

United in Service to our Community:

Butler Township, City of Vandalia, Vandalia-Butler City Schools

Spring 2022

Township, School District Collaborate on Plan

The vision for a high-profile development opportunity in Butler Township is the result of collaboration among key entities.

Sudachi Gateway, a concept that reimagines the future of 20 acres at the intersection of North Dixie and Sudachi drives, was developed by Butler Township, the Vandalia-Butler School District and property owner SLM3 Properties. The parcel includes the now-demolished township government building site, the former Murlin Heights School property and SLM3 Properties' private land. Although no proposals have been offered, the plan aims to ensure any project will be an asset to the area.

"We share the vision of a development that enhances the quality of life for residents, students, parents and employees," said Vandalia-Butler School District Superintendent Robert O'Leary. "It helps that we have a history of working together. This plan is an extension of that relationship."

Township Administrator Erika Vogel agrees. "The district's perspective really enhanced the plan," she said. "Everyone involved wants this development to benefit the community as a whole and protect adjacent land uses."

Although the property is zoned for local commercial uses, the plan

incorporates a residential component to the west to encourage potential developers to provide a buffer between the existing residential uses and any commercial uses along North Dixie Drive. The plan also includes landscaped areas or outdoor seating at each corner as a focal point along North Dixie Drive and a public green space and parking area across from the Government Center, for use by area patrons and employees.

Vandalia Parks and Recreation Expanding Youth Scholarship Program

Vandalia City Council has directed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to expand the scope of the Vandalia Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund.

The need-based program has for years given children of lower-income families the opportunity to play in recreational sports leagues. Families may now apply for one-year Rec Center memberships, and the summer CampRec program.

Awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Every application must include a letter from Vandalia-Butler Schools stating the applicant received free or reduced lunch.

For program guidelines and applications, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4m34syrr> or the Vandalia Recreation Center.



Foundation Provides \$60K for Classroom Initiatives



More than a dozen Vandalia-Butler City Schools' classroom initiatives will receive a record \$35,873 in grants and \$22,500 in future commitments from the Vandalia-Butler Foundation, primarily through its VISIONS Endowment Fund.

This year's grants include \$10,000 in equipment for an inclusive and accessible playground at Demmitt

Elementary School — the largest single grant ever awarded — and technology upgrades for the Smith Middle School Planetarium. Butler High School received \$16,691 for projects involving everything from drone technology to adaptive kitchenware.

Since 2002, more than \$214,000 has been granted or committed to learning opportunities for district students. Visit visionsendowmentfund.org to make your tax-deductible donation to the VISIONS Fund.



Promoting literacy through a book vending machine, thanks to a VISION grant. Pictured here: (l-r) Demmitt Elementary Principal Garry Martin, VISIONS Grant Committee Member Jennifer Thein, grant recipient and Demmitt Intervention Specialist Tina Nevels, Vandalia-Butler Foundation Board of Trustee Member Don Neff, and PTO representative Felicia Monroe.

Top Awards Go to City Schools

The Vandalia-Butler City School District was honored to receive its first-ever Non-Profit Organization of the Year award from the Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce.

School Board President Holly Herbst accepted the 2021 award for the district and dedicated it to administrators, teachers and staff.

Superintendent Rob O'Leary, who was recognized as the 2021 Business Professional of the Year, commended the students for adapting and overcoming unexpected obstacles. He also thanked administrators, teachers and staff.

"Our principals have been outstanding. Our teachers have stepped up to cover classes. Our counselors have jumped in to serve food. Our nurses, food service, bus drivers, custodians, technology folks, aides, school security officers, office staff, Central Office staff – we've been an incredible team."

He also praised community partners, including Premier Health; Dr. Joseph Allen, M.D.; VBCSD parents; local businesses; and community members, for supporting the district's safe return to school.

Image © J. Spivey Photography



Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce award winners. Pictured here are (l-r) Superintendent Rob O'Leary; CFO/Treasurer Eric Beavers; Board of Education Member Mary Kilsheimer; Board of Education Member Rodney Washburn; Board of Education Member Scott Fullam; Board of Education President Holly Herbst; Morton Middle School Principal Shannon White; Attendance, Enrollment and Safety Officer Bill Wertz; Director of HR and Staff Services Russ Garman; and Butler High School Principal Tom Luebbe.

Celebrating the Magic
20th Anniversary
Performing Arts Theater
Butler High School

A magical afternoon 2PM, April 24, 2022

Featuring National and local entertainment
Refreshments will be served

For information and to reserve your tickets:
www.Vandalia-ButlerFoundation.org

The Dayton Foundation | VANDALIA - BUTLER FOUNDATION |



Township Welcomes New Trustees

Bryson Jackson and Mike Thein are Butler Township's newly elected trustees. They join Trustee President Missy Pruszynski and Financial Officer Gregory Brush as the township's elected officials.

Trustee Jackson is an administrative pastor with an emphasis on youth ministry and worship at First Grace Church and an on-call teacher for Vandalia-Butler schools. His goals as a trustee are to represent the township with professionalism and compassion, ensure the township's needs are addressed at the county and state levels and continue improving the township's business district.

Trustee Thein is owner of Their Financial Group, a personal and corporate financial planning and group-benefits consulting firm. He has been a member of township's budget committee and board of zoning appeals, and Butler Township Chamber of Commerce board chair for 20 years. His goal is to serve with integrity and honesty and focus on financial issues, befitting his expertise.

Both will serve through 2025.

Butler Township elected officials: (l-r) Trustee President Missy Pruszynski, Trustee Bryson Jackson, Trustee Vice President Mike Thein and Fiscal Officer Greg Brush



County Fire Chiefs Honor City's Vaccination Team

The Montgomery County Fire Chiefs Association has recognized three members of the Vandalia Division of Fire as Firefighters of the Year for their work on the joint Vandalia-Butler Mobile Vaccination Team.

The honorees are Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Buker, Firefighter/Paramedic Mya Mitchell and Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Scott Jacobs.

"Last May, we implemented a mobile vaccination team to bring COVID vaccines directly to residents and businesses that requested it," said Vandalia Fire Chief Chad Follick.

Vaccine recipients must be observed for at least 15 minutes to ensure no adverse effects to the immunization. The firefighters used that time to check smoke and CO2 detectors and talk about home safety and fall prevention.

Although vaccinations are available to anyone who lives or works in Vandalia, the program targets individuals who have difficulty leaving home.

"Customers were impressed with the compassion and patience it took to get people vaccinated," said Follick.

Vandalia residents and businesses may

schedule vaccinations with the mobile team by calling 937-898-2261 or by visiting the Division's Facebook page. In Butler Township, call 937-890-2491.

"We think this is really just the start of a good community outreach, a good community paramedicine program," said Vandalia City Manager Dan Wendt. "We think there are other things to come that are kind of out-of-the-box thinking for a fire department, and I would tell everybody to just stay tuned because this is one of many steps we're taking to add value to our service and give you a reason to choose Vandalia."



Other communities have adopted the joint Vandalia-Butler Township mobile vaccination model. The Vandalia team includes (l-r) Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Buker; Firefighter/Paramedic Mya Mitchell; and Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Scott Jacobs.

City's Go-To Problem Solver Honored

A 24-year city of Vandalia employee with great community spirit and a knack for keeping things running has received the Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce Marvin C. Link Distinguished Service Award.

The honoree, Superintendent of Facilities Rudy Wells, and his staff handle everything from mowing grass to maintaining ballfields and city facilities.

"Rudy has been a driving factor in keeping our parks and facilities looking great," said Parks and Recreation Director Steve Clark.

Rudy's nomination, signed by Susan Trissell of the Anthony Trissell Memorial Foundation, described his all-important role in the foundation's SummerFest events at Segar Park.



Vandalia Mayor Richard Herbst (left) presents Rudy Wells with a proclamation declaring February 16, 2022, "Rudy Wells Day" in Vandalia.

"Rudy is extremely knowledgeable and very helpful. He and his team are always there to help when we need them," Trissell said.

"Rudy has been an outstanding member of the parks and recreation team, and this award is very deserved," said Vandalia City Manager Dan Wendt. "Vandalia is a top-tier community with top-tier services, and we are able to maintain that reputation in large part because of people like Rudy who do so much in our community."



butlertownship.com
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500 S. Dixie Dr.
Vandalia, OH 45377

Presorted Standard
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New Look, New Tech for City's Cruisers

The city of Vandalia is placing three new police cruisers into service this year. They are the first in a series of new cruisers to be phased in over the coming years, as older vehicles are retired from service. The updated color scheme incorporates highly reflective materials that improve officers' safety at night. Also, new technology adjusts flashing-light patterns and brightness to the time of day and settings, to avoid blinding passing motorists. Hybrid technology to reduce fuel and operating costs will be introduced later this year.

Signs Reflect Township's Rebranding

When driving around the area, you may notice Butler Township's new township-limit signs on major roadways. The updated look features a new logo created in 2020 as part of a comprehensive rebranding effort that also included a new, mobile-friendly website and the business district's renaming to "Benchwood Station."

Next, you'll see the new logo on facility signage and township vehicles. Meanwhile, improvement plans for Benchwood Station are progressing, as the township is working with engineering and design consultants on roadway upgrades for the Benchwood and Miller Lane corridors.

