

DATE: January 9, 2025
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN - Secretary
SUBJECT: **Agenda for January 13, 2025**

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **January 13, 2026** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL- Motion to excuse absent members

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -December 2025
(Motion and Approval)

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -October- December 2025
(Motion and Approval)

EDUCATION-Emergency Preparedness-Chandra Corbin, RN, BSN

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. 2026 Election of President Pro Tem
(Motion and Approval)
3. 2026 Board of Health Committees
(Selection)
4. 2026 Board of Health Roster
5. 2025 3rd & 4th Quarter Report
6. Name, Address, Phone, Health History (NAPH) Form Update
7. Approval of Health Commissioner Job Description
(Motion and Approval)

REPORTS

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Environmental Health Director

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026 at 7:30am

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

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

December 9, 2025

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on December 9, 2025.

Members Present

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

Health Department Staff Present

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

Absent and Excused

Tiffani Baggett

ROLL CALL

Ms. Baggett was absent from the December Board of Health Meeting.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Miller to excuse Ms. Baggett from the Board of Health meeting.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –November 2025

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

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

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT -August & September 2025

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that the completed August and September financial reports were included in the board packet. The Finance Department is still entering data from October-December due to the cybersecurity incident. Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that, following the cybersecurity incident, each department will now be required to purchase Microsoft Suite licenses on an annual basis. As a result, the board may notice an additional line item added to future budgets.

Motion: Ms. Lolli moved, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the August & September financial reports.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations-None.

Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-05-Pay & Benefits-by emergency

An ordinance establishing pay ranges and certain benefits for employee classifications in the Middletown Department of Health and Environment and declaring an emergency.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-05.

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

Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-06-Health Department Budget-by emergency

A regulation approving the proposed fiscal year 2026 operating budget for the Middletown Department of Health & Environment and declaring an emergency.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Richmond to approve MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-06.

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

Review of 2026 Board of Health Meeting Dates

The 2026 Board of Health meeting dates were included in the packet. The board will continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30am in Conference Room 2C of the City Building.

Review of Health Commissioner Job Description

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Mr. Bonnell's notes had been very useful in revising the job description. The position will be posted on January 13th after the next Board of Health meeting.

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board of the recent updates the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has made to childhood vaccinations. The Hepatitis B vaccine will no longer be given to newborns. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) released a statement expressing concern over the CDC advisory panel's recent vote to end the universal recommendation for administering hepatitis B vaccinations to newborns. NACCHO contends that this decision poses significant risks and could result in an increase in Hepatitis B cases.

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the November communicable disease case numbers.

C. auris	1
CPO	2
Campylobacteriosis	1
Chlamydia infection	20
Gonococcal Infection	8
Hepatitis C	3
Pertussis	10
Salmonellosis	1
Streptococcal Pneumoniae-invasive	1
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	1
Syphilis	5
Varicella	2

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the Board that pertussis cases have been steadily increasing across the Southwest Ohio region, although no individuals have required hospitalization.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed among 70 deceased vultures in Clermont County. HPAI is very contagious among birds.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that the tabletop exercise required by PHEP was held on December 5th. The exercise focused on Points of Dispensing (POD) and met one of the PHEP deliverable requirements. CMHD's high school intern as well as CMHD administrative assistant attended the exercise along with Ms. Corbin.

Ms. Phillips Carter noted that the PHAB Annual Report is due at the end of December.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the Board that in November, CMHD received one plan review-a remodel at Walmart. Two facilities were licensed-Gifted by Goss and Tropical Smoothie. One facility has closed-Hardee's. Starvin Marvin's and Middies Sports Bar are both temporarily closed.

Ms. Ealy noted that all septic inspections have been completed.

Ms. Ealy stated that CMHD is in the process of collecting license renewal applications for T21, body art and septic businesses.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training, Brandy Barner, has turned in her resignation. Ms. Barner's last day will be January 23rd. The position will be posted immediately to find a replacement.

Board Member Open Discussion

Ms. Lolli announced that the next Walk With a Doc event will take place on December 13th at the Downtown YMCA, with a nutritionist scheduled to speak. She also noted that CBI held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Mayor Slamka remarked that CBI is an outstanding community resource and highlighted the annual “Middletown Rocks” event they host as exceptional. She also shared that the City of Middletown’s new Communication Manager will begin in January, expressing her enthusiasm for future collaborations between the Communication Manager and CMHD to better serve the community.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11AM. The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2026 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

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

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

City of Middletown Health Department December 2025 Financial Recap

Recap of Revenue Recorded by CMHD

Cyber Event 8/17/2025-Ongoing

December 2025

- Vital Stats - \$7,008.36 (671 certificates sold)
 - VS was up 13% despite 2 holidays, two half-days due to events and one day where the state system was down for 5 hrs. Additionally, now that we can print beyond the city limits, we sold 89 more death certificates this month compared to last year.
- Environmental - \$11,318.00

Indigents Services

- \$16,518.00 spent YTD
- 22 Applications Processed
 - Average age 59
 - 12 Males/10 Females
 - 21 White/1 Black
- 3 Overdoses (1M/2F, 3 White)

Funding/Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) Active through 11/30/2027 - \$495,000 (Target \$100K/Yr.)
 - \$10K must be spent on Equity specific training-the has been completed
 - \$50K was awarded for Accreditation efforts
 - \$205,577.34 has been deposited to date
 - \$100K target for 2025 has been met
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/25-6/30/25 - \$23,284.55
 - New contract was approved and executed on November 11th
 - \$3,667.36 deposited YTD
- Allotracc Medicaid Billing (MAC) 1/01/2025-12/31/2025
 - Yearly payments are submitted and awarded quarterly
 - \$74,107.37 deposited YTD
- Smoking Enforcement/Smoke Free Ohio
 - \$2,675.00 deposited YTD
- State Health Subsidy Reimbursements & Vital Statistics Reimbursements
 - State Subsidy OAC 3701-36 - \$9,329.20 deposited
 - State Subsidy Accreditation OAC 3701.36 - \$19,082.63 deposited
 - Vital Statistics Reimbursement - \$3,718.75 deposited

City of Middleton Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200

Account Access Group: N/A

As Of: 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Include Inactive Accounts: No
Include Pre-Encumbrances: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228	HEALTH FUND						Target Percent: 100.00%	
Health Admin								
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	\$670,630.00	(\$98,774.65)	\$503,412.04	\$167,217.96	\$0.00	\$167,217.96	75.07%
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51211	PERS	\$93,888.00	(\$18,959.53)	\$65,321.50	\$28,566.50	\$19.97	\$28,546.53	69.60%
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	\$26,825.00	\$4,562.60	\$5,843.06	\$20,981.94	\$14,521.94	\$6,460.00	75.92%
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	\$90,018.00	\$8,349.69	\$95,107.20	(\$5,089.20)	\$0.00	(\$5,089.20)	105.65%
228.450.51231	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	\$9,724.00	(\$1,458.77)	\$6,511.73	\$3,212.27	\$0.00	\$3,212.27	66.97%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	\$1,825.00	(\$50.70)	\$1,622.40	\$202.60	\$0.00	\$202.60	88.90%
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Personal Services Totals:	\$892,910.00	(\$106,331.36)	\$677,817.93	\$215,092.07	\$14,541.91	\$200,550.16	77.54%
Contractual Services								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,576.47	\$2,423.53	\$0.00	\$2,423.53	39.41%
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIM	\$3,000.00	\$239.26	\$2,516.38	\$483.62	\$0.00	\$483.62	83.88%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	\$5,640.00	\$41.17	\$4,391.76	\$1,248.24	\$0.00	\$1,248.24	77.87%
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,210.52	\$2,289.48	\$0.00	\$2,289.48	34.59%
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	\$41,085.00	\$10,031.16	\$34,719.43	\$6,365.57	\$0.00	\$6,365.57	84.51%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	\$32,699.95	\$0.00	\$1,755.36	\$30,944.59	\$12,144.95	\$18,799.64	42.51%
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52483	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TRE	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$330.00	\$1,670.00	\$0.00	\$1,670.00	16.50%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	\$8,000.00	\$1,080.49	\$6,530.69	\$1,469.31	\$0.00	\$1,469.31	81.63%
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$11,855.00	\$1,545.00	\$11,613.00	\$242.00	\$0.00	\$242.00	97.96%
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$361.63	\$1,138.37	\$0.00	\$1,138.37	24.11%
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A

Expense Report

As Of: 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
Contractual Services Totals:		\$263,279.95	\$12,937.08	\$65,005.24	\$198,274.71	\$12,144.95	\$186,129.76	29.30%
Commodities								
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$2,500.00	\$77.28	\$1,739.49	\$760.51	\$0.00	\$760.51	69.58%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53102	HARM REDUCTION SUPPLI	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$28.24	\$171.76	\$0.00	\$171.76	14.12%
228.450.53510	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPME	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$121.12	\$378.88	\$0.00	\$378.88	24.22%
228.450.53620	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	\$700.00	\$89.93	\$229.39	\$470.61	\$0.00	\$470.61	32.77%
	Commodities Totals:	\$3,900.00	\$167.21	\$2,118.24	\$1,781.76	\$0.00	\$1,781.76	54.31%
Capital Outlay								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECA	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.07	(\$0.07)	\$0.00	(\$0.07)	100.00%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54360	OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Capital Outlay Totals:	\$4,800.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.07	(\$0.07)	\$0.00	(\$0.07)	100.00%
Refunds								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Refunds Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Health Admin Totals:	\$1,164,889.95	(\$93,227.07)	\$749,741.48	\$415,148.47	\$26,686.86	\$388,461.61	66.65%
228 Total:		\$1,164,889.95	(\$93,227.07)	\$749,741.48	\$415,148.47	\$26,686.86	\$388,461.61	66.65%
Grand Total:		\$1,164,889.95	(\$93,227.07)	\$749,741.48	\$415,148.47	\$26,686.86	\$388,461.61	66.65%
	Target Percent:						100.00%	

City of Middletown Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385

As Of: 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Account Access Group: N/A

Include Inactive Accounts: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND			Target Percent:	100.00%	
Revenue						
Intergovernmental						
228.000.43310	TOBACCO 21	\$0.00	\$3,250.00	\$15,250.00	(\$15,250.00)	N/A
228.000.43311	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$28,411.83	(\$13,411.83)	189.41%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$125,214.19	(\$25,214.19)	125.21%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	\$115,000.00	\$3,250.00	\$168,876.02	(\$53,876.02)	146.85%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	\$59,420.00	\$0.00	\$59,420.00	\$0.00	100.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	\$100,000.00	\$6,486.56	\$102,148.05	(\$2,148.05)	102.15%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	\$0.00	\$37.35	\$218.94	(\$218.94)	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$110.10	\$89.90	55.05%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,001.72	(\$1.72)	100.06%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$510.00	\$240.00	68.00%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	\$80,000.00	\$1,154.00	\$80,237.00	(\$237.00)	100.30%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	\$35,000.00	\$704.00	\$32,086.50	\$2,913.50	91.68%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	\$4,200.00	\$2,960.00	\$23,592.32	(\$19,392.32)	561.72%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	0.00%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,360.00	(\$360.00)	106.00%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	\$2,500.00	\$750.00	\$2,237.50	\$262.50	89.50%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$213.00	(\$13.00)	106.50%
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$74,107.37	(\$24,107.37)	148.21%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$178.00)	\$178.00	N/A
	Charges for Service Totals:	\$341,510.00	\$12,091.91	\$384,064.50	(\$42,554.50)	112.46%

Revenue Report

As Of: 1/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc	MISCELLANEOUS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
228.000.46780	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
Reimbursements/Transfers						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$35,213.55	(\$35,213.55)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
	Reimbursements/Transfers Totals:	\$250,000.00	\$350.00	\$285,213.55	(\$35,213.55)	114.09%
	Revenue Totals:	\$706,510.00	\$15,691.91	\$838,154.07	(\$131,644.07)	118.63%
228 Total:		\$706,510.00	\$15,691.91	\$838,154.07	(\$131,644.07)	118.63%
Grand Total:		\$706,510.00	\$15,691.91	\$838,154.07	(\$131,644.07)	118.63%
	Target Percent:					100.00%

City of Middletown Board of Health

Board of Health Committees

2026

Finance Committee

Mayor, President

Amy Sibcy

Tiffani Baggett

Joseph Richmond

Personnel Committee

Mayor, President

Dr. Scott Zollett

Jeffrey Bonnell

Ruth Lolli

Emily Miller

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2025 Activity Quarterly Report- Third Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	30	38	62	380
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	12	14	13	142
Mobile FSO/RFE	0	0	1	20
Prelicense/Consultations	8	9	9	82
Inspection of Temporaries	15	8	8	40
Environmental School Inspections	0	0	4	25
Smoking Inspections	0	1	1	4
Swimming Pools Inspections	15	19	1	86
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	3	2	1	7
Animal Bites	0	0	0	41
Complaints	2	2	0	46
Level 1 Food Certification Training	9	12	3	35
T 21 Inspections	13	5	2	45
Sewage Inspections	44	41	37	166

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	July	August	September	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	473	336	292	3631
Death Certificates Issued	442	245	290	3108
Birth Certificates Filed	86	74	77	708
Death Certificates Filed	113	67	85	797
Indigent Cremations	1	1	0	17
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	3	3	2	18
Falls	0	2	1	6
Exposure to Elements	0	0	0	0
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1	3
Undetermined	0	0	0	0
Suicide	2	1	1	4
Homicide	2	0	0	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	0	0	1
0 Pending Death Certificates				

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2025

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	412	110	-	-	522
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	0	-	-	0
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	0	-	-	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	1	2	-	-	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	1	4	-	-	5
Campylobacter	3	1	-	-	4
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	-	-	1
E Coli Shiga Toxin-Producing	0	0	-	-	0
Salmonella	2	5	-	-	7
Shigella	0	2	-	-	2
Dengue	0	0	-	-	0
C. auris	3	3			6
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1			1
Hepatitis A	0	2	-	-	2
Hepatitis B	5	8	-	-	13
Hepatitis C	17	15	-	-	32
Meningitis Bacterial	0	0	-	-	0
Meningitis Viral	1	0	-	-	1
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	0	0	-	-	0
Influenza-associated hospitalization	106	0	-	-	106
Varicella	0	2	-	-	2
Mumps	0	0	-	-	0
Tuberculosis	2	3	-	-	5
Lyme Disease	0	3	-	-	3
Pertussis	0	4	-	-	4
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	0	-	-	0
CPO	4	3			7
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	1	-	-	1
Giardiasis	0	0			0
West Nile virus disease	0	2			2
HIV	1	0	-	-	1
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	65	62	-	-	127
Gonococcal Infection	17	12	-	-	29
Syphilis	1	8	-	-	9

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2024 Activity Quarterly Report- Third Quarter

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

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

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

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

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – 2025

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	412	110	287	0	809
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	0	0	0	0
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	0	0	0	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	1	2	1	2	6
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	1	4	2	1	8
Streptococcal-Group B-in newborn	0	0	1	2	3
Campylobacter	3	1	3	2	9
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	0	0	1
E Coli Shiga Toxin-Producing	0	0	0	1	1
Salmonella	2	5	5	3	15
Shigella	0	2	0	0	2
Dengue	0	0	0	1	1
C. auris	3	3	3	3	12
Coccidioidomycosis	0	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	2	2	0	4
Hepatitis B	5	8	8	6	27
Hepatitis C	17	15	12	6	50
Meningitis Bacterial	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis Viral	1	0	1	0	2
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	0	0	0	1	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	106	0	1	16	123
Varicella	0	2	0	2	4
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	2	3	1	0	6
Lyme Disease	0	3	1	0	4
Pertussis	0	4	2	25	31
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	0	0	0	0
CPO	4	3	1	2	10
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	1	0	4	5
Giardiasis	0	0	1	0	1
West Nile virus disease	0	2	0	0	2
Amebiasis	0	0	1	0	1
Yersiniosis	0	0	1	0	1
HIV	1	0	0	0	1
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	65	62	70	65	262
Gonococcal Infection	17	12	24	18	71
Syphilis	1	8	5	7	21

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2025 Activity Quarterly Report- Fourth Quarter

Environmental Quarterly Totals	October	November	December	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	58	38	51	527
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	29	13	21	205
Mobile FSO/RFE	2	0	0	22
Prelicense/Consultations	8	14	23	127
Inspection of Temporaries	5	0	0	45
Environmental School Inspections	7	8	0	40
Smoking Inspections	0	0	0	4
Swimming Pools Inspections	0	9	2	97
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	1	2	1	11
Animal Bites	3	2	5	51
Complaints	1	5	0	52
Level 1 Food Certification Training	0	0	0	35
T 21 Inspections	31	8	2	86
Sewage Inspections	328	29	6	529

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	October	November	December	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	345	237	241	4454
Death Certificates Issued	258	268	358	3992
Birth Certificates Filed	92	58	74	932
Death Certificates Filed	76	74	*	947*
Indigent Cremations	2	0	3	22
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	0	0	0	18
Falls	0	0	0	6
Exposure to Elements	0	0	0	0
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	0	4
Undetermined	2	0	1	3
Suicide	0	0	1	5
Homicide	0	0	0	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	0	0	1

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

Environmental Quarterly Totals	October	November	December	YTD Total
Food Service Operations/Vending Inspections	36	53	28	499
Retail Food Establishments Inspections	21	30	12	225
Mobile FSO/RFE	1	0	0	28
Prelicense/Consultations	9	11	12	94
Inspection of Temporaries	8	0	0	30
Environmental School Inspections	3	11	0	42
Smoking Inspections	1	0	0	5
Swimming Pools Inspections	1	2	12	99
Tattoo Establishment Inspections	3	4	1	16
Animal Bites	9	3	4	84
Complaints	4	7	7	48
Level 1 Food Certification Training	0	0	0	3
Temp Park/Park Camp	1	1	0	7
Sewage Inspections	7	0	1	9
Tobacco 21	12	0	0	45
Temporary Body Art	0	0	0	1

Vital Statistics Quarterly Totals	October	November	December	YTD Total
Birth Certificates Issued	354	299	250	4041
Death Certificates Issued	339	301	272	3954
Birth Certificates Filed	74	61	65	862
Death Certificates Filed	101	62	72	1045
Indigent Cremations	0	1	3	33
Accidents				
Drug Overdoses	5	1	1	21
Falls	0	0	1	3
Exposure to Elements	0	0	0	0
House Fire	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1	6
Undetermined	0	0	0	3
Suicide	1	0	1	6
Homicide	0	0	0	2
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	0	0	4
5 Pending Death Certificates				

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

DISEASE	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	YTD
COVID-19	460	73	666	265	1464
Atypical Mycobacteria	0	0	0	0	0
C. auris	0	3	6	5	14
Bacteremia S. Pneumoniae	0	0	0	0	0
Streptococcal-Group A-invasive	5	3	2	1	11
Streptococcus pneumoniae-Invasive	1	1	0	2	4
Campylobacter	0	2	1	3	6
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	0	0	1
E Coli Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	0	1	1	3
Salmonella	3	0	1	1	5
Shigella	1	0	0	0	1
Dengue	1	0	0	0	1
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis B	5	4	7	2	18
Hepatitis C	14	25	13	21	73
Meningitis Bacterial	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis Viral	0	0	1	1	2
Haemophilus Influenza (invasive disease)	1	0	0	0	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	60	5	0	3	68
Varicella	2	0	0	0	2
Mumps	1	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	1	0	1	0	2
Lyme Disease	1	0	0	0	1
Pertussis	5	2	4	15	26
CP Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae	0	0	0	0	0
CPO	3	4	5	0	12
Legionellosis-Legionnaires' Disease	0	1	1	1	3
Giardiasis	0	0	1	1	2
HIV	3	3	4	1	11
STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases):					
Chlamydia	77	80	67	66	290
Gonococcal Infection	19	24	28	42	113
Syphilis	5	3	5	1	14

Meetings/Conference Calls

Health Commissioner & Environmental Health Director:

- Planning and Zoning Meeting
- ODH We CanConference Call
- Southwest Ohio Health Commissioner Meeting
- Southwest Executive Steering Committee Meeting
- Emergency Preparedness Meeting
- AOHC Conference Calls
- Accela Conference Calls

Community Meetings attended by Health Commissioner

- Middletown Connect Core Meeting-Sustainability I & II
- Middletown Corner Health Improvement Partners-Data Walk
- Centerpoint Board Meeting & Program Committee
- Butler County Cares Meeting with County Commissioner, Cindy Carpenter
- YWCA Semi Annual Retreat Strategic Planning
- Middletown Connect Ambassador Meetings
- Butler County Board of Disabilities & Committee Meetings
- Walk with a Doc
- Infection Control Call
- Butler County Prevention Advocacy & Policy Coalition
- Ribbon Cutting at Robert "Sonny" Hill
- Community Foundation Annual Meeting
- Middletown Arts Center- "Merry Mixer"
- Septic Towne Hall Discussions
- Cyber Event Hot Wash
- Adopt a Class Meeting
- American Legion Annual Veteran's Luncheon
- Kyle Schwarber Event
- SunCoke Cap

PUBLIC HEALTH NAME, ADDRESS AND PERSONAL HISTORY (NAPH) FORM (*revised 5/2017)



Full Name of Person Picking up Medication

Address

City/State/Zip

Date of Birth Phone Date

[Reset Form](#)

[Print Form](#)

		A B C D				To Be Completed By Staff
		Is the person allergic to: Doxycycline or Tetracyclines	Is the person allergic to: Ciprofloxacin or Quinolones Or are they taking: Tizanidine (Zanaflex) Or do they have: Myasthenia Gravis	Is the person: A Breastfeeding Mother or Pregnant	Does this person weigh less than 76 pounds (lbs): If yes, indicate weight	
Provide the name and age of each person receiving medication. Answer Yes or No to questions A, B, C, and D for any person for whom you are picking up medication.						Label
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
DOXY 100mg (or Cipro 500mg)						
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/>	No <input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
DOXY 100mg (or Cipro 500mg)						
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	
Name <input type="text"/>	Age <input type="text"/> Gender <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs <input type="text"/>	

Medical Referral Notes:

[Reset Form](#)

[Print Form](#)

		D				To Be Completed By Staff
		A	B	C	D	
Provide the name and age of each person receiving medication. Answer Yes or No to questions A, B, C, and D for any person for whom you are picking up medication.		Is the person allergic to: Doxycycline or Tetracyclines	Is the person allergic to: Ciprofloxacin or Quinolones Or are they taking: Tizanidine (Zanaflex) Or do they have: Myasthenia Gravis	Is the person: A Breastfeeding Mother or Pregnant	Does this person weigh less than 76 pounds (lbs): If yes, indicate weight	Label
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs	
Age <input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>					
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs	
Age <input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>					
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Age <input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>					
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs	
Age <input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>					
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs	
Age <input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>					
Name <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> lbs	
Age <input type="text"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>					

Health Commissioner

Position Description:	Health Commissioner
Division/Department:	Health
Reports To:	City of Middletown Board of Health
Classified/Unclassified:	Unclassified
Exempt or Non-Exempt:	Exempt
Union or Non-Union:	Non-Union
Salary Range:	168
Board of Health Approval:	XX.XX.XXXX

Position Summary

The Health Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the health department. The Health Commissioner is responsible for the direct supervision of the department directors. The Health Commissioner ensures the development, maintenance and implementation of the City of Middletown Health Department Strategic Plan, Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, Workforce Development Plan, Performance Management Plan, Quality Improvement Plan and Brand Strategy consistent with the standards identified by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The Health Commissioner is authorized to approve and implement all decisions regarding personnel that fall within the budget, support the approved Strategic Plan, and are compliant with local, state, federal laws and regulations. The Health Commissioner is the primary representative of the department in the community and is the point of contact for elected officials.

Minimum Qualifications

1. A master's degree in public health (MPH) or a closely related field relevant to the promotion and protection of the public's health is preferred, plus 5 years of professional public health experience that includes a minimum of 4 years of administrative or supervisory experience in governmental public health.
 2. Must a valid State of Ohio driver's license and remain insurable in accordance with the city's insurance policy. License must be presented for validation within six weeks of accepted offer.
-

Statutory Requirements

1. The person appointed as commissioner shall be a licensed physician, licensed dentist, a licensed veterinarian, licensed podiatrist, licensed chiropractor, registered nurse or the holder of a master's degree in public health or an equivalent master's degree in a related health field as determined by the members of the Board of Health. He/She shall be secretary of the board and shall devote such time to the duties of his/her office as may be fixed by contract with the board. The commissioner shall be the executive officer of the board and shall carry out all orders of the board and of the Ohio Department of Health. He/She shall be charged with the enforcement of all sanitary laws and regulations in the City of Middletown, Ohio. The commissioner shall keep the public informed on all matters affecting the health of the city. [Ohio Revised Code Section 3709.11]
-

Requisite Professional Attitudes

The following are examples only and are not intended to be all inclusive.

1. Willingness to expand one's knowledge base and inspire others to do the same.
2. Willingness to participate in workforce development and promote the same among staff.
3. Willingness to participate in and/or lead agency-wide initiatives, including but not limited to the pursuit of national accreditation and participation in times of public health emergencies.
4. Willingness to assist all Middletown residents independent of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and/or socioeconomic status.

Essential Functions of the Position

1. Plans and assures the effective implementation of programs to promote and protect the health of the City of Middletown population through active participation with Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement planning, Strategic planning, Quality Improvement planning/implementation, Workforce Development planning/implementation and Performance Management implementation.
2. Approves or declines department staff requests for time away (sick, vacation, training/travel, other) in a manner that ensures adequate staffing levels.
3. Reviews recommendations resulting from employment Interviews of all candidates and approves all new hires.
4. Leads by example regarding regular and predictable attendance.
5. Assures compliance with the department's records retention policy.
6. Assures compliance with the departments and city's policy manuals.
7. Meets all job safety requirements and all applicable OSHA safety standards that pertain to essential functions.
8. Attend meetings, seminars, conferences, and other job-related training sessions.
9. Represents department in the community and to the Board of Health.
10. Responds to public health emergencies in accordance with response plans using the incident command system.
11. Perform any and all other related duties to promote, further, and ensure the effective and efficient operation of the City of Middletown Health Department.

Functions, Competencies and Skills

1. Assures that the department conducts organizational strategic planning and monitors progress toward strategic goals.
2. Assures that the department participates in or leads ongoing community health assessment and planning in partnership with other community stakeholders, e.g., hospitals and other health departments.
3. Identifies and pursues funding from public and private foundation sources to address public health priorities identified through organizational strategic planning and community health assessments.
4. Seeks volunteer leadership positions with local funding organizations, e.g., Family First Council, community foundations, to encourage them to support public health priorities identified through community health assessment processes.
5. Serves on boards and committees of other community organizations to assure that the agency is fully integrated into the local public health system.
6. Assures that the Board complies with statutory reporting requirements and communicates its findings to the community.
7. Educates state and federal legislators and policymakers about funding and policy changes needed to address current and emerging public health problems.
8. Participates in research activities with academic and practice partners to increase the evidence-base for public health practice.

9. Serves as primary media spokesperson for the City of Middletown Health Department on public health topics or identifies other subject matter experts for that role if appropriate for a particular topic.
10. Leads department efforts to achieve and maintain local health department accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
11. Coaches and supports managers and staff to help them achieve organizational and personal improvement goals and identify measures of success; creates and promotes leadership development and succession planning opportunities for managers and staff.
12. Communicate regularly and frequently with Board of Health members, managers, staff, external stakeholders, and the public through in-person meetings, community forums, email, newsletters and/or written reports about trends and events of importance to the organization and the public.
13. Actively involves herself/himself in peer professional organizations, e.g., National Association of County and City Health Officials, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Ohio Public Health Association, American Public Health Association.
14. Actively involves herself/himself in stakeholder organizations.
15. Continuously monitors organizational climate through surveys, focus groups and other media to assure a high level of staff morale and performance.
16. Assesses job performance of direct reports on an annual basis or more frequently if necessary and identifies opportunities for individual performance improvement.
17. Drafts and reviews local public health regulations that address emerging public health problems for adoption by the Board of Health.
18. Convenes administrative hearings with individuals and business entities subject to enforcement action to resolve complaints and avoid escalated enforcement action, i.e., Board of Health orders or court action.
19. Identifies and recruits' community members for service on organizational advisory boards and committees.
20. Prepares agendas and meeting materials for Board of Health meetings and meetings of its committees.
21. Mobilizes support among the public and policymakers for public policy changes that improve health.
22. Consults with municipal leaders to ensure that mutual expectations for public health services are being met.
23. Develop new community collaborations, coalitions and initiatives when appropriate to address emerging public health issues.

General Health Competencies

The following are intended to guide ongoing professional development.

1. Analytical and Assessment Skills
 - a. Describe factors affecting the health of the community.
 - b. Identifies quantitative and qualitative data and information that can be used for assessing the health of a community.
 - c. Apply ethical principles in assessing, collecting, analyzing, using, maintaining and disseminating data and information.
 - d. Use information technology in assessing, collecting, analyzing, using, maintaining and disseminating data and information.
 - e. Selects valid, reliable and comparable data, as well as identifying gaps in data.
 - f. Use quantitative and qualitative data.
 - g. Describes assets and resources that can be used for improving the health of a community.
 - h. Contributes to assessments of community health status and factors influencing health in a community.
 - i. Explains how community health assessments use information about health status, factors influencing health, and assets and resources.

2. Policy Development and Program Planning Skills

- a. Contributes to community health improvement planning.
- b. Contributes to development of program goals and objectives.
- c. Contributes to implementation of all department plans (Strategic, CHIP, Workforce Development, Quality Improvement, etc).
- d. Identifies current trends affecting the health of a community.
- e. Gathers information that can inform options for policies, programs, and services.
- f. Implements policies, programs, and services.
- g. Explains the importance of evaluations for improving policies, programs, and services.
- h. Gathers information for evaluating policies, programs, and services.
- i. Apply strategies for continuous quality improvement.
- j. Describes how public health informatics is used in developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services communication skills.

3. Communication Skills

- a. Identifies the literacy of populations served.
- b. Communicates in writing and orally with linguistic and cultural proficiency.
- c. Solicits input from individuals and organizations for improving the health of a community.
- d. Suggest approaches for disseminating public health data and information.
- e. Conveys data and information to professionals and the public using a variety of approaches.
- f. Communicates information to influence behavior and improve health.
- g. Describes the roles of governmental public health, health care, and other partners in improving the health of a community.

4. Cultural Competency Skills

- a. Describes the concept of diversity as it applies to individuals and populations.
- b. Describes the diversity of individuals and populations in a community.
- c. Describes the ways diversity may influence policies, programs, services, and the health of a community.
- d. Addresses the diversity of individuals and populations when implementing policies, programs, and services that affect the health of a community.
- e. Describes the effects of policies, programs, and services on different populations in a community
- f. Describes the value of a diverse public health workforce.

5. Community Dimensions of Practice

- a. Describes the programs and services provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the health of a community.
- b. Recognizes relationships that are affecting health in a community.
- c. Suggest relationships that may be needed to improve health in a community.
- d. Supports relationships that improve health in a community.
- e. Collaborates and engages with community partners to improve health in a community.
- f. Provides input for developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services.
- g. Use assets and resources to improve health in a community.
- h. Informs the public about policies, programs and resources that improve health in a community.

6. Public Health Sciences

- a. Describes how public health sciences are used in the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
- b. Describes evidence used in developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services.

- c. Describes the laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for the ethical conduct of research.
- d. Contributes to the public health evidence base.
- e. Suggests partnerships that may increase use of evidence in public health practice.

7. Financial Planning and Management Skills

- a. Describes the structures, functions, and authorizations of governmental public health programs and organizations.
- b. Describes government agencies with authority to impact the health of a community.
- c. Adheres to organizational policies and procedures.
- d. Describes public health funding mechanisms.
- e. Contributes to development of program budgets.
- f. Provides information for proposals for funding.
- g. Provides information for development of contracts and other agreements for programs and services.
- h. Describes financial analysis methods used in making decisions about policies, programs, and services.
- i. Operates programs within budget.
- j. Describes how teams help achieve program and organizational goals.
- k. Motivates colleagues for the purpose of achieving program and organizational goals.
- l. Uses evaluation results to improve program and organizational performance.
- m. Describes program performance standards and measures.
- n. Uses performance management systems for program and organizational improvement.

8. Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills

- a. Incorporates ethical standards of practice into all interactions with individuals, organizations, and communities.
- b. Describes public health as part of a larger inter-related system of organizations that influence the health of populations at local, national, and global levels.
- c. Describes the ways public health, health care, and other organizations can work together or individually to impact the health of a community.
- d. Contributes to development of a vision for a healthy community.
- e. Identifies internal and external facilitators and barriers that may affect the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
- f. Describes the impact of changes on organizational practices.
- g. Describes ways to improve individual and program performance.
- h. Participates in professional development opportunities.
- i. Describes ways to improve individual and program performance.

Position-Specific Competencies

The following are professional competencies expected of the incumbent in this position.

- 1. Collaborates with others to achieve common goals and to optimize delivery of services
- 2. Employ strategies and facilitate team-building skills
- 3. Identifies, analyzes, and manages risk, adverse events and safety to self, staff, customer, and public
- 4. Implement strategies for performance management and continuous quality improvement
- 5. Implement strategies for workforce development, recruitment, and retention
- 6. Integrate systems thinking into public health practice and use cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost-utility analyses in programmatic prioritization and decision making

Position Performance Evaluation Metrics

The following are the metrics that will be used to evaluate the performance of the Division Director.

1. The Health Commissioner is evaluated annually by the Board of Health on or about the health commissioner's anniversary date.
 2. The Department is following a sound strategic plan.
 - a. The objectives stated in the plan are being actively worked on.
 - b. The Department has a current Community Health Assessment.
 3. The Department has a current Community Health Improvement Plan.
 - a. The Department is participating in the plan.
 4. Programs have performance metrics.
 - a. Program performance is being monitored and evaluated.
 5. Department personnel are adequately supported to successfully engage in programming.
 - a. Staff supervision (group and individual) is being delivered.
 - b. Staff Individual Development Plans are being followed.
 - c. Agency personnel are credentialed as appropriate.
 6. The Department is operating within the approved annual budget.
 7. The Department is respected by community partner organizations, stakeholders and the public.
-



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District

Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

December of 2025

Josh Melegari, MPH
Josh.melegari@bcOhio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 321
- Most Frequently Reported: Influenza Hospitalizations, Chlamydia, Gonococcal Infection, Hep C, Pertussis

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

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	5081	44.5	-	-
Butler County	196	50.2	1.13	(0.977-1.30)

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 13% more likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are not statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

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

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	174	63.1	↑85.1% from November 2025 (n=94)
Middletown City Health Department	64	125.4	↑16.4% from November 2025 (n=55)
City of Hamilton Health Department	83	130.9	↑80.4% from November 2025 (n=46)
Butler County (all inclusive)	321	82.2	↑64.6% from November 2025 (n=195)

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

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	27	↑42.1% from November 2025 (n=19)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	131	↑12.9% from November 2025 (n=116)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	13	↑8.3% from November 2025 (n=12)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, Haemophilus influenzae, Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae, Tetanus, and Varicella)	127	↑337.9% from November 2025 (n=29)

*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 December 1 – 31, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of December. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 1/07/2026.

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

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	City of Hamilton Health Department	Middletown City Health Department	Butler County (all inclusive)
Anaplasmosis-Anaplasma phagocytophilum	1	0	0	1
C. auris	1	0	1	2
COVID-19	0	1	0	1
CPO	4	1	1	6
Campylobacteriosis	2	0	0	2
Chlamydia infection	58	24	22	104
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	1	0	0	1
Giardiasis	1	0	0	1
Gonococcal infection	12	5	5	22
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis A	1	0	0	1
Hepatitis B (including delta) - acute	1	0	1	2
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	9	0	0	9
Hepatitis B - Perinatal Infection	2	0	0	2
Hepatitis C - Perinatal Infection	0	0	2	2
Hepatitis C - chronic	4	9	1	14
Influenza-associated hospitalization	54	36	16	106
Legionellosis	3	1	2	6
Lyme Disease	1	0	0	1
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	0	0	1
Mumps	0	1	0	1
Pertussis	2	0	8	10
Salmonellosis	1	1	2	4
Shigellosis	2	1	0	3
Strep Pneumoniae - invasive	7	1	0	8
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	1	0	1	2
Syphilis	1	2	2	5
Tuberculosis	2	0	0	2
Yersiniosis	1	0	0	1
Total	174	83	64	321

Table 5. * Butler County December Outbreaks

Outbreak Type	Causative Agent	Classification Status	Investigation Status
Healthcare Associated	COVID-19	Suspected	Open
Healthcare-Associated	Influenza	Suspected	Open
Institutional	Hand Foot and Mouth	Suspected	Open

*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 December 1 – 31, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of December. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 1/07/2026.

Table 6 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 6. * Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2020–2025)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Avg.	Up to 12/31/2025
Amebiasis	0	1	1	0	0	<1	0
Anaplasmosis- <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>	0	0	0	0	0	<1	1
Botulism- wound	0	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	2	0	0	0	<1	0
<i>Candida auris</i> (not reportable prior to 2019)	0	1	13	37	57	21.6	53
Campylobacteriosis	30	35	48	49	42	40.8	55
Chlamydia infection	1,512	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,208	1361.2	1170
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	26,420	39,521	49,323	12,192	9303	27351.8	4294
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	10	11	12	93	58	36.8	61
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	1	1	0	0	<1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	6	5	7	7	12	7.4	7
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	1	3	1	1.0	0
Dengue	0	1	1	0	1	<1	1
<i>E. coli</i> , Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	15	17	17	12	15.0	10
Ehrlichiosis- <i>Ehrlichia chaffeensis</i>	1	1	1	0	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	4	14	7	13	5	8.6	5
Gonococcal Infection	651	480	473	413	369	477.2	293
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (invasive disease)	7	6	11	18	14	11.2	6
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	60
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	486	434	390	280	234	364.8	215
HIV	17	58	38	35	44	38.4	
Hansen's disease	0	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	266	18	306	70	333	198.6	512
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	10	10	15	12	14	12.2	22
Listeriosis	0	0	1	2	0	<1	0
Lyme Disease	2	0	2	2	5	2.2	6
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 <i>N. meningitidis</i>)	3	3	11	10	11	7.6	4
Meningococcal dz. – <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	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	85
Salmonellosis	20	26	34	54	36	34.0	39
<i>Salmonella</i> Paratyphi	0	0	0	1	1	<1	0
<i>Salmonella</i> Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	2	0	1	2	1.0	0
Shigellosis	8	3	6	7	12	7.2	14
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	2	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	27	24	34	39	31	31.0	20
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	1	0	1	1	0	<1	3
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> – Invasive	31	33	40	43	40	37.4	50
Syphilis (all stages)	17	23	45	66	55	41.2	56
Tuberculosis (active)	6	7	8	7	13	8.2	17
Varicella	1	5	8	19	11	8.8	5
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	0	2	2	3	2	1.8	3
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	1
Yersiniosis	0	1	2	4	4	2.2	5

*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 December 1 – 31, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of December. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 1/07/2026.



Butler County
General Health District

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

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

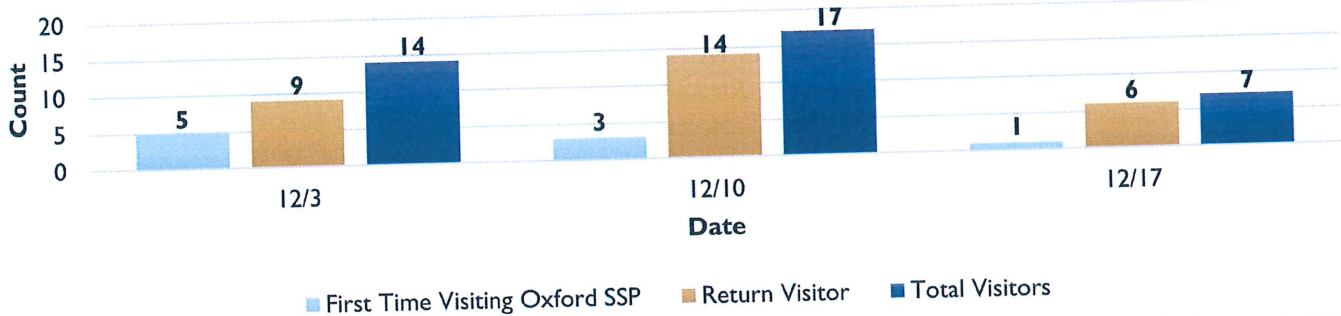


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2025

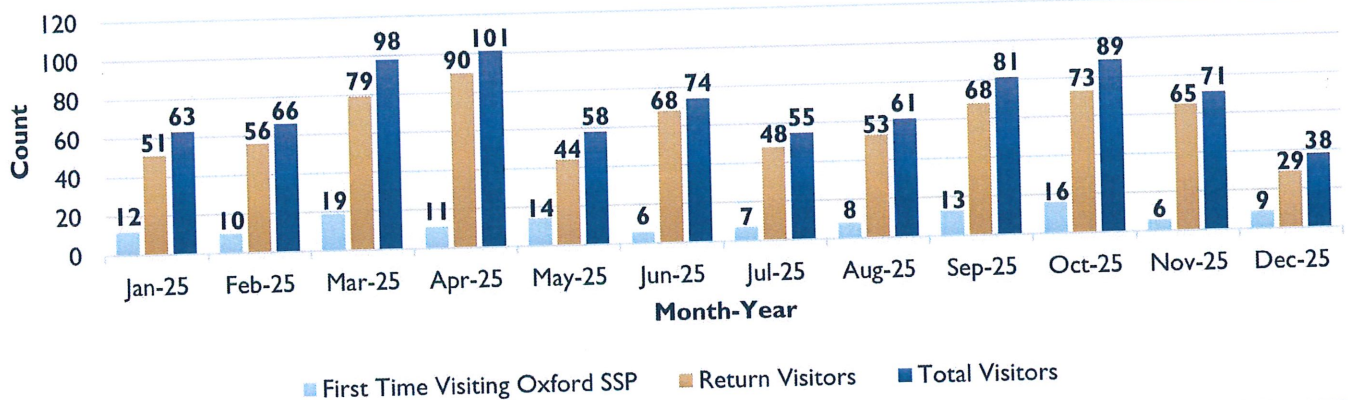
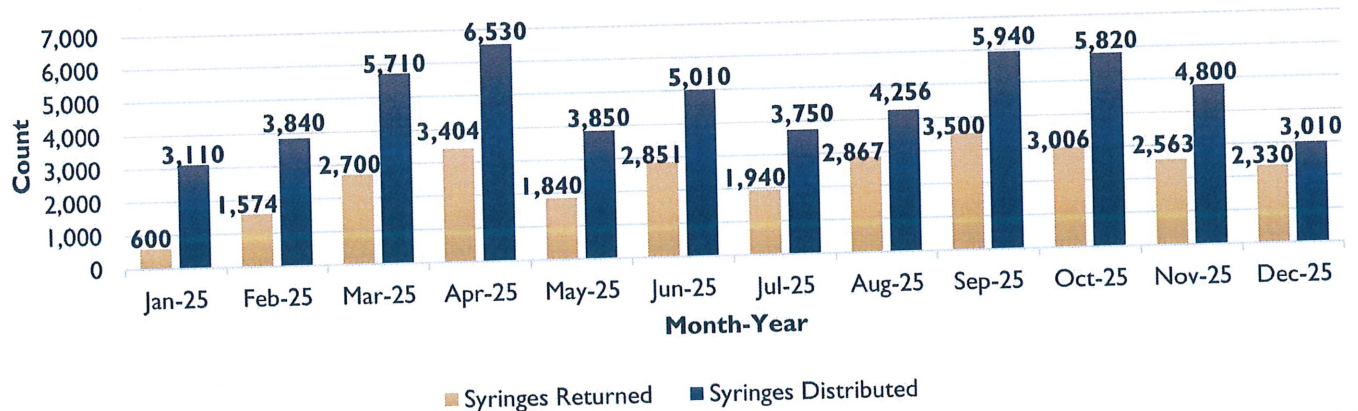


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2025



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department



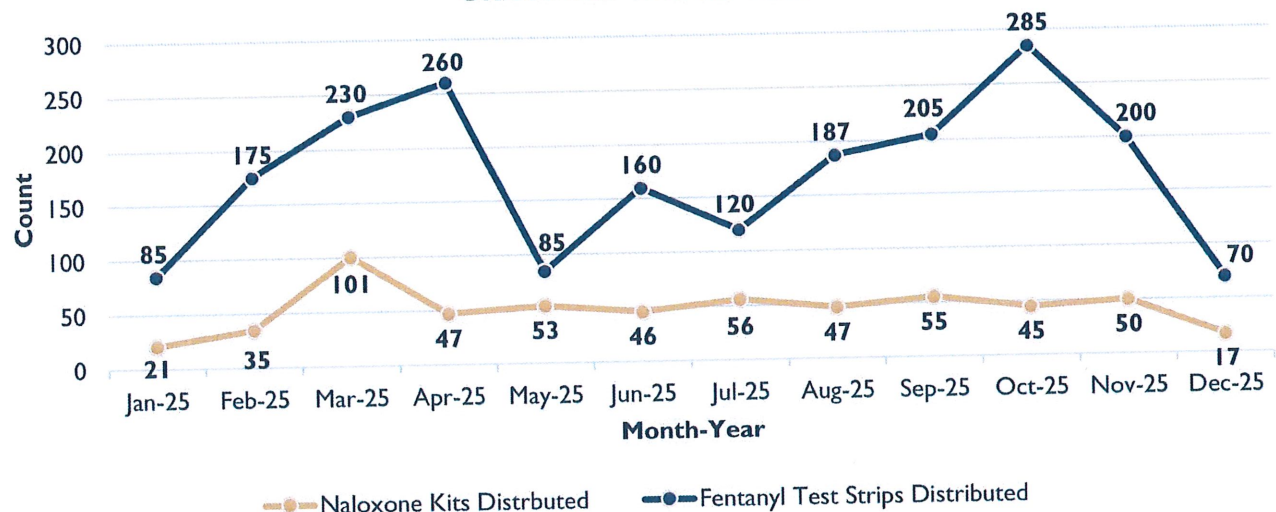
Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
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health.bcohio.gov

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

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	850	1,050	80.95%
45013	400	440	90.91%
45015	0	40	0.00%
Hamilton Total	1,250	1,530	81.70%
Middletown			
45042	100	100	100.00%
45044	0	40	0.00%
Middletown Total	100	140	71.43%
45056 - Oxford	980	1,300	75.38%
Montgomery County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Total	2,330	3,010	77.41%

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



Source: Butler County General Health District – Oxford Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained December 19, 2025, Data is provisional and subject to change



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet								
For December 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								
1								
2								
3								
Notes:								

No smoking complaints for the month of December 2025.

City of Middletown Health Department December 2025

Vital Statistics	Monthly	YTD	Environmental Inspections	Monthly	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	74	932	Food Service Operations (FSO)	39	507
Death Certificates Filed	*	947*	Retail Food Establishments	21	205
Birth Certificates Issued	241	4454	Preliminary/Consultations	23	131
Death Certificates Issued	358	3992	Sewage Inspections	6	494
Indigent Cremation Services	3	22	School Inspections	0	40
			Vending Locations	12	20
Deaths Filed			Temporary FSO/RFE	0	45
Accidental			Mobile FSO/RFE	0	22
Drug Overdose	0	18	Complaints	0	52
Falls	0	6	Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	4
Motor Vehicle	0	4	Swimming Pools	2	97
Exposure to Elements	0	0	Tattoo	1	11
Choking	0	0	Temp Park/Park Camp	0	3
Fire	0	0	Jail Inspection	0	1
Homicide	0	2	Site Visit (Septic)	0	2
Suicide	1	5	T21 Inspections	2	86
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	1	Well Sealing Permits	0	4
Could Not Be Determined	3	3	Septic Abandonment	0	3
Pending Investigation	0	0	Plans Received	1	13
** Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that expired within city limits only					
*ODH has a new recording system. Death Certificates filed by CMHD is currently unavailable.					
Level 1 Certification Training			Animal Bites		
Number of Attendees	0	14	Dog	4	64
			Cat	0	8
			Bat	1	3

Fw: December Community Ambassador Meeting Notes

From Jackie Carter <jackie.carter@cityofmiddletown.org>
Date Tue 1/6/2026 11:56 AM
To Amanda McDonald <amanda.mcdonald@cityofmiddletown.org>

Print update for Board



Jackie Carter
Health Commissioner
City of Middletown - Health
Office: (513) 425-7854
jackie.carter@cityofmiddletown.org

From: DeAnna Shores <deanna@safetycouncilswohio.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:00 AM
To: DeAnna Shores <middletownconnect@gmail.com>
Cc: Kristy Duritsch <kristy@safetycouncilswohio.org>; Jalin Marshall <jalin@safetycouncilswohio.org>; Ashlei McGuire <amcguirespecialties@gmail.com>; Jackie Carter <jackie.carter@cityofmiddletown.org>; Carrie Yeager <carrie.yeager@bcoho.gov>; rhonda molina <rhondaramseymolina@gmail.com>; Sherry Gibson <sgibson3663@gmail.com>
Subject: December Community Ambassador Meeting Notes

Greetings,

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who joined our **December Community Ambassador meeting**. We appreciated the conversation with Officers **Mosley** and **Ryan**, who shared updates, safety reminders, and interest in hosting more small-group discussions with residents.

Meeting Highlights

- Residents should never feel like they are “bothering” police by calling with concerns or stopping to talk.
- Small-group and informal conversations help build trust and ensure concerns are addressed.
- Coordinated reporting through groups like **Middletown Connect** is often more effective than individual complaints.
- Community meetings often serve a similar role to traditional Neighborhood Watch programs.

Seasonal Safety Reminders

- Do not leave vehicles running unattended; secure vehicles and use remote start when possible.
- Package theft increases during this time of year; neighbors watching out for each other makes a difference.
- Security and doorbell cameras are helpful when charged and actively recording.
- When reporting suspicious vehicles, share details such as license plate color and state; photos help if taken safely.
- Prioritize personal safety and allow police to handle potentially dangerous situations.

Reporting & Code Issues

- Zoning and code concerns (junk, broken fences) should be reported to the appropriate city departments.
- Other concerns can be shared through the drug hotline or via Police Dispatch on Facebook: Contact the Investigations section Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. by calling 513-425-7737. Call the Narcotics Anonymous Hotline at 513-425-7749. For impounded vehicles, call 513-425-7737.

Looking Ahead to 2026

- Improve access to fresh food and healthy meal options.
- Host healthy cooking and nutrition demonstrations.
- Address barriers to delivered meals and promote budgeting and meal planning.
- Explore partnerships with Shared Harvest, OSU Extension, and align with the county food plan.
- Address laundry access, landlord accountability, and improve communication beyond social media.
- Strengthen partnerships with city leadership as new roles are filled.

Communication & Resources

- We are exploring the best ways residents receive information: word of mouth, email, social media, or text.
- Community health workers and care managers remain key connectors.

Thank you for your continued commitment to a safer, healthier community.

With Warmth,

DeAnna Shores

Fw: ODH Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff Announces Measles Cases and Outbreak in Ohio

From Jackie Carter <jackie.carter@cityofmiddletown.org>
Date Thu 1/8/2026 9:48 AM
To Amanda McDonald <amanda.mcdonald@cityofmiddletown.org>

For BOH



Jackie Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Health Commissioner
City of Middletown - Health
Office: (513) 425-7854
jackie.carter@cityofmiddletown.org

From: Ohio Department of Health <ken.gordon@ohiodepartmentofhealth.ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Jackie Carter <jackie.carter@cityofmiddletown.org>
Subject: ODH Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff Announces Measles Cases and Outbreak in Ohio



Department of Health
odh.ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor

Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, Director



News Release

January 8, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: ODH Office of Communications 614-644-8562

ODH Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff Announces Measles Cases and Outbreak in Ohio

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)— Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, has reported the state's first measles cases and outbreak of 2026. There are three infected individuals, all children, from one household in Cuyahoga County. One of the three cases that is part of this outbreak had an illness onset date at the end of 2025, and the other two cases had onsets in 2026.

ATTENTION:

MEASLES EXPOSURE NOTICE

THIS LOCATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A SITE OF MEASLES EXPOSURE

If you were at Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Dry Ridge, KY on **Dec 28 - Dec 30, 2025**, you may be at risk for measles. Please confirm your measles vaccination status and monitor for symptoms for 21 days after the date listed above. For more information, call your local health department.

CALL A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IMMEDIATELY IF YOU EXPERIENCE:

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red and watery eyes
- Rash
- Spots inside mouth



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scan the QR code for recommendations
on post exposure treatment or visit:

https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Documents/Measles_PEP.pdf

For more information on measles visit:
www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/idb/Pages/measles.aspx



KentuckyPublicHealth
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Petition asks for transparency about cyberattack

Middletown will no longer issue water bills in December after community feedback.

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

An effort for more transparency regarding Middletown's cybersecurity incident and plans for restoring water billing has reached more than 2,000 signatures on a Change.org petition.

Key information about cyberattack, water billing:

- A "cybersecurity incident" shut down city systems starting Aug. 16.
- The investigation into the incident remains ongoing with the assistance of third-party specialists, and it is not yet known what personal information, if any, may have been affected.
- The city posted Nov. 20 that December water bills would resume after three months of a billing outage.
- An initial 25 percent charge was meant to help with balances owed on missed billings, though the city announced Nov. 21 the "usage adjustment" charge would be removed from residents' next bill.
- Tuesday, the city announced December bills — estimated or actual — would not be sent out after all.
- Any payments made during the outage should be credited to accounts.

- There will be no water shutoffs in December.
- Traditional, actual-usage billing will be restored in January.

William Knauber, organizer of the Change.org petition, wrote, "While the city of Middletown has issued a statement on Facebook that the additional 25% will not appear on the next bill, families remain frustrated and stressed over estimated charges that lack clear explanations, verified meter readings and an itemized breakdown of back-billed amounts. Residents have not been properly notified, as some elderly do not have social media and have been entirely left in the dark about the entire situation."

The petition had five requests, listed below. Journal-News sent these requests to city staff and asked for clarification on plans.

Petition Responses

Request: Pause of all water billing until accurate meter readings are restored.

Response: Billing from actual meter readings will resume in January.

Request: Full transparency about the cybersecurity incident and its impact on billing.

Response: There is not a timeline for the release of the results of our investigation due to the investigation (being) still ongoing.

Request: Clear itemized breakdowns for all estimated and back-billed charges.

Response: The next bill will show all usage since the last reading and will include back-billed charges for flat fee items (i.e. stormwater and trash) since the last billing cycle.

Request: Temporary suspension of water shutoffs while billing accuracy is restored.

Response: There will be no water shutoffs in December, and traditional, actual-usage billing will be restored in January.

Request: A public meeting to answer residents' questions directly.

Response: While there is not a public meeting currently scheduled to directly address the cybersecurity incident, residents are always invited and encouraged to speak and voice their concerns at regular meetings of the Middletown City Council during "citizen comments."

Residents are given four minutes to speak and a card with their information is given to city staff to respond to at a later date.

Oftentimes, concerns can also be addressed directly in the city council meetings, either under council comments or city manager reports. However, that is at the discretion of city council and the city manager.

As for restored billing in January, a city release said earlier this week: "While the first bill may be sizeable due to not billing in recent months, the city is currently working on a plan for a grace period and/or payment plan that will allow residents to catch up on payments over a period of several months."

More information on that plan is expected to be released soon, but had not been, as of the publishing of this article.

Middletown Mayor Elizabeth Slamka also posted a public response to the petition, saying, "Speaking as mayor and for myself: First, this has been — to say the least — frustrating for our residents."

"City staff is working diligently on this issue," she wrote. "It is one of the highest — if not the highest — priorities at the moment."

Slamka explained there are plans moving forward to stay in routine

communication with Middletown residents in the form of press releases on the city's website and social media accounts.

"Some things can be communicated quickly; other things take more time," Slamka wrote. "Some things may never be able to be shared, but reasons as to why that is, can be given, and that is something I am encouraging as part of the city's communications for our residents."

The Journal-News asked city staff why certain information cannot be released.

"If certain information is not released, it is typically because we have not yet confirmed the information to be 100% true, or releasing the information could hinder the investigation into what happened," said Communications Manager Clayton Castle.

When asked if the city staff felt they had effectively communicated with citizens since the cybersecurity incident, Castle said, "Our collaborative approach to effective communication has at times been difficult and tricky.

There is a fine line between trying to be effectively transparent and allowing the investigation to continue without hinderance. We have released information as we know it to be true without speculation or uncertainty in fact. While that can be frustrating for some, the city is confident in its ability to not share information that is not true or speculative."

Slamka thanked Knauber for creating the petition, saying the petition is "very useful."

"We've been talking about communication for a couple of years, and it's a twoway street from us to them, from them to us," she told Journal-News. "So, yes we can always improve. I'm very grateful for this communication from the people so we can do a better job as a city."

"The city is listening to (residents), and the city is working on this right now."

Commissioners at odds on supportive housing plans

One commissioner proposes \$7.5M idea to use vacant building on Symmes Road.



Left to right: Butler County Commissioner Don Dixon, with fellow commissioners TC Rogers and Cindy Carpenter, at the Sept. 30 Butler County Commission meeting. Dixon said he and Rogers don't plan to act on Commissioner Cindy Carpenter's proposal to address homelessness in Butler County. He said there is another plan the administration has worked on to address anticipated HUD cuts to the permanent supportive housing program. MICHAEL D. PITMAN / STAFF



Butler County Commissioner Cindy Carpenter at the Nov. 18 Butler County Commission meeting. Carpenter has presented a plan to address homelessness in the county, but her fellow commissioners say they will not review it. MICHAEL D. PITMAN / STAFF

BY MICHAEL D. PITMAN STAFF WRITER

Commissioner Cindy Carpenter wants to see Butler County address homelessness with a new facility, and has a plan to do so, but it will require buy-in from the county and city.

Carpenter submitted the proposal to her fellow county commissioners and Hamilton City Council to convert a county-owned building into an emergency shelter and resource hub at 3400 Symmes Road, which the commissioner described as a “long-vacant public asset.” The property is also within Hamilton’s city limits, which is why Carpenter is proposing the city be involved in this plan.

“This initiative is designed to improve public safety, stabilize families and ensure our most vulnerable residents have access to essential support services,” said Carpenter, adding the plan reflects years of collaborative work with local and regional providers, housing professionals, state and

federal lawmakers and Hamilton partners.

Already secured funds could be used, namely from the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan program (HOME- ARP) and the OneOhio opioid settlement.

This would be a \$7.56 million investment with the county paying \$45,000 for design and permitting, according to the plan, Carpenter's plan also calls for the city of Hamilton to "manage construction and operations" as Butler County would retain fiscal and compliance oversight for all federal and state funds.

City Manager Craig Bucheit confirmed the administration received Carpenter's proposal and staff is reviewing it, stating, "There may be some potential, but we need more information before we can determine whether it's workable for the city."

However, Carpenter's plan may not be considered by her fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Don Dixon said neither he nor Commissioner TC Rogers had any input in this plan, which they received a little more than a week ago. Dixon said, "Cindy refuses to work with (our staff and providers) or TC and myself."

Dixon said an official county plan is expected to be submitted, which would move from a permanent supportive housing model to a temporary model.

Those experiencing homelessness would be provided with housing for a maximum of two years, which Dixon said "would help people move up to be more independent."

Carpenter's plan, though, comes from nearly a decade of addressing homelessness, she said, adding she has consulted agencies, studied best practices across Ohio and other states, and visited successful

facilities “whose expertise has shaped a practical, sustainable, and effective plan grounded in real-world experience.”

At the Nov. 18 Butler County Commission meeting, without specifically mentioning her proposal, Carpenter said, “I have been ringing the bell that we don’t have the wrap-around services, that we don’t engage in the encampments, that we don’t have the focus on addiction, recovery, mental health to stop everyone from being chronically homeless. There’s some things we can do early on in prevention that doesn’t cause so many people to enter homelessness.”

Butler County, as well as other Ohio counties, is facing potential cuts to permanent supportive housing funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The cuts would take money from long-term housing solutions, and a revised or new plan is needed by mid-December.

The county also has the largest unhoused population in the state, with nearly 500 people experiencing homelessness or living in encampments.

By leveraging state or federal funds, it is possible to take an underutilized county property and convert a vacant building into a 50-bed multi-service emergency shelter and resource hub, serving a vulnerable population without placing an additional burden on taxpayers, Carpenter said.

“It represents a strategic, sustainable investment with measurable impact,” she said. “Butler County has long discussed solutions to homelessness, (and) this plan turns conversation into action.”

Middletown's proposed budget includes boosts to employee pay, general fund

MIDDLETOWN



The city of Middletown's proposed 2026 budget includes a 4.5% cost-of-living increase for all non-union employees and a \$4.6 million increase in general fund spending. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

The city of Middletown is reviewing its proposed 2026 budget, which includes a 4.5% cost-of-living increase for all non-union employees and a \$4.6 million increase in general fund spending.

The city has goals of adding staff to “provide more robust services” and continuing to invest in parks and ongoing projects like the Downtown Refresh, Renaissance Pointe and Towne Mall.

The proposed 2026 budget uses a “significant” amount of general fund

reserves to make “key investments in people, projects and programs,” according to a staff report.

“This is a significant use of our general fund reserve, but one that will be an investment in our people and the city’s opportunity for future growth,” Councilman Paul Lolli said. “But now, we have our work cut out for us.”

Between 2025 and 2026, the biggest departmental increase is for the city council, which will see a 27.31% increase in spending from \$206,849 to \$263,332 due to the addition of a parttime deputy clerk of council position.

The biggest increase in spending is for police and fire services. Police spending will grow by 16.19% to \$19,184,060; fire spending will grow by 17.2% to \$15,522,950, according to the staff report.

Fire spending is due to the addition of four firefighter EMT positions and additional funding for capital needs, according to the report.

Police spending is due contract negotiations from 2025, which included an assumed 5% cost of living increase. Negotiations resulted in an 8.8% cost of living increase for uniform patrol and sergeant/lieutenants FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) unions.

The city manager’s budget decreased by 22.49%, from \$1,007,347 to \$780,822 due to the elimination of one of two assistant city manager positions.

In the community and economic development department, spending will increase 8.53% from \$3,525,667 to \$3,826,450. This change is due to buying property and the addition of three parttime event hosts at The Event Center of Middletown.

The grant and project coordinator and intern positions in the community and economic development department have also been eliminated.

Council did not vote to approve the budget during the Nov. 18 council meeting.

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said she would have liked to discuss more investment into parks and events and "beautification" and maintenance in the city.

Lolli said the budget is the result of work that began four years ago "to stabilize our current workforce by being more competitive in wages and with other communities."

Large increases in public safety spending are meant to "stop the bleeding," according to Lolli.

"We were losing too many public safety personnel to surrounding communities that were paying anywhere from \$12,000 to \$15,000 more than we were," Lolli said.

Lolli said he was in support of the budget proposal, especially the 4.5% cost-of-living increase, but added he would have liked one or two economic development job growth specialists.

"I think that those positions would actually pay for themselves," Lolli said.

The cost-of-living increase totals about \$190,000, according to City Manager Ashley Combs.

Budgeted income tax revenue in fiscal year 2026 is projected to increase 3% from fiscal year 2025, totaling \$1,038,431, according to Combs.

Residents want sense of history with revitalization

Mixed reviews for proposed mixed-use development The Manchester.



A proposed mixed-use development for the site of the Sonshine building and former Manchester Inn would require both buildings be demolished. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Rendering of a proposed mixed-use development to go on the site of the Sonshine building and former Manchester Inn. The design is not final. CMC PROPERTIES / CONTRIBUTED

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Middletown stakeholders and residents weighed in Tuesday on a development proposed for the site of the Sonshine building and former Manchester Inn.

The proposal, from CMC Properties out of Blue Ash, details a mixed-use development including apartments and a 10,000-15,000-square-foot streetlevel commercial space — dubbed “The Manchester.”

Pete Montgomery, who will oversee the proposed development, has goals of putting mom-and-pop restaurants and retail spaces in the street-level commercial development, not chains.

The facade would be red brick and is planned to incorporate stone exterior and interior fixtures from the former Manchester Inn meant to honor the city’s historic character, though some people said that wasn’t

enough.

"That apartment building could be anywhere," Mary Johnson, Downtown Middletown Inc. board chair, said. "If we're taking a space that had a historically significant building, we should replace it with a new build that looks historically significant as well."

She said the development could be a "spark" for downtown revitalization but enforcing vacant property legislation was also necessary.

Eight other people spoke and shared excitement about the plans and the possibility of a new development downtown, though some shared concerns about the orientation of the buildings.

Kate Morrow, executive director of Middletown Arts Center, said the placement of the parking garages would cut off the arts center and Middletown Historical Society from the park proposed to sit atop the CSO basin on North Main Street and the city building.

Cohen said the garages could "easily" be relocated to connect the downtown area.

Jade Smarda and Gabe Schoenlein, who led efforts to create the group Save Downtown Middletown, said the proposal was a first step.

Smarda asked for no demolition without a firm commitment from the developer and asked for the design to look "old and timeless."

She also said the plan should be finalized under supervision of a historic commission.

Schoenlein told Journal-News before the meeting he thought the proposed building was a "B-" and is hoping it can evolve into an "A."

But, he said, it's a "great catalyst" to get people downtown and increase traffic at local businesses.

Schoenlein also requested the city continue to include citizens during the process of the reviewing the proposal and ultimately making a decision.

Cohen said the plans submitted were early and could evolve.

"This is a first proposal ... this is not our final design," he said.

He said development has focused on the East End and the downtown has "suffered," and the only way to drive development to the Sorg Opera House, First National Bank building and the Goetz Tower is to bring "people and energy" downtown.

Councilman Paul Horn said the development could create a development "domino effect" for the rest of the downtown.

"This is preliminary, meaning this is the beginning of the journey, and we want everyone's input on this journey, but this has to happen in order for the downtown area to start its journey into the future," he said.

Vice Mayor Steve West shared concerns on the public-private partnership term sheet attached to the proposal, which includes 13 improvements the city would agree to fund and/ or contribute to:

- Site preparation including environmental mitigation, demolition, removal of uncontrolled fill and replacement with structural fill
- Permitting and installation of any required stormwater detention/retention
- North Main Street streetscape improvements
- Park improvements
- Butler County Port Authority sales tax exemption certificate program
- Master lease of select apartments by Miami University or city
- City sponsored student loan grants for downtown residents

- Waived fees for water and sewer taps and building permits
- 30-year property tax abatement; 100% of residential improvement costs, 75% of commercial improvement costs
- \$4,000,000 development grant
- DORA Entertainment District
- 5 year moratorium on multi-family zoning outside of downtown
- Leasing incentives for commercial tenants

This term sheet is not final and has not been agreed to by the city or city council.

West was against the fiveyear multi-family housing moratorium outside of downtown, master leases by Miami University or the city, city-sponsored student loan grants for downtown residents, the 30-year property tax abatement and leasing incentives.

Councilman Paul Lolli also said the five-year moratorium would be a “dealkiller,” though he said staff would give official feedback to the developer.

Cohen said the moratorium does not mean development can’t happen outside of downtown, but that any such development would not be incentivized by council.

Cohen also said without the long-term tax abatement, “the project doesn’t pencil out.”

“This development is not about wiping the slate clean,” he said. “This development is about caring for the Manchester’s story in a building that actually works for the next 100 years.”

Ultimately, the city did not make an official decision on the proposal or make any plans for demolition of any downtown building, but an unofficial straw vote saw all councilmembers in favor of continuing

negotiations with CMC Properties.

A proposed timeline for the development has construction starting in 2027 and finishing in 2028.

Agency that shelters homeless population expects demand will be high this season

SHALOM's partner churches will house guests for nine weeks beginning Jan. 4.



Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging of Middletown served 130 guests last season, said Director Bill Fugate. The program will open again at various churches beginning Jan. 4. STAFF FILE

BY RICK MCCRABB CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Based on early communications with its clients, the director of Middletown's churchbased homeless shelter expects the need for services to be "extremely high" when the program begins in January.

Bill Fugate, director of Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging Of Middletown, said the agency has been contacted by first-time and former clients asking about services.

“Homelessness increases every day,” Fugate said.

SHALOM served about 130 clients — men, women, and children — last year, he said.

The agency is the only one in Butler County that accepts all three groups of homeless clients, Fugate said.

Now in its 24th year, SHALOM operates without federal financial assistance. It was founded in 2002 by Roy and Pat Ickes.

SHALOM and eight local churches will start housing the homeless for nine weeks on Jan. 4.

Clients sleep on mats, and men and women are in separate rooms. Those needing assistance are picked up every day at 5 p.m. at the SHALOM office in the lower level of the First United Methodist Church, 120 S. Broad St., then driven to the host church. Volunteers feed the homeless dinner and breakfast and chaperone throughout the night, Fugate said.

Daily intakes are performed from 4 to 5 p.m. during the hosting season.

New guests must arrive at 4 p.m. on their initial day of stay, according to Fugate.

Clients must be sober, have no warrants and not be registered sex offenders, said Fugate.

He blamed the increase in homelessness on the economy, the cost of living and lack of education. But some people, regardless of outside influences, just prefer a life on the streets, Fugate said.

"A lot of it is choices," he said. "For them, this is all they know. It's generational for a lot of them.

There's plenty of blame to go around."

Middletown and Butler County — which has the largest unhoused population in the state with nearly 500 people experiencing homelessness or living in encampments — have struggled with homelessness for decades.

Last month, Commissioner Cindy Carpenter said she wants to see Butler County address homelessness with a new facility. She said she has a plan, but it would require buy-in from the county and the city of Hamilton.

Carpenter submitted the proposal to her fellow county commissioners and Hamilton City Council to convert a county-owned building into an emergency shelter and resource hub at 3400 Symmes Road, which the commissioner described as a "long-vacant public asset."

Already secured funds could be used, namely from the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan program and the One- Ohio opioid settlement.

This would be a \$7.56 million investment with the county paying \$45,000 for design and permits, according to the plan. Carpenter's plan calls for the city of Hamilton to "manage construction and operations" as Butler County would retain fiscal and compliance oversight for all federal and state funds.

Hamilton City Manager Craig Bucheit confirmed the administration received Carpenter's proposal and staff is reviewing it, stating, "There may be some potential but we need more information before we can determine whether it's workable for the city."

Carpenter's plan may not be considered by her fellow commissioners, they said.

Last summer, Heather Gibson, owner of Triple Moon Coffee Company at 1100 Central Ave. in Middletown, said there were two incidents near her business and she has asked the city to do more for the homeless population.

On June 11, Gibson said a man hit a woman in the face in Governor's Square.

She said both were homeless.

A police report said the woman was the aggressor, detailing she had hit the man "six or seven times" before he responded with a hit to her face.

Another day, Triple Moon workers arrived at work around 6:30 a.m. and witnessed two men fighting near the business' parking lot.

The suspect was given a disorderly conduct warning, according to the incident report.

Later the same day, the same suspect was arrested in the area of Baltimore Street and Woodlawn Avenue after punching a man multiple times in the face. He was charged with assault, a first-degree misdemeanor.

Police Chief Earl Nelson said Middletown officers are out every day checking on homeless camps and on the unsheltered population in the downtown area, and downtown business owners have those officers' cell phone numbers.

Staff writers Bryn Dippold and Michael D. Pitman contributed to this report.

SHALOM 2026 SCHEDULE

Serving the Homeless with Alternative Lodging Of Middletown (SHALOM) will host the homeless for nine weeks this winter. Those in need of housing are transported at 5 p.m. every day from the SHALOM

office, which is located in the lower level of the First United Methodist Church, 120 S. Broad St., to the host church.

All guests are allowed to shower, dine, rest and share fellowship in a safe and warm environment.

At approximately 8 a.m. each day the guests are transported back downtown, organizers said.

- Jan. 4-10: Breiel Church of God
- Jan. 11-17: Stratford Heights Church of God
- Jan. 18-24: Stratford Heights Church of God
- Jan. 25-31: Holy Family Parish
- Feb. 1-7: Berachah Church
- Feb. 8-14: Crosspointe Church of Christ
- Feb. 15-21: First Baptist Church
- Feb. 22-28: Quest Church
- March 1-7: First United Methodist/Quest/First Baptist Church, Franklin

Carcasses of vultures found dead test positive for bird flu

CLERMONT COUNTY



Ohio Department of Natural Resources wildlife officers remove 72 dead vultures from a Pierce Township elementary school on Dec. 5. RAY PFEFFER / WCPO

BY PAULA CHRISTIAN WCPO

The Ohio Department of Agriculture says two of the 72 black vulture carcasses cleaned up from a Clermont County elementary school's campus tested presumptive positive for bird flu.

Ohio wildlife officials on the morning of Dec. 5 collected the dead vultures, which were splayed across the ballfields and grass at St. Bernadette School on Locust Lake Road.

Pierce Twp. officials said the Ohio Department of Natural Resources initially refused to clean up or test the dead birds and only agreed to help hours after being contacted by the WCPO 9 I-Team.

"They were very adamant that they were not coming.

There was a recommendation that you just take them, put them in a bag, double-bag them and throw them in the garbage," said Pierce Twp.

Trustee Allen Freeman. "It was very clear that there was no help coming. Thanks to Channel 9, you guys reached out to ODNR, and amazingly, they started to change their tune."

Staff and teachers returned from Thanksgiving break on Dec. 1 and found dead vultures spread across a campus where more than 200 children are enrolled. The school contacted Pierce Twp.

Fire Chief Craig Wright for help, who said he reached out to ODNR for guidance.

"(ODNR wasn't) overly concerned with the situation.

They really had no intention to come out and do anything for the problem," Wright said. "It did upset me. I was a little surprised. It's a wildlife issue. There's no better agency than them to deal with a wildlife issue."

Over the next few days, Wright said he contacted local public health and emergency management agencies for help to come up with a contingency plan, while the dead birds remained at the school.

"It's a big undertaking to clean up this many dead animals when you really don't know or have the education or expertise to deal with that issue," Wright said.

An ODNR spokesperson said the agency does not typically collect dead

wildlife, but decided to help “for this unique circumstance.”

“The Ohio Department of Agriculture has conducted testing of other dead wild birds in Clermont County, and we have been advised that those other birds are ‘presumed positive’ for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Once a presumed positive case is identified in a county, all additional dead birds found in groups of six or more are also presumed to be HPAI and are treated as such. Therefore, the vultures in this case are presumed to be positive for HPAI, however, ODNR is working to collect additional samples to send for testing due to this unique circumstance,” according to a statement from ODNR.

Freeman and Wright both said that ODNR declined to test the birds. A spokesperson for Clermont County Public Health confirmed the claim.

“As is protocol in situations involving wildlife, the issue was originally reported to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which declined to test the birds,” according to a statement from public health spokesperson Krista Rose.

“However, given the potential risk to public health, we worked with our state partners to arrange testing. On Dec. 5, two birds are being delivered to a state animal laboratory for testing,” Rose said.

Those positive test samples have been sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Iowa for confirmation.

Meanwhile, dozens of seemingly healthy black vultures flew around the school on Friday morning.

They perched in trees and on the baseball field fence near the carcasses.

Freeman said he worries about more bird deaths.

“You also have a lot of geese that are in this area as well. So, all of those are flock animals, and they can be spreading this to countless areas inside Clermont County, and we would have no idea,” Freeman said.

"There are a number of people very close by that have cattle operations, and it has been known that bird flu can jump to cattle. It starts to open up an entirely new avenue that deals with our food and our food supply."

But Wright urged residents not to panic. If it is bird flu, the current risk to the public is very low, Rose said.

"Transmission occurs through contact with respiratory droplets and bodily fluids from live birds. Transmission of bird flu in wildlife can increase in the spring and fall with bird migration.

The current strain of H5N1 has been found in the wild and domestic bird populations since 2022 throughout the country, including Ohio," Rose said.

ODNR crews cleaned up eight more dead vultures at the school on Dec. 7.

Pierce Twp. residents who find dead birds are urged to contact the township fire department or the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at 800-945-3543 or wildinfo@dnr.ohio.gov.

Butler County sees decrease in overdose deaths

Health experts see naloxone access as key to fewer fatalities.



In Butler County, there were 184 overdose deaths in 2022, 130 deaths in 2023 and 88 deaths in 2024, according to the Butler County General Health District. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

BY SAMANTHA WILDOW STAFF WRITER

Fatal drug overdoses are on a downward trend locally and in Ohio, which local health departments are attributing to increased access to harm reduction resources, like Narcan.

Area counties are also seeing concerning trends with opioids being laced with other illicit drugs, creating other health risks for people using these substances.

“Butler County has steadily been observing a decrease in unintentional fatal drug overdose cases over the last couple of years,” said Jordan Meyer, senior epidemiologist in the harm reduction program at the Butler County General Health District. In Butler County, there were 184 overdose deaths in 2022, 130 deaths in 2023 and 88 deaths in 2024, according to the Butler County General Health District.

This trend has continued in 2025 with there being 79 suspected overdose deaths as of Dec. 1, according to Meyer.

In Montgomery County, there have been 143 overdose deaths to date in 2025, which is a 12.3% decline compared to the same time period in 2024, according to the Montgomery County Community Overdose Action Team.

Statewide, the monthly rate of nonfatal overdose emergency department visits dropped from 62.7 cases per 100,000 people in August 2023 to 41.1 cases per 100,000 people in August 2025, the most recent month for which data is available, according to the Healthy Policy Institute of Ohio.

Nationally, there were 72,697 unintentional overdose deaths in 2024, which is a drop of about 25.2% compared to the 97,231 deaths reported in 2023, according to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control.

Opioids mixed with cocaine, meth creating concerning trends

Area counties are seeing a trend where different drugs, like methamphetamine, are mixed in with opioids, said Dan Suffoletto, public information manager for Public Health — Dayton & Montgomery County. The combination is creating additional risks for people struggling with substance use disorder.

“We’re seeing a rise in overdose deaths where there’s no fentanyl present, so that would be deaths where there’s either cocaine or methamphetamine present but not necessarily fentanyl,” Suffoletto said.

One concerning trend is overdose deaths of older Black males. Suffoletto explained that Black adults, particularly men, have a higher risk of heart disease.

“Those overdose deaths in the older Black males are also seeing a pattern of people who have a pre-existing condition of heart disease, and that condition makes an overdose even more dangerous,” Suffoletto said.

Among people aged 20 and older in the U.S., nearly 60% of Black adults have some type of cardiovascular disease, according to the American Heart Association, compared to about 49% of all U.S. adults who have some type of cardiovascular disease.

“We want to make people aware again of the dangers of using street drugs,” Suffoletto said.

In 2022, nearly half of drug overdose deaths involved multiple drugs, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Increased access to Narcan

Public health experts attribute the decreasing overdose deaths to increased access to Narcan, also called naloxone, which is a medication that reverse an opioid overdose and help restore breathing.

“From the perspective of our department, this steady decrease is due to a large multitude of efforts in prevention, harm reduction and treatment,” Meyer said.

For harm reduction specifically, the Butler County General Health District has observed more people requesting to take multiple naloxone kits from the Syringe Service Program so they can keep Narcan in multiple locations within their house, vehicle and with friends, Meyer said.

The health district has also worked to install naloxone access cabinets and Narcan vending machines, also called Barney boxes, throughout the

county, increasing people's access to naloxone.

"More naloxone trainings have also been conducted, which has decreased the potential stigma associated with the medication and resulted in more people carrying it should they ever encounter an emergency situation where it is needed," Meyer said.

Narcan is also available over-the-counter for a fee at pharmacies.

"Overall, we have worked to saturate Butler County with naloxone by working to ensure it is available all throughout the county and more individuals are now educated and equipped to reverse an overdose event should they encounter someone in need," Meyer said.

Contact this reporter at 937- 765-2078 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

PROJECT DAWN

■ Ohio Department of Health's Project DAWN (deaths avoided with naloxone) is a communitybased drug overdose education and naloxone distribution program.

■ Visit naloxone.ohio.gov/get-naloxone/individual to get naloxone mailed to you.

Middletown leaders look to Hamilton playbook

Goal was 'reactivating space,' connecting between developments, former Hamilton city manager says.



Butler County Finance Authority President and CEO Joshua Smith talks about the revitalization efforts in Hamilton during his tenure as city manager. MICHAEL D. PITMAN / STAFF



Middletown is considering a plan by CMC Properties to demolish the Manchester Inn and Sonshine building and construct a mixed-use development that would feature 100-125 apartments and 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of retail space. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF FILE

BY MICHAEL D. PITMAN STAFF WRITER

A contingent of Middletown leaders was shown what downtown could be by looking at Hamilton's pathway to redevelopment.

A critical part along that path was the CMC Properties development known as The Marcum, a mixed-use development in Hamilton's downtown that Butler County Finance Authority President and CEO Joshua Smith called "critical" in establishing the city's renaissance.

Smith was Hamilton's city manager from late 2010 until April 2024, when he was appointed to lead the BCFA. The Marcum opened in 2018 where Mercy Hospital once stood, specifically the hospital's parking lot. The hospital building property is now where Marcum Park and RiversEdge exist.

CMC was the lone developer to submit plans for the site of the historic Manchester Inn and the adjacent Sonshine building.

The 103-year-old former hotel has been vacant for years, and the developer proposes replacing it with a development similar to the Marcum and its sister project, Rossville Flats, another CMC development that features market-rate apartments and retail space that opened in late 2023.

The Middletown project, which would have between 100 to 125 apartments and 10,000 and 15,000 square feet of retail space, would be called "The Manchester."

The Marcum project in Hamilton was "critical," Smith said, to Hamilton's future success because the city nearly lost its only hotel, the Courtyard by Marriott, at the time. They didn't have enough things to do, such as bars, restaurants and activities.

RiversEdge opened in 2012, and Marcum Park was dedicated in 2017.

The goal was about "reactivating space" and connecting the dots between developments, which started at the corner of North Third and High street when Smith arrived in Hamilton in 2010, and then it "was really about establishing momentum" by leveraging one good development after another.

"I'm a firm believer that if you stack one good win after another, you're going to be successful," said Smith. "People seem to want to strive for perfect, which I think is a foolish exercise, because you'll spend all your time trying to get something perfect and you'll miss out on the next 10 opportunities."

Constructing Rotary Park, improving the McDulin Garage and investing in downtown properties were some of the strategies Hamilton employed to guide the city toward the vision community leaders and stakeholders envisioned.

"Once you start connecting those dots, the bigger picture becomes a little bit more apparent," he said. While the business development has been key for Hamilton's resurgence, the growth came because of the people involved, said Rafael Salem, co-owner of The Pour House, where Smith met with Middletown leaders on Monday. The Pour House is one of the ground-level businesses at The Marcum.

"The growth in Hamilton has been the people," he said. "It's not any one, two, three, four things. It's everybody getting together and making this happen. There's a real sense of community here ... There was a point in time where I gave up on Hamilton. I didn't want to come back to Hamilton if it wasn't for family or business."

Now, Salem and his wife, Toni, who have other business interests, build on Hamilton and spent the past four years re-investing in the Pour House with their pedal wagon and recent expansion.

Salem said Hamilton's investment in itself has given him and Toni "a huge sense of community."

CMC Properties property manager Pete Montgomery said what's been key to their two Hamilton developments, and what would be key to the proposed Middletown project, is the first retail tenant.

"Getting that first anchor retailer is very, very important," he said. "What it does is a domino effect."

The city has not made an official decision on CMC's proposal nor have they made plans for demolishing of any downtown building. However, in a straw vote at the Dec. 2 council meeting, the council unanimously supported continuing negotiations with CMC Properties.

The proposed timeline for the development has construction starting in 2027 and finishing in 2028.

Ohioans on both sides of intoxicating hemp ban

Ban will cut revenue for small businesses.



Store associate Ahmad Hamdan stocks Basic cigarettes as he starts his shift at the Eastown Smoke Shop on Monday in Dayton. JOSEPH COOKE / STAFF

BY AVERY KREEMER STAFF WRITER

Opinions abound in Ohio as the state gets ready to ban the sale of intoxicating hemp products outside of state-approved recreational marijuana dispensaries, cutting out a major revenue source for hundreds of small businesses across the state.

Zain Hamdan, manager and partner at Eastown Smoke Shop on Dayton's east side, told this outlet that he expects the forthcoming ban to cut out about 25% of his shop's revenue.

He called the decision "unfair," saying it specifically hurts small

businesses, like his, and helps big businesses, like the kind that can afford to jump through the state's hoops to become a licensed recreational dispensary.

"You're coming to take the item that I am making money on — you're making money on (in tax revenue) — away, and it does not benefit no one," said Hamdan.

"That's where I come and say, let's regulate it, keep it, let's all make money. Focus on all, not one side."

Hamdan projects that his shop, which employs four people, including himself, will struggle to stay afloat as a result of the ban.

"If we lose that ... it would absolutely (have an) impact on being open, serving communities, having employees. It's gonna get worse," he said.

Proponents of the ban — namely Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, who has been sounding alarms regarding intoxicating hemp's lack of mandated testing, concerns about marketing to children, and the fact that Ohioans of any age can purchase intoxicating hemp — see the forthcoming change as a net positive for the state.

"To me, the most important part of the bill obviously is that for the first time we're gonna have some regulation," DeWine told reporters last week. "We'll no longer be in the wild, wild west; we'll have some regulation of the juiced-up hemp. To me, that's a major, major victory."

DeWine has long lamented the intoxicating hemp market, which sprouted up following the federal 2018 farm bill that legalized the production of hemp plants — marijuana's low-THC cousin. In the time since, other naturally occurring and/or artificially enhanced cannabinoids from the hemp plant, like delta-8 or THCA, have been used to create products that can make users feel high.

Ever since, federal and state laws have technically allowed the stuff to be sold without government-mandated testing or restrictions on who can

buy it, or the groups it can be marketed to.

“It was a long time coming, but it’s a major victory for kids in the state. There’s gonna be some regulation; they won’t be able to have juiced-up hemp gummies, you won’t be able to walk into the gas station and (have) an 11-year-old buy this stuff,” DeWine said.

The ban will go into effect 90 days after the Republican governor signs Senate Bill 56, which he has pledged to do.

It took a bit of elbow grease, but SB 56 was finally passed by the Ohio legislature on Dec. 9, on the back of Republican support.

Earlier versions of the bill floated a plan to create an intoxicating hemp retail license to essentially mirror Ohio’s recreational marijuana market, but those statelevel talks were shut down once Congress voted to make intoxicating hemp products illegal beginning in November 2026.

Ohio’s new law will nix the products before the new federal law kicks in. The bill does, however, maintain a longer runway for THC beverages, which can be sold by licensed liquor retailers until the products become illegal at the federal level in late 2026.

Still, the blanket ban that Ohio landed on leaves a bad taste for companies that expect to be impacted.

Hamdan thinks the concern that minors are buying intoxicating hemp products is overstated. He argued that the products themselves often have 21+ labeling on them and are predominantly sold in gas stations, head shops, and corner stores — three types of businesses that are accustomed to checking ID.

“My shop is already equipped for 21-year-andolder sales, by signage, by attitude, by service, by et cetera and by all of the above,” Hamdan said.

Justin Helt, co-founder and CEO of the Ohio Hemp Company out of New Carlisle, told this outlet that he doesn’t expect his revenues to drop — his

crops are largely used for the production of hemp fiber and grain — but he expressed concern that a clampdown on hemp-derived products might force his company to jump through extra hoops.

“Blanket bans and broad language tend to hurt everyone involved and have unintended consequences across the industry,” Helt said. “So, while that ban doesn’t necessarily firsthand affect what we’re producing, it just brings a lot of drama into the industry as a whole where it’s not really needed.”

From broader industry perspectives, the Ohio Cannabis Coalition, a trade group on behalf of the recreational market, applauds the ban.

Executive Director David Bowling praised Ohio for becoming one of the earliest states to close the window on intoxicating hemp, adding that the ban shows a “clear commitment to public safety and a responsible marketplace.”

The Ohio Healthy Alternatives Association, a hemp industry advocate, released a statement with a less rosy depiction: “This legislation will have devastating consequences for the hemp industry, decimating the lives of tens of thousands of families, small business owners and employees across the state,” it read in part.

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

Middletown officers 'get to see the joy of Christmas'

'Shop with a Cop' gives children different view of law enforcement.



Middletown Division of Police officer Justin Beamis helps Luke Wilburn shop for presents Dec. 13 at the Meijer on Towne Boulevard as Luke's grandmother Rachel Cobb looks on. RICK MCCRABB / CONTRIBUTED

Way before most of these children typically are out of bed on a Saturday morning, they eagerly walked into the Middletown Meijer looking forward to receiving Christmas gifts.

The Mike Davis Shop with a Cop program, started about 30 years ago by the Middletown Division of Police, took place recently and about 75 children from 25 families each received \$100 worth of gifts.

Butler County school counselors forwarded names of potential children who could use some financial assistance this holiday season, said Denny Jordan, president of the Fraternal Order of Police.

The biggest financial supporter was Meijer, which donated \$5,000 to the Mike Davis Shop with a Cop program, named in honor of the former Middletown school resource officer who died in 2013.

Other donors included Christ United Methodist Church, Mark's Towing, Homemaker's Circle, Gary Hoff, Dietz's Towing, and Middletown Eagles No. 528, organizers said.

About 20 Middletown officers, many of them with less than three years of service, volunteered to participate in the program, said Police Chief Earl Nelson.

Not only did the children leave Meijer with a cart full of gifts, Nelson hopes the event changed their perspective of police officers.

"It's not always about enforcement," Nelson said. "It is about helping people and that's what our officers do. A lot of our calls are about helping people in need."

Jordan, who helped organize the event with Mary Miller, secretary of the detective section, said the day was about the officers giving back to the

community they serve. He hopes the program provides the kids a different view of police officers.

"Most of the time it's negative," Jordan said of the public's interaction with law enforcement.

"Today, it's a positive outreach for the police department toward the community. The next time they see us they will come up and wave and say hi."

Officer Justin Bemis, 23, who just completed his first year on the force, agreed.

"It's always good to have an interaction when it doesn't involve somebody getting in trouble or somebody thinking we're bad," he said.

"This is about putting a smile on their face and serving the community. It establishes a little easier relationship. The next time they see us they don't think, 'Somebody is in trouble.'"

As Luke Wilburn, 8, pushed the shopping cart through the toy section, Bemis seemed just as thrilled.

"You get to see the joy of Christmas," he said.

Luke's grandmother, Rachel Cobb, said the event provides financial assistance around the holidays.

"It means he gets a Christmas," she said. "That simple. It's definitely about the kids."

Middletown community center reopens, celebrates

\$6.7M renovation took over a year, worked around programming.



Kids play basketball in the new gym at the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center in Middletown on Wednesday. The center's \$6.7 million expansion nearly doubled its square footage. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



A crowd of supporters gathered for a ribbon-cutting and tour of the completed expansion of the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center in Middletown on Wednesday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF



Retiring executive director of the Community Building Institute Middletown Verlena Stewart (left) and her successor, Marie Edwards, speak at the ribbon-cutting event at the Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center in Middletown on Wednesday. Stewart said the project's contractors "went above and beyond" what she expected. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Following a \$6.7 million renovation and over a year of work, the 82-year-old Robert "Sonny" Hill Jr. Community Center has officially reopened.

It never really closed, though, not for the 100 students that rely on it for programming through the Community Building Institute, the center's anchor tenant.

"The city of Middletown and the contractors graciously allowed us to stay in this building during construction," said Verlena Stewart, CBI executive director. "We thought it was going to be a nightmare ... it kind

of was. But you don't often get to do that."

Stewart said the contractors, Universal Contracting, "went above and beyond" what she expected.

Stewart retired at the end of the year after taking the executive director role in 2023; she joined the CBI team in 2011.

"I used to come to this community center as a kid, so this is full circle for me," she said. "It's a bittersweet thing, but I am very excited to be able to retire."

Marie Edwards, who worked as the out-of-school program director, will be taking over as executive director.

Edwards thanked those gathered for a ribbon-cutting Wednesday, saying, "We cannot do the work without you. However it is that you can help, I'm expecting it. So, invite me to your table. Answer the phone when I call. Think of us, because we're thinking of you. Because our students to our seniors, we're all working together to make Middletown better."

Mayor Elizabeth Slamka said the city "wrapped its arms" around the renovation five years ago.

"After many conservations, variations of plans, many hours, deliberation, investment and hard work ... the plan is complete, and this is worth celebrating," Slamka said.

Steve Hightower, a CBI board member who helped spearhead the renovation, said one of the goals was to give the city's youth a place to go.

"We should all be proud of this, but the work begins today," Hightower said. "We need you to show up like this every weeknight. We need to mentor these kids, guide them, continue to show up for them and lead them on the right path."

Several former directors of the community center attended the ribbon-cutting, including Karin Maney; Cecelia "Ceal" Thompson, who worked with CBI for 44 years as a secretary and then executive director; and Jack Fitzpatrick, a former director who recently turned 90.

Also in attendance was State Rep. Thomas Hall, R-Madison Twp.

"This is without a doubt a Christmas miracle, (and) this ... will be a special, special place for so many of the next generation that is coming to the city of Middletown," Hall said.

The renovation has almost doubled the square footage of the facility, including a new 9,000-square-foot gym and 1,800-square-foot family room.

The family room includes a literacy space for kids aged birth to eighth grade; a media center; an open space for play, reading and socializing; and a conference room.

For the gym, CBI is hoping to rent out the space to local youth sports teams for practices and games.

Funding for the project included \$2.8 million from 2021 ARPA funds, \$3.5 million from Butler County ARPA funds and \$312,512 from the capital improvement fund.

CBI has an agreement with Middletown — which owns the building — until 2030 to manage programs at the community center. The institute also handles maintenance issues up to a certain dollar amount and pays for electric, according to Stewart.

OhioMeansJobs center in Butler County now open

Funded by ARPA, OMJ aims to help people explore new careers.



Ohio Means Jobs has moved to a new location inside the new Advanced Manufacturing Workforce and Innovation Hub in the Vora Technology Center on Knightsbridge Drive in Hamilton. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF



Ohio Means Jobs has moved to a new location inside the new Advanced Manufacturing Workforce and Innovation Hub in the Vora Technology Center on Knightsbridge Drive in Hamilton. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Butler County commissioners promised to make “transformational” changes when they received \$75 million in federal pandemic funds, and the new OhioMeansJobs location in Hamilton is part of that vision.

The county opened the doors at the new OMJ center in the new Advanced Manufacturing Workforce and Innovation Hub in the Vora Technology Center on Knightsbridge Drive in Hamilton on Dec. 15. County Administrator Judi Boyko said they helped 26 clients — despite inclement weather.

Bus service to the new location begins in January.

The next day, the commissioners ratified the 20-year lease with Miami University for 17,500-square feet of space on the first floor of what's being referred to as the "AM Hub."

They also agreed to pay \$858,517 up front for the first 5 years to pay for maintenance, utilities and other services.

"This is an estimate for the 5 years, this will be trued up at the end of the five years but we only pay what is required of our portion of the property," Boyko said.

Commissioner Cindy Carpenter has long lamented the fact the OMJ center was off the beaten path in Fairfield, she told the Journal-News "it's exciting that it's finally there."

"It's at a location where we need it to be and hopefully individuals who walk into OhioMeansJobs will also be able to take a look around and consider going back to school and learning new skills, and taking a look at higher paying professions and how to move themselves up in the world," she said. "It's a great opportunity and a really good fit."

OMJ offers access to current job listings, resume preparation, referrals to training programs, career exploration and counseling, access to career events, and other related employment services.

Randi Thomas, vice president for Miami's Advancing Strategy, Partnerships, Institutional Relations, & Economy program, said by co-locating OMJ with the AM Hub, "we think it's going to be pollination going both ways, from OhioMeansJobs and also from the AM Hub with Butler Tech and Miami also sending people that way."

Where the ARPA dollars have gone

The county isn't just a tenant — the commissioners invested in this and several other education-centered projects with their American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

President Joe Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law March 11, 2021 and it allocated \$350 billion to help local governments with pains caused by the coronavirus pandemic. When the commissioners learned they had \$74.4 million to spend, they invited other governments and agencies to pitch them ideas.

At the outset, Butler Tech pitched the commissioners advanced aviation and manufacturing centers — \$12 million apiece — and the board awarded \$7 million for the flight school in Middletown and \$8 million for the manufacturing project. The commissioners also gave Miami \$5 million for the College@ Elm project in Oxford.

The initial advanced manufacturing proposal blossomed into a collaborative effort between the county, Butler Tech, Miami, the city of Hamilton and dozens of industry and other partners.

The commissioners have contributed \$14 million — \$13 million in ARPA money and \$1 million from the general fund — toward the project.

The goal of the AM Hub is to provide space for joint Butler Tech and Miami programming and for regional manufacturers to locate on site for research and to train the next manufacturing workforce.

Boyko recently gave the commissioners an update on how all of the ARPA projects are going and said everything is on track with the federal government's requirements.

She said she believes the commissioners' achieved their goal.

"You have taken this gift, this one-time anomaly gift of \$75 million and put it back into places that would really, really benefit long-term, long-standing sustainable change in Butler County."