

CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 22 No. 7

February 21, 2026

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

Cortland Ushers In New Era Jim Bradley Appointed Mayor Following Historic Recall

By Alex Irman

In a swift and unanimous move to restore stability to City Hall, the Cortland City Council appointed Jim Bradley as the city's new mayor during a special meeting Tuesday night. The appointment follows the unprecedented recall of former Mayor Deidre Petrosky, marking a significant turning point in the city's political history.

Bradley, who previously served as Council Vice President, was sworn in by City Law Director Patrick Wilson immediately following the certification of the recall election results. He will serve the remainder of the unexpired term, which runs through December 31, 2027.

A Focus on Culture and Transparency

The leadership change comes after a tumultuous period for the city. Last week, over 75% of Cortland voters cast ballots to remove Petrosky from office following allegations of employee bullying and fiscal mismanagement.

In his first address as mayor, Bradley emphasized a departure from the previous administration's leadership style.

"We will not operate under the 'clear-as-mud' system, nor will we operate on the 'my way or the highway' mentality," Bradley stated. "The city will not be a workplace where anyone feels like they have to walk on eggshells or that they are nervous to come to work."

Bradley, a long-time resident who raised his family in Cortland,



Photo by Jim Woofler

Atty. Pat Wilson swearing in New Mayor Jim Bradley

stressed that his administration would be a "complete team effort," focusing on supporting capable department heads and fostering a safe, professional environment for city staff.

New Leadership on Council

Working alongside Bradley is John Picuri, who was elected as Council President earlier this year. Picuri, who briefly served as acting mayor during the week-long vacancy between the recall and Bradley's appointment, expressed optimism about the new partnership.

"I very much look forward to working with Jim and the rest of council," Picuri said. Since taking the gavel in January, Picuri has advocated for "common sense" and increased

transparency to help restore public confidence in local government.

The Road Ahead: Projects and Vacancies

Mayor Bradley inherits several high-stakes municipal projects, most notably the multi-million dollar Safety Service Complex. The facility is designed to house the city's police and fire departments along with administrative offices. Bradley has already signaled a more cautious approach to the project, noting that it requires further planning and will likely not break ground this spring as previously projected.

The transition also leaves a hole in the legislative body. Because Bradley moved from council to the mayor's office, his council seat is now vacant. President Picuri announced that the city will post the opening and invite interested residents to submit their qualifications for the position.

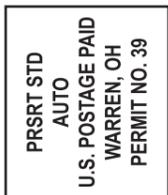


Photo by Jim Woofler

City Council President John Picuri, Mayor Jim Bradley

Mayor Bradley's First Message To Cortland Residents

By Jim Bradley, New Mayor of Cortland



My public service to Cortland began in 2017 after being appointed by then Mayor Jim Woofler to the Planning, Zoning and Building Commission and continued as part of City Council since 2020.

Becoming Mayor is not merely a title to me; it is the culmination of nearly a decade of dedication to public service and a profound responsibility to the community that has given me and my family so much.

As I take the reins, I am acutely aware that my path to this office was not through direct election but rather a deliberate, democratic appointment process conducted by the city council. I value council's vote of confidence in what I believe is a testament to a shared vision for a better, more vibrant future. The ultimate goal of this process

is to provide a transition, maintaining stability in city leadership, and ensuring that essential services to the citizens of Cortland continue without interruption.

My time as Mayor will not be about "me" but rather "we". This will be a team effort partnering with city staff and city council and any successes we reap will be because of all of our effort. I stand firmly for a government that is transparent, responsive, and, above all, deeply rooted in the needs of its people. I will champion responsible growth, ensuring new projects do not overly strain our existing resources. I will get back to common sense leadership and making sure council committees are included in the early stages of projects so that our councilmembers have a more thorough understanding

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A Message From The President Of Cortland City Council

By John Picuri, Cortland City Council President

I appreciate the confidence that my fellow City Council members have put in me to serve as President of Cortland City Council. It is an honor to serve in this capacity, and I intend to continue focusing on making our city government more transparent, more accountable, and guided by the kind of common sense legislation that residents expect and deserve. I will continue pursuing legislation that strengthens checks and balances so that the challenges we experienced over the past year are not repeated. I look forward to working together as a team and accomplishing

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CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

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City Hall 330-637-3916	Dispatch 330-675-2730
Fax 330-637-4778	Police - Business 330-638-1000
Clerk of Council 330-638-0142	Fire - Business 330-637-2891
Service Director 330-637-4637	

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month.
Monday, March 2 - 7 PM
Monday, March 16th - 7 PM

CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Read the minutes from Cortland
City Council meetings at
www.cityofcortland.org under
City Council Minutes.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Second Monday of each month
Monday, March 9 - 6 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month
Monday, March 9 - 7 PM

Meetings and agenda of Council and
Planning meetings area available at
www.cortlandoh.gov

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

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Admin Building 330-637-8816
3372 State Route 5 ...fax: 330-637-4588
**Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector
and Cemetery Sexton 330-637-8816**
Road Department 330-637-8311

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings the second Tuesday of
each month, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, March 10- 7 PM

A 60 min. caucus with dept. heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

Wednesday March 4 - 6 PM

THE CORTLAND BAZETTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Second Wednesday of each month at 5 PM at The Opera House

LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Regular meetings the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m.
in the Lakeview High School Media Center, unless otherwise noted.

Monday, March 16 - 6 PM

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club

Steve Rock 330-240-1634

Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum

Curt Moll/Info@cortlandohiohistory.org. 330-638-2330

Cortland Lions Club

Dawna Wiland 330-219-9852

Cortland Masonic Lodge

Chuck Chagnot 330-307-3405

Cortland Moose Lodge

Bill Bartholomew 330-637-9957

Cortland Rotary Club

Donald Petrosky 330-637-7627

Cortland SCOPE

Terri Donahue 330-980-5363

Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S

Shawn Woods 330-442-7549

The Opera House (Event Rentals)

Maribeth Albu 330-219-1488

Four Seasons Garden Club

Nancy Finlay 330-637-8931

Johnston Senior Center

Jim Bacorn 330-924-0412

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs

Terri Crabbs 330-637-3845

American Assoc of University Women

Ruth Bradshaw 330-307-1151

League of Woman Voters

Peggy Boyd 330-856-5398

Cortland Area Cares

Donna Kittle 330-637-0821

Friends of the Cortland Library

(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) .. 330-637-2717

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship

(LOAF) Bob Mangold..... 330-637-8956

Please contact the Cortland News if you
would like your organization listed here.

Our Next Issue ... March 14, 2026

Article Deadline by Mar 2 • Display Advertising Deadline is Mar 4
Email articles to editor@cortlandnews.net

The mission of the Cortland News is to focus on the positive aspects and events of our community. Our goal is to inspire pride and bring the residents of our community closer to one another by providing accurate, timely and useful information. We hold ourselves to high standards of journalism and strive to be a source of trust for our readers.

Based on the policy of the Cortland News to print positive news about our community, we reserve the right to reject contributed material considered inappropriate. We reserve the right to edit information accepted for publication for accuracy, style, length, spelling, grammar, and clarity.

The Cortland News wishes to present a fair and accurate news report. If you have a concern about anything published, please call our office at 330-565-2637 and leave a message for our Manager or Editor.

Death notices and obituaries will be printed in the Cortland News at the request of the family. Arrangement should be made to have information for death notices and obituaries sent directly to the Cortland News from the funeral home. Space restraints may require some editing. Publication dates for the Cortland News may prohibit an obituary from appearing prior to a funeral or memorial service.

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Tr. Co. Health Dept 4 Star Diner Vasilius
Lakeside Sport Shop Top Notch Diner

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We do not keep regular office hours but if you leave us a message, we will return your call as soon as possible.

The Cortland News will no longer be accepting any facsimile "fax" documents. Please direct all communications to the following email addresses.

Article submissions to:
editor@cortlandnews.net

Display and classified advertising and photographs to:
sales@cortlandnews.net

The Cortland News is published every three weeks free of charge and mailed via USPS to over 5000 area residents and businesses in Cortland and parts of Bazetta Township.



While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newspaper, the Cortland News cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Community Events

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. See pg. 2
 Lakeview Local School activities and sports schedules visit www.lakeviewlocal.org.
 American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. www.redcrossblood.org or 1-800-733-2767.
 Cortland Public Library - Check out the ongoing events on Library page.
<https://wtcpl.org/locations-hours/cortland-library/>
 Cortland Senior Center - Open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cortland Christian Church.
 Charity Benefit Pancake Breakfast, [1st Saturday] 9 a.m.-noon, Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett-Hull Road (E. Main Street).
 Church Events - See the Church News and Notes on the Faith pages.
 Trumbull County Combined Health District has numerous free upcoming Vaccine Clinics. See their website or the article in this issue.

FEBRUARY

- 21 "God Provides A Meal" / Cortland United Methodist Church / 11am -1pm
- 26 Trumbull County MetroParks Board of Commissioners Meeting
4:15 PM

MARCH

- 7 Charity Fund-Raiser Pancake Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge
Benefits Scout Troop 28/ 9 am to 11:30 am
- 8 The Trumbull Boat Club and the Bazetta Park Board "Art Day"
Bazetta Township Hall / 3372 State Route 5 / 4 PM
- 9 & 10 FREE Prom Dress Giveaway / GFWC Ohio Warren Junior
Women's League / Champion High School / 5-7 PM
- 14 Spaghetti Dinner / Sponsored by Opal Chapter #181 OES
Cortland Masonic Lodge / 3263 Everett Hull Road / 4-6 PM
- 17 Cortland Main Street Revitalization Monthly Meeting (Every 3rd Tuesday)
- 21 Senior Citizens Bash / Lakeview High School /Sponsored by
National Honor Society / 1-4 PM
- 29 Annual Easter Egg Hunt / Trinity Lutheran Church / 1 pm-2:30 pm
This event is for youth of all ages and provides a safe place to hunt eggs.

Bazetta Township Park Board

By Martha Urchek

Our first spring cleanup day at the park is on Saturday, March 7th at 9 AM. We need volunteers. And our second spring cleanup day is on Saturday, April 11th at 9 AM when we will begin to paint the shelters, picnic tables, etc. We will need volunteers to help us achieve these goals. Please call Mary of the Bazetta Park Board at 330-360-7867 for further questions and to help us beautify the Bazetta Township Park. The Bazetta Township Park Board and the Trumbull Boat Club are co-sponsoring an "Art Day" at the Bazetta Township Hall, 3372 State Route 5 on Sunday, March 8th at 4 PM. This event is open to all ages at a cost of \$40 per person. Free snacks, soda and coffee. All

proceeds will go to the improvements at the Bazetta Township Park.

Grand Opening/Craft Show at the Bazetta Township Park will be on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 AM until 4 PM. If you wish to reserve a vendor spot for the craft show, vendor applications are \$10 each and can be picked up at the Bazetta Township Hall Monday through Friday, 10 AM until 2 PM. Any questions, call Mary at 330-360-7867. Lots of fun events are being scheduled, please stay tuned.

The Bazetta Park Board meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Bazetta Township Hall at 3372 State Route 5 at 6 PM. All Bazetta residents are invited to attend.



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Spaghetti Dinner Sponsored By Opal Chapter #181 OES

On Saturday, March 14, Opal Chapter #181 OES will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser from 4:00 - 6:30 pm at the Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett Hull Road in Cortland.



The meal includes all you can eat spaghetti and includes meatballs, salad bar, bread/butter, beverage and dessert. Takeout is available by calling 234-600-2806 before 4:00. AYCE is dine-in only. Adults: \$10, Children under 12: \$5, Under 5: FREE.

Business News & Notes

By Thom Foley

JoMaries Dance, Gymnastics & Ninja is running a spring special. Only \$75 for 6 weeks of Gymnastics or NINJA. But hurry because space is limited. Call Aeron at 216-906-4220.

Did you know that **Champion Tax Service** has been saving area residents money on their taxes for decades? And they are locally owned! Experience counts when it comes to your taxes.

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Cortland Pediatrics - Dr. Johnson reminds you to schedule your summer physicals early. Come Spring they get very busy. You don't want your child to miss out on the summer fun.

If you are looking for a fun place to have birthday party check out **Cortland Lanes!** Everybody agrees that they have the best birthday parties for kids of ALL ages.

My puppy got sprayed by a skunk last summer so I went to the experts at

Totally Dog for help. Spring is in the air. And those skunks will be back soon. Thank goodness they have skunk odor eliminator shampoos and lots of great advice.

Greenwood Insurance has an interesting article in the Insurance Corner Column about Umbrella Insurance. If you have heard of it, you should check it out.

Little Sprouts Learning Adventures, our newest daycare, is almost filled to capacity. If you are looking for a quality daycare where your children can learn and have fun, check them out quickly.

Have you been to **The Makers Market at The Cortland Collaborative?** There is something different going on there everyday. Some of it is Free but all of it is affordable and FUN! There is nothing like it anywhere in town.

Black Cat Accounting wants us to tell you that it is always better to get your taxes done early. And if you want real professionals with decades of experience to help you, give them a call. Don't let the government keep any of your money!



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Prom Dreams Become Reality - FREE DRESS GIVEAWAY!

By Constance Amstutz, GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League

GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League is proud to host alongside Champion High School our annual Prom & Homecoming Dress Giveaway. This event is for ladies in need across our Tri-County area.

At this event you will find gently used and new prom dresses available along with accessories such as makeup, dress shoes, jewelry, and purses. Every young woman deserves to feel confident, celebrated, and beautiful on her special night.

The event will be hosted two days this year - Monday, March 9th and Tuesday, March 10th from 5 pm to 7 pm at Champion High School, 5976 Mahoning Ave NW in Champion.

Interested in donating items for the event? We will gladly accept them! Please contact a WJWL member, email us at gfwcohjwjl@gmail.com, or deliver dresses to Champion High School during school hours. Thank you for your support!



Easter Eggstavanza

Sunday, March 22, 1-3pm at the Johnston Fire Department - 4424 Greenville Rd NE, Farmdale, Ohio. Hosted by Johnston's Activities Committee

The Johnston's Activities Committee is in search of donations of candy (lots of it) or eggs for our Easter Eggstavanza.

Last year we had around 125 children and this year we will probably get that many if not more. We already have a ton of prizes for the children, thanks to amazing Dave Rankin, we will just need candy to fill our eggs. If you are wanting to do a monetary donation or pick up your own supplies, then just contact us at (330) 442-2245 and we will come and pick it up.

Thank You for all your support over the past year and we are looking forward to serving Our Community for this year as well with all of our special events. Plus - Don't Forget our Coloring Contest. Coloring pages are located at Quinns Market, The Living Waters Church, Bortnicks Tractor and Top Notch Diner.



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What's "news" in the City of Cortland

Just The Facts

According to the National Confectioners Association, how many cocoa beans does it take to make 1 pound of chocolate?

- a. 40
- b. 100
- c. 400
- d. 1,000

Find the answer at the bottom of the article.

Snow

The clearing of snow from sidewalks is the property owner's responsibility. Do not blow snow into the street or pile snow that would obstruct the vision of motorists. Also, during times of snow, try not to park on the street if able. City snowplows need to clear the roads. Thank You in advance.

Sled Hill

The sled hill at 433 N Mecca St. (St Rt 46) is open daily dawn to dusk. It is unsafe to sled after dark. Grab a sled or tube and slide your way to FUN!

Communication

When the city has news advisories such as parking bans or boil alerts, we communicate in the following ways:

- Notice on the Community Sign in front of Speedway
- Notice on our website - www.cortlandoh.gov
- Notify local media outlets
- E-mail to our e-news subscribers
- City of Cortland Police and Fire Department Facebook Pages

Welcome

Help us welcome the 3 new members to City Council - Councilwoman Alli McGregor, Councilwoman Chelsea Munroe and Councilman Chris Wadley. City Council Meetings are available on YouTube.

Answer

c. 400. There are approximately 400 beans per pound and 20 to 60 beans per pod. A single tree produces about 30-60 pods annually. Africa grows and harvests most of the world's cocoa beans.

Cortland Opens Applications for Vacant Council Seat Following Leadership Shake-up

CORTLAND, OH – Following the appointment of Jim Bradley as the city's new mayor, Cortland officials are now moving swiftly to fill the legislative gap left in his wake.

City Council President John Picuri announced during Tuesday's special meeting that the city is officially accepting qualifications from residents interested in serving on the seven-member legislative body. The vacancy was created when Bradley, formerly the Council Vice President, was elevated to the mayor's office to complete the term of recalled Mayor Deidre Petrosky.

The Application Process

Under the city's charter, Council has the authority to appoint a successor to fill the vacancy. According to Councilman Kevin Piros, the board intends to move quickly, with an eye toward appointing a new member **within the next two weeks.**

To be eligible for the position, applicants must be:

- A **registered voter** and resident of the City of Cortland.
- Interested in serving the remainder of the current term, which runs through **December 31, 2027.**

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and a resume detailing their qualifications. These can be delivered directly to **City Hall (400 North High Street)** or sent via email to the Clerk of Council.

Seeking Stability and "Common Sense"

The appointment of a new council member is seen as the final piece of a leadership reset intended to move the city past a period of administrative friction. President Picuri, who has been a vocal proponent of returning "common sense" and transparency to City Hall, emphasized that the goal is to find a candidate who can hit the ground running.

"I very much look forward to working with Jim and the rest of council, and whoever we pick," Picuri said, noting the importance of unity in tackling upcoming challenges, including the budget and the revised plans for the Safety Service Complex.

A New Voice in Local Governance

The incoming member will join a council that saw significant turnover recently; three new members—**Allison McGregor, Chelsea Munroe, and Christopher Wadley**—were sworn in just last month. This latest vacancy provides an opportunity for another fresh perspective as the city navigates its post-recall landscape.

Should the council fail to appoint a replacement within 30 days of the vacancy, the responsibility would fall to the Mayor to make the appointment. However, given the current council's stated commitment to a "complete team effort," leadership expects a decision to be reached internally well before that deadline.

A Message From The President...

continued from front page

meaningful progress over the next two years.

This has been an unprecedented time for our city, but throughout it, City Council, along with our dedicated department heads and staff, have worked diligently to keep the city moving in a positive direction. You will continue to see a hardworking Council supporting the individual we have selected to serve as Mayor. I have worked very closely with Jim Bradley in his role as Vice President of Council, and I am confident he will serve Cortland well as Mayor. I am equally confident that the full Council will support the administration as we move the city forward.

I want to thank the many residents who researched the issues, attended meetings, and made their voices heard. A few of those same residents spent countless hours exercising their rights under our charter, ultimately leading to where we are today. It has been a challenging time for our community, but brighter days are ahead.

I also want to acknowledge my wife, Sonya Picuri, whose support has been invaluable. The time and effort required to serve the community—especially while taking on a new leadership role—comes with sacrifices, and I am deeply grateful for her understanding and encouragement.

Mayor Bradley's First Message

...continued from front page

of projects before they are asked to vote on them.

In the very short term, we will have a revised job description and job posting ready to attract our next Director of Public Service, often referred to as the Service Director. This is a key position, and our city council has already begun working on this.

Lastly, my commitment is to fiscal responsibility and accountability. I will ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested wisely. Together, we will create a safe, prosperous, and sustainable future, ensuring this city remains a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

I am honored to lead this team effort and look forward to earning your support.



St. Patrick's Day ~ March 17th



Lynn M. Johnson
Board Certified Pediatrician MD

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Move Over Law

By Sgt. Benjamin Barnard, OSHP

Ohio law requires all drivers to move to an adjacent lane and/or slow down when approaching a stopped police vehicle, other emergency vehicle (e.g., fire truck), road service vehicle (e.g., tow truck), waste collection vehicle, highway maintenance vehicle or public utility commission vehicle when these vehicles have their warning lights activated.

"Move Over" Crashes and Citations: From 2021 to 2025, there were 62 OSHP patrol car crashes that were "move over" related resulting in two deaths (one OSHP officer and one civilian). Forty-three others were injured (16 officers and 27 civilians). The 22 crashes in 2025 were nearly double the number of crashes in any other year.

During this time, alcohol and/or drugs played a role in 29% of "move over" crashes. Forty-five percent (45%) took place on Interstates, 24% on State Routes, 21% on U.S. Routes, and 10% on other roads. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of "move over" crashes happened on dark, unlit roadways while another 39% occurred during daylight hours. Roads covered in snow, ice or slush accounted for 24% of these crashes.

OSHP troopers issued 17,715 citations for violations of the "move over" law from 2021 to 2025. Seventeen percent (17%) were issued in just four Ohio counties (Erie, Mahoning, Franklin, and Wood). Males accounted for 61% of violations. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of the violations occurred during summer months (June-August) with nearly one in four (24%) citations issued in July alone.



Scout Troop 28 Pancake Breakfast On March 7th

By Dick McClain

The next charity fund-raiser pancake breakfast at Cortland Masonic Lodge will be on Saturday, March 7th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, to benefit Scout Troop 28.

The public is invited to come and meet some of the troop leaders, and get information about the troop activities. The charity breakfasts are held each month by the Masonic Lodge, which provides all of the meal supplies, and cooks the menu, so that 100% of the breakfast income can be donated to a local charity.

The "all you can eat" breakfast costs \$10.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for youth age 6 to 10, and FREE for any children age 5 and under. Included are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee --- with take-outs available. The lodge is located at 3263 Everett-Hall Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland.

Trumbull Boat Club

By Martha Urchek

The Trumbull Boat Club is co-sponsoring with the Bazetta Park Board an "Art Day" at the Bazetta Township Hall at 3372 State Route 5 on Sunday, March 8th at 4 PM. This event is open to all ages at a cost of \$40 per person. Free snacks, soda and coffee. All proceeds go to the improvements at the Bazetta Township Park. For further information call Mary of the Bazetta Park Board at 330-360-7867.

The Trumbull Boat Club has boat docks available for rent. For more information, call Damian at 216-357-1743.

The Trumbull Boat Club meets the first Monday of every month at Monty's Restaurant on State Route 88 in Mecca at 6 PM. You can make reservations for dinner at 5 PM by calling Damian at 216-357-1743 two weeks prior to their monthly meeting. If anyone would like to attend the monthly meeting without dinner, you are most welcome to come.



Become A Trumbull County Historical Society Member

Help preserve our history by becoming a TCHS Member today!

All members receive discounted rates on select programs. Subscription to a quarterly mailed newsletter, invitations to "Members Only" events, 10% discount in our gift shop. New members receive a logo merch item.

Individual - \$30, Student - \$10, Family - \$50, Contributing - \$100, Advocate - \$250, Benefactor - \$500, Lifetime - \$1,000

The Society's membership year is January 1 to December 31. View more member benefits and get more information by going to <https://www.trumbullcountyhistory.com/membership/>

Travel Club Day Outings

Chase away the winter blues on Saturday, March 14, in Pittsburgh. Departing at 9 am for St. Nicholas Croation Church to tour and see the inspiring murals by Maxo Vanka. Art that is comparable to all the great churches found in Italy. Lunch is included at the Grand Concourse featuring a sit-down affair. The afternoon will be spent wandering the blooming gardens within the Phipps Conservatory featuring rare orchids and tropical Bonsai. Return home by 6 pm.

April 16 the deluxe motor coach will depart at 8:30 am for Canton with a quick stop at Fannie Mae Chocolates. At 10:30, members will tour the Classic Car Museum before having lunch (included) at the historic Bender's Tavern. No Canton trip would be complete without a tour of the First Ladies National Historic Site and the Saxton McKinley House. On the way home, one will treat yourself to a stop at the Milk & Honey Ice Cream Store before arriving home at 6:30 pm.

The Travel Club is open to anyone wanting to explore the world. There are no fees to belong to the club. The club travels by bus, train and air and we have cruised. Our "Bucket Trip" 2-week Great Western Adventure is scheduled for August 23 - September 5, 2026. There are 15 seats remaining on this bus vacation. For more information on this vacation call Peggy at 330-609-3971.



Trumbull County Historical Society

In celebration of America 250-Ohio, we invite you to share your unique experiences, memories, and reflections on what Trumbull County means to you, your family, and your community.

Your story helps us capture the vibrant tapestry of our shared history, growth, and exciting future as we celebrate in 2026. Consider this a digital storytelling time capsule... if we told the history and lore of Trumbull County, what stories would be most important to share?

No story is too big or small. Fill out the online form here: <https://forms.gle/7Gf7SMLQRQz2BZbh6>

Or visit our website Trumbullcountyhistory.org for a downloadable version, as well as our mailing address if you prefer to send a physical copy.



Photo by Trumbullcountyhistory.org

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Kristen Rock Files To Run For Trumbull County Commissioner

By Cathy Phifer

Kristen Rock, a resident of Liberty, has filed to run as the Democratic candidate for Trumbull County Commissioner. Rock said, "Our families and businesses deserve a county government that works for them." "I believe I'm the candidate who will keep the county fiscally solvent, maintain critical services and bring forth a future in economic development to benefit our families and businesses."



Kristen Rock is uniquely positioned to use her experience in law, economic development, and fiscal oversight to get the most value out of every dollar we spend, grow our job base, and deliver practical solutions to the everyday problems facing our communities.

Rock, an attorney, has a distinctive background and is a highly qualified candidate for Trumbull County Commissioner. Kristen has worked in private practice, in both state and federal courts, as well as with the Ohio Department of Development's International Trade Division. Kristen traveled internationally to represent the State of Ohio and Ohio companies in a wide variety of marketplaces.

Locally, Rock has served on the Liberty Township Zoning Board, Liberty Local School Fiscal Oversight Commission, provided finance and operations oversight for a non-profit and served the Junior League of Mahoning Valley.

Kristen currently serves on the Lake Milton Utilities Commission and the Humility of Mary Charitable Trust Board.

Kristen Rock is committed to bringing her strong work ethic, honest collaboration, experience in both the public and private sector, to partner with local leaders and businesses moving our county forward together.



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The Blessing Of The Law

By Michael Matejka, Assoc Pastor, Calvary Bible Church

In going through the book of Galatians with the Youth Group at Calvary I have been constantly reminded of the grace that God gives us in His law and instruction to us. The central theme of the book of Galatians written by the Apostle Paul is 'We are saved through faith and not works of the law'. Christ came to this world to save sinners by fulfilling the law of God perfectly, so that we can receive the promise of salvation through faith.

This then brings up the question, 'why then the law?' If Christ fulfilled the law of God perfectly, then why is there need of it? To what benefit does it serve us? Well, the Apostle Paul addresses this question head on in Galatians 3:23-24. It says, "... the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."

The law was our 'guardian', the Greek word here is referring to a schoolmaster or a teacher. Someone who was placed over a young child to instruct them and bring them up in learning.

The law was our tutor until Christ came, now we live in a time where the law of faith is ruling. Where one must come to Jesus Christ and place their true unadulterated faith, belief in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

The law can still have a tutoring role in our lives. It shows us our need of a savior, namely Jesus Christ. When



we do something wrong and receive consequences, we see that there is something that needs saving within us. When we go against our own conscience and feel dirty and wrong. That conviction is a blessing because it is pointing you to what you truly need, the blood of Jesus Christ shed for you.

Without the law, we don't know the standard that we are called to keep, and without the law we do not have the light shining on us which shows us our true need for a savior. Romans 3:23, tells us, "...all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God." There are no conditional claims made in that verse.

All have sinned, and the law is a teacher unto us, to show us how to come into right alignment with the Lord Jesus Christ. We are told repent and believe. Turn from your sin and have faith in Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross.



Rev Robert Wacker - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church



This past Wednesday was the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before that was Valentine's Day the day the corporations tell us a day of love. Both these holidays have their origination in the church and they point us to the love of Jesus. How could one of these get so far from this purpose?

Lent is a season of repentance and sorrow for our sins. During this time we reflect on the word of God and his promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. During this time we find ourselves in need of something we lost. We find that there is a love that we have forgotten. We forgot the love of God.

Valentine's Day has become a day about cards, flowers and love for a spouse. Corporate greed and the love for money at its center. The holiday doesn't focus on its originating point of pointing people to Christ as Saint Valentine would have done. Rather pointing to infatuation than to love, distracting us from the one we should have been looking to. We find ourselves in need of saving but unable to save ourselves. Needing love where we don't even love ourselves. So where does that leave us?

That leaves us needing the help of someone else. That is where God poured out all His love for us, knowing our condition, knowing our need. He gave us the truest of love as He sacrificed Himself in Jesus on the cross. That He would redeem and save us. He summarizes this in John chapter 3:16-18 (ESV) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever

believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Here we read of God's love that he sent his son to die for you. That He came into your flesh, paid for your sin with His blood, went to the cross where He was crucified for you. He died defeating death for you. He rose from the grave to give you eternal life. This is how much God loved you. From that very moment that mankind fell into sin He planned in love to come to die to redeem you, no longer condemned but given salvation.

In this month of February we look in these holidays, to celebrate and remember the love we cannot forget. The love that set it all in place. Corporations and the world want our focus on giving them our money and our time a singular person. Spouses are great and wonderful, but the love that inspires us to love our wives is not what the world shows us. Husbands find their love changed from infatuation, to love that lays down their lives for their wives. We must remember the Lord calls us to love as He loves. He loved the world so much that He sent His son to redeem you, and give you forgiveness, bringing you eternal Life. God's love shines in the darkness of sin, His light shines in you from His love poured for you and the world. This light shines forth as we remember God's Love this Lent.

Galatians 2:16 emphasizes that a person is "not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ"

Church News & Notes

The Nazarene Church is thinking spring, summer and beyond. We are having our yearly sales and are already accepting applications for the Oct 10th Art and Craft Show. You can contact us at The Cortland Church of the Nazarene on Facebook.

Cortland United Methodist Church - God Provides A Meal, February 21, 11:00 am-1:00 pm Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Bread & Butter, Dessert & Beverage. Donations accepted but are not required.

Accepting donations of Books & Puzzles Monday or Thursday. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Thank you for sharing so others might enjoy your items.

Lenten Bible Study - book of Genesis, Fowler United Methodist Church, Wednesday, April 25, 11 am
Trinity Lutheran Church -

Katharina's Closet donation drop is the first Monday of the month from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. Diapers, Wipes, and Baby Clothes. Or schedule a time - call Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402.

The next distribution day will be

March 19 at 4:30 pm-6:30 pm.

Our congregation invites you to join us as we dive into God's Word in our Bible Studies on Sunday at 9 am on the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays through May. We are currently going through the book of Leviticus.

Sunday School is at 9 am on first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays during the school year. Kids K-12th (preschool if parents stay with child). The children are working on learning the basic Bible Stories and confessions of the Christian faith.

Coffee, Prayer, and Chat with Pastor will be meeting for coffee, prayer and chat twice a month on Thursdays. Please check out our Facebook page for more details.

Lent Midweek Services will take place on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm until March 25th.

You are invited to join us for our 4th annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 29th, 2026 from 1 pm-2:30 pm. This event is for youth of all ages and provides a safe place to hunt eggs.

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Trumbull Art Gallery Offers Art & Clay Classes

The Trumbull Art Gallery is offering Art & Clay classes this winter and Spring. They are located at 158 North Park Avenue in Warren. Registration and payment can be made by phone or online. Call 330-395-4876 for more information. Payment must be made at time the reservation is made to ensure a seat.

ART WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

- **Mixed Media Workshop For Kids**
Two sessions: Saturdays, February 21 & 28, 12:00-3:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvivsky, Class fee: \$50.00
- **Design Your Own Stained Glass**
Two sessions: Thursday, February 26 1:00-3:00 pm, Thursday, March 5 12:30-3:30 pm, Instructor: Lynne Provance, TAG Member: \$140.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$150.00
- **Palette Knife Flower Painting**
Thursday, February 26, 6:00-8:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvivsky, TAG Member: \$30.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$35.00
- **A Flower Make & Take Stained Glass Workshop**
Thursday, March 26, 12:00-3:30 pm, Instructor: Lynne Provance, TAG Member: \$100.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$110.00

- **Parent And Child Art Classes**
Three sessions: Saturdays, April 11, 18 & 25, 10:00-11:30 am, Instructor: Sue Senvivsky, Children (ages 3 & up): \$50.00 per child · Adults: Free
- **All Occasion Cards In Watercolors**
Thursday, April 16, 6:00-9:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvivsky, TAG Member: \$25.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$30.00
- **CLAY@TAG WORKSHOPS & CLASSES**
- **Paper Towel Holders**
Two sessions: Saturdays, February 21 & March 7, 12:00-2:00 pm
Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$40.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$50.00
- **Angel Statues**
Two sessions: Saturdays, February 28 & March 14, 12:00-2:00 pm
Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$40.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$50.00
- **Coin Banks**
Two sessions: Saturdays, March 21 & April 4, 12:00-2:00 pm
Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$40.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$50.00



Complete details about each of the classes and workshops listed above can be found on the TAG website: <https://www.trumbullartgallery.com/>



Trumbull County MetroParks Board

The next regular board meeting for Trumbull County MetroParks Board of Commissioners will be Thursday, February 26, at 4:15 p.m. at the Park Office in Howland Township at 3983 N River Road NE, Warren.

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Lakeview School News

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LHS Girls Basketball Senior Night

Special to The Cortland News

Senior Night brought nothing but smiles and memories as Lakeview rolled over Poland 58-39. It was a special night with family and friends packed in Lakeview's gym for the Battle of the Bulldogs. Lakeview's starting lineup included all 5 seniors: MaKenna Doran, Annabelle Humphrey, Isabella Isenberg, Mackenzie Stowe and Kalyssa Werner. These 5 ladies have played together since elementary and had countless wins with LAC and then a NE8 Conference Championship in 8th grade before stepping on the high school court together as freshmen. It was an incredible moment to see them stand together one last time as Bulldogs.

MaKenna Doran is a one-year letter winner in basketball and track. She is a 4-year letter winner in Soccer. For soccer, MaKenna was named to the All-County 1st team, All District 1st and 2nd teams and NE8 All Conference 1st team twice. She earned All State Honors in 2024. MaKenna won Districts as a freshman with the soccer team. MaKenna plans to attend Clarion University in the fall to study Business with a minor in Marketing. She will also play Division II soccer at



Kalyssa, Isabella, Mackenzie, Annabelle and Makenna.

Clarion, competing in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

Annabelle Humphrey has earned a total of 10 varsity letters: four in soccer; four in Basketball and two in Track. She has earned her academic letter and has a 3.5 GPA. She is a 2-year member of the National Honor Society. Annabelle was named to the NE8 All Conference all four years in soccer and two years in Track.

She competed in Regionals for track in 2024. For soccer, Annabelle was named to the All-District Team for 3 straight years and earned All State Honors in 2025. She helped the team win Districts her freshman year. Annabelle plans to compete in the PSAC and play Div II soccer at Edinboro University while studying Exercise Science.

Isabella Isenberg is a 4-year letterman on the basketball and softball teams. She is a 2025 1st team All-Conference Pitcher and a member of the softball team that made it to the final 4. In 2024, she was named 2nd team All-Conference. She plans to study Biochemistry and pitch for the Otterbein University Softball team. She is the 2026 LHS class president, has earned a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society.

Mackenzie Stowe is a 4-year letterman on the basketball and softball team. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Mackenzie was awarded NE8 2nd Team All-Conference in basketball and NE8 1st Team All-Conference in softball her sophomore year. She was named 1st team All-Conference in basketball and NE8 Player of the Year in softball her Junior year. Mackenzie plans to study Exercise Science- Pre Physical/Occupational Therapy and play Division I softball at Kent State University.

Kalyssa Werner is a 4-year varsity letterman for basketball, softball and academics. She was named 2nd team NE8 All Conference in 2024 and 1st team NE8 All Conference in 2025 for softball. She was a member of the softball team that made it to the state final four in 2025. Kalyssa has earned a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. Kalyssa plans on studying Dietetics and Nutrition at Ashland University.

These 5 student athletes have left their mark at Lakeview. No doubt, they will continue to achieve their goals and do great things at the next level. Congratulations and Good Luck Ladies!

Class of 2026 Spotlight Bulldog

By Michael DeToro

This tri-weekly installment will spotlight an outstanding graduating senior at Lakeview High School. Each showcased student will be someone who represents their family, Lakeview Schools, and most importantly, our Bazetta/Cortland community with integrity, commitment, and loyalty.

This issue's Spotlight Bulldog is Camryn Ross, daughter of David and Rachel Ross. Camryn has been a wonderful Lakeview student since kindergarten. She challenges herself with both high school and college-level classes at Youngstown State University and ranks in the top third of her graduating class. She is also a leader in the National Honor Society, Senior Beta Club, and Assemble For Change. Outside the classroom, Camryn runs for the girls' track team, but her true passion is art. She recently won the top prize of Gold Key and the American Visions Award at the Scholastic Art Show held at Youngstown State. Additionally, last spring she also won the First Place Juror's Award at the annual Trumbull County Educational Service Center Art Show. Next fall, Camryn plans to go to college to study either art or astronomy.

Get to know Camryn better with a quick 60-second rapid-fire interview.

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well?
 - I'm exceptionally good at painting in various styles including impressionistic and contemporary.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District?
 - I love how supportive the community is when students accomplish remarkable things.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland?
 - Brother's Pizza
- 4.) Describe your fashion style.
 - My current fashion style is very pinterest yoga girl vibes.
- 5.) You might catch me ...
 - Working on my newest paintings or running on the track.
- 6.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now?
 - Madison Beer came out with her new album 'locket' and I'm obsessed!
- 7.) What are your future aspirations?
 - I want to be employed by a space company that allows me to utilize telescopes on both Earth and in deep space to compute the returned data into dazzling images of celestial bodies and to publish my discoveries.



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LHS Welcomes Winter Walkers

Looking for the perfect indoor place to walk in the winter? Lakeview High School is open to Winter Walkers from 3 pm - 6 pm until the end of the season. Please just walk in through the

main entrance. We will have a coat rack for you in the lobby. We have 2 floors available for you to walk safely. Walk at your own pace for as long as you wish. Come join us for free fun and exercise.



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Applications Open For Lakeview High School Athletic Hall Of Fame Class Of 2026

By Michael DeToro

Applications are now being accepted for the Lakeview High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026. Inductees will be honored throughout the weekend of September 25-26, with a tailgate party and mixer scheduled for Friday, September 25, and the induction ceremony scheduled for Saturday, September 26, at DiLucia's Banquet & Catering Facility.

The Hall of Fame celebrates former students, coaches, teams, and community members who have made outstanding contributions to the athletic programs at Bazetta, Cortland, or Lakeview High Schools. Through this recognition, it is hoped that the tradition of the school will be enhanced, and others will be motivated to excellence.

Nomination forms are available online at lakeviewlocal.org/athletics or through the district's Facebook page. The deadline for this cycle's nominations is April 15, 2026.

For more information, please contact the Lakeview High School Athletic Department at 330-637-8821.

My wife just told me what my New Year's Resolutions are.

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Peach is a total sweetheart who believes personal space is optional & laps are mandatory. She smiles a real, melt-your-heart smile that she flashes all day long. Peach is about 3 years old, around 50 lbs. She walks easily on a leash, jumps up for the best hugs, loves playing with her toys, and truly just wants to be with her person. Peach would do best as the only pet in the home, as she is dog-selective here at the shelter — but trust us, she doesn't need to share the spotlight. She will fill your life with more love, laughter, and companionship than you ever imagined.

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News From The Cortland Community Band

By Stephanie Kommel

The Cortland Community Band started rehearsals for our summer concert series in January. In honor of the country's 250th anniversary we are playing many patriotic and American themed pieces. Our calendar is filling up fast for what looks to be our busiest concert season in our 40+ years of playing together. Our schedule will be shared with the community once it's set in a couple of months.

If you're interested in joining it's not too late. We are comprised of members from several counties with members from high school to retirement age of all backgrounds and abilities with NO auditions or membership fees. If you're interested in joining you can join us any Wednesday from 7-9 pm in the Lakeview Pk-8 band room. Please note that if the Lakeview schools are closed for any reason, we will not have rehearsal. You can reach out to cortlandcommunityband@yahoo.com or check out our Facebook page under Cortland Community Band for more details.



INSURANCE ANSWERS

Bob Greenwood Jr, Greenwood Insurance Agency

Personal Umbrella Insurance: Extra Liability Protection for Everyday Life

Personal umbrella insurance is designed to give you an extra layer of liability protection when the unexpected happens. While most people have auto, homeowners, or renters insurance, those policies come with coverage limits. If you are involved in a serious accident or lawsuit that exceeds those limits, personal umbrella insurance helps cover the remaining costs.

This type of insurance works by extending the liability coverage on your existing policies. For example, if your auto insurance covers \$250,000 in liability and you are found responsible for damages totaling \$600,000, an umbrella policy can help pay the difference after your auto policy limit is reached. This helps protect your savings, home, and future income.

Personal umbrella insurance typically covers bodily injury, property damage, and personal liability claims. It may also help with legal expenses, including attorney fees and court costs. Some policies even cover personal

injury claims such as defamation or slander. Coverage usually applies worldwide, which can be especially helpful for people who travel often.

This insurance does not cover damage to your own property, business-related claims, or intentional acts. To qualify, insurers usually require you to carry certain minimum liability limits on your auto and homeowner's policies.

Many people assume umbrella insurance is expensive, but it is often very affordable. A \$1 million policy typically costs a few hundred dollars per year. Because it provides a high level of protection at a relatively low cost, it is considered one of the most cost-effective types of insurance available.

Anyone with assets to protect—such as homeowners, families with teenage drivers, or individuals with savings and investments—should consider personal umbrella insurance. It offers peace of mind and financial protection when you need it most.

Visit our **NEWLY DESIGNED** website at **cortlandnews.net**



The Lakeview National Honors Society invites you to the

Senior Citizens Bash!

Date & Location

Saturday, March 21st
1 - 4 PM
Lakeview High School
300 Hillman Drive
Cortland, OH

Activities

Games
Food
BINGO
Prizes
Dancing
(starts at 3 pm)

RSVP INFO

RSVP preferred by March 11th
330-637-4921 (LHS office)

WHERE TO ENTER

You may enter through the North Auditorium doors. They are handicap accessible. and will be marked.

Lakeview High School's National Honors Society Hosts Senior Citizens Bash

By Aurora Sensabaugh, 11th grade LHS-NHS

Lakeview High School's National Honors Society puts on a number of programs throughout the year, like Blood Drives, Sales & Product fundraisers and many other fun activities. Kicking into our spring season, we will once again be hosting the Senior Citizens Bash, featuring many different activities and opportunities to meet new people.

This year's Senior Citizens Bash is for senior citizens in Cortland and neighboring communities. We will have all kinds of activities, such as Bingo, Board & Card Games, Trivia, Prizes, and Dancing! There will also be various kinds of refreshments available for anyone.

This event will be held on Saturday, March 21st from 1 pm - 4 pm (Dancing starts at 3 pm!). This will take place at Lakeview High School, 300 Hillman



Drive. Guests can enter the school through the handicap accessible north auditorium doors of the building.

While this event is free, we would still prefer a RSVP by March 11th. You can call the Lakeview High School Office at 330-637-4921 to let us know if you'll be joining the fun! We hope to see as many people there as possible, and we're looking forward to another great Senior Citizen's Bash this March!

Come join us at Lakeview High School for an amazing afternoon of various events and activities! There's something for everyone, and we're so excited to get this event going once again. We hope to see you there!



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Autism Society of Mahoning Valley Expands Board Leadership

The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley (ASMV) is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors, strengthening the organization's leadership as it continues its mission to support Autistic individuals and their families across the lifespan.

"We are proud to welcome these new board members at an important moment for our organization," said Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer, Board President of the Autism Society of Mahoning Valley. "Each brings professional expertise, lived experience, and a deep commitment to being the connection for individuals and families from diagnosis through every stage of life. Their leadership will help guide ASMV forward with strength, transparency, and compassion."

Ashley Douglas is a Youngstown native and Small Business Banking and SBA Closing Officer with WesBanco Bank, bringing nearly two decades of experience in financial leadership and retail management. Her extensive community involvement includes serving as President of Alta Head Start's Policy Council and continued board service with Alta Head Start and Behavioral Health. Ashley's advocacy for individuals with autism began at an early age through volunteer work in local schools.



Deonna Lampley is a Youngstown native and licensed social worker with degrees from Youngstown State University and Our Lady of the Lake University. Her professional experience includes advocacy, clinical and crisis work, and child and adolescent development. Deonna has been a volunteer with the ASMV for several years and brings a strong passion for community-centered support and family advocacy.



Julie Santha is the Accounting Supervisor at Alta Care Group, Inc., with more than 10 years of experience in accounting, supervision, and organizational leadership. A graduate of Youngstown State University, Julie brings a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency. As the mother of a child on the autism spectrum, she offers both professional expertise and lived experience to her role on the ASMV Board.



Together, ASMV's Board of Directors and leadership team remain committed to creating connections and empowering everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully.

For more information about the Autism Society of Mahoning Valley and its programs, visit www.autismmv.org or contact info@autismmv.org.

ON COURSE

Navigating your Insurance Needs

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Is There A Way To Reduce Co-Pays & Out Of Pocket Expenses?

Oftentimes insurance plans have high deductibles, co-pays and out-of-pocket fees. These can occur with employer insurance plans, the Marketplace ACA (Obamacare) plans, individual plans and with Medicare insurance plans. If you have a hospital stay or extended illness these fees may add up quickly. In addition, you may not be able to work while you are recovering. If you are living on a fixed income, unexpected costs can place a burden on your budget. There are supplemental plans available that can help cover these costs. These plans are typically affordable, fixed, monthly premium plans and several of them will pay cash directly to the policy holder instead of the provider allowing you to choose how to spend the funds. Most plans can be tailored to specific individual needs allowing you to choose the coverage options that are most important for your situation.

Hospital Indemnity Insurance pays a benefit based on a predetermined lump sum or an amount for each day in the hospital or for a specific service such as an ambulance or therapy. Plans can be customized to cover the gaps in your current insurance and can

include additional coverage for specific situations. For example, an accidental injury rider will pay a lump sum for injuries like a fracture or ligament tear; or a cancer rider will pay a lump sum for different types of cancer diagnoses. Other possible coverages could include skilled nursing stays, outpatient surgery or ambulance services. The costs of these plans are based on age and health.

There are many other types of policies to supplement medical insurance policies and help defray costs of life events. Some policies can be geared toward specific conditions like cancer, heart attack or stroke. While others can be for specific services such as short-term home health care. You can also pick up a supplemental dental or vision policy to cover gaps in coverage or to provide coverage if you do not have a policy. If you are interested in any of these options, consult your local insurance agent. They can help you figure out what works best for your individual situation.

Jill Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. She can be reached at 234-244-4014 or JFreeman.WileyInsurance@gmail.com

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THURS - LADIES 10:00 AM - MENS 6:30 PM
SUN - MIXED 4:45 PM

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The Makers Market Entertainment Schedule

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• **Tuesdays - Midday Munch & Game 11:30 - 1:00 PM**

A laid back lunchtime hangout where good food meets friendly competition. Grab a bite, pull up a chair, and jump into board games, card games and quick-play your favorites, perfect for a midday break.

• **Wednesdays - Walkie Talkie's Walking Group 9:00 am**

• **Thursdays - Yoga Every other Thursday**

Instructor Lindsey Snowden; (Beginner level) 10:00 AM \$15.00/ Session February 26, March 11 & 25

Special Weekly Evening Events

• *Live Music Larry Lo Verme "Papa" from Papa's Book Shoppe and friends February 21st 6:00-8:00 PM

• *Live Music Jacob Dombrowski & Daniel Shapira: A high energy night of great music, good vibes, and community. Don't miss it. Saturday Feb. 28th 6:00-8:00 PM

• Trivia Night Friday -March. 6, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

• Open Mic Night - March 13, 6-8 pm

• Karaoke Night - March 21, 6-8 pm

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Trumbull New Theatre Presents "Storm Warning"

By Terri Gilbert



Trumbull New Theatre (TNT) in Niles will stage the drama, Storm Warning, by Norm Foster, opening March 6th. Starring Molly Cravalho and Brett Bunker, the show is set in cottage country in 1963. Jack Forrester, a damaged World War II vet, has retreated from life. Then one weekend he meets Emma Currie, an amphetamine popping chart writer for a big band. Both lives will change forever as these two opposites collide.

Storm Warning runs weekends March 6 through March 22. Friday and Saturday curtains are at 7:30 pm, Sunday matinees (March 15 & 22) are at

3 pm. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for students. Reservations can be made by calling the TNT box office (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday) at 330-652-1103 from 6 - 8 PM or by visiting the TNT website. TNT is located at 5883 Youngstown-Warren Rd. in Niles.

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Playing Cornhole at SCOPE

Cornhole is a huge sport at area senior citizen centers including Hubbard on Mondays at 10:30 am, Champion on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:30 pm, Niles on Tuesdays at 1 pm, Howland on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm, Bristol on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am, Cortland on Fridays at 10 am and Noon, and Newton Falls on Fridays at 12:45 pm.



Ken Weeks throwing a bag as Marge Haley watches in Bristol.

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs 2026 Scholarship

By Terri Crabbs

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs is seeking applicants for a \$750 scholarship to be awarded in April 2026. The scholarship is designed to assist a Trumbull County woman in furthering her education in an accredited educational program. The applicant must be 24 years of age or older and a resident of Trumbull County.

The applicant must submit a written narrative describing her career goals and her plan to achieve those goals, including any financial hardship she may be facing, and how she will benefit from the scholarship. Applications are available by contacting Louise Kline, President at 330-727-8515. All applications must be returned by March 31, 2026.

THE WISE INVESTORS

By Guidelight Financial Group



The Emotional Hurdles of Retirement Why emotional readiness and financial planning go hand in hand

Retirement is often seen as the long-awaited reward for decades of hard work—a time to relax, travel and enjoy life on your own terms. Yet for many, the transition into retirement brings unexpected emotional challenges. While financial preparation is critical, it's just one part of the equation. As a financial advisor, I've seen firsthand how addressing the emotional and psychological aspects of retirement can be just as vital in helping clients thrive in this new chapter of life.

Redefining identity and purpose. For many, work isn't just a paycheck, it is a source of identity, structure and social connection. When that disappears, it can leave retirees feeling adrift. The absence of work-driven goals and routines can leave a void. That's why it's important to explore new avenues of purpose and passion. Volunteering, mentoring, pursuing hobbies, or even part-time work can help fill the gap. The key is to identify what brings meaning and fulfillment and intentionally build that into your retirement lifestyle.

Gaining financial confidence in retirement. Even clients with substantial savings can worry about whether their money will last. This concern can lead to overly cautious spending or unnecessary stress. A personalized retirement income strategy can help ease these concerns. Whether it's using a bucketing approach, incorporating annuities for guaranteed income, or adjusting withdrawal rates based on market conditions, there are ways to create a plan that balances confidence with flexibility. Regular reviews and adjustments can help ensure your strategy stays aligned with your goals, lifestyle, and risk tolerance.

Adjusting to a new spending rhythm. Retirement often brings a shift in daily routines and with it, a change in spending patterns. Without the structure of a regular paycheck, retirees may find it challenging to gauge how much they are spending. That's why it's important to revisit your finances and align them with your retirement lifestyle. Consider

categorizing expenses into essentials, discretionary, and legacy goals. Tools like monthly cash flow tracking or dynamic budgeting can help you stay on course. Remember: you've prepared for this moment, and spending your savings is part of the plan.

Navigating relationship changes. Retirement can also reshape relationships. Couples may spend more time together than ever before, which can be both rewarding and sometimes challenging. Adult children may rely more heavily on retired parents for support, whether emotional or financial. It can be wise to consider how these changes will impact your financial situation. Whether it's budgeting for shared experiences, preparing for caregiving roles, or simply creating space for individual pursuits, planning can help couples and families navigate this transition with greater ease and understanding.

Embracing the emotional transition. It's normal to feel a mix of emotions during retirement—excitement, anxiety, relief, and even grief. Some people are surprised to find that retirement doesn't feel as joyful as they expected, at least not right away. Acknowledging these feelings is important. Seeking support from professionals, peers, or community groups can help ease the transition. Remember, emotional adjustment takes time, and there's no "right" way to feel.

Planning beyond the numbers. Retirement is more than a financial milestone – it's a life transition. A trusted advisor can help you prepare not just your portfolio, but your mindset. Building a retirement plan that supports your financial needs, emotional well-being, and personal aspirations is within reach.

Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.

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Thomas Shortreed, CFP®, MBA, CRPC®, BFATM, CKA® a Private Wealth Advisor with Guidelight Financial Group a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Cortland, has qualified for the company's Circle of Success annual recognition program and will be honored for this achievement in 2026.

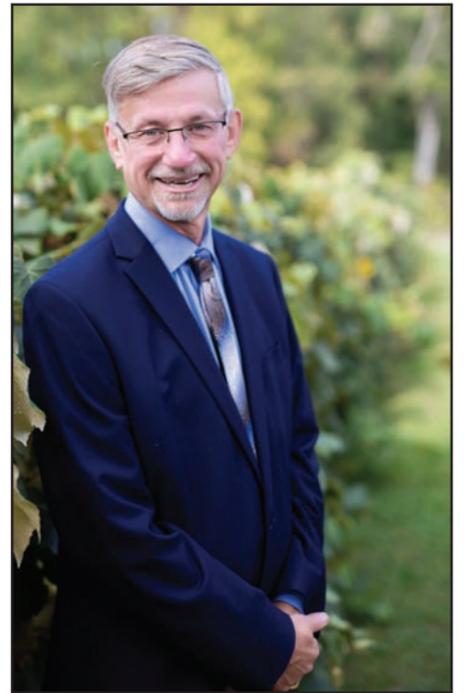
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He has 29 years of experience in the financial services industry.

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Lorna J. Westlake Files Candidacy Petitions For The 65th District Of The Ohio House Of Representatives

Lorna Westlake has filed candidate petitions for Representative from the 65th District. Westlake resides in Ashtabula County. Lorna is a retired employee of the US Postal Service and held the position of Postmaster. Westlake attended Ashland Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity degree. Following the Seminary, Lorna became an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church and served as Assistant Pastor from 2003 through 2010 at Willoughby United Methodist Church.



Lorna Westlake has a deep commitment to community service, particularly spending her volunteer time at the Manna Food Pantry and the Salvation Army in Jefferson, Ohio. Westlake was the director/treasurer of the food pantry from 2013 through 2024 and continues to be very active at Manna and the Salvation Army.

Lorna and her husband have been married over 56 years and directly after they were married he went into the US Army, enabling Lorna to reside in Kentucky, West Germany, and Washington state during his time in the service.

Westlake states "I'm a believer and in a community, we take care of each other. I also believe that budgets are moral documents and if elected I will not vote for budgets that give windfalls to billionaires, while withdrawing automatic Medicaid coverage for all eligible children 0-3. I will work to protect Medicaid expansion relied on by 770,000 Ohioans if federal support drops one dollar below 90%."

Westlake will vote to protect Ohio consumers from outrageous hikes in utility costs. Lorna is committed to supporting the farm communities of Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties by voting for the continuance of the Young Farmers Tax credit to encourage the next generation of farmers. The preservation and care of farmland as determined by local authorities through Home Rule will be a priority.

Westlake believes her candidacy and election is an important step to dismantle the one-party government we have in Columbus which is the source of massive corruption as exemplified by the HB 6 scandal and the extreme gerrymandering practiced by the

Republican Party."

The Democratic Parties of Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties

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Cortland Library Welcomes New Manager

By Cheryl Bush

The Warren-Trumbull County Public Library announces the promotion of Joshua Nauman to manager of the Cortland Library, 578 Lakeview Drive in Cortland. Nauman has been employed by the library system for the past six years as an adult services librarian and a customer service assistant.

Nauman succeeds former branch manager Karen Murphy, who retired from the W-TCPL at the end of January. In his new position, Nauman is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Cortland Library, including circulation activities, supervisory duties, programs, and collection maintenance.

"I am excited to take on this new role and serve the community of

Cortland by continuing to offer great service, resources, and programs for the community," Nauman said.

Nauman earned his Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Professional and Technical Writing from Youngstown State University.

He is certified as an Ohio Public Librarian by the Ohio Library Council. For more information about the Cortland Library, visit www.WTCPL.org. The Warren-Trumbull County Public Library includes locations in Brookfield, Cortland, Eastwood Mall, Howland, Liberty, and Warren; a Bookmobile; Pop-Up Library; and Library-By-Mail Service.



Karen Murphy recently retired after 28 years with the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library. She first joined the system in 1998, working in positions at the Warren Library. She had been the Cortland Library branch manager since 2006, playing an active role in connecting the library with the Cortland community.

LIBRARY NEWS

Cortland Library February & March 2026 Events

All events will be held at the Cortland Library, 578 Lakeview Dr.

Toddler Tales

Mondays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 A fun and active Storytime for toddlers ages 19 - 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Preschool Storytime features stories, songs, and movement activities and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. For children ages 3-5 with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Midweek Mayhem

Wednesdays from 3 - 4 p.m.: Feb. 25. Teens ages 12-18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! Free.

Movie Night for Romantics

Tues., Feb. 24 from 6 - 7:45 p.m. Watch a romantic comedy on the library's big screen! Refreshments will be provided. For the title of the movie to be shown, visit www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

End of the Rainbow

Sat., Feb. 28 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Children ages 5 - 12 can explore the prismatic color spectrum through games, crafts, and other activities. Free.

Books and Beverages for Teens

Tues., March 3 from 3 - 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can bring their current or favorite read to the library for a book discussion while enjoying free coffee and tea.

Midweek Mayhem

Wednesdays from 3 - 4 p.m.: March 4, 11, 18, 25. Enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at a weekly hangout for teens ages 12 - 18. Free.

Teen Advisory Board

Tues., March 10 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 who have ideas about what they'd like to see at the library, want to earn service hours, or like collaborating on creative ideas can join the Teen Advisory Board! Free.

Family LEGO Afternoon

Thurs., March 12 from 4 - 5 p.m. Practice problem-solving and engineering skills while building with the library's collection of LEGO bricks. Finished projects will remain at the library. For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

Murder at the Teen Idol Awards

Tues., March 17 from 4 - 6 p.m. Who will be this year's Top Teen Idol? With harsh competition, eccentric personalities, and a red carpet filled with glitter, glitz, and glam - the stakes are higher than ever! Each participant will be emailed a character after registration. Registration is required by March 10. Teens ages 12 - 18 can sign up online through the library's website calendar at www.wtcpl.org/events or call the library at (330) 638-6335. Free.

Genealogy Class: Beyond Ancestry

Thurs., March 19 at 2 p.m. Learn how to use the library's genealogy and history subscription databases and other online free sites for family history research. Register online through the library's website calendar at www.wtcpl.org/events or call the Local History & Genealogy Center at (330) 399-8807 ext. 202 to sign up for this free class at the Cortland Library.

First Chapter Book Club

Thurs., March 19 from 6 - 7 p.m. Children ages 9 - 12 can hear and discuss the first chapter of a book. Activities and games will help kids decide if the book is one they want to finish reading on their own. Free.

Totally Tweens

Tues., March 24 from 3 - 4 p.m. Tweens ages 10 - 14 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and fun activities at the library. Free.

Friends of the Cortland Library Members Meeting

Wed., March 25 from 1 - 2 p.m. The Friends of the Cortland Library is a non-profit, volunteer group dedicated to the support and advancement of the library. Members and those interested in joining the group are invited to attend.

Science Saturday

Sat., March 28 from 3 - 4 p.m. Children ages 5 - 11 can engage in hands-on experiments and activities to explore the scientific method and a variety of science concepts. Kids should dress to get messy. Free.

CORTLAND LIBRARY

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