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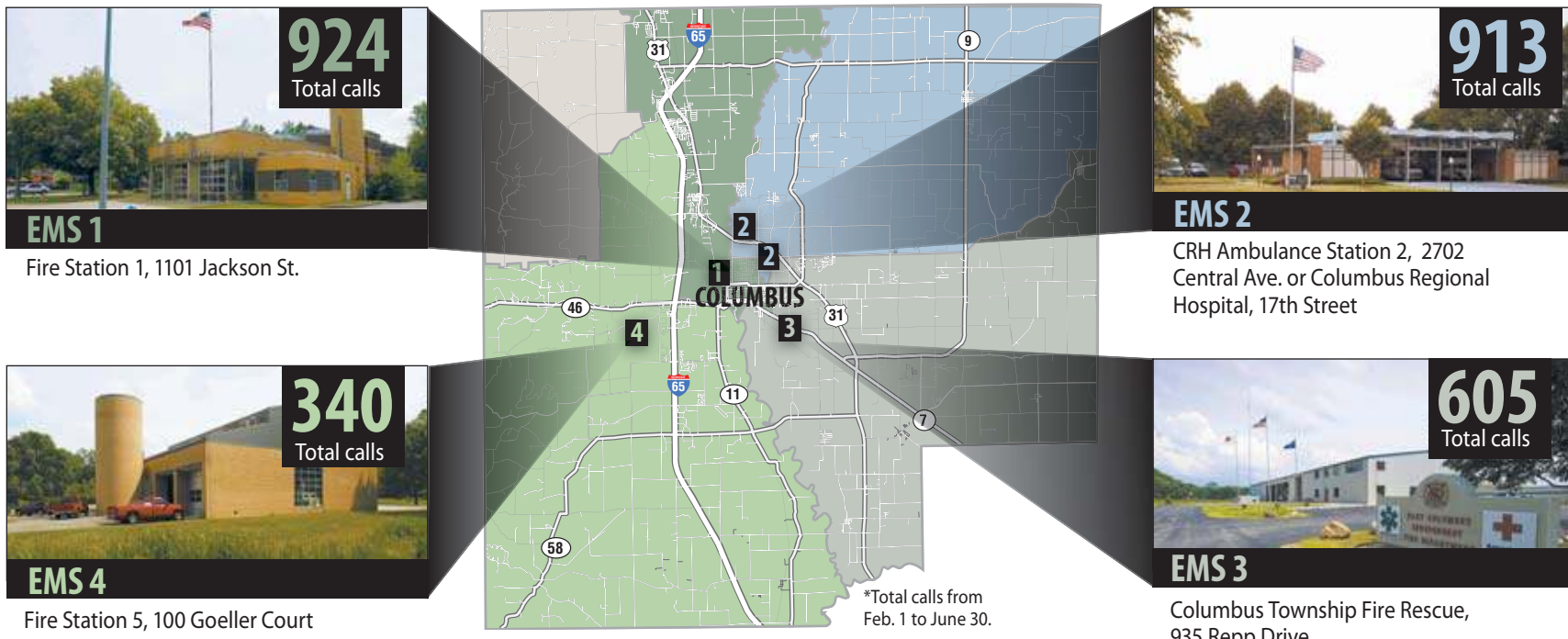
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Columbus, Indiana • \$1.75

AMBULANCE PLAN: FIRST 6 MONTHS

- New stationing arrangement leads to better response times
- Contract partners: Stronger synergy built among personnel



IMPROVED RESPONSE

By JOHN CLARK
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COLUMBUS Regional Hospital's emergency ambulances are responding to incidents such as heart attacks and injuries quicker than the performance benchmarks set in its new contract with the city and county.

And the new arrangement of where ambulances are stationed is building tighter relationships between emergency responders, according to the partners in the contract.

CRH's contract for emergency ambulance service with Columbus and Bartholomew County took effect in mid-January and included moving two ambulances into city fire stations. The contract stipulates that CRH ambulances respond to 90 percent of the calls in the city limits within 9 minutes and work toward responding to 90 percent of calls in the rural parts of the county within 18 minutes.

From February to May, the first four full months of statistics available since the new contract took effect, those benchmarks have been met every month. CRH's ambulances achieved the city response standard at least 93.9 percent of the time each month, and the county response standard at least 94.1 percent of the time. Statistics for June were not yet available.

Priority calls in the city averaged response times of 6.48 minutes from Feb. 1

INSIDE: A closer look at the ambulance calls received by Columbus Regional Hospital between Feb. 1 and June 30. **A6**

through June 30, and the priority calls in the county averaged response times of 12.64 minutes during the same period, said Ed Reuter, director of Bartholomew County Emergency Operations Center. Priority calls include incidents such as heart attacks, strokes or personal-injury accidents, he said.

"From the city's perspective, we are extremely pleased with the service and the partnership," Mayor Kristen Brown said. "One of our major goals was to make sure we were well exceeding national urban response times for ambulance service."

When Brown took office in January 2012, she requested the hospital and dispatch center for the first time begin breaking the statistics down by runs in the county versus those in the city. According to CRH data presented during the contract negotiations last summer, the ambulances were reaching city emergencies within 9 minutes about 87 percent of the time.

"We are seeing major improvement within the city limits and no degradation of the county response times," Brown said.

Location shift cited

The contract did not specifically call for the county standard but only that the county response times did not get worse,

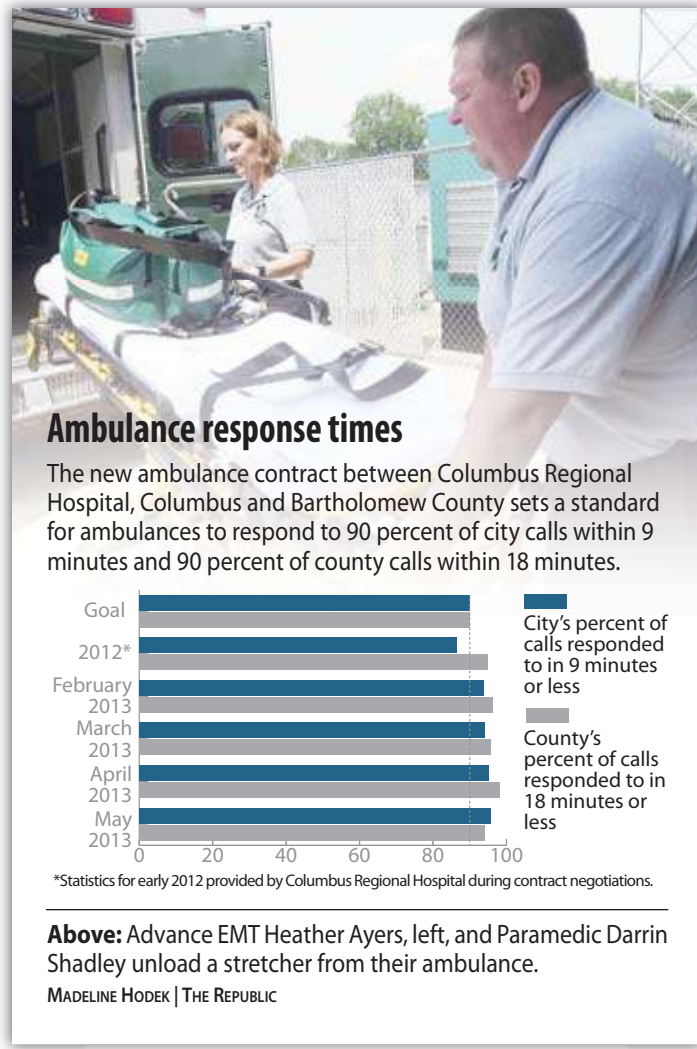
SEE **RESPONSE** ON PAGE A6



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Mayor Kristen Brown

On ambulance response times since a new contract was instituted



Above: Advance EMT Heather Ayers, left, and Paramedic Darrin Shadley unload a stretcher from their ambulance.

MADELINE HODEK | THE REPUBLIC

Panel maker future cloudy

Nusun falling short of hiring, dollar agreements

By JOHN CLARK
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A Columbus solar panel company paid about two-thirds of its past-due property taxes, staving off a sheriff's sale of its property. But it still hasn't met the criteria laid out by the City Council to bring it into compliance with a grant agreement.



RYAN STOUT

Nusun Inc. ran into trouble with the city administration after failing to meet employment benchmarks and not filing reports required in a 2011 agreement that gave the company \$325,000 in city and county tax money. The company was supposed to have 80 employees by the end of 2012 but had only five as of mid-June. The city, which holds the mortgage on Nusun's plant, agreed to forgive the mortgage payments in return for the company meeting its benchmarks.

Adding to problems with local government, the company had not paid property taxes in 2012 or so far in 2013. Its property was due to be added at the end of June to the list for a September sheriff's sale.

Mayor Kristen Brown wanted the City Council to find that the company was not in compliance with its agreements and to make the company begin paying its \$6,875 monthly mortgage.

At their June 18 meeting, however, council members set a more lenient path for the company. The council required the company to pay its past-due taxes by the end of June and gave the company two months to file its past-due reports and to begin meeting with the council's incentive review committee.

SEE **FUTURE** ON PAGE A3

What's next

■ Nusun will need to come to the second Columbus City Council meeting in August to share with council members its status on meeting the terms of a grant agreement, which sets employment benchmarks, and its efforts to pay past-due property taxes.

■ The meeting is 6 p.m. Aug. 20 in the City Council chambers at Columbus City Hall, 123 Washington St.

Myers announces candidacy for sheriff's post



By JOHN CLARK
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Lt. Matt Myers, spokesman for Columbus police and fire departments, announced last week that he plans to seek the Republican nomination for Bartholomew County sheriff next year.

Sheriff Mark Gorbett, a Republican, will leave office after eight years due to term limits.

Myers started his law enforcement career working in the Bartholomew County Jail for a year and a half before moving to the Columbus Police Department as a patrol officer in 1991. He served as as-

stant chief of police for four years under Mayor Fred Armstrong, including during the flood of 2008. Myers has been the spokesman for the police department since Mayor Kristen Brown took office in 2012. Recently, he was given the additional responsibility of spokesman for the fire department.

"I want to try to make a difference in the community and especially when it centers around law enforcement," Myers said. "I feel like I have the training, the experience and the vision to move Columbus and Bartholomew County in the right direction. I am running to

SEE **MYERS** ON PAGE A8

HER MOMENT

Bartoli accomplishes goal with Wimbledon win; D1



PETAL PUSHERS C1

Since Columbus in Bloom first brought national attention to Columbus in 2006, it continues to blossom with prominent community projects, including adding floral elegance to the landmark "Eos" sculpture. For more, look inside today's Lifestyles section.



OBITUARIES A7

Gilbert "Jack" Bates, 85, Columbus
Dewight DeBord, 53, Columbus
Peggy Prather, 67, Seymour
Joseph Alfred "Joe" Ray, 76, Seymour



AT THE FAIR A3

Schedule of events at the Bartholomew County Fair for today, Monday

INSIDE

AROUND TOWNA2
BUSINESSB1-B4
CLASSIFIEDSE1-E7
COMICSINSERT
LOTTERIESD2
MOVIESC4
OPINIONB6
SPORTSD1-D8
TV LISTINGSINSERT
WEATHERA8

OUTSIDE



High: 82
Low: 66

SUNDAY



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