

THE BLUE LETTER



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

May 28, 2021

Honorable Mayor Herbst & Esteemed City Councilmembers:

Last night, I had the privilege of attending the Lions Club meeting where four of our public safety personnel were honored for their outstanding contributions to making Vandalia a safe place to live. Honorees for the 2020 calendar year included:

1. Firefighter of the Year - Mya Mitchel;
2. Emergency Medical Services Person of the Year – Matthew Buker;
3. Police Officer of the Year – Andrew Wehner; and
4. Police Civilian Employee of the Year – Anissa Kanzari.

It was great to celebrate their success, meet their families, learn about the value-added contributions that they make to our community beyond the four corners of their job descriptions. Congratulations to these dedicated public servants on their outstanding performance.

This week, I encouraged staff to *daydream*. Daydreaming is preparation. At all levels of this organization, we need to be dedicating our efforts to enhancing Vandalia's reputation as a great place to live and do business. Great ideas come from all levels and disciplines. Share them.

Please consider the following updates.

1. **Airshow Parade:** Please let me know if you will be participating in the Air Show Parade this year. Human Resources Manager Shannetta Dewberry will prepare and submit your float application.
2. **Paint the Town Purple and Gold:** Vandalia Butler School District went above and beyond to educate our youth in the face of adversity this year. Last week, I reported that VBSD is one of the only school districts in the state to offer in-person learning all year. In celebration and in response to Superintendent O'Leary's call to *paint the town purple and gold*, the City published a video featuring our team members who are Butler High School graduates:

<https://www.facebook.com/VandaliaOhio/videos/494420775234089>

3. **Retirement of Captain Duane Stitzle:** Congratulations to Cpt. Stitzel who retires today! We wish



him great success in his future endeavors. The City of Vandalia is currently conducting a recruitment to backfill his position.

4. **Cassel Hills Pool:** The pool will open as scheduled on Saturday, May 29! The pool was recently featured on Focus Vandalia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7l75onnCM4k>.
5. **City Planner Recruitment:** Our team is conducting a first round of panel interviews this week.
6. **Commercial Truck Traffic:** I have several upcoming meetings with City Manager Applegate of Union, Director Stanley of the Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District, partners at the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Dayton Development Coalition, and the City's lobbyist. It is clear that partners throughout the region are gaining an understanding and appreciation for the negative effects of commercial carrier traffic in Vandalia. Our team will continue to consider multidisciplinary efforts in pursuit preserving and enhancing the livability of our community.
7. **Email Phishing and Network Security Threats:** IT Manager Darren Davey has advised that all staff be on high alert with regard to suspicious emails. The City has received a swell of emails whereby the sender masquerades as an employee in an effort to get the recipient to click a link, download a file, or possibly send money. Look for key signs including:
 - a. Incorrect email addresses;
 - b. Odd phrases that would not be normally used by a native English speaker; and
 - c. Emails that appear to be an image rather than text.

If you suspect that an email may be malicious, please notify the IT Division for assistance. In all cases, it is better to be prudent than to potentially expose the City's network.

8. **Blood Drive:** The City is hosting a blood drive in the Justice Center on June 18. The region is currently experiencing a shortage and now is a great time to sign up! There are currently 24 spaces left. Visit: www.donortime.com.
9. **Corporate Challenge:** Our City cannot be successful without our business community. The Corporate Challenge is one of the many strategies that implement to stand out, build a sense of community, and develop relationships between the City and our businesses. I am asking that our employees consider participating. To date we need the following to fill out our team:

- a. one female for punt, pass, kick
- b. one female for frisbee relay
- c. two females for basketball hot shot
- d. two males for soccer
- e. one female for soccer
- f. one male for softball



Blood Drive
**City of Vandalia
Justice Center
Community training room**
245 James Buchanan Drive, Vandalia, OH

**Friday,
June 18, 2021
9:00am – 1:00pm**

Appointment Required
www.donortime.com
Sponsor Code: 760



- g. one female for softball
- h. one male for golf
- i. two females for golf
- j. four people for jigsaw puzzle
- k. four people for trivia

10. Tri-Cities General Manager: Tri-Cities General Manager David Heckler will retire on Monday after 20+ years of service. Mr. Danny Knife, a Vandalia resident, has taken the reigns and is off to a good start. Mr. Knife has an extensive background in municipal wastewater and water treatment. Messrs. Heckler and Knife worked together for approximately three weeks to ensure an easy transition. Mr. Knife will attend a future Council work session so that you can meet him.

Our next meeting of City Council is on June 21, 2021. I anticipate a packed schedule. Surely the matters that we will deliberate have the potential to shape the future of this community. It is an exciting time and a privilege to be on this team.

It is Memorial Day weekend. I hope that you have a safe and enjoyable time with your families. Let us celebrate our freedom in the United States of America. Let us take time to reflect upon and honor the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice for an idea that is greater than themselves.

Your partner in service,

Dan Wendt
City Manager

CC:

Board and Commission Members
All City Employees

