

# Community Connection

**United in Service to our Community:**

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

Spring 2024

## District Projects Savings with Reconfiguration

In preparation for the 2024-25 school year, the Vandalia-Butler City School District is reconfiguring grade levels at three buildings. Helke Elementary will host preschool and kindergarten; Demmitt Elementary will host first and second grades; and Smith Middle School will add third grade to the current fourth and fifth grades as well as a modular building for one grade level.

The failure of two levy requests set in motion the reconfiguration plan, which is

designed to achieve four objectives:

- Capture cost savings
- Maintain programming and staffing
- Address current problems
- Be forward-thinking

With the implementation of this plan, the district projects a savings of more than \$6.1 million over five years.

For continuous updates, visit [vbcsd.com/reconfiguration](http://vbcsd.com/reconfiguration).

## Reconfiguration Timeline

As new information emerges, this schedule may change. Please check the website for updates.

### April – May

- Release 2024-2025 school start/end times
- Initial interest survey of parents for BASE offerings in 2024
- Student-focused reconfiguration transition events (building tours, etc.)

### June – July

- Moving and building prep
- Modular delivery/installation

### August

- Open houses
- August 7, 2024 – Deadline for Board of Education to adopt resolutions if a decision is made to be on the November ballot.

## Vandalia-Butler Approves Full-Day Kindergarten

The Vandalia-Butler Board of Education recently voted to approve all-day kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year.

Reconfiguration planning has revealed many benefits and savings. One is the possibility of all-day kindergarten, a model that boosts student achievement and produces long-term educational gains, according to U.S. Department of Education research.

In the past, lack of space and funding have prohibited the district from offering all-day kindergarten. With the new

grade-level realignments and the location of preschool and kindergarten at Helke, however, the needed space has become available.

All-day kindergarten will also affect state funding. Because current kindergarten students attend for a half day, the state provides only one-half of the funding for kindergarten. All-day kindergarten will positively affect the district's state funding formula and benefit the district's rolling, three-year state funding average.

Additional details will be shared on the district's website as the planning process continues. Kindergarten enrollment begins April 22, 2024.

*All smiles on the first day of kindergarten.*



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## City Park Receiving Facelift

Prep work has begun for a new restroom at Robinette Park, one of many upgrades planned for the park over the next few years.

"The Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by city council in early 2023 calls for investments in some of our aging parks," said Parks and Recreation Director Steve Clark. "This restroom facility is something park visitors have been requesting for a number of years."

Completion is slated for late summer.

Robinette Park's playground structure will also be replaced. "You can expect it to have inclusivity features like those at Helke Park and the sports complex," said Clark.

Further improvements, slated for 2025, include the addition of a splash pad and the reconfiguration of the parking lot to allow for more cars and better traffic flow. The city also plans to install pickleball courts in response to the growing popularity of the sport.

"The outdoor pickleball courts at Helke Park are in high demand, and we believe a second outdoor option would also be well utilized," said Clark.

Funding for these projects will come from American Rescue Plan Act money and grants from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Community Development Block Grant program

## Community Garage Sale Coming

Whether you're a buyer or seller, you won't want to miss the City of Vandalia-Butler Township Garage Sale Weekend, May 16-19.

During this annual event, about 100 city and township households offer their treasures for sale using their garage and driveway as the retail showroom.

Residents are invited to register their sales, including address, date and time, through the City's website, [VandaliaOhio.org](http://VandaliaOhio.org). The information is compiled on a digital interactive map that will be released on Wednesday, May 15, at 5 p.m.

"We ask residents to list their sale items so shoppers know where to go for specific items," said Rich Hopkins, Vandalia communication manager. "By including our friends in Butler Township, we've made our big weekend even bigger."

and the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"Vandalia is a top-tier suburb with top-tier services," Clark said. "It's important that we continue to invest in our parks to keep our amenities among the best in the region."

## Safe and Smooth: City to Resurface Streets

The City of Vandalia has released the names of streets to be resurfaced in 2024. The resurfacing includes concrete curb repairs.

In addition to many residential streets, these are the major roadways on the resurfacing list that are traveled by motorists from around the Vandalia-Butler community:

- South Brown School Road (I-70 to Poplar Creek)
- South Brown School Road (Waldsmith to I-70)
- Stonequarry Road (Dixie to west corp. line)
- Kenbrook Drive (Reichard to Crestwood Hills)
- North Brown School Road



The resurfacing program is paid for through the Safe and Stable income tax, and no homeowners will be assessed for the work.



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## New Land Use Plan to Guide Township's Growth

Local governments protect and enhance residents' quality of life by ensuring that growth is managed in an orderly, strategic way. For Butler Township, that means making decisions about growth that align with the vision and goals expressed in a community-informed comprehensive land use plan.

The township has achieved many of the goals set forth in the current comprehensive plan, last updated in 2006. Since then, development patterns have changed, and new opportunities have emerged. In response, township trustees have launched an update of the comprehensive plan, which will guide development for the next 15 to 20 years.

A steering committee comprising residents, business owners, zoning board members, township administration and other stakeholders is helping determine the community's needs and the plan's vision and goals. Residents can participate by scanning the QR code to access and complete the Vision and Values survey.

The professional planning firm of MSP Design and Community Planning Insights will assist with the plan's development. Nathan Farmer, the township's community planner, is coordinating the overall effort.

The draft plan will take shape through ongoing steering committee input, public meetings, events and online engagement over the next several months. It will be presented to the public for review and comments in fall 2024. The final plan will be ready for adoption by the board of trustees toward the end of this year.



SCAN ME

All township residents are encouraged to engage with this process. Please visit [ButlerTownship.com](https://www.butlertownship.com) to learn how.



## Youth in Government Day 2024

On March 19, Butler High School students had the unique opportunity to learn about local government and the political process first-hand during Youth in Government Day. They spent the day assuming the roles of City of Vandalia, Butler Township and Vandalia-Butler City School District officials.

Youth in Government Day gives young people a better understanding of local government decision making and may even inspire some to enter into public service careers. Thank you to the Vandalia-Butler Optimist Club for organizing this longstanding program.

## Business Center to See Upgrades

Butler Township and business stakeholders have developed a roadway improvement plan for Miller Lane and Benchwood Road. The plan's details, shared with the public at a meeting last fall, includes these major features:

- Pedestrian and street lighting for the entire Miller Lane corridor
- A round-a-bout at Maxton and Miller for traffic calming, beautification and signage
- Pavement repair and resurfacing on Miller Lane
- Extended right, westbound lane on Benchwood Road, past Commerce Center Drive

- Consistent landscaping and streetscape enhancements along the entire corridor

The Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District is overseeing the project. Brumbaugh Construction begins work in May, with completion slated for the end of the year.

A community hub and important revenue generator for the township, Benchwood Station and its infrastructure are a priority for Butler Township. The area provides more than \$2.5 million in revenue annually through hotel tax and funding tools that help pay for services and improvements in the district, including the current \$6 million project.







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## Mark Your Calendar: **V-B Community Events**

|               |                                                    |                |                                |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| April 23      | VB Chamber Women in Business Networking Conference | 8 a.m.-3 p.m.  | Christian Life Center          |
| April 26      | Arbor Day                                          | 1 p.m.         | Helke Park, Vandalia           |
| April 26 & 27 | BHS Drama Beauty and the Beast                     | 7 p.m.         | Butler Performing Arts Theater |
| April 28      |                                                    | 3 p.m.         |                                |
| May 11        | Vandalia Sweet Treats Fest                         | 4-8 p.m.       | Vandalia Art Park              |
| May 16-19     | Garage Sale Weekend                                |                |                                |
| May 17        | BHS Memorial Program                               | 1:30 p.m.      | Student Athletic Center        |
| May 20        | BHS Graduation                                     | 7 p.m.         | Student Athletic Center        |
| May 23        | Vandalia Summer Concert Kick-Off                   | 6-8 p.m.       | Vandalia Art Park              |
| June 20       | Air Show Backyard Bash                             | 6-9 p.m.       | Vandalia Art Park              |
| June 21       | Air Show Parade                                    | 7 p.m.         | National Road & Dixie Drive    |
| June 22-23    | Dayton Air Show                                    |                | Dayton International Airport   |
| June 25       | Food Rally at the Crossroads                       | 6-9 p.m.       | Vandalia Rec Complex           |
| June 27       | Vandalia Police Open House                         | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Vandalia Justice Center        |
| July 3        | Star-Spangled Celebration                          | 6-10 p.m.      | Vandalia Sports Complex        |
| August 6      | Butler Twp. National Night Out                     | 6-8 p.m.       | Stonesprings Care Facility     |
| Sept 13       | Cruise-In to Butler Township                       | 4-8 p.m.       | Commerce Center Dr.            |
| October 5     | Butler Twp. Party in the Park                      | 12-5 p.m.      | Art Van Atta Park              |