

Community Connection

United in Service to our Community:

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

Fall 2024



Vandalia Fall Festival: New Venue, More Fun

Clear your calendar for October 12! The City's popular Fall Festival promises to be even more fun and user friendly this year with a move to the Vandalia Sports Complex.

"As the Fall Festival has become more popular, parking has become a bit of a challenge," said Facility Manager Aaron Messenger. "We'll now be able to better accommodate parking for both visitors and vendors."

The festival's lineup has been supercharged, too. A S'mores Station will be available from 2-4 p.m. for those who want to create the traditional treat. In addition to multiple food trucks, a pumpkin patch, inflatable play areas and a corn pit, hay rides will be offered throughout the day.

The Vandalia Fall Festival is Saturday, October 12, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Vandalia Sports Complex, 1111 Stonequarry Road. Admission is free.



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FOOD TRUCKS



WAGON RIDES

CAR SHOW



YOU'RE INVITED!

PARTY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

12 PM - 6 PM

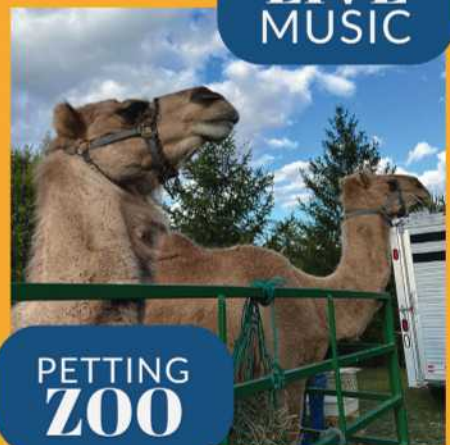
ART VAN ATTA PARK



PUMPKIN PATCH



LIVE MUSIC



PETTING ZOO

Vandalia City Manager Search Underway

The City of Vandalia has contracted with a regional organization to assist in the recruitment of a new city manager. In August, Council entered into an agreement with Management Advisory Group, headquartered in Westerville, Ohio, to lead the process.

While the recruitment process is underway, retired Kettering city manager Mark Schwieterman is serving as interim city manager.

The recruitment process is expected to wrap up by the end of the year.



EV Chargers: City Responds to Citizens' Requests

In response to the growing popularity of electric vehicles, the City of Vandalia has installed 16 electric-vehicle chargers for public use at these City facilities:

Vandalia Municipal Building

Cassel Hills Golf Course

Vandalia Senior Citizens Center

Vandalia Justice Center Public Lot

Vandalia Sports Complex

Vandalia Recreation Center

Thanks to an AES Ohio rebate program, the City is being reimbursed for 100% of the estimated \$320,000 in project costs.

Users will access the units through a phone or tablet app. The charging fee has not yet been set, but it is expected to be comparable to rates around the region.

"This is a service many residents have told us they'd like to see," said Assistant City Manager Rob Cron. "We're happy to provide this program with no start-up costs to taxpayers."



Roundabout Coming to Miller Lane

Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Maxton Road and Millier Lane is nearly complete. Although a detour has been in place, officials made sure all business access drives have remained open.

Next up is pavement widening on Benchwood Road and the installation of new traffic signals at the Benchwood-Miller intersection. The last phase will include everything from a final course of asphalt to sidewalk connections, streetlights and landscaping.

Stay up-to-date by following the project on the township's website under "Benchwood Station Improvement Project."

Township Residents Bring Ideas to Planning Process



Interested residents study posters about the planning process on display at National Night Out.

Township staff, steering committee members and consultants have been conducting research and inviting residents' input to help develop an updated comprehensive land use plan for Butler Township.

In August, the Township released the second of two online citizen surveys to gain citizen feedback. The survey is accessible on the Township's website. In

addition, an informational open house will be held Thursday, September 19, from 5 – 7:30 p.m., at the Township Meeting Hall, 3780 Little York Rd.

Over the coming weeks, the plan will be drafted, reviewed and refined to create a blueprint for the Township's future. The goal is for the Township trustees to adopt the plan by the end of 2024.



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District Saves \$3.2M With Reconfiguration

Students were welcomed back to school on Tuesday, September 3. Much work was completed in the district to prepare for a new Labor Day to Memorial Day school calendar, and also for new grade-level configurations. Both changes were set into motion as part of a cost-savings plan.

This school year, preschool and an all-day kindergarten program are being offered at the newly renamed Helke Early Learning Center. Demmitt is home to first and second grades, and Smith Intermediate School, also newly renamed, is home to grades three through five. An eight-classroom modular unit was installed at Smith to accommodate the addition of third grade.

These changes have saved the district \$3.2 million. With the savings plan and the revenue sharing agreement reached with the City of Vandalia, the district's financial forecast has improved, alleviating the need to seek operating funds with a new levy request for the next couple of years.

Township Residents to Vote on Limited Home Rule

Butler Township Trustees are asking Township voters this November to decide whether to become a Limited Home Rule (LHR) township. Miami Township, Washington Township and 30 other Ohio townships have implemented LHR.

Butler Township currently has only those powers granted by state law, which greatly limits the flexibility to address the concerns of residents and businesses.

An LHR township has broader authority to regulate the health, safety and welfare of its citizens through the township's police. Township trustees could pass resolutions to efficiently and promptly enforce sanitary, public health and other nuisances, as long as those regulations do not conflict with the laws of the state of Ohio.

However, the Township could **NOT** regulate hunting or firearms, impose new taxes without voter approval; modify

township government structure; create new criminal offenses or impose criminal penalties; or revise building codes, among other restrictions.

If approved by voters, LHR will be initiated on January 1, 2025.

More details can be found on the Township's website at butlertownship.com/community/limited-home-rule. Also, residents are invited to two informational meetings at the Township Meeting Hall, 3780 Little York Rd.:

**Thursday, September 19, 2024,
from 5-7:30 p.m.**

**Monday, October 21, 2024,
from 5-7:30 p.m.**

Please join us for a discussion of this important issue.

Local Groups Fund Life-Saving Devices

In August, automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) were installed at the Vandalia Sports Complex, Helke Park and the Vandalia Art Park.

An AED is a device that sends an electronic signal to stimulate heartbeat in someone who is unconscious, or in breathing distress, while awaiting emergency services. All AEDs come with easy-to-understand directions, so anyone can use them.



"The new devices are available at all times to provide life-saving intervention quickly," said Parks and Recreation Director Steve Clark.

A number of local organizations

donated funds to purchase and install the devices. "The community thanks Butler United Soccer, the Vandalia Rotary Club, the Vandalia Optimist Club, the Butler Athletic Boosters and Vandalia Pee-Wee Football for making this project possible," said Clark.



The Senior Class of 2025 gathered to watch the sun rise on their last first day of high school.

Vandalia Fire Division Open House

The Vandalia Division of Fire will be rolling out the red carpet for community members from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 6. The division's annual open house, hosted at Fire Station #1, 8705 Peters Pike, will feature demonstrations, free fire engine rides, the inflatable safety house and reminders about this year's Fire Prevention Month theme, "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!"

Hope to see you there.



butlertownship.com
(937) 898-6735

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Butler Athletes to Compete on 'Level Playing Field'

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has expanded its tournament divisions beginning this school year to address divisional enrollment disparities among school districts. The impacted sports include volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball and baseball.

Before the expansion, Butler student athletes competed in Division I against much larger schools, some more than three times Butler's size.

Now, Butler volleyball, soccer and basketball will compete in Division III, alongside comparable districts. It's expected that baseball and softball will be assigned to Division III when more divisional alignments are announced later this year.

"Our student athletes and coaches are excited for the opportunity to compete toward the dream goal of state championships on a more level playing field," said Athletic Director Jordan Shumaker.



Happy Halloween!

Parents, your kids' favorite night of the year is almost here. Beggars' Night in Vandalia and Butler Township will be

**Thursday, October 31
from 6-8 p.m.**

Please remember to keep them safe!