

THE BLUE LETTER



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

February 21, 2025

Mayor Herbst & City Councilmembers:

On February 10th, I had the opportunity to attend the Division of Fire's annual awards and Division meeting held at Living Word Church. Chief Follick shared the Division's 2024 accomplishments and the Division's 2025 Goals and Objectives. This year's awards recipients were EMS Person of the Year Matt Buker, Firefighter of the Year Noah vanDoesburg, Fire Officer of the Year Zach Holbrook, and Meritorious Service Award recipient Rich Morrett. I congratulate all the award recipients recognized during the ceremony. Thanks to all the employees of the Fire Division who work hard each day when responding to emergencies, participating in ongoing training drills, and completing safety inspections and presentations to ensure the welfare and safety of our community.



A special thanks to Council for authorizing me to submit a contract to purchase the former Rite-Aid property at 10 West National Road as part of the city's revitalization. The decision to purchase this key parcel is critical for future development with our goal of finding an end-use that aligns with recommendations from the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Property inspections are scheduled and underway to meet the 45-day closing deadline. As part of this process, Rob Cron and I recently met with two commercial developers and will be working with them to determine potential prospects for various properties in Vandalia that would align with our Comprehensive Plan. My goal is to develop some concepts and ideas for these properties that can be shared at the next Council retreat.

Representatives from Dayton Development Coalition, Jobs Ohio, and Rob Cron met with Ben Staub of BasTech Inc. BasTech has a partner company called BukTek that specializes in making suppressors or silencers for firearms. They are optimistic that this product will allow their company to grow, potentially leading to additional space needed near their current facility.



This past week, Public Works and Parks & Recreation staff removed 35 overgrown trees and stumps from the downtown area along National Road. These trees will be replaced with new trees this Spring and will continue to beautify the National Road and Dixie Drive corridor without roots harming our sidewalks and surrounding landscape.

Sara Moyer attended the second Advanced Leadership Training at the Miami Valley Communications Council on February 6th. During this session, the topic was “Challenge the Process” where the class focused on examining how well they manage change. They also discussed how participants, as leaders, can seek innovative ways to improve, experiment with new ideas, and encourage others to step outside of their comfort zones and take risks.

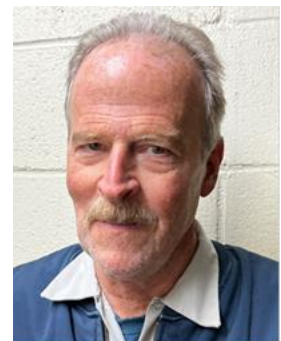
The Vandalia Recreation Center continues to host several exciting and fun-filled events for youth and families and these past two weeks were no exception. You can read about the various programs or events that were held at the VRC and the enjoyment experienced by those who participated.

During the past three weeks, VPD officers made eight traffic stops on commercial motor vehicles for violations. These stops resulted in eight written warnings, two of which were for parking violations, while working eight additional enforcement hours.

Elevated Ground Solutions has begun clearing and mulching up the remaining tree material in the area needed for construction at the new Public Works Facility site at 810 Northwoods Boulevard. The detailed facility design is still in progress, and we look forward to sharing it later this year.

A special “thanks” to our Public Works and Parks & Recreation employees who worked extra hours over the past two weeks to repair water main breaks and plow and salt the roadways and Vandalia facilities to clear them of snow and ice. We appreciate their dedication and commitment to keeping our roads clear and safe for all motorists.

Congratulations to Public Works Technician Joe Blosser on his retirement! Joe has acquired vast knowledge and expertise of our Public Works systems from his 32+ years of public service to the City and its residents/businesses. Joe has helped considerably with relaying his knowledge to improve our newer employees’ skills. We all wish Joe the very best in his retirement.



Attached to this week’s Blue Letter is the new Muncity Connect Customer Instructions, January 2025’s crime stats summary report, and the Vandalia Senior Citizen March Newsletter.



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 – February 21, 2025;
2. Information Update - Director Leiter – February 21, 2025;
3. Information Update - Chief Follick – February 21, 2025;
4. Information Update - HR Manager Hanf – February 21, 2025;
5. Information Update – Director Clark – February 21, 2025;
6. Information Update – Operations Captain Walker - February 21, 2025;
7. Information Update - Director Borton – February 21, 2025;
8. January 2025 Monthly Crime Stats Summary Report
9. Vandalia Senior Center March Newsletter





To: Kurt Althouse, Interim City Manager
From: Rob Cron, Assistant City Manager
Date: February 20, 2025
Re: Information Update for February 8 - 21, 2025

Representatives from Dayton Development Coalition, Jobs Ohio and I met with Ben Staub of BasTech Inc. BasTech has a partner company called BukTek that specializes in making suppressors or silencers for firearms. They are optimistic that this product will allow their company to grow, potentially leading to additional space needed near their current facility.

City Planner, Mike Hammes and I met with several representatives from a company to tour the 728,000-sf facility at 1669 Capstone Way. This company would be looking to lease approximately half of the building. This location was one of their final three choices at this point and they hope to make a final decision within the next 30 days.

You and I met with two commercial development companies and look forward to engaging with at least one of the firms to begin a strategy for the redevelopment of various properties within the city.

Leann Hanf, you and I met to review some of the personnel policy manual updates that we will be bringing forward later this year.

Negotiations have begun with the Public Works Division and the Teamsters Union representatives. Several proposals have gone back and forth, and we hope to have a contract ready for approval in the not-too-distant future. The current contract expires at the end of March.

I was interviewed this week by FOX/ABC News regarding the approval to purchase the property at 10 W. National Rd. The story was aired on Wednesday night at both new outlets.

I attended the monthly I70/75 Association meeting this Friday morning at Sinclair Community College. This month's guest speaker was Julie Sullivan from the Dayton Development Coalition giving an update on regional economic development activity.

Ben Graham, Mike Hammes, you and I met to review the upcoming Board of Zoning Appeals meeting items. They have two applications that will be reviewed at their meeting on February 26th.

1. A variance to consider allowing the raising of chickens on a residential lot less than two acres at 995 Forest View court.
2. A variance to exceed the maximum sign area at 780 Northwoods Boulevard. (Kroger)

Mike Hammes attended the quarterly meeting for the Ohio Coalition of Age Friendly Communities.

Kip Millikin and Ben Graham attended the Zoning Alliance Meeting hosted by Jefferson Township.

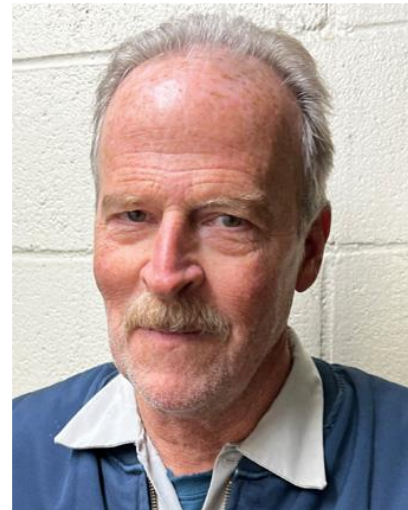
The city's Block Party Trailer is now open for reservations. We have already received two reservations for this year.

The IT Department received proposals from three companies for the 2025 Phone System Replacement Project. They are currently reviewing these proposals for completeness and alignment with project requirements. A recommendation will be presented at the March 3 study session, with a request for council approval at the March 17 regular meeting. Several proposals fall within the allocated \$170,000 budget for the project.

The IT Department has received the new large-format printer, which will be used for producing signs, wall maps, adhesive vinyl, and other high-quality prints. Located in the Municipal Building, the printer will soon be utilized to replace outdated wall maps, create event signage, and enhance public spaces within city buildings. In the coming weeks, IT staff will take time to get acclimated to the new equipment before beginning to print various materials. Once the setup and testing phase is complete, departments in need of large prints will be able to submit requests to the IT Department.

We have received the first draft of our Spring/Summer issue of the MyVandalia magazine. Staff will review the draft and submit any comments or corrections for the final version.

Congratulations to Public Works Technician Joe Blosser who has announced his retirement from the city effective February 28th. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Joe for his entire 32+ year career with the City of Vandalia. Joe has been a great asset to the city, and we are certainly going to miss his historical knowledge of our infrastructure and his skills. Joe will go down as one of the best equipment operators that this city has ever had. Congratulations Joe and we wish you the best in your retirement.



Memo



To: Kurt Althouse, Interim City Manager

From: Bridgette Leiter, Director of Finance

Date: February 19, 2025

Re: Information Update – Period Ending February 21, 2025

1. I attended a council study session and meeting.
2. Finance continues to provide data to the compilation team and auditors from Plattenburg and Associates for the 2024 Annual Report and audit.
3. I participated in a webinar hosted by the Government Finance Officers Association. The main topic of discussion was Mastering Budgeting Efficiency and Leveraging GFOA Best Practices.
4. I met with representatives of bond counsel (Squire, Patton, Boggs) and Municipal Finance Underwriters (Bradley Payne) to discuss current market trends, interest rates and future financing options.



DIVISION OF FIRE INFORMATION UPDATE

TO: KURT ALTHOUSE, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
FROM: CHAD FOLLIICK, FIRE CHIEF
DATE: 2/20/2025
SUBJECT: INFORMATION UPDATE – PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 2025

1. There were multiple mutual aid responses this reporting period. On Feb 6th crews responded to Butler Township on the report of structure fire. Fortunately, this response resulted in the crew finding a clogged dryer vent and our Prevention Bureau reminded all those following us on social media about the importance of cleaning out and checking their dryer vents. On Feb 7th, Crews responded to a multiple alarm apartment fire in Harrison Township. The last significant mutual aid call was Feb 13th where crews assisted Huber Heights Fire Dept. on a working fire.
2. Crews were dispatched to Old Springfield Road on a car into a building on Feb 7th. Only minor injuries and a damaged structure were found when crews arrived on scene.
3. Crews responded on Feb 7th to the report of a basement fire. Upon arrival, crews found light smoke. There were no injuries or damage found during this incident.
4. The Division of Fire held our annual awards and Division Meeting event on Monday, February 10th. The highlight of the evening is the awards and Division of Fire would like to recognize and congratulate EMS Person of the year, Matt Buker, Firefighter of the year, Noah vanDoesburg, Officer of the year, Zach Holbrook, Meritorious Service Award, Rich Morrett and all the others who were recognized for their “wins” this past year. A big thank you also to the Living Word Church for opening their doors for us to host the event.



DIVISION OF FIRE INFORMATION UPDATE

5. On February 12th, the Division of Fire, along with the Division of Police, were recognized by our local Coldwell Banker office. Both divisions will have their picture displayed in their lobby.
6. Ohio Task Force 1 was deployed by the Federal Urban Search and Rescue System on Saturday, Feb 15th to Kentucky. They are working in Martin County to assist in evacuating residents in areas that are washed out due to rising water and debris. The Division of Fire's Lt. Schumann is a member of Ohio Task Force 1 and is currently on this deployment.
7. The Division of fire provided an EMS Strike team at the Vandalia HS SAC on Sunday, Feb 16th. This team was available to provide EMS care and transport as needed for an all-day wrestling tournament event.
8. On February 19th, I attended a Greater Montgomery County Fire Chief's Association meeting.
9. The Division of Fire is having a Health and Wellness Kickoff for the members and spouses of Vandalia and Butler Township Fire Departments. This is a collaboration with the departments and Kettering Health and will be hosted at the Hanger Activity Center – First Light Church on February 19th. This is an important new resource being provided to our crews that will mainly focus on mental health awareness for first responders.

Memo



To: Kurt E. Althouse, Interim City Manager

From: Leann Hanf, Human Resources Manager

Date: February 19, 2025

Re: Information Update – Period Ending February 21, 2025

1. **More New Hires!** This week I onboarded one more new hire! We welcomed her to our Police Department as a Police Officer:
 - Kelsie Burmeister
2. **Cold and Flu Season Has Officially Arrived!** As doctors' visits begin to ramp up, don't forget to review your Summary of Benefits for your medical plan to stay well informed on what is covered, and what you may be responsible for. All of our Summary of Benefits for every line of coverage we offer can be found on our [Xplore](#) site!
3. **The Federal NSA (No Surprise Act) – Understand Your Rights Against Surprise Medical Bills.** The No Surprises Act protects people covered under group and individual health plans from receiving surprise medical bills when they receive most emergency services, non-emergency services from out-of-network providers at in-network facilities, and services from out-of-network air ambulance service providers. It also establishes an independent dispute resolution process for payment disputes between plans and providers, and provides new dispute resolution opportunities for uninsured and self-pay individuals when they receive a medical bill that is substantially greater than the good faith estimate they get from the provider.

Starting in 2022, there are new protections that prevent surprise medical bills. If you have private health insurance, these new protections ban the most common types of surprise bills. If you're uninsured or you decide not to use your health insurance for a service, under these protections, you can often get a good faith estimate of the cost of your care up front, before your visit. If you disagree with your bill, you may be able to dispute the charges. Here's what you need to know about your new rights.

What are surprise medical bills?

Before the No Surprises Act, if you had health insurance and received care from an out-of-network provider or an out-of-network facility, even unknowingly, your health plan may not have covered the entire out-of-network cost. This could have left you with higher costs than if you got care from an in-network provider or facility. In addition to any out-of-network cost sharing you might have owed, the out-of-network provider or facility could bill you for the difference between the billed charge and the amount your health plan paid, unless banned by state law. This is called "balance billing." An unexpected balance bill from an out-of-network provider is also called a surprise medical bill.

People with Medicare and Medicaid already enjoy these protections and are not at risk for surprise billing.

What are the new protections if I have health insurance?

If you get health coverage through your employer, a Health Insurance Marketplace or an individual health insurance plan you purchase directly from an insurance company, these new rules will:

- Ban surprise bills for most emergency services, even if you get them out-of-network and without approval beforehand (prior authorization).
- Ban out-of-network cost-sharing (like out-of-network coinsurance or copayments) for most emergency and some non-emergency services. You can't be charged more than in-network cost-sharing for these services.
- Ban out-of-network charges and balance bills for certain additional services (like anesthesiology or radiology) furnished by out-of-network providers as part of a patient's visit to an in-network facility.
- Require that health care providers and facilities give you an easy-to-understand notice explaining the applicable billing protections, who to contact if you have concerns that a provider or facility has violated the protections, and that patient consent is required to waive billing protections (i.e., you must receive notice of and consent to being balance billed by an out-of-network provider).

What if I don't have health insurance or choose to pay for care on my own without using my health insurance (also known as "self-paying")?

If you don't have insurance or you self-pay for care, in most cases, these new rules make sure you can get a good faith estimate of how much your care will cost before you receive it.

What if I'm charged more than my good faith estimate?

For services provided in 2022, you can dispute a medical bill if your final charges are at least \$400 higher than your good faith estimate and you file your dispute claim within 120 days of the date on your bill.

What if I do not have insurance from an employer, a Marketplace, or an individual plan? Do these new protections apply to me?

Some health insurance coverage programs already have protections against surprise medical bills. If you have coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, or TRICARE, or receive care through the Indian Health Services or Veterans Health Administration, you don't need to worry because you're already protected against surprise medical bills from providers and facilities that participate in these programs.

What if my state has a surprise billing law?

The No Surprises Act supplements state surprise billing laws; it does not supplant them. The No Surprises Act instead creates a "floor" for consumer protections against surprise bills from out-of-network providers and related higher cost-sharing responsibility for patients. So as a general matter, as long as a state's surprise billing law provides at least the same level of consumer protections against surprise bills and higher cost-sharing as does the No Surprises Act and its implementing regulations, the state law generally will apply. For example, if your state operates its own patient-provider dispute resolution process that determines appropriate payment rates for self-pay consumers and Health and Human Services (HHS) has determined that the state's process meets or exceeds the minimum requirements under the federal patient-provider dispute resolution process, then HHS will defer to the state process and would not accept such disputes into the federal process.

As another example, if your state has an All-payer Model Agreement or another state law that determines payment amounts to out-of-network providers and facilities for a service, the All-payer Model Agreement or other state law will generally determine your cost-sharing amount and the out-of-network payment rate.

Where can I learn more?

Still have questions? Visit [CMS.gov/nosurprises](https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises), or call their Help Desk at 1-800-985-3059 for more information.

- 4. Ohio's Surprise Billing Law (HB388)** - Governor Mike DeWine signed Ohio's surprise billing law, House Bill 388 of the 133rd General Assembly, on January 7, 2021.

The law, which became effective on January 12, 2022, protects patients from receiving and paying surprise medical bills above the patient's in-network rate from health care providers for emergency care or, in certain circumstances, unanticipated out-of-network care. Cost sharing amounts, which include coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles, are limited to the patient's in-network amounts.

Before the law, patients were responsible for paying surprise medical bills, oftentimes ranging hundreds to thousands of dollars above the in-network rate, arising from these unanticipated out-of-network situations. Price and payment reconciliation is now solely between the patient's health care provider and health insurer.

The law requires the Ohio Department of Insurance to administer and enforce many of the law's provisions. It also gave the department authority to adopt rules to establish the law's operational framework.



To: Kurt E. Althouse, Interim City Manager

From: Steve Clark, Director of Parks & Recreation

Date: 2/20/2025

Re: Information Update – Period ending February 20, 2025

CASSEL HILLS GOLF COURSE

- Managing Golf Professional Ben Lickliter has started contacting league organizers as well as outing organizers from 2024 to confirm and schedule for 2025.

RECREATION CENTER

- February Family Fun Night: This annual community event will be hosted at the VRC on Friday, February 21 from 5:30-8:30pm. Vandalia Recreation Center Members, Vandalia Residents, and Vandalia-Butler School District Families are invited to take a break from the winter cold and enjoy a night of family fun! The aquatic center, climbing wall, inflatables, gym games, Luther's Jungle, Ricky's Tiny Tikes, arts & crafts, face painting, Kona Ice, and food will be available for those that attend!
- On Saturday, February 1, Eat Pretty Darling led a Pizza My Heart Program to celebrate Valentine's Day with young chefs! 11 participants attended this program at the Vandalia Senior Center. During the class, preschoolers created their own mini heart-shaped pizzas and a sweet, festive treat!
- On Tuesday, February 4, Miss Bec led a Stitched in Love Paint Night at the Vandalia Rec Center. This program had a full class with 15 participants. During this class, young artists painted the lovable Disney character Stitch on a canvas while enjoying the evening together!
- Kids Night Out: This program was held on Friday, February 7. This youth program had 24 registered participants. During their night out at the VRC, kids had the chance to participate in rock climbing, swimming, gym games, crafts, and more! Pizza and snacks were provided.
- On Wednesday, February 12, we partnered with The Grazing Ground for Sweetheart Goat Yoga. 25 participants registered for this program. The yoga program took place in the gymnasium at the Rec Center. Participants enjoyed plenty of goat cuddles during their yoga session!
- This full-day camp was hosted by Brixilated at the Rec Center on Monday, February 17. While schools were closed for Presidents Day, campers spent the whole day building and designing a variety of LEGO creations with the Brixilated instructor. There were 9 participants registered for this full-day program.
- Sara Moyer attended the second Advanced Leadership Training at the Miami Valley Communications Council on February 6th. During this session, the topic was "Challenge the Process" where the class focused on examining how well they manage change. They also

discussed how participants, as leaders, can seek innovative ways to improve, experiment with new ideas, and encourage others to step outside of their comfort zones and take risks.

- The Senior Valentines Day Social at the VRC was well attended with 39 total seniors in attendance.

RECREATION / ATHLETICS DIVISION / SPECIAL EVENTS

- Maecie Burkhardt met with Troy and Tipp City athletic associations to discuss our joint venture Rec Softball program and to establish rules for the upcoming season. The next meeting will take place on March 21 and will focus on finalizing schedules for the season.
- Maecie also met with Northmont/ Tecumseh/ Huber to discuss the fall youth soccer season. They discussed age groups, registration dates, etc. to make sure everyone was on the same page.
- Our Youth Basketball Instructional basketball program finished last weekend at the VRC. Kindergarten and first grade participants were introduced to the game of basketball by the Butler High School Boys Basketball team.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION

- Interviews and a practical exam were given for our open Buildings Maintenance position. A conditional offer has been signed, and the background and pre-employment process is underway.
- Maintenance staff installed new bollard posts around the Rec Center and along the main drive of the Sports Complex.
- Maintenance staff have assembled five new benches that will be placed along the drop off circle in front of the Recreation Center.
- Maintenance staff installed construction fencing and signage around the old playground at Helke Park and began the removal of this unit.
- Park Maintenance Technicians attended the 2025 Tri-State Green Industry Conference & Trade Show in Cincinnati. This is a great conference on horticulture, tree care, lawn care, and more.
- Downtown tree work continues with 35 trees being removed. This includes working with Public Works on stump removals. The replacement of these trees will take place this spring.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- Tom Underwood will have his first day of Van Tran driver training on Wednesday, February 19. He will be driving one Wednesday each month. He already drives one day a month for the Beavercreek Senior Center. He is a part-time realtor.
- The total number of people coming into the Senior Center from February 3 to February 17 totaled 1120 people, including evenings and weekends. There were 13 days the facility was rented, including nights and weekends. This averages 86 people per day. There were 1056 members who came to the center on the 10 days it was open. This averages 106 members per day. This is a remarkable number considering the time of year and the very cold weather. There were four great Lunch & Learns that really attracted a good crowd. Two of those were with musical entertainment for Valentine's Day week.

Information Update



To: Kurt E. Althouse
Interim City Manager

From: Ben Walker
Operations Captain

Date: February 20, 2025

Subject: Information Update Ending February 21, 2025

1. During the past three weeks, VPD officers made eight traffic stops on commercial motor vehicles for violations. These stops resulted in eight written warnings, two of which were for parking violations, while working eight additional enforcement hours. One written warning was also issued for expired tags on a passenger vehicle during commercial enforcement hours.
2. As the president of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, I attended the annual Ohio State Patrol Leadership Awards Luncheon in Columbus on February 7. The presentation included several awards including Troopers and Civilian Employees of the Year from each District as well as the Trooper and Employee of the Year for the state. Congratulations to all the recipients who were recognized for their outstanding service throughout Ohio.
3. On February 11, Captains Sucher and Walker, Sgt. Lawson, Det. Estepp, and CPO Sommer attended an informational meeting for the *Shifting Gears* program through the Ohio Traffic Safety Office. *Shifting Gears* is a presentation meant to educate high school students about the risks of underage marijuana use while driving. This training prepared attendees to teach the approved curriculum.
4. Physical trainers from Kettering Health Sports Medicine attended roll calls at the Justice Center on February 11 and 13 to introduce themselves and share information on the services they will be providing for Division employees. We are partnering with Kettering Health Network to provide physical trainer services as part of our employee wellness program.
5. On February 11, Sgt. Nagel attended a planning meeting for the upcoming North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Assembly being held in the City of Dayton, May 21-26, 2025. The Division of Police will provide mutual aid assistance during this event according to need.
6. On February 12, I attended the Executive Board meeting for the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police in Dublin. Discussion topics included upcoming legislative issues, our police chief mentoring program, the 2025 In-Service Chiefs' Training Conference in Columbus, various training programs and their success, and membership applications. The OACP continues to be an influential organization in Ohio that provides input on criminal justice legislation and provides quality leadership training.

7. On February 12, Captain Sucher, CPO Sommer, and members of VFD attended a monthly staff meeting at Coldwell Banker Realty. They unveiled photographs representing VPD and VFD that will be displayed in their newly renovated lobby.



8. On February 12, Officer Sommer attended an OVI task force meeting.
9. Captains Sucher and Walker attended a law enforcement leadership meeting on February 12, with representatives from other agencies in the area. This group provides valuable networking to support each other with challenges as well as successes.
10. On February 13, Crime Prevention Officer Sommer made a *Run Hide Fight* presentation to the employees at Forney Industries.
11. On February 18, CPO Sommer made a *Run Hide Fight* presentation to the members of the Senior Citizen Center.
12. PSS Dyke attended the *Be The Difference Conference* from February 9-12, 2025, in Myrtle Beach, SC. This conference is sponsored by the Denise Amber Lee Foundation and featured numerous 9-1-1 dispatch-related speakers and topics. She was able to attend leadership courses and network with important leaders in the dispatch field.
13. SSM Wright completed the Ohio Public Notary course on February 10 and is now a certified Public Notary.
14. Captain Walker met with a new Flock Safety account representative for our area at the Justice Center on February 18. The representative shared some information on new technology Flock Safety is offering.



Public Service Information Update

To: Kurt E Althouse, Interim City Manager
From: Ben Borton, Director of Public Service
Date: February 20, 2025
Subject: **Information Update for February 8 – 21, 2025**

Development & Engineering Services (DES)

Dog Leg Water and Sanitary Extension Phase 2 project: Still waiting on the electric meter pedestal for the lift station power from the supplier.

Bikeway Connector project: Brumbaugh Construction has installed most of the temporary sheet pile needed for the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls next to the Taylorsville Dam. The MSE installation will begin soon.

Precision Concrete Sawcutting has started sidewalk grinding of trip hazards ¾" to 2" in height on specified streets. Property owners have been notified of this zero-cost-to-owner work.

Upcoming awarded projects:

Anticipated Start	Project	Contractor
March (sawcutting start end of February)	2025 Curb/Sidewalk	Coate Construction
April	Kenneth Avenue Watermain Replacement & Resurfacing	Sturm Construction
May	Tionda, Mossview, Ranchview Watermain Replacement & Resurfacing	M&T Excavating

The following sites have submitted plans for staff review/approval:

- Webster Truck Storage at 6480 Webster St for truck repair and parking
- Dayton Metro Pickleball at 6205 Miller Ln for interior renovations (phase 1)
- Flex Office Warehouse at 6900 Poe Ave for a tenant upfit

There are eight (8) submitted and approved building permits for single-family houses in Foxfire Section 9 housing development (29 lots total). Chief Building Official Mastrino and Electrical/Building Inspectors Martin & Barnett met with home builder (Fischer Homes), who plans to break ground next week.

As of February 19th, Muncity Connect is fully LIVE! This is our public portal for submitting and tracking progress of all DES applications/permits/inspections. As part of the citywide policy goals of **Sharpen the Saw** and **Trust & Confidence**, this should give more transparency to applicants and improve customer service by streamlining the application process. The link to Muncity Connect is on our website with a separate link on instructions to help first-time users. <https://www.vandaliaohio.org/164/Obtain-a-Permit>

Public Works Superintendent Hayslett and I attended the TCA technical committee meeting on February 12th.

On February 20th, I attended the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce (DACC) monthly Safety Breakfast with the Experts on the topic of “Situational Awareness for Leaders” and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) monthly meeting.

Public Works (PW)

New Public Works Facility (810 Northwoods Blvd): Detailed design in progress. Elevated Ground Solutions has begun clearing and mulching up the remaining tree material in the area needed for construction.

Crews were called in to plow and salt the roadways on Sunday, February 16th.

Crews continued working with the Parks & Recreation Department with removing overgrown street trees on National Rd (from Perry St to Ranchview Dr) and S Perry St. Crews began hydro-excavating tree stumps as part of the planned Phase 2 replanting (39 trees) scheduled for Spring.

After much searching over the past weeks, crews located and fixed the leaking mechanical joint on the existing Ranchview water main. Leaks at mechanical joints can be very hard to locate as changing weather conditions/ground temperatures can cause the leaks to seal up and open back up periodically, unlike a typical water main break. We appreciate the public’s patience while the leaking joint was located.

Crews performed the monthly water shut-offs of delinquent water accounts for the Water division of the Finance Department.

Crews continued installing new water meters inside residences/businesses.

Crews installed a 1” water tap on the 16” water main on National Rd for the new development at 267 W National Rd (Crossfit Excess).

Crews continued turning (closing/opening) watermain valves to confirm operational status throughout the City. This is an EPA requirement to perform turning on 20% of all valves each year.

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

Crews continued walking sanitary sewer lines in remote areas throughout the City inspecting manholes (MHs) and assuring flow is moving.

Crews inspected grease traps throughout town, making sure businesses are keeping up with the maintenance and cleaning of them bi-annually, or quarterly for restaurants. This helps prevent large build ups in the sanitary sewer which results in blockages in the mains and backups into residences/businesses.

In preparation for the 2025 sanitary sewer cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) project, crews cleared out the MHs north of Elva Ct, making sure the lining company can obtain access to the MHs for the work.

Crews performed 42 utility locates this period for Ohio 811

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

The mechanics repaired the hydraulics for single-axle dump truck #22 and the v-box salt spreader for tandem-axle dump truck #25 while keeping up with truck inspections after snow & ice events.

The mechanics also repaired the wiring on Fire Division's Engine 2, an oil leak on Ladder 3, and coolant leak on a Medic.

Congratulations to Public Works Technician Joe Blosser on his retirement! Joe has acquired vast knowledge and expertise of our Public Works systems from his 32+ years of public service to the City and its residents/businesses. Joe has helped considerably with relaying his knowledge to improve our newer employees' skills. We all wish Joe the best with his retirement.

Negotiations have begun with Teamsters local union 957 for the 4/2025 – 4/2028 contract for PW employees. The existing contract is set to expire at the end of March.



**Applying for City permits
just got a whole lot easier!**

Municipity Connect is now live!

Municipity allows users to apply for permits, submit plans for review and pay fees online. The new paperless process is faster and easier than ever.

What can I do with Municipity Connect?

Municipity City Squared gives you the ability to Apply for permits, look up information on a property, conduct a map/GIS search, submit plans and drawings for review and pay fees, all from the one easy-to-use online public portal.

How do I access Municipity Connect?

Logon to the City of Vandalia Website, vandaliaohio.org

Under the Department tab, click on Development and Engineering Services, then click the link for Municipity City Squared!

<https://www.citysquared.com/#/app/VandaliaCityOH/landing>

WELCOME TO MUNICIPALITY CONNECT

The City of Vandalia has teamed up with the International Code Council (ICC) to utilize the Municipity5 and Municipity Connect cloud based permitting software. During the 3rd quarter of 2023 the city implemented the Municipity5 (M5) software for internal use. Starting 1st quarter of 2025, the city will be launching the Municipity Connect (MC) for customers to utilize when they need to submit building, engineering, fire, planning commission, zoning, and other miscellaneous applications. The MC system provides the customer with one location to submit applications and construction drawings, communicate with staff, track the process and status of applications and permits, make required payments, and receive approved documents for permits.

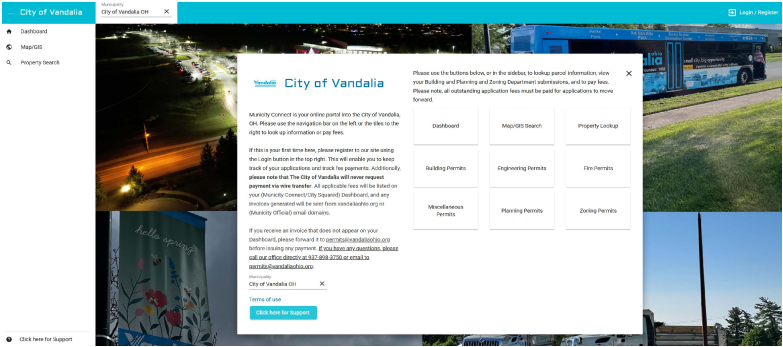
<https://www.citysquared.com/#/app/VandaliaCityOH/landing>

Creating an Account

- Step One:

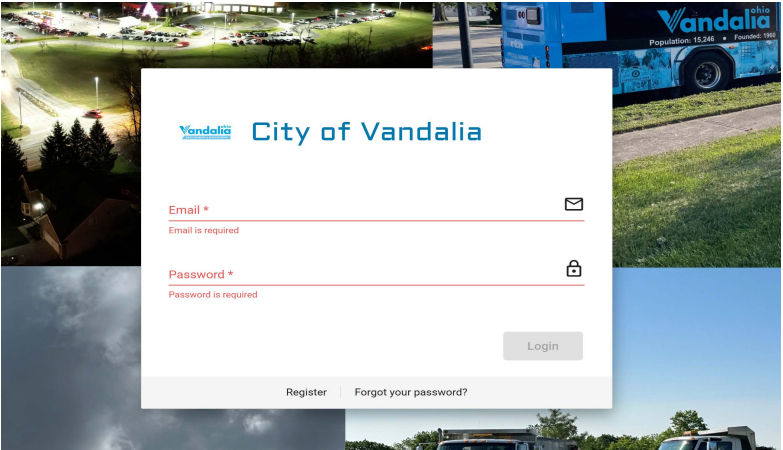
‘Click on link above’
- Step Two:

‘Click on “Login / Register”’



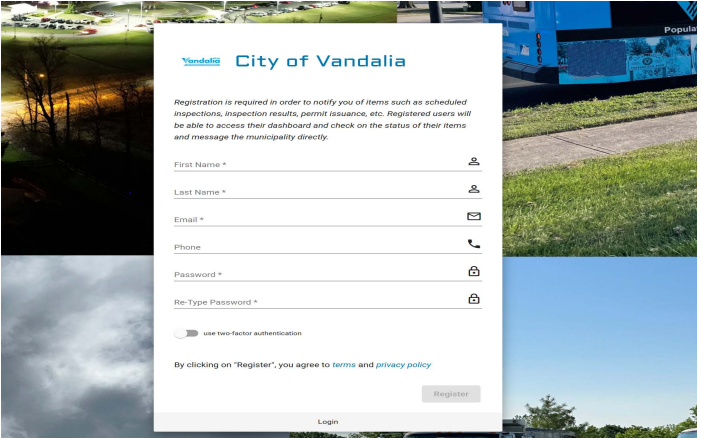
- Step Three:

‘Click on “Register”’



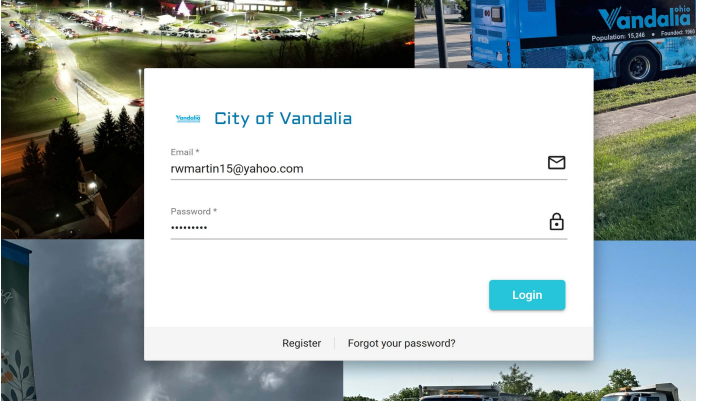
- Step Four:

‘Fill in all required information then click “Register” than check the email account you registered with to complete the registration’



- Step Five:

‘Click “Login” to start using City of Vandalia’s Online Permit Portal’



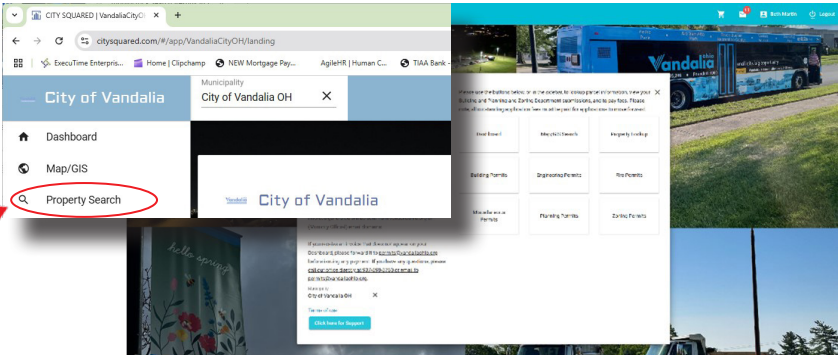
WELCOME TO MUNICITY CONNECT

How to submit a permit application without drawings.

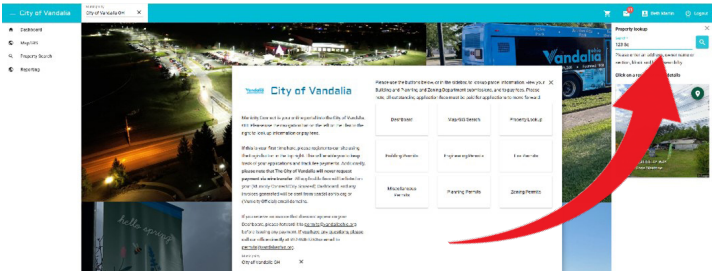
Step One: Open “Municipity Connect”

<https://www.citysquared.com/#/app/VandaliaCityOH/landing>

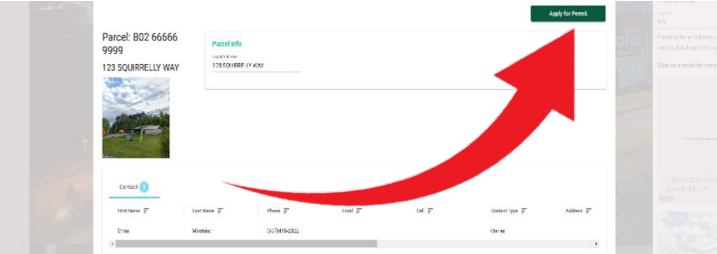
Step Two: ‘Click “Property Search”
In the top left corner of the page



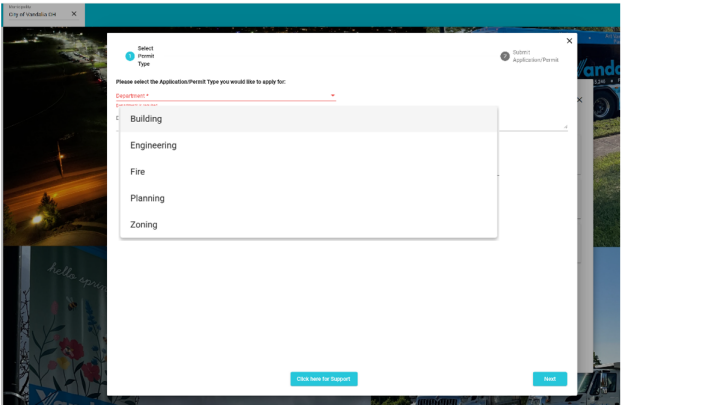
Step Three: In the top right corner, enter the project address. Click “”. The results will be displayed. Click on the appropriate address



Step Four: Click 

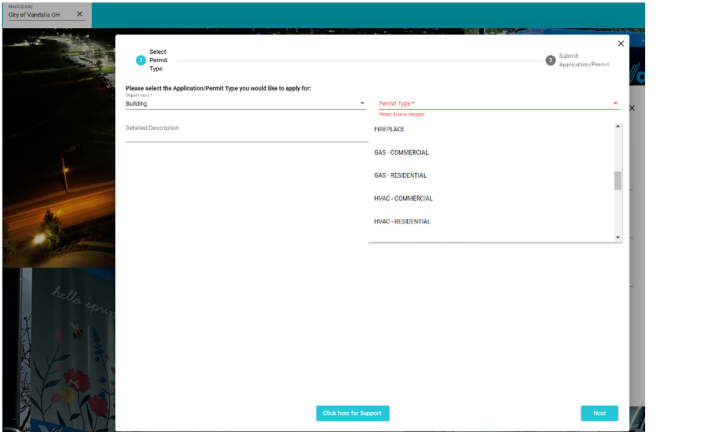


Step Five: Click “Department”, then choose a “Building”.

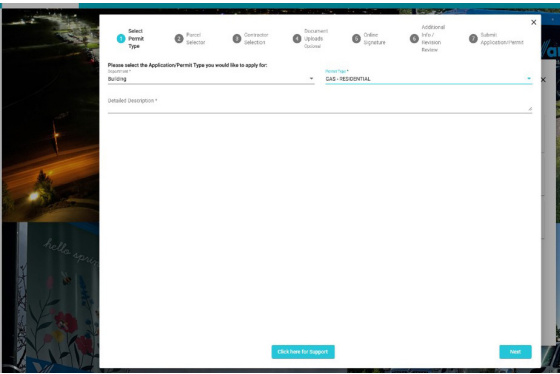


Step Six: Click “Permit Type”.
Choose the type of permit.

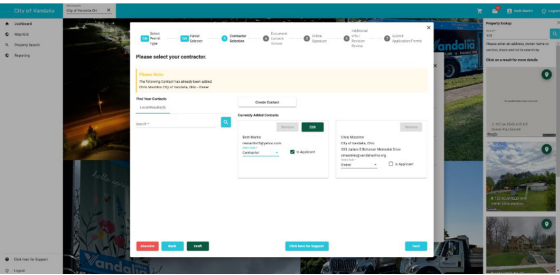
[NOTE: Verify Commercial or Residential]



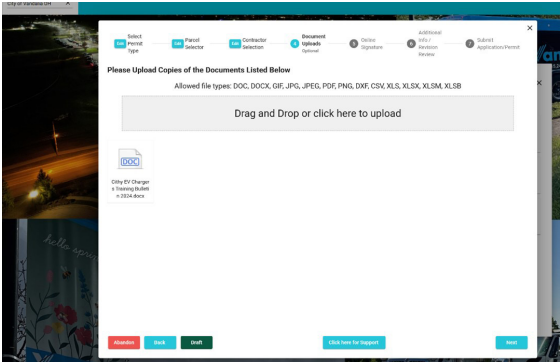
Step Seven: Provide detailed description of proposed work. Click “Next”.



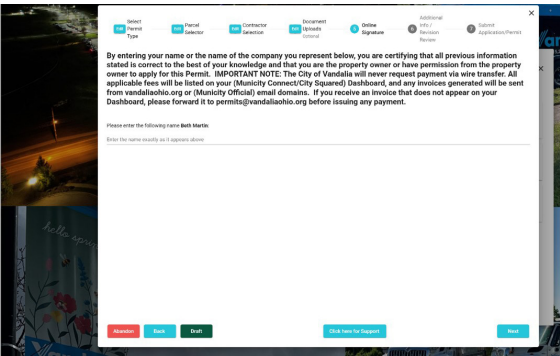
Step Eight: Review and verify contact information for the listed address and contractor. Select “Role” then click “Next”.



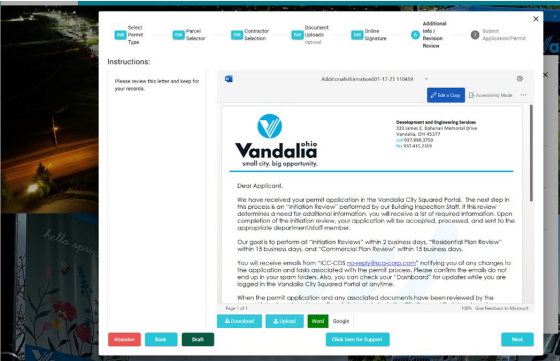
Step Nine: Attach / Upload any documents, drawings, and/or digital information required for review and approval. Click “Next”.



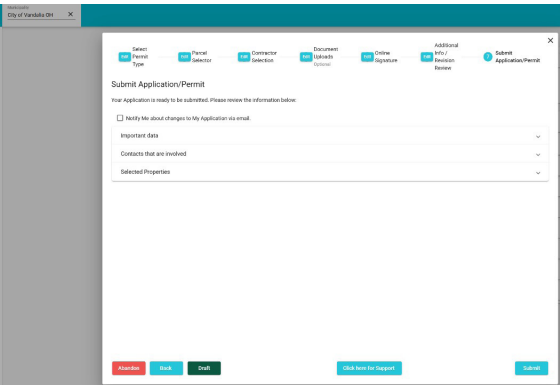
Step Ten: Follow instructions for Verification of applicate. Click “Next”.



Step Eleven: ‘Review information, Click “Next”.



Step Twelve: ‘Final Review before Submittal. This is your chance to make any changes. Click “Submit” .’



[Note: We do not recommend ‘Checking’ the “Notify Me about.....” box. You will receive an email for every change, even if we simply dot an ‘i’ or cross a ‘T’.]

After you have submitted the application, we will review the information provided and respond to you with the next steps needed to complete the application process. Feel free to contact us at 937.898.3750 with any questions.

If you receive an email from “Do Not Reply noreply@sca-corp.com” with an ‘Invoice’ attached. Review the invoice attached to the email.

-OR-

Log into your account in Muncity Connect.
<https://www.citysquared.com/#/app/VandaliaCityOH/landing>

Click “Dashboard” then “Login” to access your Dashboard.

From your Dashboard click on “: Application” if you are paying an ‘Application Invoice’,or “: Permit” if you are paying an ‘Additional Permit Fee’.

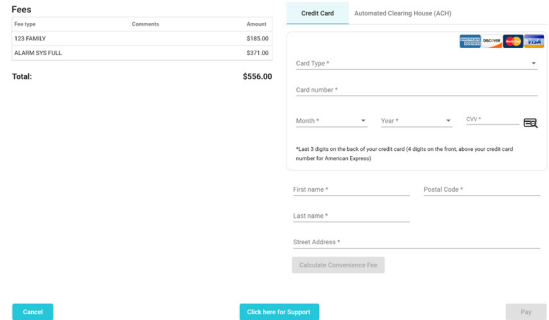
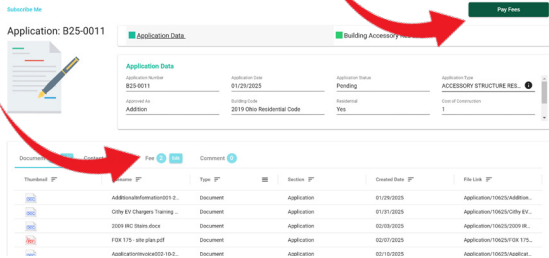
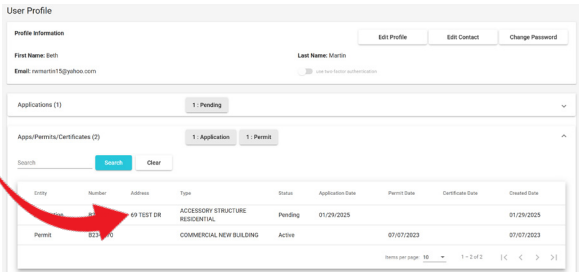
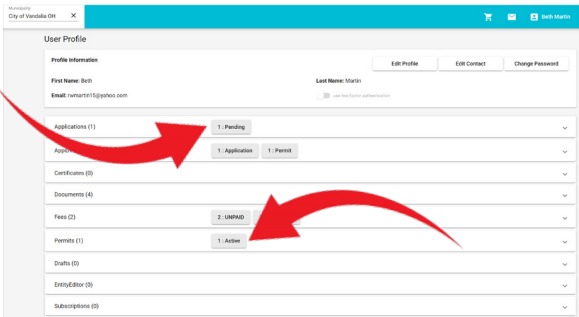
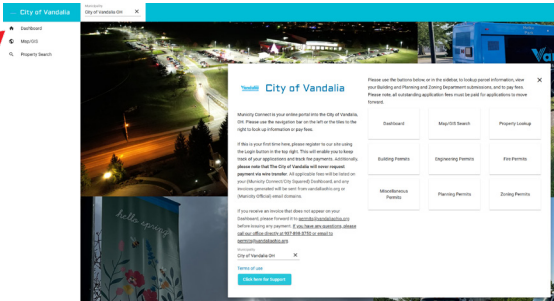
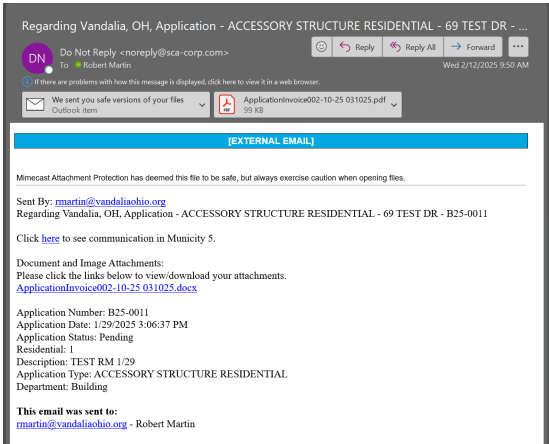
Click on the ‘Number’ for your application or permit.

Click on “Fee” to see what fee types and amounts are owed for the application.

If the amounts are correct Click “Pay Fees”
If you feel the fees are incorrect Contact the office at (937) 898-3750

Complete the payment process by filling in the required information and clicking “Pay”.

Once we verify all fees are paid in full, we email your approved documents and permits as required to complete the application process.



City of Vandalia

Development and Engineering Services

Permit Applications by Department



Departments:

Building

Engineering

Planning

Zoning

Building

Accessory Structure Commercial
 Accessory Structure Residential
 Certificate of Occupancy – Commercial
 Certificate of Occupancy – Residential
 Commercial Addition
 Commercial Alteration
 Commercial New Building
 Deck Building
 Demolition – Commercial
 Demolition – Residential
 Electrical – Commercial
 Electrical – Residential
 Fireplace
 Gas – Commercial
 Gas – Residential

HVAC – Commercial
 HVAC – Residential
 Residential One Family Addition
 Residential One Family Alteration
 Residential One Family New Building
 Residential Two-Family Addition
 Residential Two-Family Alteration
 Residential Two-Family New Building
 Residential Three-Family Addition
 Residential Three-Family Alteration
 Residential Three-Family New Building
 Retaining Wall – Commercial
 Retaining Wall – Residential
 Sign
 Sprinkler / Suppression

Engineering

Approach / Sidewalk / Curb
 Carry out Trash
 Cemetery Plot
 Easement Encroachment
 Hotel / Motel
 Mobile Food Vending
 Peddler / Solicitors
 Privilege R/W
 Water / Sewer

Planning

Conditional Use
 Final Plat
 Final Plat (Admin Approval)
 Lot Split (No plat req'd)
 Planned unit Development
 Prelim Plat
 PUD Amendment
 Rezoning
 Site Plan Review – Modifications

Zoning

BZA Variance – Commercial
 BZA Variance – Residential
 Zoning – Accessory Structure
 Zoning – Addition
 Zoning – Block Party
 Zoning – Deck
 Zoning – Fence
 Zoning – Home Occupation
 Zoning – New Business
 Zoning – New Commercial / Multi Family
 Zoning – New Residential

Zoning – Pool – In Ground
 Zoning – Pool – Above Ground / Hot Tub
 Zoning – Potable Storage Unit
 Zoning – Ramps
 Zoning – Recreational Courts
 Zoning – Sign
 Zoning – Solar Panels
 Zoning – Temporary Sales
 Zoning – Temporary Signs
 Zoning – Temporary / Outdoor Sales
 Zoning – Tent



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Memorandum



To: City Council Members
From: Kurt E. Althouse, Police Chief
Date: February 20, 2025
Subject: January 2025 Crime Statistical Report Summary

Total calls for service to the Communications Center increased 5.3% to 976 calls in January 2025 compared to 927 calls in January 2024. There were 839 citizen-initiated calls for service (up 5.1%), and there were 137 officer-initiated calls (up 6.2%) in January 2025.

VPD investigated no homicides, rapes, or robberies in January 2025. There were four assaults, and two domestic violence offenses reported in January 2025 compared to two assaults and seven domestic violence offenses in January 2024. Domestic violence cases were down over 71% in January 2025 compared to last January while assaults were up by two offenses.

There were no burglaries reported in January 2025 compared to one burglary reported in January 2024. In 2024, burglaries/breaking & entering incidents decreased by one offense, felony thefts decreased by 20% for a total of four offenses, auto thefts are down 25% for a total of three offenses, and misdemeanor thefts decreased by 14.3% for a total of six offenses.

There were two criminal damaging/vandalism complaints in January 2025, up from one incident last January. Criminal damaging and vandalism offenses are up 50% YTD (one incident) compared to last year for a total of two incidents this year. VPD officers have focused on being visible in residential and business areas of the city to display a police presence and prevent crime. Officers made two felony drug arrests, and three misdemeanor drug arrests in January 2025 compared to one felony drug arrest and two misdemeanor drug arrests in January 2024.

VPD made more arrests in January 2025 with four felony arrests and 24 misdemeanor arrests compared to 10 felony arrests and 14 misdemeanor arrests last January. VPD officers charged five juveniles with an offense in January 2025, compared to three juveniles in January 2024. There is a 67% increase in juvenile arrests in 2025. These charges have primarily included sex offenses, domestic violence, drug and/or alcohol violations, and thefts.

During January, VPD officers made 317 traffic stops while patrolling Vandalia's roadways, a 0.6% decrease. These stops resulted in 31 citations, 245 written warnings, 39 verbal warnings, and two stops with other dispositions. Speed citations and other citations are down over 27% in 2025, while OVI arrests remained unchanged with five arrests in January 2025, the same as January 2024. Parking citations decreased from nine parking citations in January 2024 to one parking citation in January 2025. These parking citations have primarily been violations of commercial vehicles parked in restricted areas on highway exit ramps.

VPD officers investigated 22 traffic crashes in January 2025, compared to 15 traffic crashes investigated in January 2024. Overall, traffic crashes are up 47% in 2025 compared to 2024. Officers will continue to patrol Vandalia's roadways and work traffic enforcement to keep our roadways safe and reduce traffic crashes.

Officers responded to more alarm drops than a year ago with an increase from 43 business and residential alarms in January 2024 to 60 alarms in January 2025. Overall, alarm drops for 2025 are up 40% compared to 2024.

Overall, 2025 has seen a decrease in robbery, burglary, felony & misdemeanor thefts, auto theft, and domestic violence. There has been a slight increase in assault and felony & misdemeanor drug arrests. There has been an increase in arrests and an increase in traffic crashes and alarm drops. VPD officers will remain focused on patrol activities, crime prevention, 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
January 2025

CATEGORY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D	2024 Y-T-D	% Change	% Clear
How Calls Received:																
Total Calls for Service	976												976	927	5.3%	N/A
Citizen Initiated = 839	85.96%												839	798	5.1%	N/A
Officer Initiated = 137	14.04%												137	129	6.2%	N/A
9-1-1 Call = 265	27.15%												265	293	-9.6%	N/A
Homicide	0												0	0	0.0%	100.00%
Rape	0												0	2	-200.0%	100.00%
Robbery	0												0	1	-100.0%	100.00%
Assault	4												4	2	100.0%	100.00%
Burglary/B&E Total	0												0	1	-100.0%	100.00%
Residence	0												0	0	0.0%	100.00%
Non-residence	0												0	1	-100.0%	100.00%
Theft - Felony	4												4	5	-20.0%	0.00%
Theft - Misd	6												6	7	-14.3%	66.67%
Motor Veh Theft	3												3	4	-25.0%	100.00%
Arson	0												0	0	0.0%	100.00%
Crim Dam & Vandal	2												2	1	100.0%	50.00%
Drug Offenses (Fel)	2												2	1	100.0%	0.00%
Drug Offenses (Misd)	3												3	2	50.0%	100.00%
Domestic Violence	2												2	7	-71.4%	100.00%
Totals	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	33	-21.2%	65.38%

City of Vandalia Division of Police
Monthly Crime Statistical Report
January 2025

CATEGORY	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y-T-D	2024 Y-T-D	% CHG
Criminal Arrests:															
Felony	4												4	10	-60.00%
Misdemeanor	24												24	14	71.43%
Juvenile	5												5	3	66.67%
Total	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	27	22.22%
Traffic Stops:															
Stops with Citations	31												31	48	-35.42%
Stops with Written Warnings	245												245	186	31.72%
Stops with Verbal Warnings	39												39	76	-48.68%
Stops with Other Dispositions	2												2	5	-60.00%
Total Traffic Stops	317	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	317	315	0.63%
Traffic Arrests/Citations:															
OVI	5												5	5	0.00%
Speed	20												20	16	25.00%
All Other	51												51	82	-37.80%
Parking	1												1	9	-88.89%
TOTAL	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	112	-31.25%
Traffic Accidents Investigated:															
Fatal	0												0	0	0.00%
Injury	3												3	5	-40.00%
Property Damage	19												19	10	90.00%
TOTAL	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	15	46.67%
Alarms:															
Business	58												58	38	52.63%
Residential	2												2	5	-60.00%
TOTAL	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	43	39.53%

Vandalia Senior Center

March, 2025 Volume 13 Issue 3

Vandalia^{ohio}
small city. big opportunity.

Spring Bingo on Monday, March 3, at 1:00 p.m.

Let's welcome the coming of spring with the annual spring bingo. There will be Easter and spring items along with purses, bags, jewelry, decorative items, and much more. Toni Williams will be calling this bingo.



Prime Tours Meet & Greet on Wednesday, March 5, at 2:00 p.m.

Come in, pick up a donut then meet some of the staff from Prime Tours in Columbus. They will show a short Powerpoint with photos and details about the trips they are offering this year to Frankenmuth, Michigan, Pennsylvania Dutch Country including Gettysburg, and a Smokie Mountain Christmas including the Biltmore. They can answer any questions you have. If you are interested in signing up for a trip, you can or wait until a later date. Please sign up so they have an idea of how many donuts to buy.



Come for a FREE Spring Fling Brunch on Saturday, March 22, at 10:00 a.m.



Sign up to come in and welcome spring with some delicious sweet treats, juice, tea, hot chocolate, and coffee. This is a meet and greet event to enjoy socializing with members you know and members you have yet to meet. Thanks to a donation by Sam's Club this will be a free event. The Silver Activity Committee (ie. Senior Club Committee) will talk about future events in 2025 and 2026. There needs to be a minimum of 25 members signed up to have the event. Deadline: March 15

Let's Try Something New: Scattergories on Thursday Afternoons

Sandi Pfennig likes to play Scattergories and she would like you to join her. It is a game where a dice is rolled to find a starting letter. Then you write a word with that letter for each category. Come learn how to play on Thursday, March 13, at 1:00 p.m. Meet in the dining room. The game will continue to be played every Thursday afternoon after this first gathering. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board.



Lunch & Learn

Stillwater Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, March 4, at Noon

Shonica Bowermeister from Stillwater Skilled Nursing will order your lunch. Allen Nelson from Next Step Senior Transitions will present "Downsizing for Seniors". He will talk about how to handle your feelings about downsizing. Allen will give you tips and tricks for downsizing, packing, and relocating. Then he will talk about what to do with your stuff, including consignment shops, estate sales, trash removal, and donations. Allen will also share their home check service. Limit: 75



Hearth & Home Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, March 11, at Noon

Rose Siddle from Hearth & Home will send your lunch from their kitchen. You can wear your green for St. Patrick's Day a little early. Joseph Helfrinch will be here to present his St. Patrick's Day show. Joseph plays multiple instruments, sings folk songs, and tells stories. A tip jar will be provided. Limit: 100

Brookhaven Lunch & Learn on **Thursday**, March 13, at **11:00 A.M.**

Christy Smith from Brookhaven will have Chef Brad prepare your meal. Mark Risley is a retired airline flight operations coordinator who has aviation weather certifications. He will present "The Thunderstorm" just before our spring season arrives. On Planet Earth at any one time, an average of 2,000 thunderstorm cells are active producing a total rate of lightning flashes of about 100 per second. One of the most powerful forces in nature, the thunderstorm is an atmospheric giant that seems to rise up on its hind legs and walk across the Earth. These storms water our lawns and gardens, prune our trees, clean our streets, and can kill indiscriminately. Limit: 75



Cypress Pointe Lunch & Learn on Friday, March 14, at Noon

Jessica Ward will bring food from the Cypress Pointe kitchen. Ed Searls is a volunteer with 4 Paws for Ability in Xenia. He will tell you about the mission of 4 Paws and how the dogs are trained to work with someone with a disability. Ed will also share all the different volunteer jobs that need to be filled for 4 Paws. He plans to bring several of the service dogs with him. Limit: 70

Lunch & Learn

Complete Solutions Lunch & Learn on Monday, March 17, at Noon

Scott and Michael Leonardi will bring your box lunches.

Scott will talk about the costs of long term care and some ways to protect yourself from these costs. What is your biggest financial threat? Find out what a long term care policy should and should not do. For long term care, when should you use Medicaid or an Annuity Based Long Term Care Plan, and/or the Pension Protection Act? How can you use Veteran's Benefits for long term care? A gas card will be given away at the end. Limit: 75



Laurels Lunch & Learn on Tuesday, March 18, at Noon

Jaidyn Tout from the Laurels of Huber Heights will bring your lunch. Young Noah Back is back! Noah brings multiple guitars and a keyboard to accompany his vocals. He has quite a vocal range. He can sing songs by Johnny Cash, Elvis, John Denver, even Roy Rogers, and many more. Noah says his favorite music to sing is what you want to hear. He will take requests. A tip jar will be provided. Limit: 75



Siena Woods Lunch & Learn on Monday, March 24, at Noon

Antoinette Adams from Siena Woods will bring your food. Jeff John is a Professor Emeritus of Communication for Wright State University. He wrote a book about Gov. Cox and in the process he researched the reconstruction of the National Road during World War I. African American prison labor was used for much of this work. Come learn about the road that is right out our back door that many of us travel every week. Limit: 75



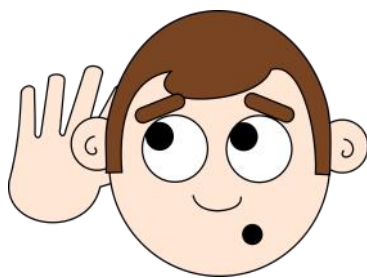
Troy Rehabilitation Lunch & Learn on Tues., March 25, at Noon

Taylor Ries from Troy Rehabilitation will bring your lunch. Hiroko Schierman from AmeriCorps Seniors will explain their RSVP Program. RSVP stands for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. She will explain how their free service works. Hiroko will also share a list of volunteer opportunities during this short program. Limit: 50



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Information

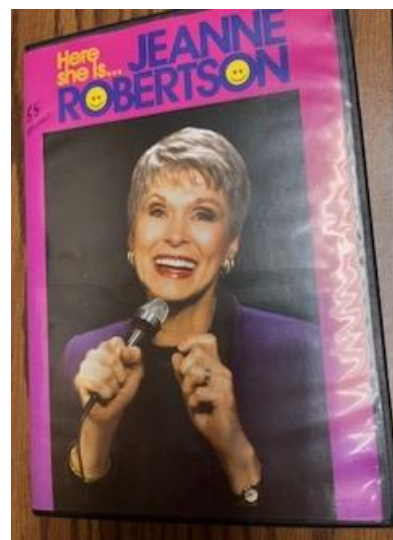


Hearing Life Lunch & Learn on Friday, March 28, at Noon

Regina Fromholt from Hearing Life will bring your lunch. Do you have difficulty following group conversations or when background noise is present? Do you often ask people to repeat themselves or people sound like they are mumbling? Do your friends or family say that you turn the television up too loud? If you answered YES to any of these questions, you might have a hearing loss. Please sign up to learn about hearing loss and how Hearing Life can help you! Limit: 75

Affinity Hospice Lunch & Learn on Monday, March 31, at Noon

Tyler Vassar from Affinity Hospice will provide your lunch. We had a snow day on January 7 and missed getting to laugh in the New Year. Since spring has officially begun, let's laugh away the end of winter. Come enjoy award winning humorist Jeanne Robertson. You will be watching the DVD, "Here She Is... Jeanne Robertson". Jeanne has 18 funny stories to tell you. This DVD is about an hour long. Limit: 75



Memory Café on Monday, March 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. Sign up to enjoy this fun event. It will last about an hour. A snack will be provided.

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

Sign up to eat out at Dos Lunas on Tuesday, March 11, at 5:00 p.m. It is located at 12 S. Tippecanoe, Tipp City. Directions: From the Senior Center, turn right onto S. Dixie. Turn right onto National. Turn left onto 75 North. Take the Tipp City exit and turn right.

Go past the large shopping center. Turn right onto S. Tippecanoe. Turn left into a small shopping area behind Hinders restaurant. You can also go up 25A or Dixie instead of 75 and turn right onto W. Main St.



Art

Pointillism Class on Friday, March 7, at 1:30 p.m.



Mindy Shockey will take you through the steps to make a picture using all dots which is called pointillism. The pictures are just examples. You can choose whether to start your design drawing free hand or by using one of the stencils that Mindy has available. There needs to be a minimum of four members to hold the class. Cost: \$5 Limit: 12



FREE: Paper Doll Class on Tuesday, March 11, at 1:45 p.m.

For those who remember how fun it was playing with Paper Dolls, come and join us as we go back to our childhood memories and create custom Paper Dolls using Nana's Locker Room Paper Doll cut outs. Here are a few ways to use your completed paper dolls; refrigerator magnet, place on a blank greeting card, tree ornament, and scrapbooking. Candy Jones will have a smorgasbord of cutouts for you to choose from to put together five custom made paper dolls. Limit: 12



FREE: Card Making on Wed., March 12, at 1:00 p.m.

Join Toni Williams from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to make two Easter or spring cards. She will have the room filled with paper, stickers, rubber stamps, cards, and much more for you to create your own cards. Limit: 12

Decoupage Easter Egg Class on Wed., March 19, at 1:00 p.m.

Debbie Millhouse will take you through the process of creating a very cute decoupaged Easter egg. Cost: \$2 Limit: 15



An Essential Oils

Class on Tuesday, March 25, at 1:45 p.m.

Christine Jordan with Red Lotus Essential Oils will help you make an essential oils sugar body scrub. Cost: \$5 Limit: 15

Turn to page 6 for one more craft class.



Movies

Movie on the First Friday, March 7, at 1:00 p.m.

In the movie, *Thelma*, Thelma Post is a 93-year-old grandmother who loses \$10,000 to a con artist on the phone. With help from a friend (Morgan Freeman) and his motorized scooter, she soon embarks on a treacherous journey across Los Angeles to reclaim what was taken from her.

PG-13 Comedy/Action 1 hr. 39 min.



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

Snacks by Cory Routson from Momentus Health

The movie, *The Wish Man*, is the true life story of Frank Shankwitz. He had a rough childhood. He was taken from his father and then abandoned by his mother at age 11. Frank grows up to be a hardened Arizona motorcycle cop. After he survives a near fatal accident, his life begins to change. Then an ill boy had a special request that Frank decided to fulfill which also brought an incredible change to Frank's life. He created something that all of us have heard about. Come see this impressive story and find out about how he has helped 360,000 people so far. PG Drama 1 hr. 47 min. (Kleenex)



Ceramic Class on Friday, March 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. Those of you who started painting your fairy house on February 21, return with it, and finish painting it. You can also come on March 21 and start a fairy house that you finish on April 18. 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



MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
3 Exercise 10:00 Hand & Foot 12:30 Spring Bingo 1:00	4 Travel 9:00-12:00 Super Sewers 9:00 Bridge 9:45 Golden Qi 10:00 BP & Sugar Check 11-12 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 1:40 Book Club 1:40 Bingo 1:45	5 Hula Hooping 9:30 Exercise 11:00 Bridge 12:00 Up & Down the River 12:30 Euchre 1:00 Prime Travel Meet & Greet 2:00	6 Duplicate Bridge 11:45 Art Group 12:00 Rummikub 12:00 Pinochle 1:00 Bingo 1:00	7 Mah Jong 9:00 Colored Pencils 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Poker 1:00 Movie 1:00 Pointellism 1:30
10 Exercise 10:00 Hand & Foot 12:30 Memory Café 1:45	11 Travel 9:00-12:00 Super Sewers 9:00 Bridge 9:45 Golden Qi 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 1:40 Paper Dolls 1:45 Let's Eat Out 5:00	12 Hula Hooping 9:30 Exercise 11:00 Bridge 12:00 Up & Down the River 12:30 Euchre 1:00 Card Making 1:00	13 Lunch & Learn 11:00 Duplicate Bridge 11:45 Art Group 12:00 Rummikub 12:00 Pinochle 1:00 Scattergories 1:00	14 Mah Jong 9:00 Colored Pencils 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Poker 1:00 Bingo 1:45
17 Exercise 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 12:30 	18 Travel 9:00-12:00 Super Sewers 9:00 Bridge 9:45 Golden Qi 10:00 BP & Sugar Check 11-12 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 1:40 Bingo 1:45	19 Hula Hooping 9:30 Exercise 11:00 Bridge 12:00 Up & Down the River 12:30 Euchre 1:00 Decoupage Egg 1:00	20 Duplicate Bridge 11:45 Art Group 12:00 Rummikub 12:00 Pinochle 1:00 Scattergories 1:00	21 Mah Jong 9:00 Colored Pencils 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Poker 1:00 Movie 1:00 Ceramics 1:30
24 Exercise 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 12:30	25 Travel 9:00-12:00 Super Sewers 9:00 Bridge 9:45 Golden Qi 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 1:40 Essential Oils 1:45	26 Hula Hooping 9:30 Exercise 11:00 Bridge 12:00 Up & Down the River 12:30 Euchre 1:00 Birthdays 1:00 Bingo 1:30	27 Duplicate Bridge 11:45 Art Group 12:00 Rummikub 12:00 Pinochle 1:00 Scattergories 1:00	28 Mah Jong 9:00 Colored Pencils 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Poker 1:00
31 Exercise 10:00 Lunch & Learn 12:00 Hand & Foot 12:30				

Exercise & Information

NEW BOOKS at the Vandalia Library

A Forty-Year Kiss by Nickolas Butler

First-Time Caller by B. K. Borison

A Five-Letter Word for Love by Amy James

Conclave by Robert Harris

Accidentally Amy by Lynn Painter

NEW MOVIES at the Vandalia Library

God's Not Dead: In God We Trust

Between the Temples

It Ends with Us

The Outrun

Saturday Night

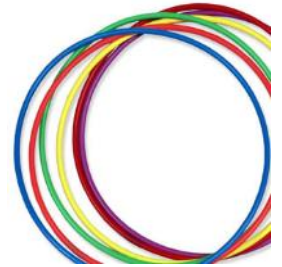


FREE Golden Qi Class on Tuesdays at 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

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. On some Wednesdays, Christy Smith from Brookhaven will lead the 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.

Lunch & Learns

There were 104 Lunch & Learns in 2024. Our sponsors spent \$41,176 on your meals last year. On a regular basis, there are 10 to 30 members that do not show up for Lunch & Learns that they signed up for. Please remember our sponsors have budgets that they need to stretch as far as they can. Please, please write down what you sign up for and put it on your calendar at home. Then make every effort to attend those events so our sponsors will not have wasted their money.

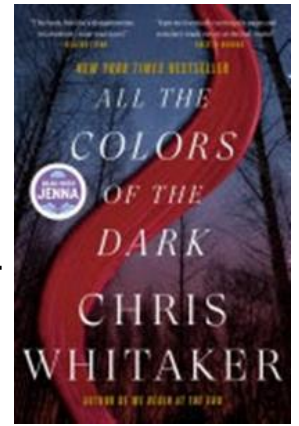
Learn At Lunch



Information

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

The book club will meet on Tuesday, March 4, to discuss the book, *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker. 1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Mohammed Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges—Patch, a local boy with one eye, who saves the girl, and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another. This book is a missing person mystery, a serial killer thriller, and a love story with a unique twist on each.



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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 with Montgomery County Public Health will be here on March 4. Nurses from Premier Health will be here on March 18.

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 for the **GREEN** Foods on page 11

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. K | 2. V | 3. W | 4. J | 5. P |
| 6. Q | 7. R | 8. M | 9. G | 10. B |
| 11. C | 12. S | 13. D | 14. T | 15. I |
| 16. X | 17. H | 18. Y | 19. A | 20. O |
| 21. N | 22. F | 23. L | 24. U | 25. E |

Information

Bridge Hosts

Tuesday bridge at 9:45 a.m. is hosted by Mary Ann Heckman. 937-216-1235

Wednesday bridge at 12:15 p.m. is hosted by Sandi Baylor. 937-694-2643

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



Bingo and Other Games



1. Toni Williams will have a spring bingo on Monday, March 3, at 1:00 p.m.
2. Taylor Ries from Troy Rehab will call bingo on Tuesday, March 4, at 1:45 p.m. Limit: 48
3. Tambi Spirk from Brookdale will bring lunch and call bingo on Thursday, March 6, at 1:00 p.m. Limit: 48
4. Mark Maudlin from Maudlin Senior Care Solutions will call bingo on Friday, March 14, at 1:45 p.m. Limit: 48
5. Shonica Bowermeister from Stillwater Skilled Nursing will call bingo on Tuesday, March 18, at 1:45 p.m. Limit: 48
6. Courtney Peck from Randall Residence of Tipp City will call bingo on Wednesday, March 26, at 1:30 p.m. Limit: 48

Celebrate March Birthdays on Wednesday, March 26, at 1:00 p.m.

Randall Residence of West Milton 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, *forks only, *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.



In honor of **St. Patrick's Day**, let's match up the **GREEN** foods. Answers on page 9.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. green tea powder from shade trees ____ | A. Green Goddess Dressing |
| 2. leafy vegetable for salads and sandwiches ____ | B. Asparagus |
| 3. crunchy with a mild sweet taste; grown in other colors ____ | C. Avocado |
| 4. type of cabbage; bitter taste; full of vitamins ____ | D. Edamame |
| 5. leafy green that Popeye loved ____ | E. Lime |
| 6. called Chinese Gooseberry; a fruit; tiny black seeds ____ | F. Green Beans |
| 7. nut that is part of cashew family; has a split shell ____ | G. Celery |
| 8. large, thick leaves; usually cooked ____ | H. Broccoli |
| 9. crunchy stalks with lots of water in them ____ | I. Cucumber |
| 10. thin shoots come up in spring; cooked vegetable ____ | J. Kale |
| 11. also called alligator pear; fruit has healthy fat ____ | K. Matcha |
| 12. comes out of a pod; round; usually cooked ____ | L. Swiss Chard |
| 13. immature soybeans; East Asian dish; boiled; steamed ____ | M. Collard Greens |
| 14. also called Rocket or Eruca; leaf vegetable; peppery ____ | N. Appletini |
| 15. vegetable from a vine; good in salads or pickled ____ | O. Edible Seaweed |
| 16. put in fruits, vegetables, & more; turn on the blender ____ | P. Spinach |
| 17. cabbage family; flowering heads; in salads or cooked ____ | Q. Kiwi |
| 18. dense head of leaves; can be red or white too ____ | R. Pistachios |
| 19. mix mayonnaise, sour cream, chives, & more for a salad ____ | S. Peas |
| 20. also called sea vegetables; lots of nutrients ____ | T. Arugula |
| 21. vodka mixed with apple juice or cider or apple brandy ____ | U. Green Tea |
| 22. immature pods; can be snapped; raw or cooked ____ | V. Lettuce |
| 23. dark green leaves; thick stalk; in Mediterranean foods ____ | W. Bell Pepper |
| 24. hot, clear drink; lots of health benefits ____ | X. Green Smoothie |
| 25. citrus fruit; sour taste ____ | Y. Cabbage |



AARP Tax Locations

Call early to make an appointment. These dates fill up fast.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Huber Heights Senior Center: 7301 Shull Rd. | 937-233-9999 |
| 2. Earl Heck Community Center: 201 N Main St., Englewood | 937-836-5929 |
| 3. Tipp Senior Center: 528 N. Hyatt St., Tipp City | 937-667-8865 |
| 4. West Milton Library: 560 S. Main St., West Milton | 937-698-5515 |
| 5. Lathrem-Kettering Senior Center: 2900 Glengarry Drive | 937-296-2480 |
| 6. Troy Senior Center: 134 N Market St., Troy | 937-335-2810 |
| 7. New Carlisle Public Library: 111 E. Lake Ave. | 937-845-3601 |
| 8. United Senior Services-Enon: 7571 Dayton Springfield Rd | 937-863-0043 |



Travel

We appreciate all the work that Bob and Kathy Reed do year round for the travel program. They are both volunteers and 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 **Full;**
taking a waiting list.

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 \$1198 pp \$1339 single

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 Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Name: _____ Name of Roommate: _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Trip Destination: _____

Emergency contact—Name: _____ Phone number: _____

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City of Vandalia Commemorative Tree Program

Trees serve as a living link to our past, a wonderful asset in the present, and a wise investment in our future. The City of Vandalia is happy to offer you the opportunity to commemorate your loved ones, an organization, or event by planting a tree in their honor.

How the Program Works

1. Complete the order form, which can be found on the City of Vandalia website, or email Sherry at smcconnaughey@vandaliaohio.org or call 937-415-2332.
2. Orders can be turned in at the Vandalia Recreation Center Front Desk any time of the year. The trees will be ordered and planted in the spring and early winter of each year.
3. The City of Vandalia will care for all trees. This includes pruning, mulching, and fertilizing. No decorations are permitted at the tree location.
4. After planting, donors will receive a Commemorative Tree Recognition Certificate and a brass name plate will be added to an indoor plaque at the Municipal Building or Recreation Center.



Choice of Tree and Cost

There is a variety of tree options for \$230, \$200, and \$160. Please see the Order Form for a complete list of available trees. Cost includes planting and care of the tree.

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now."

– Chinese Proverb

Location

Commemorative trees can be planted at 20 different locations around the City of Vandalia. Please see the Order Form for a complete list of available locations. Trees may not be planted on any business or residential property.

Add-Ons

- A Commemorative Tree Charm can be added for \$75. This 5.5" weatherproof, acrylic charm will be attached to a tree limb with a locking cable. Personalized up to 125 characters.
- A Commemorative Tree Plaque can be added for \$225. This 4"x6" aluminum plaque can be engraved with up to 200 characters. The plaque will be placed in concrete at the tree.

Parks & Recreation

Flower Cupcakes w/ Eat Pretty Darling—Thursday, March 6– 6pm-7:30pm

Join us for a sweet and creative cooking class where kids will decorate their own flower-themed cupcakes! Using colorful frostings and fun edible decorations, they'll transform simple cupcakes into beautiful springtime masterpieces. It's a delicious way to celebrate the season and unleash their artistic flair in the kitchen!

Ages: 6 - 12 years old

Fee: \$25 per person

Location: Vandalia Senior Center

Registration Deadline: You must be registered for this program by Monday, March 3. Walk-ins will not be accepted.



Pikachu Paint Night w/ Miss Bec– Tuesday, March 4– 6pm-7:30pm

Attention Trainers! We choose you to join us for a Pokémon paint night with Miss Bec. Each young artist will paint Pikachu on a medium canvas.

Ages: 6 - 12 years old

Fee: \$15 Resident/Member; \$20 Non-Resident

Location: Vandalia Recreation Center Special Events Room

Registration Deadline: You must be registered for this program by Saturday, March 1. Walk-ins will not be accepted.



Mini Monets w/ Miss Bec– Tuesday, March 11 – 6pm-7pm

Play around with different paint techniques while creating two waterlilies pond paintings inspired by famous impressionist artist, Claude Monet.

Ages: 2 - 5 years old

Fee: \$15 Resident / VRC Member; \$20 Non-Resident

Location: Vandalia Recreation Center Special Events Room

Registration Deadline: You must be registered for this program by Saturday, March 8. Walk-ins will not be accepted.



Note: Guardian must accompany child at program and will not pay extra for attending.

***Registration for these programs is online at vandaliareccenter.com.**

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 985-201-6747
Vice President	Iris Siebert 937-454-1583
Treasure	Kay Lowe 937-409-8300
Secretary	Dottie Ganter 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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