

Mar./Apr. 2026

Historical Society
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PO Box 243
Vandalia, Ohio 45377



Mission Statement

The mission of The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler is to perpetuate the history of the Vandalia-Butler Community and to educate people about the importance of this history.

The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler Calendar

March

9 Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7 PM
16 General Meeting, Guest Speaker
Steve Kaplan, 6:30PM-8PM
Vandalia Branch – Dayton Metro
Library Community Room

April

13 Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM
18 Buzzin' Around the Park, 11AM-2PM
Vandalia Art Park
19 Open House – 1PM – 3PM

For future events visit our Website at hsvb.online or
our Facebook at: www.facebook.com/hsvb.online



The Homestead News



MARCH - APRIL NEWSLETTER

Board Officers:

President: Al Tuttle
V-President: Ken Johnson
Secretary: Wanda Weber
Treasurer: Keyona Koebel

Trustees:

Trustee: Dave Cassell
Trustee: Linda Karns
Trustee: Bud Zupp
Trustee: Mary Geiger
Trustee: Tiffany Goodman

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Tonya Hittner
Program: Open
Rentals: Wanda Weber
Education: Linda Karns
Acquisitions: Wanda Weber
Gardens/Pollinator Plantings:
Mary Geiger
Grounds: Dave Cassell
Social Media: Tonya Hittner



From our President ... Al Tuttle

Dear Members & Friends,

Our third annual Christmas Eve service was well attended. Thanks again to Pastor Mike, Taylor Cupp and Tonya Hittner for making it happen and to the Society members who decorated the grounds including the School House.

Our water customers learned again what we mean when we say that the Spring House will not be open if it is inclement weather. We have a policy that we do not plow the driveway, but this year's snowfall resulted in the entrance being blocked which would not permit access to the grounds

Address

336 East Alkaline
Springs Road,
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

Mailing Address

PO Box 243
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

937-898-5300

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From our President Cont.

Please be sure to read the sections on our March General Meeting and upcoming open houses. Keep in mind that Society members work to make the events happen, and we appreciate any volunteers. Let us know if you can help.

The Society membership elected the following to serve as officers and trustees for 2026: President Al Tuttle, Vice-President Ken Johnson, Treasurer Keyona Koebel, Secretary Wanda Weber and Trustees Dave Cassell, Mary Geiger, Tiffany Goodman, Linda Karns and Bud Zupp.

2025 was the year for tree removal. We have a lot of older trees on the property and we monitor them to make sure that we are keeping the property safe for all. We did add a parking lot on the west side of the driveway to better accommodate visitors, especially those who are handicapped.

2026 Open Houses

Open houses are the first and third Sunday of each month, starting in April and running through October. The hours are 1-3. However, the first Sunday in April is Easter Sunday, and there will be no open house, and the Spring House will be closed. We will be participating in Buzzin' Around the Park, a city-sponsored event at the Art Park on Saturday, April 18, from 11-2. We invite you to Buzz on Over to the Historical Society. Each of our historic buildings will have a special bee-related activity. In the School House, children can learn about bees and can make a bee craft. We will feature bee habitats in the Log House. There will be a take home coloring activity book. Visitors can also enjoy our historic photos and photos of our pollinator plantings. There will be select photos available for purchase. In the Federal House, visitors will learn about honey. There will be homemade bread topped with honey and a cookie prepared with honey to sample. Our April open house is the next day, April 19, from 1-3. All our buildings will be open, and we will repeat the Buzzin' Around the Park activities in the School House, Log House, and Federal House.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider volunteering with us. Our clean-up day is Saturday, April 11 from 9-12. We can use help outside with leaf raking, twig pickup, and trash removal. Inside, we can use help with dusting, sweeping, and getting displays ready. We also need volunteers to be in our buildings during open houses and special events such as Buzzin' Around the Park. Written materials are available in each building to help volunteers answer questions. Please email Linda Karns at karnsfarm@sbcglobal.net if you can help. And, finally, as mentioned in the January-February Newsletter, Al Tuttle is serving his last year as President of the Historical Society. We need a person to fill the position for next year.

PURPOSE OF OUR SOCIETY:

The Mission of **The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler** is to perpetuate the history of the Vandalia-Butler Community.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 9 – Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

March 16 – General Meeting, 6:30PM-8PM
Vandalia Library, Community Room
Guest Speaker, Steve Kaplan

April 13 – Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

April 18 – Buzzin' Around the Park, Vandalia Art Park, 11AM-2PM

April 19 – Open House, 1PM-3PM

We would love to have you join our Vandalia Butler Historical Society as a member, our dues are:

- Participating (each individual) - \$10
- Student (High School or College) - \$1
- Family (Parents & Children under 18 yrs.) - \$20
- Supporting Membership - \$35
- Business Organization Membership - \$50
- Lifetime Membership - \$500
- Patron - \$1000
- Founding - \$5000

Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler

Membership Renewal Reminder – Thank You for Supporting HSVB!

HSVB Membership March/ April 2026

The following members have renewed for 2026: Elyanor Stephens, Elaine and Dave Lewis, Mary Geiger, Al & Kay Tuttle, Regina Froschauer, Jane Sayre Logan, Linda Brown, Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce, Charles & Sue Anders, Bernie Dranschak, Dolly Lewis, Alonzo & Dawn Hathaway, Jim & Sherry Hartings, Ruth Ann Nagel, Robert & Judy Pope, Pete & Linda Breidenbach, Lenny Maenza, Mary Kilsheimer, Patricia Kerth, and Coldwell Banker. Welcome new member Premier Health Family Care of Vandalia.

Patron and Life-time Barbara Kimmel passed away on January 26, 2026. She devoted many active years to the society and other groups in the community. We have a buggy in our barn that Barbara donated to us. Morton and Whetstone Funeral Home was in charge of her funeral service.

Thank you for your commitment so that we can continue to share history with our community.

Contact me with any membership questions.

Tonya Hittner
Membership Chair
937-470-7396
tjhittner@gmail.com

Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler March – April 2026 Newsletter

The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler

Special Presentation



HERCULES MULLIGAN

*the spy who saved George
Washington's life twice.*

Monday, March 16th | 6:30pm
Vandalia Branch Library Community Room

Join us for an engaging and entertaining presentation by Steve Kaplan, who will appear in colonial-era attire to bring the remarkable story of Hercules Mulligan to life. Learn how this little-known patriot played a critical role in the American Revolution—and helped save George Washington not once, but twice.

Steve will also share information about the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and how individuals can become involved in preserving and honoring our nation's history.

About the Speaker

Steve Kaplan is a longtime member and past President of the Ohio Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, with extensive leadership experience at both the state and national levels. He is deeply involved in historical education, leadership development, and community service.



learn more about the Historical Society of Vandalia Butler at www.hsvb.online.

We're excited to celebrate the Semiquincentennial—America's 250th birthday; learn more about events happening across Ohio at www.america250-ohio.org.

March 16th 2026 at 6:30pm
The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler
SPECIAL PRESENTATION
HERCULES MULLIGAN
-the spy who saved George Washington's life twice.
Speaker: Steve Kaplan
Vandalia Public Library Community Room



Volunteers Needed to Care for Our Flowerbeds and Herb Garden



The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler is seeking volunteers to help care for our flowerbeds and historic herb garden at the 1825 Log House and surrounding grounds.

These gardens are an important part of how we share local history with visitors. The flowers brighten the property for open houses and community events, while the herb garden helps tell the story of how early families in our area used plants for cooking, medicine, and everyday household needs.

In addition to preserving history, our gardens support another important mission: protecting pollinators. Bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects are essential to our food supply and natural ecosystems. By maintaining diverse, chemical-free plantings and heritage herbs, we provide safe habitat and food sources for these vital species while educating visitors about their importance—both past and present.

Volunteer tasks may include light weeding, watering, planting, trimming, and general seasonal upkeep. You do not need to be an expert gardener—just someone who enjoys working outdoors, supporting pollinators, and helping preserve our local heritage. Volunteers may work on a flexible schedule, either individually or as part of a small group.

Whether you can help once in a while or throughout the growing season, your time and effort will be greatly appreciated and directly support our mission.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please visit our website at **www.hsvb.online** and use the **Volunteer** tab to contact the Society.

Together, we can keep our historic gardens blooming—and buzzing—for generations to come.



Barbara Ann Kimmel Obituary

February 12, 1942 — January 26, 2026

Vandalia, Ohio

Barbara A. Kimmel

Age 83, of Vandalia, passed away Monday, January 26, 2026. Barbara was born February 12, 1942 (Abraham Lincoln's birthday) in Dayton to the late J. William & Clara (Helke) Weng.

Barbara was a distinguished educator and community leader whose life touched many. She graduated from Northridge High School in 1960 as Valedictorian and continued her academic journey at the University of Dayton, earning a degree in Business Administration and English in 1964. Barbara dedicated 32 years to teaching at Northridge High School, inspiring generations of students. She was a committed member of Delta Kappa Gamma from 1975 to the present and a patron life member of the Vandalia Historical Society. Her civic involvement included several years with Sister Cities of Vandalia, and she was a life member of the Lincoln Society of Dayton. Barbara's faith was central to her life, as reflected in her active participation in the Vandalia United Methodist Church. Her legacy of service, scholarship, and kindness will be cherished by all who knew her.

She is survived by one daughter, Julia Tinney & her husband, Jeff; two grandchildren, Mark & Mia Tinney; and by her dear friend and neighbor, Susie Betts.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, January 30, at the Vandalia United Methodist Church, 200 S. Dixie Drive, Vandalia. Friends & family will be received from 12:30 p.m. until time of service. Interment will be at Maple Hill Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff of StoryPoint Tipp City for the loving care they provided to Barbara while she lived there, and to a "special angel," Mandy Ables.

In lieu of flowers contributions should be made in memory of Barbara to the Northridge High School Alumni Association or Vandalia United Methodist Church.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

This is an easy way for our members to help provide financial support to the Society. Enroll or re-enroll in this program using our organization number PN902. Call Kroger Customer Service at 1-800-576-4377 and give them your Kroger Plus Card 12-digit bar code number, on the back of the card, your phone number and our organization number (PN902). When you give the code, since some consonants sound alike, consider saying P as in Paul and N as in Nancy. The Customer Representative will help you register in the program.

Be sure to check out our new website at: **hsvb.online** and our new Facebook page **Facebook.com/hsvb.online**



Recycle Your Aluminum

Thanks to all who deposit aluminum cans at the Society dumpster (the West side of the Barn). This is one of the few sources of revenue.

Open House: 1st&3rd Sunday, Apr-Oct, 1-3PM
Located At: 336 East Alkaline Springs Road,
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

The Spring House
Water Sales (weather permitting)
Every Saturday 9AM-3PM & Sunday 12:30-3PM

Board Meetings:
Held the second Monday of each month at 7PM
at the Society Meeting House
Email: info.hsvb@gmail.com
Phone: (937) 898-5300
Website: hsvb.online
Facebook: [Facebook.com/hsvb.online](https://www.facebook.com/hsvb.online)

The "***Homestead News***" is published six times a year by the Society for its members.

You are invited to submit material to:
Editor, The *Homestead News*
The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler
P.O. Box 243
Vandalia, Ohio 45377-0243

Or Email to:
info.hsvb@gmail.com

The *Homestead News* reserves the right to edit any material submitted.

We Thank Our Business And Organization Sponsors For Their Support

<i>Ace Tree & Landscaping</i> , 1960 Neva Drive Dr, Dayton, OH 45414 (937) 890-2102	acetreeservicedayton.com Tree trimming and removal, stump removal
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<i>American Legion Post #668</i> , (937) 890-7336 8220 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414	"Veterans Strengthening America" www.americanlegionpost668@.org ; alpost668@aol.com
<i>Anthony Trissell Foundation.</i> , (937) 750-5545 PO Box 394, Vandalia, OH 45377-0394	The ATMF supports the Butler High School marching band, color guard, kickline and their directors. The ATMF manages the SummerFest at Henry Seger Community Park
<i>BDJ, LLC</i> , Vandalia Shopping Center, PO Box 644, Vandalia, OH 45377-0644	Provides professional services in the nonresidential commercial building real estate business
<i>Boord-Henne Insurance Agency.</i> (937) 832-4001 915 S. Main Street, Englewood, OH 45322	Offers home, auto, commercial and life insurance. www.boordhenne.com
<i>City of Vandalia</i> , (937) 898-5891 333 James E. Bohanan Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	www.vandaliaohio.org , Mayor Richard Herbst; "At the Crossroads of America"
<i>Collins Vision Care</i> , 407 Corporate Center Drive, Suite C, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-9333	www.drrosscollins.com , Vandalia Optometrist providing comprehensive vision care
<i>Tiffany Goodman/Coldwell Banker Realtors</i> , , 356 N Dixie Dr., Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 470-6973	www.tiffanygoodman.com , Local Realtor for since 2006. Call ME for ALL of your Real Estate needs!!
<i>Heeter Plumbing LLC</i> , (937) 890-5526 8633 N. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	http://heeterplumbing.com , "Drain Your Plumbing Problems, Not Your Savings" Call Us Today!
<i>Interior Supply, Inc</i> , (937) 276-4046 4620 Webster St., Dayton, OH 45414	www.interiorsupplyinc.com , offers commercial door & hardware sales.
<i>JP Signs</i> , (937) 890-4206 9000 Peters Pike, Vandalia, OH 45377	jpsignstudio.com , Custom fabrication of signs, banners, and art.
<i>Koorsen Fire & Security</i> , (937) 641-0592 8090 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414	service18@koorsen.com , Educate, Protect, Integrity, Care
<i>David I. Langdon, DDS</i> , (937) 898-3331 73 Dellsing Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	Lisa19826019@gmail.com , Dr David Langdon has been in practice in Vandalia since 1992. He performs cleanings, fillings, sealants, root canals, dentures and partials.
<i>Metro Fire Protection, Inc.</i> (937) 233-1333 7748 Wildcat Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424	Provides fire extinguisher and firefighting equipment services.
<i>Morton & Whetstone Funeral Home</i> , S Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377 (937) 898-4634	www.mortonwhetstonefh.com Funeral and cremation services, pre-planning
<i>Neely Dental Team</i> , 39 Dellsing Dr., Vandalia, OH 45377 (937) 898-8798 www.neelydental.com	Neely Dental Team looks forward to helping you achieve optimal oral health and a great smile, with gentle, patient- centered care.
<i>North Dixie Hardware</i> , (937) 898-0321 9125 N. Dixie Dr, Dayton, OH 45414	Serving the Vandalia/Butler community since 1990. northdixiehardware.com

PLANization 7801 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414 (937)265-4080	hello@planization.com , Planning & Organization Services, Residential & Commercial – reduce clutter and create systems to optimize your living, hobby and work spaces; organize and archive records/images and more!
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R.B. Jergens Contractors , (937) 669-9799 11418 N. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	www.rbjergens.com , Concrete, demolition, paving, excavating, utilities, surveying and commercial.
Sparks Electric Service, Inc. , (937) 890-7188 8242 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414	www.sparkselectricservice.com , We keep all of your electrical systems current.
Steve Reed State Farm Insurance , 525 Helke Rd, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-1331	www.reedagencyvandalia.com We specialize in helping clients make GREAT DECISIONS!
Vandalia Branch Library , 330 S. Dixie Dr., Vandalia OH 45377, (937) 463-2665	www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/locations/vandalia , Informing, Inspiring & Enriching Our Community
Vandalia Optometry , 33 Elva Ct., Vandalia OH 45377, (937) 898-3641	www.vandaliaoptometry.com Private primary care optometry with on-site full scope optical
Vandalia-Butler Alumni Association , Contact President Amy DeCamp at thelongpurpleline@gmail.com	www.vbalum.com , Our Mission is “Connecting The Past With The Present And The Future”
Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce , 544 W. National Rd, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-5351	www.vandaliabutlerchamber.org , Advance our local civic, economic, social and cultural welfare.
Vandalia-Butler City Schools , 306 S. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 415-6400	www.vbcasd.com , Students come first, supported by dedicated teachers, staff and administrators.
VB Alumni Association , (937) 751-4254 PO Box 295, Vandalia, OH 45377	thelongpurpleline@gmail.com
Warehouse 4 , 335 S Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377 (937) 387-6640	warehouse4coffee.com Local café offering specialty coffee, house made baked goods, breakfast sandwiches, and lunch.
Woods & Woods Associates , 206 N. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-5802	www.vandaliaacpa.com , Accounting, management advisory, wealth management and tax services.
Your Business Can Be Here	Your Organization Can Go Here

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VANDALIA BUTLER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thank you for considering membership with the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler. Your support helps us preserve local history, share stories of the past, and provide engaging events and educational programs for our community. Whether you're renewing or joining for the first time, we're thrilled to welcome you to our family of history enthusiasts!

Select Your Membership

- New Membership Renewal Membership
- Participating (Individual): \$10.00
- Family (Parent & Children under 18): \$20.00
- Supporting (Individual/Family): \$35.00

Continuing Memberships

- Lifetime (per person): \$500.00
- Patron (per person): \$1,000.00
- Founding (per person): \$5,000.00

**To Join or renew, please print,
complete, and mail back to:**
The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler
PO BOX 243
Vandalia, OH 45377

Member Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Cash Check | Check # _____

Is this a gift membership? Yes No

Memberships can also be purchased at www.hsvb.online.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VANDALIA BUTLER

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION

Dear Community Partner,

At the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler, we believe history is more than dates and artifacts—it's the story of who we are as a community. Every year, more than 3,000 students and residents step onto our grounds to experience a living classroom where the past comes to life. None of this would be possible without the support of people and businesses who value preserving our shared story.

That's why we invite you to become a Business Member for just \$50 a year. Your membership helps us continue this important work, while also offering meaningful benefits for your business:

- **Recognition:** Your business name listed in our bi-monthly newsletter and on our website.
- **Access:** Use of our historic grounds and meeting house for up to two small group meetings or business retreats each year.
- **Connection:** Receive our bi-monthly newsletter filled with stories, updates, and ways to engage.

Joining is simple, but the impact is lasting. Together, we can honor our past, enrich the present, and inspire the future.

With gratitude,
The Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler

To Join or renew, please print, complete, and mail back to:

The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler
PO BOX 243
Vandalia, OH 45377

Business Information

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____ Please Select: *New Membership* *Renewal Membership*

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Memberships can also be purchased at www.hsvb.online.