

Community Connection

United in Service to our Community:

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

Summer 2024



District's Financial Forecast Improves

The Vandalia-Butler City School District has implemented cost-cutting measures that have resulted in savings of \$3.2 million. These measures include the reconfiguration of preschool through fifth grade and a new Labor-Day-to-Memorial-Day school year.

With these measures and the new revenue-sharing agreement reached between the District and the City of Vandalia, the updated financial forecast has greatly improved. As a result, the Board of Education anticipates it will not seek operating funds with a new levy request for the next couple of years.

School Reconfiguration Comes With Benefits

As students and teachers enjoy summer break, crews at Vandalia-Butler City School District are busy working on a major reconfiguration of several schools.

A most notable change will be the shift in grade-level configurations that will start this fall:

- Smith Middle School will become Smith Intermediate School and house grades three through five.
- Demmitt Elementary will be home to first and second grades.
- Helke Elementary will become Helke Early Learning Center to reflect the new grade levels of kindergarten and preschool. With this configuration, Vandalia-Butler will provide a full-day kindergarten program for the first time ever.

The reconfiguration does more than help the district save operating costs: It also increases efficiency with building and staff operations, aligns grade-level bands and opens the space needed for a full-day kindergarten program, a community priority for many years.

The City of Vandalia & Butler Township
Proudly Present

Star Spangled Celebration

July 3

7 - 10 p.m.
Vandalia Sports Complex

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Check out our patriotic play area for the kids! (Open 6-9 pm)

Musical Entertainment by **PULSE**

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DAY AIR TRUCK RENTALS
A Butler Township Experience

★★★★ MUSIC - FOOD - FUN ★★★★★



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City 'Showpiece' Receives Makeover

Fans of Vandalia's summer concerts and events, get ready to be wowed. Major upgrades are in store for the performance area of the Art Park, including the installation of a bandshell covering, expanded seating and a new stage.

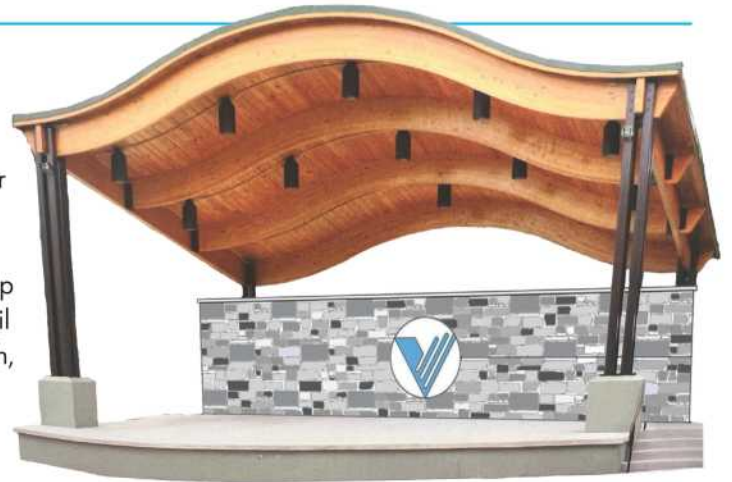
"The Art Park has evolved to become a showpiece amenity for the City," said Director of Parks and Recreation Steve Clark.

The \$490,500 project is funded primarily through a \$300,000 Ohio Capital Budget bill grant.

"We appreciate the support this project received from our local lawmakers," said Assistant City Manager Rob Cron. "We received help from state representatives Phil Plummer and Rodney Creech, as well as state senators Stephen Huffman and Niraj Antani."

Construction will begin by early fall and be completed this year.

The Art Park is located at 256 E. Alkaline Springs Rd.



Rendering of the future Art Park amphitheater.



City Connects Bike Path to Statewide Network

Construction will begin later this year on a project that will make it easier for Vandalia residents to access the Great Miami River Bicycle Trail.

"When this project is complete, bicyclists will be able to ride their bike from any Vandalia neighborhood directly to the trail on safe, bicycle-designated paths," said Vandalia Assistant City Manager Rob Cron.

The Great Miami River Trail, part of a statewide trail network, begins north of

Piqua and ends just outside of Fairfield in Butler County. It rolls through Vandalia by way of the Taylorsville MetroPark.

The \$4.3 million project will be funded by a \$2.3 million grant from the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. The City of Vandalia and Five Rivers MetroParks will pay the remainder. The Ohio Department of Transportation is managing the project.

Construction is underway and will be completed by next summer.



Cops and Community Together

Mark your calendar and plan to join your neighbors, police officers and other public officials for National Night Out on August 6.

Butler Township's National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 6, from 6-8 p.m., hosted by Stonespring Nursing Center, 4000 Singing Hills Blvd.

It will feature face painting, kids' games, bounce houses, Kona Ice and hot dogs from United Dairy Farmers.

The City of Vandalia National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 6, from 6-8 p.m. at the Vandalia Sports Complex.

In addition to food, music and a bike rodeo, a raffle will have two lucky kids winning bikes.



Vandalia Named a Purple Heart City



Vandalia residents can claim a new point of pride in their community.

The City of Vandalia was recently named a Purple Heart City, highlighting Vandalia's commitment to honoring and supporting its military community.

The Purple Heart medal is a prestigious decoration awarded to military members who have been wounded or killed in combat. Established by General George Washington in 1782, it is the oldest military award still presented to U.S. military personnel.

Purple Heart City downtown banners and signs throughout the city will showcase this honor.

"We hope they'll serve as a reminder for all of us to thank service members for their sacrifice," said Communication Manager Rich Hopkins.

Smoother Days Ahead for Township Roads

These roadways will be resurfaced this year as part of Butler Township's asphalt overlay program include:

- Meeker Woods Drive
- Echoing Oaks
- Hertlein Road
- Frost Road (End Vandalia Corp. line to begin Miami County Corp. line)
- Alvira Avenue
- Elkmont Court
- Brigantine Way
- Landsend Court
- Passport Lane
- Sovereign Court
- Stillcrest Way
- Stillmead Drive
- Wainscott Way
- Wicksford Court

The repaving is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.



October 5 is the date Party in the Park Returns – With a Twist

It's a party – and you're invited.

Butler Township's annual Party in the Park will be back on **Saturday, October 5, at Van Atta Park, from noon to 6 p.m.**

And with Miller Lane construction limiting more roadway closures, officials decided to merge the traditional summertime car show, Cruise-In to Butler Township, with the Party in the Park and all its popular attractions.

Updates and details will be posted on Facebook at @BTPartyinthePark and the township's website.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for fall fun.

Improvements Underway for Busy Township Roadway

Improvements to Miller Lane in Benchwood Station have begun and will be implemented in five phases. Completion is slated for no later than early 2025. The anticipated construction schedule below is subject to change based on weather and other factors:

Phase I: Full-depth pavement repairs on Miller Lane will continue through July. Traffic will be maintained. Bus pads in current bus stop locations, pedestrian crossing islands and driveway replacements are also being installed.

Phase II: Full-depth pavement repairs at the Miller-Benchwood intersection will take place in late July.

Phase III: Construction of the new roundabout at the Maxton Road-Miller Lane intersection will take place from August through October.

Phase IV: Pavement widening on Benchwood and traffic signal installation at the Benchwood-Miller intersection will take place by early November.

Phase V: Asphalt milling and the final course of asphalt, sidewalk installation, landscaping, seeding and mulch and mailbox installation will be the final phase.

The Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District (MCTID) is the project manager.

"We are all in frequent communication and addressing issues as they come up," said Township Administrator Erika Vogel.

Project updates will appear on Facebook (@ButlerTownshipOhio), *Butler Briefly* (monthly electronic newsletter) and the township's website at butlertownship.com/community/benchwood-station-improvements.

Questions? Please contact Erika Vogel at evogel@butlertownship.com or 937-898-6735, or MCTID Executive Director Vanessa Glotfelter at vglotfelter@mctid.org.



Crews have completed concrete work on the East side of Miller Lane and have now transitioned to the West side of Miller Lane to complete repairs.



butlertownship.com
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School Open Houses Scheduled

Butler High School: Aug. 27 | 5:30-7 p.m.

Morton Middle School: Aug. 27 | 5-6:30 p.m.

Smith Intermediate School: Aug. 27 | 4:30-6 p.m.

Demmitt Elementary School: Aug. 27 | 5-6:30 p.m.

Helke Early Learning Center:

Kindergarten Meet the Teacher & Open House: Sept. 9 | 7:45-8:30 a.m.

AM Preschool: Sept. 16 | 5-5:45 p.m.

PM Preschool: Sept. 16 | 6-6:45 p.m.

Orientation dates and times will be posted on the school district's website.

First Day of School

Grades 1-12: Tuesday, Sept. 3

Kindergarten: Monday, Sept. 9

Preschool: Tuesday, Sept. 10

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Butler High School celebrated the Class of 2024 in a commencement ceremony on May 20. In all, 237 graduates earned their diplomas, ending their high school journey and beginning their next chapter.

This year's graduating class earned an outstanding scholarship sum of \$12,954,701, setting a new school record.

Whether they go on to higher education, the workforce or the military, these high-achieving Aviators are ready to soar.

Retirees Leave Legacy of Service

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Vandalia-Butler City School District retirees, whose combined years of service total nearly 350. The new retirees include Katherine Baker, Todd Baker, Lisa Craft, Lis-Beth Dahlinghaus, William Danley, Sheila Dean, Therese Garison, Richard Noble, Carolyn North, Anthony Sheffield, Cynthia Snyder, Casandra Trick and Kevin Wilson.

