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## 3 seats open on Delaware City Schools BOE

Gazette Staff

Five candidates are on the Nov. 7 ballot for the Delaware City School District board of education election.

Incumbents Jayna McDaniel-Browning and Frances O'Flaherty face opposition from three challengers — write-in candidate Mark H. Butler, Deborah Kruse Guebert, and Michael J. Wiener. Voters will elect three members to the school board.

Current board president Deborah Rafeld is not seeking reelection.

### Mark H. Butler

Butler said the DCS board is in need of cultural/racial diversity. "I am the only candidate that can make that change," Butler said. "I have experience working in public schools as a juvenile probation officer, resource officer, substitute teacher as well as a performing teaching/artist in residence for private and public schools."

Butler said he has been an active community participant in DCS board meetings.

Butler said the most pressing issue facing the district is recruiting more racially and culturally diverse applicants for DCS employment opportunities, closing the academic gap between students, improving community partnerships, and more diversion programs for challenging youth

"My plan in addressing these



Butler



Guebert



McDaniel-Browning



O'Flaherty



Wiener

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## Court orders Liberty Township to release attorney's notes

By D. Anthony Botkin  
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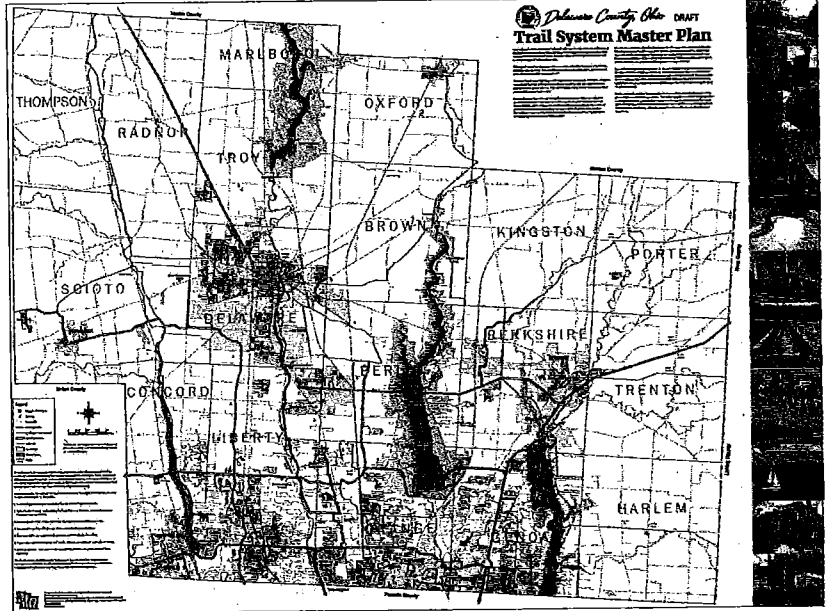
The Ohio Court of Claims is ordering Liberty Township officials to release notes compiled by an attorney the township hired in 2016 to conduct an investigation.

The order is the result of a motion filed

by the township's former cable public records exceptions, to requesters' service address on or before November 3, 2017," Judge Patrick M. McGrath wrote in his order.

Douglas Duckett, a Cincinnati attorney, was hired by trustees in March 2016 to investigate the conduct of the township's former

# Hitting the trail



Delaware County Trails Committee draft Trail System Master Plan. The county will host an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at Willis Education Center to allow residents to offer feedback about the plan.

## County seeks public input on trail system

By D. Anthony Botkin  
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The Delaware County Trails Committee is seeking input from local residents regarding the countywide, multi-use trail plan.

The committee has scheduled a public open house for Thursday, Nov. 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Willis Education Center, 74 W. William Street, Delaware.

Economic Development Coordinator Jenna Jackson said in an earlier report by The Gazette, that during a majority of the meetings with stake-

holders for the county's economic plan last year, residents talked about having a countywide trail system that would connect communities.

"That's what kind of got us thinking about this," she said. "After meeting with a lot of the jurisdictions, I think they've been pretty happy with someone looking at this because it can help them with grants since it's part of a mutual trail system."

The committee was created in August 2016 by the Delaware County Board of Commissioners. The committee includes

county residents, representatives from Delaware County Economic Development, the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission, the Delaware County Engineer's Office, the Delaware General Health District, Preservation Parks, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

Commissioners have charged the committee with three objectives: creating a conceptual multi-use trail plan, helping local jurisdictions identify funding sources, and developing trails in conjunction with regional

plans. Since the committee was formed, it has researched, held meetings with officials from Delaware County's cities, villages, and townships throughout the process, prepared a plan that includes area maps of existing and needed trails, as well as the potential funding options for commissioners to approve.

The committee will have maps and draft copies of the plan for the public to view and to leave comments.

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## Energy-saving initiatives

## Home healthcare

# , a creepy astronomical holiday

equinoxes. Summer and winter solstices are days when the sun spends the most time above the horizon and the least time below. The longest and shortest days of the year occur on the summer and winter solstices, respectively. The longest day of the year is the summer solstice, which occurs on or near June 21, and the shortest day is the winter solstice, which occurs on or near December 21. We mark the beginning of summer and winter on those dates. The fact that the seasons seem well out of sync is strange, but it is a fact that on the equinoxes, the day and night are of equal length. The spring equinox occurs on or near March 21, the autumnal equinox on or near September 21. "Equinox" means "equal night," and the spring and fall equinoxes occur almost exactly halfway between the summer and winter solstices. The spring equinox is the day when the sun is high in the south for the first time of the year. On those days, the sun is high in the south for the first time of the year. On those days, the sun is high in the south for the first time of the year. On those days, the sun is high in the south for the first time of the year.



**Stargazing**

Tom Burns

Europe, Britain, and Ireland.

The Celts recognized two seasons, the light and the dark. They chose cross-quarter days as the beginnings of the seasons.

On or near October 31, a

cross-quarter day, they observed the transition from the light part of the year to the dark with a festival called Samhain (pronounced SOW-in), which means "summer's end." Samhain, which is roughly equivalent to our New Year's Eve, marked the final harvest of the year and the beginning of winter.

Samhain thus represented one of two seasonal "seams," cracks in space and time when the supernatural world could slip into our world.

The Celts looked to the sky to mark the date. Around midnight, look high in the south for the constellation, Taurus, the Bull. A tiny cluster of six stars called the Pleiades forms its shoulder. The Celts considered the Pleiades a portal between the two worlds. When this group of stars was high in the sky at midnight and the moon was full, it was time to celebrate Samhain.

It was a fearful time. On Samhain, the spirits of the dead flooded through the Pleiades to create havoc and damage crops. People would

wear disguises to try to hide themselves from the dead. They left their doors open so that the spirits of their dead relatives could visit them.

The dead were fished by their long burial. Apples were buried along roadsides to provide food for spirits without living relatives. People went from door to door asking for contributions of food from their neighbors.

The Celtic priests, called Druids, built large sacred bonfires. People gathered to burn crops and sacrifice animals to the Celtic gods.

Many of the Samhain practices survive in our celebration of Halloween. It took several more centuries for the holiday to get its current name as a result of actions taken first by the Romans and then the Roman Catholic Church over the centuries.

By 43 AD the Roman Empire had conquered most of the Celtic territory. The Romans have the reputation for conquest, but their greatest skill was incorporating aspects of non-Roman culture into their own to encourage assimilation.

Two Roman festivals come to mind. The first was Feralia, a day late in October where Romans marked the passing of the dead. The second was Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruits and trees. The symbol for Pomona is an apple. We still bob

for apples on Halloween to this day.

By the seventh century CE, Christianity was firmly in control of the Roman world, but some of the old pagan practices held on. Thus, on May 13, 609, Pope Boniface IV created the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day at the Pantheon in Rome. Catholicism now had its festival of the dead, at least some of them anyway.

By the ninth century, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, where it gradually blended again with the older Celtic rites, which could not be exterminated entirely. In 835, Pope Gregory III expanded All Martyrs Day to include all the saints, martyred and unmartyred, and moved the observance from May 13 to November 1 to replace Samhain.

The Church still needed its own festival of the dead to replace the old Celtic festival. In 1000 CE, All Souls' Day was born. Significantly, it occurs the day after — and not the day before — All Saint's Day.

It was, of course, another vain attempt. Our dread-filled love of the night is built into our genetic code. A thousand years later, apples are still bobbed, and tiny ghosts and goblins still pleasantly haunt our neighborhoods.

Tom Burns is director of the Perkins Observatory in Delaware.

## Trail

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For more information, the drafted master plan and maps can be viewed by using the following links:

Master Plan Document — [http://www.dcrpc.org/CURRENT\\_EVENTS/news\\_files/Parks%20and%20Trails%20-%20MASTER.pdf](http://www.dcrpc.org/CURRENT_EVENTS/news_files/Parks%20and%20Trails%20-%20MASTER.pdf)

Trail Poster Map — [http://www.dcrpc.org/CURRENT\\_EVENTS/news\\_files/MUT%20Poster%20Map%20-%2008-29.pdf](http://www.dcrpc.org/CURRENT_EVENTS/news_files/MUT%20Poster%20Map%20-%2008-29.pdf)

Online Map — <http://arcg.is/0qK1uj>

The open house will be held immediately following the Partnership for Healthy Delaware County meeting, also held at the Willis Education Center.

## Indicted

From page 1

each of the fourth-degree felony charges; and up to a year in prison for each of the fifth-degree felony charges.

Prosecutors have asked the clerk of courts to issue Burns a summons to appear for her arraignment. Burns has not been arrested.

Contact Glenn Battishill at 740-413-0903 or on Twitter @BattishillDG.