

Community Connection

United in Service to our Community:

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

Local Family's Dream Comes True

Summer 2023



New homeowner Tiffany Brown (center, with keys) and her family, Diondra Brown and Dion Brown.

Lifelong renter Tiffany Brown recently saw her dream of homeownership come true when she received the keys to a new home at 864 Foley Dr. in Vandalia.

The property had been the site of an abandoned, dilapidated house considered beyond repair. The City offered the lot to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton.

Mother of four Brown had entered Habitat's program in 2019 and met its requirements, donating 295 hours of "sweat equity" to prepare the home and completing homeownership classes.

Former U.S. Senator Rob Portman, a longtime Habitat supporter, worked on the home and attended the dedication.

Habitat spokesperson Dave Mauch praised the City of Vandalia. "Dan

Wendt and his team have been fantastic. We appreciate all he did to make this project happen."

Class of 2023 Leadership

Congratulations to the class of 2023 and its leaders:

Valedictorian – Emily Carroll

Salutatorian – Allison Shelly

Outstanding Senior –
Noah Moreland

Outstanding Senior in Art –
Megan Bonifas

**Butler High School
Distinguished Senior in English** –
Sydney Cooper

**National Merit Commended
Students** – Hashem Albezreh and
Allison Shelly



Class of 2023: 'Our Aviators Will Soar'

Culminating years of hard work and dedication, Butler High School's class of 2023 – a group of high achievers who earned \$8.4 million in scholarships – celebrated their commencement on May 22.

The graduates heard from Principal Tom Luebke, who stressed responsibility and respect, as well as student body president Rebecca Mercier, senior class president Hashem Albezreh and salutarian Allison Shelly.

In his reflections, Superintendent Rob O'Leary made a prediction: "No matter what the future holds for these Butler graduates, we are certain our Aviators will soar."



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Day Air Credit Union Invests in Township

Day Air Credit Union recently began construction of a new state-of-the-art banking branch at 7919 N. Dixie Dr. in Butler Township. The existing Day Air branch at 3434 York Commons Blvd. will be relocating to the new stand-alone branch, which is expected to be completed in spring 2024.

Along with the new 5,000-square-foot building, eight personal banking offices, Interactive Tell Machines (ITMs) and a community room, the development will include a new public roadway that will extend York Commons Boulevard to the west, across N. Dixie Drive, creating opportunities for additional development.

"Our board wanted the building to be an investment that would benefit our membership and spur additional investment in Butler Township," said Day Air president and CEO Bill Burke.

*Congratulations to our retiring educators (l-r):
Deborah Herbst, Tom Luebbe, Angela Eagle and
Jennifer Cornell.*



Veteran Educators Retire

Four Vandalia-Butler City School District educators bid farewell to the school community as they entered the newest chapter of their lives, retirement. Representing a total of 85 years of service to the district, the four have been recognized for their positive impact inside and outside of classrooms.

The retirees include

Jennifer Cornell – 25 years of service

Angela Eagle – 31 years of service

Deborah Herbst – 22 years of service

Tom Luebbe – 7 years of service

The VBCSD community extends deepest gratitude for dedication and wisdom these committed professionals have provided and wish them well in retirement.



What is National Night Out?

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that occurs in communities across the country. Started in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie among neighbors to help make neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live.

Locally, Butler Township and the City of Vandalia sponsor National Night Out events to provide opportunities for the community members to get to know elected officials in addition to fire, service and police personnel. Meanwhile, kids get to play games, touch fire engines and romp in bounce houses.

City of Vandalia and Butler Township officials would like to thank the many businesses that sponsor and donate food and drinks for attendees to enjoy.

Upcoming School Dates

Freshman Parent Meeting

August 8, 6-7 p.m.

Butler High School

Freshman Orientation

August 10, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Butler High School

Districtwide Open Houses

August 15

Butler, 5:30-7 p.m.

Morton, 6-7:30 p.m.

Smith, 5-6:30 p.m.

Demmitt, 5:30-7 p.m.

Helke, 6-7:30 p.m.

First Day of School for Gr. 1-12

August 17

First Day of School for Kindergarten and Preschool

August 22



K9 Trained in Specialized Skills

Having completed specialized training in these areas, Mando and his handler, Officer Colton Streck, are now available to assist police:

- Drug and narcotics detection
- Criminal tracking and apprehension
- Area and article searches
- Building searches, and
- Obedience and handler protection.

Officer Streck and Mando are certified through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

Butler Township Welcomes New Police Canine



The Butler Township Police Department is proud to introduce its newest member, police K9 Mando.

A one-year-old Dutch Shepherd, Mando was purchased through Shallow Creek Kennels – Premier Police Service Dogs in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, at a cost of just under \$9,000.

Mando's handler is Officer Colton Streck, who joined the Butler Township Police Department in 2021 after having served as a deputy with the Preble County Sheriff's Office and as a dispatcher with the Englewood Police Department. He was selected as the department's newest handler based on his supervisors' recommendations, his skills and abilities and his job performance.

Before hitting the road on July 1, Mando and Officer Streck completed 12 weeks of intensive training through the Kettering Police Department. Mando is a dual-purpose K9, trained in both drug detection and patrol. (See article at left, "K9 Trained in Specialized Skills.")

You can meet Mando at an open house on August 16, 6-8 p.m., at the township meeting hall, 3780 Little York Rd.

A Salute to Our Veterans

Like never before, the true meaning of Memorial Day was front and center this year for motorists on Dixie Drive. Featured on the roadway – designated "Veterans Parkway" in Vandalia and Butler Township – were 151 banners honoring U.S. military veterans. The banners had been purchased by the honorees' family members.

The installation stretches from Stop Eight Road to National Road. The banners, on display through 2024, will be presented to the families who purchased them before new banners are installed in 2025.

The project is a joint effort of the Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce, the City of Vandalia and Butler Township.



Cruise-In to Butler Township

Good news for all car enthusiasts and fun-loving community members! The always-popular Cruise-In to Butler Township is back again this year.

When: Friday, September 15, 4-8 p.m.

Where: Commerce Center Drive and York Commons Boulevard
(closed off for the event)

Registration is free to display a car, although donations are welcome.

Come admire the beautiful cars and enjoy the food, drinks, live music and awards presentation, including the presentation of the following awards:

- **The People's Choice:** "Best in Show" (voted on by the public)
- **The Trustee's Award:** "Bragging Rights" (voted on by your township trustees)
- **The Fire Chief Award:** "Hottest Ride" (Voted on by the fire chief)
- **The Police Chief Award:** "Most Likely to Get a Speeding Ticket" (Voted on by the police chief)

Visit us on Facebook @cruiseintobutlertownship for more information and updates.



The 2022 Bragging Rights Award presentation. Pictured here (l-r): Fire Chief Dan Alig, Police Chief John Porter, Fiscal Officer Greg Brush, award-winner Kent Summers, Trustee Missy Pruszyński and Trustee Bryson Jackson.



The Bragging Rights Award winning 1955 Bel-Air.



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A Season of Celebrations

Summertime brings a full schedule of events to entertain members of the Vandalia-Butler community and beyond. Mark your calendar and make sure you don't miss a single event.

Vandalia Summerfest

July 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
5-9 p.m.
Seger Park, 23 Tionda Dr. South

Vandalia National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 6-8 p.m.
Vandalia Sports Complex
1111 Stonequarry Rd.

Butler Township National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 6-8 p.m.
Stonespring Nursing Center
4000 Singing Hills Blvd.

End of Summer Spectacular

Friday, August 4
Vandalia Sports Complex
1111 Stonequarry Rd.
Food trucks, arts and crafts, cornhole tournament, screening the movie Encanto at 9 p.m.



Music in Art Park Series

Thursday, August 17, 6-8 p.m.
Ludlow Park
Thursday, September 21, 6-8 p.m.
Boogie Woogie Kid
Vandalia Art Park
256 E Alkaline Springs Rd.

Cruise-In to Butler Township

Friday, September 15, 4-8 p.m.
Commerce Center Drive

Butler Township's Party in the Park

Saturday, October 7, noon-6 p.m.
Art Van Atta Park, 3180 Benchwood Rd.
Food trucks, craft beers, live music, wagon rides, kids' activities

Vandalia Fall Festival

Saturday, October 14, noon-6 p.m.
Vandalia Art Park
256 E Alkaline Springs Rd.