Community Connection

United in Service to our Community:
Butler Township, City of Vandalia, Vandalia-Butler City Schools

Fall 2022

It's a Party in the Park, and You're Invited

Art Van Atta Park will once again come alive on Saturday, October 1, as Butler Township hosts Party in the Park, from noon to 7 p.m.

At this family-friendly event, kids will enjoy pumpkin picking and painting with the Vandalia-Butler Octagon Club, free tractor-pulled wagon rides and fun games and activities.

There will be live music all day with Jay Clark Band as the headliner, plus several food trucks and a beer trailer, hosted by the Vandalia-Butler Chamber, selling domestic or craft beers.

We hope you'll join your friends and neighbors for this fun-filled community event!

Follow us on Facebook at **@BTPartyinthePark** or check our website for updates and event information.

Open House at Vandalia Fire Station

The Vandalia Division of Fire will host an open house on Sunday, October 2, from noon to 2 p.m., at Vandalia Fire Station #1, 8705 Peters Pike. Bring the family for demonstrations of fire and medical equipment and a fire truck ride.

The open house is the official kick-off to Fire Prevention Week in Vandalia. The theme for this year's open house is "Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape."

Vandalia Presents Fall Family Festival

Vandalia Parks and Recreation is holding the Vandalia Fall Festival at the Vandalia Art Park on Saturday, October 8, from noon to 6 p.m. Bring the family for fall fun with live music, food trucks, inflatables, arts and crafts, a pumpkin patch and more.

School District Recognizes Business Partnership

Superintendent Rob O'Leary and the Board of Education recently awarded Beckstrom Orthodontics the Business Partner Award. This is the fourth year VBCSD has recognized a local business for their efforts and supports of the district.

Demmitt Elementary Educator Honored

Ohio State Board of Education President Charlotte McGuire joined Superintendent Rob O'Leary to present an Aviator Achievement Award to Ohio's District 3 Teacher of the Year, Robbie Whorton.

"Ms. Robbie," as her students call her, is a special-education teacher at Demmitt Elementary, who recognizes the importance of establishing and building relationships not only with her students, but also with their families. As a true testament of those connections, Whorton's students, their family members and staff members joined in celebrating her accomplishment.

District 3 represents school districts spanning five counties.

Robbie Whorton (left), Ohio's District 3 Teacher of the Year, receives warm wishes from Ohio State Board of Education President Charlotte McGuire.

Robbie Whorton (in the middle, holding flowers) with her students and their families.

VBCSD Launches Youth Mentor Program

One in three young people grow up without a mentor. One in three young people navigate the rigors of school, friend groups, social pressures and life's anxieties struggling to know whether they're important or valued. It has been said that every child is one caring adult away from being a success story.

The Vandalia-Butler City Schools, in partnership with the Miami Valley Leadership Foundation, the local faith-based community and business community, has started a mentorship program for students who would benefit from such a relationship.

Lindsay, a single mom, comments on how the MVLF mentorship program affected her and her son: "I've seen how mentoring helps my son have the positive influence in his life that he lacks from his father not being around. It's nice to know that someone with no obligation would take interest in his life. It helps him have strong (self-esteem) and makes him feel important in life."

The program engages people of good faith and good will to build relationships that transform lives. For more information on this new program locally, visit the Miami Valley Leadership Foundation's website at **miamivalleyleadership.com/mentor-youth**.

Local Grad Golfs in World Championships

A new banner along National Road honors Austin Greaser, a Vandalia-Butler graduate and University of North Carolina student playing golf in the 2022 World Amateur Championships, as one of only three representing the United States. Austin's family purchased the banners, and the city was happy to install them to mark the occasion.

Butler Township

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Vandalia-Butler City Schools

Well Testing Set to Begin for Water Contamination

Montgomery County – which is partnering with Butler Township to address the water contamination issue – has entered into a contract with the environmental consulting firm Bennett and Williams Inc. to develop and administer a sampling program.

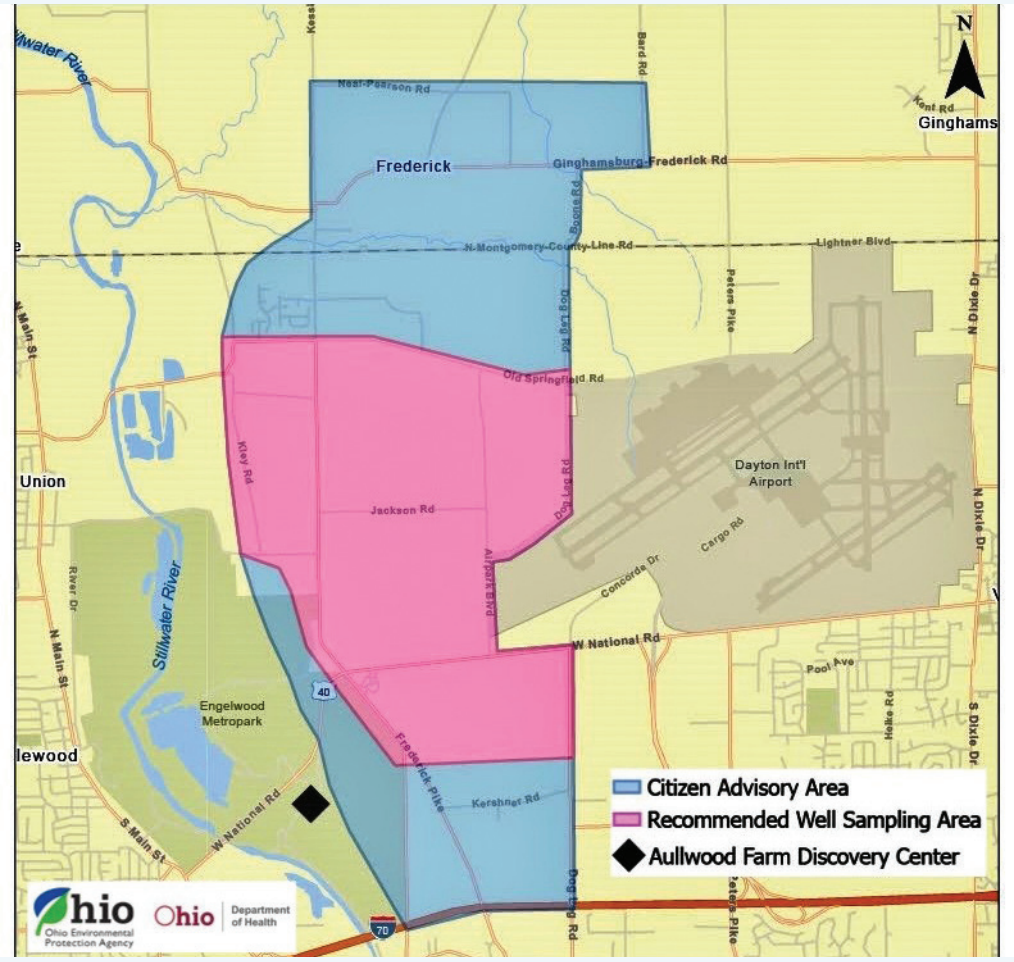
This program will provide free well testing to residents within the Recommended Well Sampling Area, as defined by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio EPA. (Check the color-coded map at **butlertownship.com/community/water-contamination-issue** to see the different designations.)

Bennett and Williams scheduled two public meetings to share information about the health effects of consuming water contaminated by PFAS and to help people sign up for free well testing.

Links to those meetings, health effects information and treatment options and/or bottled water alternatives will be available on the township's website.

Even if your residence is not in the sampling area, you can access these resources to learn more about the issue.

The last day to sign up for free well testing is Oct. 15, 2022.



Use this QR Code or visit ***arcg.is/0qevar*** *to sign up for testing.*

Making Benchwood Station Even Better

Benchwood Station – informally known as Miller Lane – is Butler Township's business district and a key amenity for township residents and travelers. Its restaurants, hotels and retail outlets attract more than 20,000 vehicles every day.

Benchwood Station is also an important revenue generator for the township, providing more than $2 million in taxes annually, through hotel tax, Joint Economic Development Zone (JED-Z) income tax and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. These revenue sources provide funding for township operations and services, and improvements within the district.

In 2021, the township announced a feasibility study to make Benchwood Station an even greater asset. Many recommendations from the study are under review, from intersection and overpass improvements, to landscaping, lighting, street trees and branding. Also being considered is a continuous northbound turn on Miller Lane from I-75 and a roundabout at Miller Lane and Maxton Road.

But the plans are by no means set in stone, and the township will continue to meet with stakeholders to share ideas and obtain input. Once alignment is achieved, and the project scope is firmed up, the township will move forward with final design and engineering. Because Benchwood Station is such an important part of the township, the goal is to get it right, rather than get it fast.

To learn more, visit **butlertownship.com/community/benchwood-station-improvements**.

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Vandalia – On the Road with RTA

Representatives of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority visited the Vandalia City Council recently to show off the new bus celebrating the city of Vandalia. Decked out in Vandalia colors, the bus is part of RTA's Proudly Serving Project and features photographs and fun facts about the city.

Vandalia City Council members get a first-hand look at RTA's Vandalia-themed bus. (L-R): Candice Farst, Constance Woods, Vice Mayor David Lewis, Mayor Richard Herbst, Corey M. Follick, Michael Blakesly and Robert Ahlers.

Utility Extension Underway in Vandalia

The city of Vandalia is extending water and sewer services to an area west of Airport Access Road, along Dog Leg Road and US 40. The project will open 470 acres of real estate for commercial development.

"The land was rezoned in 2021 to open the area for commercial development," said Vandalia Public Service Director Rob Cron. "For the land to be developed, however, we need to supply water and sewer services."

The project will be completed in two phases. Engineering for Phase 1 was completed last year, and crews are now at work to extend water and sewer lines situated at Stonequarry Crossings under the Airport Access Road to Dog Leg Road.

Phase 2 of the project is still in the planning stages.

"Engineering is being done right now on Phase 2, which will extend water and sewer lines down to Union Airpark Boulevard on the south side of US 40," Cron explained. "We have a consultant on board to design it."

When Phase 2 is complete, the city will be able to provide service to all Vandalia properties west of Airport Access Road.