

Community Paint Day is Saturday, May 18!



We're very excited to share details on the City of Vandalia's next very cool public mural! We believe public art should be fun, engaging and inclusive.

On Saturday, May 18, weather permitting, local artist Tiffany Clark will begin painting a mural on the side of the building located at 206 E. National Road.

The mural was selected by the Vandalia Arts Council after a process that included many design ideas. This design pays homage to the many amenities and attractions that make Vandalia a Top-Tier Community.

Tiffany has made it her mission to create colorful visual public growth and help others make their mark in their city through paint.



Here's a sneak peek at one small portion of the design artist Tiffany Clark will be painting onto the side of the building at 206 E. National Road.

Get Involved!

On Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the public is invited to grab a brush and help paint Vandalia's next public art mural.

Artists of every skill level are invited to help make this mural a genuine community focal point. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

This mural is made possible by a grant provided by the Vandalia Arts Council.



We have to admit... when we first heard Missy was retiring... we were all a little shocked...



But after a little soul searching and reflection...



We're so happy for her... we're throwing her a party!

Please join us as we congratulate Missy Pruszynski on her 32 years working for the City and wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement!



Retirement Party/Open House
Thursday, April 25, 2024
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Vandalia Senior Center

**Retirement
Party**



Vandalia^{ohio}
small city. big opportunity.

The Blue Letter

April 21, 2024

Honorable Mayor Herbst & Esteemed City Councilmembers:

This week we recognized our **Public Safety Specialists** during **National Safety Telecommunications Week**. Our dispatchers are the unseen heroes behind every call. Thank you for the great service that you provide.

Welcome to **Electrical / Building Inspector Paul Barnett** who joined our team on April 15th!

City Council Strategic Visioning Retreat Meeting

– Thank you to the City Council and Senior Staff members for the active participation and great discussion at our strategic visioning workshop on Wednesday, April 17th. This was a great opportunity to come together and celebrate many of our great



accomplishments and to plan for the future of what we want our city to be. The workshop was facilitated by Dana McDaniel and David Collingsworth of the Management Advisory Group. Part II of the strategic visioning process will continue May 8th at 5 pm in the Justice Center. I look forward to working with the Management Advisory Group to synthesize and report back on the major themes, and concrete goals that our team will pursue to continue to improve quality of life in Vandalia. This meeting is open to the public.



Proclamation for Human Resources Manager Missy Pruszyński: A very special moment at last night's Vandalia City Council meeting! Mrs. Pruszyński is retiring at the end of the month after 37 years of dedicated public service to the people of Vandalia. The proclamation by Mayor Herbst officially designates Wednesday, May 1, 2024, as Missy Pruszyński Day in Vandalia.

Congrats to the Income Tax Office Team! The tax office survived another successful tax season! Between April 1 - 15, 2024 our office assisted 1,410 taxpayers at the counter, answered 625 phone calls, 440 emails, and 3,040 electronic

returns (January – April). Thank you for the great work and exceptional customer service.

Arbor Day Event - On Friday, April 26 at 1 pm, the City of Vandalia will hold an Arbor Day Event at Helke Park. Vice Mayor Blakesly will present a proclamation and an American Hop Hornbeam will be planted. This event is open to the public.

National Day of Prayer - On Thursday, May 2nd, National Day of Prayer will be held at First Light Church from 8: am - 10:15 am. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall – Main Building and the Prayer Service will begin at 8:45 am in the Sanctuary. The event is free to the community. To RSVP, call 937-898-3801. Live Stream at www.firstlight.church

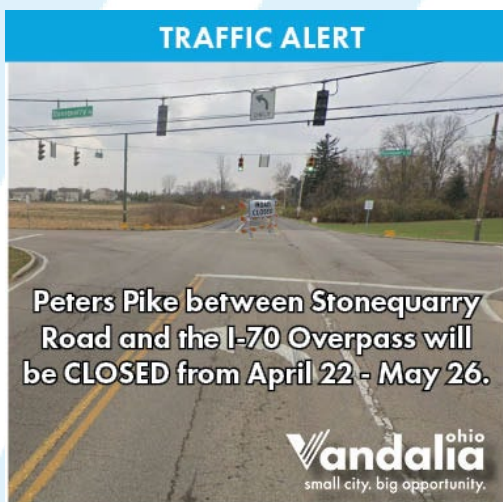
Vandalia Bikeway Connector Construction Kickoff: Assistant City Manager Rob Cron and Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair Chuck Smith represented the City of Vandalia at the Ohio Department of Transportation's construction kickoff event, which featured the Vandalia Bikeway Connector. The \$3.5 million project will utilize a \$2.3 million federal grant. Details include two-way bike lanes on National Road, a dedicated two-way cycle lane on Brown School Road, an off-road paved path along U.S. 40 and Brown School Road, and a bridge over CSX rail lines. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. [Mr. Smith shared this article \(LINK\).](#) The City is working with Five Rivers MetroParks, CSX, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission to achieve this project.



Garage Sale Sign Up: [More information is available on the City Website \(LINK\).](#)

Focus Vandalia: May's topics will include Community Paint Day and our Downtown Mural project, Veteran Banner Installation, Garage Sale Weekend, Shred Day and Light Ohio Blue/National Police Memorial Week.

Opening Day for our Youth Baseball/Softball program will take place on Saturday, April 27 at the Sports Complex. We have finalized plans for a special kick off celebration for the program with a first pitch ceremony and plenty of games and activities for the kids. Several Council Members have confirmed they will be participating in the first pitch ceremony, and we will have Police, Fire and VPRD mascots on hand, a couple of Wright State University baseball players and a former long-time youth baseball/softball commissioner as well.



Recreation Coordinator Josh Berry has put together an exciting new event! **A Superhero Fun Run** will take place on Saturday, April 27 at the Sports Complex. The event is for all ages, including children, and includes participants dressed as their favorite Superhero! The run will be a 1.3-mile fun run around the Sports Complex walking path. Participants can register on the day of the event at the VRC front desk and are able to run the event anytime between Noon and 4:00 pm. (Flyer included at end of this report).

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Passes are now on sale at the VRC Front Desk. As of April 15, we have sold 77 memberships. We continue to promote pass sales on social media.

Prayers for Tim Bailey: Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Tim Bailey sustained serious injuries in a motorcycle accident earlier this week. He is currently in the hospital as he suffered several broken bones and other non-life-threatening injuries. I ask that you keep Tim and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Van Con General Contractors are approximately 75% complete with the **Robinette Park Restroom Building** construction project.

Clearing at Art Park: Maintenance staff have begun clearing some of the east fence line at the Art Park. We would like to complete this area prior to construction of the Amphitheater area.

All **City entry signs** have been power washed and cleaned up in anticipation of the signage update project. I continue to work with Geograph Industries on the installation schedule.

Generator Replacement at the Municipal Building: The Municipal Building generation installation project is underway. This is the last piece to complete the Facilities Infrastructure project.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement: During the past week, VPD officers made eight traffic stops on commercial motor vehicles for traffic violations. These stops resulted in one traffic citation, six written warnings and one verbal warning while working eight additional enforcement hours.

Working with Other Law Enforcement Agencies: On April 10, Lieutenants Walker and Sucher hosted a regional leadership meeting at the Justice Center. The group is made up of command staff officers from surrounding jurisdictions who meet to discuss current challenges and share ideas on solutions.

Curb and Sidewalk Replacement: Coate Construction LLC has passed the 50% mark on this year's curb/sidewalk program project with completion of work on Halifax Dr and Mountair Dr. Work will next move to Kenbrook Dr.

Resurfacing Stop 8 Rd.: Barrett Paving Materials has resurfaced a large portion of Stop Eight Rd in conjunction with Montgomery County Engineer Office (MCEO) this past Tuesday (4/16). The City was able to split costs on the portion Webster St to I-75 bridge based on corporation limits. While the contractor was there, the City had Barrett resurface the other side of the I-75 bridge to Miller Ln using Safe & Stable funds.



Property Maintenance Inspector Meeting: Housing inspectors from throughout the Dayton region are in Vandalia today discussing trends, new regulations, and best practices relating to property maintenance enforcement issues. Vandalia Property Maintenance Inspector Kip Millikin has hosted this annual meeting in Vandalia for several years.

Press Release: Enclosed is the City's press release in response to the lawsuit that was filed by the Vandalia Butler City School District.

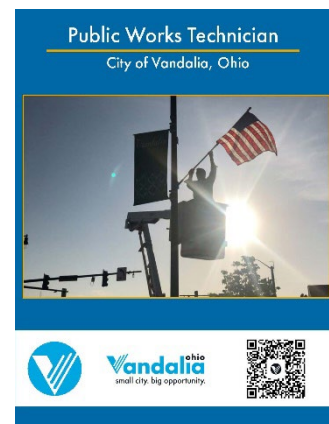
Focus Vandalia (LINK): This week we introduced Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Rich Morrett.



Monday, April 15, 2024 - Focus Vandalia - Risk Reduction Coordinator



Public Works Technician Civil Service Eligibility List Recruitment: The City is recruiting to establish an updated competitive eligibility list for the position of full-time Public Works Technician. [Click here to see the recruitment brochure.](#)



Leadership Ohio: Last month, I was one of 35 people from across the state who were chosen to be a Leadership Ohio Fellow. Established in 1992, Leadership Ohio's goal is to cultivate experiences that elevate leaders' knowledge, perspective, and connections from a community to a state-wide level. Success in the Leadership Ohio mission creates a unifying movement of diverse, connected leaders who make Ohio the best state to live and to work. A major component of this program is to facilitate constructive dialogue around conflicting viewpoints and difficult issues at the local and state level. [Here is a video on viewpoint diversity from the Heterodox Academy.](#) I recently shared this with our Senior Staff. While the video focuses on academia, there are easy parallels that apply to our work in trying to make the best decisions for the greatest number of people. I am thankful for the opportunity to grow as a leader and to participate in this program, which will wrap up in November.



Please contact me directly with comments and questions.

Very Respectfully,

Dan Wendt
City Manager

CC: Board and Commission Members
All City Employees

Attachments:

1. Information Update - ACM Cron – April 19, 2024;
2. Information Update – Director Leiter – April 19, 2024;
3. Information Update - Chief Follick – April 19, 2024;
4. Information Update - HR Manager Pruszyński – April 19, 2024;
5. Information Update - Director Clark – April 19, 2024;
6. Information Update – Chief Althouse – April 19, 2024;
7. Information Update - Director Borton – April 19, 2024;
8. Community Paint Day Flyer;
9. Citywide Policy Goals
10. MyVandalia App Flyer;
11. Employee Appreciation Events;
12. Garage Sale Weekend Flyer;
13. VB Historical Society Thank You Card;
14. VPD Crime Status Update;
15. Pay Period Change Memorandum and Supplements;
16. OP&F Audit Release;
17. Real Appeal Flyer;
18. Press Release;
19. Vandalia Bikeway Connector Article;
20. Shred Day Flyer; and
21. Vandalia Market Analysis Major Findings

A Top-Tier Community



With Top-Tier City Services



small city. big opportunity.



vandalia^{ohio}
small city. big opportunity.





To: Dan Wendt, City Manager
From: Rob Cron, Assistant City Manager
Date: April 18, 2024
Re: Information Update for April 6-19, 2024

- Staff from all departments participated in the city-wide preparedness for the Solar Eclipse on April 8th. The Emergency Operation Center was set up at the Justice Center and fortunately the event went off without the need for us to take any action. Thank you to Chief Follick and his staff for preparing an action plan for the event.
- I had the pleasure and honor to speak at ODOT's Construction Kickoff event on Thursday April 18th. The annual event talks about the upcoming ODOT roadway projects and work zone safety. We were fortunate enough to have our Vandalia Bikeway Connector projected highlighted at the event.
- Thank you for the opportunity to participate along with other staff in the City Council Strategic Visioning Retreat. There was great conversation by everyone about our challenges, opportunities, and goals for the city. This was a great opportunity to come together and celebrate many of our great accomplishments and to plan for the future of what we want our city to be.
- Ben Borton, Jake Hayslett, Chris Mastrino, Darren Davey, you, and I met with WDC Group to review a second draft concept plan for a new Public Works facility. We are very close to completing the programming stage to the point we can develop a budget for the project.
- I met with two different companies to tour the facility at 1669 Captone Way. This is one of several sites they were touring in the area.
- Staff from DES, Fire Department along with planning & zoning held our monthly development meeting during this period. Several ongoing or upcoming projects were discussed including our approach to nuisances and/or blighted properties.
- Julie Sullivan, from Dayton Development Coalition and I had a Business Retention meeting with representatives from Heraeus Epurio. One thing to note from the meeting is that their current president that is located in Germany will be retiring soon and the new president will be in the Dayton area.
- We continue preparation for the upcoming Air Show. Rich Hopkins has nearly all volunteers secured for the weekend. Our food order has been submitted and we are creating the "Save the Date" invitations now for chalet guests.
- Our first recruitment email for the 2024 Corporate Challenge will be sent out this week. We look forward to a new and improved schedule of events in 2024.

- 📍 Our garage sale weekend database link is now live. Thanks to Rich Hopkins and Darren Davey for putting this together. Residents have already begun registering their sale for the weekend. On the day before garage sale weekend officially starts, we will release a list of all garage sales as well as an interactive map showing the location of each sale and some of the key items they will be selling.
- 📍 Rich has also begun the marketing for our annual Shred Day event which will be held on Friday, May 17. Thank you to all the staff that have already signed up to volunteer to assist with the event.
- 📍 The deadline is nearing for submitting articles for the May Dayton Daily News Vandalia page. The articles we will be submitting include a recap of the Bikeway Project, a story on the new restroom facility and playground for Robinette Park. We will also have news briefs on the Art Park Amphitheater, the promotion of Zach Holbrook to Fire Lieutenant and Jake Hayslett to Public Works Superintendent.
- 📍 We are scheduled to shoot the May Focus Vandalia videos on April 25. May's topics will include Community Paint Day and our Downtown Mural project, Veteran Banner Installation, Garage Sale Weekend, Shred Day and Light Ohio Blue/National Police Memorial Week.
- 📍 Ben Graham assisted with first round interviews for the Parks Maintenance Supervisor positions.
- 📍 The Planning Commission met on April 9th to consider a record plan at 3675 Wyse Road. This item was presented to City Council in the Study session on April 15th.
- 📍 The Board of Zoning Appeals met on April 10th to consider a variance for five signs at 4160 Little York Road. This item was also presented to City Council at their April 15th Study Session.
- 📍 Mike Hammes, Ben Graham, Ben Borton and I met with the developer representing the remaining land in the Foxfire Development to discuss some possible changes to their previously approved plans. If they wish to move forward with the changes, the new plan will have to go back to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.
- 📍 Kip Millikin hosted a Property Maintenance Workshop on Friday April 19th. Kip's workshops are always very well attended, and Kip receives many compliments and words of appreciation for putting these events together. Inspectors from all around the region typically attend.
- 📍 I attended the I-70/I-75 event at Sinclair Community College on Friday April 19th. The topic of the day was Investing in Tomorrow.

Memo



To: Daniel D. Wendt, City Manager

From: Bridgette Leiter, Director of Finance

Date: April 17, 2024

Re: Information Update - Period Ending April 19, 2024

1. Kristen Carnes and I attended a council study session and meeting. I presented to the council for discussion a request for an increase in supplemental appropriations, an Ordinance for assessments on delinquent water, sewer, stormwater, refuse and weed cutting for 1st qtr 2024 YTD, and the March 2024 YTD Financial reports.
2. Finance continues to provide data to the compilation team and auditors from Plattenburg and Associates for the 2023 Annual Report and audit for NAWA, TCA and the City of Vandalia.
3. Kristen Carnes, Micki Weber, and I participated in the EOC for the upcoming Solar Eclipse event.
4. The tax office survived another successful tax season! Between April 1 - 15, 2024 our office assisted 1,410 taxpayers at the counter, answered 625 phone calls, 440 emails, and 3,040 electronic returns (January – April). Congratulations and great job!!



DIVISION OF FIRE INFORMATION UPDATE

TO: DANIEL WENDT, CITY MANAGER
FROM: CHAD FOLICK, FIRE CHIEF
DATE: 4/18/2024
SUBJECT: INFORMATION UPDATE – PERIOD ENDING APRIL 19, 2024

1. Monday April 8th our community had perfect conditions to experience the highly anticipated Total Solar Eclipse. A big thank you to all departments and employees with their assistance in the planning leading up to and implementation of making this event a success around our city. There were no issues to report, and everyone seemed to enjoy what very well may be a once in a lifetime experience.
2. Training for crews this reporting period are aerial and ground ladder training as well as Standing Orders testing and training continues.
3. On April 10th crews were called to assist Buter Township Fire Department with a complex auto extrication. Upon arrival, crews found an accident with a car vs. barn. Both the vehicle and barn needed to be carefully stabilized to safely extricate the patient.
4. The Division of Fire would like to congratulate Captain Anthony Miller on the completion of his Ohio Fire Chief's Ohio Fire Executives Course. Capt. Miller graduated on Friday April 12th after a two-and-a-half-year commitment to the program. Capt. Miller is now one of two Division of Fire members that are OFE credentialed. Congrats again Capt. Miller!
5. Crews were available and able to attend a birthday party for a young member of our community on April 13. Crews are always happy to assist in celebrating with our residents.



DIVISION OF FIRE INFORMATION UPDATE

6. A Huge thank you this week to our Public Safety Specialists for National Safety Telecommunications Week. Our dispatchers are the unseen heroes behind every call and the Division of Fire appreciates everything you do for us and our community.
7. Last reporting period we announced that Haley Lippencott is the newest member of the Division of Fire to join our full-time ranks. We were able to celebrate and officially swear Haley in at the Monday April 15th council meeting, congrats again to Haley on her new position.
8. Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Rich Morrett was featured on Focus Vandalia this past week. Rich was hired as the new CRRC this year and in the video, Rich talks about who he is, his background, his responsibilities in this position and how he can help assist the community stepping into this role.
9. The annual convention, FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference) is happening this week. This is a week-long convention that holds classes, seminars, hands on opportunities and a trade show every year in Indianapolis. The Division of Fire is sending multiple members over this year on various days as we always have crews come back from this event with great ideas, training, and knowledge.

Memo

To: Daniel D. Wendt, City Manager

From: Melissa Pruszynski, Human Resources Manager

Date: April 18, 2024

Re: Information Update – Period Ending April 19, 2024

1. Just a reminder - if you need **additional / replacement insurance cards**, you have access to your ID cards via your United Health Care, EyeMed, and Superior Dental Apps. You can download the apps in the AppStore or contact customer service and request additional ID cards.
2. **Real Appeal** is only available to UHC subscribers. It is a year-long lifestyle program that uses clinically proven research and an engaging online experience to drive scalable disease prevention and lasting behavior change resulting in weight loss. The program uses on-camera interaction with a coach for 30 minutes, will supply the UHC subscriber with a Real Appeal Success kit, an interactive dashboard, and much more. A flier is attached to this update. As well I have previously notified staff through my information update and emails.
3. Hiring update – The Civil Service Commission met April 10 and approved eligibility lists for Police Officer, Fire Lieutenant, and Electrical Inspector. Conditional offers were made to three Police Officer candidates. The Park Maintenance Supervisor and Building Maintenance Supervisor second round interviews will be held the week of April 22. This past week the six remaining Recreation Superintendent candidates completed their PRADCO requirements and administration met with PRADCO for a debriefing on candidate results. This week we held a first-round interview for a Recreation Center Custodian candidate. The second-round interview for the recreation center custodian will take place the week of April 22. The ad for Human Resources Manager closes April 22 and the ad for Police Officer is scheduled to close May 12. Ads were posted this week for Public Works Office Manager which closes April 29 and Public Works Technician, which closes June 14.
4. The most recent version of the Employee Photo Directory can be found at [City of Vandalia SharePoint - HR](#) - our SharePoint site. This document is fluid and will be updated frequently. When you arrive at the SharePoint site, click on "Documents," and then click on the **blue** "Employee Directory" folder. This document is fluid and will be updated frequently.
5. Just a reminder, if you are working on performance appraisals, the Agile Performance Appraisal training videos can be found on the City of Vandalia SharePoint site. The link is:
<https://vandaliaohioorg.sharepoint.com/sites/HR/Agile%20Performance%20Appraisal%20Videos/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.



To: Dan Wendt, City Manager
From: Steve Clark, Director of Parks & Recreation
Date: 4/18/2024
Re: Information Update – Period ending April 18, 2024

RECREATION / ATHLETICS DIVISION / SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Day for our Youth Baseball/Softball program will take place on Saturday, April 27 at the Sports Complex. We have finalized plans for a special kick off celebration for the program with a first pitch ceremony and plenty of games and activities for the kids. Several Council Members have confirmed they will be participating in the first pitch ceremony, and we will have Police, Fire and VPRD mascots on hand, a couple of Wright State University baseball players and a former long-time youth baseball/softball commissioner as well.

Registration for our Adult Softball Summer League continues through April 22. Currently, we have seven Men's Monday League teams and eight Co-Ed Friday League teams.

The ice machine in the baseball concession stand at the Sports Complex has been determined to be non-repairable. Maintenance Technician Matt Roberts solicited quotes for a new machine, and we are exploring options for the upcoming baseball/softball season.

Recreation Coordinator Josh Berry has put together an exciting new event! A Superhero Fun Run will take place on Saturday, April 27 at the Sports Complex. The event is for all ages, including children, and includes participants dressed as their favorite Superhero! The run will be a 1.3-mile fun run around the Sports Complex walking path. Participants can register on the day of the event at the VRC front desk and are able to run the event anytime between Noon and 4:00 pm. (Flyer included at end of this report).

The Vandalia Solar Eclipse Experience event happened on Monday, April 8 from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Vandalia Library. We had many different activities for people to enjoy during this event. Big thank you to all the work from Fire and Police to make sure this event was safe for everyone to enjoy a once in a lifetime experience. Attendance for the event was light.

Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Passes are now on sale at the VRC Front Desk. As of April 15, we have sold 77 memberships. We continue to promote pass sales on social media.

RECREATION CENTER

Summer CampREC registration began on Monday, April 8. Aaron Messenger reports most of the camp, besides the week of 4th of July, was filled to the maximum within 20 minutes, a new record.

Our first Brixilated Builders Academy session began on Thursday, April 4 and runs for 4 weeks. We have 12 kids signed up for this session, which is great for a first time, multi-date session. This

session is led by Bulter Graduate and former Vandalia resident, Adam Mullins and his Brixilated team. We plan to offer another session in September of 2024.

GOLF DIVISION

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent Tim Bailey sustained serious injuries in a motorcycle accident earlier this week. He is currently in the hospital as he suffered several broken bones and other non-life-threatening injuries. I ask that you keep Tim and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

League play is underway at Cassel Hills Golf Course. We have a total of 19 leagues this season, playing on various days and times.

Golf maintenance is trying to keep up with mowing of the course as the warm wet weather has created rapid turf growth. The mowing crews are doing an outstanding job keeping the course looking and playing great.

The weather this week has been conducive to golf, so play has been up at Casel Hills. Revenues for Sunday totaled over \$6,000 and in the first four days of the week we totaled over \$17,000 in revenue.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Mechanical Systems of Dayton has completed the installation of filters and performed preventative maintenance on the HVAC units at the Senior Center.

Over the years, many members have shared how much the Senior Center has benefited them. Recently, several members told Senior Coordinator Toni Williams the center had saved their lives. They had lost spouses and coming to the center keeps them busy and talking to others. Another member told Toni that she had been depressed for seven years after losing her husband and she didn't have many people to interact with. Since she has been coming, she often lingers after events to have conversations with members she has become friends with during the last year or so. She has been teaching at least one art class each month and says this had given her purpose. She says she is now a happier person because of her involvement at the Senior Center.

The total number of people coming into the Senior Center from April 2 to April 15 was 1055, including evenings and weekends. There were 12 days, including nights and weekends, the facility was rented. The total average was 88 people per day. There were 867 members who came to the center on the 9 days it was open for an average of 96 members per day. The 96 members per day is a high average for the center.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Van Con General Contractors are approximately 75% complete with the Robinette Park Restroom Building construction project. (Pictures at end of report).

Maintenance staff have begun clearing some of the east fence line at the Art Park. We would like to complete this area prior to construction of the Amphitheater area.

All City entry signs have been power washed and cleaned up in anticipation of the signage update project. I continue to work with Geograph Industries on the installation schedule.

The Municipal Building generation installation project is underway. This is the last piece to complete the Facilities Infrastructure project.

The Annual Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Friday, April 26 at 1:00 pm in Helke Park. Helke Elementary students will be attending again this year and will take home White Dogwood seedling to plant at home.

Robinette Park Restroom Project





Vandalia
Recreation
Center

SUPERHERO FUN RUN!

Saturday, April 27 - 12:00PM - 4:00PM

Come out to the Superhero Fun Run dressed as your favorite Superhero! This will be a 1.3 mile fun run where runners will run to stations and complete their Superhero missions to save the City!

Registration: On the day of the event, register at the VRC Front Desk, then head outside with your receipt to the starting area directly behind the Rec Center. Registrations taken anytime between 11:30AM-3:30PM, for runs anytime between 12:00PM - 4:00PM.



Run Location: Sports Complex - Walking Path

Ages: Fun for All Ages!

Fees: FREE for Members
\$10 Residents
\$15 Non-Residents

Questions? Contact Josh at jberry@vandaliaohio.org

Information Update



To: Dan Wendt
City Manager

From: Kurt E. Althouse
Chief of Police

Date: April 18, 2024

Subject: Information Update Ending April 19, 2024

1. During the past week, VPD officers made eight traffic stops on commercial motor vehicles for traffic violations. These stops resulted in one traffic citation, six written warnings and one verbal warning while working eight additional enforcement hours.
2. Detectives charged a 45-year-old Dayton man with Forgery after he cashed a fraudulent check at Abbey Credit Union.
3. The Division executed its operations plan for the total solar eclipse which occurred on April 8. Our biggest concern was how heavy traffic could affect public safety's ability to respond to emergencies and crimes in progress. We increased our staffing and strategically placed units throughout the City to cut down on response times. With the help of other City departments, we were able to establish back-up plans for communication as well as posting "No Parking" signs to establish emergency routes through the City. After months of planning, we did not experience traffic congestion or any significant traffic delays. While there was heavy traffic on I-70 and I-75, it kept moving sufficiently that motorists did not exit onto City roadways to avoid backups. We were able to release our extra staffing by 6:00 p. m. and returned to normal operations.
4. Sworn staff attended annual driver's training during the week of April 8. Officers attended while on duty to demonstrate proficiency on a technical skills course as well as other maneuverability events. This training is provided yearly to all sworn staff and adapted to address any concerns related to the operation of vehicles, tire deflation devices, and the use of push bumpers. All sworn officers are also required to review VPD's Pursuit Policy during the driver's training.
5. On April 10, Lieutenants Walker and Sucher hosted a regional leadership meeting at the Justice Center. The group is made up of command staff officers from surrounding jurisdictions who meet to discuss current challenges and share ideas on solutions.
6. On April 10, I attended an Executive Board meeting for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police in Dublin. Preparations are finalized for the Chiefs Annual In-Service Conference held in Columbus on April 28-30.
7. Detectives charged a 48-year-old Trotwood man with Felonious Assault and Felony Domestic Violence after he assaulted his girlfriend while staying at the Knights Inn

8. On April 11, I attended an Air Show board meeting at Wright Bros. Aero. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Show and pre-sale tickets are ahead of previous years with many reserved areas sold-out. This year's line-up of performers proves to be a spectacular show. I will be attending a safety and security meeting for the Air Show in the upcoming weeks.
9. On April 12, detectives along with investigators of the Ohio Investigative Unit conducted alcohol compliance checks at 14 liquor permit holding establishments in the city. Investigators utilized a 19-year-old female confidential informant (CI) as part of the compliance check. There was only one violation at the Sunoco convenience mart where the clerk checked the CI's valid driver's license and sold her alcohol despite being underage.
10. On April 17, Officer Sommer presented *Run Hide Fight* to 100 employees of Sinbon in two sessions.
11. I appreciate the opportunity to provide a presentation and update on the Police Division to City Council last Monday evening and share a few exciting events and activities occurring in 2023 at VPD. As mentioned, the Police Division appreciates the support from City leadership as we address community concerns and have seen positive impacts on reducing calls for service at local hotels and continue to dedicate hours on commercial vehicle enforcement and education.
12. I attended the City Council and senior staff work retreat on Wednesday evening in the Community Room. I appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the engaging dialogue about what the City has accomplished over the past several years and setting a vision and goals for the future.
13. On Friday, VPD participated in a joint law enforcement blitz as part of the Montgomery County Drug Free Coalition with multiple agencies from across the area. This joint operation targeted areas where there are frequent complaints of narcotics and vice activities. VPD participated with one patrol sergeant and one plain clothes investigator.
14. April 14-20 is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, and we took time this week to recognize and thank all VPD public safety specialists who provide outstanding service to the City and its residents. Our nine Public Safety Specialists work 24/7/365 to answer 911 emergency and non-emergency calls into the Communications Center and dispatch police, fire, and EMS crews to scenes of various incidents. We are proud of our PSS and recognized each one with a daily post on the Division's Facebook page and celebrate the great work they do every day.

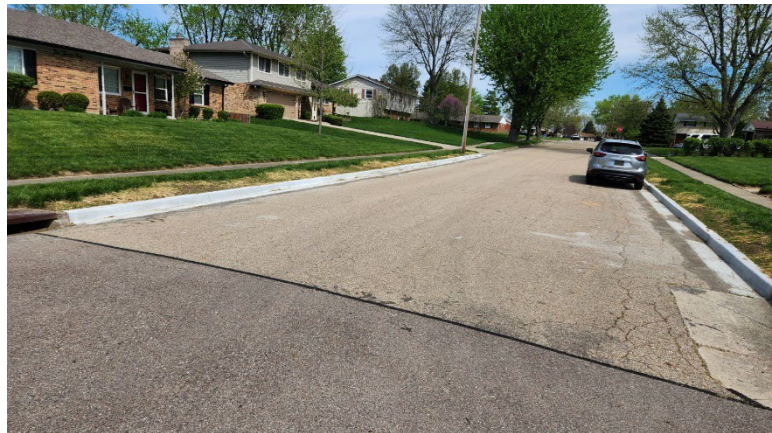
Public Service Information Update

To: Dan Wendt, City Manager
From: Ben Borton, Director of Public Service
Date: April 18, 2024
Subject: **Information Update for April 6 – 19, 2024**

Development & Engineering Services (DES)

The Clyde Place & Cyril Court Reconstruction project is completed. The asphalt roadway, topsoil, and seeding have been completed. Only punch list items remain. Thank you to the Clyde/Cyril and surrounding area residents for being understanding as we undertook this extensive project.

Coate Construction LLC has passed the 50% mark on this year's curb/sidewalk program project with completion of work on Halifax Dr and Mountair Dr. Work will next move to Kenbrook Dr.



Barrett Paving Materials has resurfaced a large portion of Stop Eight Rd in conjunction with Montgomery County Engineer Office (MCEO) this past Tuesday (4/16). The City was able to split costs on the portion Webster St to I-75 bridge based off of the Corporation limit; while the contractor was there, the City had Barrett resurface the other side of the I-75 bridge to Miller Ln using Safe & Stable funds.

Staff met with the owner of 10600 Cassel Rd on April 19th to check the status of the 2-month extension on the barn rebuilding.

Staff have been assisting with the new generator work at the Municipal building. When this project is completed, the City building will have a dedicated generator that will automatically turn on to power the building during an outage, allowing the City to continue public services.

Paul Barnett joined our team as a full-time building / electrical inspector on April 15th.

I served in the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the Solar Eclipse event on April 8th. Even though the City did not experience the projected extra traffic and associated issues, I still felt this was a good practice of preparation and action for future events when the EOC is needed to be implemented.

Chief Building Official Chris Mastrino and I attended the Montgomery County Land Bank's Brownfield and Demolition Grant Program Discussion on April 9th. We learned some valuable information on the Land Bank process and requirements.

I attended the TCA technical committee meeting on April 10th.

Assistant City Manager Rob Cron, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Jake Hayslett, yourself, and I attended multiple meetings last week to discuss the OEPA findings & orders on the NAWA plant.

Staff met to discuss possible condemnation orders on properties around the City and attended the monthly Development meeting on April 15th.

Chief Building Official Chris Mastrino, Zoning & Planning Coordinator Ben Graham, and I met with Scott Decker from VBCSD on April 15th on some possible improvements at Morton Middle School and what permits/requirements would need to be facilitate this work.

Assistant City Manager Rob Cron, Assistant Public Works Superintendent Jake Hayslett, Chief Building Official Chris Mastrino, IT Manager Darren Davey, yourself, and I met with WDC Group to review the latest programmatic schematic of proposed Public Works facility parcel. We are getting close to finalizing this higher-level schematic to base the design of the facility on.

Assistant City Manager Rob Cron, Communication Manager Rich Hopkins, yourself, and I attended the ODOT Construction Kickoff for the Vandalia Bikeway Connector project at Taylorsville MetroPark on April 18th.

Engineering/GIS Technician Chad Baughman attended the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for me on April 18th.

Public Works (PW)

Crews continued patching potholes and sweeping streets across the City.

While crews continue exercising water valves (opening and closing) as part of the annual EPA requirement, a nonfunctioning 6" valve (would not close) was found on Stewville Dr and was replaced on April 17th.

Some berming was performed on Mulberry Rd near Dixie Dr. This was something brought to our attention by a concerned resident in the area. As we strive to be as proactive as possible, we always appreciate receiving concerns from citizens to help us create a better and safer community.

Crews were staged with equipment and materials as traffic management teams as part of the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the Solar Eclipse.

We continued trimming brush back in the right-of-way (ROW) around the City using our Trackless MT7 mower.



Crews have been performing sanitary sewer lift station maintenance.

We finished our annual catch basin inspection and will begin repairs on noted issues in the coming weeks.

Crews received training on the new SL-RAT equipment and fall protection on April 19th.

We performed 87 utility locates this period for Ohio 811.

Crews performed 2 burials at Poplar Hill cemetery during this period.

We are currently accepting applications until April 29th to fill the vacant full-time Public Works Office Manager position.

Congratulations to Public Works Superintendent Wally Richie on his retirement! His last day in the office was April 19th. Wally has been instrumental with numerous improvements in the Public Works Division since his hiring in 2022. We wish Wally the best with his retirement.

With Wally's retirement, congratulations are in order for Assistant Public Works Superintendent Jake Hayslett who has accepted the promotion of Public Works Superintendent, effective April 19th. Since 2017, Jake has worked for the City for 4 years as a PW Technician and the last 1.5 years as the Assistant PW Superintendent. He is Vandalia native and graduate of Bulter High School. I look forward to working closely with Jake as we continue to provide top-tier City services to our residents and businesses.



Citywide Policy Goals

Live



Small City Big Opportunity: Be known regionally as a top-tier suburb through top-tier City services. Enhance social and economic investment by promoting the City's high-quality services, well-performing schools, available workforce, escalating quality-of-life, and growing sense of place. Incentivize developments that improve life in Vandalia.



Safe and Secure: Ensure that Vandalia remains a safe and secure community by investing in both traditional public safety operations and creative outreach efforts to meet the evolving needs of our residents and visitors.



Enhance Infrastructure: Protect public assets and infrastructure by making calculated and deliberate investments in roadways, utilities, park spaces.

Work



Fiscal Sustainability: Leverage the operating position of the City to seize strategic opportunities for improving quality of life, while maintaining sustainable fiscal practices.



Trust and Confidence: Promote an open approach to government through coordinated, transparent, and evidence-based engagement practices. Empower residents, business owners and community stakeholders to partner in City programs.



Sharpen the Saw: Commit to process improvements by purposefully refining practices and leveraging technology to improve internal and external customer service.

Play



Vibrant: Be a vibrant community that uses its amenities and growth mindset to create a warm and welcoming environment in which to live, work, and play.

Now there's a new and easier way to connect with the City of Vandalia!



Introducing My Vandalia, the fast, easy and free way to connect with the City for just about anything!



MY andalia^{ohio}

Request a "vacation house check."

Report property maintenance issues in an instant.

Report a pothole in seconds! Snap a photo and the app lets us know exactly where to send the crew!

Ask a question or submit a general comment.

It's your direct access line to the City!

Download the My Vandalia app today!



THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 2024 WE WILL
BE CELEBRATING OUR FAVORITE SUPER
HEROES... YOU!

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION 2024



SEVEN BIG DAYS OF SWEET GRATITUDE!

CHECK IT OUT!!!

JUNE 12 - ICE CREAM SOCIAL
JULY 18 - PIZZA IN THE PARK
AUGUST 14 - PICNIC IN THE PARK
SEPTEMBER 18 - EMPLOYEE TACO BAR
OCTOBER 23 - DONUT BAR
NOVEMBER 6 - TEAM BREAKFAST
DECEMBER 16 - CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE
APPRECIATION DAY

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 12

THURSDAY
JULY 18

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 14

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 18

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 23

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 6

MONDAY
DECEMBER 16



Ice Cream Social
1 - 2 p.m.
Vandalia Sports
Complex



Pizza in the Park
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Helke Park



Picnic in the Park
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Vandalia Sports
Complex



Taco Bar
12:30 to 2 p.m.
Vandalia Senior
Center



Donut Bar
7 - 9 a.m.
Vandalia Justice
Center



Team Breakfast
8 - 9:30 a.m.
Cassel Hills
Clubhouse



City Council
Employee
Appreciation Day
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
All Locations

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE WEEKEND



Registration open to
City of Vandalia and
Butler Township residents!



May 16 - 19, 2024

Scan the QR code to register your sale for
inclusion in an area wide interactive map
of all registered garage sales.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



OF VANDALIA BUTLER

P.O. Box 243
Vandalia, Ohio 45377-0243

April 10, 2024

Mr. Dan Wendt, City Manager
City of Vandalia, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wendt,

On behalf of the board of trustees and the membership of The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler, we want to acknowledge the \$15,000 check recently received from the City. Thank you so much for again supporting this unique property and our local history!!

This financial support enables us to upgrade and maintain the grounds and buildings at the E. Alkaline Springs Rd. property and we could not continue without your generous support.

We invite the City Staff and Council to visit our property. We would be delighted to arrange a guided tour! Again, we sincerely thank you!

Our best regards,

Wanda Weber, Secretary

Memorandum



To: Dan Wendt, City Manager
From: Kurt Althouse, Police Chief
Date: April 18, 2024
Subject: March 2024 Crime Statistical Report Summary

Total calls for service to the Communications Center decreased 4.2% from 1,041 calls in March 2023 to 997 calls in March 2024. There were 877 citizen-initiated calls for service (down .02%), and there were 120 officer-initiated calls (down 26%).

VPD investigated no homicides and robberies and handled one rape investigation during March. There were three assaults and five domestic violence offenses reported in March 2024 compared to five assaults and six domestic violence offenses in March 2023. Domestic violence cases decreased by 17% during March; however, they were up by one incident overall in 2024 when compared to 2023.

There were two burglaries reported in March 2024 compared to only one burglary reported in March 2023. Thus far in 2024, burglaries/breaking & entering increased by one offense, felony thefts decreased 12%, auto thefts are down 22% with seven offenses, while misdemeanor thefts increased by 127%. There were eight criminal damaging/vandalism complaints in March 2024, up from one last March. Criminal damaging and vandalism offenses are up 62.5% compared to last March. VPD officers have focused on being visible in the residential and business areas of the city to display a police presence and prevent crime. Officers made one felony drug arrest in March compared to six misdemeanor drug arrests in March 2023.

VPD had fewer arrests in March 2024 with seven felony arrests and 24 misdemeanor arrests this year compared to 35 arrests last year. The Division also experienced fewer juveniles involved in criminal offenses. VPD officers charged one juvenile with an offense in March 2024, compared to three juveniles in March 2023. These charges have primarily included sex offenses, drug and/or alcohol violations, and thefts.

During March, VPD officers made 333 traffic stops while patrolling Vandalia's roadways, a 21% decrease. These stops resulted in 61 citations, 182 written warnings, 88 verbal warnings, and two stops with other dispositions. Speed citations and other citations are up 5% in 2024, while OVI arrests in 2024 remain unchanged when compared to 2023 with a total of 13 arrests year-to-date. Parking citations decreased from 34 parking citations in March 2023 to six parking citations in 2024.

These parking citations have primarily been on violations of commercial vehicles parked in restricted areas on highway exit ramps. VPD officers investigated 22 traffic crashes in March 2024, the same number investigated in March 2023. Officers will continue to patrol Vandalia's roadways and work traffic enforcement to keep our roadways safe and reduce traffic crashes.

Officers responded to fewer alarm drops than a year ago with a decrease from 70 business and residential alarms in March 2023 to 43 alarms in March 2024. Alarm drops overall for 2024 are down 25.5% YTD compared to 2023.

Overall, 2024 is off to a good start with fewer criminal offenses, a slight increase in arrests, and a decrease in traffic crashes. VPD officers will remain focused on patrol activities and traffic enforcement while addressing community concerns related to these areas to keep our city a great place to live, work, and play.

City of Vandalia Division of Police
Monthly Crime Statistical Report
March 2024

CATEGORY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D	2023 Y-T-D	% Change	% Clear
How Calls Received:																
Total Calls for Service	927	931	997										2855	2997	-4.7%	N/A
Citizen Initiated = 877	86.08%	88.61%	87.96%										2500	2536	-1.4%	N/A
Officer Initiated = 120	13.92%	11.39%	12.04%										355	461	-23.0%	N/A
9-1-1 Call = 336	31.61%	32.44%	33.70%										931	848	9.8%	N/A
Homicide	0	0	0										0	0	0.0%	100.00%
Rape	2	0	1										3	2	200.0%	0.00%
Robbery	1	0	0										1	2	100.0%	100.00%
Assault	2	6	3										11	10	10.0%	90.91%
Burglary/B&E Total	1	3	2										6	5	20.0%	50.00%
Residence	0	2	2										4	3	33.3%	100.00%
Non-residence	1	1	0										2	2	0.0%	50.00%
Theft - Felony	5	7	10										22	25	-12.0%	50.00%
Theft - Misd	7	10	8										25	11	127.3%	84.00%
Motor Veh Theft	4	2	1										7	9	-22.2%	71.43%
Arson	0	0	0										0	0	0.0%	100.00%
Crim Dam & Vandal	1	4	8										13	8	62.5%	53.85%
Drug Offenses (Fel)	1	1	1										3	1	100.0%	33.33%
Drug Offenses (Misd)	2	3	0										5	10	-50.0%	80.00%
Domestic Violence	7	4	5										16	15	6.7%	87.50%
Totals	33	40	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	98	14.3%	71.43%

City of Vandalia Division of Police
Monthly Crime Statistical Report
March 2024

CATEGORY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D	2023 Y-T-D	% CHG
Criminal Arrests:															
Felony	10	5	7										22	11	100.00%
Misdemeanor	14	15	24										53	65	-18.46%
Juvenile	3	5	1										9	19	-52.63%
Total	27	25	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	95	-11.58%
Traffic Stops:															
Stops with Citations	48	51	61										160	150	6.67%
Stops with Written Warnings	186	176	182										544	711	-23.49%
Stops with Verbal Warnings	76	76	88										240	110	118.18%
Stops with Other Dispositions	5	5	2										12	22	-45.45%
Total Traffic Stops	315	308	333	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	956	993	-3.73%
Traffic Arrests/Citations:															
OVI	5	1	7										13	13	0.00%
Speed	16	23	36										75	94	-20.21%
All Other	82	75	92										249	215	15.81%
Parking	9	3	6										18	69	-73.91%
TOTAL	112	102	141	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	355	391	-9.21%
Traffic Accidents Investigated:															
Fatal	0	0	1										1	0	0.00%
Injury	5	4	6										15	22	-31.82%
Property Damage	10	16	15										41	43	-4.65%
TOTAL	15	20	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	65	-12.31%
Alarms:															
Business	38	48	37										123	166	-25.90%
Residential	5	6	6										17	22	-22.73%
TOTAL	43	54	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	188	-25.53%



2024 Full-Time Pay Period Changes

With the approval of City Manager Wendt, Finance will be permanently changing the pay period dates for full-time and permanent part-time employees to follow a Sunday-Saturday workweek rather than the current Wednesday-Tuesday workweek.

The current workweek has been a confusion to hourly employees throughout the years as it relates to overtime calculations. Making this change will create a more logical workweek for employees to track the number of hours they have worked in the week to avoid overtime. This change will also allow additional time for administrative and managerial staff to review and approve timecards in Executime before it is locked for payroll processing. I believe this is advantageous to employees, supervisors, and payroll.

For this transition, we will need paper timesheets for Pay #12 (Check Date 6/7/2024) and Pay #13 (Check Date 06/21/2024). For both pay periods, employees will be paid for their regular schedule and should see no shortage of pay on their paychecks, only the dates will reflect differently for this transitional pay period.

For Pay #12, a paper timesheet will be completed to reflect hours worked for the old pay period and one to reflect the hours for the new pay period. The timesheet showing the old pay period dates is being used to accurately calculate any overtime pay that is due to the employee, which should be limited to only emergency instances where possible.

For Pay #13, a paper timesheet will be completed to show all hours worked using the new pay period dates. Any overlapping dates that were already paid in Pay #12 will be paid in full again and will be counted toward any overtime calculation for the new pay period dates.

All full-time and permanent part-time employees will resume using Executime for Pay #14, which begins on June 16.

Attached you will find the old pay schedule and the new pay schedule. The dates that employees are paid will not be changed, simply the dates that fall within the pay period.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to the Finance Department, and we will be more than happy to help ease any burden this transition may cause.



Pay Period Adjustment Calendar

MAY



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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Pay Period Adjustment Calendar

JUNE



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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Healthier habits, healthier lifestyle

Take small steps for lasting change with Real Appeal®, an online weight management support program.



Get healthier, at no additional cost to you

Real Appeal on Rally Coach™ is a proven weight management program designed to help you get healthier and stay healthier. It's available to you and eligible family members at no additional cost as part of your benefits.

Take small steps toward healthier habits

Set achievable nutrition, exercise and weight management goals that keep you motivated to create lasting change. Track your progress from your daily dashboard, too.

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United
Healthcare

Real
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Real Appeal is a voluntary weight loss program that is offered to eligible members at no additional cost as part of their benefit plan. The information provided under this program is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be nor should be construed as medical and/or nutritional advice. Participants should consult an appropriate health care professional to determine what may be right for them. Results, if any, may vary. Any items/tools that are provided may be taxable and participants should consult an appropriate tax professional to determine any tax obligations they may have from receiving items/tools under the program.

Insurance coverage provided by or through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or its affiliates. Administrative services provided by United HealthCare Services, Inc. or their affiliates.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2024

Statement Regarding the Lawsuit Filed by the Vandalia-Butler School District

The city has been working in good faith with the school district since first advising the school district in October 2022, that unpaid money may be owed to the school district from the city. This dispute is the result of an update to revenue-sharing regulations that went into effect under state law in 1994 but were not implemented by the city and the school district.

The city determined that depending on the applicable statute of limitation, it may owe between two years and six years in back payments.

After self-reporting, the city offered to meet with the school district and to use a mediator to determine a fair solution. In late March 2024, the city believed that it had reached a fair agreement as to the amount due that included the city paying for six years of back payments starting with 2022. The school district requested additional back payments and sums beyond what is required by law going forward. This caused the city to discontinue its negotiations with the school district.

In keeping with what it believes to be its legal obligation, the city passed a resolution on April 1 authorizing the city to make six years of payments totaling \$3,355,750.52 over the next four years plus the statutory payments going forward. The school district accepted payments from the city totaling \$1,350,467.63 representing the two most recent years on April 12, 2024. On April 15, the school district filed a lawsuit.

The city will continue to work towards a fair and equitable solution that is good for the community as a whole and is within the confines of the law.

-30-

Media Contact: Rich Hopkins
Communication Manager
(937) 415-2251
rhopkins@vandaliaohio.org

ODOT celebrates new Vandalia bikeway, kicks off 2024 construction season

WYSO | By [Renee Wilde](#)

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Ron Johnson of the Dayton Cycling Club (L) and Chuck Smith with the Ohio Biking Federation enjoy a morning on the Great Miami Trail.

The 2024 road construction season has arrived.

At an event Thursday at the Taylorsville MetroPark, ODOT held a kickoff event and highlighted a \$3.3 million dollar project with the city of Vandalia and Five Rivers MetroParks. The project will allow bikers and pedestrians safer access between the city and the Great Miami River Trail.

"We strongly believe that this will be a transformational project for our city."

The project is expected to begin construction this summer, and when finished the new bikeway will connect the city of Vandalia to a network of over 350 miles of paved trails.

"I used this trail everyday on my commute back from work at Wright Patterson Air Force Base," said Chuck Smith, chair of the Ohio Bicycle Federation. "I would commute to Vandalia, so I had to carry my bike across the CSX tracks about a mile up the road."

The new path will include a bridge that spans those railroad tracks, connecting the existing bikeway in Vandalia along National Road at Foley Drive to the Great Miami River Trail at Taylorsville MetroPark near Taylorsville Dam.

The project also includes bike lanes on U.S. Route 40 between Foley Drive and Brown School Road and a two-way cycle track on the east side of Brown School Road. from U.S. 40 to Cassel Creek Drive.

Rob Cron, assistant city manager for the city of Vandalia, said this aligns with the city's goal to be a more bicycle friendly community.

"We strongly believe that this will be a transformational project for our city, giving our

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trail a way to get into our city and see what we have to offer,” Cron said.



Renee Wilde

When completed the bike path will connect Vandalia with over 350 miles of paved trails.

Safe driving urged as accidents climb

ODOT officials used the event to urge drivers to be more aware when in construction zones.

In the lead up to the event, there had already been 43 accidents involving motorists and construction crews this year.

As officials spoke, that number rose to 44.

“Last year we had 56 hits so as you can see, we are way ahead of last year's schedule. Which is a bad thing. We need everyone’s help to keep them safe by putting down the distractions and obeying the speed limits,” Bud O’Brien, deputy director of transportation, said.

ODOT is spending \$2.8 billion on road and bridge improvements across the state, with over 220 projects going on in the Southwest region that once complete, will help significantly reduce traffic congestion and improve roadway safety.

Some of the bigger projects throughout southwest Ohio include:

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- Continuing the work on the 1-75 corridor through the Dayton and Cincinnati areas
- Bridge replacements over I-75 north of State Route 67 in Auglaize County
- Rehabilitation of the mainline bridges on State Route 562 over Paddock Road and Reading/Tennessee Avenue in Hamilton
- Constructing new ramps at the Kennedy Avenue interchange along I-71 in Hamilton County
- Continued construction of the interchange at U.S. 35 and Valley/Trebein Road in Greene County
- Construction of the Glen Este Withamsville overpass along State Route 32 in Clermont County
- Continued Construction at the interchange of U.S. 35 and Woodman Drive in Montgomery County
- Adding pedestrian safety improvements to State Route 725 between Byers Road and State Route 741 in Montgomery County
- Widening State Route 63 between Union Road at Monroe and State Route 741 in Warren County

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**Renee Wilde**

Renee Wilde was part of the 2013 Community Voices class, allowing her to combine a passion for storytelling and love of public radio. She started out as a volunteer at the radio station, creating the weekly WYSO Community Calendar and co-producing Women's Voices from the Dayton Correctional Institution - winner of the 2017 PRINDI award for best long-form documentary. She also had the top two

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back roads and into small towns throughout southwestern Ohio, and created Agraria's Grounded Hope podcast exploring the past, present and future of agriculture in Ohio through a regenerative lens. Her stories have been featured on NPR, Harvest Public Media and Indiana Public Radio.

[See stories by Renee Wilde](#)

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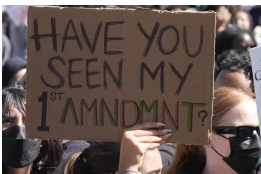
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Strategic recommendations

Market conditions dictate that Vandalia will need to take a phased approach to achieving its vision of a pedestrian-oriented downtown district. With few immediate opportunities to attract retail and dining businesses, the initial focus can leverage strong demand for better-quality, market rate apartments and condominiums in multifamily buildings. These can transition to mixed-use buildings on the street frontage. A secondary effort can enhance anchor businesses and buildings expected to remain in a redeveloped corridor. A larger retail and dining recruitment program can be implemented as conditions improve.

Strategy

The recommended strategy has three overlapping phases, with the transition between them depending on the pace of development. The intent of each phase is to capture the

market opportunity available at the time, effecting change to bring about the conditions that make it possible to support other uses.

Phase one

The initial phase should focus on collaboration with property and business owners, encouraging and facilitating investments in real estate and business enhancement, while beginning to assemble future redevelopment sites in core areas of the downtown.

- **Redevelopment.** There is an immediate demand for market rate apartments, senior housing, and condominiums that can be built at the rear of large lots on Dixie Drive, or on side streets. The City can support this by sharing the market case, and through financial or permitting assistance.

