

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

March 26, 2021

Honorable Mayor & Esteemed City Councilmembers:

This week was incredible. We honored 23 City employees – in person - for their dedicated long-term efforts in enhancing Vandalia as a premier community in Ohio. There are no ordinary days in public service, and I encourage our team to keep doing *small things in great ways* for our town.

It was a big week. I had the pleasure of attending the Golf Advisory Board meeting and sharing the State of the City with the Lions Club. Thank you to Lioness Dee Smith and Lioness Stella Williams for the invitation and warm welcome. I also sat in on a meeting of the Planning Commission where the team approved a minor amendment to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the addition of a two-line expansion at the White Castle facility. Our Planning Commission was deft in securing a commitment from White Castle to take progressive steps to mitigate odors on both the current facility and the addition through dilution, diffusion, and the installation of filtering apparatus.

I also had the pleasure sitting down with Ms. Arlene Setzer who helped provide context and institutional insight both in Vandalia and at the state level. Another highlight of the week was meeting with Mr. Ben Neely to discuss the comprehensive plan and potential future land use options in our core. I will continue to meet with entrepreneurs to foment development and actualize our comprehensive plan. Mr. Bill McIntire, Branch Manager of the Dayton Metro Library, also invited me to tour the facility and we discussed opportunities for collaborative programming. Finally, I visited Bryant McAfee of MetroNet who shared his plans to create a "fiber wreath" around the Dayton metropolitan area. This is great for the quality of life for our residents and in terms of attractive infrastructure with regard to economic development.

Please consider reviewing the updates below and the enclosed attachments.

1. Vandalia Police Division Recognized for Community Policing Efforts: Join us in celebrating the immense pride that the Vandalia Division of Police (VPD) brings to the community. The VPD is being named Agency of the Month for April 2021 by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation for outstanding community policing efforts. VPD's recognition stems from the Endangered Missing Adults and Children (EMAC) program, which was pioneered by Lt. Dan Swafford. The program allows parents or guardians of children with autism, Downs Syndrome, and

other developmental disorders or senior citizens suffering with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, or schizophrenia to enroll their loved ones as a safety measure. When an individual is enrolled, a questionnaire is completed so that officers can have relevant data to assist with searching for the person - along with a current photograph that can be accessed from a police cruiser. Residents may register a loved one by contacting Lt. Swafford on the non-emergency number at 937-898-5868. The press release for this incredible recognition is enclosed.

- 2. Compensation and Benefits Study: Today is the deadline for the RFP / RFQ for the employee compensation and benefits study. The City has received three proposals thus far a great triumph for such a specialized project. As part of this initiative, our leadership team is updating job descriptions to ensure that positions are appropriately evaluated. I look forward to administering this study with ACM Holloway, Finance Director Leiter, and Human Resources Manager Dewberry. It is our responsibility as public servants to ensure transparent accountability with regard to how the City reasonably compensates our team. In addition, I want to guarantee that the City is able to continue to attract a diverse and well-qualified pool of applicants who will rally to continue elevating Vandalia.
- 3. Vandalia Income Tax Filing Deadline Extended to May 17, 2021: This week the Ohio Tax Commissioner Jeff McClain announced that the State of Ohio will follow the federal Internal Revenue Service by extending the filing deadline for tax year 2020 to May 17, 2021. Per Ohio Revised Code 718.05 (G)(1), if the income tax commissioner extends for all taxpayers the date for filing state income tax returns under division (G) of section 5747.08 of the Revised Code, a taxpayer shall automatically receive an extension for filing of a municipal income tax return. Likewise, the City of Vandalia will extend the local income tax filing deadline. Finance Director Leiter and Communications Manager Hopkins will craft a press release and social media posts to inform our taxpayers. Next week, I will report on the special additional hours that staff will be available to assist the public with completing local income tax returns.
- 4. Branding: Our committee continues to meet with Kolar Design to hone our branding platform.
- 5. Assistant Finance Director: Next week, Finance Director Leiter and I will conduct the second round of interviews for the Assistant Finance Director vacancy. The City is currently considering four finalists.
- 6. General Manager Recruitment for Tri-Cities North Region Wastewater Authority (TCA): The first round of interviews for the TCA General Manager position are scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2021. The position will be vacated when Mr. David Heckler retires later this Spring.

7. Cassel Hills Swimming Pool Survey: I am pleased to report that at last count, the Wright State University Master of Public Administration students who are conducting the Cassel Hills Pool Survey have reported 498 responses. This week residents began to receive bulk mail postcards that double as notification of the survey and an incentive to take the survey in the form of a free family "day pass" to the Vandalia Recreation Center. The survey will run through



- at least next week. Please share the QR code to the right and this link on your social media accounts: https://vandaliaohio.org/cassel-hills-pool-survey-underway/.
- 8. Commercial Truck Traffic: Last week, I reported the Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District (MC TID) is pursuing a large-scale ODOT Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC) grant for design and engineering of "ring road" improvements on the north side of the airport. This week, I issued a letter of support to ODOT Director Marchbanks in support of the project (enclosed) because the project will help to ameliorate future congestion by offering a sensible truck route that does not track through downtown. This strategy fits squarely in the City's strategy to build collaborative coalitions to solve public problems. The Lightner / North Dixie Dr. project includes engineering design for both N. Dixie Dr. and Northwoods Blvd. in town. It is my objective to support the project while bringing to salience the negative externalities that the City of Vandalia is experiencing as a result of the extensive warehousing and logistics developments. As I reported, there are seven new developments near the P&G facility that are slated to be built by the end of 2021. Public Service Director Cron received a report that the Amazon facility will be four stories and include approximately 2.5 million square feet of warehousing. Because the Lightner / N. Dixie Dr. project will not be built out until late 2024 (at best), it is easy to predict and reasonable to expect that commercial vehicle congestion will get worse before it improves.
- 9. Advisory and Lobbying Services: Next week, Assistant City Manager Holloway, Law Director McDonald, and I will interview several experienced firms with the intent of securing advisory and lobbying services. Top-tier municipalities deploy lobbyists to interface with state and federal staff as well as elected officials to represent the interests of their city. In addition to aggressively pursuing legislative remedies to prevent commercial vehicle congestion and preventable wear and tear on our roads, this consultant will provide monitoring and interpretive services. As your professional administrator, it is my position that it is reasonable to commit strategic expenditures because over time, the firm will work to capture more grant funding for the City of Vandalia and will help to accomplish transformative priorities that may not otherwise be attainable.

- **10. Website Upgrade:** This week, staff participated in extensive training to learn how to manage the content of the new website. The website is scheduled to *go live* on April 19, 2021.
- 11. Incode Financial Management Software Migration: Our talented Finance Department is working with Tyler Technologies to launch the Incode financial management software on April 5, 2021. I continue to be impressed by our dedicated Finance Department whose employees are juggling software implementation while enduring two simultaneous audits during tax season.

It is an honor and a privilege to work in service to you and this community. Please contact me directly with comments and questions regarding City services. Have a great weekend!

Very Respectfully,

Dan Wendt
City Manager

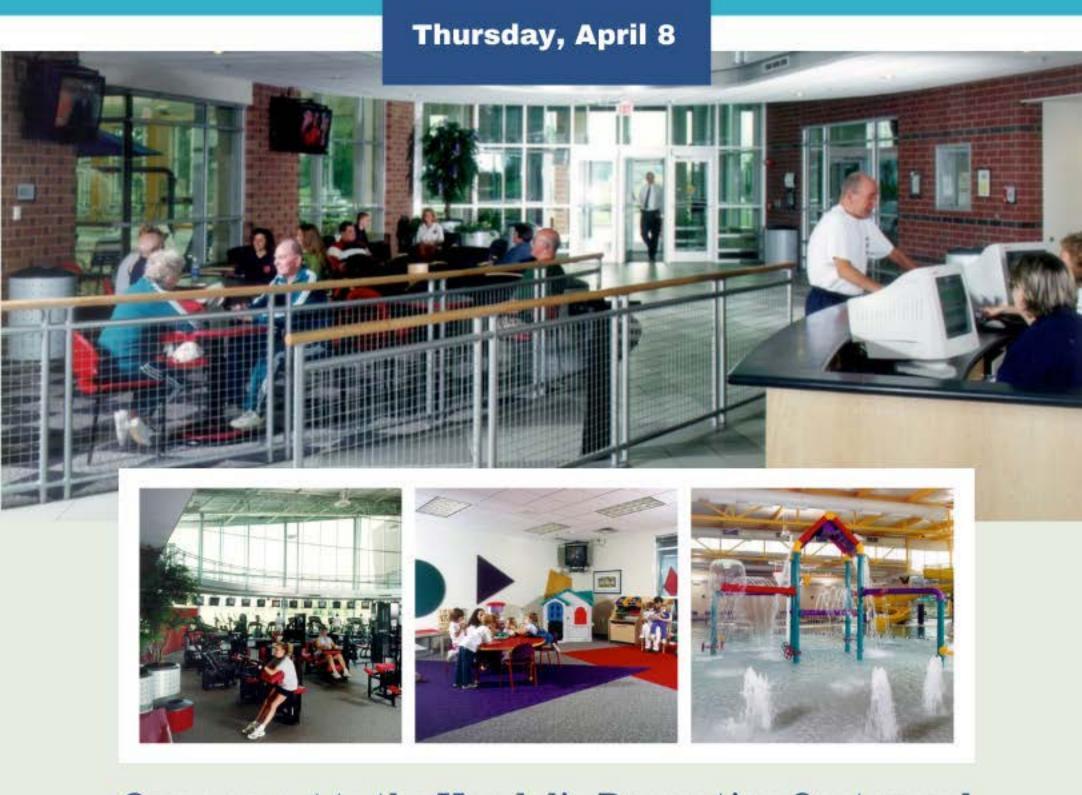
Attachments:

- 1. Vandalia Recreation Center 20-Year Anniversary Flyer April 8, 2021;
- 2. Letter of Support to ODOT Director Marchbanks March 23, 2021; and
- 3. Press Release Vandalia Police Division Department of the Month April 1, 2021.

CC:

Board and Commission Members All City Employees

VRC 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



Come on out to the Vandalia Recreation Center and enjoy our 20th anniversary with us!

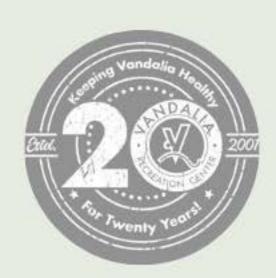
Childcare and Fitness Classes will be FREE all day

FREE Climbing Wall: 5pm-7pm (6 years or old, closed toe shoes required)

Warehouse 4 Coffee with the City Manager: 8am-10am

Stop by during the day as we will have varous times that our sponsors below will be here:

Premier Health Domino's Beau Townsend Edward Jones



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



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

March 23, 2021

Ohio Transportation Review Advisory Council 1980 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 45223

Endorsement and Support of North Dixie Drive & Lightner Road Improvements Project

Honorable Director Marchbanks and TRAC Members:

I am writing to acknowledge and to express support for the North Dixie Drive & Lightner Road Improvements submission to the Transportation Review Advisory Council for funding of the engineering design for a project that will improve roadways to accommodate increased traffic, particularly heavy truck traffic, servicing regional industrial parks containing large logistics & distribution facilities near the I-70/I-75 Interchange & the Dayton International Airport. The improvements proposed would significantly reduce the negative impacts of heavy commercial truck traffic in the City of Vandalia. In addition, the project would enhance the logistical capabilities in and around the area, aiding the present businesses and increasing the attractiveness of potential sites for future tenants.

There are several current and planned developments underway just outside of the City of Vandalia. While this growth is positive for the region, it has and will continue to negatively impact the residents of Vandalia by contributing to additional congestion, noise, and wear and tear on our roadways. Our residents continually compete with errant commercial vehicles on secondary thoroughfares because the area lacks a sensible truck route to the I-70/I-75 Interchange from the northside of the Dayton International Airport. The City of Vandalia is in strong support of immediate funding for engineering design of the North Dixie Drive & Lightner Rd. Improvement Project because this truck route around the northside of the Dayton International Airport will allow hard working truck drivers to quickly reach I-75 while minimizing the impact to our residents and businesses.

The proposed improvements would aid many cities, townships, and companies in strengthening their economic positions and developmental capabilities, benefitting the Dayton area, businesses, and the region. The City of Vandalia strongly supports this needed infrastructure improvement project as we feel it is essential in supporting continued growth of the Dayton area's job creation rates and overall economic development.

We encourage your consideration in funding the needed infrastructure improvements to ensure safety, to ease congestion, and to provide a more attractive route for economic development that will benefit our region. Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedicated service to the State of Ohio.

Very Respectfully,

Dan Wendt,

Vandalia City Manager



Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Foundation

6277 Riverside Drive Dublin, Ohio 43017 (614) 761-9479



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact: Chief Brandon Standley Chair, Community Relations and Engagement Committee

Phone: (614) 599-1010

Email: bstandley@ci.bellefontaine.oh.us

THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE AND THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES VANDALIA DIVISION OF POLICE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS

The Vandalia Division of Police was recently named the April 2021 "Agency of the Month" for their outstanding community policing efforts.

In 2018, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Law Enforcement Foundation formed a new committee named "Community Relations and Engagement" to work with agencies of all sizes and capabilities to highlight their positive work that's being done around Ohio each and every day.

In 2019, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and Law Enforcement Foundation Community Relations and Engagement Committee began a new program named "Sharing Ohio's Best" to help bring awareness to the amazing work that agencies do all over Ohio to promote positive policing.

The Community Relations and Engagement Committee compiles submissions from agencies and selects one each month to be recognized. Each agency is eligible. Typically, the committee focuses on creativity and how the program impacts the individual community. Recent programs that have been recognized include a teen driving course, programs to help the disabled, and programs focusing on community safety.

The Community Relations and Engagement Committee issued this statement "It is our pleasure to recognize the outstanding efforts by the Vandalia Division of Police for their community policing commitment that helps make us stronger. We congratulate Chief Althouse and the hardworking members of his agency that have gone above and beyond to provide quality community policing ideas to their citizens."

About Vandalia Police Community Relations Program

The Vandalia Division of Police initiated the EMAC program during the summer of 2020. The program focuses on Endangered Missing Adults and Children; those who are at risk of walking away from their residence. Parents or guardians of children with autism, Downs Syndrome, and other developmental disorders or senior citizens suffering with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or schizophrenia can enroll their loved ones into the EMAC program as a safety measure.

Being a participant is as easy as filling out a short questionnaire which provides their physical description and personal traits. A current photograph accompanies the questionnaire. Once completed, an officer enters this data and picture into Vandalia's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. If the enrollee walks away or goes missing, officers have important relevant data to assist them with the search as they respond to the residence. Officers can access an enrollee's photograph and data from their in-car, mobile computers. Annually, an officer contacts the parent or guardian to verify the enrollee is still living at the residence and still wants to be part of the program.

Chief Kurt Althouse said, "This new program provides a great resource for those at-risk in our community and assists officers in expediting the search process. It also enhances officer-citizen interaction with these at-risk individuals."

About Vandalia Division of Police

The Vandalia Division of Police has a sworn officer assigned as the Crime Prevention Officer who works closely with the community, businesses, and schools. Reducing crime in neighborhoods, preventing thefts, and safe driving are just a few of the many education resources offered to Vandalia citizens. Educating students is another major role for the Crime Prevention Officer. Building lines of communication and helping with awareness allows the Crime Prevention Officer to work closely with many Vandalia businesses. The motto for the Vandalia Crime Prevention Program is "Building Safer Communities through Awareness, Prevention and Education."

Another program offered is a free bicycle registration to the residents of Vandalia. Residents may bring their bicycles to the police department to be registered. The bicycles' serial number, a brief description of the bicycle and the owners information are entered into the Divisions computer database. Should the bicycle ever become lost or stolen the information is readily available, to be entered in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer system. The bicycle registration program allows stolen or lost bicycles to be returned to their rightful owners.

At Vandalia Division of Police, success is achieved through sustained community partnership and by an unwavering tradition of service. Success is measured not by the many tasks performed or the infrequency of crime in the community, but rather by the feelings of safety and security that the residents, businesses and visitors share.

About Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to continuing professionalism and innovation among police executives in order to assure the continued success of the law enforcement community. Established in 1928, the Association is a fully staffed organization, offering a broad range of professional, educational and informational services.

With a mission to enhance our profession through strong leadership, innovative programs and exemplary services, the Association's goals are: to serve its members; to increase the public's understanding of the role police play in maintaining our quality of community life; and to foster improvements in police education, practice and research.

About The Law Enforcement Foundation

The Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) is a 501(c)3 organization established in 1985 by members the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP). The mission was created around creating safer communities through the continuing education of law enforcement executives, education to the children of the community through our trained DARE officers, and to educate law enforcement on special topics as trends indicate.

The Law Enforcement Foundation (LEF) is the only entity in Ohio certified to train Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officers where officers are prepared to educate children and parents about drug abuse prevention, internet safety, bullying, decision-making skills, and personal responsibility.

The Law Enforcement Foundation is also the only entity to provide a three-tiered, executive-level management training for law enforcement, culminating in a Masters-level certification in law enforcement management.