

Experience Butler County Ohio!

By Cindy Ladage

Butler County is not far from Columbus, Ohio. Hamilton is the County seat, and this County is filled with lots of cool things to see and do. At the end of August, my friend Sara Broers and I headed to Butler County after a whirlwind trip to the Lake Erie Islands. The Butler County Ohio Visitor's Bureau invited Sara and me to experience several aspects of the County and to share them with our readers. You may want to try some of the fun places where we stopped. Fall or spring would be the perfect time for a Butler County Getaway!

Lodging

While in Butler County, we stayed at the Courtyard by Marriott which was right near the Miami River. It was a wonderful location in the center of the county. The hotel offers breakfast and is clean and lovely. While we were there, a river festival was taking place, and one night we walked over and enjoyed a bit of music.

Barn-N-Bunk Farm Market

Our first stop while traveling in Butler County was in Trenton, Ohio. There we visited Barn-N-Bunk Farm Market. Owned by Tom and Bev Theobald, this

former farm property has been converted into a farm gift and produce market. When you first drive in, there are two silos with antique tractors on them. When I asked Tom if he had any antique tractors, we were off and running. The farm market is in a restored barn with another restored barn serving as an event center. You can find gifts, produce, and more at this fun place where neat events are always taking place. Amanda, who set up our agenda, found lots of treasures and a wide variety of things to see and do. After leaving Barn-N-Bunk farm, we made the first of several stops on the only Donut Trail in the Midwest!

Butler County Donut Trail

Each year, visitors come to Butler County just to take part in the only Donut Trail in the Midwest. The trail features twelve family-owned businesses with a combined 372 years of experience! Since the trail began in 2016, more than 17,400 people have visited the trail, including people from twenty one different counties and all fifty states! While we knew we couldn't make it to all twelve of the donut stops, we did manage to make it to three of them during our visit! There is a passport that you can take to

each location. You have a staff member fill them in with an official Donut Trail stamp, then after they are all completed, send it off to receive an awesome Donut Trail T-shirt. Our first stop was at Jupiter Coffee & Donuts in Fairfield, Ohio. Here we saw the marvelous selection of donuts and had fun taking pictures in front of the Donut Trail sign. Sara and I were able to walk away with a selection of donuts. For me a chocolate with peanut butter was the winner while Sara had to try a new Pop tart pastry! Blaik, the baker, said that the cream filled donuts are his favorite, and the Pop tart donuts were the hardest to make!

Our next donut stop was the next day at Ross Bakery and Kelly's Bakery in Hamilton, Ohio, where Matt and Lisa loaded us up. It was so impressive to see the wonderful pastries offered and the quality of the donuts. This is such a fun trail to be part of. If you are in Butler County, Ohio, jump on the donut trail. You'll be glad you did and don't count the calories

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There are lots of things to look at in Jungle Jim's International Market.



These silos greet you at Barn-N-Bunk Farm Market.



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... I didn't.

Jungle Jim's International Market

When I learned that Amanda was sending us to check out a market, I was skeptical. I thought surely if you had seen one market, you've seen them all. When I got there and saw an elephant statue shooting water from its trunk and a giant giraffe statue, I changed my mind. All I could think during most of our walkthrough was "My grandkids would love this." From the big corn cob to the swinging Campbell's soup can and the display of The Big Cheese weighing 762 pounds, there is something visual everywhere you look. The store is not just cheesy though it is filled with foods from all over the world. There is also a cooking school, a cigar tasting event, and much more!

Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum

Sara and my favorite stop of the trip was the outdoor art museum. We rode around on an "art cart" and saw over 80 pieces of sculpture art set on 300 acres. The art is displayed in rolling hills, meadows, lakes, and hiking trails. The art cart allows visitors to get up close to get a good view of the art. It is

quite an experience to see the various types of art. There is everything from sculptures of metal, people sculptures, animal forms, and even a cool bench. It is really like driving around a beautiful rolling golf course with art strategically placed! Besides the art, there is also an Ancient Art Museum containing a collection of ancient art belonging to the park founder Harry T. Wilks.

Liberty Center

Sara and I walked around the Liberty Center where several stores, pubs, and diners were open into the evening; but what was impressive to me was the beautiful art and open space for families to enjoy it. We found an amazing railway, the Liberty Center Express set up for kids to enjoy. There were stairs painted with artwork and even a cool garden with a sphere within called the Dark Planet. Another favorite was the Chalice, a water feature with a functional sundial where water swirls over the rim and rotates down! There was art everywhere, and we even found a painting of balloons titled "What Lifts You" by renowned artist Kelsey Montague. On the outskirts of town is the lovely Hanover Winery, home to

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These donuts from Jupiter Bakery were yummy!



Some of the great offerings at Barn-N-Bunk.



Beth McDonald at Hanover Winery's tasting room.



Great food from Jolly's Drive-In.



Matt at Ross's Bakery showed off some of his best donuts!

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A Vision: Villas Total Rehab



**Submitted by Tia Schoen
The Villas Senior Care
Community**

Father Peter Mascari had a vision, a concern for seniors in the twilight years of their lives for a dignified place to stay and receive quality care. Father Mascari started out with apartments in 1981 and expanded to include assisted lifestyle and skilled care. Today, The Villas Senior Care Community is bigger & better than ever. They have their very own short term rehab services, known as Villas Total Rehab. They also offer outpatient physical therapy services by Springfield Clinic Rehabilitation Services, at the same location.

Community Relations Coordinator Tia Schoen explained that the goal for a patient coming to recuperate at The Villas Total Rehab is to get them back to their prior level of functioning. "We offer physical, speech & occupational therapy administered by state licensed professionals, under the supervision of Dr. Gill, our Medical Director. We also have an exclusive partnership with Prairie Heart doctor, Roberto Pacheco, MD as our cardiac consultant. The experts at Prairie will ensure best medical practices and post-procedure protocols specific to your cardiac procedure."

"We have a total of 22 deluxe private suites along with two inpatient and one outpatient gym," Schoen said. "The newest

inpatient gym is lovely with a vaulted ceiling and wood beams. It's beautiful & contains the very finest in rehab equipment & services, with a kitchen complete with washer & dryer, to help with occupational therapies. Springfield Clinic's space in the VTR section features an open gym area with two private treatment rooms for their patients. Springfield Clinic Rehabilitation Services occupies approximately 10% of the Villas Total Rehab facility and will welcome any patient with a physician's orders for physical therapy."

Springfield Clinic sees a lot of patients from the northern section of Springfield & surrounding communities. The location at The Villas will offer greater access and convenience for these patients, especially students who may be recovering from athletic injuries.

Springfield Clinic at The Villas will be open for patient care between 7 am and 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday and open 7 am - 5 pm on Friday. Appointments for physical therapy can be scheduled by calling Springfield Clinic at 217-528-7541.

Springfield Clinic Sherman, a satellite office that features primary care and Prompt Care services, is located immediately west, across Business I-55 from The Villas. The proximity to additional medical services makes it a convenient partnership for both entities.

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A Vision

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Rick Edwards, President of The Villas Board, explained that when Villas Total Rehab opened in 2017 the reason behind adding the new wing was to be able to better serve the needs of both the residents and medical professionals in the Springfield area. "We want to provide the highest level of services possible and this will offer residents in the north part of Springfield and Sangamon County someplace close. With adequate inpatient and outpatient therapy, patients will be better equipped to return home after surgery or medical treatment requiring assistance."

Patients who come for inpatient therapy treatment will be there for a short-term stay. While there is no distinct definition, short term stays usually are anywhere from three days to around twenty. This is a great option for those recovering from hip, knee and/or shoulder replacements and any variety of cardiac and other rehabilitation therapy that can ease their time before heading back home.

Quality care for their patients has always been the goal of The Villas Senior

Care Community from the outset. Sharon Reynolds, Administrator of The Villas, said, "Our discharge surveys show that patients return any time they need in-house therapy over and over again because of The Villas stellar reputation." The Villas is a nonprofit, non-denominational home. "We have repeat rehab patients," Sharon said. "We get to know you and your family. We are the Gold Standard in senior care".

The beauty of the Villas offering independent living, assisted lifestyle living, and skilled nursing is that they offer a continuum of care and can move from one community to the next when the need arises. There is comfort in knowing that the same staff and staying in the same place leads to a happy secure transition. While the Villas Total Rehab facility assists those returning home, the Senior Care Community is there, should a patient decide they want quality retirement living.

For those with therapy needs in the near future, keep the beautiful Villas Total Rehab in mind, whether you are thinking in-patient therapy or outpatient therapy. Call Tia Schoen 217-744-2299 for more information.



Art at Liberty Center in Butler County.



Ohio Star by Joel Perlman is another sculpture at the Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park

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Butler County's only winery. Eddie and Beth McDonald established the winery in 2009 and have expanded as they have grown. Sara and I loved the quiet atmosphere and lovely tasting room. We had a chance to meet the two lovely dogs who greet visitors. A lovely place with nice wine!

There were several fun places where we dined during our Butler County stay. One was Jolly's Drive-In, a fun hamburger stand started by the Jolivette family and now carried on in their family tradition. With a burger, shared fries, onion rings, and a frosted mug of root beer, it doesn't get better than that!

Supper one evening was at

the very hip Northstar Café in the busy Liberty Township area. This shopping area was up and coming, and the café was quite lovely with a wooden ceiling and long tables. There was a bar offering cocktails and seating for families as well. Sara and I split chips and some cool dips and split a pulled pork sandwich with a slaw. The pulled pork had a slaw topping and was quite tasty. There were several historic sites which were near the hotel that looked like they would be lovely to delve into during a future visit. For more information about Butler County, check out the Visitor's Bureau website at <https://www.gettothebc.com>.



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