

CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 22 No. 5

January 10, 2026

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

A New Chapter for Our Hidden Gem: Navigating 2026 with Heart and Hope

By Alex Irman and Jim Woofter

As the sun rises over the quiet, frost-covered rooftops of Cortland this January 11, 2026, there is a distinct sense of possibility in the crisp Mahoning Valley air. For a city of 7,200 residents, we have always understood that our strength lies not in our size, but in our connection to one another. Stepping into a new year often brings a mix of emotions, especially in an era where the daily news cycle can feel like a relentless wave of uncertainty. Between global headlines and the local challenges of a changing economy, it is easy to feel a bit weathered. However, the true story of Cortland in 2026 is one of resilience, preparation, and a commitment to the "good news" that lives right here in our own backyards.

Preparing for the year ahead requires a balance of practical action and a positive mindset. While we cannot control the world beyond the Trumbull County line, we can control how we cultivate our own community. In times of "bad news," the best antidote is often local engagement. Preparing for 2026 means leaning into the small-town values that have defined us for generations: checking on a neighbor during a lake-effect snowstorm, supporting the small businesses that line our streets, and participating in the civic life that keeps our city vibrant. It is about choosing to focus on the tangible good we can do, from volunteering at the local schools to simply sharing a kind word at the grocery store.

The coming year holds a wealth of exciting developments that promise to enhance the quality of life for every Cortland resident. One of the most anticipated projects is the continued transformation of the downtown area. Following the securing of strategic funding, the city is moving forward with the redevelopment of the former Farmers Bank parking lot into a dedicated Community Event and Education Space. This project represents



Photo by Jim Woofter

more than just new pavement; it is the creation of a central hub for our residents to gather for seasonal markets, outdoor performances, and local celebrations. By reclaiming this space for public use, we are ensuring that the heart of Cortland remains a place of activity and connection.

Furthering our connection to the natural beauty of the Mahoning Valley, 2026 marks a banner year for Mosquito Lake State Park. This spring, the "Friends of Mosquito Lake" will officially debut the new Nature Center and Educational Classroom. This project, born from the creative repurposing of vintage cabins, will provide a year-round facility for wildlife education, boating safety courses, and community lectures. With a new deck connecting the structures and a focus on local flora and fauna, the center will serve as a gateway for the next generation to learn about the importance of conservation. It is a testament to what can be achieved when local volunteers and state resources

work hand-in-hand to improve our local treasures.

Infrastructure also takes center stage in our 2026 outlook. The city is preparing for a significant investment in our roadways, with the annual asphalt resurfacing program targeting several key neighborhoods. Residents on Sawmill, Sawmill Court, Southdale, Wae Trail, Topaz, and Gemwae Dr. can look forward to smoother commutes, while the Ohio Department of Transportation is slated to begin a major resurfacing project on State Route 46 this spring. These improvements, alongside the construction of a new salt dome for the service department and upgrades to the West Main Street boat ramp, ensure that Cortland's foundation remains solid. While orange barrels are a temporary staple of Ohio life, they are the markers of a city that is actively investing in its future and maintaining the high standards our residents deserve.

Amidst these physical changes, the social fabric of Cortland continues

to grow stronger through the quiet dedication of our local service clubs and school organizations. From the Lakeview student-led initiatives to the tireless work of our local veterans' groups and garden clubs, these grassroots efforts remind us that "good news" is often written in the small victories of individual lives. As we look toward the 2026 Trumbull County Fair this summer, we are reminded of the deep agricultural roots and the shared heritage that keep our community grounded even when the world feels fast paced. Plans and dates for the annual Cortland Street Fair are still being formulated.

To navigate the year ahead, we encourage everyone to stay informed and stay involved. The challenges of the modern world are best met with a clear head and a helping hand. By focusing on the projects that improve our parks, the initiatives that support our youth, and the infrastructure that keeps us moving, we build a "bubble of good news" that can weather any storm. 2026 isn't just another year on the calendar; it is an invitation to contribute to the ongoing story of a city that knows exactly who it is—a peaceful, proud, and progressive home in the heart of the Valley.

As we embark on this journey together, we must take a moment to look at the people who make this publication possible. The Cortland News has always been more than just paper and ink; it is a reflection of the community we serve. To our loyal readers: thank you for welcoming us into your homes and for sharing your stories, your milestones, and your concerns with us. Your engagement is what gives this "good news" its meaning. We are honored to be the voice of Cortland and to witness the remarkable spirit of this city every day.

We also wish to extend our deepest, most sincere appreciation to our advertisers. In an age of digital noise, you choose to invest in local journalism and in the community you call home. Your support allows us to continue highlighting the positive developments, the local heroes, and the upcoming projects that make Cortland a premier place to live and work. Because of your partnership, we can continue to be the "good news" source that our residents rely on. As we move through 2026, we remain committed to celebrating our local businesses and helping you connect with the neighbors who value your services.

May this new year bring you peace, prosperity, and plenty of reasons to smile. Let us look forward to the ribbon cuttings, the community breakfasts, and the quiet sunsets over the lake. Together, we are making Cortland's future brighter than ever.

Happy New Year to all our readers and friends!

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CortlandNews.net

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CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor	330-637-4003	POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY	911
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.
Wednesday, Jan 21 - 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, Jan 12 - 6 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month
Monday, Jan 12 - 7 PM

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

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE	911
Police Department	330-638-5503
Fire Station #11	330-637-4136
3000 Warren Meadville Rd Non Emergency Calls ...	330-675-2730

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, Jan 13 - 7 PM

A 60 min. caucus with dept. heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD

Wednesday, February 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 fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m.
in the Lakeview High School Media Center, unless otherwise noted.

Monday, Jan. 26 - 6 PM

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club

Steve Rock

Four Seasons Garden Club

Nancy Finlay

Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum

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

Johnston Senior Center

Jim Bacorn

Cortland Lions Club

Dawna Wiland

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs

Terri Crabbs

Cortland Masonic Lodge

Chuck Chagnot

American Assoc of University Women

Ruth Bradshaw

Cortland Moose Lodge

Bill Bartholomew

League of Woman Voters

Peggy Boyd

Cortland Rotary Club

Donald Petrosky

Cortland Area Cares

Donna Kittle

Cortland SCOPE

Terri Donahue

Friends of the Cortland Library

(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) ..

Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S

Carla Kahler

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship

(LOAF) Bob Mangold

The Opera House (Event Rentals)

Maribeth Albu

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

Our Next Issue January 31, 2026

Article Deadline by Jan 19 • Display Advertising Deadline is Jan 21
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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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.

JANUARY

- 11 Chili Cook Off Fundraiser / Country Porch Winery / 4-7 PM.
 The Fundraiser is for improvements to the Bazetta Township Park (Imagination Station).
- 11 History of Braceville Firsts / Braceville Town Hall / 2 PM
- 17 Charity Fund-Raiser Pancake Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge
 9 am to 11:30 am / Benefitting Scout Troop 8
- 17 God Provides A Meal / Cortland United Methodist Church
 11 am - 1 pm / Free but donations are accepted.
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Most Government offices, Banks & Post Office Closed
- 20 Owls of Ohio Presentation / Middlefield Library, 16167 E. High Street, Middlefield, OH 44062 / (440) 632-1961 / 6 PM
- 23 15th Annual Spaghetti Dinner / Hosted by Lakeview Bands / 4 - 7:30 PM
 Lakeview High School Cafeteria
- 24 Moonlight Snowshoe Hike / Weather permitting / Meet the Park Rangers at the Mosquito Lake State Park beach parking lot at 7 PM

FEBRUARY

- 4 The Trumbull Boat Club meets the first Monday of every month
 Monty's Restaurant on State Route 88 in Mecca / 6 PM.
 Reservations required for dinner.

Cortland Community Calendar: Winter & Spring 2026

Keep this guide on your refrigerator! From snowy strolls to the first signs of spring, here is what's happening around the City of Cortland and the Mosquito Lake area over the next few months.

JANUARY: Cozy Up and Chill Out

January 11: New Year Vision Board Workshop. Join the Cortland Branch Library at 2:00 PM for an afternoon of crafting and goal-setting. All supplies are provided for residents to map out their dreams for 2026. This event is free, but registration is encouraged due to space limits.

January 24: Moonlight Snowshoe Hike. Weather permitting, meet the Park Rangers at the Mosquito Lake State Park beach parking lot at 7:00 PM. Experience the woods in a whole new light as we trek through the frosty trails under a waxing gibbous moon. Bring your own gear or borrow a pair of shoes from the limited supply provided by the Friends of Mosquito Lake.

FEBRUARY: Hearts and Heritage

February 7: The "Sweetheart" Indoor Farmers Market. Warm up inside the Opera House from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Local vendors will be featuring hand-dipped chocolates, artisan soaps, and winter greens. It is the perfect stop to find a unique, locally-made gift for your Valentine.

February 16: Presidents' Day History Walk. Take a self-guided tour through our historic downtown. The Cortland History and Genealogy Society will have special placards placed in shop windows detailing the architectural history of our Main Street buildings.

MARCH: The Green Awakening

March 14: St. Paddy's Day 5K & Fun Run. Dust off your running shoes for

the annual dash through the Heights! The race kicks off at 9:00 AM at the Lakeview High School track. Proceeds this year will benefit the local school athletic boosters and the new Nature Center fund.

March 21: Spring Equinox Pancake Breakfast. Celebrate the official arrival of spring with a community breakfast hosted by the Rotary Club. Join your neighbors at the Cortland Christian Church from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM for stacks of pancakes topped with real Geauga County maple syrup.

APRIL: Mud, Buds, and Books

April 4: The Great Cortland Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny is making an early stop at Pearl Park! Children ages 10 and under are invited to hunt for over 5,000 hidden eggs starting promptly at 11:00 AM. Don't forget your basket!

April 18: Earth Day Lake Cleanup. Help keep our shoreline beautiful. Meet at the Marina at 9:00 AM for a community-wide cleanup effort. Gloves and bags will be provided. Following the cleanup, stay for a "State of the Lake" presentation by the Department of Natural Resources to learn about upcoming water quality projects for 2026.

April 25: Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale. Find your next great read at the library's semi-annual sale. From hardbacks to DVDs, there are treasures for every age. All proceeds go toward supporting children's literacy programs in Trumbull County.

Coming Soon in MAY

May 16: Opening Day at the Marina. The official start of boating season! Join us for a blessing of the fleet and a small parade of decorated boats as we welcome back the summer sun to the Mahoning Valley.

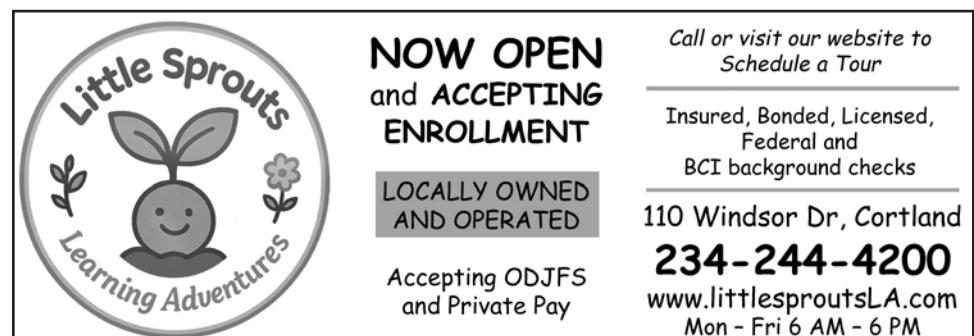
Bazetta Township Park Board

By Martha Urchek

The Bazetta Park Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Bazetta Township Hall at 6 PM. All Bazetta residents are invited to attend. We have a Chili Cook Off Fundraiser coming up at the Country Porch Winery on State Route 305 in Cortland on Sunday, January 11, 2026 from 4-7 PM. The Chili Fundraiser is for improvements to the Bazetta Township Park (Imagination Station). To enter

your Special Chili Recipe, the cost is \$20. All attendees can sample all the chili entries for \$5. There will also be Raffle Baskets and a 50/50 Raffle.

For Entry Forms or to purchase Tickets for the Chili Cook Off, call Mary at 330-360-7867 or call the Bazetta Township Administration Office at 330-637-8816 from 10 AM until 2 PM Monday through Friday.



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Free Estimates

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Leeann Oros - A True Inspiration And Business Owner

Special to The Cortland News

LeeAnn Oros is a remarkable woman who has overcome incredible challenges to build a successful business and life. As the owner of Permanent Beauty by LeeAnn, a woman-owned and operated business in Warren, Ohio, LeeAnn's story is one of perseverance, faith, and determination.

With over ten years of experience in the medical field, LeeAnn has created a thriving business that offers a wide range of services, including permanent makeup, lash extensions, hairstyles, teeth whitening, tattoos, and nail services. Her team of talented professionals includes Tyler King, and Tina Jones, experienced tattoo artists specializing in flash tattoos, custom designs, memorial pieces, and mirror etching. Victoria Brall is also part of the team as a skilled hairstylist and recently taught lash extension specialist, while sweet Brianne the newest member of the team offers expert and affordable nail services.

The business has a relaxing and meditative atmosphere, with a fun and retro vibe that makes clients feel at ease. Permanent Beauty by LeeAnn is a one-stop shop for beauty services, with a variety of professionals offering their expertise. Clients can book appointments online or in person, and the team is dedicated to providing a seamless and enjoyable experience.

In addition to Permanent Beauty by LeeAnn, LeeAnn has also launched her own travel business, while her husband, Josh, operates a mobile mechanic service. The business is known for its high-quality services, with clients praising the studio for its attention to detail and commitment



to excellence. With a 4.7-star rating on Google and a 5-star rating on Facebook, Permanent Beauty by LeeAnn has established itself as a go-to destination for beauty services in the area.

To book an appointment or learn more about their services, clients can message Permanent Beauty by LeeAnn on Facebook or call (330-885-2093). LeeAnn's journey is a testament to the power of hard work and trusting in a higher power. She is a kind and loving person who is always willing to help others, and her business is a reflection of her values. Despite the challenges of running a business, LeeAnn is passionate about her work and is dedicated to helping others.

LeeAnn was nominated for the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber 2025 Athena Award, and it's easy to see why. She embodies the qualities of a true leader and entrepreneur, and her commitment to her business and community is unwavering.

Livi Steel, Inc. Rebrands to Reflect Commitment to Innovation and Quality

Special to The Cortland News

Livi Steel, Inc., a 3rd-generation, family-owned structural steel fabricator, is proud to announce its rebranding effort, showcasing its dedication to innovation and quality in the industry. With a legacy spanning 48 years, Livi Steel, Inc. has been a trusted partner in

providing structural steel solutions for various buildings, including schools, shopping centers, and warehouses.

The company's newly redesigned website and social media platforms reflect its commitment to staying relevant and serving the community better. As an AISC Certified Fabricator, Livi Steel, Inc. prioritizes quality and safety in every project, ensuring the structural steel they fabricate is 100% load bearing.

"Livi Steel, Inc. is excited to embark on this new chapter, leveraging our expertise to deliver exceptional results and exceed our customers' expectations," said Ashley Morrow, representing Livi Steel, Inc.

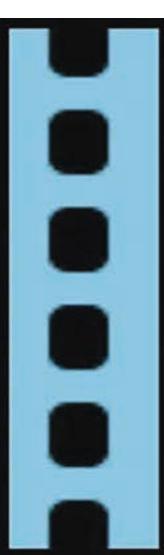
Livi Steel, Inc. is a 3rd-generation, family-owned structural steel fabricator based in Warren, Ohio. With a commitment to quality, safety, and innovation, they provide structural steel solutions for various buildings, including schools, shopping centers, and warehouses.

Learn more about Livi Steel, Inc. at <https://livisteelinc.com/>.

Livi Steel, Inc.

Structural Steel

330-373-1181 (phone)
330-392-5815 (fax)
<https://livisteelinc.com/>
ashley.morrow@livisteel.com
1245 Burton Street S.E. P.O. Box 2217 Warren, Ohio 44484





What's "news" in the City of Cortland

Just The Facts

Which interesting fact about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is true?

- a. a. He was born in Ohio.
- b. His real name was Morehouse.
- c. He and his wife had 7 children.
- d. He graduated from high school at 15 years old.

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.

Happy New Year! Have A Great 2026!

"It is not enough to be compassionate — you must act."

— The Dalai Lama

Cortland Police Officers Save Man's Life

Special to The Cortland News

On December 27, 2025 at approximately 11:11 P.M. the Trumbull County 9-1-1 Center received a call for an unknown type of fire in the area of SR 5 and Bradley Brownlee Road in Bazetta/Mecca Twp. Cortland Police Officers John Mosora and Chuck Lohry responded and were first on scene. Upon arrival, officers discovered a car had driven through a fence, flipped on its side and the vehicle was on fire.

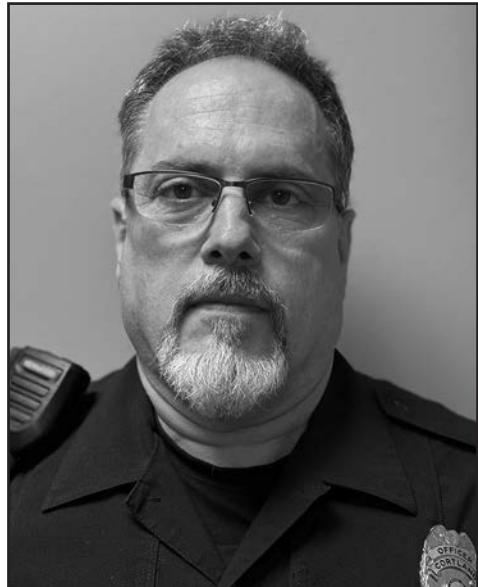
Officer Mosora discovered the driver was trapped in the vehicle and immediately broke out the sunroof of the vehicle to gain entry. The driver had significant injuries and Officer Mosora ultimately had to drag him from the vehicle to safety. Officer Lohry used his fire extinguisher to knock down the flames while Officer Mosora rescued the driver. Officer Mosora received minor injuries.

Multiple fire departments responded and extinguished the fire and treated the driver. The Ohio State Highway Patrol is handling the crash investigation.



Officer John Mosora

Our entire community thanks these two LOCAL HEROES! We are proud and grateful to have them protecting us.



Officer Chuck Lohry

CORTLAND LANES
ESTABLISHED IN 1961

KIDS - AGES 3-18 / AGES 2-6 BUMPERS
BOWL 3 GAMES
THURSDAYS AT 4:30 OR SATURDAYS AT 10 AM

BUMPER KIDS LEAGUE - AGES 3-6
BOWL TWO GAMES

KIDS BIRTHDAY PARTIES

- 1 HOUR OF BOWLING
- POP & PIZZA
- BOWLING PIN FOR BIRTHDAY CHILD
- BIRTHDAY SET UP
- (PLATES, NAPKINS, & TABLE CLOTH)
- RENTAL SHOES
- ONLY \$16 PER CHILD
- NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED
- DESSERT NOT INCLUDED
- 2 HR TIME FOR PARTY

Trumbull County Metroparks Board Members Appointed

By Zachary Svette

On Friday, December 12 and Friday, December 19, 2025, Robert Ward and Patrick Moro were appointed as new members of the Trumbull County MetroParks Board by Trumbull County Probate Judge James A. Fredericka. Their new terms commenced January 1, 2026 and end on December 31, 2028.

The mission of the Trumbull County MetroParks is to conserve, manage, protect and promote Trumbull County's natural resources for the benefit of the public's recreational needs, environmental education, awareness, health and enjoyment. For more information, please call Zachary Svette, Executive Director, at 330-675-3072.

Kinsman Historical Society Meeting And Membership Drive

Special to The Cortland News

Join the revitalization of the Kinsman Historical Society--the group is looking for new members to help preserve and highlight the history of Kinsman.

The meeting will be Wednesday, January 21 from 6-7 PM at Kinsman Free Public Library, 6420 Church St in Kinsman.

Current members and those interested in learning more are encouraged to attend and brainstorm future projects. If interested in learning more, please call 330-876-2461. The Organizer is Nicole Straub, nicoles@kinsmanlibrary.org

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THURSDAY - 10:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM

FRIDAY - 5:00 PM ~ CLOSING

SATURDAY - 12:00 PM ~ CLOSING

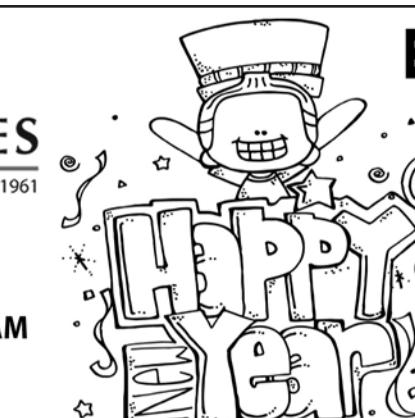
SUNDAY - 12:00 PM~ 8:00 PM

COSMIC BOWLING

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

PRICES: 1 HOUR 1 LANE \$30

#LOVELIFE



ADULT LEAGUES

MON - SENIORS 10:00 AM

TUES - LADIES 6:30 PM

WED - SENIORS 1:00 PM - MENS 6:30 PM

THURS - LADIES 10:00 AM - MENS 6:30 PM

SUN - MIXED 4:45 PM

Cortland Mayoral Recall: Early Voting Begins Jan. 6th; Election Day Set for Feb. 3rd

Cortland residents wishing to cast a ballot early in the special election to recall Mayor Deidre Petrosky will have their first opportunity on Monday, January 6, 2026.

The Trumbull County Board of Elections announced that early in-person voting will be held exclusively at their office in Warren. Voters are encouraged to utilize this period to ensure their voice is heard in the special

municipal contest. The key dates and location for this special election are: Early In-Person Voting starts on Monday, January 6, 2026 at the Trumbull County Board of Elections Office, located at 2947 Youngstown Road SE, Warren, OH 44484. The Official Election Day is Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

The deadline to register to vote and be eligible for this special recall election is Monday, January 5, 2026.

Trumbull Boat Club

By Martha Urchek

The Trumbull Boat Club meets the first Monday of every month at Monty's Restaurant on State Route 88 in Mecca at 6 PM. Reservations required for dinner. If you would like to attend the meetings without dinner, please call Damian at 216-357-1743 two weeks prior to their monthly meeting. The next meeting is February 4th.

Photo by trulytrumbull.com



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New Cortland City Council Members Sworn In

On Friday, January 2 Cortland City Council held their annual reorganization meeting. Three new members were sworn in along with one incumbent.

Newly elected members Allison McGregor, Chelsea Munroe, and Chris Wadley along with reelected member Kevin Pros were sworn in. They join

current members John Picuri, Jim Bradley and Scott Rowley. Former council members Kathy Fleischer, Don Moore and Richard McClain chose not to seek re-election.

John Picuri was elected Council President and Jim Bradley was elected Vice President for 2026.

Judge Fredericka Elected Presiding Judge

By Gina Durkin

The six judges of the Trumbull County Court of Common Pleas have unanimously elected James A. Fredericka to serve as Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

Judge James A. Fredericka brings to the position a distinguished legal career marked by public service, leadership, and dedication to the administration of justice. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics, summa cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame, and his Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University.

Following law school, Judge James A. Fredericka practiced law in the private sector and served as an assistant prosecuting attorney, gaining broad experience in both civil and criminal matters.

In 2015, he was elected judge of the Trumbull County Probate Court, where he has since presided over matters involving estates, guardianships, adoptions, and mental health proceedings.

Patrol Enforced Safe Driving Over New Year's Holiday

As Ohioans rang in the new year, troopers with the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) were highly visible and enforcing safe driving across the state.

"Welcoming in the new year should never end in tragedy," said Governor DeWine. "If you're celebrating, please take personal responsibility and plan ahead by designating a sober driver."

The New Year's holiday reporting period ran from Wednesday, December 31 through Sunday, January 4 and during this timeframe, anyone traveling on Ohio's roads was urged to drive responsibly, designate a sober driver or use a rideshare service.

To combat preventable tragedies,

the OSHP increased patrols throughout the holiday reporting period. Troopers focused on removing impaired and distracted drivers from the roads, maintaining a zero-tolerance policy on dangerous driving.

"Making sure everyone gets home safely is a shared responsibility," said Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent. "The cost of an impaired driving conviction is minor compared to the lifelong burden of unnecessarily taking a life."

Drivers are encouraged to safely call #677 to report impaired drivers, drug activity or standard motorists on the roadway anytime of the year.

Experience What It's Like To Be An Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Through Our Ride-Along Program

Are you looking for a new and exciting career in law enforcement but want to know more about the job? The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) is once again offering the unique opportunity to ride with an on-duty trooper to see if you have what it takes to join our ranks.

The Patrol's ride-along program is an immersive, frontline experience designed to give interested recruits a real-world look at life as an Ohio State Trooper. Participants won't just hear about the job - they will ride alongside a seasoned trooper during their choice of a day, afternoon or night shift, and experience what it's like to respond to emergency calls for service, conduct traffic stops and engage with and serve the public.

"Choosing a career with the Patrol is a life-changing decision," said Major Michael D. Kemmer, Office of Training, Recruitment and Professional Operations Commander.

"Our ride-along program delivers an authentic look into the challenging and profoundly rewarding work our troopers do every single day."

This opportunity is for individuals genuinely interested in exploring a career with the OSHP. To be eligible to participate in a ride-along, you must:

- Hold a valid driver's license
- Be between the ages of 18-39
- Complete a brief interview with the Post Commander prior to the ride-along

Anyone interested in participating in a ride-along is encouraged to contact their local Ohio State Highway Patrol post. Contact information for all posts can be found at <https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/help-center/local-post>

More information about our ride-along program can be found at <https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruitment-and-training/recruitment/why-oshp/ride-along>

Operation Santa's Sleigh Lighting Up The Holidays At Ohio Children's Hospitals And Veterans Hospitals

On December 23, approximately 350 first responder vehicles lined up to spread holiday cheer to some of the most special Ohioans.

Operation Santa's Sleigh events took place in nine cities – at children's hospitals located in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, The

Mahoning Valley, Toledo; the state Veterans Homes in Georgetown and Sandusky; and the VA in-patient Medical Centers located in Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Dayton.

The events were solely comprised of first responders, who turned on their lights as a way of letting communities across the state know they are remembered this holiday season, and to light the way for Santa and his crew who arrived on Christmas Eve.

Operation Santa's Sleigh 2025 is a statewide event by Light Ohio Blue and our partners at the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio State Highway Patrol, International Association of Firefighters, State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and hundreds of public safety agencies.

Locally, over 20 Departments from the Mahoning Valley participated in a



Closure Of American Legion Post 540

By Colonel Robert B. Mangold, US Army, Retired, Post 540 Adjutant

Following 125 years of service to area veterans and communities American Legion Post 540, The Raymond L. Johnson Post, entered inactive status effective January 1, 2026. As with other community service organizations, Post 540 membership has declined sharply over the years. Those who remain have aged out of being able to participate in our fundamental missions of supporting veterans and community events. We can no longer fire a final rifle salute at Veteran's funerals or participate as lead unit in parades. We are unable to provide an honor guard for other events such as in schools or for Memorial or Veterans Day observances.

Most important 2025 was our final year of decorating Veterans' graves with American flags in five area cemeteries for Memorial Day.

The American Legion was first organized in Paris, France in 1919 by a group of World War I officers. Post 540 was chartered in 1921. Early meetings were held in the Cortland Town Hall, Bazetta, Mecca, Bristolville and North Bloomfield. Over the years Post 540 owned two buildings on South High Street. Most recently our monthly meetings have been held in the Optimist Club building in Bazetta Township. We will fold our flag for the last time come summer 2026.

Support to veterans and area communities, especially through financial donations, have been our fundamental missions. We are very proud of what we have been able to do over the past 125 years.

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caravan of 30 plus Emergency vehicles that started at Beaver Township Fire Department in Mahoning County. They drove, with lights flashing and sirens blaring, down Market Street through North Lima to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boardman and then to Akron Children's Hospital in Boardman.

Santa and over 20 first responders

then visited the children at Akron Children's Hospital and passed out presents with the help of Santa's Elves. The First Responders 'deputized' the children by giving them badges making them honorary first responders.

A good time was had by all before Santa headed back to the North Pole for his annual trip around the world.

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If you have questions, comments or concerns, Email Ashley Morrow at ashleyarnoldgrimm@gmail.com or call or text message Ashley at 330-719-4754.



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Bazetta Firefighters Raise Money To Help Families

By Rob Wasser

Over the past month, Bazetta Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 3703 put on a holiday t-shirt drive to raise money to help families in need during the Christmas holiday. 100% of the proceeds were given to one of the best local charities they could find, the Lakeview Middle School's food pantry. The firefighter's union leaders contacted Lakeview School's school resource officer and Cortland police officer Jason Smith about wanting to donate to families in need in the Lakeview School District. Lakeview has students that live in both Bazetta Township and the City of Cortland. It was through a conversation with Officer Smith that Bazetta's union leaders said that the best way to positively affect as many families as possible was to donate the proceeds from the t-shirt sales to the Lakeview Middle School's food pantry. The school's food pantry and Angel Tree are managed by Margie Petrunia, an educational aid at the middle school. While the food pantry helps families with meals, the angel tree sponsors gifts for more than 80 children.

After paying for the t-shirts the remaining proceeds totaled \$700. On December 16th, Bazetta Professional

Firefighter's union officials Brad Hall (vice president) and Cole McIsaac (treasurer), presented a check to Margie Petrunia. The food pantry relies 100% on donations from the public and provides food for 25 or more families every month. During the holiday season, especially the time around Christmas, the number of families doubles to more than 50.

Thanks to the firefighter's union, 50 families in Bazetta/Cortland area had a full meal for Christmas, provided by the food pantry. Petrunia was very grateful to the firefighters saying, "This sure will go a long way".

Bazetta firefighters, all having families themselves, know that this donation is so important for this time of year and have hopes to donate again in the future.



Cole McIsaac, Margie Petrunia and Brad Hall.

Edward Stredney Announces Candidacy For Trumbull County Auditor

Special to The Cortland News

Edward Stredney, a dedicated voice for the community, announced his official intent to run for Trumbull County Auditor, vowing to restore our county auditor's office integrity.



Stredney, a project manager, holds a degree in Business Administration and Accounting, has held city government office and has extensive experience working with government budgets.

"I'm running because I believe our auditor's role is to ensure fiscal integrity, accountability and compliance for all county funds" said Stredney. "I will ensure the Trumbull County Auditor's Office operates with transparency, fraud prevention and quality compliance. It shouldn't be a place where townships are scammed out of money, where developers are taxed out of new construction, where homeowners are taxed out of their homes and where the auditor's office is constantly at odds with all other county offices. The

County's Chief Fiscal Officer must provide taxpayers, consumers, school districts and local governments with a variety of trusted services, and this cannot be neglected any longer.

Stredney's main priorities will be to bring trust and qualified stewardship back to the Auditor's office, ensure transparency, legal compliance, and the proper management of taxpayer funds. Stredney said "I understand that the Auditor is just one part of the county system, working with other departments and agencies and I will be a trusted and committed watchdog over all county funds. I invite all Trumbull County residents to share my vision for a stronger, more prosperous County."

Trumbull New Theatre Announces Auditions

Trumbull New Theatre is announcing auditions for their upcoming show, Deer Camp-The Musical. The annual deer hunting trip is different this year. The wives have given the guys an ultimatum: bag a deer or deer camp days are over. Only one hurdle stands in their way — none of them know how to hunt.

The 4-man musical has some nice harmonies and should be lots of fun. Performances are scheduled for May 1-2, 8-10 and 15-17, 2026.

Auditions will be at TNT, 5883 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles on January 11th (2-4 pm) and/or 13th (6:30-8:30 pm). Those auditioning should bring approximately 16 bars of music to sing. Questions should be directed to Terri Gilbert at 330-501-2882.

Trumbull County Tourism Honors Jordan Taylor

By Samantha Ensminger, Marketing Manager, Trumbull County Tourism Bureau

Trumbull County Tourism is recognizing Jordan Taylor of the Mahoning Valley Scrappers for his long-standing service on the organization's Board of Directors, including multiple leadership roles that helped advance tourism across the county.

Taylor most recently served as Treasurer and has been an active voice for sports tourism, community partnerships, and regional collaboration. His guidance has supported Trumbull County Tourism's efforts to highlight local attractions, drive visitor spending, and strengthen the county's profile as a welcoming, affordable destination in Northeast Ohio.

"As we close out 2025, we are incredibly grateful to Jordan for his years of dedicated service," said Beth Kotwiz Carmichael, CEO of Trumbull County Tourism. "His leadership, perspective, and passion for our county have been instrumental in promoting all that Trumbull County has to offer, from hometown baseball to small businesses and community events."

Trumbull County Tourism's

Executive Committee currently includes: Stacey Hoover, President, Alyse Robinson, Vice President, Jordan Taylor, Treasurer, Rosalyn Hill, Secretary, Beth Kotwiz Carmichael, CEO.

Trumbull County Tourism continues to work alongside community partners, attractions, and local businesses to welcome visitors, support economic growth, and share the stories that make Trumbull County Truly Trumbull.



Alyse Robinson, Stacey Hoover, Jordan Taylor, Beth Kotwiz Carmichael, Rosalyn Hill.

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Out & About in Trumbull County

~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~



A Warm Welcome To Warren Urban Tap Brings Life And Flavor Downtown

Downtown Warren has received a fantastic addition to its vibrant scene with the opening of Urban Tap, a restaurant and distillery that is quickly becoming a beloved local spot. Owned by Warren natives Matt MacGregor, his wife Stacy MacGregor, and his brother Jesse MacGregor, this family venture is committed to being a positive force in the city's ongoing growth and "rebound." You can find their inviting space at 439 E Market St, Warren and reach them by phone at (234) 806-0409.

their hometown is clear not just in the aesthetic, but in their commitment to fresh, quality food and an ever-evolving drink menu that features specialty cocktails you won't find elsewhere. From mouthwatering favorites like the Urban Bourbon Burger and Gouda Mac n Cheese bites to their focus on sourcing ingredients from nearby farmers, every detail reflects a genuine desire to offer an outstanding culinary experience while supporting the local economy.

Urban Tap is more than just a



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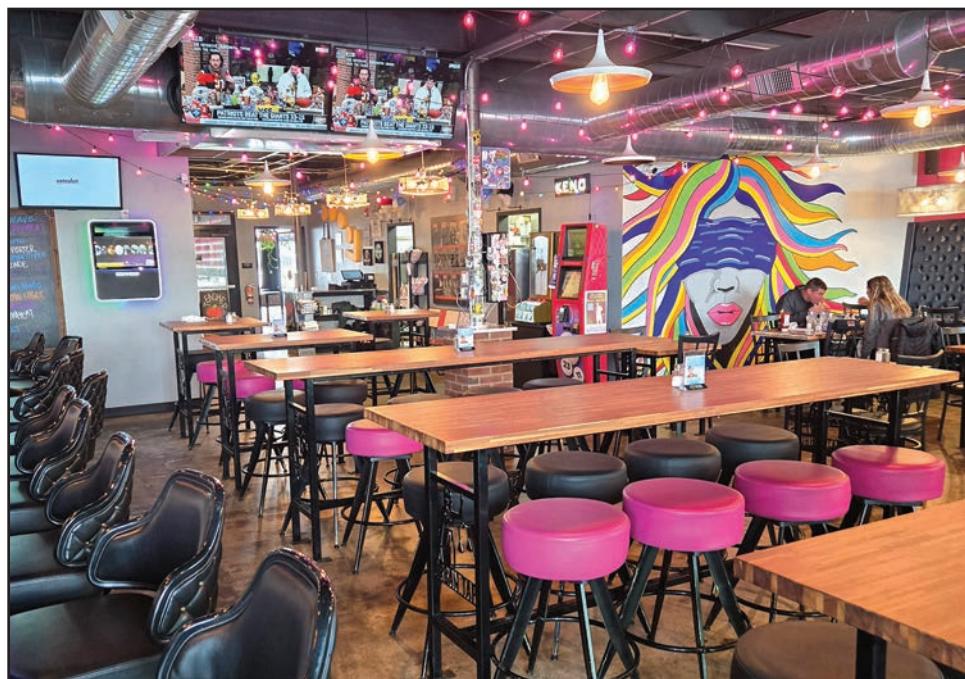
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Stepping into Urban Tap, one immediately feels a cozy and casual atmosphere, thoughtfully designed to celebrate the community it serves. The owners have put a strong emphasis on creating a welcoming environment, even bringing in local artists to craft captivating murals and décor that subtly weave in fragments of Warren's history. It's a space where families can comfortably gather for dinner and friends can enjoy great cocktails and live music later in the evening.

The MacGregors' passion for

place to eat and drink; it's designed to be a hub for community activity. The owners have big plans to host events like flea markets and night markets, utilizing their expansive indoor and outdoor space to bring people together and help other small businesses thrive. This spirit of building up Warren by fostering connection and fun is at the heart of everything they do. For anyone looking for a friendly face, a delicious meal, or a fantastic night out, Urban Tap is ready to share its warmth and flavor with the city it calls home.





Out & About in Trumbull County

~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~



Frank's Cafe Brews Up Big News: Now Open In Howland!

Get ready, Howland! The aroma of fresh coffee and flavorful bowls is now filling the air thanks to the grand opening of the newest location for Frank's Cafe! This beloved local eatery, known for its focus on fresh, wholesome, delicious meals, has officially opened its doors at 1955 Niles Cortland Road NE in Howland, bringing its comforting and healthy-focused classics to our community.

sweet potatoes, spinach, cherry tomatoes, goat cheese, guacamole, and blackened chicken. For breakfast, the Frank's French Toast is a must-try, made with thick-cut toast and customizable toppings like strawberries or candied pecans. Sandwich lovers rave about the Fig Chicken Sandwich, which layers grilled chicken, spinach, goat cheese, and a sweet fig jam on multigrain bread. They also offer an extensive selection



Owners Raphe Neapolitan and Danielle Davis are thrilled to expand their successful venture, which has been a staple in the area since 2021. "Howland has such a vibrant, welcoming feel," says Danielle Davis. "We can't wait to share our fresh food and friendly atmosphere with everyone here." Raphe Neapolitan adds, "Our goal is to offer fresh, delicious options designed to fuel your day, and Howland is the perfect place to do it."

Frank's Cafe is famous for all-day breakfast, brunch, and lunch offerings, featuring fresh ingredients and a focus on bowls, wraps, and specialty sandwiches. If you're visiting the new Howland spot, be sure to try some of their signature specialties:

The Chicken Hibachi Bowl is a customer favorite, featuring roasted

of fresh Smoothies and, notably, a comprehensive Gluten-Free Menu with options for every dish.

Frank's Cafe is open and ready to serve you from Monday - Thursday 7 am-5 pm, Friday 7 am-3 pm and Saturday 8 am-3 pm ensuring you can grab a wonderful breakfast or lunch any day of the week.

You can also enjoy the Frank's Cafe experience at their three other convenient locations: 8414 Market St in Boardman; 1315 Boardman-Canfield Rd #1 in Canfield and 5625 Mahoning Ave Austintown.

Stop by the new Howland location today! Whether you're a long-time fan or a brand-new customer, Frank's Cafe promises a friendly face, a cozy seat, and a delicious meal crafted to fuel your day.



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Out & About in Trumbull County

~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~

Ohio Goes To The Movies Reveals Statewide Calendar Of Events

Over 250 Free Film Screening Events in All 88 Counties Starting February 11

Ohio Goes to the Movies, an America 250-Ohio Signature Event, has released its calendar of 2026 film screenings. The calendar of events is now available at OhioGoesToTheMovies.org and will continue to be updated throughout the celebration.

Ohio Goes to the Movies is a statewide cinematic celebration that kicks off on February 11, 2026, delivering more than 250 free movie

events hosted by local venues in all 88 counties through October as part of Ohio's official commemoration of America's 250th anniversary. This first ever initiative showcases Ohio's long-standing influence on American film, its nationally recognized actors and directors and the iconic movies filmed across the state.

Ohio has produced some of the most distinguished talent in Hollywood

history, including Halle Berry of Cleveland, Paul Newman of Shaker Heights, Doris Day of Cincinnati, John Lithgow of Akron, Clark Gable of Cadiz, the Russo Brothers of Cleveland and Sarah Jessica Parker of Nelsonville. Their contributions have shaped American cinema for decades and underscore the creative strength rooted in Ohio communities.

The 2026 series also recognizes many of the most popular films made in Ohio. Screenings across the state will feature films such as "The Shawshank Redemption" filmed in Mansfield and Upper Sandusky, "A Christmas Story" filmed in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, "The Avengers" shot in downtown Cleveland and "Rain Man" filmed throughout Cincinnati. These films and others serve as anchor titles for the statewide series, drawing audiences who want to experience Ohio's

storytelling legacy on the big screen.

"Ohio has played a significant role in the history of American film and continues to attract talent, productions and storytelling that resonate around the world," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "Ohio Goes to the Movies ensures that residents in every community can participate in the America 250 celebration and rediscover the films that connect us."

Molly Kreuzman, program director for Ohio Goes to the Movies, said the initiative reflects the state's creative depth and community pride. "This celebration honors Ohio's filmmakers, in front of and behind the camera, and the towns and cities that brought some of America's most beloved stories to life. By offering more than 250 free events across all 88 counties, we are making the America 250 celebration accessible and meaningful for every Ohioan."

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FERN f **RICO**

This guy is an absolute sweetheart with a personality as big as his heart. He's very friendly, loves people, and has a goofy, happy nature that makes everyone smile. He is energetic and playful — but NOT aggressive. He's young, full of life, and just needs the chance to burn off some energy and learn routines in a home environment.

She's a 1 year old stocky, little pocket pup with the cutest, most expressive face. Fern thrives around people she trusts, adores her walks, and absolutely melts for the volunteers who take the time to love her. Fern is a little sassy, a little sensitive, and so very lovable. Like any young dog, training will help her grow into the confident companion she's meant to be — and training is available with all adoptions at HHPP.

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Emily, Olivia, Kolbie, Rylee, Jianna, Mo, Abby, Talor, Mack, Isabella



Santa stopped by the Lakeview Girls Basketball Game before Christmas and visited with all the children. Lakeview students DJ & Naomi told Santa what they wanted for Christmas and he assured them they were on the GOOD list.

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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 Samuel Chapman, the son of Ken and Andrea Chapman. Samuel has attended Lakeview Local Schools since kindergarten and has been a positive presence in the building and community. Samuel is a dedicated member of both the varsity track and varsity cross country teams. In fact, you probably have seen him running the streets of Cortland to stay in shape. He is also musically talented, participating in the jazz ensemble Lakeview Blues and the marching and symphonic bands. Outside of school, he enjoys video gaming, with Minecraft being one of his favorites. Looking ahead, Samuel plans to attend college and major in music education.

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

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well?
- My skill in performing arts.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District?
- It's hard to pick just one but I would say the pride we have in ourselves.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland?
- El Torero or Brothers Pizza
- 4.) Describe your fashion style.
- I just wear what I want to wear.
- 5.) You might catch me ...
- Either running or being absolutely lazy. Nothing in between!
- 6.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now?
- Never Look At The Empty Seats by Charlie Daniels
- 7.) What are your future aspirations?
- I would like to be a music or band director.



God Provides A Meal

The Cortland United Methodist Church sponsors "God Provides A Meal" every month. This month is on January 17, 11 am - 1 pm. The Menu is vegetable beef soup, toasted cheese sandwich, applesauce, dessert & beverage. Donations are accepted but not required. Just another reason that this is the best place in the world to live!



Scout Troop 8 Charity Breakfast On Jan. 17

The next charity fund-raiser pancake breakfast at Cortland Masonic Lodge will be held on Saturday, January 17th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Lodge, which is located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland. As always, the public is invited.

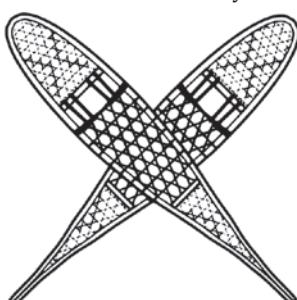
The beneficiary will be Scout Troop 8. The charity breakfasts are held each month by the Masonic Lodge,

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.

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike - Jan. 24th

The friends of Mosquito Lake present a unique free, family experience - a Moonlight Snowshoe Hike through Mosquito Lake Park. Weather permitting, meet the Park Rangers at the Mosquito Lake State Park beach parking lot at 7:00 PM. Experience the woods in a whole new light as we trek through the frosty trails under a waxing gibbous moon. Bring your own gear or borrow a pair of shoes from the limited supply provided by the Friends of Mosquito Lake. We can't wait to see you there!



To meet these animals & more, contact Animal Welfare League at (330) 539-5300 812 Youngstown Kingsville Rd SE Vienna, OH 44473 Visit: awlrescueme.com/adopt

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RANGER

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Owls of Ohio Presentation

Ohio is home to some of the most fascinating owl species—some live here year-round, while others visit during different seasons. Join Mosquito Lake State Park's Naturalist, Jason Lee and volunteers Bob and Kathy from BobKats Little Critters for an engaging presentation on these mysterious raptors of the night on Jan. 20th at

6PM. You'll learn about their unique adaptations, habitats, and behaviors—and have the rare opportunity to see live owls up close during the program.

Please feel free to call and let the library know you are coming in order for them to plan for seating. Thank you. Middlefield Library, 16167 E. High Street, Middlefield, OH 44062, (440) 632-1961

New Traveling Colt League Looking For Teams

Teams interested in playing in a new traveling Colt League in Northeast Ohio for 2026 contact Ken Quinn 330-719-0581 for information. The league is for 16-year-old males. This is for teams only, not individual players.



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Some fitness centers offer membership discounts in January. They know that many people will make resolutions about fitness. They also know that many of them will stop coming before March, some without cancelling their memberships. Sometimes they forget. Some really do intend to return but never do. And some know that they are never going back, but they are ashamed to admit it. Whatever you think of that business model, the truth is that many people give up on their New Year's resolutions. How might we avoid that outcome?

First, remember that resolutions are long-term goals. There will be ups and downs as we do the work. Setbacks and failures are part of every journey; so are getting back up and making changes. If we let shame derail us every time we fail, nothing good will ever happen because we will stop trying. Shame exists to keep us from doing bad things; don't let it stop you from doing something good.

Second, remember that the timing is arbitrary. New Year's Day feels like a good time to change or start something, but maybe it isn't. If we are serious about

our new goal, planning and preparing are just as crucial as any other activities, and wisely building up to a different start date could be the key to success. Any random day could be the best day to start working on a resolution. Don't be afraid to come back to it later; that might be the right timing.

Third, remember that our resolutions are choices we make. Making a choice for ourselves can be difficult, but it is also essential to becoming who we want to be. This is still true even if the timing is off, or if we need to make a plan first, or even if we need to build our support team to help us through the hard moments before we can begin the work. We recognized something we want to change for the better and made the choice to prioritize it. What follows that choice is almost always complicated and exhausting in some ways, but it was our choice to make, and so is everything we choose to do to make it a reality.

God has given you a new year in which to make good choices. Choose wisely and be faithful to yourself and the choices you make, including the resolutions that challenge you.



Journey Christian Church members recently visited Lake Vista Nursing Home. The Church members had a joyful time of caroling and fellowship as they brought joy and Christmas cheer to the residents. One more reason why Cortland/Bazetta is the best place in the world to live!!



Cortland Christian Church Plans 200th Anniversary

By Dick McClain

Members of the Cortland Christian Church have organized a 200th Anniversary Committee and work is underway to plan for the bicentennial of their founding in 2028.

Several projects will be completed leading up to the 2028 observance, including such items as a history book covering their 200 years; an online photo directory of their members; a special "Night of Memories" where they will

show video stories shared by various members; develop and release a series of news articles covering the church history; and plan for three special events to be held during 2028: an open house on March 14, a picnic on June 27 and a formal dinner on October 17.

To kick off the upcoming projects, the committee has designed and introduced a 200th Anniversary logo.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Seated, Joyce Hall, Linda Chagnot, Sharon Hopkins, Sharon Polakoff, Judene Ainsley and Karen Miller. Standing are Dick McClain, Chuck Chagnot, MacKenzie Polakoff, and Rev. Dave Gilbert.

Not pictured are Charles Beer, Ron Miller, Amy Popichak, and Frank Daugherty.

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www.trinitylutheranwarren.org

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Cortland United Methodist Church

155 N High St
Cortland OH 44410
330-637-2571
CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com

Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor
Service 10:00 am Sunday

Journey Christian Church

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When Can I Change My Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plan?

Medicare's annual enrollment takes place every year between October 15 and December 7. This is the time to consider your current situation and coverage and make any necessary changes for the upcoming year. In most cases, you must keep your plan for the entire calendar year. However, Medicare allows for some exceptions to this rule.

There are special enrollment periods based on specific circumstances. For example, Medicare Advantage plans and Stand-alone Drug plans are available by state and county of residence. What is available in one county or state may not be available in another county or state. If you move and your plan is not available in your new area, you will need to switch plans within a designated time frame using an SEP to do so. Anyone receiving a Low-Income Subsidy or Medicaid has an SEP when there is a change in the level of assistance. If you move into or out of a long-term care facility or a skilled nursing facility you have an SEP available to switch plans within 60 days of the move.

Medicare considers January 1 to March 31 an open enrollment period. During these months, you can make a one-time change to your plan if you have a Part C Medicare Advantage Plan currently in place. You can switch to another Medicare Advantage plan or drop your plan and return to Original Medicare Insurance. You can not switch from a stand-alone drug plan to another stand-alone drug plan or from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan during this time.

Other options that may be

available throughout the year are a one-time switch to a 5-Star plan. Medicare uses a rating system for Advantage plans with and without drug coverage (Part C) and for stand-alone drug plans (Part D). These plans receive a quality rating from 1 to 5 stars each year. If a plan receives a five-star rating and is available in your area you can use a one-time per year Special Enrollment Period from December 8 through November 30 to switch to one of these plans. This can be helpful with provider network changes and prescriptions changes if there is a plan available in your area that has received the 5-Star rating.

If you have had an Employer Group Health Plan either through your active employment or your spouse's active employment, there is a Special Enrollment Period for you to start a Medicare Advantage Plan or Prescription Drug Plan with the loss of that Employer Plan. There are also Group Medicare Advantage plans offered through some employers to retirees and their spouses. The loss of that coverage also allows for enrollment in a different Medicare plan.

There are several different circumstances where you may be eligible for a special enrollment period depending on your specific situation. You can touch base with your local agent at any time to review your options. More information can also be found at Medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-Medicare.

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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Support The Warren Farmers Market

By Sevasti Tripoulas

Did you know you can help support one of Warren's most loved community spaces? The Warren Farmers Market is more than a place to shop, it's where neighbors connect, families gather, and fresh food and local creativity thrive. What was once a vacant lot is now a welcoming green space that brings people together every week, just steps from downtown and accessible to all.

Your support helps us continue offering free wellness activities, such as cooking demonstrations, kids' programs, yoga, and walking groups, while supporting local farmers, artisans, and small businesses. Even a small contribution makes a meaningful difference in keeping the market vibrant and welcoming for everyone.

If you'd like to help, please visit tnpwarren.org and click Donate in the upper right corner. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out. Check us out on Facebook at Warren Farmers Market OH.

Thank you for being part of something that truly strengthens our community.

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Maplewood Lady Rockets Are Honored to Play in the Hoosier Gym

By Head Coach Stephanie Pykare

The THANK YOUS are many to all those that made our trip to Hoosier Gym amazing! It wouldn't have been possible without our community!!!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU goes to...

• Mit Shah, CEO of Noble Investment and Atlanta Hawks, who donated hotel rooms at the Hyatt Place in Fishers, Indiana.

• Jen Stevens, and Alliance Global



Our jersey will hang forever in the gym!

Advisors, who donated pizza and a gathering room for the weekend for our Friends and Family Pizza Party.

- Dave and Tami Lynn Morrison, who put together the MOST incredible goodies bags for the bus.

- Carrie Brumit, who did all the things behind the scenes including fundraising, planning, etc...

- Dave Whitt, who donated money

- Abbey Miller Bacconi and Bacconi's Lickety Split, who allowed us to have a car wash this summer to fundraise.

- Anderson was incredible to work with and we had the BEST driver! Walter made it look like he was driving a Prius.

- Maplewood Rocket Rebounders
- Our people and community, who made the trip to Knightstown, IN, to cheer us on!

I apologize if I missed anyone! Our Lady Rockets are fortunate to have a community that supports us in so many ways! The program would not be what it is without them! It's a privilege to be a part of it!!!

Maplewood played against Grand Valley of Orwell and took the win with a score of 64-44.

Our Lady Rocket's record to date is 6-2. Losses are from two really good teams - Crestview and Rootstown, which are much larger schools.



Coach Matt Brumit, Coach Madison Long, Elyse Pinkerton, Aliah Brumit, Katie Wear, Sam Krieg, Raegan Krieg, Head Coach Stephanie Pykare (back row), Morgan Himes, Lauran Krieg, Coach John King (back row), Claire Urchek, Lexi Yannucci, Addison Shafer, Olivia Morse, Kya Dunbar, Coach Norm Yannucci, Coach Baylie Starcher, Coach Tom Dahmen.

Trumbull County Probate Court And Community Volunteers Deliver Gifts To Seniors

By Gina Durkin



Sharon Simmons, Gina Durkin, Jeana Palmer, Judge James A. Fredericka, Lou Ann Fredericka, Patty Hovanic.

On December 16th, the Trumbull County Probate Court staff and community volunteers, in collaboration with Home Instead Senior Care, were able to organize and distribute gifts to 100 residents of 12 local nursing homes. Many of these residents have no family and the gifts will help to bring extra special holiday joy this year.

The gifts were donated by individuals who picked names and gift ideas that were posted at various community merchant sites throughout the Mahoning Valley. Home Instead Senior Care collected the gifts as part of the annual "Be a Santa to a Senior" program.



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FREE Genealogy Classes

Special to the Cortland News

There are three opportunities to learn about genealogy brought to you by the Trumbull County Library and the Trumbull County Historical Society. Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition to jumpstart your family history by finding census, marriage, death, birth, military, and immigration records, and more! Registration is required but the class is free. If you have questions, please call the Local History & Genealogy Center at (330) 399-8807 ext. 202.

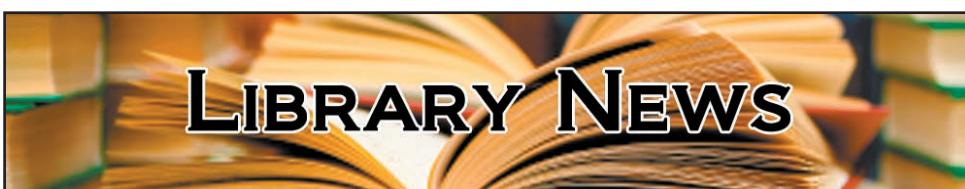
- Wednesday, January 14 at the Brookfield Library Branch 7032 Grove St., Brookfield from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Call 330-448-8134

- Wednesday January 21 at the Teaching Lab, Warren Library, 444 Mahoning Ave NW, Warren from

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Call 330-399-8807

- This class will provide strategies for organizing your genealogical materials! We'll discuss creating paper and digital ancestor charts, taking advantage of your library's resources and services, naming, numbering, sorting, and storing both paper and digital files, and preserving your family photographs and documents. Thursday January 29, from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Howland Meeting Room, Howland Library, 9095 E Market St. Call 330-856-2011 for more information

For Registrations please log in with your library card and pin to reserve your place at this event. You may also register by phone or at your nearest library. Registration is required but the class is free.



Cortland Library Events January 2026

Closed For Martin Luther King Jr. Day

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed on Mon., Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. day.

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

Toddler Tales - Mondays at 10 a.m.: Jan. 12, 26 A fun and active Storytime for toddlers ages 19 - 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime - Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Jan. 13, 20, 27 - 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.

Only Murders in the Library

Discussion Group - Mon., Jan. 12 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. This discussion group will dive into the infamous 1947 murder of Elizabeth Short, known as the Black Dahlia. Participants will explore different theories, sift through the facts, and discuss everything from possible suspects to how the media covered the case.

Teen Advisory Board - Tues., Jan. 13 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 who like collaborating on creative ideas can be a part of the Teen Advisory Board! Free.

Midweek Mayhem - Wednesdays from 3 - 4 p.m.: Jan. 14, 21, 28. Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! Free.

First Chapter Book Club - Thurs., Jan. 15 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 that they want to finish reading on their own. Free.

Totally Tweens - Tues., Jan. 20 from 3 - 4 p.m. Tweens ages 10 - 14 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and activities. Free.

Family LEGO Night - Thurs., Jan. 22 from 6 - 7 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.

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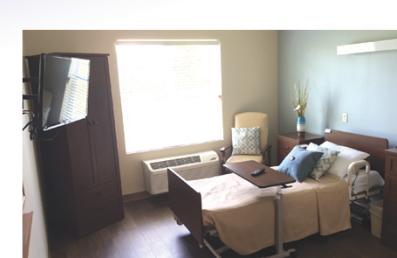
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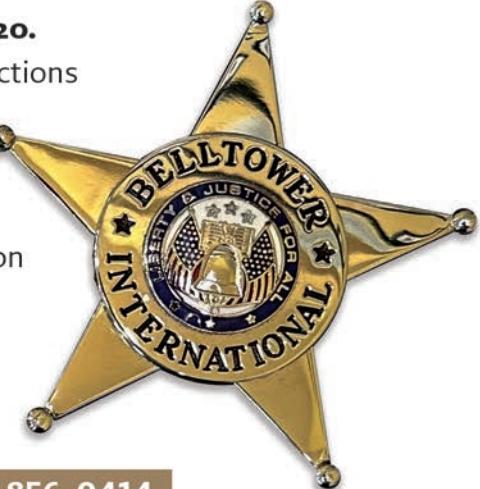
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