



**United in Service to our Community:**

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

Summer 2021



*All smiles on graduation day. Pictured here are (l-r) Evan Anderson, Dylan Baker, Superintendent Rob O'Leary, Ethan McKinney and Nelly Wilson.*

## School District: 'We Did It – Together!'

As the school year ended, one Vandalia-Butler teacher received a note of appreciation for the district's COVID-19 response. A parent wrote, "Millions of children did not get a good enough education this year. Mine did. Thank you."

The district completed 37 weeks of school last school year, with all but eight days being in-person learning. Significantly, school officials received no reports of COVID-19 infections resulting from school-related activities, including sports and extracurriculars.

"We offered a full spectrum of extracurricular activities, and a complete course offering allowed our students to excel academically," said Superintendent Rob O'Leary. "We started in school, and we stayed in school."

Athletes completed in three full seasons, including 3,000 practices and 800 contests. District records were broken, state qualifiers emerged and swimmer Matt Brunsky became a state champion.

The class of 2021 received high praise, having set a new record by earning \$10 million in post-secondary scholarships. Their senior year culminated with a welcomed change: a traditional, in-person graduation ceremony at the high school.

Credit for the success of this most incredible and challenging school year goes to many.

## And Next School Year...

At this time, district officials are looking forward to a return largely to normal. For example, carpets will be back in elementary classrooms, and students will be allowed to sit together for group work once again.

Also, all water fountains are being replaced with water-bottle-filling stations, and comprehensive cleaning will continue, as these measures have likely improved the schools' overall health environment.

Contact tracing requirements will likely still be in place, along with new guidance/guidelines from the Ohio Department of Health.



"On behalf of the Vandalia-Butler City School District and our Board of Education, I want to thank our students, parents, community members, and staff for the incredible support," said the superintendent. "We courageously moved forward – together. We met every challenge – together."

# City Tackles Truck Traffic Woes

When Vandalia residents are asked about the city's most pressing issues, a common response is truck traffic clogging surface streets.

But trucks support a healthy economy, and so it's important to learn to coexist with these large vehicles. Here is how the City is approaching the problem:

**Enforcement of commercial truck laws and regulations.** Vandalia police are trained to quickly spot violations. With increased awareness, they can address these issues through written warnings and citations.

**Prohibition of trucks turning left onto National Road from Dixie Drive.** Traffic engineers have determined there is not room for trucks to safely navigate that turn.

**Limiting commercial vehicles to right lane on National Road.** Signs alerting drivers to this requirement were posted in April 2021.



**Reducing speed limit.** National Road's speed limit between Dixie and Ranch View drives has been reduced to 25 miles per hour.

**Encouraging alternative routes.** The City is reaching out to companies that program guidance systems, requesting that interstates and access roads be suggested for trucks not delivering inside the city limits.

Unfortunately, the issue of large trucks using Vandalia roadways will likely continue as new warehouse locations open around the airport. City officials are committed to finding ways to keep truck traffic at manageable levels.

## Summer Camps are Back!

### Aviator Summer Camp

Provides interesting, age-appropriate activities – including fieldtrips – in a caring, supervised environment.

#### Session 1: Focus on Science

July 6 - July 22

From exploring nature to the physics of making ice cream, session focuses on science, including a planetarium series taught by Scott Oldfield.

#### Session 2: Focus on Art and Music

July 27 - August 12

From painting to tie dye, campers experience the world of color using a variety of materials. An art series will be taught by Arrin Turnmire.

**When:** Two sessions between July 6 - August 12, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Where:** Smith Middle School, 3625 Little York Rd.

**Who:** Students entering 1st through 6th grades in the 2021-22 school year

**Cost:** \$300 per 3-week session (\$240 for each additional child in family). \$100 per session due at registration and is applied to session total; remaining \$200 due at session start. Payment by check, cashier's check or money order. Fieldtrips included in cost.

**To reserve a space:** Call Sheri Zugelder at 937-415-7041.

### Lady Aviator Volleyball Camp

**When:** July 12 - 15

**Who:** Girls entering grades 3-8

**Time:** 10am – 12 pm

**Where:** Butler High School SAC

**Cost:** \$50

**Registration:** Register at the Vandalia Rec Center

**Questions:** Contact Linsey Sues at [butlervolleyball@yahoo.com](mailto:butlervolleyball@yahoo.com)



### Josh Betts Youth Football Camp

**When:** July 17

**Who:** Boys and girls entering grades K-8

**Time:** 1– 5pm

**Where:** Butler High School Football Field

**Cost:** **FREE**

**Registration:** On-site at stadium

**What to bring:** Cleats, shorts, shirt, water bottle

**Questions:** Contact Coach Ty Cates at [tyler.cates@vbcsd.com](mailto:tyler.cates@vbcsd.com)



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## COVID-19 Vaccines at Your Doorstep

In a strong show of collaboration, the Butler Township Fire Department and Vandalia Division of Fire have launched a joint program to make COVID-19 vaccination house calls. Public Health, Dayton and Montgomery County is a supporting partner.

"We thought if we could get those vaccines right to your door, you're less likely to wait or less likely to skip it," said Vandalia Fire Chief Chad Follick.

The program is open to all age-qualified residents of the two jurisdictions. A Public Health worker accompanies paramedics to provide the vaccine.

Getting an appointment is easy. Start by completing the vaccine interest card online at [cityofvandalia.wufoo.com/forms/zp4rbu41ksq2zf/](https://cityofvandalia.wufoo.com/forms/zp4rbu41ksq2zf/), and you will be contacted.

Meanwhile, if you have questions, Vandalia residents may call 937-898-2261, and Butler Township residents, 937-890-2491.

## Summer Schedule Sizzles

After the many cancellations and disappointments of 2020, community events are back this summer.

### Star Spangled Celebration by City of Vandalia and Butler Township

Saturday, July 3, 7 – 10 p.m.

Vandalia Sports Complex

1101 Stonequarry Rd.

Fireworks at 10 p.m. SHARP

### Vandalia Optimist Club Freedom Bike Tour

Sunday, July 4, 6 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Vandalia Sports Complex

1101 Stonequarry Rd.

### Vandalia Chamber of Commerce - Dayton Air Show Parade

Friday, July 9, 7 – 9 p.m.

Downtown Vandalia

### Dayton Air Show

Saturday, July 10 & Sunday, July 11

Dayton International Airport

### Vandalia National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 3, 6 – 8 p.m.

Vandalia Sports Complex

1101 Stonequarry Rd.

### Butler Township National Night Out Against Crime

Tuesday, August 3, 6 – 8 p.m.

StoneSpring Nursing Home

4000 Singing Hills Blvd.

### Cruise-In to Butler Township

Friday, August 6, 4 – 8 p.m.

Please note time change.

Commerce Center Drive

### Butler Township Party in the Park

Saturday, October 2, Time TBD

Art Van Atta Park



## City Unveils New Logo

In early 2021, the City of Vandalia engaged a design firm to help update the city's identity with a new brandmark and message. The previous logo, which focused on the city's proximity to the Dayton International Airport, communicated nothing about the community's distinct character. Also, the tagline, "Crossroads of America," has been the Indiana state motto since 1937.

Through a citizen-driven process to determine what sets Vandalia apart, leaders heard residents describe the city as a connected community of welcoming people with vibrant, accessible amenities, in a place to call "home."

With this direction, the design firm developed a new brandmark, civic identity and message.

"The three lines on the 'V' convey the brand positioning as a connected, vibrant, accessible Vandalia," said City Communications Manager Rich Hopkins. "The new tagline reflects the personal and professional growth opportunities here."

The new brandmark will appear on printed materials, city communications, vehicles, signage and more.

## New Crisis Intervention Counselor Hired

South Community Inc. has hired a new counselor to help Vandalia and Butler Township police when they encounter individuals in crisis.

The community's Mobile Crisis Response Program counselor, Kristina Hill, is now riding along with on-duty patrol officers and responding to calls. She responds to calls in which individuals need social services or referrals for issues such as addiction,

homelessness and domestic violence. She also follows up with those who have been counseled to ensure they're pursuing the services they need.

Hill's experience is extensive: She worked as a victim advocate for the city of Dayton Prosecutor's Office in the Victim Assistance Coordination Unit, and a social worker and mental health specialist for Lindner Center in Mason, among other positions involving



homelessness, addiction and community mental health.

Hill earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology – with a minor in criminal justice – and master's degree in social work, both from the

University of Cincinnati. She has also participated in ride-along programs with police in Hamilton and Cincinnati.

Hill replaces Michael Spirk, who is pursuing a career with the FBI.



**butlertownship.com**  
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## Meet the Teachers

Parents, mark your calendar for these Meet the Teacher/Open House nights at your child's school this fall semester:

### Preschool

AM families – Tuesday, August 17, 5-6 p.m.  
PM families – Tuesday, August 17, 6-7 p.m.

### Helke Elementary

Grades 1-3 – Tuesday, August 17, 6-7:30 p.m.

### Demmitt Elementary

Kindergarten – Thursday, August 12, 6-7 p.m.  
(Please bring student)  
Grades 1-3 – Tuesday, August 17, 5:30-7 p.m.

### Smith Middle School

Grades 4 & 5 – Tuesday, August 17, 5-6 p.m.

### Morton Middle School

Grades 6-8 – Tuesday, August 17, 6-7:30 p.m.

### Butler High School

Tuesday, August 17, 5:30-7 p.m.



2019 participants of the Butler Township Citizens' Police Academy

## Police Join to Offer Citizens' Academy

The Butler Township and Vandalia Police departments are collaborating to offer their first joint Citizens' Police Academy this fall, provided for free to residents of the two jurisdictions. The eight-week program promotes communication and builds greater understanding among citizens and police departments.

Participants attend a two-hour session once a week during the Academy and are also encouraged to ride along with an on-duty officer. Topics include about department histories, patrol

functions, uses of force and SWAT, evidence collection and investigations, K-9 demonstrations, and "shoot don't shoot" simulations, among others.

Class size is limited. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and are required to submit to a background check.

Registration packets and more information are available at the Vandalia or Butler Township Police offices or online at [vandaliaohio.org](http://vandaliaohio.org), or [butlertownship.com](http://butlertownship.com).

The registration deadline is August 1, 2021.