



LIBERTY NEWS

FALL 2015

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IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE AT RESERVES PARK *New Playground and Surface & Disc Golf Course Added*

One of Liberty Township’s parks has recently received a facelift – and a couple significant projects in the works for many months have come to fruition. A new boundless playground – designed for children of all ages and abilities – and a nine-hole disc golf course have been installed at Reserves Park on Grandin Ridge Drive in Liberty Township. All improvements are now open to the public.

Late last year, Liberty Township was awarded a NatureWorks grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to install handicap-accessible playground equipment and a new child-friendly, rubber surface at Reserves Park. Over the summer, the Township’s Services Department constructed the new boundless playground and surface. The grant amount received was approximately \$92,000. The Township contributed about \$60,000 to complete the project. The entire playground area is considered “boundless” which means it is all handicap-accessible. The concept behind a boundless playground is to provide a setting where children and adults of all abilities can play and learn together in a fun and welcoming environment.

In addition, Reserves Park is now home to a new nine-hole Disc Golf Association accredited course. The disc golf course was also constructed this summer by the Township’s Services Department and is a special project of the Liberty Township Parks Committee. The committee approached the Board of Trustees last fall recommending it for consideration in the budget process. Township staff worked closely with Parks Committee members to perform due diligence and engage the services of a consultant to design the course. Next, the Parks Committee will be working to secure hole sponsorships as well as developing ideas for greater utilization of the course by the community. Liberty Township and the Parks Committee view the disc golf course as an amenity to enhance the quality of life offerings in the community as well as an attraction for visitors to the area.

See more photos on Page 4.




Embraced by nature. ♦ Inspired by progress.

7162 Liberty Centre Dr., Suite A
 Liberty Township, Ohio 45069
 P: 513.759.7500
 F: 513.759.7501
www.liberty-township.com

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Elected Officials:
 David Kern, President
 Thomas Farrell, Vice President
 Christine Matacic, Trustee
 Pamela Quinlisk, Fiscal Officer

Liberty News Editor:
 Caroline McKinney

 Follow @LibertyTwpOH

PLANNING AND ZONING NEWS

SINGLE-FAMILY PERMIT NUMBERS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

The Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati released data recently that put Liberty Township at the top of all Greater Cincinnati communities in number of single-family housing permits issued. Through July, Liberty Township issued 141 permits. Hamilton Township in Warren County issued 130 permits.

Dan Dressman, HBA executive director, pointed to the top-rated Lakota School District, the soon-to-open \$350M Liberty Center, the still-expanding Cincinnati Children's Liberty Campus, access to I-75 and Ohio 129 and ample land available for more development as some of

the reasons the community is seeing such strong growth. "People have been able to experience what Liberty Township looks like," said Dressman.

"I think it's a compliment to the Township, and it indicates the marketplace appreciates the kind of family-friendly community we're building here," said Dave Kern, President, Liberty Township Trustees.

Single-family permit totals are up 4.5% region-wide. Permits issued January through July in the region numbered 1,308, up from 1,252 through the same period last year.



LIBERTY CENTER TO OPEN OCTOBER 22!

Activity at the Liberty Center site along Liberty Way is at an all-time high with their opening set for Thursday, October 22, 2015. The tenant list continues to grow as well—check out the [directory of retailers and restaurants](#) opening soon in our community! Dicks and Dillard's are already serving the community—both opened their doors on October 8.

The Liberty Center web site highlights some of the [events taking place throughout opening weekend](#), including a fireworks display Saturday, October 24.

Liberty Center is described as a multi-use center that brings together the community's recreational, social and civic passions by anchoring its citizen's state-of-mind to an attainable state-of-being. Liberty Center artfully blends freedom and work, clarity and culture, kinship and community. It is holistically designed with a mindful approach to building enduring relationships between local businesses, people and place. Liberty Center unites beloved shopping destinations, with an eclectic range of dining options, exciting events and entertainment venues.

Master developers of Liberty Center are Steiner + Associates and Bucksbaum Retail Properties. The Daimler Group is developing the office building within the project. The Raymond Group is developing the AC by Marriott Hotel which will open in January. The developers have begun preliminary work on phase 2 which will see the project expand to the west. Another \$100-\$120M investment is expected.

SPRINGS AT LIBERTY TOWNSHIP UNDERWAY

The Springs at Liberty Township, a 288-unit, Class A multi-family housing community, is now under construction at Hamilton-Mason Road and Liberty Grand Drive. The two-story buildings, including studio, 1, 2, and 3-bedroom units, will provide a townhouse-style approach to apartment living. Each unit will include granite countertops and stainless steel appliances in the kitchens. Both attached and detached garage options are available for residents. The fenced and gated community will include numerous resident amenities including a clubhouse with a resort-style swimming pool and grilling area, 24-hour fitness facility with state-of-the-art equipment, car wash, pet wash station, and fenced pet playgrounds. Ground breaking occurred in August 2015 and the first units will be available for lease in July 2016.



HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON BREAKS GROUND

Liberty Township Trustee Christine Matacic and West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance President/CEO Joe Hinson helped the Home2 Suites development team, led by Crestpoint Co of Mason, break ground for their new 92-room hotel at 7145 Liberty Centre Drive.

The hotel will provide amenities and facilities characteristic of the Home2 Suites brand, such as the work-and-socialize Oasis lobby/gathering area, a business center, an indoor pool, a fitness area and a Home2 MKT store. It will also be constructed from eco-friendly materials and will include energy-efficient appliances, as well as water conserving fixtures.

The Home2 Suites Liberty Township is expected to open in 2016.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ROUND-UP

THE CHRIST HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW MEDICAL CENTER IN LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

In July, The Christ Hospital Health Network announced plans to build a comprehensive medical center in the fast growing Butler County community of Liberty Township.

The Christ Hospital Medical Center - Liberty Township will offer surgical services including operating rooms with extended recovery for patients, an emergency room, comprehensive radiology imaging, outpatient therapies as well as physician services that include primary care, orthopedics, cardiology, and urology. A formal groundbreaking ceremony occurred this week.

The Christ Hospital received zoning approvals this summer. Plans call for a 125,000-square-foot medical center along Cox Road and I-75, across the interstate from Cincinnati Children's Liberty Campus.

"The Christ Hospital's mission is to provide the best outcomes and the finest experiences, all in an affordable way. We look forward to extending our reach and convenient access to exceptional medical care to our



patients and consumers in Butler County," said Mike Keating, President and CEO of The Christ Hospital Health Network.

The Christ Hospital Medical Center – Liberty Township project is being completed in collaboration with Brandicorp, national leading architectural firms HKS Inc. and GBBN Architects; Danis Building Co., the projects construction manager; and the civil engineering firm of Bayer Becker.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP HELPS WELCOME MORE NEW BUSINESSES TO THE COMMUNITY

The Township had the opportunity to celebrate ribbon cuttings with Earthwise Pets, Indian Spice Train and Silver Tee Kitchen & Craft Bar this summer. They all look forward to serving the community.

EARTHWISE PETS

7316 Yankee Road



[Earthwise Pets](#) is now open in the Kroger Marketplace Plaza, they carry all-natural products at affordable prices with exceptional service and a state-of-the-art pet

spa for all your grooming and self wash needs. The Earthwise Pets team is looking forward to seeing you and your furry family soon!

INDIAN SPICE TRAIN

7165 Liberty Centre Drive



Indian Spice Train is now open, serving authentic Indian food at both lunch and dinner. From the owners of Bombay Brazier in Montgomery, Indian Spice Train will offer more upscale choices than the usual Indian restaurant. No buffets here, made to order,

authentic Indian food!

SILVER TEE KITCHEN & CRAFT BAR

4444 Hamilton-Middletown Road



[Silver Tee Kitchen & Craft Bar](#) is the new restaurant within the Hamilton Elks Golf Club facility along State Route 4 in Liberty Township. They are open to the public daily and offer banquet and catering services as well. Silver Tee is a new venture for a local family with roots in the restaurant business. They look forward to serving the community!

ROADS AND PARKS UPDATE

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	27
DISTANCE	150	155	230	184	142	130	170	285	161	1607

Kids and families alike will enjoy the improvements made to Reserves Park. A nine-hole disc golf course has been added along with a new boundless playground and rubber surface accessible to all children.



MAUDS HUGHES ROAD IS OPEN!

Thank you for your patience during the year-long road closure of Mauds Hughes Road. The project included the construction of a new bridge over the Norfolk & Southern Railroad (aka Screaming Bridge). The new structure is situated on a modified alignment that eliminated the sharp S-curves that existed around the old bridge. In addition, the southern portion of the roadway was reconstructed to improve its condition. We understand the inconvenience involved with a lengthy road closure and appreciate the community's patience and support over the last year.

PARKS COMMITTEE PLANS WALKS AND WORK DAYS

Join the Parks Committee as they lead several walks and clean-up days around the Township's parks. To learn more about the events below, please contact Chuck Holliday at ChuckH@hollidayintheparks.com.

Fall Tree Hike—Dudley Woods
Led by: **Jacob Hartman**
Oct. 10 at 10 a.m.

Give A Hand—Reserves Park
Tree Planting/Work Day
Oct. 17 at 10 a.m.

Give A Hand—Reserves Park
Make A Difference Day
Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.

Give A Hand—Dudley Memorial
Work Day
Nov. 7 at 10 a.m.

PARK LOCATIONS

Dudley Woods Park
5591 Hankins Rd. (45044)

Dudley Memorial Park:
5700 Yankee Rd. (45044)

Reserves Park:
5119 Grandin Ridge Dr. (45011)

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE: BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 5

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Liberty Heights Church

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast

The event includes a visit from Santa Claus as well as a craft for the kids. Some of the proceeds are donated to Cincinnati Children's. Watch the web site for more details!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 COMMUNITY SPONSORS!

Platinum:



Gold:



Louis B. Dissel, CFP®
(513) 453-4774

Silver:

Fifth Third Bank
Meijer
Star Performance Dance
Tide Dry Cleaners
Uno's Pizzeria & Grill / Taco Bell

Bronze:

Cincinnati Eye Care Team
Emery Federal Credit Union
Liberty Veterinary Hospital
SDA Studios
Walgreens

Pewter:

Han's White Tiger Taekwondo
The Home Depot
Koebbe Auto Tech
Lakota Family YMCA
Live Well Chiropractic Center
The Web: Extreme Entertainment

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLASH

PAST FIRE CHIEF AND CHARTER MEMBER HONORED

Chief Henry C. Taylor Fire Chief-retired and charter member of the Liberty Township Fire Department passed away on July 26, 2015 at his home. Henry was active with the fire department from its formation in 1953 through the mid 1990's and served as Fire Chief from 1968 through 1977.

During his tenure as the leader of the Liberty Township Fire Department, Henry oversaw the addition of Township's second station located at 6957 Yankee Road as well as the formation of the Emergency Squad in 1974. This was the beginning of emergency medical service for the residents of Liberty Township. Upon his retirement from the General Motors Fisher Body plant in Fairfield in 1977, Henry relinquished his position as Chief but remained active with the LTFD for another 20 years. Chief Taylor was a decorated veteran serving as a paratrooper in both WWII and Korea.

Both LTFD Chief Paul Stumpf and Trustee President Dave Kern served under Chief Taylor.

Pictured at right: Ladder trucks from Liberty and Fairfield Township fire departments suspend an American Flag over the entrance to Rose Hill Cemetery for the funeral procession of Chief Taylor. Department apparatus led the procession and uniformed LTFD members were also posted during the visitation.



HOLIDAY COOKING WARNINGS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Liberty Township Fire Dept has experienced several fires involving portable gas grills recently. We would like to encourage residents to always operate such appliances on a non-combustible surface and at least 10 feet from any combustible material. Please examine the supply hoses before each use and keep the burner area clear of grease and debris from previous uses. With Thanksgiving and Christmas rapidly approaching The Liberty Township Fire Department would also like to encourage all residents to use extra caution when deep frying with one of the portable propane fryers especially popularly used for turkeys during this season. See the tips below provided by the National Fire Protection Association. For additional information or if you have questions please contact any of our fire stations.

- ◆ Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in home cooking fires.
- ◆ Two-thirds (67%) of home cooking fires started with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.
- ◆ Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but these incidents accounted for 16% of the cooking fire deaths.
- ◆ Ranges accounted for the largest share (58%) of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.
- ◆ Three of every five (57%) reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves.
- ◆ Frying poses the greatest risk of fire.
- ◆ Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

Source: *National Fire Protection Association*



Pictured at left: The Taylor name was honored when it was chosen as a street name in the Liberty Center development opening on October 22. It serves as one of the main roadways entering the development on the west end of the project.

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER & GALA SET FOR NOVEMBER 20

The West Chester • Liberty Chamber Alliance is excited to honor 10 Women of Excellence from the Tri-State region. The Women of Excellence Awards Dinner & Gala honors 10 Deserving Women, including 2 Young Adults (ages 16-24) from our community and surrounding areas. The honorees are selected based on their community service through their current careers or volunteer work. These women have enhanced business, education, culture, philanthropy, and provided outstanding service to our region.

These ten Women of Excellence will be honored on Friday, November 20th at the Cincinnati Marriott North at Union Centre in West Chester. The keynote speaker will be **Stephanie Worrell**, Author, Speaker and Leader. The Presenting Sponsors are Butler Tech and Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital. A portion of the evening's proceeds will fund The Ethel Moritz Scholarship for post-secondary education for women.

Tickets are \$65 per person, \$125 per couple and \$30 per student. The cocktail reception begins at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:15pm. Register by calling 513-777-3600 or visiting the [Chamber's web site](#).

LAKOTA STUDENTS COMPLETE INTERNSHIP WITH TOWNSHIP

Four Lakota high school students did a week-long summer internship working alongside the township administrative staff. It was part of the school district's growing internship program, which provides students with real-world, hands-on learning experiences, in this case, in local government.



Isaac Mitchell and Dillon Horter, from Lakota East, and Joseph Fedasz and Patrick O'Connor, from Lakota West, rotated through five departments over five days. They started in the Services Department, spending time in both the Roads Division and the Parks/Cemetery Divisions. The next day the students worked with the assistant township administrator, and on day three of the program they spent time in both the Economic Development Department and the Planning and Zoning Department. Over the two final days, the students worked in the fiscal office and with the township administrator, and also spent a full day at the fire department.



The student response to the program was enthusiastic. It was the first time it had been done, and they said it should definitely be repeated for future groups of students. The students said they learning about how townships are involved in economic development, quality of life for residents, safety and security and much more was both eye-opening and invaluable.

Pictured at left: Students from Lakota's two high schools get familiar with a fire engine during the week they spent rotating through Liberty Township offices and departments.

MIDPOINTE LIBRARY SYSTEM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Seasoned library veteran Travis Bautz has been selected to lead the MidPointe Library System as the new director.

Bautz brings with him two decades of library experience. He has served in many roles, including division manager at the Dayton Metro Library, director of the Educational Resource Center at Wright State University, and head librarian at the Greene County Public Library. Most recently, he served as the director of the Wright Memorial Public Library in Oakwood, Ohio.



The MidPointe Library System serves a population of almost 200,000 in the cities of Middletown, Trenton, and Monroe and the townships of West Chester, Liberty, Lemon, Madison, and Wayne with a collection of nearly half a million materials.

BUTLER COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY SEEKS BOARD MEMBER

Do you have an elderly parent or family member that needs transportation? Have you ever tried to get to work without a car? Do you wish there were more safe transportation alternatives in our community? Do you value the economic development potential of public transit in our community? If you answered "yes" to any of these question you might be the perfect addition to the Butler County Regional Transit Authority's Board of Trustees. Join BCRTA and make a difference in our community! Beginning in January 2016, BCRTA will have an opening for one member of our Board of Trustees. This volunteer position requires attendance at ten board meetings per year and other committee or organizational events as needed. No experience is required other than a commitment to supporting public transit in Butler County. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to the following address no later than October 9, 2015: BCRTA Board of Trustees, ATTN: Trustee Selection Committee, 3045 Moser Court, Hamilton, OH 45011.



OTHER TOWNSHIP NEWS

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP PLACES ITS FINANCES ONLINE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE TREASURER JOSH MANDEL

In July, Josh Mandel announced a partnership between the Ohio Treasurer's office and Liberty Township, the first local government in Butler County to place their spending online at OhioCheckbook.com. Treasurer Mandel was joined at the announcement by State Senator Bill Coley (District - 4), Liberty Township Fiscal Officer Pam Quinlisk and Liberty Township Trustees David Kern, Thomas Farrell and Christine Matacic.

"I believe the people of Butler County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with the Treasurer's office to post their finances online," said Treasurer Mandel. "My vision is to create an army of citizen watchdogs who are empowered to hold public officials accountable."



"As the Fiscal Officer for the Township, I applaud the efforts of the State to bring this level of transparency to the taxpayers," said Liberty Township Fiscal Officer Pam Quinlisk. "It really is like viewing your own checkbook online - easy to use and understand."

In 2014, Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, which sets a new national standard for government transparency. In April, Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

"We're honored that Liberty Township was selected to be one of the 80 communities piloting this program," said Liberty Township Board of Trustees President David Kern. "We've got a lot of pride in the conservative nature of the Township, our audit history and the way we've handled our financial records. This is another accolade for our great finance team and a super way to provide transparency to our residents."

"For those of us working in local government, I like the accountability the online checkbook places on communities," said Liberty Township Board of Trustees Vice President Thomas Farrell. "And the level of detail available is great - it's a very user friendly and informative tool. I commend the Treasurer's Office for being one of the first in the country to offer something like this to Ohio taxpayers."

"The State of Ohio has invested in a fantastic tool to help people understand how their tax dollars are spent," said Liberty Township Trustee Christine Matacic. "It's nice to give our taxpayers increased accessibility to this information. It can only help to empower people which I believe is a great benefit to creating a transparent environment."

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Liberty Township Offices

Administration	759-7500
Fax.....	759-7501
Fiscal Office	759-7604
Roads/Parks.....	759-7589
Zoning, Economic Development ...	759-7500
Emergency	911

Sheriff's Office (Non-Emergency)

Dispatch	785-1300
Liberty Substation	759-7348

Fire Dept. (Non-Emergency)

Station #1 (5170 Princeton-Glendale)..	759-7521
Station #2 (6957 Yankee).....	759-7570
Station #3 (6682 Princeton-Glendale)	
Fire Headquarters.....	759-7530
Fax.....	759-7531

Lakota Schools

Central Office	874-5505
Creekside Early Childhood Center..	874-0175
Liberty Early Childhood School ...	777-6194
Shawnee Early Childhood School.	779-3014
Wyandot Early Childhood School	759-8100
Adena Elementary	777-0100
Cherokee Elementary	755-8200
Endeavor Elementary	759-8300
Freedom Elementary	777-9787
Heritage Elementary.....	863-7060
Hopewell Elementary.....	777-2258
Independence Elementary	755-8300
Union Elementary	777-2201
Van Gordon Elementary	644-1150
Woodland Elementary	779-7775
Hopewell Junior School.....	777-2258
Lakota Plains Junior School.....	644-1130
Liberty Junior School.....	777-4420
Lakota Ridge Junior School	777-0552
Lakota East Freshmen School.....	588-7700
Lakota West Freshmen School.....	874-8390
Lakota East High School	755-7211
Lakota West High School.....	874-5699

Butler County Offices (411)

Auditor.....	887-3154
Board of Elections.....	887-3700
All County Officials	887-3000
Animal Shelter.....	867-5727
Child Abuse Hotline.....	868-0888

Libraries

Hamilton	894-7156
Middletown.....	424-1251
Monroe.....	360-0714
West Chester	777-3131

Other

Drivers License Bureau (Hamilton)..	868-2180
Titles (West Chester)	860-9705
Vehicle Registration (Mason).....	398-8928
US Post Office.....	800-275-8777
West Chester-Liberty Chamber....	777-3600
Lakota Family YMCA.....	779-3917

OTHER TOWNSHIP NEWS

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP HAS RELOCATED: 7162 LIBERTY CENTRE DR., LIBERTY TOWNSHIP, OH 45069

Liberty Township has temporarily relocated its Administration offices, including the Fiscal Office, and Butler County Sheriff's Office substation to 7162 Liberty Centre Drive, Suite A, Liberty Township, OH 45069.

The new location is an increase of about 1500 square feet, and provides additional offices, increased storage and conference space and a more functional working environment. Aging mechanics and a dated septic system at the Township's former location spurred the need to begin identifying a temporary solution sooner than originally anticipated. The temporary lease will provide Liberty Township the time it needs to determine its long-term facility

strategy and plans.

"Liberty Township is a fast-growing community and after 20 years occupying our current building, we have simply out-grown our space. We see this temporary relocation as an opportunity to address our need for space, enhance our operations, and better serve the community as we work on identifying our future facility needs," said Kristen Bitonte, Township Administrator.

"Our growth has necessitated this move and we look forward to the master planning process underway



so Liberty Township is in the best position to serve our growing residential and commercial base over the next 20-30 years, said David Kern, President, Liberty Township Board of Trustees."

LOCATIONS

All meetings are at the Liberty Township Administrative Building, 7162 Liberty Centre Dr., Suite A, Liberty Township, OH 45069, unless otherwise noted.

The Liberty Township Historical Society meets at the Hughes School House, 6040 Princeton Road (next to Liberty Elementary).

The Parks Committee meets at the Roads Garage, 6959 Yankee Road, unless otherwise noted.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY

Every Monday: Butler County Commissioners Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
315 High St, 2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers, Hamilton

1st Monday of the Month: Zoning Commission Meeting at 6 p.m.

Last Monday of the Month: Trails Meeting at 2 p.m.

TUESDAY

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month: Trustees Meetings at 6 p.m.

2nd Tuesday of the Month: Board of Zoning Appeals at 6 p.m.

Last Tuesday of the Month: Parks Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Every Thursday: Butler County Commissioners Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
315 High St, 2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers, Hamilton

2nd Thursday of the Month: A representative of John Boehner's office is available at 11:30 a.m.

2nd Thursday of the Month: Liberty Township Historical Society at 7 p.m.