

Village of Bluffton Council Meeting Agenda

October 13, 2025 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, September 22, 2025.

Bills

Public Comment: 554 S. Main St. – Little Free Library – Resident presentation

Committee Reports

Utilities Committee:

Boards & Commissions

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 10-2025

1st Reading

Emergency

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 04-2025 (THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2025

1st Reading

Emergency

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO, SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH)

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2025

1st Reading

Emergency

A RESOLUTION: MAKING CERTAIN TRANSFERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2025

1st Reading

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE SHERIFF OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO FOR DISPATCH SERVICE FOR BLUFFTON POLICE, FIRE, AND EMS FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-2025

1st Reading

Emergency

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) AND/OR BIDS FOR WEEKLY REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO, FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM 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, October 13th at 7:00 pm
- Board of Zoning & Building Appeals – Tuesday, October 14th at 6:00 pm
- Tree Commission Meeting – Monday, October 20th at 7:00 pm
- Council Meeting – Monday, October 27th at 7:00 pm

Public Comment

Adjournment – Motion and Second

Village of Bluffton – Regular meeting September 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Cupples presiding. Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia present.

Mayor Johnson absent.

Sehlhorst motioned, seconded by Kingsley, to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on September 8, 2025. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Steiner motioned, seconded by Talavinia, to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

The Fiscal Officer gave the following readings:

3rd Reading:

Resolution 18-2025 – A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement program(s) and to execute contracts for the State Route 103 Southeast Loop Water Main Replacement Project as required. Steiner motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Sehlhorst. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 19-2025 – A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation Improvement program(s) and to execute contracts for the Jackson Street Reconstruction Phase I Project as required. Kingsley motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Stahl. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 20-2025 – A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor and declaring an emergency. Kingsley motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Sehlhorst. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Talavinia motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Steiner. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Kingsley motioned, seconded by Sehlhorst, to approve the special event request from the Lions Club for the annual Arts & Crafts Festival on September 27, 2025. The event will be from 5:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and portions of Franklin and Jackson Streets around the school parking lot will be closed from 12:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, 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.

Utilities Committee on Wednesday, October 1 at 3:30 p.m.

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

MAYOR

FISCAL OFFICER

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON
VOUCHER REPORT 10/13/2025

VENDOR	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION
AETNA	32,175.88	Multiple	HEALTH INSURANCE
AIM MEDIA MIDWEST	331.58	Administrative	ADVERTISING
ALL SERVICE AERATION, INC	482.50	Multiple	PORTABLE TOILETS
ALLOWAY TESTING	75.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	340.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	75.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	2,187.00	Multiple	TESTING
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	16,638.10	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	6,093.13	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	2,109.07	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	198.00	Multiple	LIFE INSURANCE
APRIL DORMAN	1,050.00	Pool	LIFEGUARD RE-CERTIFICATION
BASINGER, JAN	340.82	Administrative	BOOTS
BB EXCAVATING	3,000.00	Street	SARA LANE PAVING
BILL SWANK	1,650.00	Police	CHALLENGE COINS
BLUFFTON AUTO REPAIR CENTER, LLC	49.95	Police	CRUISER REPAIRS
BLUFFTON FLYING SERVICE	5,000.00	Airport	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	251.41	Park	PARKING LOT STONE
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	4,699.55	Street	SR 103 ENTRANCE
BOBCAT COMPANY	134.54	Multiple	TOOLCAT SERVICE
BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION	10,504.33	Administrative	WORKERS COMPENSATION
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	50.40	Administrative	CABLE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	170.00	Multiple	CABLE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	175.00	Administrative	CABLE
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	1,597.50	Multiple	GENERAL ENGINEERING
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	775.00	Street	W. ELM ST. RECONSTRUCTION
CINTAS	86.43	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	86.43	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CINTAS	86.43	Administrative	UNIFORMS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	110.00	Administrative	FISCAL OFFICER ANNUAL TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	35.00	Street	COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE LICENSE
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	86.97	Police	DEPARTMENT TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	194.05	Police	EQUIPMENT
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	952.87	Police	FIREARM PARTS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	160.00	Police	FIREARM PARTS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	40.57	Police	TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	27.46	Police	TRAINING
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	150.00	Police	TRAINING - H. HANNAH
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	250.00	Police	TRAINING - HOCHSTETLER
CLEMANS, NELSON & ASSOCIATES, INC	250.00	Administrative	RETAINER & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
CONNECT PARENT CORPORATION	239.33	Administrative	PHONES
CORE & MAIN LP	1,111.00	Water	WATER METER FOR RILEY VIEW
FIVE STAR MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION INC.	17,283.19	Capital Improvements	EMS BUILDING RENOVATION
GARRETT WEYER	2,674.00	Rescue	EMS FLOORING INSTALLATION
GARY'S REPAIR	97.96	Park	MOWER BLADES
GARY'S REPAIR	166.68	Multiple	SUPPLIES & PARTS
GLOBAL ELECTRIC, INC	5,512.20	Sewer	PRESS SERVICE
GRAINGER INC	61.65	Pool	REPAIR PARTS
GRAINGER INC	163.74	Land & Buildings	BOLLARD COVERS
GREAT LAKES BILLING ASSOCIATES, INC.	1,318.81	Rescue	EMS BILLING SERVICE
HANCOCK CLEANING, LLC.	471.50	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL CLEANING
JACOMET'S MARTIAL ARTS	500.00	Police	TRAINING
JON KINN	492.28	Fire	NFPA FIRE PREVENTION SUPPLIES
KALIDA TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC.	450.00	Multiple	BACK UP CAMERA

KENT KARHOFF LLC	300.00	Cemetery	BURIALS & FOUNDATIONS
KIRBY'S SAND & GRAVEL	133.75	Park	LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	559.28	Fire	BATTERIES FOR 107
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	265.77	Multiple	PARTS
LEGACY FARMER COOP	4,358.53	Multiple	FUEL
LEXIS NEXIS RISK DATA MANAGEMENT INC.	50.00	Administrative	ADDRESS SEARCHES
LIMA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	775.00	Rescue	VACCINATIONS
MARATHON FLEET SERVICES	1,695.02	Multiple	FUEL
MASTERPIECE SIGNS & GRAPHICS, INC.	12,515.32	Land & Buildings	SR 103 ENTRANCE SIGN
MCMAHON'S BEST ONE TIRE AND AUTO CARE	1,852.00	Multiple	SKID LOADER TIRES
NEW HORIZON COMMUNICATIONS	565.91	Administrative	PHONES
NORTHWESTERN OHIO SECURITY SYSTEMS	202.00	Land & Buildings	MONITORING
PARR PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT	58.19	Police	RADAR TESTING
PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY STANDARDS INC.	2,090.00	Rescue	MEDICINE APP
PENNCARE 30	650.58	Capital Improvements	EQUIPMENT
PENNCARE 30	1,997.26	Capital Improvements	EQUIPMENT
PENNCARE 30	596.70	Capital Improvements	EQUIPMENT
PENNCARE 30	1,449.52	Capital Improvements	EQUIPMENT
PERRY CORPORATION	99.38	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	3,670.31	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	193.75	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	380.00	Administrative	CITY TAX INSTALLATION
PROBST, GREG	2,800.00	Cemetery	CEMETERY RECORDS VERIFICATION
PUBLIC ENTITIES POOL	1,205.00	Multiple	INSURANCE
RHONDA HOHENBRINK	60.06	Administrative	NWOTCA SEMINAR TRAVEL
SOIL TECH, INC.	7,700.00	Sewer	BIOSOLIDS APPLICATION
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	60.19	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STRATTON GREENHOUSES	704.31	Street	STREET TREES
STRATTON GREENHOUSES	316.79	Park	LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES
TAWA TREE MULCH DIVISION	4,500.00	Multiple	TOPSOIL SCREENING
THE LAWFT	433.50	Police	UNIFORMS
THE LAWFT	255.50	Police	UNIFORMS
TOWN & COUNTRY FLOWERS	59.00	Administrative	FLOWERS FOR MAYOR
TREASURER OF STATE	150.00	Fire	VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER DEPENDENCY FUND
TREE TECH	5,075.00	Multiple	TREE REMOVAL
TRIPLE B EXCAVATING LLC	4,675.00	Administrative	SR 103 ENTRANCE WORK
VASU COMMUNICATIONS	5,508.17	Capital Improvements	RADIO FOR NEW ENGINE
VASU COMMUNICATIONS	5,717.49	Capital Improvements	RADIO FOR NEW ENGINE
VASU COMMUNICATIONS	5,742.00	Capital Improvements	RADIO FOR NEW ENGINE
VASU COMMUNICATIONS	7,653.83	Capital Improvements	RADIO FOR NEW ENGINE
VASU COMMUNICATIONS	7,626.72	Capital Improvements	RADIO FOR NEW ENGINE
VERIZON WIRELESS	160.44	Multiple	CELL PHONES
VETTER LUMBER CO.	74.15	Multiple	SUPPLIES
INCOME TAX REFUNDS	599.53	Administrative	INCOME TAX REFUNDS
	218,847.26		
SEPTEMBER MONTHLY	2,569.00		
MEDICARE	37.22		
OPERS	269.03		
FICA	40.14		
BIWEEKLY PAYROLL 10/3/25	82,571.59		
MEDICARE	1,141.65		
OPERS	7,562.71		
OP&F	5,567.64		

Council Signature : _____

Date: _____

**Village of Bluffton
Utilities Committee Meeting
October 1, 2025 @ 3:30 PM**

Committee members present: David Steiner & Jerry Cupples

Staff present: Jesse Blackburn, Village Administrator, Bryan Lloyd, Assistant Village Administrator, and Kevin Nickel, Fiscal Officer.

The committee reviewed the Ottawa water rate for 2026. The Fiscal Officer previously reviewed the calculations in the bill calculation document and found no errors.

After review and discussion by the Utility Committee it is recommended that the Council as a whole approve the new rate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

David Steiner

Jerry Cupples

ORDINANCE NO. 10-2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 04-2025 (THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds and amend Ordinance No. 04-2025 (The Annual Appropriation Ordinance).

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

SECTION 1: That monies are appropriated for the various funds as follows:

Supplemental Appropriations:

Equipment Replacement		
D5-1F-52520	Equipment	+\$80,000.00

SECTION 2: That an emergency exists in the daily operation of the Village whereby failure to act will be detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety of the inhabitants thereof, and for the further reason that this appropriation transfer is needed so expenditures can be made.

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

Passed and Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the governing board of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abstain: _____

Attest:

FISCAL OFFICER

MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

SOLICITOR

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO SUPPORTING THE OHIO COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL (AMERICA250-OH) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature and the Governor created AMERICA250-OH in 2021 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and Ohio's integral role in that event and the role of its people on the nation's past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, AMERICA250-OH hopes to engage ALL Ohioans and ALL 88 counties through their many signature and officially recognized programs, projects and events over the next several years by inspiring future leaders and celebrating all Ohioans contributions to the nation over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, by adoption of AMERICA250-OH Resolution we hope to educate, preserve, innovate, and celebrate; and

WHEREAS, an emergency measure is 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 the immediate passage of this resolution is necessary for the timely use of the AMERICA250-OH materials for the successful planning and execution of AMERICA250-OH events in Bluffton, OH. Therefore, this resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AND IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Village of Bluffton hereby endorses AMERICA250-OH and their mission to educate, preserve, innovate and celebrate EVERY Ohioan in EVERY county; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Municipal legislative delegation and AMERICA250-OH Commission.

Passed and Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the governing body of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abstain: _____

Attest:

FISCAL OFFICER

MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

SOLICITOR

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2025

A RESOLUTION: MAKING CERTAIN TRANSFERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to make certain transfers between funds of the Village of Bluffton.

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

SECTION 1: That the following transfers are hereby made:

To	From	Amount
Equipment Replacement – D5-0I-41920		+\$80,000
	General A1-7X-52710	-\$80,000

SECTION 2: That an emergency exists in the daily operation of the Village whereby failure to act will be detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety of the inhabitants thereof, and for the further reason that this appropriation transfer is needed so expenditures can be made.

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 of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed and Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the governing body of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abstain: _____

Attest:

FISCAL OFFICER

MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

SOLICITOR

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-2025
VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE SHERIFF OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO FOR DISPATCH SERVICE FOR BLUFFTON POLICE, FIRE, AND EMS FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Allen County and the Commissioners of Allen County Ohio have agreed to provide dispatch services for the Bluffton Police, Fire, and EMS for 2026, 2027, and 2028 and:

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in that the parties need to enter into this agreement by November 30, 2025 for the preservation of health, safety and welfare of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all those elected or appointed thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor is authorized to enter into a Contract for dispatching of Bluffton Police, Fire, and EMS with the Sheriff of Allen County and the Commissioners of Allen County, Ohio, a copy of which is attached hereto.

SECTION 2. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, and for the further reason it is immediately necessary to enact said increases without further delay.

SECTION 3. That is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were made in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in accordance with all legal requirements of the Open Meetings Law including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

WHEREFORE, This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law and approval by the signatures below.

Passed and adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025 by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstain: _____

ATTEST _____
FISCAL OFFICER

MAYOR

APPROVED _____
SOLICITOR

Contract for Safety Services Dispatching

This agreement is made between, MATTHEW B. TREGLIA, SHERIFF OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO, hereinafter called "SHERIFF", THE OFFICE OF MAYOR FOR BLUFFTON, ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO, hereinafter called "MAYOR", and THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO, hereinafter called "COMMISSIONERS", and collectively referred to as "PARTIES".

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the MAYOR finds it advisable and expedient to provide safety services protection for the citizens of Bluffton on a regular basis and recognizes the need for these services to be properly alerted and dispatched; and

WHEREAS, the SHERIFF has adequate dispatch personnel, equipment and services to provide the necessary dispatching services desired by the MAYOR; and

WHEREAS, the MAYOR wishes to enter into a contract for the purchase of dispatching services from the SHERIFF through the COMMISSIONERS pursuant to Sections 307.15 and 311.29 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and agreements set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. The SHERIFF will provide adequate dispatch staffing on all three shifts each day. Staffing will be an eight (8) hour shift, twenty-four (24) hours a day. These communications operators will provide safety services dispatching on behalf of Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio. The number of communication operators assigned by the SHERIFF may be temporarily reduced or increased as emergency situations, call load, and allocations might dictate pursuant to Section 311.29 of the Revised Code.
2. The SHERIFF agrees that the communications operators so assigned shall be qualified under the standards of the Emergency Medical Dispatching, and CPR Certified, and that the said communications operators shall receive all additional training, special equipment and other regular facilities and support of the Allen County Sheriff's Office.
3. The SHERIFF further agrees that the communications operators' supervisors shall submit a monthly statistical report of their activities to the said MAYOR. Further, meetings shall be held between the SHERIFF and the MAYOR for purpose of quality assurance, at the request of either party.
4. In order to provide the necessary money to compensate the COMMISSIONERS for the cost of said dispatching service, the MAYOR agrees to pay the COMMISSIONERS the sum of **\$58,148.84** as billed by the Allen County Commissioner's Office, with an additional one and one-half percent (1.50%) annual increase over the next two (2) years starting in **2027 (\$59,021.07)** and then in **2028 (\$59,906.39)**.
5. In the event the MAYOR fails to pay for dispatch services within five (5) days after the due date, the MAYOR hereby agrees to pay a late fee of 1% of the annual cost. For each additional month the annual cost is not paid, a 1% late fee of the annual cost will be added the first day of each month thereafter until the invoice is paid. However, penalties shall not exceed the annual amount due and owing.
6. The SHERIFF shall have the exclusive authority to assign, transfer, replace, discipline and otherwise exercise complete supervisory authority over the communications operators so assigned. The parties further acknowledge that the services to be provided by the SHERIFF under this contract shall be performed as an independent contractor, and not as an agent, employee, or partner of the MAYOR.
7. The SHERIFF and COMMISSIONERS shall indemnify and hold the MAYOR harmless against any and all claims, liabilities, damages or losses solely for any act or omissions of its officers and employees engaged in the scope of their employment under this contract.

8. Contract Durations: The terms and conditions of this contract will be in effect for a period of three (3) years **beginning January 1, 2026 at 12:00 A.M. and ending December 31, 2028 at 11:59 P.M.** In the event this contract is not renewed, the terms and conditions will remain in effect until such a time a new contract can be negotiated or either party terminates this Agreement without cause upon giving ninety (90) days written notice of the party's intent to terminate to the other.
9. Remedies: If any action of law or equity is necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to its costs, and necessary disbursements, in addition to any other relief to which that party may be entitled.
10. Ohio Law to Apply: The Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.
11. Parties Bound: This Agreement shall be binding upon and to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives and successors where permitted by this Agreement.
12. Legal Construction: In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained in the Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision had never been contained herein.
13. Prior Agreements Superseded: This Agreement constitutes the sole and only Agreement of the parties hereto and supersedes any prior understandings, written or oral agreements between the parties respecting the subject matter within.

Sheriff, Allen County, Ohio

Matthew B. Treglia,

**Mayor
Village of Bluffton**

**Board of County Commissioners
Allen County, Ohio**

Beth Seibert

Cory Noonan

Brian Winegardner

Resolution # _____

Date ____/____/____

RESOLUTION NO. 24-2025

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) AND/OR BIDS FOR WEEKLY REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO, FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Village of Bluffton currently provides for refuse and recycling collection services to qualifying residential units within the Corporation Limits; and

WHEREAS, the existing service contract is nearing expiration, and the Village desires to solicit competitive proposals or bids from qualified companies to ensure continued, reliable, and cost-effective service; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Bluffton intends to seek proposals or bids for weekly collection of refuse and recyclable materials for qualifying residential and municipal accounts within the Village limits; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds it necessary to advertise for proposals or bids to obtain the most favorable terms and pricing for refuse and recycling services under a three-year contract; and

WHEREAS, prompt advertisement and solicitation of proposals or bids are necessary to ensure continuity of service and adequate time for review and award of contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Authorization to Advertise:

The Village Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and publish an advertisement soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFP) and/or Bids from qualified waste haulers for weekly refuse and recycling collection and disposal services within the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, for a term of three (3) years.

SECTION 2. Scope of Services:

The RFP/Bid documents shall specify the required services, including but not limited to weekly collection of refuse and recyclables, container and cart provisions, customer service expectations, and compliance with all local and state environmental regulations.

SECTION 3. Submission and Review:

Proposals and/or bids shall be received at the Bluffton Town Hall, 154 N. Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817, on or before the date and time stated in the advertisement. Submissions will be reviewed by the Village Administration and such committees or officials as designated by Council, with recommendations presented to Council for award.

SECTION 4. Effective Date and Emergency Declaration:

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 Village and its residents, to prevent any interruption in refuse and recycling collection services. Therefore, this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Passed and Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the governing body
of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abstain: _____

Attest:

FISCAL OFFICER

MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

SOLICITOR

Village of Bluffton

Administration's Report

To: Mayor Johnson & Council Members



10-13-25

Council Support of Chamber & BCE

Request \$5,000.00 that was budgeted for each group in 2025 be approved by Council..

Legacy Park Update:

1. Drive entrances have been paved by Bluffton Paving with a 4" base coat of asphalt.
2. Following pages show renderings provided by Encompass – Engineering & Architects from Findlay, OH for the future shelter house
3. Legislation for a Grant Application to the ODNR Land & Water Conservation Fund will be in the next Council Packet
4. Village continues to work with Bluffton Soccer Club and Lions Club on this project

Little Free Library: Request for placement in tree lawn at 554 S. Main St.

- Proposed to be placed on a 4 x4 post. Bottom of box 3' from ground.
- Dimensions 14" wide, 25" tall and 19" deep
- Painted with an American flag theme. Roof: red & white striped, Sides: blue with white stars
- Copy of proposed license follows this report.

2025 Trick-or-Treat Date

Thursday Oct. 30th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Enbridge – Natural Gas Main Line replacement

Construction continues to replace gas main on College Ave under the railroad tracks..

ONU Engineering Students – Capstone Project:

Downtown & School Zone Traffic & Safety Improvements:

Following page has a QR Code for a Traffic Survey to get data for areas of interest to the project. Document has been shared last Friday with the Bluffton Icon, Bluffton Buzz and at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID – Village Farm Cash Leases

Advertisement for bids announced in Lima News for two weeks and bids opened on Oct. 1.

1. Airport Farm received bids. Recommend awarding the bid to Triple B Grain Farms, LLC
2. Stager Well Field Farm did not receive any bids from this attempt. Recommend to advertise again.

Swimming Pool water loss:

After final determinations were made that the supply and return lines made of PVC at the pool were not leaking.....this did require some concrete to be removed....

PWD gained access to the stainless steel “water line” that feeds the jets on the walls of the pool by cutting access holes into two prioritized locations of the wall system.

Navigated our multi-purpose camera to an even more inaccessible location in this line under the concrete at the zero-entry area to the pool.

GOOD NEWS! Definite leaks were located in this area!!

Bad News - Concrete at the start of the zero-entry area had to be removed to gain access to this line for repairs.

Committee/Commission Meetings: -

- Utilities Committee
- Personnel Committee -

GRANTING A LIMITED, PERSONAL, AND REVOCABLE LICENSE TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS AT 554 SOUTH MAIN STREET FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IN THE TREE LAWN IN FRONT OF THEIR HOME

This Revocable License Agreement (“License”) is made this ____ day of _____, 2025, by and between the Village of Bluffton, Ohio (hereinafter “Village”), and the property owners of 554 South Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817 (hereinafter “Licensees”).

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this License is to permit the Licensees to install and maintain a Little Free Library within the Village’s public right-of-way (tree lawn) immediately in front of their residence at 554 S. Main Street.

2. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Little Free Library shall be located within the grassy tree lawn area between the public sidewalk and curb along South Main Street, as shown on the sketch or photo provided by the Licensees and approved by the Village Administrator. The structure shall:

- Be no larger than approximately 3 feet wide by 4 feet high, mounted on a single post;
- Maintain a minimum clearance of 18” from the sidewalk.
- Be constructed of durable, weather-resistant materials.

3. CONDITIONS

1. Maintain the Little Free Library in good condition, ensuring it remains safe, upright, and visually presentable.
2. Accept full responsibility for all maintenance, repairs, or removal as directed by the Village.
3. Indemnify and hold harmless the Village, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all claims, damages, or liability arising from the installation or use of the Little Free Library.
4. Not place any signage, advertising, or electrical connections associated with the installation.
5. Remove or relocate the Little Free Library at their expense if required for public improvements, safety concerns, or at the Village’s discretion.

4. TERM AND REVOCATION

This License is revocable at any time by the Village upon written notice to the Licensees, without obligation for reimbursement or damages. The License shall automatically terminate if the property changes ownership or if the installation is not maintained in accordance with Village standards.

5. NON-TRANSFERABILITY

This License is personal to the Licensees and shall not be assigned, transferred, or extended to subsequent property owners without express written consent from the Village.

6. ACCEPTANCE

By signing below, the Licensees acknowledge receipt and understanding of this License, and agree to all terms and conditions herein.

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO

Granted this _____ day of _____, 2025 by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstain: _____

Richard Johnson, Mayor

Clerk

Approved as to form:

Village Solicitor

LICENSEES:

I/we accept the terms of this Revocable License Agreement.

Name(s): _____

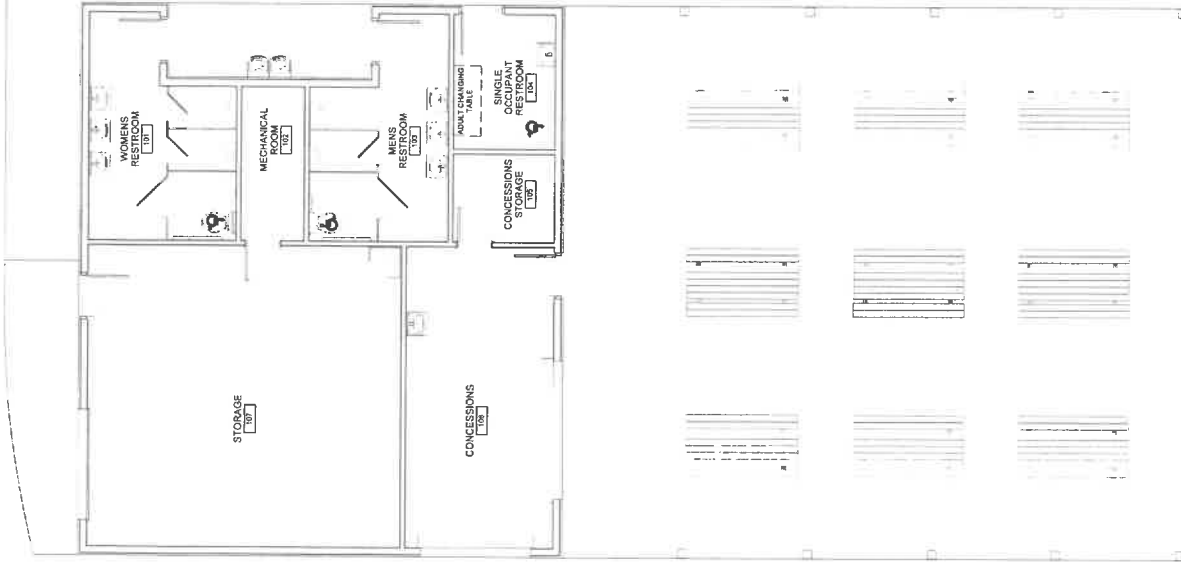
Address: 554 S. Main Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: _____

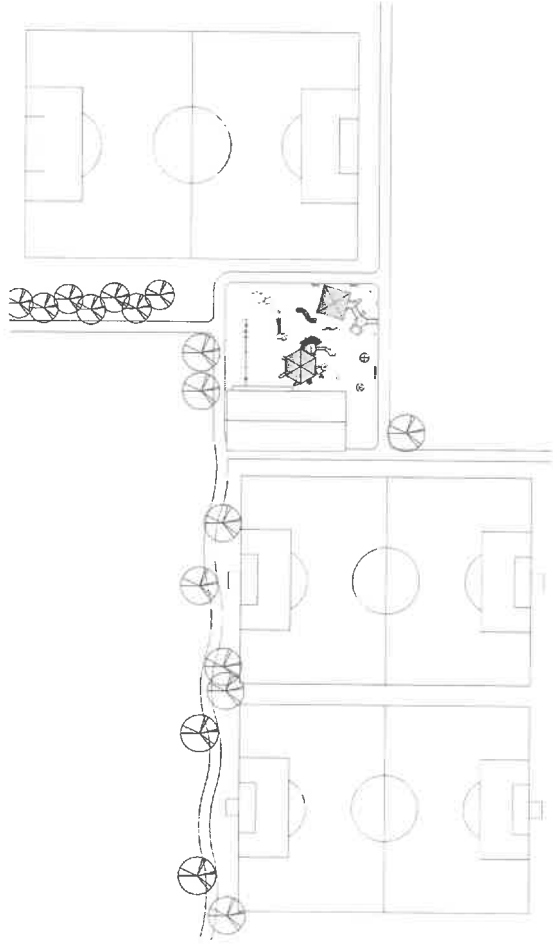
Email: _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

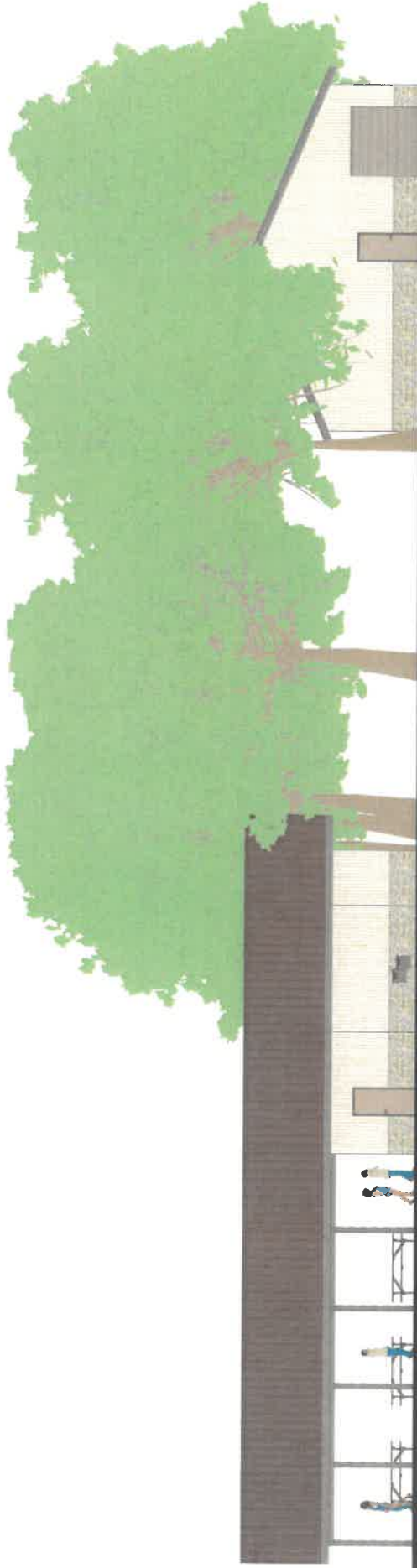


PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN





EAST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION

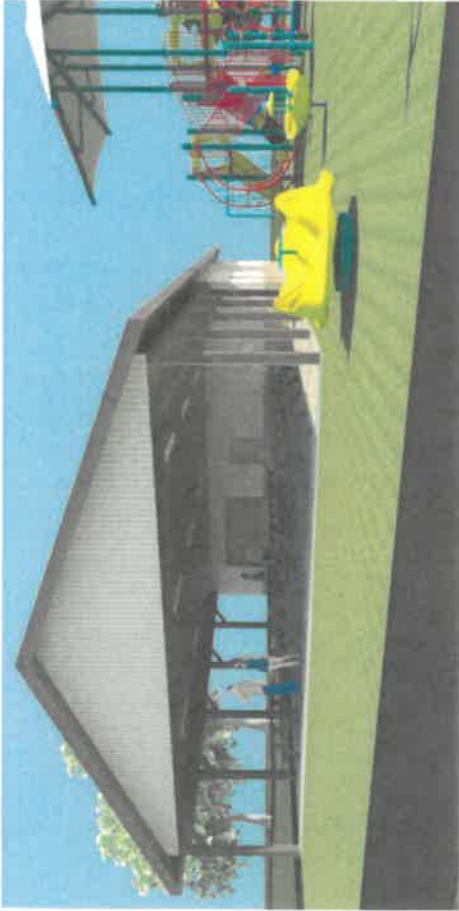
WEST ELEVATION



ENCOMPASS
ENGINEERS-ARCHITECTS-POWER

100 WEST WASHINGTON ST.
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811

DATE: 10/06/2025



SOUTHEAST VIEW



NORTHEAST VIEW



SOUTHWEST VIEW



NORTHWEST VIEW



NORTHEAST VIEW WITH PLAYGROUND



SOUTH VIEW WITH PLAYGROUND

Traffic Survey

**We want your
thoughts:**

**Ohio Northern University is conducting a traffic study
in Bluffton for our capstone**

**Scan the QR to leave your
thoughts**





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

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENT NAME: Christmas at Hershower House DATE(S) OF EVENT: November 23, 2025
APPLICANT: Bluffton University CONTACT PERSON: Cara Echols
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 1 University Drive CONTACT'S PHONE: 419 358 3407
E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): echols@cbluffton.edu
LOCATION OF EVENT: S Spring St - see attached map
TIME(S) FOR EVENT: 6-10 p.m.
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: A Christmas gathering for the campus community with live lighting, holiday themed activities and a short program

SERVICES REQUESTED FROM VILLAGE: Must provide map of plans and any other information required as necessary.

TRAFFIC CONTROL: _____ NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: _____
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: ☒ 2 Hours

SECURITY: _____ NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: _____
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: _____

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: _____ * 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

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.

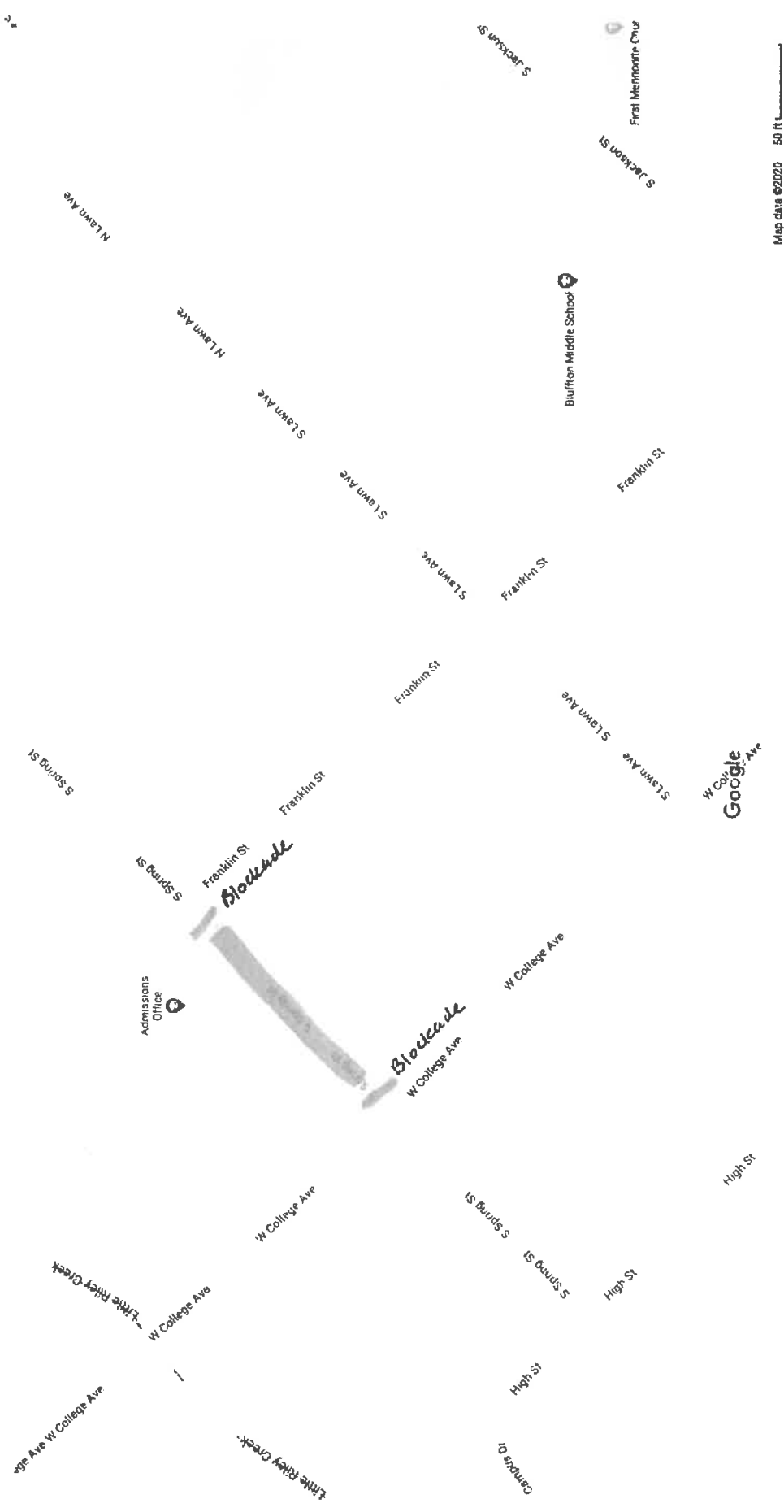
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE: 10/7/25

APPROVED

MAYOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

* Map of event location

Google Maps





VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON

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

APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENT NAME: <u>BLAZE OF LIGHTS</u>	DATE(S) OF EVENT: <u>NOVEMBER 29 2023</u>
APPLICANT: <u>Junior Weibranch Chamber</u>	CONTACT PERSON: <u>Junior Weibranch</u>
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: <u>20991 St Rt 68</u>	CONTACT'S PHONE: <u>419-889-4315</u>
E-MAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL): <u>Arlington, Ohio 45814</u>	
LOCATION OF EVENT: <u>Bluffton Main Street</u>	
TIME(S) FOR EVENT: <u>5:00 P.M. Parade</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: <u>Holiday Parade</u>	

SERVICES REQUESTED FROM VILLAGE:

TRAFFIC CONTROL: yes NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: Police Chief to lead Parade
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: 4:50 P.M.

SECURITY: yes NUMBER OF OFFICERS REQUESTED: ?
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: yes FIRE DEPT. SERVICES: yes

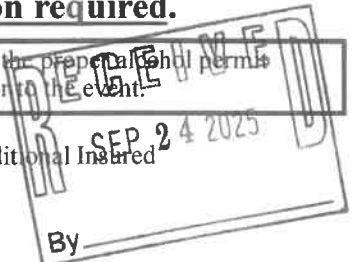
WATER SERVICE: _____ OTHER SERVICES: _____

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

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

EVENT'S INSURER: Chamber Event * 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: Junior Weibranch DATE: Sept 27-2023

APPROVED

MAYOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



Date: September 24, 2025

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

Reference: Police Department Monthly Report

POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

August

Police Calls for Service- 579

Police Chief Calls for Service- 34

Traffic Stops - 31

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

Criminal Damaging	-	1
Disorderly Conduct	-	2
Miscellaneous	-	3
No Operations	-	1
Telecommunications Harassment	-	1
Theft	-	1
Total	-	9



Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 09/24/2025 08:45
Login ID: rburkholder
Year: 2025

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	2	4.2	10	20.8	8	16.7	6	12.5	4	8.3	2	4.2	4	8.3	11	22.9	1	2.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	48
Accident w/Injuries	1	11.1	3	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Administrative	153	15.8	102	10.5	191	19.7	102	10.5	77	8.0	103	10.6	102	10.5	88	9.1	50	5.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	968
Aiding Other	12	12.5	7	7.3	7	7.3	9	9.4	12	12.5	13	13.5	13	13.5	14	14.6	9	9.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	96
Alarm	4	6.6	5	8.2	4	6.6	7	11.5	5	8.2	14	23.0	10	16.4	8	13.1	4	6.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	61
Animal Complaint	0	0.0	4	17.4	3	13.0	4	17.4	5	21.7	1	4.3	1	4.3	4	17.4	1	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23
Assist Police	8	11.1	11	15.3	9	12.5	5	6.9	6	8.3	6	8.3	12	16.7	9	12.5	6	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	72
B&E	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Child Abuse	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	1
Civil Complaint	0	0.0	2	9.5	3	14.3	3	14.3	0	0.0	1	4.8	5	23.8	5	23.8	2	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21
Criminal Damage	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	27.3	0	0.0	3	27.3	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
Deceased	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Domestic	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Escort	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	2	22.2	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Fight Complaint	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	0	0.0	2	28.6	1	14.3	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Fire	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
Follow Up	8	19.5	3	7.3	9	22.0	9	22.0	2	4.9	4	9.8	2	4.9	1	2.4	3	7.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	41
Forgery	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	1
Hazmat	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	60.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Hit Skip	1	20.0	3	60.0	1	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	5
House/Building	381	11.0	483	14.0	498	14.4	473	13.7	382	11.0	370	10.7	352	10.2	284	8.2	237	6.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3460
Intoxicated Driver	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Intoxicated 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	1
Investigate Vehicle	19	8.2	28	12.1	34	14.7	29	12.5	20	8.6	29	12.5	29	12.5	23	9.9	21	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	232
Lock Out	8	13.3	12	20.0	5	8.3	5	8.3	7	11.7	8	13.3	6	10.0	8	13.3	1	1.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	60
Menacing	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	1	14.3	2	28.6	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7



Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 09/24/2025 08:47
Login ID: rburkholder
Year: 2025

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
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Mentally Ill Person	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	15.4	2	15.4	2	15.4	0	0.0	2	15.4	1	7.7	3	23.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	13
Miscellaneous	48	10.1	62	13.0	45	9.4	61	12.8	67	14.0	56	11.7	49	10.3	61	12.8	28	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	477
Missing Adult	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	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	2
Missing Juvenile	0	0.0	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	1
Motorist Assist	9	22.0	5	12.2	2	4.9	3	7.3	1	2.4	4	9.8	4	9.8	10	24.4	3	7.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	41
Paper Service	4	19.0	3	14.3	2	9.5	2	9.5	1	4.8	2	9.5	5	23.8	1	4.8	1	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21
Pedestrian Stop	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	33.3	2	22.2	1	11.1	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Receiving/Recover	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Sexual Abuse	0	0.0	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	1
Shots Fired	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Special Detail	0	0.0	0	0.0	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	1
Stolen Vehicle	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
Suspicious Person	3	7.5	4	10.0	5	12.5	6	15.0	6	15.0	3	7.5	5	12.5	5	12.5	3	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	40
Telephone	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Theft	4	17.4	4	17.4	4	17.4	2	8.7	4	17.4	1	4.3	1	4.3	2	8.7	1	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23
Traffic Obstruction	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
Traffic Stop	40	10.7	52	13.9	64	17.2	30	8.0	31	8.3	59	15.8	45	12.1	31	8.3	21	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	373
Unruly Juvenile	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Unsecured Door	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	42.9	1	14.3	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Unwanted Guest	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	22.2	2	22.2	3	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Violating PTO	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	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Warrant Service	1	50.0	0	0.0	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	2
Total:	714	11.5	814	13.2	910	14.7	769	12.4	648	10.5	688	11.1	656	10.6	579	9.4	408	6.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6186



Incident Activity Report

Print Date/Time: 09/24/2025 08:50
Login ID: rburkholder
Layer: All
Areas: All

From Date: 08/01/2025 00:00
To Date: 08/31/2025 23:59

Bluffton Police Department
ORI Number: OH0020100
Incident Type: All

Hour	SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		TOTAL	
	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%	INCIDENTS	%
24	2	0.3	6	1.0	7	1.2	0	0.0	2	0.3	0	0.0	11	1.9	28	4.8
1	2	0.3	3	0.5	5	0.9	3	0.5	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	15	2.6
2	3	0.5	5	0.9	3	0.5	1	0.2	2	0.3	3	0.5	1	0.2	18	3.1
3	3	0.5	2	0.3	5	0.9	3	0.5	2	0.3	1	0.2	0	0.0	16	2.8
4	1	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.3	2	0.3	1	0.2	0	0.0	8	1.4
5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	3	0.5
6	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.3	1	0.2	5	0.9
7	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.5	2	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	1.2
8	2	0.3	3	0.5	3	0.5	14	2.4	5	0.9	2	0.3	5	0.9	34	5.9
9	1	0.2	6	1.0	6	1.0	7	1.2	6	1.0	4	0.7	10	1.7	40	6.9
10	3	0.5	6	1.0	5	0.9	3	0.5	1	0.2	10	1.7	4	0.7	32	5.5
11	2	0.3	5	0.9	4	0.7	0	0.0	3	0.5	9	1.6	3	0.5	26	4.5
12	5	0.9	4	0.7	2	0.3	2	0.3	1	0.2	8	1.4	5	0.9	27	4.7
13	5	0.9	5	0.9	1	0.2	6	1.0	3	0.5	5	0.9	3	0.5	28	4.8
14	7	1.2	2	0.3	11	1.9	6	1.0	4	0.7	13	2.2	4	0.7	47	8.1
15	1	0.2	1	0.2	6	1.0	5	0.9	4	0.7	5	0.9	6	1.0	28	4.8
16	0	0.0	4	0.7	8	1.4	5	0.9	2	0.3	6	1.0	2	0.3	27	4.7
17	4	0.7	2	0.3	10	1.7	7	1.2	3	0.5	7	1.2	3	0.5	36	6.2
18	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.3	3	0.5	2	0.3	6	1.0	14	2.4
19	2	0.3	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	0.3	0	0.0	6	1.0
20	3	0.5	6	1.0	4	0.7	5	0.9	3	0.5	4	0.7	6	1.0	31	5.4
21	7	1.2	5	0.9	6	1.0	6	1.0	5	0.9	3	0.5	12	2.1	44	7.6
22	8	1.4	1	0.2	7	1.2	6	1.0	1	0.2	6	1.0	8	1.4	37	6.4
23	5	0.9	4	0.7	4	0.7	0	0.0	3	0.5	2	0.3	4	0.7	22	3.8
Totals:	67	11.6	74	12.8	99	17.1	87	15.0	60	10.4	96	16.6	96	16.6	579	100.00



Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 09/24/2025 08:49
Login ID: rburkholder
Statute: All

From Date: 08/01/2025
To Date: 09/30/2025
Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department
ORI Number: OH0020100

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Totals
Criminal													
2917.11A2e DISORDERLY CONDUCT-OFFENSIVE GESTURE OR NOISE (Persistent M4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Criminal Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warning													
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	7
4511.43A Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
4513.05A 1 TAIL LIGHT REQ./ LIC. PLATE LIGHT REQ.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4511.112A FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
70.30(A)(1) Fail to Obey Traffic Control Device	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4511.39A Directional Signals Required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warning Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	11	0	0	0	18
Traffic													
4511.204A Distracted Driving (mobile device)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.34 Following Too Closely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	12
4513.241C WINDOW TINT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
4511.12A FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
4511.21A SPEED/ACDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Traffic Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	10	0	0	0	30
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	21	0	0	0	49



Date: October 1st, 2025

To: Mayor Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

Reference: Police Department Monthly Report

POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY

September 2025

Police Calls for Service- 580

Police Chief Calls for Service- 52

Traffic Stops - 28

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

Deceased Person	-	1
Miscellaneous	-	2
Juvenile Offense	-	1
Violation of Protection Order	-	1
Total	-	6



Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 10/01/2025 12:17
Login ID: rburkholder
Year: 2025

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	2	3.9	10	19.6	8	15.7	6	11.8	4	7.8	2	3.9	4	7.8	11	21.6	4	7.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	51
Accident w/Injuries	1	9.1	3	27.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	3	27.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
Administrative	153	14.9	102	9.9	191	18.6	102	9.9	77	7.5	103	10.0	102	9.9	88	8.6	110	10.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1028
Aiding Other	12	12.4	7	7.2	7	7.2	9	9.3	12	12.4	13	13.4	13	13.4	14	14.4	10	10.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	97
Alarm	4	6.3	5	7.9	4	6.3	7	11.1	5	7.9	14	22.2	10	15.9	8	12.7	6	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	63
Animal Complaint	0	0.0	4	17.4	3	13.0	4	17.4	5	21.7	1	4.3	1	4.3	4	17.4	1	4.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23
Assist Police	8	11.1	11	15.3	9	12.5	5	6.9	6	8.3	6	8.3	12	16.7	9	12.5	6	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	72
B&E	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Child Abuse	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	1
Civil Complaint	0	0.0	2	9.5	3	14.3	3	14.3	0	0.0	1	4.8	5	23.8	5	23.8	2	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21
Criminal Damage	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	27.3	0	0.0	3	27.3	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
Deceased	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Domestic	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Escort	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	2	22.2	1	11.1	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Fight Complaint	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	0	0.0	2	28.6	1	14.3	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Fire	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
Follow Up	8	18.6	3	7.0	9	20.9	9	20.9	2	4.7	4	9.3	2	4.7	1	2.3	5	11.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	43
Forgery	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	1
Hazmat	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	60.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Hit Skip	1	20.0	3	60.0	1	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	5
House/Building	381	10.8	483	13.7	498	14.1	473	13.4	382	10.8	370	10.5	352	10.0	284	8.0	306	8.7	6	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3535
Intoxicated Driver	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Intoxicated Person	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Investigate Vehicle	19	8.1	28	11.9	34	14.4	29	12.3	20	8.5	29	12.3	29	12.3	23	9.7	25	10.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	236
Lock Out	8	12.7	12	19.0	5	7.9	5	7.9	7	11.1	8	12.7	6	9.5	8	12.7	4	6.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	63
Menacing	0	0.0	1	14.3	1	14.3	1	14.3	2	28.6	1	14.3	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7



Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 10/01/2025 12:17
Login ID: rburkholder
Year: 2025

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
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Mentally Ill Person	0	0.0	1	7.7	2	15.4	2	15.4	2	15.4	0	0.0	2	15.4	1	7.7	3	23.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	13
Miscellaneous	48	9.8	62	12.7	45	9.2	61	12.5	67	13.7	56	11.5	49	10.0	61	12.5	38	7.8	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	488
Missing Adult	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	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	2
Missing Juvenile	0	0.0	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	1
Motorist Assist	9	21.4	5	11.9	2	4.8	3	7.1	1	2.4	4	9.5	4	9.5	10	23.8	4	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	42
Paper Service	4	16.7	3	12.5	2	8.3	2	8.3	1	4.2	2	8.3	5	20.8	1	4.2	4	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	24
Pedestrian Stop	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	33.3	2	22.2	1	11.1	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Receiving/Recover	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Sexual Abuse	0	0.0	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	1
Shots Fired	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Special Detail	0	0.0	0	0.0	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	1
Stolen Vehicle	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
Suspicious Person	3	7.0	4	9.3	5	11.6	6	14.0	6	14.0	3	7.0	5	11.6	5	11.6	6	14.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	43
Telephone	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Theft	4	16.7	4	16.7	4	16.7	2	8.3	4	16.7	1	4.2	1	4.2	2	8.3	2	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	24
Traffic Obstruction	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
Traffic Stop	40	10.5	52	13.7	64	16.8	30	7.9	31	8.2	59	15.5	45	11.8	34	8.2	28	7.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	380
Unnuly Juvenile	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Unsecured Door	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	42.9	1	14.3	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Unwanted Guest	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	22.2	2	22.2	3	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Violating PTO	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	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Warrant Service	1	50.0	0	0.0	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	2
Total:	714	11.2	814	12.8	910	14.3	769	12.1	648	10.2	688	10.8	656	10.3	579	9.1	580	9.1	7	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	6365



Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 10/01/2025 12:13
Login ID: rburkholder
Statute: All

From Date: 09/01/2025
To Date: 09/30/2025
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
4511.43A Failure to Yield - Stop Sign	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
4513.05A 1 TAIL LIGHT REQ./ LIC. PLATE LIGHT REQ.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.12A FAILURE TO OBEY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Warning Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	13
Traffic													
4511.204A Distracted Driving (mobile device)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4511.21B6 Speed 50 MPH (also 45 MPH)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
4511.44(A) Failure to Yield the Right of Way - Any Other Place (Driveways)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4503.11A Expired License Plates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Traffic Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	28

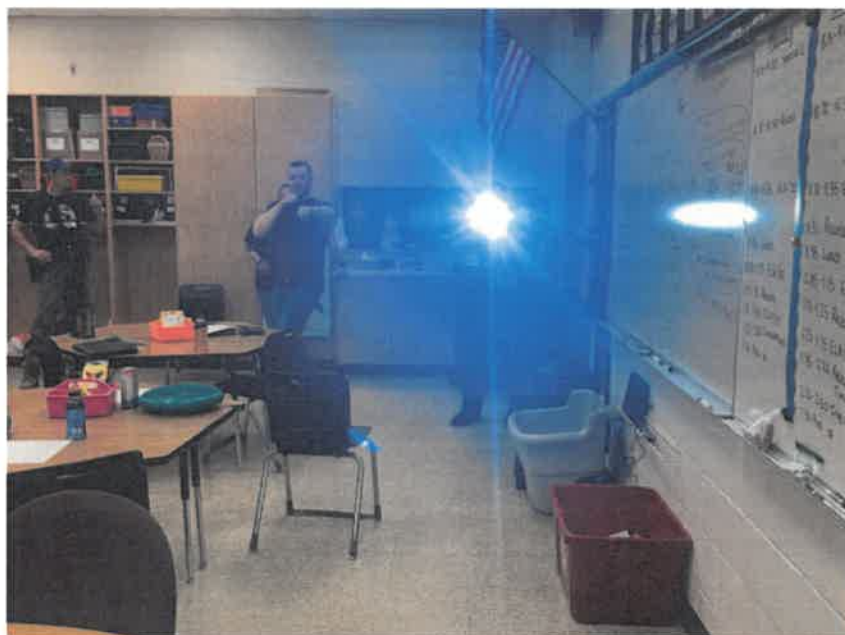
2025 JACOMET' S MARTIAL ARTS



BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT - SUBJECT CONTROL
TRAINING

SCHOOL RESPONSE TRAINING

2025





Collaborative
Community-Police
Advisory Board

OHIO COLLABORATIVE
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

Provisional Certification

Bluffton Police Department

Body Worn Camera

*has been deemed provisionally compliant with the above standards as established by the Ohio
Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board*

October 01, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Dehner".

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director



OHIO COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CERTIFICATION

October 01, 2025

Chief Ryan Burkholder
Bluffton Police Department
154 North Main Street,
Bluffton, OH - 45817

Congratulations on achieving provisional certification status with the Ohio Collaborative BWC GRANT (Body Worn Camera) standards. Attached you will find your provisional certificate to serve as a reminder of your agency's commitment to law enforcement and your community.

We would like to obtain your feedback on your experience with the certification process. At your convenience, please complete the survey, found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SelfCertificationsurvey>

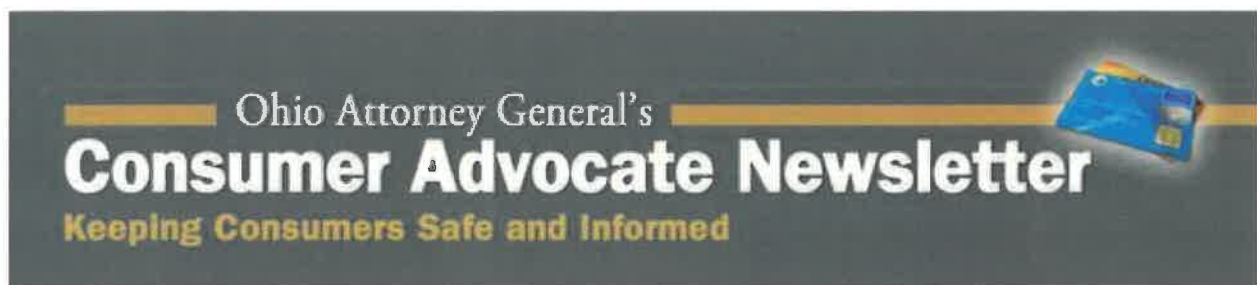
In the future, you can expect an on-site assessment and review with an assessor, who will cover the standards noted above, as well as future standards with which your agency has come into compliance.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Director Ed Burkhammer at (614)466-5996. Your participation in the Ohio Collaborative law enforcement agency certification process is appreciated.

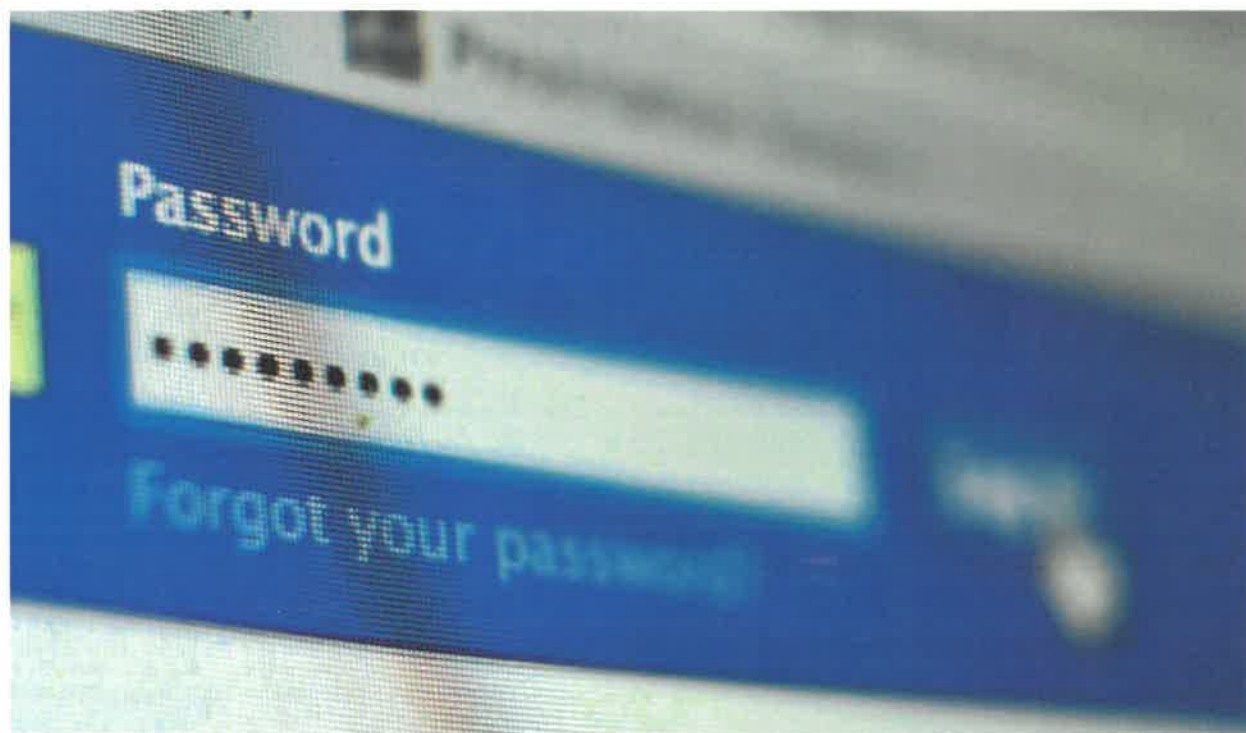
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicole Dehner".

Nicole Dehner, Executive Director
Office of Criminal Justice Services



October 2025



Passphrases, passkeys and password managers enhance cybersecurity

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office proudly supports this annual awareness effort by promoting the "Core 4" steps to improved security in cyberspace:

- **Use strong passwords and a password manager.** Long, unique and randomly generated passwords are much harder for cybercriminals to crack. A password manager helps you securely store these unique passwords for all your accounts, many times across multiple devices.
- **Turn on multifactor authentication (MFA).** MFA adds a layer of security beyond a password only – such as a code sent to your phone or a fingerprint scan. It protects your account even if your password is stolen.
- **Recognize and report phishing.** Be cautious of unsolicited messages or links that attempt to steal your information. Knowing the common signs of phishing helps you identify such scams; reporting the scam helps protect you and others.
- **Update your software.** Regularly install software updates for your operating systems, browsers, and apps to ensure that your devices have the most up-to-date security.

Safety in cyberspace demands strong passwords – at least 16 characters, including uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters (such as #, !, : or @).

Strong passwords help to prevent unauthorized access, guard against cyber-attacks and enhance overall online security. Although reusing passwords across multiple accounts can make them easier to remember, the practice is discouraged because if one of those accounts is compromised, all accounts using that password could be compromised.

A newer tool in password maintenance and security is a password manager using passphrases as passwords and passkeys. Password managers offer numerous benefits. They enable the creation and use of strong, unique passwords for each account. Password managers also streamline the login process with autofill features. A final benefit: A password manager allows passwords to be shared and remembered across devices – such as your phone and your computer.

Passphrases are longer alternatives to traditional passwords. They typically consist of a sequence of multiple words, making them easier to remember while still providing strong protection against hacking attempts. Because passphrases utilize a phrase developed by the user, they are generally easier to remember. An example of a passphrase: *I like to read books and pet cats*. As the password, this phrase could be entered as: *Ilike2ReadB00ks&petcat\$*

When using passphrases, be sure to:

- Avoid using famous quotes.
- Avoid personal information.
- Vary the capitalization of letters and add special characters.
- Avoid the same passphrase for multiple accounts.

Using passkeys is a new way to protect your security with your online accounts. Passkey examples include using your fingerprint or face scan to log in to your account through your own smartphone instead of typing a password. A passkey requires a bit of work upfront. After the initial setup, the passkey uses either facial recognition or fingerprint, eliminating the need to remember a password for that account.

- Register passkey on device: When you create a passkey, your device generates a unique, encrypted pair of cryptographic keys – a public key and a private key. The public key is sent to the website you're signing up for; the private key remains securely on your device.
- Log in to account: When you try to log in, you're prompted to authenticate using a local method, such as a fingerprint, facial recognition, or a device PIN.
- Verify: After the first login, you may be asked to verify your account by a code sent via text message or email.

For more information about passwords and related issues, visit the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency](#).

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

‘Account takeovers’ pose a growing threat

Cybercriminals use various tactics to gain access to your personal and financial accounts, often with the goal of stealing money or personal information. Often, they gain your login credentials and change your password to lock you out – a crime known as an “account takeover.” Being aware of this type of crime may keep you from becoming a victim.

Account takeovers allow criminals to gain complete access to an account. From there, they can transfer money to themselves, redirect payroll deposits, or pretend to be that person on social media.

For victims, account takeovers can lead to significant financial losses and a loss of personal information, which can lead to identity theft. When account takeovers happen on social media, the scammer – pretending to be the victim – may try to get “friends” or connections to send money or disclose other information.

According to the [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#), criminals that seek access to your personal and financial accounts can achieve their goals using several methods:

- Taking advantage of a consumer’s weak passwords and/or the lack of two-factor authentication. Multifactor authentication (MFA) is a security enhancement that requires you to present two pieces of evidence to log in to an account. Beyond just something you know (such as your password), you generally must also demonstrate something you have (such as a phone) or who you are (such as a fingerprint or face scan).
- Phishing for personal information using a legitimate-looking email to trick consumers into disclosing login credentials. Scammers also use bogus websites that may appear to be a consumer’s online bank portal or payroll website.
- Deploying social engineering tactics by pretending to be an employee of a consumer’s bank, customer service representative from a company they do business with, or a tech-support or computer-repair professional.
- Obtaining data breach information available on the dark web to gain a consumer’s login credentials.
- Installing malware (malicious software) on a consumer’s device. Consumers can unknowingly download malware by clicking on suspicious links and pop-up advertisements or by opening suspicious email attachments. There are many types of malware, including viruses, adware, ransomware, and spyware. This malware could infect a computer, spread to other computers, show consumers unwanted advertisements, lock up their device, and even capture personal information stored on their device.

Experts at [IC3.gov](#) recommend the following tips to prevent account takeover fraud:

- Be mindful of the information you share online, especially on social media platforms. Through oversharing, consumers might be helping scammers to guess their passwords or the answers to password-reset security questions.
- Keep a close tab on your financial accounts, including bank, investment and credit card accounts. Examine these resources for potential problems, such as a missing deposit or an unauthorized withdrawal.
- Be sure to use unique, complex passwords or hard-to-guess passwords for each account, and make sure that two-factor authentication is enabled on accounts that allow this extra security mechanism.

- Maintain links to your favorite account websites to avoid visiting fraudulent login pages. Fraudulent logins may be found when using internet search results or advertisements to help connect to your accounts.
- Guard against impostor bank employees, customer-service reps, and tech-support professionals. Remember that scammers can spoof the caller ID information you see on your phone using readily available technology. Rarely do legitimate companies contact consumers out of the blue to request their login/password or one-time security/access code.

In addition, be vigilant and never allow a stranger “remote access” to any of your devices. Some scammers try to gain access to your account by posing as technical-support companies and try to persuade you to let them “fix” your computer by accessing it remotely through special software and/or websites. Once access is gained, however, the scammer may install malware or hold the computer hostage until you send money to regain control.

For more information, including what to do if you’re a victim of account takeover fraud, [click here](#).

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.

Buying a new car or truck? Pre-purchase tips, consumer laws are here for you

Before visiting a dealership, here are some pre-purchase tips for Ohioans looking to buy their next new vehicle:

- Research any vehicles you’re considering – to narrow down the models you’re most interested in, the features you want on the vehicle, optional features you would like, and the price you’re willing to spend. You may want to consult recommendations and new-car comparisons in consumer magazines and/or auto magazines.
- Allow enough time to make a well-informed buying decision. Compare prices at different dealerships and invest time with each salesperson.
- Know your credit score, which often dictates the financing terms available to you if you take out a car loan. You can check your credit reports free at www.AnnualCreditReport.com. Although the site won’t provide your exact credit score, it will give you a sense of what credit you have opened in your name. Also, keep an eye out for accounts you don’t recognize. Some credit card companies put a version of your credit score on monthly statements to lend insight into your credit-worthiness.
- If you have frozen your credit reports at the three major credit-reporting bureaus, you will need to temporarily unfreeze it at whichever bureau will be used to run your credit. Once your bank and/or dealership are finished, you can then re-freeze that credit report at that bureau.
- Compare the interest rate of local banks and credit unions along with financing options available through dealerships.
- Dealerships offer many consumers additional product and service options, including extended service contracts, undercoat protection and dealer-installed alarms. Such add-on purchases are not required to buy the new vehicle.
- If you plan to trade in a vehicle, know its general value based on guides such as Edmunds (www.edmunds.com) and Kelley Blue Book (www.kbb.com) before negotiating the trade-in value.

Every financed vehicle sale must include a Truth in Lending Act disclosure box. This box explains to the consumer the true cost of financing the vehicle, including the interest rate, down-payment amount, purchase price, cost of interest payments, and overall cost of the vehicle (with interest and principal payments). Consumers should carefully review this information before completing the sale.

New-car buyers should be aware that [Ohio's Lemon Law](#) generally covers new vehicles within the first 12 months or 18,000 miles, whichever comes first. A "lemon" is a new vehicle that has one or more problems, covered by the warranty, that substantially impair the use, value or safety of the vehicle. Under the Lemon Law, the auto manufacturer must be given a reasonable opportunity to fix the problem; if the problem is not corrected, the consumer might be eligible for a refund or a replacement.

For more information on Ohio's Lemon Law, including the process to exercise your consumer rights under this law, [click here](#).

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.

Job hunters: Beware of opportunities that seem too good to be true

Many job scams promise high pay for little work, but instead of delivering income, they often result in fraudsters obtaining your personal information or access to your financial accounts. These scams may be presented as advertisements on social media, email messages or text messages.

A common tactic involves fake checks. Scammers send a check to supposedly cover equipment costs, such as a new computer or software. They instruct you to deposit the check into your bank account and then use a money-transfer service, gift card, or prepaid money card to send the same amount to a "vendor." The check inevitably bounces, however, which means the money you sent to the fake vendor comes out of your pocket.

Before applying for any job posting, research the company thoroughly. Some red flags to watch out for:

- The posting includes a vague job description and claims that you can make hundreds or thousands of dollars doing very little work.
- Communication from "company representatives" comes from free or personal email accounts, such as those from gmail.com, yahoo.com, hotmail.com or aol.com.
- You're hired without ever meeting anyone in person.
- The company doesn't have a website.
- You receive a check before any work is performed.
- You're asked to wire-transfer money or purchase prepaid money cards.

Common scams include task-based scams, mystery shopper scams, and offers for high-paying data-entry jobs, often requiring you to pay upfront fees or share banking information.

Forbes lists the following as the top job scams to beware of in 2025:

Remote Work Opportunity Scams

This scam begins with the promise of a work-from-home job that requires little effort, with the posting appearing alongside legitimate job postings. The biggest red flag is compensation that is greatly outsized compared with the effort and skill required for the work. Some offers may be described as updating data or increasing visibility for the company, for example, with compensation listed at \$100 to \$500 a day.

Reshipping Job Scams

These job scams recruit individuals to receive packages at their home, repackage them and ship them to a destination. The packages received are often purchased with stolen credit cards. Receiving items purchased with stolen money shifts the individual from an "employee" to a reshipper. Victims don't realize that they're participating in criminal activity by receiving and distributing the items. In addition to possibly facing criminal charges, victims are unlikely to ever be compensated for packaging and shipping the items.

Bogus Employment Agency Scams

Bogus employment agencies appear to be legitimate, offering resume enhancement, interview coaching and/or direct access to upper management at the hiring agency. After collecting payment, the fake agencies either disappear or continue stringing victims along with a series of additional fees for premium services.

Consumers who need help resolving a complaint against a business or 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.