

# THE BLUE LETTER



333 James E. Bohanan Drive • Vandalia, OH 45377 • (937) 898-5891

January 24, 2025

Mayor Herbst & City Councilmembers:

I hope everyone is enduring this recent frigid weather and snow that we have experienced over the past two weeks. I want to say a special “thanks” to our Public Works employees and our Parks & Recreation facilities maintenance employees who have worked diligently in the cold weather to keep our streets and city facilities’ lots and sidewalks cleared of snow and ice. The weather created situations where these employees worked extended hours or reported early to clear snow and ice before employees and citizens arrived to visit a city facility. We appreciate their commitment to serve the city and provide a valuable service.

**Certified Labor Relations Professional (CLRP) Certification:** Congratulations to Human Resources Manager Leann Hanf for successfully completing and receiving her CLRP Certification! Last week, Leann attended the National Public Employees Labor Relations Association Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina where she participated in classes on labor relations and handling labor negotiations. The course required participants to pass an intense examination and Leann successfully passed the course after hours of dedicated studying and reviewing course materials. Great job Leann!

**Welcome New Full-Time Employees:** The Division of Fire welcomed three new full-time employees to their staff, and they make a great addition to the team. These members included Firefighter/EMT Isabella Beam, Firefighter/Paramedic Mikayla Molesky, and Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Smith. All three members were sworn in at Monday evening’s Council Meeting and we congratulate them on their new positions. We also welcomed Landon Oliver as a fulltime custodian at the Vandalia Recreation Center. Landon has worked part-time for the city and recently transitioned into his full-time position at VRC.

**Retirement Congratulations to Fire Captain Chad Garver:** We congratulate Captain Chad Garver on his recent retirement from the Division of Fire on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Chad has provided exceptional service to the city and our residents for the past 30 years and been instrumental in many programs and projects at the Fire Division over his career, serving most recently as a Battalion Captain. We wish Chad the very best in retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.



**Retirement Congratulations to Police Officer Joseph Manning:** We congratulate Officer Joe Manning on his recent retirement from the Division of Police on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Joe has provided exceptional service to the city and our residents serving as a police officer for over 29 years, with the past 24 years with the Vandalia Division of Police. Joe served in many roles at the Police Division, including patrol officer, field training officer, bike patrol, evidence technician, tactical operator on Regional Emergency Response Team, detective, and a member of the employee wellness committee. We wish Joe the very best in retirement and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.



**Police Division Employee of The Year and Officer of The Year:** Annually, the Police Division selects an Employee of the Year and an Officer of the Year from nominations submitted by peers and supervisors for their exceptional work, dedication, and commitment to providing top-tier service. This year's recipients are Support Services Manager Deborah Wright, who was selected as the 2024 Employee of the Year, and Officer Joseph Manning, who was selected as the 2024 Officer of the Year. Both Deborah and Joe provide outstanding service and are great representatives of the city. They will be honored with their photos and nomination letters posted in the Justice Center lobby and at a special recognition dinner hosted by the Lions Club later this year. Congratulations Deborah and Joe on your selection and providing outstanding service!



**New Public Works Facility update:** Loggers have been salvaging mature hardwood trees at 810 Northwoods Blvd. and should be finishing up next week. Soon after, Elevated Ground Solutions will be clearing and mulching up the remaining tree material in the area needed for construction before the March 31 deadline due to endangered bat species restrictions.

**Water Main Breaks:** Public Works staff have remained busy this season on several water main breaks throughout the city. Thus far, crews have repaired 14 water main breaks this winter season compared to a total of eight water main breaks last season. We will continue to mitigate these main breaks through replacing and upgrading our water main lines throughout the city in the upcoming years.

I wish everyone a safe, enjoyable weekend and we look forward to warmer weather in the upcoming week.

Please contact me directly with comments and questions.

Very Respectfully,

Kurt E. Althouse  
Interim City Manager



**CC:** Board and Commission Members  
All City Employees

**Attachments:**

1. Information Update - ACM Cron – January 24, 2025;
2. Information Update - Director Leiter – January 24, 2025;
3. Information Update - Chief Follick – January 24, 2025;
4. Information Update - HR Manager Hanf – January 24, 2025;
5. Information Update – Director Clark – January 24, 2025;
6. Information Update – Police Chief-Interim City Manager – January 24, 2025
7. Information Update - Director Borton – January 24, 2025;
8. Vandalia Senior Center February Newsletter





**To:** Kurt Althouse, Interim City Manager  
**From:** Rob Cron, Assistant City Manager  
**Date:** January 23, 2025  
**Re:** Information Update for January 11 - 24, 2025

- ♥ Our contractor has begun the logging and clearing of the site for our new Public Works Facility. All trees on the site need to be down before April 1 due to environmental regulations. If not, we would have to wait until November 1 for this work. We recently had a kick-off meeting with our design consultant and their engineer. One key issue in the schedule is submitting information to the Army Corps of Engineers to get approval for the culvert/bridge for access off of Northwoods Boulevard. For the most part it is just a formality but can take several months to complete and this access will need to be constructed first before construction of the building can begin.
- ♥ I attended the pre-construction meeting with DES staff for the Tionda, Ranchview and Mossview Drive water main project. They intend to start the project later this spring.
- ♥ We continue to have monthly progress meetings with the design consultant and the Montgomery County Engineer's office. The majority of work taking place now is the right of way acquisition plans.
- ♥ I attended the monthly I70/75 Development Association meeting last Friday at Sinclair Community College. The topic for this month's meeting was using Artificial Intelligence in our work.
- ♥ The Planning Commission held their meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> to review the proposed residential PUD development on S. Brown School Rd. Many residents attended the meeting to offer comments regarding the proposed development. Our Planning Commission members along with City Planner, Mike Hammes and Zoning Coordinator, Ben Graham, did a great job of running the meeting and keeping order with so many guests and comments.
- ♥ Mike Hammes met with MVRPC representative, Arnie Biondo. Arnie is our new Age-Friendly Communities contact.
- ♥ The Board of Zoning Appeals has two applications that will be reviewed at their meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The first is to allow the raising of chickens on a residential lot less than two acres at 995 Forest View court. The second is a variance to exceed the maximum sign area at 780 Northwoods Boulevard.
- ♥ We have had two separate property maintenance violations in court over the past couple weeks. The first is the storage of trucks at 805 S. Dixie Drive and the second is the raising of chickens at 1106 Ronald Street. In both cases the defendants have had two hearing dates each and did not show up for their hearings on either date.

- The final review has been completed for the next CommUnity Newsletter. Rich Hopkins works with Butler Township and Vandalia Bultor Schools to provide information for this newsletter that reaches all Vandalia and Butler Township residents and businesses. Newsletters should be out for delivery by the end of January.
- Darren Davey has received all feedback from each city department regarding their needs for our phone system upgrade that will happen this year. Darren has been working with vendors and preparing the specifications we need. Our current phone system and equipment is now 25 years old and is outdated technology that is no longer supported and in need of replacement. This upgrade is part of our 2025 Capital Improvement appropriations and will be on an upcoming City Council Agenda for discussion and consideration.
- Darren and the IT staff are also working on the purchase of and best location for the large format printer we will be purchasing in the near future. This printer will be used by all city departments.
- I attended our Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council meeting on Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members of the council will perform inspections of the companies in Vandalia receiving tax abatements to make sure they are in compliance with their certification. This information is used when I file our annual report with the The of Ohio Department of Development.

# Memo



To: Kurt Althouse, Interim City Manager

From: Bridgette Leiter, Director of Finance

Date: January 22, 2025

Re: Information Update – Period Ending January 24, 2025

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1. I attended a council study session and meeting.
2. Please contact Natalie Montgomery, Payroll Specialist, with any payroll withholding tax changes regarding tax year 2025.
3. Kristen and I attended the Auditor's Annual Update meeting at Sinclair College.
4. Tax Form 1099G's were processed and will be mailed out to taxpayers with applicable credits on their income tax accounts by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
5. I attended a Tri-Cities Finance Committee meeting. I presented December 31, 2024, YTD financials.
6. I attended a NAWA Board meeting. I presented December 31, 2024, YTD financials.
7. I attended an EOP meeting.



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## DIVISION OF FIRE INFORMATION UPDATE

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**TO:** KURT ALTHOUSE, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** CHAD FOLLICK, FIRE CHIEF  
**DATE:** 1/23/2025  
**SUBJECT:** INFORMATION UPDATE – PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 24, 2025

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1. The Division of Fire would like to congratulate Capt. Chad Garver on his retirement after 30 years of service. Capt. Garver has contributed considerably over the years that the bar has been set high for top tier service. Capt. Garver will be missed, but we wish him happiness and wellness in his retirement.
2. CRRC Rich Morrett was hosted by the Vandalia Senior Center to provide training on home safety and extinguishers on January 21<sup>st</sup>. We would like to thank the Senior Center for having us. The events held are always an enjoyable time with great questions.
3. Training this reporting period is Pump School for one week and Ice Rescue at the pond on Capstone Way the other week.
4. On Tuesday evening, January 21<sup>st</sup>, the city experienced a power outage on the east side of the city. The Division of Fire worked with other city departments to open a warming center and get the word out to the community via social media of the outage and the warming center location.
5. The Division of Fire would like to congratulate our three new full-time members, Isabella Beam, Mikayla Molesky, and Kyle Smith, on taking their Oath of Office at the January 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting. Again, congratulations to all three and the Division of Fire is excited about their new role as full-time members of the department.

# Memo



**To: Kurt E. Althouse, Interim City Manager**

**From: Leann Hanf, Human Resources Manager**

**Date: January 23, 2025**

**Re: Information Update – Period Ending January 24, 2025**

1. **Certified Labor Relations Professional (CLRP)** On January 12<sup>th</sup> I made my way down to Charlotte, NC to attend NPELRA's Certification Week to obtain my CLRP Certificate. After hours of studying, and over 24 hours of an intensive class, I successfully passed my exam! Less than 50% of those who attended were able to pass. This certificate/course broadens the scope of my knowledge on labor relations and navigating the course of negotiations.
2. **More New Hires!** This week I onboarded three more new hires! This time, welcoming them to our Fire Department:
  - Isabella Beam
  - Mikayla Molesky
  - Kyle Smith
3. **February is just around the corner! As we enter the month of "love" let's talk about heart health!**

## Let's talk about caring for your heart

Caring for your heart can be a big step forward for your health. Knowing what heart disease is and how it works may help you on your way. Because it may be possible to prevent heart disease. And it may be in reach for you.

## What's at the heart of heart disease?

Let's explore what heart disease actually is. Also known as cardiovascular disease, it can be a very serious condition. The simplest way to say it is that heart disease prevents the heart from pumping blood the way it should. That means blood may have trouble getting to your heart, lungs and other organs.

Here's the good news — there are ways to take charge. With small changes, you may stabilize or perhaps improve some of the causes of heart disease.



## **What are symptoms of heart disease?**

Heart disease symptoms aren't always clear. There could be many symptoms — or none at all.

### **The most common symptoms are:**

- Chest pain or discomfort (angina)
- Pressure or a squeezing feeling in the shoulders, neck, jaw, throat, arms or back
- Shortness of breath
- Irregular or fast heartbeat
- Lightheadedness or dizziness
- Fatigue or weakness
- Cold sweat
- Nausea or vomiting

## **Check in with your doctor**

Help may be in reach if you're having symptoms of heart disease. Talk to your doctor or health care provider. The sooner you get help for heart disease and learn ways to make positive changes, the better you may feel.

## **Questions to ask your doctor about heart disease**

- Here are a few sample questions you might want to ask your doctor about heart disease.
- What should my blood pressure be? How often should it be checked?
- What should my cholesterol and triglyceride levels be? How often should they be checked?
- What should my blood sugar level be? How often should it be checked?
- What other screening tests for heart disease do I need?
- What's a healthy weight and waist measurement for me?
- What lifestyle changes would you suggest for me?
- Can you suggest any resources that could help me lose weight or stop smoking?
- How often should I see you for a wellness checkup?

## **Did you know there are many types of heart disease?**

Each type of heart disease has its own risks and concerns. Knowing each type may help you watch out for signs.

| Type of heart disease           | Risk and concerns                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coronary artery disease (CAD)   | <p>This is the most common type of heart disease. Here's what may happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plaque (a waxy substance) builds up in the arteries, making them hard and narrow</li> <li>• Less blood can flow through the arteries</li> <li>• The heart muscle may not get the blood or oxygen it needs</li> </ul> <p>At its most severe, coronary heart disease (CHD), can cause chest pain, a heart attack or stroke.</p>                        |
| Heart Failure                   | <p>What does heart failure really mean? It may sound like your heart has given up. But it really means your heart may not squeeze blood with enough force to meet your body's needs. Heart failure can happen over many years. So, you can learn ways to try to avoid it or take care of yourself if it happens.</p>                                                                                                                                                        |
| Arrhythmia                      | <p>A steady regular heart beat is important to your health. An arrhythmia is when that steady beat is off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your heartbeat is irregular, it may hurt your lungs, brain and other organs</li> <li>• Luckily, an irregular heart beat may often be controlled or sometimes even corrected with the help of your doctors</li> </ul> <p>Correcting arrhythmia is important to help protect your organs from possible damage.</p> |
| Peripheral artery disease (PAD) | <p>This kind of heart disease happens most commonly in the legs. It may be caused by build-up of plaque inside the artery and blocks the blood vessel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plaque builds up in arteries to your arms and legs, as well as other parts of your body.</li> <li>• That makes it harder for blood and oxygen to flow to your muscles and other tissue.</li> </ul>                                                                      |

## Know the risk factors for heart disease

With heart disease, there may be some risk factors you can control — and some you can't.

### What you may not be able to control

- Age (for women the risk goes up after age 55)
- Having a family history of early heart disease
- Having a history of preeclampsia during pregnancy
- Also, some ethnic groups are more likely to get heart disease. This includes African Americans, Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.

### What you may be able to control

- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol
- Diabetes and prediabetes
- Smoking
- Being overweight or obese
- Being physically inactive
- An unhealthy diet

### 3 facts to know about heart disease

1. Heart diseases are the leading cause of death for both women and men.
2. Heart disease claims an estimated 17.9 million lives worldwide each year.
3. It may lead to potentially deadly health problems like a heart attack or stroke.

### Here's a to-do list for a healthier heart

Let's go over a few ways you may be able to lower your possible risk for heart disease.

#### Eat smart

Certain foods may give your heart a boost. Bring more veggies and fruits to the table. Then, pair them with lean meats and whole grains. These foods give you healthy fats, antioxidants and minerals — all to help your heart stay strong. Your heart will thank you if you put red meat and trans fats aside too. Check into the [DASH diet](#) or [Mediterranean diet](#) — both tasty ways to start your heart-happy eating.

#### Set weight goals

Let's be honest — for many of us, losing weight can be hard. But your heart may be better off if you do. Bonus: you may lower your risk for diabetes too. Ask your doctor to help you set a goal weight. And then get a kick-start with [Real Appeal](#) — it's an online weight loss program

that may be included with your health plan. Check your health plan benefits to see if Real Appeal is available to you.

### **Get active**

What's your favorite way to get moving? It could be a brisk walk or sit-ups before bedtime. Start slowly and find what you like to do. With 2.5 hours of moderate exercise a week, you may see positive changes. Add a few strength exercises on two or more days a week, and you'll be on a roll. If you're new to exercise, check with your doctor first.

### **Stop smoking**

Smoking is hard on your heart. It may make your heart beat faster or irregularly. It may raise your blood pressure. It may make your arteries tighter and less flexible and damage the inside of the arteries. All of this increases your possible risk of heart attack or stroke. Quitting may be your smartest move yet.

If you've tried to quit smoking but slipped back, you can always try again. Doctors and healthcare providers may be able to help. Check out the [UnitedHealthcare Quit for Life program](#). It could be the answer you need.



To: Kurt E. Althouse, Interim City Manager

From: Steve Clark, Director of Parks & Recreation

Date: 1/23/2025

Re: Information Update – Period ending January 23, 2025

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***RECREATION CENTER***

- We are excited to welcome Landon Oliver as a fulltime custodian at the VRC. Landon is a 2024 graduate of Butler High School, where he was an honor roll student. He participated in concert band and played on the football team during his time at Butler. Landon began working at the Recreation Center as a part time Fitness Attendant in February 2022 and moved into a part time custodian role in September 2022. Landon started his role as full-time Custodian for the VRC on January 6, 2025. Landon currently resides in New Carlisle.
- Recreation Superintendent Alicia McCracken has rescheduled the CPR class for part-time staff to January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We have 20 part-time employees that will be attending. Thanks to Rich Morrett for offering this class for us!
- VRC Painting Project: This painting project started on January 20. Star Painting is performing the work and will be able to finish by this Friday or early Monday.
- Camera Installation & Replacement in VRC: Facility Manager Aaron Messenger had a meeting with Midwest Security Services on January 16 to go over a camera installation and replacement project. Right now, we are replacing the outdoor Ricky's Childcare camera, Luther's Jungle camera, custodial hallway camera and adding a new camera in the Special Events Room. The remaining cameras are scheduled for replacement in 2026.
- WebTrac Facility Rentals: Alicia, Sherry, Jen, and Aaron had a Zoom meeting with VSI to go over how the online facility rentals module works on WebTrac. We hope to implement Cassel Hills Pool rentals this year and will see if we can open other rentals later in the year.
- Homeschool Takeover: On January 17, we hosted a Homeschool Takeover at the VRC. There were 195 participants that attended this program. Those that attended were able to enjoy the climbing wall, swimming, gym activities, and Luther's Jungle.
- Princess Pajama Party w/ Paulette's Princess Party: On January 18, we hosted a Princess Pajama Party featuring Paulette's Princess Party. 56 participants registered for this program. During their evening with us, participants had the opportunity to sing, dance, and meet some of their favorite princesses! Fairy-dust face masks, bedtime stories, friendship bracelets, dance lessons, and sweet treats were all on the schedule for this magical night!
- Recreation Coordinator Sarah Moyer had the opportunity to attend the first session of Advanced Leadership: Five Strategic Practices presented by Dan Noel and Cindy Schisler; both have many years of experience with organizational leadership. There are 4 more

sessions of this training over the next several months, each session focusing on a different leadership practice.

- Drop In Volleyball is becoming very popular at the VRC on Thursday evenings. Attendance has grown to the point of using both courts to accommodate the numbers. Corresponding adjustments have been made to the weekly gym schedule.
- The Annual Maintain Campaign, held over the holiday season, had a total of 103 participants with 66 completing the challenge of maintaining or losing some weight over the holiday season. A special thanks to Hocks Pharmacy for sponsoring the campaign by providing t-shirts to the 66 completing the challenge.
- Wellness Bash, formerly known as Class Fest, will take place on Friday January 31 from 10 am -1 pm at the VRC. The event will include the climbing wall, classes, vendors, and more. This is a great opportunity for the community to see what wellness programs we have available.

### **RECREATION / ATHLETICS DIVISION / SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Recreation Superintendent Alicia McCracken is working with Kona Ice on renewing the contract for concession operations at Cassel Hills Pool and the Sports Complex- making it a three-year agreement per mutual interest.
- Excel Training w/ Darren Davey: Darren hosted an Excel training course for our parks and recreation full-time staff on January 16. This training was beneficial for all involved.

### **FACILITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

- A tree removal and replacement project will begin on Friday in Seger Park. A contractor will be removing the pear trees along the south and east side of the park. These trees have become a hazard due to the age and condition of the trees. The Vandalia Lions Club is partnering with the city on this project. Trees will be planted in the spring in the same general area as the trees being removed.
- Applications for the vacant Maintenance Technician (Buildings) position will be accepted through Friday, January 24.
- Wall surface update work began in Tax Lobby, removing failing wallpaper, wall surface repair and painting, project is ongoing and being completed by Maintenance Staff.

### **SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER**

- On Monday, January 13, Brittany Mikolajewski from the Vandalia Library had her first Memory Café event at the Senior Center. It was very successful with 40 attending.
- A total of 645 people visited the Senior Center from January 9 to January 21, including evenings and weekends. There were 8 days, including evenings and weekends, that it was rented. There were 540 members who came to the center on the 7 days it was open. This averages 77 members per day.

### **CASSEL HILLS GOLF COURSE**

- Employees Carl Hafer and Lisa Pennington completed a thorough cleaning and reorganization of the kitchen area of the Clubhouse.
- Delivery of irrigation system materials has begun with several shipments of piping and other materials arriving this week.

# Information Update



To: City Council members

From: Kurt E. Althouse  
Police Chief / Interim City Manager

Date: January 24, 2025

Subject: Information Update Ending January 24, 2025

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1. Captain Walker attended the January virtual meeting with the Criminal Justice Branch of the Community Overdose Action Team (COAT). COAT is a collaboration of community resources that seeks to reduce the number of people dying from drug overdoses and drug abuse. This month's meeting included a presentation on overdose survivor interviews. Captain Walker serves as our representative to the local Criminal Justice Branch of the COAT.
2. Officer Sommer attended the monthly OVI Task Force Meeting on January 14. The Task Force is funded by a grant through the Ohio Department of Public Safety. VPD officers work extra enforcement hours each month and the city is reimbursed for their wages. The grant seeks to reduce the amount of fatal and serious injury traffic crashes.
3. On January 15, Captain Walker, Crime Prevention Officer Rich Sommer, and I attended the annual Miami Valley Crime Stopper's Awards Banquet at the Christian Life Center. Each year, Miami Valley Crime Stoppers recognizes outstanding work by individuals and units from law enforcement. We appreciate the Christian Life Center for hosting the event.
4. On January 15, I attended the virtual District 4 meeting for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. The OACP's legislative representatives attended the meeting and spoke about Ohio legislation that will likely be introduced this coming year that impacts criminal justice and police agencies.
5. On January 17, Captain Sucher, Officer Sommer, and I attended a meeting with representatives from various city departments in the Community Room to discuss the strategy for updating the City's Emergency Operations Plan as well as conduct threat and hazard assessments of all city facilities during the upcoming year. Chief Follick is coordinating this effort with assistance from various department reps.
6. Last Friday, I had the opportunity to attend the 151<sup>st</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy Graduation at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in Columbus and deliver the keynote address to the 54 academy recruits, their families, agency representatives, and law enforcement leaders. I congratulate these recruits for the many hours of training they successfully completed to become Ohio's next peace officers.

7. Officer Joseph Manning retired from the Division on Saturday, January 18 after an exemplary career of 29 years as a police officer, with over 24 years with the Vandalia Division of Police. Joe served in many roles at the Division, including patrol officer, field training officer, bike patrol, evidence technician, tactical operations on the Regional Emergency Response Team, detective, and a member of the employee wellness committee. We had a small retirement celebration for Joe last Friday in the Community Room. We wish Joe the very best in retirement!



8. We want to congratulate Captain Chad Garver on his recent retirement from the Division of Fire. Captain Garver provided exceptional service to the community and the city, and we thank him for the many hours he spent providing First Aid/CPR training to our staff over the years to keep our certifications current. We wish Chad the very best in retirement!
9. On January 21, Officer Sommer and Captain Sucher were invited to speak to international students and Colonel Jeffrey Harris, International Training Branch chief, at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine. Students were high ranking members of foreign military. They are at WPAFB for six months as part of their training program. The presentation was an introduction to American policing and the criminal justice system, interactions with law enforcement, and safety tips.
10. On January 21, SSM Deborah Wright attended pipeline training in Kettering. This training is offered throughout the year and has exercises with different government entities and public utility groups should there be an infrastructure emergency surrounding utility pipelines.
11. On Wednesday, I participated in a *Focus Vandalia* interview on my new role as interim city manager with Communications Manager Rich Hopkins. I also had the opportunity to speak by phone with Director White from the Center for Local Government about the resources they offer to local governments in southwest Ohio, including the City of Vandalia.
12. Detectives charged a 34-year-old Dayton man for Grand Theft (Motor Vehicle) and Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle. The suspect failed to return a vehicle belonging to Hertz Rental Car.
13. Captain Sucher attended a joint department meeting this Friday at Fire Station 1 to discuss updating the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Captain Sucher will be the police representative to provide input on any changes and updates needed for the EOP.



14. Annually, the Police Division selects an Employee of the Year and an Officer of the Year from nominations submitted by peers and supervisors for their exceptional work, dedication, and commitment to providing top-tier service. This year's recipients are Support Services Manager Deborah Wright, who was selected as the 2024 Employee of the Year, and Officer Joseph Manning, who was selected as the 2024 Officer of the Year. Both Deborah and Joe provide outstanding service and are great representatives of the city. They will be honored with their photos and nomination letters posted in the Justice Center lobby and at a special recognition dinner hosted by the Lions Club later this year. Congratulations Deborah and Joe on your selection and providing outstanding service!



15. On January 23, Captain Walker hosted a representative from Flock Safety for a demonstration of their products for our hotel management. In addition to law enforcement agencies, Flock offers license plate reader cameras to businesses and neighborhood associations. While these organizations would not have access to personal information, their cameras would sync with our LPR system and would be helpful in preventing and solving crimes when they occur at their establishments.



## Public Service Information Update

To: Kurt Althouse, Interim City Manager  
From: Ben Borton, Director of Public Service  
Date: January 23, 2025  
Subject: **Information Update for January 11 – 24, 2025**

### **Development & Engineering Services (DES)**

Dog Leg Water and Sanitary Extension Phase 2 project: Outdoor Enterprise is still waiting on the milbank electric meter pedestal for the lift station power from the supplier, now expected to arrive at site in February. Outdoor plans to commission the lift station soon after. The three-phase AES electrical pedestal for the lift station, damaged by a car accident, was replaced.

Bikeway Connector project: Miami Conservancy District (MCD) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) have reapproved the construction plans with the additional analysis and minor changes. Brumbaugh Construction has remobilized to site and are waiting on deliver of a rental crane and vibratory hammer for driving the temporary sheet piling and permanent bridge foundation concrete piles. AES had 2 power poles at S Brown School Rd and Cassel Creek Dr replaced with larger poles to facilitate the new intersections mast arms and pedestrian push button.

2025 Curb/Sidewalk project: Bids were publicly opened on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Four (4) sets of specifications were issued, and three (3) contractors submitted acceptable bids for the project. Bids ranged from \$420,930.00 to \$628,750.00, with our estimate for the project at \$470,000. I recommended to Council awarding the contract for this project to Coate Construction LLC out of West Milton, OH as the lowest and best bid at their bid price of \$420,930.00.

Kenneth Avenue Watermain Replacement & Resurfacing project: Bids were also publicly opened on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Eleven (11) sets of specifications were issued, and ten (10) contractors submitted acceptable bids for the project. Bids ranged from \$550,000.00 to \$675,360.50, with our estimate for the project at \$598,000. I recommended to Council awarding the contract for this project to Sturm Construction Inc. out of Sidney, OH as the lowest and best bid at their bid price of \$550,000.00.

A certificate of occupancy (CO) were issued to following sites:

- Crossroads Fieldhouse at 19 E Alkaline Springs Rd for their indoor training facility of batting cages and pitch/catch areas
- Warehouse 4 at 335 S Dixie Dr for their kitchen expansion

All three (3) hotels have received their 2025 Hotel/Motel License for operating status.

The first building (house) submittal for Foxfire Section 9 and a large heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)/gas upgrade for Carter Express (1655 Capstone Wy) are under review.

DES staff assisted with the north relief fan installation for Municipal Building's HVAC system.

Ritter Plumbing has started their Centerpoint Energy project replacing the gas main and service lines in the Tionda/Kenbrook Dr areas.

I attended the TCA Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) interviews for the plant improvements project on January 16<sup>th</sup> and final selection meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, I attended a NAWA meeting to discuss the Kyle Park outfall channel design to meet Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) mandate and the NAWA board meeting with other staff members.

I attended meetings hosted by Chief Follick with other City staff about Threat and Hazard Identification on January 17<sup>th</sup> and Emergency Operations Plan on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Works (PW)**

New Public Works Facility: Loggers have been salvaging mature hardwood trees at 810 Northwoods Blvd and should be finishing up next week. Soon after, Elevated Ground Solutions will be clearing and mulching up the remaining tree material in the area needed for construction before the March 31 deadline due to endangered bat species restrictions.

Crews repaired 6 separate water main breaks during this period:

1. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, a crew was called in the evening for the repair near 620 Kenbrook Dr.
2. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, a crew repaired the break near 416 Randler Ave in the morning.
3. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, a crew repaired the break near 186 Colebrook Dr in the morning.
4. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, a crew repaired the break near 528 Blue Jay Dr in the afternoon.
5. On January 21<sup>st</sup>, a crew repaired the break near 220 Hartshorn Dr at the beginning of their shift. This repair did require a temporary boil advisory until test results were received from the lab on January 22<sup>nd</sup>; the 44 impacted properties were hand-delivered notices.
6. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, a crew repaired the break near 370 James E. Bohanan Memorial Dr at the beginning of their shift.

**Last winter, crews repaired 8 water main breaks total; this winter, crews have repaired 14 breaks so far.**

Crews were called in to plow and salt roadways January 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM until the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6PM for this past snow & ice event. Crews salted roadways during their normal shift on January 14<sup>th</sup> and were called in on January 19<sup>th</sup>. A total of 300 tons (TN) of salt was used for these events.

Crews continued installing new water meters inside residences/businesses. With the colder temperatures, crews have halted installing new meters in meter pits (outside) for the time being to protect residents' water lines.

Crews placed asphalt on the 48 Fordway Dr and 836 Spartan Ave main break holes.

Crews took monthly Municipal Industrial Pretreatment Program (MIPP) samples at Speedway, Pratt Industries, and Veolia.

Crews performed the monthly water shut-offs of delinquent water accounts for the Water Division of the Finance department.

Crews excavated to verify the location of the 45-degree bend in the 20" concrete water main in Robinette Park for Parks & Recreation's (P&R) splash pad and parking project.

Crews took advantage of the brief warmer weather and finished taking down garland wrapped around light poles through downtown.

Crews performed 34 utility locates this period for Ohio 811

Crews performed 3 burials at Poplar Hill cemetery during this period.

The mechanics have done a good job keeping our equipment running through these snow & ice events and cold weather.

The mechanics also replaced tires on Fire Division's Engine 1 in backup storage.

I attended an American Public Works Association (APWA) roundtable discussion on Stormwater Management on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

# Vandalia Senior Center

February, 2025 Volume 13 Issue 2

**Vandalia**<sup>ohio</sup>  
small city. big opportunity.



**Did you remember? If not, hurry and renew!**

**Renew Your Membership by January 31, 2025!**

Your membership can be renewed September through January. You can write a check to the City of Vandalia and mail it to the Vandalia Senior Center at 21 Tionda Drive South, Vandalia, 45377. For Vandalia residents, it is \$15 or \$25 for couples. Outside Vandalia, the cost is \$20 or \$35 for couples. If your address or phone number has changed, please send in the new information. You can also come in to renew, using cash, check, or a credit card.

**Born in 1935:** You are turning 90 in 2025. Your membership is free!

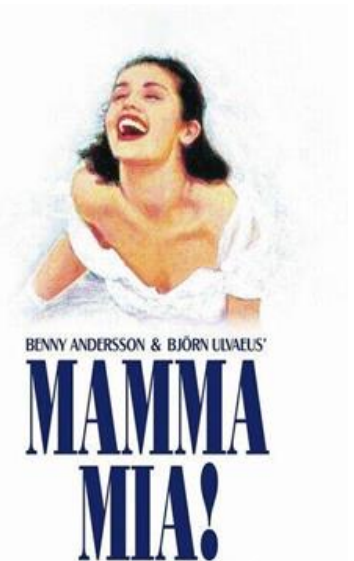
Contact the office to continue to get your newsletter.

**90+ and Lifetime Members:** Contact the office to continue to get your newsletter.

**You Are Invited: Dinner and a Musical on Friday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m.**

The Vandalia-Butler High School is again inviting you to join them for a free pasta dinner on March 7, at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Mamma Mia! musical at 7:00 p.m. It is the story of one mother and one daughter and three possible dads. Come follow the story of the trip down the aisle. You may have seen Meryl Streep in the movie. Now come see how the fantastic vocalists at the high school can impress you with this musical. Deadline: February 28

**Directions:** From the Senior Center, turn left onto S. Dixie Dr. Go past the library and the high school. At the next intersection, turn left onto Alkaline Springs Rd. Park in the front and go through the main entrance. You will be directed where to go for the dinner.



# 800

**Congratulations on 800**

In February, 2019, we hit 800 members. Then Covid arrived in 2020 and of course, our membership shrank. We have been coming back strong with 192 new members in 2023 and another 205 new members in 2024. Our membership went over 800 in the middle of December. So many new members have remarked about how friendly the members are and how many people stop to talk to them.

## Lunch & Learn

### Medicare Resource Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, February 4, at Noon

Paul Fulghum will provide your lunch. Paul will tell you different ways to save money when you have to purchase prescription drugs. Limit: 75



### Hearth & Home Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, February 10, at Noon

Rose Siddle from Hearth & Home will send your lunch from their kitchen. Brian Brenner and his wife will be here to get you in the mood for Valentine's Day. They will sing a variety of songs including some romantic melodies. Limit: 100



### Springmeade Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, February 11, at Noon

Robin Shafer will have pizza delivered. When most people want to give something to someone for Valentine's Day, what do they usually get? A card, some flowers, and \_\_\_? Well Donna Keaser knows! She works at the Esther Price store in Clayton. This is a very busy week for them. Donna will be giving a talk about the history of the Esther Price candy and how it is produced. There will a short DVD to watch. You will also receive a few pieces of candy to enjoy. Limit: 75

### Stonespring Lunch & Learn on **Thursday**, February 13, at **11:00 A.M.**

Sarah Mather from Stonespring usually has Chick-Fil-A delivered for your lunch. Angie Hoschouer Bergius who previously worked for Woodland has been doing talks here for more than a decade. In honor of President's Day, Angie will present "President's Club Citizen Legion of Honor Award". Since 1951, the President's Club has recognized individuals who have given themselves fully to the betterment of the Dayton region through the Citizen Legion of Honor Award. This program takes a contemporary look at the men and women leaders in the 20th century including, Stanley C. Allyn, Edward L. Kohnle, Carl A. Copp, Louis F. Wozar, Herman F. Lehman, and Virginia W. Kettering. Limit: 75





## Lunch & Learn

### Ohio's Hospice Lunch & Learn on Friday, February 14, at Noon

Denise Moore and Jamie Brown from Ohio's Hospice will bring your lunch. Bobby D. and the Quartet are returning to help you celebrate Valentine's Day with music. The band has a guitar player, bass guitar, saxophone, drums, and sometimes a harmonica. There are several vocalists in the band. Come enjoy a lively time with this impressive band. We will collect tips at the end to help them with their expenses. Limit: 75



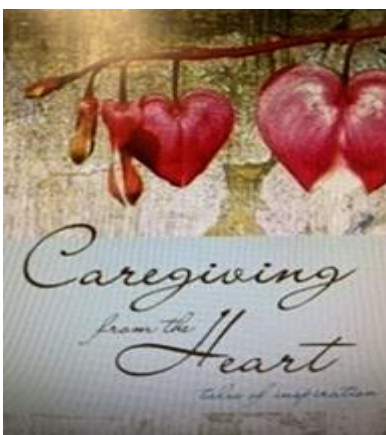
### Laurels of Huber Heights Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, February 18, at Noon



Jackie Dalton from the Laurels of Huber Heights will bring your lunch. You are at the grocery or in a park and suddenly, you hear pow, pow, pow. You can't believe it. You don't have time to think, you need to react. Rich Sommer from the Vandalia Police Department will present "Run, Hide, Fight" so that you know what to do if you are in a situation with an active shooter. He will give you a plan to follow. Limit: 75

### Affinity Hospice Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, February 25, at Noon

Tyler Vassar from Affinity Hospice will provide your lunch. Bart Kincaid is the I.T. Director for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. He will present "Cyber Security". You will learn the current trends as it relates to identity theft, computer security, credit safety, and protection. He will talk about overall safety and awareness as it relates to technology. This presentation is to make you aware of the rapid advancement of the use of technology in our day to day lives. Limit: 75



### Senior Helping Seniors Lunch & Learn on **Thursday**, February 27, at **11:00 A.M.**

Andrew Spatt from Seniors Helping Seniors will bring your lunch. Andrew will present "Caregiving: What You Need to Know to be Successful." You will learn more about what help is available for you and other resources which can contribute to a successful caregiving journey. Limit: 75

## Information



### RIO Lunch & Learn on **Thursday**, February 20, at **11:00 A. M.**

Jerry Shields from RIO (The Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio) will provide your lunch. Jerry Shields, COTA/L and is the Rehab Liaison from RIO. At the Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio, a joint venture between Premier Health and Encompass Health, they know that falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries to those 65 and older. This presentation will help you review your habits, your environment, and find tools to prevent falls from happening. Limit: 75



### Memory Café on Monday, February 10, at 1:45 p.m.

Brittany Mikolajewski from the Vandalia Public Library is returning with another fun activity to promote socialization and to help you reminisce about your memories. Everyone is invited to attend the cafe but especially those experiencing some memory loss are welcome. It will last about an hour.



### Let's Eat Out on the Second Tuesday of the Month

Sign up to eat out at Little York Tavern on Tuesday, February 11, at 5:00 p.m. It is located at 4120 Little York Rd. Directions: From the Senior Center, turn left onto S. Dixie Dr. Go over I-70. At the next

light, turn left onto Little York Rd. At the second light, turn right onto Poe Ave. and turn right into the first parking lot.



### Vandalia Senior Club

The Vandalia Senior Club had a brief business meeting just before the catered dinner on December 6. The current officers of the Senior Club agreed to continue in their positions. The members present at the meeting voted to have those officers continue. The officers are listed on the back of the newsletter.

### February Movies

In honor of Valentine's Day, there are four movies in February that all have some relationships with some romance. Two are on Mondays, February 3 and February 24. The other two are on the first and third Friday, February 7 and 21. Turn to page 6 for the details about the movies. Be sure to sign up so there will be enough snacks.





## Art

### **FREE: Flower Arrangement Class on Wed., February 5, at 1:00 p.m.**

Jessica Ward from Cypress Pointe will bring fresh flowers and vases for you to create an arrangement for yourself or to give away. The flowers in the photo are not representative of the flowers you will have. Limit: 15



### **A Diamond Art Class on Friday, February 7, at 1:30 p.m.**

Mindy Shockey will bring bookmarks, frames, and keychains to create with diamond art. It will be your choice which project to do. Mindy will take you through the simple process of decorating with "diamonds". Cost: \$5 Limit: 15

### **FREE: Flower Vase Class on Tues., Feb. 11, at 1:45 p.m.**

Courtney Peck from Randall Residence of Tipp City will bring the supplies to decorate Mason jars. Then you will fill them with flowers. Limit: 12



### **An Essential Oils Class on Tues., February 18, at 1:45 p.m.**

Christine Jordan with Red Lotus Essential Oils will help you make rose water and an essential oil body mist. Cost: \$6 Limit: 15



### **Ceramic Class on Friday, February 21, at 1:30 p.m.**

Mindy Shockey, a member and a vendor, is bringing you three unique fairy houses to choose from. The tallest house is 12" H x 6 1/2" W. The teapot is 6 1/2" H x 8" W. The cottage is 8" H x 8 1/2" W. You will get a light with your house. This will be a two-day process. You will paint on February 21. Take your house home and return on March 21 to complete the painting. In April and May, there will be fairies, gnomes, and mushrooms to paint that can go with your house if you want. Cost: \$15 Limit: 15



## Movies

### Movie on Monday, February 3, at 1:00 p.m.

In the movie, *The Last Letter from your Lover*, an ambitious journalist finds a trove of secret love letters from 1965. She is determined to solve the mystery of the forbidden love affair. A pair of interwoven stories set in the past and in the present tell the story of two women who are both searching for something.

PG Romance / Drama 1 hr. 50 min.



### Movie on Monday, February 24, at 1:00 p.m.

#### Snacks by Misty Reffitt from The Ridge of Beaver Creek

In the movie, *Letters from Juliet*, while visiting Italy, with her fiancé, Sophie visits a wall where the heartbroken leave notes to Shakespeare's tragic Juliet. Finding one such letter from 1957, Sophie decides to write to its now elderly author, Claire. Inspired by Sophie's actions, Claire sets out to find her long-lost lover.

PG Romance / Comedy 1 hr. 45 min.



### Movie on the First Fri., Feb. 7, at 1:00 p.m.

#### Snacks by Taylor Ries from Troy Rehabilitation

In the movie, *It Ends With Us*, Lily Bloom dreams of owning a flower shop. She meets Ryan, a neurosurgeon, and they fall in love. As time goes on, she sees sides of Ryan that were also a problem in her parents' marriage. Lily has a chance meeting with her first love and it causes problems. She now has an impossible choice to make. PG Drama/Romance 2 hrs. 11 min.

### Movie on the Third Friday, February 21, at 1:00 p.m.

#### Snacks by Cory Routson from Momentus Health

In the movie, *Begin Again*, Gretta and her partner head for New York when he lands a record deal. Gretta is left on her own when Dave gives in to the temptations from his newfound success. Things take a turn for the better for her when a disgraced record executive discovers Gretta performing in a club. A mutually life-changing bond forms between the pair as they work together on Gretta's first album.

R Comedy / Romance 1 hr. 44 min.



| MON                                                                                                           | TUES                                                                                                                                                                                                               | WED                                                                                                                                                        | THUR                                                                                                                        | FRI                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>3</b><br>Exercise 10:00<br>Hand & Foot 12:30<br><b>Movie 1:00</b>                                          | <b>4</b><br><b>Travel 9:00-12:00</b><br>Super Sewers 9:00<br>Bridge 9:45<br>Golden Qi 10:00<br>BP & Sugar Check 11-12<br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00</b><br>Hand & Foot 1:40<br>Book Club 1:40<br><b>Bingo 1:45</b> | <b>5</b><br>Hula Hooping 9:30<br>Exercise 11:00<br>Bridge 12:00<br>Up & Down the River 12:30<br>Euchre 1:00<br><b>Flower Arrangement 1:00</b>              | <b>6</b><br>Duplicate Bridge 11:45<br>Art Group 12:00<br>Rummikub 12:00<br>Pinochle 1:00<br><b>Bingo 1:00</b>               | <b>7</b><br>Mah Jong 9:00<br>Colored Pencils 9:30<br>Exercise 10:00<br>Poker 1:00<br><b>Movie 1:00</b><br><b>Diamond Art 1:30</b>         |
| <b>10</b><br>Exercise 10:00<br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00</b><br>Hand & Foot 12:30<br><b>Memory Café 1:45</b> | <b>11</b><br><b>Travel 9:00-12:00</b><br>Super Sewers 9:00<br>Bridge 9:45<br>Golden Qi 10:00<br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00</b><br>Hand & Foot 1:40<br><b>Flower Vase 1:45</b><br><b>Let's Eat Out 5:00</b>         | <b>12</b><br>Hula Hooping 9:30<br>Exercise 11:00<br>Bridge 12:00<br>Up & Down the River 12:30<br>Euchre 1:00                                               | <b>13</b><br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 11:00</b><br>Duplicate Bridge 11:45<br>Art Group 12:00<br>Rummikub 12:00<br>Pinochle 1:00 | <b>14</b><br>Mah Jong 9:00<br>Colored Pencils 9:30<br>Exercise 10:00<br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00</b><br>Poker 1:00<br><b>Bingo 1:45</b> |
| <b>17</b><br>Exercise 10:00<br>Hand & Foot 12:30                                                              | <b>18</b><br><b>Travel 9:00-12:00</b><br>Super Sewers 9:00<br>Bridge 9:45<br>Golden Qi 10:00<br>BP & Sugar Check 11-12<br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00</b><br>Hand & Foot 1:40<br><b>Essential Oils 1:45</b>         | <b>19</b><br>Hula Hooping 9:30<br>Exercise 11:00<br>Bridge 12:00<br>Up & Down the River 12:30<br>Euchre 1:00                                               | <b>20</b><br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 11:00</b><br>Duplicate Bridge 11:45<br>Art Group 12:00<br>Rummikub 12:00<br>Pinochle 1:00 | <b>21</b><br>Mah Jong 9:00<br>Colored Pencils 9:30<br>Exercise 10:00<br>Poker 1:00<br><b>Movie 1:00</b><br><b>Ceramics 1:30</b>           |
| <b>24</b><br>Exercise 10:00<br>Hand & Foot 12:30<br><b>Movie 1:00</b>                                         | <b>25</b><br><b>Travel 9:00-12:00</b><br>Super Sewers 9:00<br>Bridge 9:45<br>Golden Qi 10:00<br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 12:00</b><br>Hand & Foot 1:40                                                                 | <b>26</b><br>Hula Hooping 9:30<br>Exercise 11:00<br>Bridge 12:00<br>Up & Down the River 12:30<br>Euchre 1:00<br><b>Birthdays 1:00</b><br><b>Bingo 1:30</b> | <b>27</b><br><b>Lunch &amp; Learn 11:00</b><br>Duplicate Bridge 11:45<br>Art Group 12:00<br>Rummikub 12:00<br>Pinochle 1:00 | <b>28</b><br>Mah Jong 9:00<br>Colored Pencils 9:30<br>Exercise 10:00<br>Poker 1:00                                                        |



## Exercise & Information

### NEW BOOKS at the Vandalia Library

*State of Alert* by Marie Force

*The Gardener's Plot: A Mystery* by Deborah Benoit

*A Mind of Her Own* by Danielle Steel

*An Overdue Match* by Sarah Monzon

*Eddie Winston Is Looking For Love* by Marianne Cronin *Piece by Piece*

### NEW MOVIES at the Vandalia Library

*Deadpool & Wolverine*

*Twisters*

*The Forge*

*Treasure*

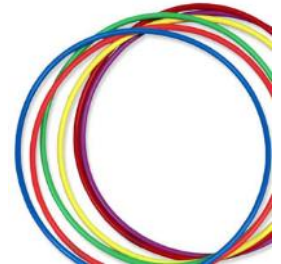


### FREE Golden Qi Class on Tuesdays at 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

Vevia Enix will teach Golden Qi which is a seated form of Tai Chi. This exercise improves balance, reduces joint pain, increases calmness, improves reasoning abilities, helps your memory, and improves the quality of your life. This class can be taken by anyone.

### FREE Hula Hoop Class on Wednesdays at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Come and see how hula hooping can improve your health, your spine, your balance, and cardiovascular system. It can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, and cholesterol levels. These hoops are what the pros use in the gyms and rehab centers. If you want to try out hula hooping, call before coming so the group can bring in extra hula hoops.



### FREE Exercise Class on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

This is a chair exercise class that is often led by either Bill Kistner or Kathy Reedy or Roddy Keish. Robin Kent with Brookhaven will be leading the class on some of the Wednesdays right after the hula hoop class. The group might use the weights and exercise bands that are here at the center. Be prepared for a few jokes thrown out in between the exercises.

**Mondays** 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesdays** 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. after hula hoops

**Fridays** 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

### An Anniversary: TEN YEARS

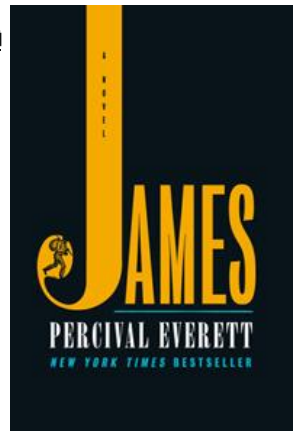
On Friday, January 23, 2015, Toni Williams walked into the Vandalia Senior Center for the first time as the coordinator. Angie Houschouer had just finished a history presentation. No, Toni doesn't know the answer to your next question. She only decides one year at a time if she will be here. She will be here for the year 2025.



## Information

### Vandalia Senior Center Book Club Meets on the First Tuesday Each Month

The book club will meet on Tuesday, February 4, at 1:45 p.m. to discuss the book, *James* by Percival Everett. The novel is a re-imagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain but told from the perspective of Huckleberry's friend on his travels, Jim, who is an escaped slave. Jim's escape parallels and overlap's Huck's journey.



### The Nurses Want to Check Out Your Numbers

Nurses will be here on the first and third Tuesdays most months from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to check your blood pressure and blood sugar numbers. They will be sitting by the fountains in the dining room. Nurses from Montgomery County Public Health will be here on February 4. Rich Morrett from the Vandalia Fire Department will be here on February 18 to check your blood pressure.



### Winter Closings Policy Reminder

If the Vandalia Schools are closed for weather, the Senior Center will be closed. If the schools are on a delay, the center is open. If the schools are on a delay in the evening, be sure to recheck the news in the morning because sometimes the schools change to being closed if the weather becomes worse. When schools are not in session and the weather becomes questionable, the City will determine whether or not the Senior Center will open and will put closing information on the Weather Hotline: **937-552-2200**. The Weather Hotline is only updated when cancellations have been made. We encourage you not to drive to the Senior Center when the weather conditions are not favorable.



### Answers to the Valentine's Trivia on Page 11

|      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. L | 2. R  | 3. S  | 4. FF | 5. Z  | 6. AA | 7. X  | 8. DD |
| 9. E | 10.T  | 11. W | 12.I  | 13.EE | 14.O  | 15.BB | 16.V  |
| 17.U | 18.CC | 19.Q  | 20.P  | 21.D  | 22.N  | 23.C  | 24.M  |
| 25.B | 26.H  | 27.G  | 28.F  | 29.A  | 30.J  | 31.K  |       |

## Information

### Bridge Hosts

Tuesday bridge at 9:45 a.m. is hosted by Darilyn Whittemore. 937-776-4686

Wednesday bridge at 12:15 p.m. is hosted by Judy Laughter. 937-677-3267

Thursday bridge at 12:00 p.m. is hosted by John Whitley. 937-241-8456



### Bingo and Other Games



1. Taylor Ries from Troy Rehab will call bingo on Tuesday, February 4, at 1:45 p.m. Limit: 48
2. Tambi Spirk from Brookdale will bring lunch and call bingo on Thursday, February 6, at 1:00 p.m. Limit: 48
3. Mark Maudlin from Maudlin Senior Care Solutions will call bingo on Friday, February 14, at 1:45 p.m. Limit: 48
4. Robin Eck from Englewood Health & Rehab will call bingo on Wednesday, February 26, at 1:30 p.m. Limit: 48

### Celebrate February Birthdays on Wed., February 26, at 1:00 p.m.

Momentus Health will provide the birthday cakes. Please sign up if you have a birthday. We will take a group photo then everyone will sing "Happy Birthday". Everyone gets a piece of cake but the birthday people get theirs first!



### Donations

**\*\*\*Please give ALL donations to Toni.** Some items can be used by the center.

**Leave in the Office:** **Especially need:** \*Diet Coke, \*Coke, and \*other drinks, \*chips, \*birthday napkins, and seasonal napkins, non-refrigerated individual creamers, art supplies, greenery, new greeting cards, and items for the free tables.

**Boxes in the hallway under the coat rack and by the white board:**

pop tabs, used greeting cards, cell phones, glasses, cancelled stamps, food for the Vandalia Food Pantry barrel and for Cares4Kids box.

**On the Fireplace in the Card Room/Library:** Leave books and puzzles on the fireplace for the librarian to put away.





Match the answer to the question. Check your answers on page 9.

- |                                                                               |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. What state produces the most roses? ____                                   | A. Hamlet              |
| 2. What is the most popular way to say "Be Mine"? ____                        | B. 1330                |
| 3. What fruit is also known as a "love apple"? ____                           | C. 15%                 |
| 4. Who was the first TV couple to sleep in a bed together on TV? ____         | D. Females             |
| 5. What card company is the top seller of Valentine's cards? ____             | E. Necco               |
| 6. What percent of flowers are bought by men for Valentine's Day? ____        | F. 36 Million          |
| 7. Who gets the most cards: girlfriends, wives, mothers, or teachers? ____    | G. Venus               |
| 8. What state has a town named Valentine? ____                                | H. 100 Million         |
| 9. Conversation hearts were first made by what company? ____                  | I. Cupid               |
| 10. What color M & M is thought to be an aphrodisiac? ____                    | J. Minnie              |
| 11. True or False: Valentine's Day is the largest giving holiday. ____        | K. Telephone           |
| 12. What is the winged child shooting love arrows called? ____                | L. California          |
| 13. The name Valentine originated in what language? ____                      | M. 3%                  |
| 14. An ancient Celtic tradition was to give a carved heart on what? ____      | N. 1 Billion           |
| 15. In what year was Valentine's Day declared an official holiday? ____       | O. Wooden Spoon        |
| 16. What country began the tradition of giving Valentines? ____               | P. \$75                |
| 17. What does the word Valentine stand for? ____                              | Q. Romans              |
| 18. Love messages were first sent on cards in what century? ____              | R. Candy               |
| 19. Who first introduced Valentine's Day as a pagan ceremony? ____            | S. Tomato              |
| 20. How much does the average American spend on Valentine's Day? ____         | T. Green               |
| 21. Who buys 85% of all cards? Males or Females? ____                         | U. Valor               |
| 22. How many Valentine cards are bought each year? ____                       | V. England             |
| 23. What percent of women send themselves flowers for Valentine's? ____       | W. False               |
| 24. What percent of pet owners give their pets a Valentine gift? ____         | X. Teachers            |
| 25. How many different kinds of Valentine cards does Hallmark make? ____      | Z. Hallmark            |
| 26. How many roses are sold on February 12, 13, and 14? ____                  | AA. 65%                |
| 27. Cupid was the son of what Roman God? ____                                 | BB. 1537               |
| 28. How many boxes of chocolate were sold in 2003 for Valentine's? ____       | CC. 17th Century       |
| 29. In what Shakespeare play is St. Valentine's Day mentioned? ____           | DD. Nebraska           |
| 30. Who is Mickey Mouse's Valentine? ____                                     | EE. Latin              |
| 31. On February 14, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell applied for what patent? ____ | FF. Mike & Carol Brady |



## Travel

We appreciate all the work that Bob and Kathy Reed do year round for the travel program. They are both just volunteers. Bob and Kathy are not compensated for their time and efforts.

For the Diamond Tours trips, write a \$100 deposit check to Diamond Tours. Also fill out the slip of paper at the bottom of the page or get the form at the Senior Center or on the website. Drop them in box #4 in the hallway by the office or mail it to the Senior Center.

April 28 to May 3: Virginia Beach, Colonial Williamsburg, & Historic Norfolk \$889 pp  
\$1129 single

June 9 to 13: Niagara Falls & Toronto \$865 pp \$1035 single You need a passport.

October 5 to 11: Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, & Plymouth \$989 pp \$1218

For the Prime Tours trips, write a \$100 deposit check to Prime Tours. Also fill out the paper that comes with the flyer. You can pick it up at the center or go online. You can also register and pay by credit card online at GoPrimeTours.com.

May 6: Mystery day trip \$169; You need to pay in full for this trip.

July 8 to 10: Frankenmuth, Michigan with other stops \$689 pp \$809 for single

September 15 to 18: Pennsylvania Dutch Country & more TBA

December 8 to 11: Smokie Mountain Christmas including visiting the Biltmore Estate  
\$1499 pp \$1689 single You can also do a hotel upgrade. See flyer.

Flyers are in the holder by the card room door. Information is on the travel bulletin board and on the senior center web page at <https://vandaliaohio.org/503/Travel>. You can mail your check to the Vandalia Senior Center or drop it in box #4 in the hallway by the kitchen or give it to Bob Reed in person. You also need to fill out the form for that company to include with your payment.



Bob Reed's Office Hours: Tuesdays only 9 a.m. to Noon  
Or call Bob at 937-313-9692 and leave a voicemail.

**Please only call Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact—Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Vandalia  
Recreation  
Center

## February Family Fun Night

Friday, February 23 | 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Take a break from the winter cold and come to the Vandalia Recreation Center for a night of family fun! Enjoy the Aquatic Center, Climbing Wall, inflatables, gym games, Luther's Jungle, Ricky's Tiny Tikes, arts & crafts and food.

**Age: All ages welcome**

**Fees:**

**Vandalia Recreation Center Member Families: Free**

**Vandalia Resident Families & Vandalia-Butler School District**

**Families: \$20 per family (up to 5 people), \$3 per person after 5.**

**Notes: This event is for VRC members, Vandalia residents and Vandalia-Butler school district families only. Proof of residency required upon entry if you are not a VRC member. First come, first serve. This is a drop-in event so there is no need to pre-register.**

## Parks & Recreation

**We would like to announce that Maecie Burkhardt is our new Recreation Coordinator-Athletics for the VPRD!**

**Maecie is excited to begin her career for Vandalia's Parks and Recreation Department after gaining valuable experience working at Ohio University's Recreation Center and with the club sports office while earning her undergraduate degree. Maecie is eager to apply her passion for recreation and her commitment to community engagement to Vandalia's Parks and Recreation Department. Outside of work, Maecie is an avid sports fan, coaches high school girls' soccer and softball, and is a frequent concert goer! Join us in welcoming Maecie to our department!**



**We would like to announce that Sara Moyer is our new Recreation Coordinator– Programs/Special Events for the VPRD!**

**Sara previously worked for the Washington Township Parks & Recreation Department and oversaw the summer camp program and other youth programs. She has worked in the field for over half a decade and is excited to continue her career for Vandalia's Parks and Recreation Department. Outside of work, she is a big Dayton Flyers fan, coaches competitive youth soccer, and is an avid pickleball player! Join us in welcoming Sara to our department!**



**The Division of Fire is pleased to announce the launching of a Hands-Only CPR Kiosk at our Rec Center. This community training device has been made possible by a partnership with the American Heart Association and Kettering Health. We are very excited to offer this resource to residents to be trained in quick, effective skills that could provide a greater chance of survival in a cardiac emergency.**

**Come check it out in the VRC lobby, the kiosk will be here through the end of February!**



**Scan the QR code to check out the current VPRD Program Guide full of wonderful recreation programs and events!**



## VANDALIA SENIOR CENTER

21 Tionda Drive South  
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

Open; Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Coordinator: Toni Williams

twilliams@vandaliaohio.org  
Phone: 937-898-1232  
Fax: 937-665-0796  
[https://vandaliaohio.org/341/  
Senior-Center](https://vandaliaohio.org/341/Senior-Center)

### Vandalia Senior Club

#### 2024 Committee:

|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| President      | Cathy Nortman<br>985-201-6747 |
| Vice President | Iris Siebert<br>937-454-1583  |
| Treasure       | Kay Lowe<br>937-409-8300      |
| Secretary      | Dottie Ganter<br>937-898-7286 |

## DATED MATERIAL: DO NOT DELAY

--MEMBERSHIP--

Age 55 or older

Younger Spouses are welcome!

The 2025 fees for members are:

Vandalia Residents \$15 single - \$25 dual

Non Resident \$20 single - \$35 dual

A resident is defined as someone who pays  
City of Vandalia property taxes.

Membership for anyone over 90 is free but  
you must notify the office to continue to get the newsletter.

Your annual membership fees help offset some of  
the costs of programming and support for the Senior Center.

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