

Village of Bluffton Council Meeting Agenda

April 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM



Opening Ceremonies

Call to Order, Mayor Johnson presiding
Pledge of Allegiance



Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the Council Meeting held on Monday, March 23, 2026.

Bills

Public Comment: ONU Capstone Presentation

Committee Reports

Personnel – 3/31

Parks & Recreation – 04/09

Boards & Commissions

Tree Commission – 03/30

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2026

2nd Reading

Emergency

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC BIDS FOR THE SR 103 SOUTHEAST WATER MAIN LOOP REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 09-2026

1st Reading

Emergency

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BUTLER, FAIRMAN AND SEUFERT, INC. (BF&S) TO SERVE AS AIRPORT ENGINEER FOR THE BLUFFTON AIRPORT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Village Administration Report:

Mayor:

Safety Services Reports:

-EMS-

-Fire Dept.-

-Police Dept.-

Meeting Dates (meetings held at the Town Hall unless otherwise noted*)

- Council Meeting – Monday, April 13th at 7:00 pm – ONU Capstone presentation
- Board of Zoning & Building Appeals – Monday, April 20th at 5:00 pm
- Council Meeting – Monday, April 27th at 7:00 pm – ONU Capstone presentation

Public Comment

Adjournment – Motion

Village of Bluffton – Regular meeting March 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Johnson presiding. Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia present.

Stahl motioned, seconded by Downey, to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on March 9, 2026. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Talavinia motioned, seconded by Hill, to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

The Fiscal Officer gave the following readings:

2nd Reading:

Ordinance 02-2026 – An Ordinance approving the annual appropriations for the 2026 fiscal year for the Village of Bluffton, OH and declaring an emergency. Sehlhorst motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Gordon-Hancock. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Talavinia motioned to approve the ordinance, seconded by Downey. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 05-2026 – A Resolution establishing pay increases to the wages/salaries of certain Village employees of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio and declaring an emergency. Gordon-Hancock motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Sehlhorst. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Talavinia motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Hill. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

1st Reading:

Resolution 06-2026 – A Resolution accepting a bid and authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a contract with the Bluffton Stone Company/Bluffton Paving, Inc. to acquire aggregate and asphalt material, asphalt application and equipment rental, for the 2026 construction year in the Village of Bluffton, Ohio and declaring an emergency. Sehlhorst motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Talavinia. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Stahl motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Sehlhorst. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 07-2026 – A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an agreement with Choice One Engineering for professional engineering services related to the North Main Street Reconstruction Project, and declaring an emergency. Sehlhorst motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Gordon-Hancock. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Downey motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Stahl. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 08-2026 – A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to advertise for public bids for the SR103 Southeast Water Main Loop Replacement Project. Talavinia motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Hill. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Sehlhorst motioned, seconded by Downey, to approve the special event request from the 1861 Wine Lounge for food tuck events throughout the summer in front of their business. Three parking spaces would be blocked in the afternoons and evenings of the events. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Hill motioned, seconded by Talavinia, to approve the special event requests from SumiRiko for an Easter Egg Hunt on April 11, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from the America250 group for a 4th of July parade on Main St. beginning at 4:00 p.m. Main St. would be closed from 3:50 p.m. until the end of the parade. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Downey motioned, seconded by Gordon-Hancock, to table action on the special event request for Glow Disc Golf at Village Park so that more information could be gathered about the frequency, timing, and structure of the event. Roll Call: Yes (6) Downey, Gordon-Hancock, Hill, Sehlhorst, Stahl, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Talavinia motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The following meetings/events were included on the agenda and/or scheduled during the meeting.

Tree Commission on Monday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee on Tuesday, March 31 at 5:00 p.m.

Council Meeting on Monday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

MAYOR

FISCAL OFFICER

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON
VOUCHER REPORT 4/13/2026

VENDOR	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION
AIM MEDIA MIDWEST	50.41	Administrative	ADVERTISING
ALL SERVICE AERATION, INC	482.50	Multiple	PORTABLE TOILETS
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	20,426.57	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	1,414.64	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	222.75	Multiple	LIFE INSURANCE
ARMOR FIRE PROTECTION INC.	600.00	Rescue	BALL VALVE REPLACEMENT
AVITA AHA TRAINING CENTER #872-06	435.30	Rescue	EMS TRAINING - STOCK
AVITA AHA TRAINING CENTER #872-06	688.95	Rescue	EMS TRAINING - BROUGH
BLUFFTON AUTO REPAIR CENTER, LLC	455.90	Police	CRUISER MAINTENANCE
BLUFFTON AUTO REPAIR CENTER, LLC	69.99	Police	CRUISER MAINTENANCE
BLUFFTON FLYING SERVICE	5,000.00	Airport	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	569.23	Multiple	STONE
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	225.79	Multiple	STONE
BOBCAT COMPANY	175.00	Park	SEEDING
C & S SOLUTIONS	204.95	Sewer	SEWER CAMERA SKID
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	175.35	Multiple	INTERNET
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	53.40	Administrative	INTERNET
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	170.00	Administrative	INTERNET
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	457.50	Multiple	GENERAL ENGINEERING
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	10,706.25	Street	NORTH MAIN RECONSTRUCTION
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	1,105.00	Street	SR 103 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	9,970.00	Capital Improvements	SR103 SOUTHEAST LOOP ENGINEERING
CINTAS	34.73	Multiple	FIRST AID SUPPLIES
CINTAS	60.16	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	60.16	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	60.16	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	(32.04)	Administrative	UNIFORMS - CREDIT
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	90.68	Police	BIKE HELMET
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	370.23	Rescue	BOOTS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	446.00	Rescue	NREMT TESTING - RECERTIFICATION
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	349.00	Police	OCPA CONFERENCE
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	51.29	Rescue	SUPPLIES
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	73.60	Police	TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	43.72	Police	TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	24.16	Police	TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	68.94	Police	TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	2,122.45	Police	UNIFORMS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	50.00	Police	OCPA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - HOCHSTETLER
CLEMANS, NELSON & ASSOCIATES, INC	250.00	Administrative	RETAINER & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
CLINE, CHRISTOPHER	471.30	Rescue	EMS TRAINING - C. CLINE
CLINE, CHRISTOPHER	471.30	Rescue	EMS TRAINING - K. CLINE
CONNECT PARENT CORPORATION	240.71	Administrative	PHONES
DEGEN EXCAVATING CO., INC.	480.08	Sewer	EMERGENCY JETTING & CLEANING
DEGEN EXCAVATING CO., INC.	8,231.65	Capital Improvements	MANHOLE REHAB
EUROFINS DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER CENTRAL, LLC	2,025.00	Multiple	TESTING
EUROFINS DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER CENTRAL, LLC	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	3,694.00	Capital Improvements	SANITARY MANHOLE FRAMES & COVERS
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	2,825.47	Water	WATER METER COVERS & PIPE
FAMILY HARDWARE DO IT BEST	314.92	Multiple	SUPPLIES
GLOBAL ELECTRIC, INC	745.96	Sewer	CLARIFIER MOTOR
GLOBAL ELECTRIC, INC	960.00	Sewer	SLUDGE PUMP
GLOBAL ELECTRIC, INC	1,297.82	Park	REPLACE ELECTRIC PANEL ON STORAGE SHED
GREAT LAKES BILLING ASSOCIATES, INC.	788.73	Rescue	EMS BILLING SERVICES
HACKENBERG, FEIGNER, BISHOP & WERTH, LLC	2,000.00	Administrative	SOLICITOR FEES
HANCOCK CLEANING, LLC.	533.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL CLEANING
HIREUAVPRO.COM	6,612.50	Administrative	AMERICA250 DRONE SHOW
HOHENBRINK EXCAVATING	79,871.55	Street	SR103 ROUNDABOUT
KENT KARHOFF LLC	500.00	Cemetery	BURIALS & FOUNDATIONS
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	422.43	Fire	BATTERIES FOR #103
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	199.17	Multiple	PARTS
LEGACY FARMER COOP	3,661.05	Multiple	FUEL
LEXIS NEXIS RISK DATA MANAGEMENT INC.	50.00	Administrative	ADDRESS SEARCHES
MARATHON FLEET SERVICES	1,974.16	Multiple	FUEL

MASTERPIECE SIGNS & GRAPHICS, INC.	1,661.05	Capital Improvements	CAR 100 DECALS
NEW HORIZON COMMUNICATIONS	565.52	Administrative	PHONES
NOBLE, SKYLER	30.36	Police	TRAINING MEALS
NORTHWESTERN OHIO SECURITY SYSTEMS	208.00	Land & Buildings	MONITORING
PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY STANDARDS, INC.	2,279.35	Rescue	ANNUAL MEDICINE APP SUBSCRIPTION
PENNCARE 30	196.43	Rescue	MEDICAL SUPPLIES
PENNCARE 30	57.04	Rescue	MEDICAL SUPPLIES
PERRY CORPORATION	111.13	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	2,595.19	Administrative	PD WORKSTATIONS
PERRY CORPORATION	10,366.70	Administrative	PD WORKSTATIONS
PJ SPORTSWEAR	528.00	Administrative	SWEATSHIRTS
RHONDA HOHENBRINK	31.61	Administrative	MILEAGE TO TAX MEETING
RODOC LEASING SALES & SERVICE	1,403.50	Multiple	HYDRAULIC JACK
RUMPKE	27,786.13	Refuse	TRASH SERVICES
SEDGWICK	2,720.00	Administrative	WORKER'S COMPENSATION TPA
SEHLHORST, JOSEPH	33.96	Administrative	BLAZE SUPPLIES
SMARTBILL	1,311.41	Multiple	BILLING SERVICES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	1,487.80	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	262.38	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	37.43	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STUMP'S FIRE EXTINGUISHER CO.	48.31	Fire	EXTINGUISHER
TOWN & COUNTRY FLOWERS	66.45	Multiple	FUNERAL FLOWERS
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	198.00	Multiple	PO BOX RENEWALS
ULINE	600.07	Multiple	LIFT & TIE DOWN STRAPS - PEP GRANT
UNITED FIRE APPARATUS CORP	16,807.20	Fire	PUMP REPAIR
USA BLUE BOOK	35.97	Multiple	PARTS
USA BLUE BOOK	19.82	Multiple	PARTS
USA BLUE BOOK	195.36	Multiple	PARTS
VANCE'S OUTDOOR INC.	693.80	Police	AMMO & SUPPLIES
VETTER LUMBER CO.	74.96	Multiple	SUPPLIES
VETTER LUMBER CO.	805.58	Street	COLD PATCH
WESSLER ENGINEERING	480.00	Sewer	SANITARY ON-CALL SERVICES
WESSLER ENGINEERING	309.68	Sewer	SANITARY ON-CALL SERVICES
INCOME TAX REFUNDS	1,208.48	Administrative	INCOME TAX REFUNDS
	251,420.19		
MARCH MONTHLY	2,569.00		
MEDICARE	37.22		
OPERS	223.70		
FICA	60.21		
BIWEEKLY PAYROLL 4/3/26	83,597.44		
MEDICARE	1,157.81		
OPERS	7,695.31		
OP&F	5,583.06		

Council Signature : _____

Date: _____

Personnel Committee - Minutes

Village of Bluffton

March 31, 2026

5:05pm

Present: Phill Talavinia, Ben Hill,

Staff: Police Chief Ryan Burkholder, Lt. Matt Oglessbee and Sgt. Tyler Hochstetler

1 TOPIC:

- We discussed the Public Records Request for in car Body Worn Cameras. The police department had researched other communities alongside a sample model that was provided to them. We reviewed the document and had some questions and provided a few edits.

Meeting ended at 5:45pm

Phill Talavinia

Ben Hill

Parks & Rec - Minutes
Village of Bluffton
Town Hall
April 9th, 2026

Present: Council - Ben Stahl, Tom Downey
Admin - Jesse Blackburn
Public - Bluffton Ohio Pickleball Community Reps

Start: 5:15 End: 6:30
Topics: Outdoor pickleball courts

Minutes:

- Larry Hoffman and Dave Fett represented the newly formed Bluffton Ohio Pickleball Community to present plans for outdoor pickleball courts in the village. Four side-by-side courts would require a footprint of 136' x 64' with the short sides in a north-south orientation. Approximate cost for laser-grading, asphalt base, 4-coat acrylic surfacing, 8' black vinyl exterior fencing, wind screens, 4' internal divider fencing, and tournament-grade nets is between \$110k - \$150k. Optional "Phase 2" lighting could be added for around \$50k.
- Location and fundraising sources are still being discussed, though there are many grant opportunities available for a project like this.
- The committee would like to continue exploring options with the Bluffton Ohio Pickleball Community to bring this vision to reality.

Ben Stahl

Tom Downey

RESOLUTION NO. 08–2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC BIDS FOR THE SR 103 SOUTHEAST WATER MAIN LOOP REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Village of Bluffton, OH (Village) has identified the need to construct improvements to the municipal water system through the SR 103 Southeast Water Main Loop Replacement Project; and

WHEREAS, the Village has been awarded funding assistance for this project through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC); and

WHEREAS, Choice One Engineering has been engaged by the Village to provide professional engineering services for the design and preparation of construction documents for the project; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of final plans and specifications, it is necessary to advertise for public bids in accordance with Ohio law and OPWC program requirements to proceed with construction of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Village Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for public bids for the SR 103 Southeast Water Main Loop Replacement Project, in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by Choice One Engineering and in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and OPWC requirements.

SECTION 2: The Village Administrator is further authorized to take all necessary actions to facilitate the bidding process, including the preparation of bid documents, publication of legal notices, and coordination with the project engineer.

SECTION 3: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were conducted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4 – EMERGENCY CLAUSE: This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, and for the further reason that timely advertisement and bidding of the project is required to meet Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding timelines, maintain project eligibility, and ensure construction can proceed following the funding award date; therefore, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026, by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio.

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abstain: _____

ATTEST:

Kevin Nickel, Fiscal Officer

Richard Johnson, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

Village Solicitor

RESOLUTION NO. 09–2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BUTLER, FAIRMAN AND SEUFERT, INC. (BF&S) TO SERVE AS AIRPORT ENGINEER FOR THE BLUFFTON AIRPORT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Village of Bluffton owns and operates the Bluffton Airport and is responsible for the planning, development, and maintenance of airport facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Village requires professional engineering services for airport-related projects, including those funded through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other sources; and

WHEREAS, Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. (BF&S) has submitted a Master Services Agreement to provide professional engineering, planning, and consulting services in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular 150/5100-14E; and

WHEREAS, the proposed agreement establishes a qualifications-based selection for airport engineering services for a term extending from March 2026 through March 2031, with specific project scopes and compensation to be defined through future project orders; and

WHEREAS, Council finds that entering into said agreement is necessary and in the best interest of the Village of Bluffton to ensure continued eligibility for federal and state airport funding and to provide for the proper planning and development of airport facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The Village Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to enter into a Master Services Agreement with Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. (BF&S) to serve as Airport Engineer for the Bluffton Airport, in accordance with the agreement on file with the Village.

SECTION 2: The Village Administrator is further authorized to execute any necessary documents and approve individual project orders under said agreement, consistent with applicable funding requirements and Village approval processes.

SECTION 3: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were conducted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4 – EMERGENCY CLAUSE: This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, and for the further reason that timely execution of the agreement is required to maintain eligibility for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding, ensure compliance with federal consultant selection requirements, and allow for the continuation of airport planning and development activities without delay; therefore, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

Passed and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026, by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio.

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abstain: _____

ATTEST:

Kevin Nickel, Fiscal Officer

Richard Johnson, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

Village Solicitor

Village of Bluffton

Administration Report

To: Mayor Johnson & Council Members



04-13-26

Construction Projects:

S.R. 103 Roundabout:

Only 88 days remain until the announced re-opening of SR 103

Construction update: Road stabilization and curing have been completed. In the coming weeks, crews will install the stone road base, curbs, and additional concrete work. This project remains on schedule despite the large rains.

W. Elm St. Improvements:

Construction continues- curbs are scheduled for this week followed by sidewalks and driveways. Completion is still anticipated in early May.

Zoning Dept. Updates:

1. Lawn Mowing Season is upon us!

Friendly Mowing Reminders:

- Regularly mow your lawn and maintain below 7"
- Best Practices - do not blow grass onto the street

Spring Hydrant Flushing: Bi-annual project began today April 13th and anticipated to last 2 weeks.

What to do if you find discolored water at your home:

- open a cold-water facet, or outdoor spigot, and run until water is clear

Sanitary Cleaning: Degan Excavating has been in town working with Nathan Jordan to complete annual sanitary cleaning, inspections, and repairs. Beaverdam Contracting will be onsite at a later date to complete upper-end rehabilitation of select manholes.

AEP Outage: On Saturday, April 18th, AEP will be performing equipment upgrades to outdated equipment in an effort to prevent longer outages when the aging equipment fails. The work will result in power outages in Bluffton from the East of Chicago, Polished, and Laundry Mat area to the west including MMH and a few Bluffton University accounts on Spring St. Most affected customers are residential, but some are businesses. To minimize interruptions to business hours, the crew will work in the early hours on Saturday, April 18th. The outage is scheduled to begin at approximately 3:00 a.m. and should last 4–5 hours. Customers will receive an automated voice message from AEP Ohio.

Board of Building and Zoning: BZA will meet on Monday, April 20th at 5:00 to discuss a conditional use request for second dwelling structure at 199 Huber St.

Mayor Johnson: Applications for Special Events



VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON

APR 08 2026

154 N. MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 63 BLUFFTON, OHIO 45817-0063
419-358-2066

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENT NAME: Memorial Day Parade DATE(S) OF EVENT: 5-25-2026
 APPLICANT: Bluffton American Legion 382 CONTACT PERSON: Kurt Emans
 APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: _____ CONTACT'S PHONE: 419-306-0782
 E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): kemans@roadrunner.com
 LOCATION OF EVENT: City Hall to Cemetery on Bluffton-CG Rd. Maple Grove
 TIME(S) FOR EVENT: 9:00 am
 DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: Memorial Day parade from town hall to Maple Grove cemetery

SERVICES REQUESTED FROM VILLAGE:

TRAFFIC CONTROL: NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: 2
 Number of officers required to cover security will be determined on a case by case basis upon consultation with the Chief of Police
 ROAD CLOSURE:
 SECURITY: NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: 2
 Number of officers required to cover security will be determined on a case by case basis upon consultation with the Chief of Police
 EMS SERVICES: FIRE DEPT. SERVICES:
 WATER SERVICE: _____ OTHER SERVICES: _____

Applicant must provide MAP of plans and any other information required.

ALCOHOL SERVED: YES _____ NO * Applicant is responsible for obtaining the proper alcohol permit from the Division of Liquor Control prior to the event.

EVENT'S INSURER: Same as previous yrs * Village must be listed as Additional Insured

ATTACH CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE TO APPLICATION

PLEASE LIST VENDORS, SERVICES, CONTRACTORS, ETC. INVOLVED WITH EVENT:	
NAME OF VENDOR	TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDED

* FOOD VENDORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ANY NECESSARY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PERMITS

I understand that the granting of this permit for the special event creates no agreement or guarantee, express or implied, to any person or entity for any liability whatsoever connected with this special event. Any liability is the sole responsibility of the person or organization responsible for the special event. By signing this application, I acknowledge that all statements made herein are true and correct and that I have the authority to bind the organization that I represent.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: Kurt D. Emans DATE: 4-1-26

APPROVED

MAYOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON

154 N. MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 63 BLUFFTON, OHIO 45817-0063
419-358-2066

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENT NAME: Lions Steaks and Crafts DATE(S) OF EVENT: 5/16/26
 APPLICANT: Lions Club CONTACT PERSON: Greg Denecker
 APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: Lions Club CONTACT'S PHONE: 419-306-3094
 E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): Deneckers@blufftonschools.org
 LOCATION OF EVENT: Jackson St (Franklin north to church) + Franklin St
 TIME(S) FOR EVENT: 7 AM - 4:30 PM (Jackson to Linn) - See
 DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: Craft Show/Pancakes Attached
(N.S.)

SERVICES REQUESTED FROM VILLAGE:

TRAFFIC CONTROL: 0 NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: 0
Number of officers required to cover security will be determined on a case by case basis upon consultation with the Chief of Police

ROAD CLOSURE: Y Y

SECURITY: 0 NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: 0
Number of officers required to cover security will be determined on a case by case basis upon consultation with the Chief of Police

EMS SERVICES: 0 FIRE DEPT. SERVICES: 0

WATER SERVICE: 0 OTHER SERVICES: 0

Applicant must provide MAP of plans and any other information required.

ALCOHOL SERVED: YES _____ NO 0 * Applicant is responsible for obtaining the proper alcohol permit from the Division of Liquor Control prior to the event.

EVENT'S INSURER: Bluffton Lions Club * Village must be listed as Additional Insured

ATTACH CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE TO APPLICATION

PLEASE LIST VENDORS, SERVICES, CONTRACTORS, ETC. INVOLVED WITH EVENT:

NAME OF VENDOR	TYPE OF SERVICE PROVIDED
<u>Food trucks</u>	
<u>CRAFT vendors</u>	

* FOOD VENDORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ANY NECESSARY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PERMITS

I understand that the granting of this permit for the special event creates no agreement or guarantee, express or implied, to any person or entity for any liability whatsoever connected with this special event. Any liability is the sole responsibility of the person or organization responsible for the special event. By signing this application, I acknowledge that all statements made herein are true and correct and that I have the authority to bind the organization that I represent.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 3/24/26

APPROVED
MAYOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

5

2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

FOOD TRUCKS

OUTDOOR VENDORS



1

OUTDOOR VENDORS

JACKSON STREET

HIGH SCHOOL

FRANKLIN STREET





Date: March 17th , 2026

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

Reference: Police Department Monthly Report

POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

February 2026

Police Calls for Service- 610

Police Chief Calls for Service- 91

Traffic Stops - 44

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

Assault	-	1
Fraud	-	1
Theft	-	1
Total	-	3



Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 03/17/2026 13:34
 Login ID: rburkholder
 Year: 2026

Bluffton Police Department
 ORI Number: OH0020100
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Accident Property	9	52.9	6	35.3	2	11.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	0.0
Accident w/Injuries	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Administrative	159	48.5	128	39.0	41	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	328	0.0
Aiding Other	13	52.0	6	24.0	6	24.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	0.0
Alarm	3	33.3	3	33.3	3	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.0
Animal Complaint	1	25.0	3	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0
Assist Police	4	25.0	5	31.3	7	43.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	0.0
B&E	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Civil Complaint	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
Deceased	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Fight Complaint	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Follow Up	3	42.9	4	57.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.0
Hazmat	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Hit Skip	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
House/Building	353	40.8	327	37.8	185	21.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	865	0.0
Investigate Vehicle	23	41.1	15	26.8	18	32.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	56	0.0
Lock Out	7	46.7	5	33.3	3	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	0.0
Menacing	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Mentally Ill Person	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Miscellaneous	35	29.4	47	39.5	37	31.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	119	0.0
Missing Adult	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Missing Juvenile	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Motorist Assist	4	36.4	3	27.3	4	36.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	0.0
Paper Service	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Pedestrian Stop	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Prisoner Escort	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0



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Print Date/Time: 03/17/2026 13:34
Login ID: rbourkholder
Year: 2026

Bluffton Police Department
 ORI Number: OH0020100
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals					
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%				
Suspicious Person	4	44.4	3	33.3	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	
Telephone	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	
Theft	2	66.7	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	
Traffic Stop	24	31.2	44	57.1	9	11.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	77	
Unruly Juvenile	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	
Unwanted Guest	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	
Warrant Service	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	
Total:	656	41.3	610	38.4	321	20.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1587	



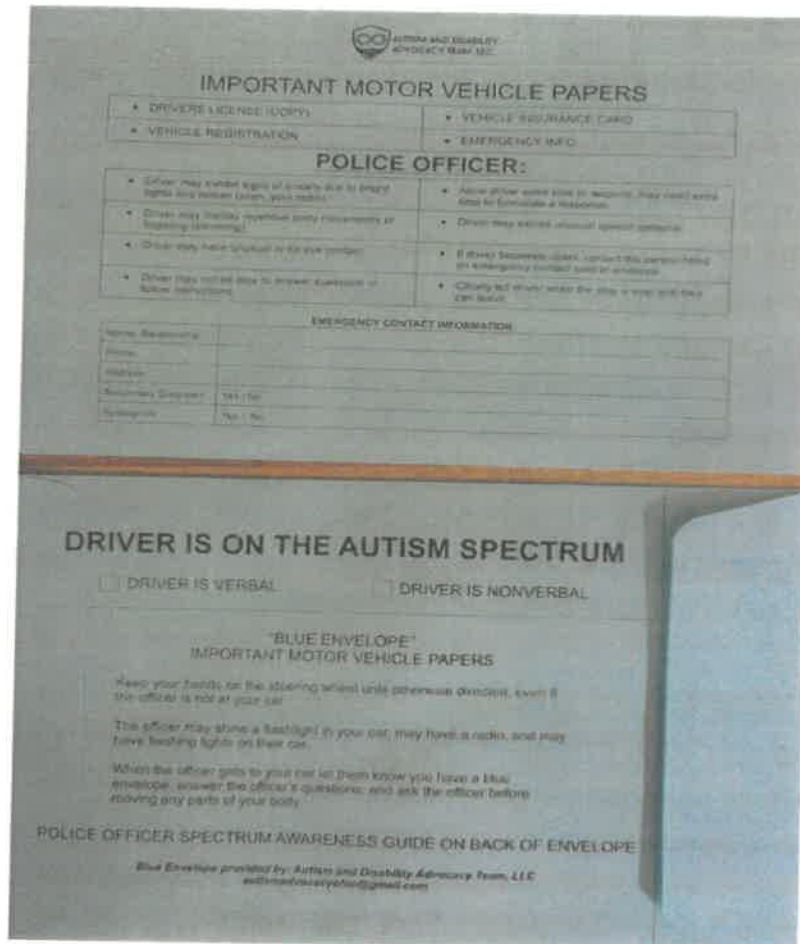
Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 03/17/2026 13:36
 Login ID: rburkholder
 Statute: All

From Date: 02/01/2026
 To Date: 02/28/2026
 Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department
 ORI Number: OH0020100

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Totals
Warning													
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.21B1a Speed - 20 MPH (School Zone)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.43A Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4513.071A 2 BRAKE LIGHTS REQ/ 1 ON MOTORCYCLE	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
4511.69C PARKING FACING ONCOMING TRAFFIC	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4503.21A Display of License Plates	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4510.12A1 No Drivers License (NO OL)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Warning Totals	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Traffic													
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.43A Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.42A Failure to yield the right of way when turning left	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4513.241C WINDOW TINT	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Traffic Totals	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Totals	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40



The Blue Envelope Program

The Blue Envelope initiative represents a collaborative effort aimed at fostering a safer and more understanding environment for drivers with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. It involves a specially designed envelope that holds a driver's essential documents—license, registration, emergency contact information and proof of insurance. The envelope features communication guidelines on its exterior, specifically tailored to assist law enforcement officers in their approach when interacting with a driver who has autism.

OBJECTIVES:

- ***Enhancing Understanding:*** By providing officers with immediate, accessible information about autism, the Blue Envelope aims to promote empathy and patience, leading to more positive interactions.
- ***Reducing Anxiety:*** Traffic stops can be particularly stressful for individuals with autism. The Blue Envelope serves as a visual cue that helps officers adjust their communication style, thereby reducing anxiety for the driver.
- ***Streamlining Communication:*** The guidelines on the envelope offer practical tips for officers, making it easier for them to communicate effectively with individuals with autism.
- ***Encouraging Preparedness:*** For individuals with autism and their families, the Blue Envelope is a tool that encourages preparedness. By keeping their important documents in the envelope and understanding how to present it during a stop, drivers can feel more confident and secure.

Preparing Your Envelope

Once you have your Blue Envelope, the next step is to prepare it properly to ensure it serves its intended purpose during a traffic stop.

1. **Gather Your Documents:** Collect your copy of your current driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance, and you may add an index card for additional information you'd like the officer to know.
2. **Place Documents Inside:** Insert these documents into the Blue Envelope. The envelope's design ensures that your documents are secure yet easily retrievable.
3. **Consider Attaching to Your Sun Visor or Ensuring Accessibility:** For ease of access, consider attaching the Blue Envelope to the sun visor on the driver's side of your vehicle or any other easily accessible and visible location. This placement ensures that the envelope is readily available should you need to present your documents quickly. The envelope is designed to be easily noticed by law enforcement, signaling them to adjust their communication approach.
4. **Inform Family Members:** If you share your vehicle with family or friends, inform them about the Blue Envelope and its purpose. This is crucial for ensuring that anyone driving your vehicle knows where the documents are and understands the importance of the envelope.
5. **Regularly Update Your Documents:** Make sure to replace any documents in the Blue Envelope with their current versions. Keeping your information up-to-date is essential for avoiding any complications during a traffic stop.

Remember, the Blue Envelope is more than just a holder for your documents; it's a communication tool designed to bridge the gap between drivers on the Autism spectrum and law enforcement.

Tips for a Safe Traffic Stop For Drivers on the Autism Spectrum:

1. **Stay Calm:** Try to remain as calm as possible. Deep breathing can help manage stress levels.
2. **Use Your Blue Envelope:** When the officer approaches your car, say "I have a Blue Envelope". Keep your Blue Envelope in an easily accessible, visible place like the sun visor. If the officer is unaware of the purpose of the Blue Envelope, politely request that they read it.
3. **Follow Instructions:** Listen to the officer's instructions and try to follow them as best as possible. If you don't understand something, asking for clarification is okay.
4. **Waiting:** When the officer needs to return to their cruiser, you will need to wait in your car for them until they come back. When the officer comes back, they will explain the end of the stop and tell you when to leave. Please note, a traffic stop may end with a traffic citation or a traffic warning.
5. **Safety First:** Always keep your hands visible and avoid making sudden movements
6. **Hand Placement:** Keep your hands on the steering wheel until otherwise directed, even if the officer is not at your car.
7. **Flashing Lights and Noise:** Remember that the officer may shine a flashlight in your car, may have a radio, and may have flashing lights on their car.
8. **Calling Contact:** In a situation where you feel overwhelmed or unable to communicate clearly, you can request the officer to contact your designated emergency contact on your envelope.

For Law Enforcement Officers:

1. **Recognize the Blue Envelope:** The Blue Envelope signals that the driver is on the autism spectrum. Note the communication tips provided on the envelope.
2. **Exercise Patience**
3. **Clear Communication:** Use simple, direct language and give one instruction at a time.
4. **Be Observant:** Pay attention to non-verbal cues indicating the driver is feeling overwhelmed or stressed. Individuals on the autism spectrum may display repetitive body movements or fidgeting and have unusual eye contact.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Who can request a Blue Envelope?

A: ***Any individual diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder residing in the Allen county area who has a driver's license can request a Blue Envelope. If the individual is a minor, a parent or guardian may request it on their behalf. Envelopes may be requested by contacting Angie Toland autismadvocacyohio@gmail.com, Lima Police Dept. (419-227-4444), or Allen County Sheriff's Dept. (419-227-3535).***

Q: How much does a Blue Envelope cost?

A: ***The Blue Envelope is provided free of charge.***

Q: What documents should be kept in the Blue Envelope?

A: ***A copy of your driver's license, vehicle registration, insurance card, and emergency contact card. (We don't recommend keeping your original driver's license in the envelope.) These documents are typically requested during a traffic stop.***

Q: How do law enforcement officers know about the Blue Envelope program?

A: ***Not all officers are familiar with this program. This is a new program and officers in other areas may not be aware of it. If they are not, ask them to please read the envelope. The envelope is designed to assist in communication between the officer and the driver. The envelope does not ensure that the driver will not possibly receive a traffic citation. The traffic stop will conclude with either a warning or a traffic citation.***

Implemented by ADAT, Lima Police Dept. and Allen County Sheriff, June 2025

Implemented by Hancock ESC, Hancock Sheriff and Findlay Police Dept., May 2025

-Originally posted by: Franklin, Ohio Division of Police, 400 Anderson Street, Franklin, OH 45005, 937-746-2882, FranklinOhio.org

For further inquiries, please contact Angie Toland, autismadvocacyohio@gmail.com



Date: April 1st, 2026

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

Reference: Police Department Monthly Report

POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

March 2026

Police Calls for Service- 625

Police Chief Calls for Service- 55

Traffic Stops - 24

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

Juvenile Offense	-	1
Miscellaneous Offense	-	1
Fraud	-	1
Theft	-	1
Total	-	4



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	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Accident Property	9	50.0	6	33.3	3	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	0.0
Accident w/Injuries	0	0.0	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
Administrative	159	39.8	128	32.1	108	27.1	4	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	399	0.0
Aiding Other	13	40.6	6	18.8	13	40.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	0.0
Alarm	3	18.8	3	18.8	10	62.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	0.0
Animal Complaint	1	25.0	3	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0
Assist Police	4	15.4	5	19.2	17	65.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	0.0
B&E	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Civil Complaint	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
Criminal Damage	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Deceased	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Domestic	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Fight Complaint	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Follow Up	3	33.3	4	44.4	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.0
Hazmat	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Hit Skip	1	20.0	2	40.0	2	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.0
House/Building	353	34.8	327	32.3	328	32.4	5	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1013	0.0
Investigate Vehicle	23	34.3	15	22.4	28	41.8	1	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	67	0.0
Lock Out	7	29.2	5	20.8	11	45.8	1	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	0.0
Menacing	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Mentally Ill Person	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Miscellaneous	35	25.0	47	33.6	57	40.7	1	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	140	0.0
Missing Adult	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Missing Juvenile	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Motorist Assist	4	33.3	3	25.0	5	41.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	0.0
Paper Service	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0



Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Bluffton Police Department
ORI Number: OH0020100
Incident Type: All

Print Date/Time: 04/01/2026 12:01
Login ID: rburkholder
Year: 2026

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Pedestrian Stop	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Prisoner Escort	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Shoplifting	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Suspicious Person	4	33.3	3	25.0	5	41.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	0.0
Telephone	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Theft	2	66.7	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0
Traffic Stop	24	26.1	44	47.8	24	26.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	92	0.0
Unruly Juvenile	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Unsecured Door	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Unwanted Guest	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Warrant Service	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
Total:	656	34.5	610	32.1	625	32.8	12	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1903	0.0



Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 04/01/2026 12:05
 Login ID: rburkholder
 Statute: All

From Date: 03/01/2026
 To Date: 03/31/2026
 Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department
 ORI Number: OH0020100

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Totals
Warning													
4511.21D4 Speed - 70MPH Freeway	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
4511.21B1a Speed - 20 MPH (School Zone)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4513.071A 2 BRAKE LIGHTS REQ/ 1 ON MOTORCYCLE	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4513.31A SHIFTING LOAD, LOOSE LOADS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Warning Totals	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Traffic													
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4511.21B1a Speed - 20 MPH (School Zone)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4511.12A FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Traffic Totals	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Trosel, Lt. Governor

Audy Wilson, Director
Charles L. Norman, Registrar

News Release

www.bmv.ohio.gov



For Immediate Release: March 6, 2026

Beware of Scammers Claiming to be Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has received reports of a possible texting scam being perpetrated on Ohioans today from scammers claiming to be from the State of Ohio.

Residents have reported receiving text messages from scammers informing the recipients that they have an outstanding parking ticket. The text then instructs the recipient to pay immediately to avoid a license suspension. This particular scam is a phishing attempt that is being reported by drivers nationwide and is designed to trick residents into giving up personal or financial information.



"If you receive this text, do not fall for this scam," said Ohio BMV Registrar Charlie Norman. "Do not click any links, do not scan the QR code, and immediately delete the text. Ohio BMV will never send you a text demanding payment or requesting your personal information."

Ohioans can report scam attempts to the Federal Trade Commission by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov. If you believe you have been a victim of a scam, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

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Click to edit this placeholder text.

For additional information, contact:

Lindsey Bohrer at (614) 752-6585

Ohio Attorney General's

Consumer Advocate Newsletter

Keeping Consumers Safe and Informed



April 2026



'Buy now, pay later' services may not be what they seem

It's important to learn more about "buy now, pay later" services such as Klarna, Afterpay, Pay in 4 and Zip – to know whether they will ultimately help or hurt.

There's an obvious attraction to spreading out the costs of a more expensive item over time (in four equal installments, for example), especially if the product arrives nearly right away. But the decision could prove costly.

Under most such plans, you pay part of the cost immediately to receive the product quickly, but some plans might require a credit check and, even if there aren't interest charges, fees may be assessed if you make a late payment or want to change payment due dates. Also, if you choose a plan that reports your payments to the three national credit bureaus, you could help or hurt your credit based on your payment performance.

Experts in consumer protection have found three areas of risk:

- Consumers can get “overextended” if they use several “buy now, pay later” services within a short time.
- Some providers of these services may use your data to entice you into more borrowing.
- Consumers may be surprised if they don’t understand in advance any applicable fees and other unexpected terms and conditions.

To alleviate some of these risks:

- Consider limiting these types of services to one or two purchases at a time and to necessities only – so that you can better avoid missing a payment.
- Before committing to such a service, read and understand all the terms and conditions, including repayment terms, any applicable interest rates, any penalties for late payments, etc.
- If you’re making automatic payments from a bank account or debit card, check your account when the first payment is due to ensure that late fees won’t apply. Also, confirm after you’ve made the last payment that additional payments aren’t erroneously withdrawn.
- Don’t use your credit card for payment if it means you’ll get hit with interest payments and/or finance charges from the credit card company.

Some additional consumer tips:

- Treat “buy now, pay later” services as a loan and personal debt. Do not use these loans for small, frequent or non-essential purchases.
- Make sure you have enough money in your bank account to cover all payment installments – so you’re not likely to overdraw your account. If you cannot afford the product or item within the period allotted for repayment, reconsider the purchase.

Consumers who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice should contact the Ohio Attorney General’s Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515.

Engaged couples aren’t exempt from scammers

If you or a loved one is currently planning a wedding, be careful not to get swept up in the joy of the event when hiring vendors. Unfortunately, wedding-related scams are common because weddings involve large sums of money and emotional investment.

In recent years, the Ohio Attorney General’s Office (AGO) has filed cases against florists, photographers, a bridal shop, and catering companies that had accepted downpayments but failed to deliver the goods or services after receiving payment.

Among the known wedding-related scams that the AGO has seen:

- **Fake wedding planners.** Posing as professional planners, scammers offer full-service packages at low prices. They create polished websites and fake portfolios, then disappear

after taking a deposit. Among the red flags to watch for: no verifiable references, no physical address for the “planner,” pressure to pay in full upfront.

- **Venue scams.** Advertisements might tout beautiful venues that don’t exist or aren’t available. Some scammers hijack the identities of real venues and collect deposits without authorization. Red flags to watch for: unusually low prices, inability to visit the venue in person, vague contract.
- **Counterfeit wedding dresses.** Online scam artists promote designer gowns at steep discounts but deliver poor-quality knockoffs or no dress. Red flags to watch for: dresses under \$200, no contact information for the online business, missing terms and conditions.
- **Fake photographers and videographers.** Scammers steal portfolios from real professionals, take deposits, and then don’t show up or deliver unusable photos. Red flags to watch for: lack of verifiable reviews, reluctance to meet in person, request for full payment upfront.
- **Florist and decor scams.** Fraudulent florists promise luxury arrangements but deliver discount-store-quality decor or nothing. Red flags to watch for: low quotes, vague contract.

How to protect yourself from wedding-related scams:

- **Research vendors thoroughly.** Check reviews on Google, product and venue review sites such as Yelp, and wedding planning sites such as WeddingWire.com or TheKnot.com. Check the Ohio Attorney General’s website for any complaints about a vendor. Also, ask vendors for recent client references.
- **Meet in person.** Whenever possible, schedule at least one in-person meeting.
- **Use secure payment methods.** Avoid full upfront payments, and consider escrow for large sums. When possible, pay using a credit card.
- **Read contracts carefully.** Make sure that all services and costs are itemized.
- **Trust your instincts.** If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is.

How to report a wedding scam:

- **Gather evidence.** Collect all relevant documentation, including contracts, invoices, proof of payments (credit card statements, checks), emails, texts and other communication logs.
- **File a complaint.** You can file a complaint with the Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section online or by phone. Visit the official OhioProtects.org website to submit a complaint or call the Ohio Attorney General’s Help Center at 800-282-0515.
- **Dispute charges.** If you paid by credit card, immediately contact your card issuer to dispute the charge. The Fair Credit Billing Act offers certain protections.

If you suspect a scam or an unfair business practice, contact the Attorney General's Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515.

How to identify, cancel unwanted subscription services

Subscription services are businesses or platforms that provide products or services on a recurring basis.

Common subscription services include streaming services; access to phone apps; subscription meal kits or beauty boxes; and traditional membership renewals, such as gym memberships.

Subscription services provide a predictable revenue source for businesses and are convenient for customers, who receive ongoing value from them.

The pros and cons of subscription services include:

PROS:

- **Convenience:** Automatic access to the item without repeated purchases.
- **Cost spreading:** Smaller monthly payments instead of a larger upfront cost.
- **Access to premium features:** Continuous updates, exclusive content, advanced tools.

CONS:

- **Recurring costs:** The costs can add up over time and may be more expensive than one-time purchases.
- **Hard-to-cancel policies:** Some companies make cancellation difficult.
- **Unused services:** If you don't use the service, it is easy to forget about it, leading to wasted money.

Sometimes while researching a subscription service, you may inadvertently sign up for that service. Accidental enrollment often is attributable to both site design tricks and user oversight. Here are the most common reasons:

- **Free trials with automatic renewal.** Many services offer a "free trial," but require you to enter payment details upfront. If you forget to cancel before the trial ends, it automatically converts into a paid subscription.
- **Pre-checked boxes.** During checkout, some sites autofill boxes for add-ons or subscriptions. If you don't notice and don't uncheck them, you're enrolled.
- **Deceptive design.** Websites use layouts or wording that may be confusing – such as "Continue" instead of "Subscribe" – and make the "No thanks" button tiny or hard to find.
- **Bundled offers.** Buying a product or service sometimes includes a "bonus" subscription that you didn't realize was part of the deal.
- **Misleading ads or pop-ups.** Clicking on ads or pop-ups that look like part of the site can lead to hidden sign-ups.
- **App store settings.** In-app purchases or subscriptions can be triggered with a single tap if you're logged in and have payment information saved.

Here are some tips on how to avoid accidental subscriptions and how to check on and cancel existing ones:

- **Read the fine print.** Check whether the offer mentions auto-renewal or recurring billing. Look for phrases such as “after trial ends” or “billed monthly.”
- **Avoid entering payment information for free trials.** If a free trial requires a credit card, consider skipping it unless you’re sure you’ll cancel on time.
- **Watch for pre-checked boxes.** Always review checkout pages carefully. Uncheck any boxes for newsletters, add-ons, or subscriptions that you don’t want to receive.
- **Set calendar reminders.** If you do sign up for a trial, immediately set a reminder to cancel before the renewal date.
- **Check app store settings.** On iOS or Android, disable one-tap subscriptions or require password confirmation for purchases.

If you suspect a scam or an unfair business practice, contact the Attorney General's Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515.

In the spring, home-improvement scams blossom

Warmer weather ushers in the season of home-improvement projects, from staining decks to installing new roofs. Homeowners who need to hire someone to, say, trim trees, clean gutters or replace a roof should do due diligence. Although many contractors do excellent work, others, unfortunately, are less than reputable.

Scammers may exploit unsuspecting homeowners by demanding large down payments, only to take the money and run, leaving those consumers with no repairs and no refunds. Others perform substandard work, which then leaves homeowners with costly follow-up repairs.

To avoid such scams, thoroughly vet potential contractors by:

- **Getting recommendations.** Successful contractors make it easy to access feedback on their work and related documentation.
- **Researching multiple contractors.** Obtaining at least three written estimates from three contractors can help weed out bad apples. Beware of contractors with only a few projects for you to review.
- **Asking for licensing, certification and proof of insurance.** Depending on the project, this may be vital to the safety of your renovation.
- **Going online.** Check out the company’s reputation with the [Ohio Attorney General's Office](#) and the [Better Business Bureau](#). You can also search for any [previous lawsuits](#) filed by the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section.

To further protect yourself:

- Do *not* make a large down payment. Instead, pay in increments – say, a third of the cost at the beginning of the job, a third after half of the work is completed to your satisfaction, and the final third at job completion.
- Avoid paying in cash. If something goes wrong, you'll have a limited paper trail.
- Get all promises in writing.
- Be cautious of contractors who want a payment check made out to them personally, instead of a business.
- Understand that Ohio's Home Solicitation Sales Act provides consumers with a three-day cancellation period for most contracts signed at home. The law also applies to contracts signed at any location that is not a company's usual place of business (such as a home-improvement show).
- Look for red flags of a traveling scam artist. If a contractor claims to have leftover materials from a nearby job or offers unbelievably low prices, be suspicious. Have your guard up if you need storm-related damage repaired, as many fly-by-night contractors prey on homeowners in difficult situations who need work completed quickly.

Consumers who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice should contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515.

