



United in Service to our Community:

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

Winter 2021

Mark Your Calendar

Join Us for Christmas Tree Lighting

The Vandalia community will kick off the Christmas season on Sunday, December 5, with the lighting of the City's official Christmas tree at the Vandalia Recreation Center, 1111 Stonequarry Rd.

The event will offer music, hot chocolate and a visit from a very special guest from up north. Christmas shoppers will have plenty of choices with 30 different vendors selling everything from books and baked goods to soaps and essential oils at the Holiday Market, in the gym from 4 - 7:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., the event moves outdoors with music by the Butler High School Chamber Choir and Santa's arrival. It culminates with Mayor Richard Herbst's pulling of the lever to illuminate the beautifully decorated 20-foot spruce.



Celebrate the Magic!

2022 marks 20 years of the renovated Performing Arts Theater at Butler High School, and the community is invited to celebrate the occasion!

Mark your calendar for 2 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 2022, as the Vandalia-Butler Foundation and Arts Revitalization Team are planning a family-friendly event with headliner John Michael Hinton, a nationally recognized magician. Live entertainment by local talent and musical theater alumni, as well as refreshments, silent and live auctions and raffles will round out the event.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.vandaliabutlerfoundation.org.



Board Seeks Compensation from Amazon



The Vandalia Butler City School District's Board of Education is calling upon the City of Union and Amazon to compensate the district for the 15-year, 100% tax exemption that Amazon's new facility in Union will receive.

Without the exemption, the district would receive approximately \$1.8 million per year from the increased value of new structures at the facility. With the exemption, the district will receive only about \$80,000 in new annual revenue.

"The district supports regional economic development and wants its municipal partners to be successful," said Board President Holly Herbst. "At the same time, we believe we have an obligation to advocate for the needs of our students, teachers and taxpayers."

Ohio law allows this exemption without a requirement of school district consent or compensation, due to the grandfathering-in of certain Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs) formed before 1994.

"The Board understands that neither the City of Union nor Amazon is required to compensate the school district,"

said Herbst. "But the Board also feels obligated to advocate for more than the legal bare minimum."

"We have asked the City of Union to compensate the school district, since our district is educating the children and the future workforce," said Board Member Rodney Washburn. "We hope for an arrangement that works for Amazon, the City of Union and Vandalia-Butler City Schools. We look forward to Amazon being a community member that contributes to the economic and academic excellence of our region."

School District Celebrates 100 Years

This year's celebration of Vandalia-Butler City Schools' 100th anniversary kicked off with the creation of the Hall of Achievement.

The HOA was formed to recognize alumni and district retirees for their career and community service

accomplishments. The inaugural class includes Art Van Atta (posthumously), Harold Wherry (posthumously), Jennifer Jordan-Lock and James Swearingen. Banners in their honor hang in the Butler High School atrium.

The Alumni Association accepts nominations annually from March 1-May 1.



Donors Enable Educational Experiences



Generous donors to the Vandalia-Butler Foundation's VISIONS grant program are making it possible for teachers to provide innovative projects that expand learning opportunities.

This year has seen a record high \$28,641 awarded, with each district school receiving a share.

Tax-deductible contributions may be made online at daytonfoundation.org/ccgift.html, and entering "VISIONS Fund #3149" in the "Apply Gift to this Dayton Foundation Fund" box. Contributions may also be sent by check made payable to The Dayton Foundation and mailed to

VISIONS Fund #3149
c/o The Dayton Foundation
1401 S. Main St., Suite 100
Dayton, OH 45409



Demmitt Elementary teacher Tina Nevels was awarded a VISIONS grant to purchase a book vending machine. Students are rewarded for positive behavior with special coins that allow them to select a new book from the machine.

1941 Alumna Named First 'Golden Aviator'

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Vandalia-Butler City Schools reached back in time and located Mrs. Pauline Howard-Mitchell, a 98-year-young alumna of the class of 1941.

School officials honored her with the first-ever Golden Aviator Achievement Award.

"I never dreamed I would live this long, but I thank God every day," she said.

She admits she wasn't fond of school until fifth grade, when her teacher, Miss Scherer, inspired her love for learning.

Asked about her secret to a long life, she said, "Just keep breathing."



The City of Vandalia will receive a combined \$1.57 million in American Rescue Act funding in 2021 and 2022. Vandalia City Council is leveraging those funds to assist with the economic fallout from the pandemic and to improve the quality of life in Vandalia.



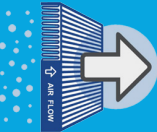
New playgrounds at Helke Park, Robinette Park and the Sports Complex - \$675,000

COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant - \$200,000



Vandalia-Butler Food Pantry Emergency Fund - \$30,000

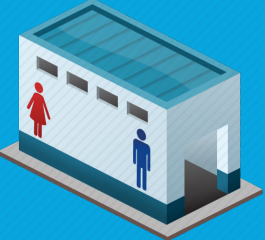
Air Purification System @ Senior Center - \$20,000



Cassel Hills Golf Course Restroom facility - \$75,000

Youth Recreation Scholarships - \$20,000

Art Park Restroom facility - \$75,000



Personal Protective Equipment for Fire and Police - \$5,000



Public Safety Bonus - \$70,500



Touchless Sinks, Toilets, Fountains in City buildings - \$31,000



Solar Cell Charging Stations @ City Parks - \$12,000



Ultraviolet Disinfectant Lights for Division of Fire- \$1,975



Coming Soon: New Businesses

New businesses are slated to open soon in the Vandalia Butler community:

- In Butler Township, the former Tim Horton's on Miller Lane is being transformed into a Popeye's Cajun-themed chicken restaurant, which is expected to open in January 2022.
- Also in the township, a new Holiday Inn Express & Suites on York Center Drive recently opened, and Woodspring Suites is constructing a new hotel on vacant land at the north end of Miller Lane.
- Culver's, known for ButterBurgers, frozen custard and cheese curds, is under construction on Benchwood Road in Vandalia, at the former Ruby Tuesday's site.

Vandalia Offers Small-Business Relief Grants

The City of Vandalia is offering a Small Business Relief Grant Program to assist local businesses that lost revenue or incurred unplanned costs substantially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The maximum grant ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000, based on the number of employees.

"Our target businesses are those most affected by COVID-19, including bars, restaurants, retail, childcare centers, hair salons, pet groomers and entertainment venues," said Assistant City Manager Amber Holloway.

For eligibility information and other program details, please visit the City's website at vandaliaohio.org or contact Amber Holloway at (937) 425-2250.





butlertownship.com
(937) 898-6735

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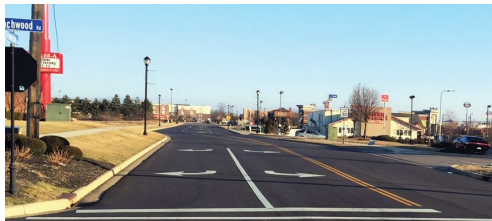
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New Energy for Business District

Butler Township's recent study of the Benchwood Road-Miller Lane business district aims to refresh the area by improving the infrastructure, enhancing "walkability," incorporating Benchwood Station branding and improving overall aesthetics.

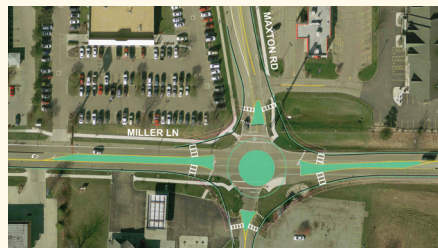
The study has led the Township to apply for state funding to assist in funding the first phase of the Benchwood Station project. If the funding is approved, detailed design will begin in 2022 and construction in 2023.

Fortunately, township residents do not pay for maintenance and improvements, since the district is self-funded through a Hotel Revenue Tax and various programs allowed by state law.

Look for These Upgrades

Here are some of the exciting improvements planned for Benchwood Station:

- Interchange improvements
- Entryway signage
- Landscaped medians
- Continuous turn lane northbound on Miller Lane at Benchwood Road
- Roundabout at Miller Lane and Maxton Road
- Enhanced lighting and street trees
- Curb, gutter and sidewalk upgrades



What's in a Name?

Noting the importance of the business district to Butler Township's image, officials have been working on strategies to bring new energy to the area.

Putting first things first, they started with a name change from the original "York Commons." The district's new name is "Benchwood Station," acknowledging the location near the Interstate 70-75 interchange, its access to Benchwood Road and its destination-oriented character.

Benchwood Station is where visitors **stop** while traveling; locals **dine** at their favorite restaurants or share a cup of coffee; and business people and families **stay** while in the Dayton area.