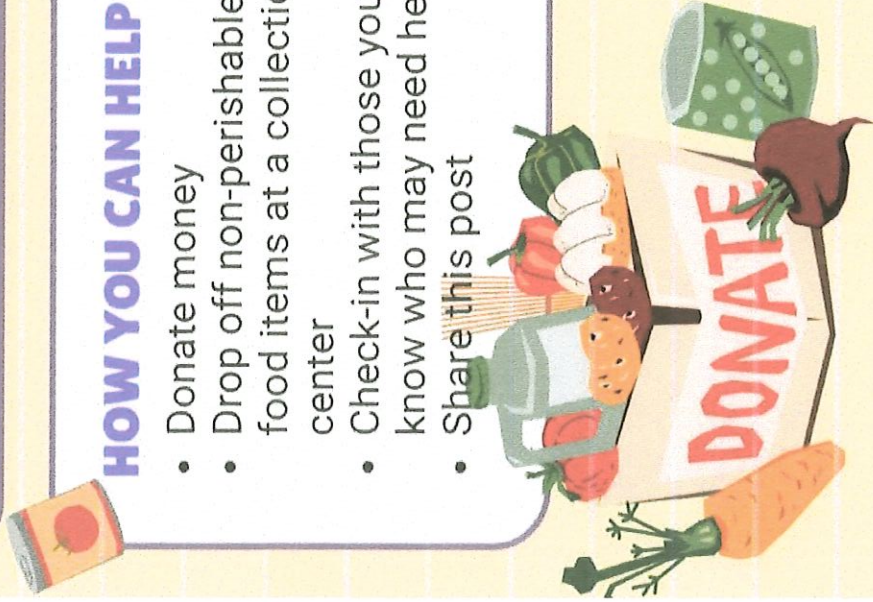
A MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY EFFORT

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The prolonged government shutdown will prevent benefits from being dispersed in November. We need to ensure our community pantries are well stocked to help those in need.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donate money
- Drop off non-perishable food items at a collection center
- Check-in with those you know who may need help
- Share this post



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Shelf-stable milk & baby formula
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Cooking oil & spices



DROP OFF LOCATIONS

AIMEE'S PRODUCE
BOURBONS KITCHEN
BROKEN BARREL
CENTRAL PASTRY
CROOKED DOG COMICS
DOWNTOWN MIDDLETOWN INC.
GRAVEL ROAD BREWING CO.
MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER

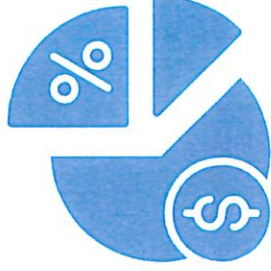
NAME BRANDT DISTILLING
N.E.W. ALES BREWING
SORG OPERA HOUSE
THE CRACKED POT
TRIPLE MOON COFFEE
WEST CENTRAL WINE
WHITE DOG DISTILLING CO

BCBDD Fiscal Emergency Overview

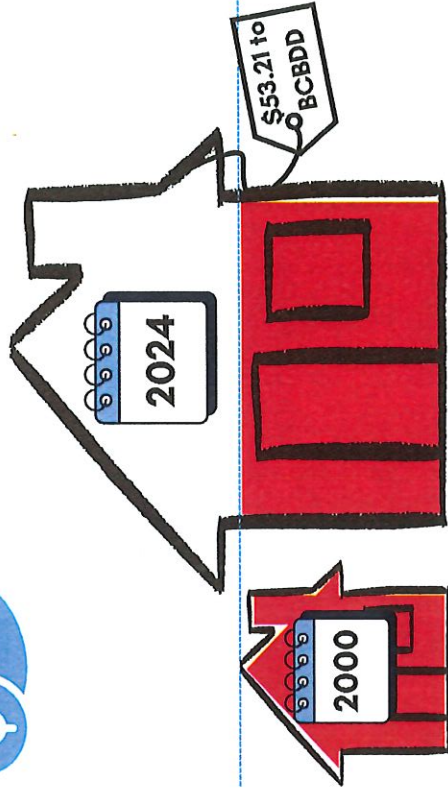
On Thursday, September 11, 2025, BCBDD passed a resolution declaring the Board to be in a state of fiscal emergency due to the fact that our projected expenses will far exceed our local tax collection for the first quarter of 2027.

21+ years of budgeting

BCBDD operates on a 2-mill property tax levy passed in 2000 and a 1-mill levy passed in 2004.



The median single-family home in Butler County has increased in value by 110% since 2000 but we're still collecting on property values from the last time the levy was passed.



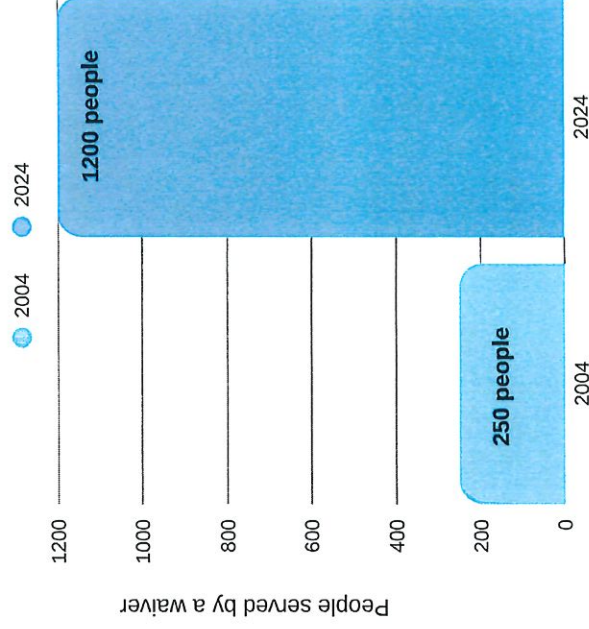
Costs of providing services has skyrocketed.

A primary use of levy dollars is to support waivers - funding so people with developmental disabilities can safely live, work, and be a part of the community rather than spend their lives in an institution.

About 40% of the cost of waivers is paid through that property tax, while around 60% of the cost of the waiver is covered through federal Medicaid funds.

380% Increase in People Supported

In 2004, we supported 250 people through a waiver. By 2024, that number has risen to over 1,200. And it continues to climb at a steep ascent.



Our Response

To remain fiscally solvent, we've made some dramatic changes over the years: We have transitioned our day program services to providers in the community, consolidated facilities and reduced our workforce. It has allowed us to stay off the ballot for over 20 years while creating little to no disruption to services.

At the request of county officials, we even gave about \$7.2 million back to taxpayers via a rollback in 2020 and 2021. Costs continue to climb, though, and revenue (including tax collections) remains stagnant.

We're now at a tipping point; action must be taken. Below are just a few of the steps we've taken recently to temporarily relieve our financial situation.



Declaring a fiscal emergency: Our Board has taken action to implement a financial savings plan and seek assistance from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.



Raises and increases: We have paused all wage increases including cost of living adjustments for our staff.



Reduced hours: All full-time staff will take a 2.5-hour reduction in work hours, which works out to a 6.67% decrease in pay on top of the lost cost-of-living increase.



Promotions and vacancies: All promotions are on freeze and all vacated positions will be scrutinized before posting.



Family Support Services Funding (FSS): In 2026, Family Support Services funding will be reduced by 50% and limited to camps and respite.



Reduction in Locally Funded Services: We will be prioritizing our community employment supports and transportation for competitive work. All other requests will be considered on an individual basis, dependent upon budget.

[Learn more](#)



[Get Involved](#)





**EmpowHER
Foundation**

**NO FAMILY
LEFT HUNGRY**

A COMMUNITY



ITEMS NEEDED

Non-Perishable Food Items:

Canned meats (chicken, tuna, Spam)

Canned veggies & fruits

Canned soups & chili

Pasta & sauce

Rice & beans

Mac & cheese

Boxed meals

Peanut butter & jelly

Cereal & oatmeal

Pancake mix & syrup

Snacks (crackers, granola bars, fruit cups)

Dried Milk

Birthday Kits

Baby & Family Needs:

Baby food & formula

Diapers & wipes

Household Essentials:

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Soap & shampoo

Toothpaste & deodorant

Feminine hygiene products

Kroger gift cards, Walmart, gift cards,

or cash donations will also be

accepted



FOOD DRIVE

Monday Nov 10th
10:00am - 6:00pm

Due to the government shutdown, many families may not receive their food stamp benefits for November.

The EmpowHER Foundation is stepping up to make sure no one in our community goes hungry.

We're collecting food donations to support families and individuals in need during this critical time.

Volunteers Needed!
Please reach out if you
are willing to help!

Drive up & drop off @

CBI Middletown at the Robert
"Sonny" Hill Community Center

800 Lafayette Ave,
Middletown, OH 45044

Families in need:

Contact us for food support.

empowherlivingsolutions@gmail.com

513.804.7459 or 513.571.6786

Help Young Adults Furnish Their First Apartments!

Collecting New or Gently Used Items:

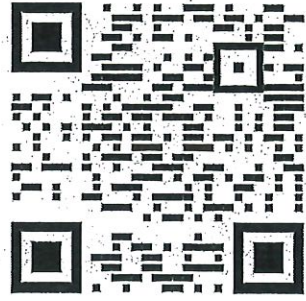
Living Room: Small Couch/Chair, Coffee table, Desk, Lamps
Kitchen: Dishes, Pots & Pans, Utensils, Small Appliances
Bedroom: Bedframe, Sheets, Dresser, Nightstand, Hangers
Bathroom: Towels, Shower Curtain & Rod, Toiletries
Misc.: Curtains, Flashlights, Garbage Cans, Rugs

Donate Unused Gift Cards:

Amazon • Kohls • Target • TJ Maxx • Walmart

Provide a Welcome Home Basket:

Suggested Items: Broom/Mop, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry
Detergent, Paper Towels, Napkins, Toilet Paper, etc.



**Shop the Amazon List:
to send needed items!**

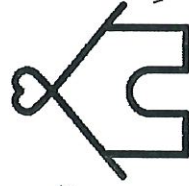
You helped us apply for the Youth Homelessness grant to meet the growing need in our community.
Now help 6 young adults make their new space feel like home by donating essential items!

Contact: Beth Race at beth.race@bcsc.org or 513-887-5534 with questions



BUTLER COUNTY

**family +
children**
FIRST COUNCIL



W.I.S.H.
WE IMAGINE STABLE HOUSING

Middletown business owners talk success with students

150 students gain insights about business, community.



Larry Abdullah, owner of Central Studio skateboard shop, demonstrates a heel flip on the mini-ramp in his store as he explains entrepreneurship and the importance of building credit scores to Butler Tech business students in Middletown on Wednesday. Butler Tech students visited several downtown businesses to talk to owners. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Larry Abdullah, owner of Central Studio skateboard shop, stands on the mini-ramp in his store, which he describes as "a dream," in Middletown on Wednesday. Abdullah said he hopes students learn the importance of businesses giving back to their communities. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Through a collaboration between Downtown Middletown Inc. and Butler Tech's entrepreneurship program, 150 students from both Butler Tech and Middletown High School visited downtown businesses this week to pick the brains of owners.

Jeff Payne, DMI executive director, said the program is an "opportunity for students to go from theory ... to hear from small businesses what life is really like."

Payne said he hoped the visits Tuesday and Wednesday encouraged students to stay dedicated.

“Typically it takes five years for a small business to get things going,” he said. “(Students) have the opportunity of talking to people who have fruit on the tree.”

Some students have already started their own small businesses.

Nikole Hanson, a Butler Tech student, started a “blind date” business where she would wrap books and include a short description on the wrapping. As a customer you would only see the wrapping, and it would be a surprise to see which book was inside the wrapping.

She said the visit gave her a “deeper appreciation” for how small businesses support the community.

“It was eye-opening to see their resilience and dedication firsthand,” Hanson said.

This week marked the second year of the field trip, and Payne said business owner feedback from the 2024 visit was “all positive.”

This year, Whistle Stop Shop, Lunar Studios and Nicki Short Tattoos, Monarch Designs, BeauVerre Riordan Studios, Starvin Marvin’s, Frazier’s Kitchen, Grandpa Joe’s Candy, Triple Moon Coffee Company, Crooked Dog Comics, Hair Galore Beauty Supply, Daubenmire Printing Innovations, Middletown Cabinets and Central Studio — a skateboard shop and art studio — participated.

Larry Abdullah, owner of Central Studio, said he participated in this year’s visit to share his knowledge about skateboarding, art and owning a small business.

“This (business) is a dream of mine, and dreams are possible,” he said. “It’s always good when you can talk to someone face to face, but not just that, giving back to my local community is so important ... it’s really a blessing to be a part of this.”

He said he hoped students learned the importance of education and

giving back to the community.

Jeremy West, Butler Tech entrepreneurship coordinator, said it's exciting to see the students learn from business owners.

"They kind of build up this creation in their brain of what they think an entrepreneur is, but when we do this field trip, it's completely shattered," he said. "It's so unique for them to see entrepreneurs who fully believe in the idea, whatever that idea is."

West, along with aide Emily Smith, run the Entrepreneurship Center at Butler Tech, which was created originally to protect the intellectual property of students.

Four years later, the program teaches students how to own a business, not just be an employee of a business, according to West.

West works with Butler Tech students and students at local high schools.

"We think they all should have a basic knowledge of entrepreneurship," he said.

The center at Butler Tech has resources for students to create marketing materials, business cards, prototypes and more.

As part of this week's field trip, West said he hopes students learned more about entrepreneurship but also saw what businesses downtown Middletown might need.

"We want them to see what is (in downtown) and learn from the businesses, but we also want (them) to see what's not there, like what can they actually bring to the city of Middletown," he said.

City phone lines, Wi-Fi restored from cyberattack

MIDDLETOWN



Phone lines and Wi-Fi services have been restored at Middletown's city building almost two months after a cyberattack. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Middletown city building phone lines and Wi-Fi have been restored almost two months since city services were disrupted by a cyberattack.

Some email accounts for staff also have been restored, according to Communications Manager Clayton Castle.

“While residents are welcome to call us with any needs moving forward, we ask for continued patience and understanding as we expect a higher volume of calls and are still working with backup processes in some cases,” Castle said.

People who need to contact certain services can call original numbers listed on the city’s website.

In a September council meeting, Councilman Paul Lolli thanked City Manager Ashley Combs, her staff and the IT department for working “tremendously long hours” to get systems back online.

“Billion-dollar companies get cyberattacked, you know,” he said. “We didn’t get cyberattacked because we were Middletown, we got cyberattacked because there was something vulnerable...they’ll figure it out. We’ll fix it, and we’ll come back better.”

Council spent \$295,610 on network hardware and consultation services in September.

Castle said these changes were already planned for early 2026, but moved up due to the incident.

The city entered into a \$151,010 contract with SecureCyber to purchase network hardware and consultation services, according to a city staff report.

Also, 200 Dell desktop computers were purchased from Insight Public Sector, Inc. for \$144,600.

What was accessed?

The investigation into the incident remains ongoing with the assistance of thirdparty specialists, and it is not yet known what personal information, if any, may have been affected.

Clarification on whether this was resident or employee information was not given, though on Aug. 22, preliminary findings were released, stating some “city employee information may have been affected.”

The city did not give clarification on what type of employee data may have been accessed, and a statement said the city has “seen no evidence to date of any data being used for fraudulent purposes.”

Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate actions will be taken to notify and support any affected individuals.

How can people pay bills and access services?

Utilities: New utility bills are not being generated as of the date of the cybersecurity incident, which was on or about Aug. 17, according to Castle.

There is a planned grace period for payment of bills issued after systems are restored, and the length of this grace period will be determined once systems are fully restored, according to a city statement.

In-person payments for bills issued before services were down can be made online through InvoiceCloud or in person at the city building, but payments can only be made by credit card subject to credit card fees.

Utilities will not be shut off due to nonpayment during this time period.

Also, utility account information cannot be accessed and new utility accounts cannot be opened.

Income tax: The income tax office is also now open and accepting payments, though account information cannot be accessed.

Middletown Municipal Court is running on its normal schedule, and anyone with a pending court case should report as scheduled.

In-person services for court administration; criminal and traffic ticket payment; and clerk of courts and warrants are open. The court can also assist residents with in-person court record searches.

Records: Requests for public and police records cannot be fulfilled online at this time. Fingerprint-based criminal background checks have also paused, but these checks can be requested from the county sheriff's departments and other state and federal agencies.

Health Department: All services have resumed at the Middletown Health Department, including birth and death certificates and inspections.

It is open to the public for in-person services 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the city building.

Area stores brace for impact of ban on intoxicating hemp

Many who sell hemp products agree they should be regulated.



Ed Alkhateeb, the owner of Smoker's Saver on South Smithville Road, Dayton, on Thursday. Alkhateeb said an executive order signed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Wednesday that bans the sale of intoxicating hemp products beginning next Tuesday is going to harm many small businesses. Alkhateeb said intoxicating hemp products account for approximately 30% of his sales. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF



Vapor Haus manager Troy Grant shows gummy drops for sale at the shop Thursday. Grant said intoxicating hemp products should not be sold to anyone under 21. Vapor Haus does not allow anyone under 21 to enter the store. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF

BY CORNELIUS FROLIK STAFF WRITER

Local smoke shops, vape shops, alcohol retailers and other businesses say they are disappointed that starting next Tuesday they will no longer be allowed to sell popular hemp-derived THC products that account for a significant share of their sales.

An executive order signed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Wednesday that takes effect next Tuesday bans the sale of intoxicating hemp products for the next several months. DeWine says this is meant to crack down on the sale of unregulated psychoactive cannabinoid products that anyone, even children, can buy at gas stations, markets, convenience stores and other retailers.

Local shop owners and managers say they support regulating the hemp-

derived THC marketplace for consumer safety and quality control, but they think the governor's order was rash and out of line and will harm many small businesses and their customers who use the substances for pain relief, relaxation and as an alternative to higher potency and more expensive cannabis products and alcoholic beverages.

Store owners and managers said reputable businesses would never sell or market THC products to kids.

"This is going to hurt a lot of businesses," said Ed Alkhateeb, the owner of Smoker's Saver in southeast Dayton where delta-8 and similar products account for about 30% of the store's sales.

A lawsuit filed Thursday by a trade group hoping to prevent the ban estimates that 20,000 Ohioans will be unemployed as a result of DeWine's ban, if it goes into effect, resulting in billions of dollars in negative economic impact.

DeWine's "consumer product safety emergency order" can remain in effect for up to 90 days, and the governor also ordered changes to the Ohio Administrative Code to remove intoxicating hemp from the state's definition of legal hemp.

Ahead of Tuesday's ban, some smoke and vape shops around the Dayton region this week posted signs advertising "half off" and "buy one, get one free" deals and other deep discounts for hemp-derived THC goods.

The Vapor Haus store at 617 Watervliet Ave. in Dayton's Belmont neighborhood that has sold hemp THC products for years is selling gummies, vape cartridges, pre-rolled joints and concentrates for 50% off.

Store manager Troy Grant said the products are popular, accounting for around 30% of daily sales.

Consumers often like THC from hemp because the high is more mellow than traditional cannabis and has medicinal benefits, such as helping

people relax and fall asleep, Grant said.

“For people who get anxiety attacks, where normal marijuana is way too powerful for them, it’s a nice alternative,” Grant said. “It’s very unfortunate to see this get treated the way it does.”

Local residents who smoke or consume hemp-derived THC told this news outlet that the high is less intense than regular marijuana and the goods sold at local businesses are much less expensive than pot sold at dispensaries.

Grant said of course hemp-derived THC products should not be sold to anyone under the age of 21, and Vapor Haus does not allow anyone under 21 inside of the store. Grant said he personally thinks it makes sense to prohibit these sales at certain establishments, like gas stations and corner stores.

Alkhateeb, the owner of Smoker’s Saver, a discount tobacco outlet at 2525 S.

Smithville Road, said his delta-8 and THCa customers are mostly in their 50s and 60s and many use the products to reduce pain and anxiety.

“It has a benefit,” he said. “They aren’t using it to party.”

Alkhateeb said he does not believe the governor is banning hemp THC products because kids and young people are able to purchase the items. He said he thinks the move is meant to help state-licensed dispensaries, which are losing business from the sale of intoxicating hemp products.

Alkhateeb said he supports some regulations, like prohibiting THC from being sold in packaging that make the products look like candy or popular junk food brands.

But he said customers at his store have to be 21 years old and his products are locked in a display case at the checkout counter.

Alkhateeb said the governor should have given stores more advance notice of the ban, so they don't have to scramble to sell their inventories in a matter of days.

Smoker's Saver has a buy one, get one free sale going on, and Alkhateeb said he is going to have to throw away any products he does not sell in time.

Alkhateeb also said some people do not like marijuana dispensaries because they scan customers' driver's licenses and they don't want that information to go into a database. A couple of people told this news outlet that they do not want their employers, the court system or other government agencies to find out that they use THC products.

Barrel House, a taproom and bottle shop on East Third Street in downtown Dayton, sells a variety of "THC bevies" — beverages like infused sodas, seltzers and alcohol-free spirits.

Owner Gus Stathes said the state should have implemented regulations on hemp-derived THC products a couple of years ago, before they became an important part of businesses' sales.

"We sell a lot of these — it's become something we rely on to keep our doors open," he said. "As far as retail sales, this is probably a quarter to a third of what we sell, depending on the week."

Stathes said many people who are trying to drink less alcohol or who don't like alcohol enjoy sipping on THC-infused drinks. He said he hopes Ohio continues to allow people to buy these products.

"My opinion on the ban is that it's silly — but there's an important caveat, which is I do think regulation is important," he said. "But small businesses will suffer.... I don't put a lot of faith in the state of Ohio to listen to what people want."

Candidates differ on approach to homeless issue

Four vie for 2 seats on Middletown council, including 1 incumbent.



From left: Council candidates Paul Lolli, Joe Mulligan, Scotty Robertson and Larri Silas discuss goals, visions and ideas during a forum at Miami University Middletown on Wednesday. BRYN DIPPOLD / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Though Middletown council candidates agreed on many issues in a candidates forum Wednesday at Miami University Middletown, there were some differing points about the homeless population in the city.

Candidates Paul Lolli, Joe Mulligan, Scotty Robertson and Larri Silas spoke at the forum organized by the Chamber of Commerce Serving Middletown, Trenton and Monroe; the Menard Family Center for

Democracy; and the Miami Student.

Silas said absentee landlords downtown are holding back city progress, and Robertson said some of those empty buildings could be used to shelter people experiencing homelessness and offer resources.

“This is an issue where there is a not a lack of ideas ... there’s just a lack of political will to actually bite the bullet and put a plan together and then see it through,” Robertson said.

Silas agreed, saying having an address is needed for those experiencing homelessness to apply for and get a job.

“I believe it is the city’s responsibility to care about all the people of Middletown, whether they have a home address or not,” she said.

Lolli agreed absentee landlords are a problem, but said adding more housing for the homeless population is not the answer to the “humanitarian” goal of caring for people.

“What we need to do is get to the root of homelessness,” he said, adding mental health and substance abuse issues need to be taken care of.

Between local faith-based organizations, police, business owners and city officials, Mulligan said all parties need to get on the “same page” on how they will address homelessness.

Mulligan wants to get people experiencing homelessness off the street because spending the night in city parks and by the river “is not acceptable.”

“We need to get them into housing,” he said.

Lolli said the biggest barriers to progress for the city are finances and negativity, while Mulligan said it is the ability to fill open positions and retain top talent at the city building.

Robertson said the state of the world and disconnection are holding back city progress; Silas said most barriers are coming from the federal and state level in terms of losing out on funding.

Candidates did agree “people” are the city’s greatest asset and explained why a vote should go toward them in their opening and closing statements.

Lolli, an incumbent, asked the crowd to keep him on city council because of his passion to make Middletown a better place to do business, live and raise a family.

“I believe in local government that listens and works alongside its residents to create positive change,” he said.

Lolli, 64, said his platform is centered on economic development, public safety and health, and community enrichment.

Mulligan, who has served two terms on council, said he is “inspired and enthusiastic” about upcoming opportunities in the city.

As a small business owner of a law firm, Mulligan, 50, said it’s important to look at city operations with a “private sector business lens.”

“I want to keep local government accountable and efficient,” Mulligan said.

“Without those things, we spend recklessly and waste tax dollars.”

Robertson, a Baptist pastor in Middletown, said he is running because of an observed “disconnect” between people and local government.

“I want to fix that,” he said.

Robertson, 37, said he wants to focus on listening because he wants to bring the “voice of citizens” to council.

“I am running to pursue the agenda of the people,” he said.

Silas said she believes she is the “least known candidate” and explained her upbringing in Middletown inspired her to run for council.

“Middletown is the only home that I’ve ever known,” she said.

Silas, 22, said she is focused on youth, families, small businesses and the elderly.

“If you elect me, you are electing someone who cares about your voice and your vision,” she said.

The four candidates on November’s ballot are running to occupy two open council seats.

Contact this reporter at 1-859-653-3849 or email bryn.dippold@coxinc.com.

WHAT TO KNOW

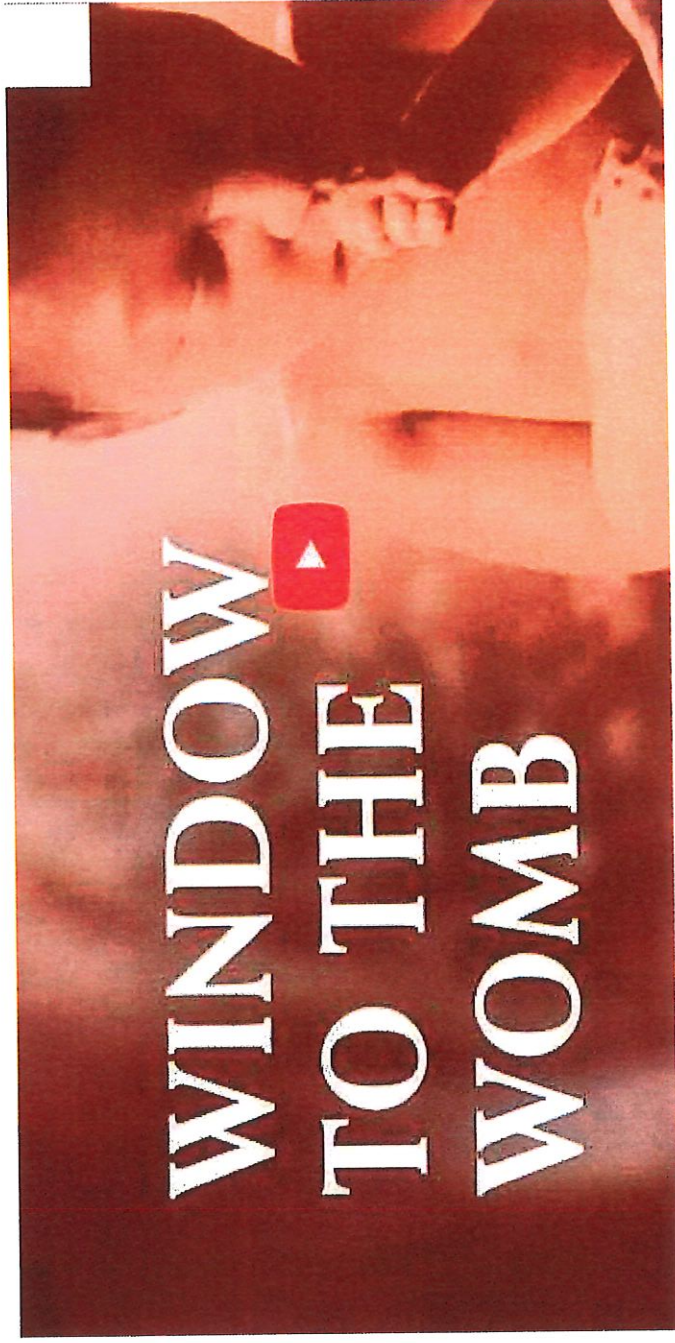
More information on each candidate can be found at tinyurl.com/MiddletownCandidateInfo.

The deadline to register to vote in this election has passed, but voter information can be accessed online at ohiosos.gov/elections/ voters. Early voting began Tuesday.

Miami University student journalists Taylor Stumbaugh and Owen Martin moderated Wednesday’s forum.

Bill would require anti-abortion video in schools

Bill sponsor describes required material as 'grounded in science.'



Proposed Ohio House Bill 485 would require all schools in the state to show a video about fetal development created by anti-abortion group Live Action to public-school students in third through 12th grades. LIVE ACTION / YOUTUBE

BY AVERY KREEMER STAFF WRITER

A newly introduced education bill in Ohio would require every public school in the state to teach lessons, in third through 12th grades, on “human growth and development” during pregnancy.

House Bill 485, titled the Enact the Baby Oliva Act, introduced in late

September, would require any human growth and development curriculum to include a screening of a three-minute animated video entitled "Meet Baby Olivia," created by the anti-abortion advocacy organization Live Action.

This video depicts the development of a pregnancy through the germinal, embryonic and fetal stages.

"This is the moment life begins," a narrator says in the video as a depicted sperm fertilizes an egg. "A new human being has come into existence. At fertilization, her gender, ethnicity, hair color, eye color and countless traits are already determined."

The proposal would also require "high-definition ultrasound video, at least three minutes long, that shows the development of the brain, heart, sex organs, and other vital organs in early fetal development," according to a nonpartisan analysis of the bill.

The bill, as written, would require such instruction to begin in the 2026-2027 school year and would forbid the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce from developing curriculum that counters the bill.

It would also require the Department of Education and Workforce to conduct an annual audit to ensure schools are adhering to the law, and give the Ohio Attorney General the power to sue violating schools for damages.

In HB 485's first hearing Tuesday, sponsor Rep. Melanie Miller, R-Ashland, told members of the House Education Committee that her bill "sends a strong message about the importance of fostering scientific literacy in our classrooms" and would strengthen the state's educational standards.

"The miracle of life is not something that can be easily explained. By equipping students with the resources and knowledge about the remarkable stages of life, we can promote informed discussion grounded

in science and respect for human biology,” said Miller, who noted that six other states have recently passed similar legislation. “This bill does not seek to replace or alter current education standards but to enrich them with a focused, factual presentation of human development.”

Rep. Sean Brennan, D-Parma, raised concerns that HB 485 would violate the Ohio Constitution, which he said “prohibits special legislation that benefits one private organization when a general law could apply more broadly.”

“By naming a single company and its product, this provision appears to give that private entity a statutory monopoly in our classrooms,” he said.

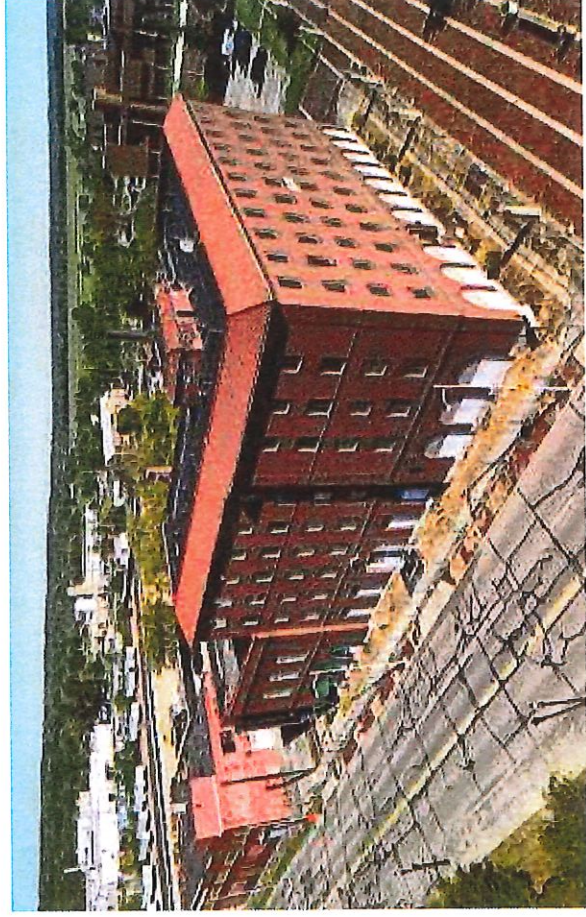
Miller noted that she’d be open to amending the bill, if necessary, to take out direct reference to Live Action’s Baby Olivia video and instead allow the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to develop a list of qualifying materials that could include, but is not limited to, Live Action’s video.

HB 485 will need more hearings before it’s passed out of its committee, which will give the public opportunity to testify in favor of or in opposition to the proposal.

Contact this reporter at 614-981-1422 or email avery.kreemer@coxinc.com.

Middletown seeks developers for Manchester Inn, other sites

Officials say they're hoping mixed-use projects will revitalize area.



The Manchester Inn and Sonshine building are two of five sites chosen by Middletown officials for its call for developers. NICK GRAHAM PHOTOS / STAFF



The Swallen's lot is one of five sites chosen in a recent call for developers by the city of Middletown.

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

The city of Middletown is seeking companies that can develop five locations in the downtown area.

“Our goal is to transform these spaces into a vibrant destination for living, working and gathering that reflects the pride and community spirit of Middletown,” City Manager Ashley Combs said in a press release.

The city administration identified five sites, which total 8 acres:

- 1027 Manchester Ave., formerly the Manchester Inn;
- 101 N. Main St., formerly the Snider building (also known as the Sonshine building);
- 2 N. Main St., formerly First National Bank;
- 39 N. Broad St., known as the Swallen’s Lot; and
- 436 and 437 N. Broad St., known collectively as the North Broad Street lot.

The sites were chosen due to their “proximity to downtown, common city ownership, prominence within the community and the size of the location to bring a catalytic redevelopment to our urban core,” according to Assistant Director of Community and Economic Development Jacob Schulte.

The city has put out one other request for developers in 2022, and Weyland Ventures LLC out of Lexington, Kentucky, was awarded the predevelopment agreement.

After the due diligence period, the the company left the project due to market conditions and their own capabilities, Schulte said.

This time around is different, though, according to Schulte.

“There has been a stronger emphasis on community engagement in its drafting, as well as the document’s mission to bring a more generalized marketing focus to these properties and our downtown as a whole for redevelopment,” he said.

Following a public Downtown Refresh Town Hall Meeting in early March and two Downtown Refresh Working Group Meetings in June, people said the city shouldn’t limit the development to one developer.

Mica Glaser-Jones, who owns the Windamere Event Center downtown, attended the meetings and said the proposal document is “pretty close” to what the group had discussed with the city.

Glaser-Jones, who purchased and renovated the Windamere in 2015 with her husband, said she is worried about the short time frame for proposals but hopes the city reached out to some developers beforehand.

“We really would rather rescue (the buildings) instead of (demolishing) them because we really don’t want to lose much more of our history,” Glaser-Jones said.

Middletown released a survey in August for public feedback on the fate of the Manchester Inn and Sonshine buildings, though the results of the survey have not been shared with Journal-News or the public yet.

Based on public feedback in forums and previous surveys, though, a majority seems to be in support of the preservation, restoration and repurposing of city and historic buildings.

The city’s “strong relationship” with the Butler County Finance Authority and its president and CEO Joshua Smith has also “built excitement” within the development community, according to Schulte.

BCFA entered into a twoyear, \$500,000 cooperative agreement with

Middletown Port Authority in April.

“Companies seeking access to sophisticated financing tools may now give Middletown stronger consideration,” Smith told Journal-News in April.

Smith said the agreement combines “local insight” with “countywide resources and financial tools” for faster deals and site preparation.

For this call to developers, the city is hoping for “mixed-use” projects that combine “residential, retail, office and cultural uses,” according to a press release.

Development proposals should also be inclusive of but not limited to these properties, and a site visit is required for any submitted proposal, according to the document.

Public art, murals, facades and landscaping should also be included in proposals to “contribute to the beautification” of downtown.

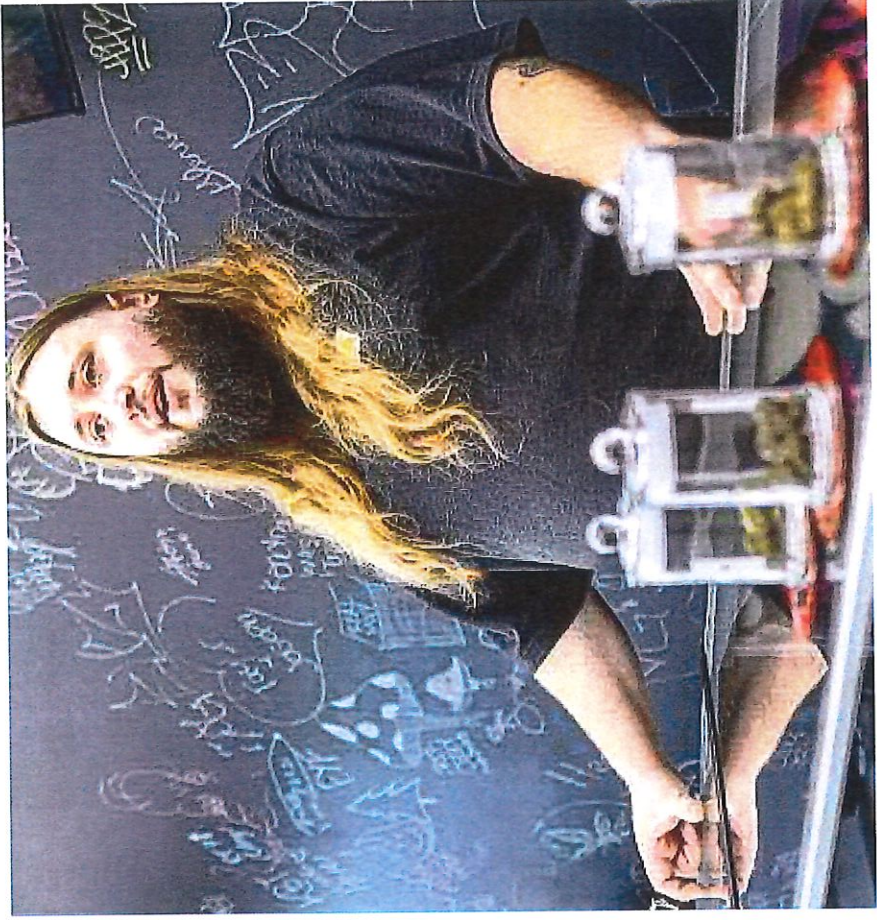
Qualifications must be submitted in person by Nov. 3; city staff will then review submissions, present findings to city council and consider next steps for the properties, according to Schulte.

THC hemp ban paused, sales continue, but businesses concerned

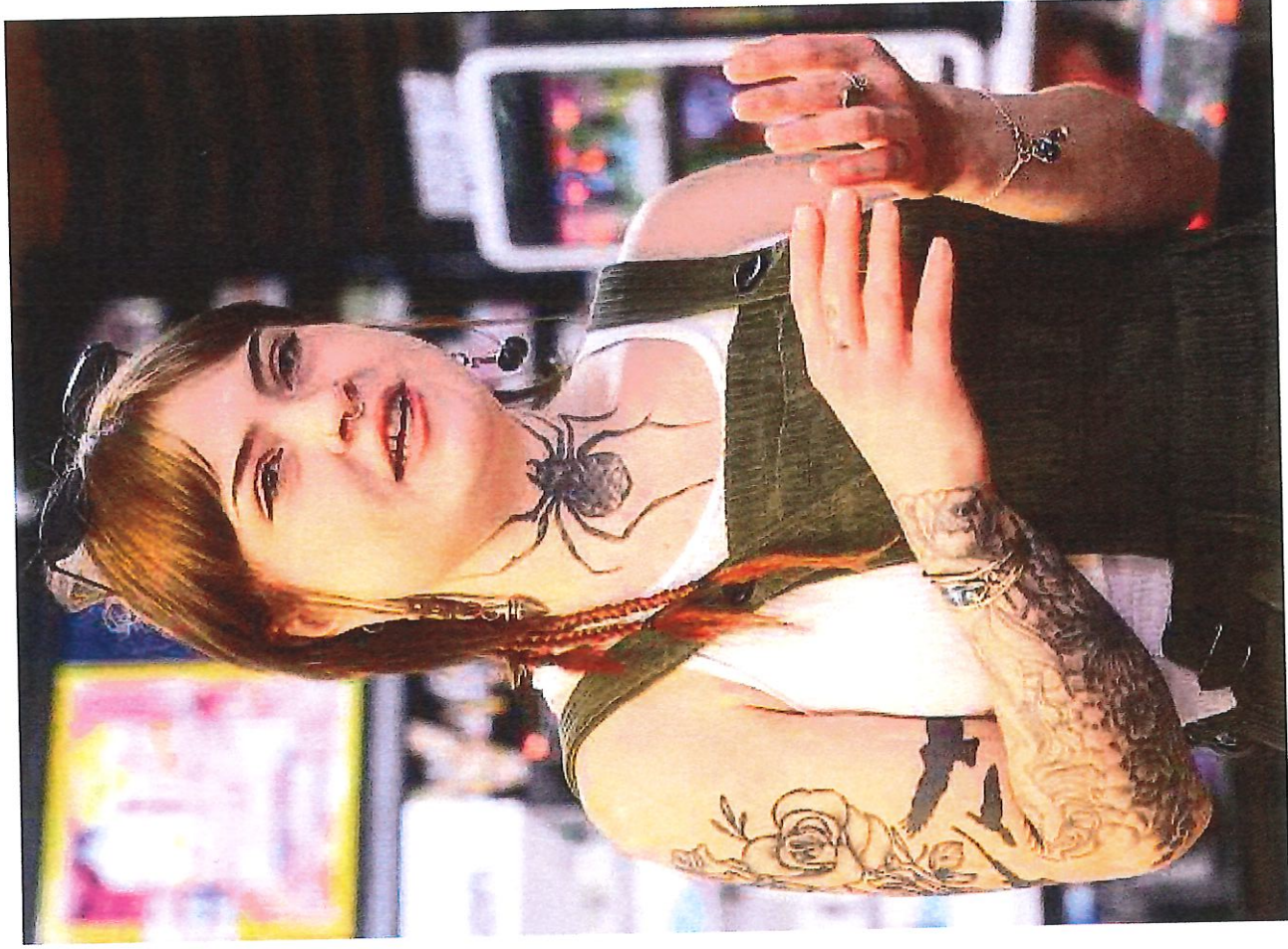
Governor's ban paused by court order after legal challenge.



Signs inside and outside Best Buds in Trotwood inform customers Tuesday that no Delta-8 products are available. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF



Jesse Burns, co-owner of Bud City Dispo in Fairborn, talks in the store Tuesday. The store continues to sell THCA products after Gov. Mike DeWine's 90-day ban on intoxicating hemp-derived THC products went into effect Tuesday. Burns said an attorney concluded the ban applies to Delta-8 products. BRYANT BILLING PHOTOS / STAFF



Jo Day, an assistant at VIP Smoke Shop in Trotwood, talks in the store on Tuesday. Day helped remove products ahead of Gov. Mike DeWine's 90-day ban on intoxicating hemp-derived THC products.

BY CORNELIUS FROLIK STAFF WRITER

Smoke shops, vape shops, gas stations, convenience stores, liquor stores, beer outlets and other establishments across the region had empty shelves Tuesday after Gov. Mike DeWine's 90-day ban on

intoxicating hemp-derived THC products went into effect at a minute past midnight.

Business owners and managers said they fear a temporary ban and future prohibitions could lead to job losses, store closures and consumer anger and outrage, especially if these products were to be removed from the market permanently.

Store owners were pleased to learn that a Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge on Tuesday approved a restraining order that temporarily pauses DeWine's ban after a few businesses challenged the legality of the emergency action.

Some gas stations and other shops had resumed sales of hemp THC by Wednesday morning. A sign outside of a gas station in Dayton advertised 50% off the products for the next two weeks.

At Bud City Dispo in Fairborn, it was business as usual on Tuesday, even before news broke about the Franklin County ruling. Bud City continues to sell THCA products that store owners say are not subject to the ban because they are not Delta-8.

"We've never sold Delta-8 or any kind of synthetic cannabis," said Jesse Burns, owner and operator of Bud City Dispo. "There is a misconception, because a lot of other smoke shops do carry those types of products that carry THCA-blends; we do not. We focus on quality."

DeWine's temporary executive order that seeks to stop the sale of intoxicating hemp products went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, and on Tuesday morning many stores across the region that previously sold the items no longer had them on their shelves or advertised for purchase.

The Dayton Daily News visited about a dozen stores that sold hemp THC for this story.

During the 90-day ban, local and state authorities would have the ability

to seize intoxicating hemp goods from stores that continue to offer them for sale, and retailers that run afoul of the governor's emergency order could be fined \$500 per day.

DeWine's stated rationale for approving a consumer product safety emergency order was that intoxicating hemp products are a "serious threat" to public safety because they are unregulated and lack quality control.

DeWine says that anyone, including children, can buy the products, which he claims have been marketed to young people with colorful packaging that mirror well-know brands of candy, cookies and other sweets.

DeWine also approved a Department of Agriculture order that removes intoxicating hemp from the state definition of legal hemp that is effective for 120 days. DeWine's order was paused on Tuesday for the time being, as multiple businesses challenge its legality in Franklin County Court.

'We need your help'

At the VIP Smoke Shop in Trotwood on Tuesday, display cases that were once full of hemp THC gummies, prerolls and disposable vapes were bare, with signs taped to the glass that said, "Due to Governor DeWine's executive order, hemp products are temporarily off shelves. We expect them back soon. Please check back with us. Please contact your legislator (your House rep. or your senator) to stop this ban. We need your help."

Jo Day, assistant at VIP Smoke Shop, said hemp THC products are among the store's top-sellers, and many customers were dismayed to learn that they can no longer buy items that they often use for pain relief or as an alternative to alcohol.

Day said the ban on hemp THC feels like another example of government overreach, and she believes Ohioans are frustrated and fed up with lawmakers and elected leaders not listening to the people and giving

them what they want.

Store manager Mohammed Zaw said most of the people who buy hemp THC use it for pain relief, and the vast majority of customers are working Ohioans 55 and older who suffer from medical or physical problems. He said a ban also will hurt a lot of local businesses, which also were given very little time to try to unload their inventories ahead of the deadline.

Multiple local store owners and managers said they support some regulations on intoxicating hemp products, like rules that forbid sales to anyone under 21 and prohibitions on packaging to ensure the items aren't being marketed to kids. But they said Ohio businesses should be allowed to continue to sell these products.

Dan Tierney, DeWine's press secretary, said Ohio voters legalized recreational marijuana in late 2023, but the ballot measure they approved limited the sale of cannabis to state-licensed dispensaries.

"The sale of cannabis as intoxicating hemp in these other venues was never contemplated by the legislature nor approved by Ohio voters," he said. "Ohio voters approved a highly-regulated market; they did not approve sales in these venues."

Fairborn shop defiant

Burns, one of the owners of Bud City Dispo on Broad Street in Fairborn, on Tuesday said his business' attorney who reviewed DeWine's order concluded that the ban only applies to Delta-8 products specifically. Burns said Bud City sells THCA products exclusively, and those items remained legal.

THCA is a nonintoxicating cannabinoid that is converted to intoxicating Delta-9 THC when it goes through a "decarboxylation" process in which the substance is heated up.

Burns said he thinks DeWine's ban was "unfair" to lots of businesses. He said Bud City just opened the Fairborn location several months ago, and

the partners invested a lot of money into the business.

Burns said Bud City's products come from verified suppliers, and TCHA is all natural, which means there are not concerns about quality and the manufacturing process, like with Delta-8. Burns did say he thinks it's possible the governor could try to target THCA products in the future.

"Regulation wouldn't be a terrible thing — we're not opposed to it," he said. "It would give us a fair chance, and I feel like that's what these businesses deserve."

Local bars impacted

Raychel Loney, general manager of the Troll Pub at the Wheelhouse in Dayton, on Tuesday afternoon said all of the bar and restaurant's unsold THC-infused beverages have been stored in the office until further notice.

Loney said customers will miss the drinks, which are a popular alternative to alcohol.

Customers, she said, can avoid getting too drunk or having a hangover the next day by choosing THC drinks over booze.

Loney said the adult beverage industry is highly regulated, and Troll Pub only purchases THC drinks from reputable distributors. Loney said if the state were to ban the sale of THC drinks at restaurants and other establishments that would be a "huge violation" of the will of Ohio voters, who supported the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Loney said she thinks marijuana regulations should be similar to those for alcohol sales. She said she thinks there has been pushback against the governor's order.

"This kind of an industry doesn't happen by accident — it has supporters, backers," she said. "Ohio's economy is boosted by these kind of innovative drinks and stuff like that."

In a statement, the Ohio Craft Brewers Association said hemp-derived THC beverages are a vital revenue stream for many of the 400 small and independent breweries across the state. The association said these products meet evolving consumer demands.

INTOXICATING HEMP

What is it, and why are state officials, businesses concerned with its regulation?

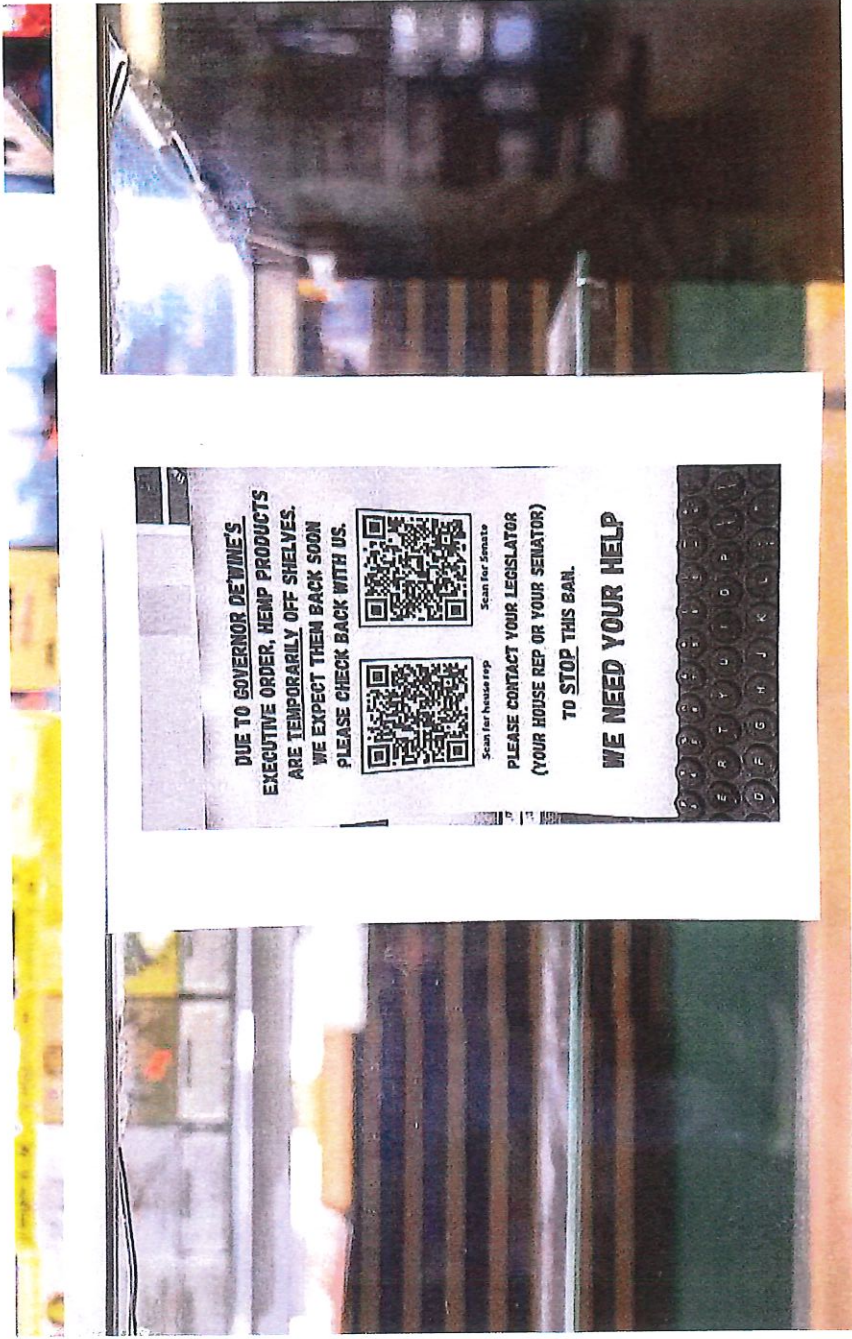


Several local businesses were offering sales on products after Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed an executive order banning intoxicating hemp for 90 days. These businesses say they derive a substantial share of their business from THC hemp products. Pictured is Vapor Haus manager Troy Grant with gummy drops.

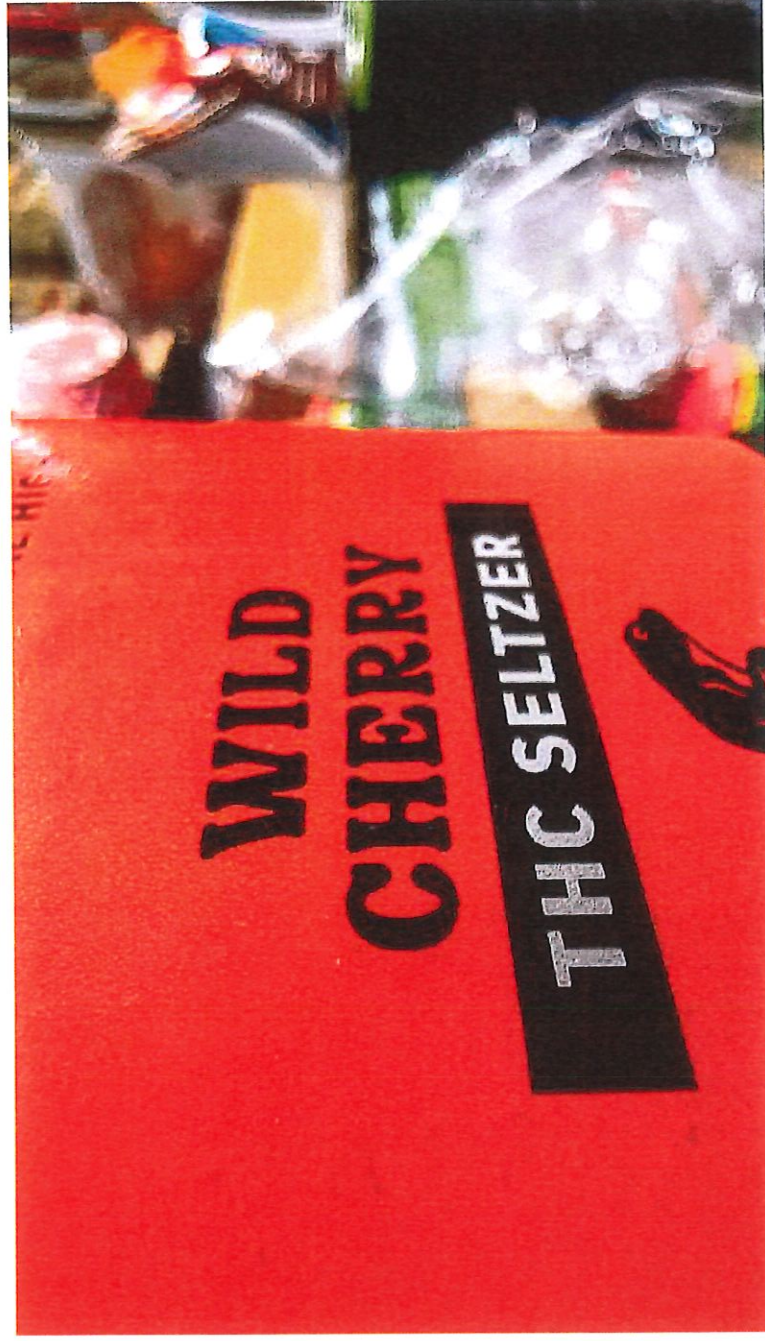


All hemp-infused beverages at Troll Pub at the Wheelhouse were moved into storage after DeWine signed his executive order. However, a Franklin County judge blocked DeWine's order hours after it went into effect in response to a lawsuit filed by retailers.

BRYANT BILLING PHOTOS / STAFF



The VIP Smoke Shop in Trotwood had removed hemp THC gummies, pre-rolls and disposable vapes from shelves on Tuesday. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF



All THC-infused beverages at Troll Pub at the Wheelhouse were moved into storage after Gov. Mike DeWine's 90- day ban went into effect. THC is the most common cannabinoid. Its psychoactive tendencies produce the "high."

BRYANT BILLING / STAFF

BY SYDNEY DAWES; AVERY KREEMER AND CORNELIUS FROLIK STAFF WRITERS

For nearly two years, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has urged state lawmakers to pass legislation regulating intoxicating hemp. His Department of Public Safety director even sent two 15-year-olds into a gas station in Clark County in January 2024 to show how easy it is for kids to legally buy THC gummies.

This month, DeWine took the matter into his own hands, issuing an executive order that — for several hours Tuesday — took the products off of shelves in stores across the state.

DeWine's emergency order sought to ban intoxicating hemp for at least

90 days in an effort to get the General Assembly to act.

But a Franklin County judge blocked DeWine's order hours after it went into effect Tuesday, in response to a lawsuit filed by retailers including Fumee Smoke and Vape in West Chester Twp.

That leaves intoxicating hemp legal for now, though its longterm fate is uncertain, along with the future of numerous businesses that have popped up in recent years that say they derive a substantial share of their business from THC hemp products.

But what exactly is intoxicating hemp, and how is it different than products that were legalized with the passage of the Issue 2 recreational marijuana measure? Here's what you need to know:

What is intoxicating hemp?

Broadly, an intoxicating hemp product is a hemp-derived product that contains cannabinoids in concentrations high enough to produce psychoactive effects when consumed, according to the Moritz College of Law's Drug Policy Enforcement Center.

The bulk of today's hemp industry revenue comes from the plant's production of chemical compounds like cannabigerol or cannabidiol, also called CBG and CBD, respectively. These substances are not psychoactive and are often used in products geared toward pain management.

CBD and CBG are used as additives to many products, but they're also used to extract psychoactive substances like Delta-8 THC from hemp.

Delta-8 is used in the production of many intoxicating products like drinks, edibles and vapes. All Delta-8 THC products are manufactured by some form of chemical conversion.

Other products state they contain a certain amount of another cannabinoid: tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, or THCA.

THCA converts to Delta-9 THC, the most prevalent cannabinoid in marijuana, when it is combusted or vaporized.

This makes its THC content more potent than what is present in its dry weight — somewhat of a legal loophole.

“It’s not psychoactive, it meets all the requirements of hemp law, until it’s combusted,” said Dexter Ridgeway, research associate at the Drug Policy Enforcement Center. “But it’s a lower level. You’re not going to have the same effects as a standard Delta-9.”

How does intoxicating hemp differ from recreational marijuana?

Although marijuana flower and hemp flower look similar on the outside, they differ in a few ways in terms of their contents.

“If you put marijuana and hemp together on a table, they look pretty much the same,” Ridgeway said. “It’s really hard to determine by physical appearance.”

The cannabis plant contains more than 100 cannabinoids — chemical compounds that can have either psychoactive or non-psychoactive effects.

Hemp has lower levels of Delta-9 THC than marijuana plants. Under federal law, hemp products may be sold if they contain no more than 0.3% Delta-9 THC on a dry weight basis. But they can contain numerous other cannabinoids that have an intoxicating effect.

Marijuana (with high Delta-9 THC) and hemp (with Delta-8 or THCA) also significantly differ in how they are viewed under state and federal law.

Marijuana can only be sold in a state-licensed dispensary, where consumers also pay an extra 10% excise tax.

This and other legal requirements for recreational marijuana can make

hemp considerably cheaper.

Ohio doesn't have an age requirement to buy hemp products since they're, by dry weight, 0.3% or less of Delta-9 THC. That's why hemp products can be sold almost anywhere in the state, and the state's government has no jurisdiction over them.

This also means intoxicating hemp products have different testing expectations than marijuana that an adult age 21 and up can buy at their local dispensary.

Hemp business leaders say they buy products with test results from reputable laboratories and card customers to verify their ages.

However, with some products, testing results included in QR codes on their packaging can be years old. Testing results may also only represent a review of an entire batch of substances, not every singular product, Ridgeway said.

What are local businesses saying?

Smoke shops, vape shops, gas stations, convenience stores, liquor stores, beer outlets and other establishments across the region had empty shelves on Tuesday after DeWine's 90-day ban on intoxicating hemp-derived THC products briefly went into effect.

Business owners and managers said they fear a temporary ban and future restrictions could lead to job losses, store closures and consumer outrage, especially if these products were to be removed from the market permanently.

Jo Day, assistant at VIP Smoke Shop in Trotwood, said hemp THC products are among the store's top-sellers, and many customers use those products for pain relief or as an alternative to alcohol.

Some local smoke shops and bars say hemp accounts for nearly a third of their sales. In a lawsuit challenging DeWine's ban, some Ohio retailers

estimated such a ban could put 20,000 Ohioans out of work and said hemp has a nearly \$3 billion economic impact in Ohio.

“This kind of an industry doesn’t happen by accident — it has supporters, backers,” said Raychel Loney, general manager of the Troll Pub at the Wheelhouse in Dayton, which sells hemp-infused beverages. “Ohio’s economy is boosted by these kind of innovative drinks and stuff like that.”

Some gas stations and other shops had resumed sales of hemp THC by Wednesday morning. A sign outside a gas station in Dayton advertised 50% off its hemp products for the next two weeks.

How long has hemp been legal? The 2018 Farm Bill removed legal barriers to industrial hemp production by removing hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Ohio enacted Senate Bill 57 in July 2019 to legalize the production of hemp in Ohio, and in December that year Ohio received one of the first hemp production approvals from the national Department of Agriculture.

Because the federal government has not regulated this part of the hemp industry, the creation and sale of intoxicating hemp products exist in a legal limbo under federal law. Some states have passed age-restricting rules and other kinds of regulations on intoxicating hemp within their borders, but Ohio has largely left the industry untouched.

What were DeWine’s executive orders aiming to do?

DeWine penned two executive orders on hemp. The first order gave the Ohio Department of Agriculture the authority to redefine the state’s legal definition of hemp products to exclude intoxicating hemp.

The other order created an “adulterated consumer emergency,” which asserted that intoxicating hemp products are effectively tampered with and are now dangerous.

This required all retailers in the state to get qualifying products off their shelves, and those who were not in compliance with the order could face daily \$500 fines.

DeWine's orders asserted an "immediate need to address the dangers of intoxicating hemp and its serious threat to public health and safety," evidenced by "hundreds" of calls fielded by Ohio Poison Control over the last several years regarding minors and intoxicating hemp poisoning.

At his press conference, DeWine had on display three intoxicating hemp products found in convenience stores that mimic the packaging or branding of Sour Patch Kids, Nerds Gummy Clusters and Gushers.

"They do it on purpose," DeWine said. "They do it to attract kids."

Does DeWine have authority over intoxicating hemp?

Questions over whether DeWine has the executive authority to regulate intoxicating hemp sales stem back to his own admission, in a January 2024 press conference, that he'd need the legislature to take action in order to get any significant safeguards into law.

Although gubernatorial powers vary by state and are determined by their constitutions, governors can typically issue executive orders to trigger emergency powers, establish advisory committees, and address regulatory reform, according to the National Governors Association.

DeWine's executive orders came two years after the governor urged the Ohio General Assembly to pass reforms on intoxicating hemp products.

"We believe we have this authority to do this, and I'm not going to sit back and not do it," DeWine said during a recent press conference. "I went back to my lawyers and I said this problem continues to get worse. It is absolutely absurd that a 14-year-old or 13-year-old can walk into the store and buy this stuff. It's never what anybody intended when the hemp law was passed."

But the group of retailers who challenged the orders in court assert that

DeWine's attempt to regulate intoxicating hemp went outside his scope of power. A Franklin County Judge issued a ruling Tuesday to temporarily block the governor's executive orders banning the sale of intoxicating hemp in the state of Ohio.

What about possessing intoxicating hemp?

Possession of intoxicating hemp was not included in DeWine's executive orders, which banned the sale of the products.

The judge's order put a 14-day pause on the executive orders. For now, intoxicating hemp sales can continue.

But it's unclear what action will come after the pause.

Where does the legislature stand?

There have been plenty of legislative proposals to regulate intoxicating hemp.

The measure closest to the finish line is Senate Bill 86, which proposes moving all intoxicating hemp products to licensed recreational marijuana dispensaries. The bill passed the Senate with unanimous support from both Republicans and Democrats, but it has yet to be addressed in the House.

In the House, two measures have gotten considerable play: House Bill 160, which would move intoxicating hemp products to dispensaries and tweak the state's recreational cannabis laws, and House Bill 198, which would regulate the production, sale and distribution of intoxicating hemp products.

Both of the House's proposals have ultimately, however, stalled in committee.

House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima, told reporters Wednesday that DeWine's ban — and to a lesser extent the court decision blocking the ban — will likely spur lawmakers to pass a law that provides more clarity

to the situation.

“I’m confident we’re going to get something done here in the next few weeks,” Huffman said.

He said the House has not yet passed a bill due to splits in the GOP caucus. Some lawmakers want intoxicating hemp to be regulated in the same way as recreational marijuana; others want hemp regulated less strictly than recreational marijuana; and a third contingent wants to prohibit intoxicating hemp products altogether.

House Minority Leader Dani Isaacoshn, D-Cincinnati, has told reporters that he can’t quite square why the legislature has been unable to pass regulations.

“We already know how to do it. We do it for tobacco, we do it for alcohol,” he said Wednesday. “ ... There is clearly an opportunity for a bipartisan compromise here.”

MARIJUANA AND HEMP: UNDERSTANDING THE VOCABULARY

Although marijuana and hemp are both considered cannabis, they differ from one another both physically and legally. Here are some terms it helps to understand.

- **Cannabinoid:** A group of chemical compounds found in the cannabis plant.
- **THC:** Short for Tetrahydrocannabinol, THC is the most common cannabinoid. Its psychoactive tendencies produce the “high.” Delta-9 THC is the most common cannabinoid in marijuana.
- **CBD (cannabidiol):** The second most prevalent active ingredient in cannabis plants. CBD is used for treating childhood epilepsy syndromes and evidence suggests that CBD may also help with a variety of conditions such as anxiety, insomnia and chronic pain. It is not psychoactive.

■ Delta-8 THC: A psychoactive cannabinoid, it occurs only at minuscule levels in natural cannabis. High levels of Delta-8 THC can be produced by chemically converting CBD or Delta-9 THC into Delta-8. Consumer products with Delta-8 include edibles, drinks, tinctures, vapes and more.

■ THCA (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid): This occurs naturally in cannabis plants and is a precursor of THC. THCA does not produce a high unless combusted or vaporized, which causes it to change into Delta-9 THC. It is present in hemp products such as vapes and prerolls, which can then be heated to convert it to THC.

Source: Drug Policy Enforcement Center

Senate OKs bill to change OVI laws for marijuana

With current testing, drivers don't have to be high to be convicted.



Flowering cannabis plants at the Pure Ohio Wellness facility in Clark County on Dec. 4, 2023. BILL LACKEY / STAFF

BY AVERY KREEMER AND CORNELIUS FROLIK STAFF WRITERS

The Ohio Senate has unanimously approved a bill that would update the state's OVI laws when it comes to marijuana.

The update is necessary, attorney Charles Rowland of Dayton DUI told this outlet, because the state's current testing procedures for a motorists' THC content can find them guilty of driving impaired even if they haven't ingested marijuana in a month.

“You don’t have to be high to be convicted,” Rowland said.

Blaise Katter, the president and policy chair for the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, explained to the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this year that this is because Ohio’s law enforcement tests motorists for the compound carboxy-THC, an inactive residual compound that can be found in a person’s system after their body breaks down delta-9 THC, the psychoactive compound within marijuana.

“It is unanimously understood by every scientific expert on the subject that carboxy-THC is completely inactive with no psychoactive properties whatsoever,” Katter said.

However, carboxy-THC stays in the system for up to a month, and the mere presence of the compound doesn’t necessarily point to impaired driving.

“As it stands today, an individual who legally consumed marijuana days, weeks and even months prior to getting behind the wheel of a car could be found guilty of OVI in Ohio even if there is zero evidence of driving impairment,” Katter said.

Senate Bill 55 would eliminate the state’s current standards that focus on inactive compounds in a suspected impaired motorists’ system and instead direct Ohio law enforcement to test for more indicative compounds.

“Basically, what the bill does is, we’re looking to test active metabolites to show more recent use of marijuana,” Sen. Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville, the primary sponsor of the bill, explained to his colleagues on the Senate floor.

Manning admitted that the science of testing for THC compounds is not perfect and said SB 55 reflects that reality.

The bill states that a motorist would be inferred as guilty if a urine test

showed at least 25 nanograms of delta-9 THC per milliliter; or if a blood test showed at least two but less than five nanograms of delta-9 THC per milliliter; or if a saliva test showed a concentration of at least five nanograms of delta-9 THC.

The motorist could argue this inference in court under the law, Manning said.

However, SB 55 would also set a delta-9 THC limit that, if found in a motorist's system, would make them automatically guilty of operating a vehicle under the influence.

The bill's proposed standard is five nanograms per milliliter of blood.

Aside from unanimous support from Ohio Senators, SB 55 also received plaudits from the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, whose chief lobbyist Gary Daniels described it as "such a noticeable improvement over current law" during committee.

The bill received repeated pushback from the organization DUID Victim Voices.

Founder Ed Wood argued that SB 55's would-be standards would result in a "pathetically low" conviction rate for motorists suspected of driving under the influence of marijuana.

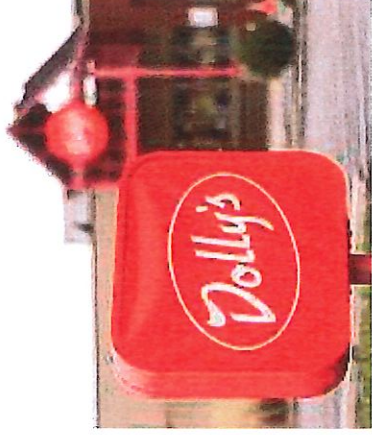
The Dayton Daily News recently reported that a study by researchers at Wright State University found that about four in 10 drivers killed in automobile crashes in Montgomery County over a nearly six-year period had "active" THC in their systems.

SB 55 will receive further testimony and debate in the Ohio House, where it awaits action from the House Judiciary Committee.

Contact this reporter at 614-981-1422 or email avery.kreemer@coxinc.com.

All Dolly's locations in Dayton, Cincinnati to close today, Big Boy announces

NEW DETAILS



Dolly's on Troy Town Drive, just off of West Main Street in Troy, is the a site of a former Frisch's Big Boy. Big Boy Restaurant Group will discontinue operations today at all Dolly's restaurants in the Cincinnati and Dayton markets. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF

BY STAFF REPORT

Big Boy Restaurant Group will soon discontinue operations at all Dolly's restaurants in the Cincinnati and Dayton markets.

The six existing restaurants will close today.

Before opening its first restaurant six months ago, "Big Boy Restaurant Group was served with a temporary restraining order preventing the company from using the Big Boy name in its Southwest Ohio locations.

In response, the company quickly adapted and launched six restaurants

under the name Dolly's, continuing to serve guests and uphold the brand's long-standing commitment to family dining and hospitality while the legal process continued," states a news release from Big Boy Restaurant Group LLC.

The litigation remains unresolved. The company said it is still unable to operate under the Big Boy name in these markets.

"Six months ago, the company entered Southwest Ohio with one goal in mind — to preserve and rejuvenate the beloved Big Boy brand that has meant so much to families across this region for nearly nine decades. At that time, many Big Boy– branded restaurants not operated by the company were closing, and Big Boy Restaurant Group sought to bring stability, quality and a renewed sense of nostalgia back to an area that has always been part of the brand's story," states the news release.

Big Boy Restaurant Group opened its first location in the Dayton region at 8181 Springboro Pike in Miami Twp. near the Dayton Mall in March. This was followed by a Troy location at 20 Troy Town Drive.

"While Big Boy Restaurant Group is stepping back from the Southwest Ohio market at this time, the company remains hopeful that once the matter is resolved, it will be able to return and reopen its doors under the Big Boy name."

The company did not say what will happen to the current employees, only thanking them in the news release.

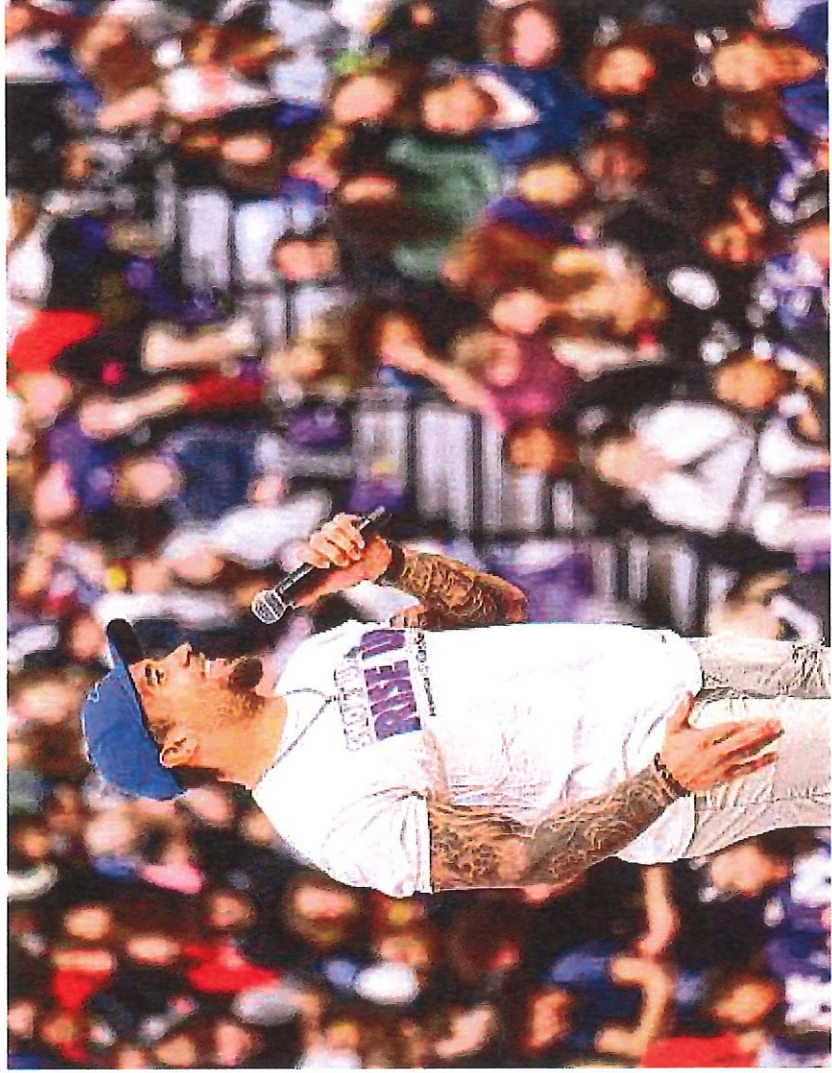
"Big Boy Restaurant Group extends its sincere appreciation to all Dolly's team members for their professionalism, resilience, and commitment throughout this period. The company also expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Cincinnati and Dayton communities for their warm welcome and loyal support over the past several months."

District seeks to boost student attendance

Bengals' Chase Brown appears at pep rally to announce initiative.



Middletown High School principal Donetrus Hill speaks after Cincinnati Bengals' running back Chase Brown surprised students during an assembly promoting good attendance Tuesday at Middletown High School. The Middies have partnered with CareSource to offer incentives for attendance in the coming weeks for students who do not miss days of school.



Cincinnati Bengals' running back Chase Brown surprised students during an assembly promoting attendance Tuesday at Middletown High School. The Middies have partnered with CareSource to offer incentives for attendance in the coming weeks for students who do not miss days of school. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

MIDDLETOWN MIDDIES



Cincinnati Bengals' running back Chase Brown surprised students during an assembly promoting attendance Tuesday at Middletown High School. In the weeks of Oct. 27-31, Nov. 10-14 and Dec. 8-12, students with perfect attendance will receive gift cards to Buffalo Wild Wings, Jersey Mike's and Cassano's Pizza. NICK GRAHAM PHOTOS / STAFF

BY SAM HARASIMOWICZ WCPO

Middletown City School District has launched a new initiative to continue its work to boost student attendance.

It's called "Show Up, Rise Up," and it's focused on seventh through 12th graders. The students will receive prizes for perfect attendance on three specific weeks from October through December.

"We talk about it in school, but really it's setting the precedent for life, showing up in everything you do," said Superintendent Deborah Houser.

Students joined together at a pep rally — featuring special guest Bengals running back Chase Brown — at Middletown High School for the announcement.

In the weeks of Oct. 27-31, Nov. 10-14 and Dec. 8-12, students with perfect attendance will receive different gift cards to Buffalo Wild Wings, Jersey Mike's and Cassano's Pizza.

There are specific rules for this initiative that were explained during the pep rally.

"No early release, no absences, excused or unexcused," an administrator said.

There is also a grand prize for a VIP Bengals Experience.

At the pep rally, Brown was more than just a special guest, urging the kids to get to class.

"I think for them it's just giving them motivation to show up every single day, because you never know what they're going through," Brown said.

Earlier this year, we reported on other ways schools in Middletown are trying to combat chronic absences.

Houser reported that chronic absences were up to 45% recently, but have now been lowered to around 35%.

"It's a very simple message, it's important that you show up at school," Houser said.

Houser explained that chronic absence means missing at least 10% of a student's instructional hours.

The superintendent said there are a variety of factors that can impact a student's attendance.

"It could be from, they miss the bus and don't have a ride to school, it could be that they're sick. There's a high incidence of anxiety today when

it comes to school children. It could be they don't have clean clothes to wear," Houser said.

Local families, shops feeling the impact of shutdown

LOCAL IMPACT



Christina Lauderman serves Jack Norris his breakfast Wednesday at the nearly empty Fairborn Family Diner near Wright Patterson Air Force Base. They said that since the government shutdown, business has taken a noticeable hit. MICHAEL KURTZ / STAFF

BY MICHAEL KURTZ STAFF WRITER

With the federal government shutdown in its third week and no end in sight, those impacted locally are starting to worry about the end-of-year holidays and beyond.

“We’re worried about November,” said Yuri Pimentel.

“The bills don’t stop when he gets furloughed.”

Pimentel’s husband is a Department of Defense employee at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The Dayton Daily News is not naming him due to concern about reprisal. Pimentel and her husband have different last names.

Her husband provides about 60% of the family’s income, she said.

Pimentel owns Gem City Beauty, 704 Brown St. in Dayton, where about half her clients are base employees.

“I had 30 scheduled for this week and five already canceled,” she said.

Pimentel said she and her husband canceled a trip to Virginia over the weekend for her brother’s wedding out of concern for finances.

What worries them most is what happens if the shutdown continues into next month when their mortgage and other bills come due.

“We have savings, we’re just afraid to tap into it,” Pimentel said.

Kadir Kurt is the manager of Fairborn Family Diner, 419 N. Broad St. in Fairborn.

For more than 15 years the family-owned and -operated diner has served meals to military personnel and contractors working at the base.

Kurt said about 30% of his lunch business usually comes from people employed by the military in some capacity.

That's down to 10% since the start of the government shutdown Oct. 1.

"Honestly there's just less uniforms in here. I just haven't seen them as much," Kurt said.

The Republicans who have majority control in Congress believe they have the upper hand politically, as they fend off Democratic demands to quickly fund health insurance subsidies as part of any plan to end the shutdown, the Associated Press reported.

Democrats have dug in, convinced that Americans are on their side in the fight to prevent the looming health care price spikes and blaming President Trump for the shutdown.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer has insisted it was Republicans who are "feeling the heat."

Diner regular Jack Norris, 88, comes in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for breakfast to meet with friends and see what's happening in the neighborhood.

Since the shutdown, his mornings have been very quiet.

"Usually there's more people here. There's just not as many," Norris said.

One Washington Twp. couple who asked not to be named is feeling double the stress.

Both she and her husband were furloughed Oct. 1. Both are scientists with the Air Force Research Laboratory.

"We're not unemployed so we're not allowed to take jobs related to our field," she said.

Her husband has picked up odd jobs like painting to keep money coming in, she said, and she has been doing projects around their house.

What they're not doing is spending money they would normally on things like sports and activities for their 13-yearold daughter, dinners out and other activities that move the local economy.

"We're usually buying Christmas gifts by now. We're not doing any of that," she said.

Her husband has worked in the federal government for 20 years. She has been a government employee for the last two after spending 16 years as a federal contractor.

She said over that time, she doesn't recall a holiday season when they're weren't worried about a shutdown, regardless of which political party was in power.

"Congress typically does this around the holidays. I can't remember a Christmas we weren't sweating this," she said.

Steven McKee is in the unenviable position of working for no pay.

As a Wright Patterson Air Force Base firefighter, he is considered essential personnel and must report for duty.

McKee has worked there 23 years as a civilian contractor and been through five government shutdowns including the current one.

He said until this year, money for essential personnel pay was always carved out. He received his last paycheck — for partial pay — on Oct. 10.

"This is the first with zero, and that's a real wallop," McKee said.

The other thing that makes this different, he said, is that there doesn't appear to be an end in sight.

McKee said his leadership and union representatives try to keep them updated on the latest discussions from Washington. There's just no

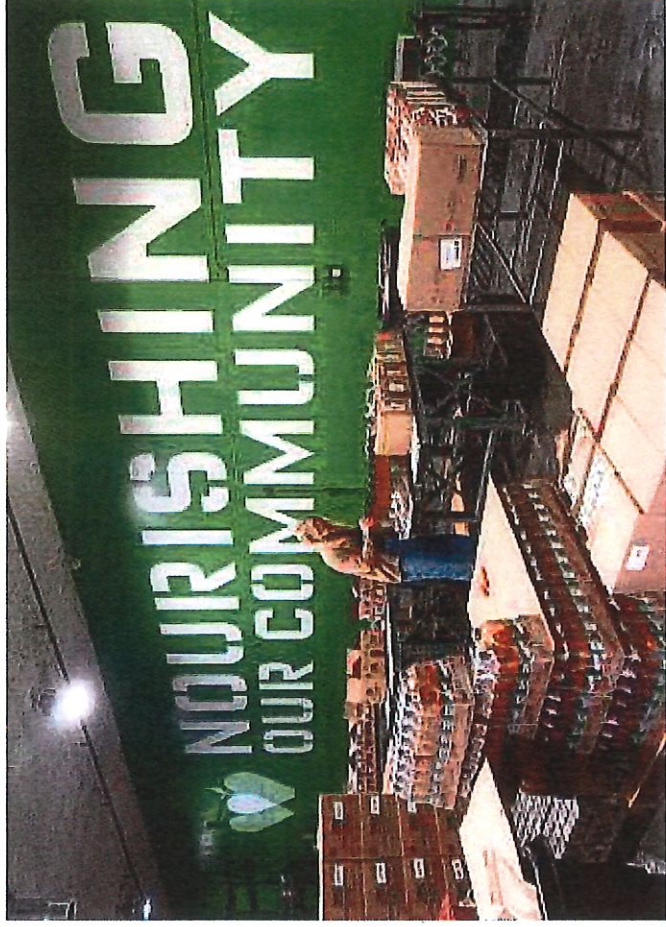
information coming, leading to a complete “lack of optimism” among the rank and file

“It’s like there’s indifference on the part of those who can make a difference,” McKee said about Congress and the White House.

“Sometimes you wonder if these people want a functioning government.”

States worry about how to fill the gap in food aid

Federal SNAP benefits may stall due to ongoing government shutdown.



Mara Sleeter, a marketing and communications project manager, stands near boxes of juice while being interviewed in the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank warehouse in San Francisco on July 2. JEFF CHIU / AP

BY GEOFF MULVIHILL ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officials in Louisiana, Vermont and Virginia pledged Thursday to keep food aid flowing to recipients in their states, even if the federal program is stalled next month because of the government shutdown.

The fate of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP,

which helps about 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries, is becoming a deep concern as it gets closer to Nov. 1, when the benefits could dry up without either a resolution of the federal government shutdown or other action.

Other states have explored using their own funds to prop up the program but have run into technical roadblocks, and it wasn't clear whether the three newly announced plans have answers for those.

Legislative officials in Vermont said they're waiting word from the state administration on how the benefit would be delivered.

Here's what to know.

Some states are announcing plans, but details have been scarce

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, said he was declaring a state of emergency to provide food benefits to SNAP beneficiaries.

A spokesperson said details on how it would work are coming later.

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, another Republican, said he was making it a top priority to make sure "seniors, individuals with disabilities, and children who rely on food stamps do not go hungry in Louisiana," but he has also not detailed how.

New Hampshire officials announced a plan to increase access to food through food banks and mobile pantries.

It would require approval of a legislative committee in the GOP-controlled state.

Vermont lawmakers also said Thursday they intend to have the state cover both the food aid and heating fuel assistance that's at risk.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, said this week that he would deploy the National Guard to help food banks. "This is serious, this is

urgent — and requires immediate action,” he said.

States have limited ability to help

Officials from Alaska, New Mexico and North Dakota have said that they’ve considered using state money to keep the food aid flowing but fear a federal government directive may make that impossible.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees SNAP, told states earlier this month not to send information to the vendors who provide the debit cards because of uncertainty about whether the program would be funded in November.

Officials in the states say that federal control of the system appears to stand in the way of their attempts to fund the program on their own.

“Without action from USDA, I think it is highly unlikely that any states would issue November SNAP benefits,” Carolyn Vega, a policy analyst at the advocacy group Share Our Strength, said in an email.

“On top of the technical challenges, states can’t shoulder that cost, especially with the risk it wouldn’t be refunded.”

It’s not certain the program will be paused, but it’s looking likely

Lower-income families who qualify for SNAP receive debit cards loaded each month by the federal government that work only for groceries at participating stores and farmers markets.

The average monthly benefit is \$187 per person. Most beneficiaries have incomes at or below the poverty level.

Time is running short to keep benefits flowing in November.

Congress and President Donald Trump could strike a deal to end the federal shutdown that started Oct. 1.

It’s also possible that the Trump administration would allocate money

for the program even if the shutdown continues. The liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that about \$5 billion is available in a contingency fund and is calling on the administration to use that for partial benefits in November, but it's not clear if that's being seriously discussed.

Losing SNAP could mean tough choices for beneficiaries

Sylvia Serrano gets \$100 every month to help buy groceries for herself and the four grandchildren she's raising in Camden, New Jersey.

Two of her grandkids have autism, and because of their aversions to certain textures they eat only certain foods that are unlikely to be available at food banks.

The act of getting food could also be harder for her without SNAP. She now does her shopping while the kids are at school, using a grocery store that's close to home due to her not-so-reliable car.

As food costs rise, area shoppers look for deals

Store owners adjust to changing customer needs.



Tyler Burt picks out a box of donuts at Milton's Donuts in Middletown. Burt said the prices keep him coming back. MICHAEL KURTZ PHOTOS / STAFF



The cost of meat is up 5.6% from last year according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, forcing some shoppers to opt for less expensive options.



Rodney Ebright, owner of East Dayton Meats and Poultry, said overall sales are down between \$300,000 and \$400,000 as customers try to stretch their food dollars. MICHAEL KURTZ / STAFF

As food prices climb, some shoppers are tightening their purse strings and local stores are adjusting to keep pace.

“With prices up everywhere it makes you think before you buy anything. Makes you look for the deals,” said Tyler Burt, a food delivery driver from Middletown.

Total food cost is up 3.2% from August 2024 to August 2025, the most recent timeframe available, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

July to August was the fifth consecutive time food costs rose month over month since dropping 0.1% from February to March.

Bank accounts are getting hit regardless of whether you’re dining out or eating at home.

Away-from-home food costs are up 3.9% and food-at-home costs are up 2.7%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Meats, poultry, fish and eggs have taken the highest leap, up 5.6% year over year.

“People are pretty tight pocketed right now,” said Rodney Ebright, owner of East Dayton Meats and Poultry, 1546 Keystone Ave. “They’re value shopping.”

Those values are harder to find, Ebright said, and his customers are opting for less expensive cuts of meat.

“Domestic beef is getting priced the same way as protein brought in from other countries even though there’s no tariff on it,” Ebright said. It’s driving up his and the customer’s costs.

Recipients of SNAP food assistance benefits have been impacted the hardest, he said, with his sales down 60% in that area from people trying to stretch limited dollars.

He said he's down between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in overall sales.

Last October, he paid \$7.99/ pound for ribeye. His cost has risen to \$14.79/pound this year.

Beef tenderloin is up to \$20/ pound from \$11/pound.

Thanksgiving turkeys are also going to cost more. Last year, Ebright's cost was \$1.53/pound for fresh turkeys and \$1.19 for frozen. That's up to \$2.99 and \$1.99 respectively.

Profit margins have gone from 25-30% to 18-20%, forcing Ebright to cut hours for his 10 employees.

The lone bright spot is chicken breast, which is down from \$2.93/pound in May to \$1.29/pound. Customers are going that route, he said.

"It's inflation, politics, some companies using tariffs to increase prices in general," he said. "We've felt it. We've definitely felt it."

Jay Byrne, co-owner of Milton Donuts, 3533 Roosevelt Blvd. in Middletown, said pricing is all part of his plan to keep sales during economically trying times.

"We understand that times are tough for people. Here you can still get a donut for a dollar and a dozen for 12 dollars," Byrne said. "You can feed a family of four breakfast for 12 bucks."

Byrne said their pricing keeps people coming in and he has no plans to change that.

"We'd rather look at more people coming in because of the price than raising the prices. We'll sell more to more people," Byrne said.

Price is what keeps Burt coming back. He purchased a dozen donuts, a specialty pastry and a milk for \$15.

“The prices here are real good,” Burt said.

Nearly 40K in area may lose food aid Saturday

Butler County residents have received over \$65K in SNAP benefits Sthis year.



Volunteers at Shared Harvest Foodbank in Fairfield package food in preparation for distribution July 9. Nearly 40,000 people will not have access to SNAP benefits after Friday and state attempts to provide substitute funding are unlikely to be successful, state officials said. STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The nearly 40,000 Butler County residents who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will go without the benefits Saturday because of the government shutdown, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The shutdown, which began Oct. 1, is now the second-longest on record.

“The brief message we received from the state is that SNAP recipients may not receive their November benefits as normally scheduled if the federal shutdown continues,” said Butler County Human and Social Services executive director Julie Gilbert. “Our office remains open and we will continue to process new applications and recertifications as usual, to ensure accurate issuance when the federal funding resumes.”

The county Job and Family Services Department — which is the local arm of the state in administering the federal programs — doesn’t directly pay public assistance for SNAP benefits.

That money comes directly from the federal government. Gilbert told the Journal-News 36,797 residents have received \$66.4 million in SNAP benefits this year.

Last year, 36,976 people received \$91.7 million.

The federal program helps about 1 in 8 Americans buy groceries, the Associated Press reported.

November SNAP benefits will be impacted if the shutdown continues, but recipients will be able to access any remaining balances in their account after Friday, according to OD JFS spokesman Tom Betti.

He said the food-buying benefits are distributed to approximately 1.4 million Ohioans and recipients receive an average \$190 monthly which totals roughly \$263.4 million.

Although SNAP is a federally funded program, State Rep. Latyna

Humphrey, D-Columbus, introduced House Bill 502 on Oct. 7 that would temporarily redirect a portion — roughly \$350 million per month — of the state's rainy day fund to cover payments for SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and WIC the nutrition program for needy women and their children.

"Ohio does not have to wait for Washington," Humphrey said during a press conference Thursday. "With our bill, House Bill 502 we can make sure families continue receiving SNAP, TANF and WIC because hunger should not depend on our politics."

The bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee, which has had two meetings since the bill was introduced.

The bill was not on either agenda and isn't on the list this week.

There is virtually no way this measure can take effect before the funds dry up, even if it were fast tracked as Humphrey said she is trying to do, it still has to go through the hearing process in both chambers.

The difficulty of passing the bill aside, Dan Tierney, deputy director of Media Relations for Gov. Mike DeWine, told the Journal-News implementing it wouldn't likely be possible.

"We're going to continue to monitor the situation but the guidance that we have from the federal government is they will not be giving the states any access to the SNAP system to upload payments," he said. "Because that's their system and they're the ones who generally upload the payments."

He added TANF and WIC are not currently at risk of a funding loss.

Butler County Commissioner Don Dixon said the county can't help pay for those programs either, but they can and will offer assistance with other fallout from the shutdown like housing assistance.

He said some people have criticized the commissioners for their healthy

budget reserves — the 2026 tax budget shows they'll start the year with \$164.2 million in unincumbered cash in the bank — “this is a perfect example of why we carry that amount, it's to allow us to carry on and do business.”

“Rest assured we have the reserves to get through and keep everybody funded at the level they are or we feel they need to be for many months,” he said at a recent meeting. “When you watch the news you say oh my gosh the sky is falling, they're going to cut this, or they're not going to fund that, they're going to cut off all the money. Well, we'll be the last one standing.”

‘Absolutely dire’: Area food pantries warn of shortages

Officials say demand is already high; SNAP benefits may end Saturday.



Pam Benson, founder and director of Village Food Pantry, at the facility at 617 N. Riverside Drive, New Miami. Benson said since the federal government shutdown started Oct. 1, some clients are coming in more frequently, and inventory for food pantries is low “everywhere.” STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD AND MICHAEL D. PITMAN STAFF WRITERS

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has always been viewed as the first line of defense regarding food insecurity, said Terry Perdue, executive director of Shared Harvest.

That will change on Saturday if SNAP benefits, previously called food stamps, are stopped because of the federal government shutdown.

Food pantries and food banks are considered the last line of defense in security, according to Perdue.

“We are an emergency provider when everything else have failed,” he said. “We are already struggling to stock the shelves of our pantries, and for us to experience the insurmountable increase of people who are going to look to us for help is absolutely not sustainable.”

Almost 40,000 Butler County residents will likely lose their SNAP food assistance Saturday due to the federal government shutdown, and area food pantries and businesses are gearing up to prepare.

Butler County Job and Family Services administers federal programs for the county. Executive Director Julie Gilbert told the Journal-News nearly 36,800 residents have received \$66.4 million in SNAP benefits so far this year.

Last year almost 37,000 people received \$91.7 million.

November SNAP benefits will be impacted if the shutdown continues, but recipients will be able to access any remaining balances in their account after Friday, according to Ohio Department of Job and Family Services spokesman Tom Betti. Some federal lawmakers, including U.S. Sen. Jon Husted, R-Upper Arlington, are trying to fund SNAP through the shutdown.

Husted said the Keep SNAP Funded Act would appropriate funds to provide uninterrupted SNAP benefits and make it retroactive to the start of the shutdown.

“About 1.4 million Ohioans rely on SNAP to put food on the table. Ohio families shouldn’t pay the price for Washington’s political games,” said Husted, who asked the Senate financial clerk to withhold his salary during the shutdown.

“We cannot allow millions of innocent Americans to go without the benefits they rely on.”

Perdue said the shutdown has dried up funding and benefits, and Shared Harvest “already experienced this year losing literally millions of pounds of food that we’ve depended on from federal sources that were cut earlier this year back in March and April.”

“We already sent out an S.O.S. and our pantries are desperate to fill their shelves, so this news (of cut SNAP benefits) is dire. It’s absolutely dire,” he said.

“Food we keep in our warehouse; we don’t put that in reserve. As soon as it comes in, it goes back out.”

Pam Benson, director of the Village Food Pantry in New Miami, said 400 people came through the facility last week.

Village Food Pantry, is a “choice pantry,” meaning clients can choose their own groceries. Clients can come every week for the choice pantry, but can only use the drive-thru food pantry once a month.

Benson said the pantry is seeing a shift, with some clients coming in more frequently, which began around the time of the federal government shutdown.

“They’re concerned,” she said. “We’re concerned ... all you can do is give them what you got.”

Benson said inventory for food pantries is low “everywhere.”

Felix Russo, pastor and director of New Life Mission in Hamilton, said last year they helped about 40 families a day, but recently that's ranged to upwards of 50 to 70 families a day. In the third quarter of 2025, the church served 720 households, and "the numbers keep going up."

New Life Mission also connects people with resources they need, such as with Job and Family Services and Access Counseling, but with the way the economy has been and the uncertain of the shutdown, "I'm not sure what's going to happen next month if (the shutdown continues)."

Officials at Open Door Food Pantry said they're fortunate their largest fundraiser of the year, a concert at The Presbyterian Church, 23 S. Front St., Hamilton, is this Sunday. But a prolonged shutdown could hurt them, said pantry board chair Jeremy Pruett.

"It can happen very quickly," he said. "Benefits are already being diminished."

Shared Harvest and Open Door Pantry both shared on their Facebook pages that benefits will not be issued in November unless Congress ends the shutdown.

"Benefits have been minimized tremendously, which has already put a bigger burden upon pantries in local communities trying to meet needs," Pruett said. And the longer benefits are minimized or halted, "makes it harder for each person."

"It just compounds that struggle on top of the additional funds that are already going to be needed."

Eleven Middletown businesses have organized a community food drive.

Most needed items include canned vegetables, beans and soup; rice, pasta and cereal; shelf-stable milk and baby formula; peanut butter and canned protein; and cooking oil and spices.

People can drop off donations at the following locations:

- Aimee's Produce, 380 Middletown Eaton Road
- Bourbons Kitchen, 2231 N. Verity Parkway
- Broken Barrel Bar and Grill, 2200 Central Ave.
- Downtown Middletown Inc., 1050 Central Ave., Floor 2
- Gravel Road Brewing Co., 916 First Ave.
- Name Brandt Distilling, 4563 Roosevelt Blvd.
- NEW Ales Brewing, 1330 Manchester Ave.
- Sorg Opera House, 63 S. Main St.
- The Cracked Pot, 2024 Central Ave.
- Triple Moon Coffee Company, 1100 Central Ave.
- White Dog Distilling Co., 1357 Central Ave.

Businesses will deliver donations to local pantries.

Triple Moon Coffee will match food donations.

"Every can, box and dollar makes a difference," a Facebook post from the coffee shop said. "Let's show once again how strong our community can be when we come together."

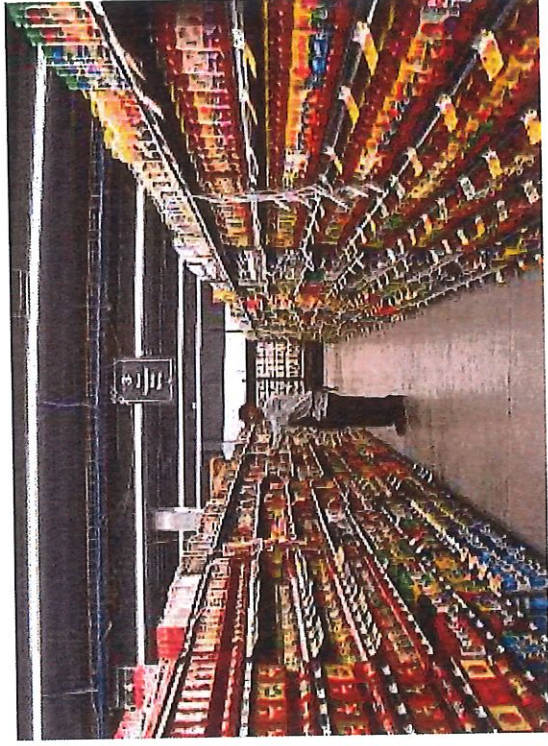
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Ohio grocers, retailers brace for loss of SNAP

As funding for food program goes away, so do sales at local stores.



Homefull CEO Tina Patterson said her organization, which owns and operates the Gettysburg Grocery, 811 S. Gettysburg Ave., is preparing for a “ripple effect” across the community if SNAP funds are halted Nov. 1.

CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

BY MICHAEL KURTZ STAFF WRITER

Grocers and retailers who accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds are bracing for a drop in sales starting this weekend as funding for the federal food assistance program dries up amidst the nearly month-long government shutdown.

Greg Ferrara, president and CEO of the National Grocers Association,

said a lapse in funding will disrupt food access, creating instability for shoppers, retailers and communities.

Nearly 48 million Americans depend on SNAP benefits.

"The National Grocers Association call on leaders in Congress from both sides of the aisle to find a funding solution that reopens the government as quickly as possible," Ferrara said.

SNAP supports more than 388,000 jobs nationwide, generating more than \$20 billion in wages and \$4.5 billion in tax revenue, according to the National Grocers Association.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services estimates 1.4 million Ohioans would be impacted by the loss of SNAP funds. More than 200,000 residents in this region rely on SNAP to help feed their families.

Kristin Mullins, president and CEO of the Ohio Grocers Association, said grocery stores and retailers this weekend are preparing to deal with customers who may not understand why their funds are not there.

She said stores typically see a drop in sales at the end of the month as SNAP money runs out, but get hit on the first day of the month.

"There's not much hope that this weekend is going to go smoothly," Mullins said.

Mullins said the association is providing signage for member stores to help inform customers about what is happening and what options the customers have.

The Ohio Grocers Association represents about 400 members statewide.

"With SNAP benefits set to be halted beginning Nov. 1, we're preparing for a ripple effect across the community," said Tina Patterson, CEO of Homefull.

“We’re already seeing individuals and families struggle to make ends meet, and many are turning to Gettysburg Grocery and our other Homefull programs for help.”

Contact this reporter at michael.kurtz@coxinc.com.

SNAP RECIPIENTS BY COUNTY

Montgomery 82,895.....	\$14.4 million
Butler 40,064.....	\$6.6 million
Clark 23,661	\$4.1 million
Greene 14,822.....	\$2.6 million
Warren 11,573.....	\$1.9 million
Miami 9,995.....	\$1.5 million

Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services SNAP Population Metrics September 2025