

The Heartbeat Of The Mahoning Valley Cortland And Trumbull County Reflect On Labor Day

By Alex Irman

As the first Monday in September dawns upon Cortland and the broader Trumbull County area, it marks a familiar and beloved rite of passage. For many, Labor Day signifies the unofficial end of summer, a final weekend of cookouts, family gatherings and perhaps a last splash in the waters of Mosquito Lake. Yet, beneath the surface of this cherished three-day weekend lies a profound and enduring tribute to the American worker, a legacy that holds resonance in the heart of the Mahoning Valley.

The history of Labor Day is deeply intertwined with the industrial spirit that built communities like Cortland, Warren and Niles. It's a holiday born from the late 19th-century struggle for fair wages, reasonable hours, and safe working conditions. As manufacturing and industry boomed, workers often toiled for 12-hour days, seven days a week, in environments that were far from ideal. The labor movement, with its roots in Ohio and beyond, rose to challenge these hardships, advocating for the dignity and well-being of the working class. It was a fight that, over time, secured the very rights and protections we often take for granted today.

In Trumbull County, this history is not just a footnote in a textbook; it's the very foundation upon which our towns were built. The region's rich heritage in steel production, manufacturing, and other vital industries created a workforce known for its grit, dedication,



President Franklin Roosevelt reads to his guests as he and first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, at table, host a Labor Day picnic for friends and relatives at their residence known as the "Summer White House," in Hyde Park, N.Y., Sept. 3, 1934. The president's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, in black hat, is at the left edge of the table. (AP Photo)

and strong work ethic. While the landscape of our economy has shifted over the decades, with growth in sectors like healthcare and professional services, the ethos of the hardworking Mahoning Valley resident remains steadfast. Today, as we see a resurgence in interest and support for labor unions, with many recognizing the continued need for a collective voice, we are reminded that the core values of the labor movement are as relevant now as they were over a century ago.

For many local families, Labor Day weekend is a time to reconnect. The Canfield Fair, a regional staple

and one of the nation's largest county fairs, often marks its final days over the holiday. Families from Cortland and the surrounding communities flock to the fairgrounds, a tradition that perfectly blends the celebration of agricultural heritage with the joy of community. Other residents choose to enjoy the simple pleasures closer to home, with picnics at Pearl Park or a fishing trip on Mosquito Lake, a testament to the fact that the greatest reward for hard work is often the time we get to spend with loved ones.

The economic impact of this long weekend is also significant for

Trumbull County. Local businesses, from restaurants and retail shops to gas stations, often see a welcome boost in activity. The annual Route 7 60-Mile Yard Sale, a massive event that draws treasure hunters from all over, provides a unique economic jolt to small towns along the historic roadway. It's a showcase of the entrepreneurial spirit that exists alongside the strong workforce, with residents turning their homes and businesses into temporary marketplaces. This holiday spending, while often seen as a leisure activity, plays a crucial role in supporting the local economy and sustaining the jobs that keep our community vibrant.

Beyond the festivities, Labor Day in Cortland offers a quiet moment of reflection. It is a time to honor the past, to remember the sacrifices of those who came before us, and to appreciate the hard-won gains that have shaped our lives. It is a day to acknowledge the essential work done by every single person, from the factory floor to the hospital, from the classroom to the small business. Every job, every contribution, large or small, adds a thread to the fabric of our community. As the sun sets on this holiday, casting a long shadow over the serene landscape of Trumbull County, let us carry the spirit of Labor Day with us—not just as a memory of summer, but as a renewed appreciation for the strength, prosperity, and well-being that our workers, past and present, have built.

School Bus Safety

By Alex Irman

As the familiar rumble of yellow buses echoes through the streets of Cortland, a new school year begins for students in the Lakeview School

District. With the excitement of reuniting with friends and meeting new teachers comes a renewed focus on a critical issue: school bus safety. The start of the academic year serves as an important reminder for both students and motorists to be vigilant and prioritize the well-being of our community's children.

The yellow school bus is an icon of the American educational system, a symbol of a safe and reliable journey to and from school. Yet, its safety is not a given; it is a shared responsibility. The Lakeview School District, like all districts in Ohio, operates under strict regulations designed to protect students. However, the most effective safety measure is the active participation of everyone on the road.

For motorists, understanding and obeying Ohio's school bus laws is paramount. When a school bus stops with its red lights flashing and the stop arm extended, all traffic must come to

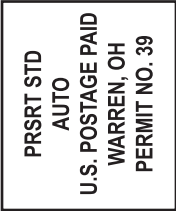
a complete halt. This applies to vehicles approaching from both directions on a two-lane road. On a road with four or more lanes, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. The fine for illegally passing a stopped school bus can be significant, with penalties including a fine of up to \$500 and a possible license suspension.


These laws are not mere suggestions; they are the result of careful consideration for the most vulnerable of our pedestrians—children crossing the street to board or exit the bus.

Students also play a vital role in their own safety. The Lakeview School District's transportation department and drivers are committed to teaching and reinforcing safe practices. Students are instructed to arrive at their bus stop at least five minutes early and to wait a safe distance from the curb. When the bus arrives, they should wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the door opens before approaching.

The most dangerous area for students is the "danger zone"—the ten-foot radius around the bus where the driver may not be able to see them. Students are taught to make eye contact with the driver before crossing and to never try to retrieve a dropped item near the wheels.

Parents and guardians are key partners in this effort. By reviewing safety rules with their children and modeling safe driving habits, they can significantly reduce risk. Dressing children in bright or reflective clothing on dark mornings can also improve visibility for drivers. It is a collective responsibility that extends beyond the bus driver and the student. Every individual on the road, whether in a car or on a bicycle, must remain aware and prepared to stop for the safety of our children. The return to school is a joyous occasion, and by working together, we can ensure that every student's journey is a safe one.





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Fax 330-637-4778

Clerk of Council 330-638-0142

Service Director 330-637-4637

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Police - Business 330-638-1000

Fire - Business 330-637-2891

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month.

Wednesday Sept 3 – 7 PM

[due to Labor Day]

Monday, Sept 15 – 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, Sept 8 - 5:30 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month

Monday, Sept 8 - 7 PM.

Meetings and agenda of Council and

Planning meetings area available at

www.cityofcortland.org

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and Cemetery Sexton 330-637-8816

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Fire Station #11 330-637-4136

3000 Warren Meadville Rd

Non Emergency Calls ... 330-675-2730

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, Sept 9 - 7 PM

A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

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, Sept 22- 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

Carla Kahler 330-856-2356

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) 330-720-9136

Please contact the Cortland News if you

would like your organization listed here.

Our Next Issue September 20, 2025

Our theme will be

Autumn

Article Deadline by Sept 8 • Display Advertising Deadline is Sept 10

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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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.



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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.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 6 Charity Breakfast / Benefitting Four Seasons Garden Club of Cortland Masonic Lodge / 9 – 11:30 AM
- 6 Pool “Pawty” for Dogs / JCC / 9 AM - Noon
- 7 All About the Pawz Dog Rescue Barktoberfest / Paladin Brewing Austintown / Noon – 5 PM
- 7 Family Portrait Session / Event for families with disabilities Fellows Riverside Gardens / Pre-scheduled sessions 12:00 – 3:00 PM
- 10 Mosquito Spraying if appropriate weather conditions
- 10 Cortland United Methodist Church Blood Drive / 12:00-5:30 pm
- 12 Wet T-Shirt Contest / The Local Tap & Grill / 8 PM
- 13 Shred It Day / Cortland Library / 10 AM – Noon
- 13 Community Breakfast Buffet / Cortland United Methodist Church 8:30-10:30 am
- 13 “Bazetta Day” Event / Township Offices on SR 305, near administration building to host fundraising for new playground
- 16 Save The Street Fair Meeting / The Lions Club / 6:30 PM
- 20 God Provides a Meal / Cortland United Methodist Church / 11 - 1 PM
- 20 Charity Pancake Breakfast / Benefitting Mustangs Care / Masonic Lodge 9-11:30 AM
- 22 Brush pick up this week.

Yarn Collection – Scarves of Love

By Constance Amstutz

GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women’s League is collecting yarn to support their annual Scarves of Love project. Every winter with the help of the Loony Loomers, WJWL hangs hats, gloves, scarves, and socks around Warren’s public square. These items are free for those in need and are hung for

easy access.
If you would like to donate, have any yarn taking up space, even partial skeins, please contact Constance Amstutz at 216-403-0633 or gfwcohwjwl@gmail.com to arrange pick up. Thank you for helping us warm the community!

All About The Pawz Barktoberfest Event At Paladin Brewing

By Nate Mazur

All About the Pawz Dog Rescue, a local dog shelter and rescue group based in Youngstown, will be hosting their first ever Barktoberfest event at Paladin Brewing in Austintown, Ohio on Sunday September 7th from 12:00 to 5:00 PM.

Barktoberfest is a family friendly Octoberfest themed event to help raise funds for the dogs at All About the Pawz Dog Rescue. Admission is free.
The event will feature live music by the Rex Tenari Orchestra playing some polka favorites, classics, and festive music. A basket raffle will be held which offers many great prizes and includes a YETI Roadie 32 rolling cooler as the Door Prize! We will also have limited edition Barktoberfest T-shirts for sale. Payments can be accepted via cash or Venmo.

There will be free activities for kids, including a coloring contest, mini-plush dog adoptions, a free kid’s basket raffle, face-painting and a bounce house.

Paladin Brewing will be serving food and a wide variety of cold craft beers, including their delicious Octoberfest brew. Paladin is generously donating \$1 for every beer poured to All About the Pawz, so be sure to stop out and do your part!

Adoptable dogs from All About the Pawz will also be making appearances throughout the day. If you are thinking about adding to your family, this is a great opportunity to come and meet



some great dogs that are looking for their forever homes.
Please stop out and check out our raffle, enjoy a few beers, listen to some great music and meet some amazing dogs. Thank you for supporting All About the Pawz Dog Rescue!
All About the Pawz Dog Rescue is a volunteer ran dog shelter located in Youngstown, committed to rescuing dogs in need and placing them in loving forever homes. All About the Pawz is a nonprofit organization that relies on community support and fundraising to continue our mission of rescuing dogs in need.
If you are interested in joining our organization, we are always looking for reliable volunteers to help care for and walk the dogs. Please contact us on our Facebook page or website at www.allaboutthepawz.com.

Garden Club Holds Pancake Breakfast

By Dick McClain

A fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6th, from 9 am to 11:30 am at Cortland Masonic Lodge located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland.
The public is invited to enjoy the “all you can eat” breakfast and help support the Four Seasons Garden Club of Cortland. They are raising money for their various community projects including the flower barrels on West Main St., the flags on the bridge over Rt. 11, the Christmas wreaths and snowflakes, the flags placed on West Main Street and High Street, and the flowers placed at the city entrance signs and at Willow Park.

The charity pancake breakfasts are held once or twice each month by the Cortland Masonic Lodge, who donate all of the supplies so that 100% of the proceeds can be provided to a local charity. Since the pancake breakfasts were initiated about 5+ years ago, the lodge has donated over \$100,000 to community groups and local organizations. A basket raffle and 50/50 drawing will also be available.
The breakfast cost is \$9.00 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.

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Building Something Special In Mecca

Editor’s Note: Wenona and Dan Slusher recently purchased a bar at 2242 Greenville Rd on the East side of the Mosquito Causeway. They renamed it “The Local Tap & Grill” and that is what you will find there. A warm family atmosphere with good food during the day and a friendly place for adults to hang out at night. We encourage you to stop in and give them a try. ALWAYS shop local first!

By Wenona & Dan Slusher

Owning a bar has been a dream of ours for years, but nothing could have prepared me for the moment it truly came to life. Dan and I recently hosted a meet and greet and over 500 people came through our doors. The energy, the laughter, the conversations – it was unforgettable.

I can’t begin to explain how much it means to have the support of this community. From the first friendly smile to the last goodbye that night, I was reminded why we’re here: to create a place where everyone feels welcome. And this is just the beginning. We’re in the process of upgrading our kitchen so we can serve an even bigger menu with more of the food you love. We’ve got exciting events on the horizon and whether you’re stopping in for a quick drink, bringing the family for dinner, or joining us for a big night out, there’s always a place for you here.

From both Dan and me, thank you for making our dream your hangout spot. We can’t wait to see you again soon. Here’s to great food, great friends and a future we’re excited to share with all of you.

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Mark Thomas Ford Annual Car Show

Mark Thomas Ford recently held their 3rd annual classic Car Show. A consistent crowd viewed over 50 cars throughout the day. The fun family event included delicious food by the popular Ocean Breeze concession trailer and live music. Pictured here are the Jablonski brothers showing off their custom Ford Mustangs. Rick is by his green 2013 Mustang. Brother Ed is with his orange 2008 which is one of only 250 made. For your next car, be sure to see the people at Mark Thomas Ford.





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The Trumbull County Democratic Party registered new voters at the Warren Italian American festival. Information was provided on the upcoming General Election races for municipal, township and school board. Vote by mail applications were available. Be sure to VOTE this year. Trumbull County Democratic Party officers pictured (L-R) Cathy Phifer, Secretary/Treasurer and Kathy DiCristofaro, Vice Chair and Political Director.





What's "news" in the City of Cortland

Just The Facts

Which of the following facts are not true of Labor Day?

- a. Ohio was the first state to recognize Labor Day as a holiday.
- b. It is considered the unofficial end of summer.
- c. It is a traditional fashion rule not to wear white after it.
- d. The lily of the valley is the flower known to represent Labor Day.

Find the answer at the bottom of the article.

City Offices

will be closed Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day. Water/sewer bills can be placed in the secure drop box next to the front door.

Fall Clean Up

Republic Services has scheduled this year's Fall Clean Up for October 2nd and 3rd. Items will be picked up with your regular trash.

Brush Pick Up

The next brush chipping will be the week of September 22nd. Please follow the rules and regulations that can be found on our website - cityofcortland.org. Only 1 pass per street will be made and nothing larger than 3" in diameter will be chipped. Put your brush out the Sunday before to ensure pick up. If the brush is too large, not root-free, or does not fit within our regulations, it will be tagged. The tag will state the reason for the non-pickup.

Zoning Permits

If you have an outside project scheduled, please know that you may need a zoning

permit from the City of Cortland before your project begins. Visit our website for all zoning applications and find the answers to your questions. Zoning permits are required for the following: new home, home addition, garage, shed, pool, deck, porch, patio, fence & sign. There is no permit required for - driveways, or shingle and/or siding replacement. If your project is not listed above, please call the city and we will advise you if a permit is required.

In addition to a zoning permit, please visit the Trumbull County Building Department website at buildinginspection.co.trumbull.oh.us or call them at 330-675-2467 for a list of permits that they require.

Mosquito Fogging

The next scheduled evening for mosquito fogging is September 10th. If the appropriate weather conditions are not present, it will be rescheduled.

Dates to Remember

Sept. 1 - Administration Offices closed - Water/sewer bills may be placed in the secure drop box next to the front door.

- Sept. 3 - City Council - 7 p.m.
- Sept. 8 - Parks Board - 5:30 pm
- Sept. 8 - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.

Answer

a. Ohio was the first state to recognize it as a holiday is False. Oregon was the first state to recognize Labor Day as a holiday, in 1887. The first Labor Day was celebrated however on September 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union.

World Rabies Day

By Soraya Hejazi

This year marks the World Health Organization's (WHO) 19th World Rabies Day, a global initiative aimed at raising awareness and accelerating efforts towards elimination of the world's most fatal disease. Tails of Hope, the first and only non-profit Spay/Neuter clinic in Mercer County, PA, located in Hermitage, is sharing this year's theme "Act Now: You, Me, Community" as a call to action for our community to make a difference in the fight against this deadly disease.

Whether you are an individual, part of an organization, or a decision-maker, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control says the time to act is today.

- You - Take action in your personal life: vaccinate your cats and dogs, educate yourself about how to prevent rabies and Pre- and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, share messages on social media, talk to local leaders, or advocate for better policies.

- Me - Lead by example: inspire others, train professionals, donate to this program at Tails of Hope or otherwise support rabies elimination efforts in your community.

- Community - Work together: sponsor a vaccination program at Tails of Hope, organize and help educate learners and their families, and push for stronger rabies elimination programs.

Free Rabies Vaccine Clinic at Tails of Hope In honor of World Rabies Day, Tails of Hope joins the global rally locally to take action and pave the way for a world free from this preventable disease. Serving our community, and in alignment with Tails of Hope's belief

that essential, life-saving vaccines should be made available and affordable to everyone, Tails of Hope is offering free Rabies Vaccines for cats and dogs, by appointment only, during the month of September. Clients at Rabies vaccine appointments will only pay a \$10 Tech Fee per animal.

Don't delay-make an appointment today! Limited appointments available. Contact Tails of Hope at 724-346-4673 for more information and to schedule your pet's free Rabies Vaccine!

About World Rabies Day World Rabies Day was established by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and takes place every September 28, which is the anniversary of the death of Louis Pasteur, who developed the first rabies vaccine and laid the foundations for rabies prevention as we know it.

About Rabies Protecting pets against rabies helps protect you and your family, too.

- Rabies is a zoonotic disease, which means it can be transmitted from animal to human through a bite.

- 22 million people are exposed annually to Rabies.

- 95% of Rabies exposures in people are from dogs.

- Rabies is endemic on several continents, and it is estimated that every year around 59,000 people in the world die from it - over one person every ten minutes, with around half of the victims being children younger than 15 years old.

- Rabies has a 100% fatality rate.
- Rabies is 100% preventable by vaccination.

Agostino Ragozzino Sworn In As Trumbull County Treasurer

The honorable Judge Robert Patton presided over the swearing in of Agostino Ragozzino, Trumbull County Treasurer. Afterwards The Trumbull County Republican Women's Club along with TC-GOP participated in the celebration at Greene Eagle Winery

in Cortland. Our TCRWC meeting/ luncheon is coming soon, Thursday September 4th. Please contact Lori Hineman for reservations 330-442-7568. Visit our official Facebook page Trumbull County Republican Women's Club for upcoming events

Imagination Station To Be Demolished

After 30 years, Imagination Station in Bazetta Township Park is closing on September 8. It will be torn down and a new playground will be built for next year. The Township hosted a farewell event on August 23. The new playground will be handicapped accessible and will open in the Spring of 2026.

According to trustee Chairman Mike Hovis the township has secured \$300,000 in state funds for the new playground. He said prior trustees did whatever a wonderful job over the years to make improvements to Imagination Station and extend its life from. It was designed to last 25 years.

"It was only designed for 25 years, but with maintenance and improvements its usage was able to be extended for five more years," Hovis said. The township has hired Snyder



Saidrea Crites, William Eisen and her son, Milo Pratt, enjoying one last visit to Imagination Station.

Recreation Inc. of North Royalton to construct the new playground. They did the playground at Mosquito Lake State Park.

A "Bazetta Day" event is scheduled for Sept. 13 on SR 305, by the township administration building to host fundraising for improvements at the park.

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Maurus Malvasi Appointed To Fill Girard Law Director Vacancy

By Kathy DiCristofaro

The Trumbull County Democratic Party held a meeting to fill the vacancy of the Girard Law Director. The Girard Central Committee voting members appointed Maurus Malvasi to serve the remainder of the unexpired term of Brian Kren, who resigned from the position.

In addition to filling the remainder of the current term, Attorney Malvasi will also be running for the next term in the General Election.



Chairman Mark Alberini, Atty. Malvasi, Vice Chair Kathy DiCristofaro, Secretary Cathy Phifer.

Helping Hands Want To Save The Street Fair

By Constance Amstutz

As our community is aware, the Cortland Lions Club has expressed concerns regarding the viability of the Cortland Street Fair. An aging Club and dwindling membership have raised concerns and when expressed to the community a public meeting was presented to see if a resolution could be reached. What warmed the hearts of many was the number of community members who showed up to voice their desires to keep the Street Fair alive and thriving.

Street Fair Chairman Basil Jarrett and Lions Club President Dawna Wiland led the conversation at the community

meeting held on August 6th. The need for volunteers to not only plan but also participate by volunteering during the Street Fair is on the top of the needs list. Those in attendance expressed the desire to put "all hands-on deck" to keep the Street Fair going.

A collaborative next step meeting is planned for September 16th @ 630pm at the Lions Club Pavilion. During the meeting, more in-depth details will be presented regarding requirements and time commitments. If you have an interest of saving the Street Fair and want to see it continue please attend the next meeting.



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Trumbull County Young Republicans Club started August hosting a fund raiser at Kyle Pavilion at Harding Park in Hubbard. Mission BBQ sandwiches, baked beans, snacks and desserts were served. Pictured are Mike Rendziniak, President Trumbull County Young Republicans Club, Betzy Peacock, TCRWC Publicity, Judie Shortreed, TCRWC President, Dave Thomas, Ohio 65th District State Representative, Andrew King, Ohio 5th District Court of Appeals Judge.

Monarch Butterfly Presentation For GSA Gold Award

By Rayna Lambert

Editors Note: On August 12 several school children and adults gathered at the Bristolville Library to watch an interesting presentation about Monarch Butterflies. Girl Scout Rayna Lambert was doing the presentation as part of her Gold Award qualifications. The 18-year-old has been studying, raising and sharing knowledge about Monarchs since she was 6 years old.

She has made presentations to everyone from small children to adults to government officials informing them of the value and plight of the Monarchs and what they can do to help this endangered species.

As someone who raises Monarchs myself, I was excited to listen and learn from Rayna. I was not disappointed! While the presentation was designed for young children, she kept everyone in the room involved and focused on learning. With the confidence of any expert, she told us why it was important to help save Monarchs, their history, predators, migration patterns and life cycles. She had crafts and coloring for the children to help learn. Rayna has written and illustrated a children's book titled Mission: Monarch about the Monarch. It will be available at Barnes & Noble in September.

This is her story of the presentation:



The Monarch butterfly is a remarkable insect that has been near and dear to my heart for many years. It all began when I was five years old, and I watched a monarch butterfly emerge from its chrysalis. Since that day, I have been advocating for conservation and striving to help protect this incredible insect.

The monarch is one of 71 known migratory insects here in North America. They are also well-known pollinators. Many are familiar with the monarch butterfly, because of its iconic orange and black pattern and impressive 3,000-mile migratory journey to Mexico.

But, that isn't the only interesting thing about the monarch butterfly. Their larvae survive on one host plant: milkweed. Milkweed is toxic, and by ingesting the cardenolides within the plant as they feed, the monarch caterpillar builds up a natural defense against predators, making them toxic to other organisms.

Monarch numbers have been declining for decades. However, this past winter, the overwintering monarch population was recorded at 9,119 (according to Monarch Joint Venture).

Continued on page 9

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Why Labor Day Matters

In my life, I have been a pastor, teacher, stage manager, library aide, barista, and retail associate, and have also been paid to mow lawns. I have done work of many kinds and have been honored and well-paid for some of it, though not all of it. But as someone who has held many jobs through the years, I can appreciate the importance of the wide variety of work that people do and have done.

Which is why Labor Day matters.

Some treat this holiday as the unofficial end of summer, using it to take one last day off before returning to work or school. But Labor Day is more than a bookend to a season of vacations. It is supposed to be a reminder of our past, and an opportunity to ponder our reality.

Labor Day began as a celebration of the labor movement and their success in addressing and correcting the harsh or dangerous working conditions that had become commonplace in many industries. It was a celebration of unions and organized labor who were able to band together to demand living wages and benefits. And it was a celebration of the American workers, the people

without whom America’s economic success would not have happened.

Labor Day as a holiday is important because hard working people deserve not just a day off, but a day to be honored and celebrated. There are a few categories of workers we notice easily – first responders, retail cashiers, and construction workers along the road, to name a few – but a large percentage of working people go unacknowledged on a regular basis because most of us cannot see them working. And yet, our society depends on their labor.

As we were reminded five years ago, there are a lot of people whose everyday work is essential. Perhaps that describes a job you do or once did. Think for a moment: how does your work (past and present) impact others? And how many people do work that impacts or supports you? All the work each of us does and has done is connected and important, and we, with all other workers, deserve to be celebrated.

So don’t just take Labor Day as a day off; take it as a holiday to remember the work you do, the work others do, and the work that countless others have done and will do, and celebrate with them.

A Comic Outline . . . Hiking The Roads

By Rev. Dr. David Gilbert, Cortland Christian Church

When Christmas time approaches the members of my family do not have a hard time deciding what kind of Christmas gift to give me. They say, “Give him a book. That will please him.” They know me well. One of life’s greatest pleasures to me is reading a good book, especially a good biography. As I have read about famous men and women through the years, I’ve been struck by the fact that so many of them were avid walkers. Their lives testify to the salutary effect walking had on them. If, like me, you are not a terribly coordinated walker, you probably can identify with Abraham Lincoln. Although he was a persistent walker everywhere he lived, making daily walks his habit, he often evoked a chuckle when people saw him stride by. Biographer Carl Sandburg described him as “a comic outline against the sky he was, hiking along the roads.”

His close friend and law partner in Springfield, Illinois, William Herndon, said this of Lincoln’s walking style: “When he walked he moved cautiously but firmly; his arms and giant hands swung down by his side. He walked with an even tread, the inner sides of his feet being parallel. He put the whole foot flat down on the ground at once, not rising from the toe, and hence he

had no spring to his step. The whole man, body and soul, worked slowly, as if he needed oiling.”

Nevertheless, near the close of the Civil War, in April, 1865, Lincoln led a walk of reconciliation through the streets of Richmond, Virginia and no one laughed. Probably no other walk revealed the character of the president more than that symbolic walk through Richmond. Sandburg provides the details:

“Jefferson Davis had already left the city, but many people remained in the city who were still hostile toward Lincoln. Instead of riding triumphantly through the fallen Southern capitol on a horse or in a carriage, Lincoln chose to walk the two miles from the dock into the heart of the city. He had with him his son and twelve sailors. He did not wait for the army officers who were supposed to guard him as he entered this hostile city. It was a quiet, solemn procession and he walked fearlessly as an astonished crowd lined the streets.”

Job 23:10 says “But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come out like gold.” Lincoln faced many tests in his lifetime. Throughout the bloody struggle of the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, he persisted in his regular practice of walking about Washington, D.C., notably when he faced crucial decisions. He would frequently escape the watch of those pledged to protect him and meander around the capital unarmed and seemingly afraid of no one. Although Lincoln’s choice in Richmond that day in April 1865 might have been considered fantastically foolish by many people, his symbolic march revealed his inner spirit as perhaps nothing else could or ever would. He had no bitterness in his heart. His slow, solemn two-mile walk through Richmond showed how he truly felt about the South’s people.

Lincoln “walked the talk.” Where did he get the spirit of compassion and forgiveness that enabled him to walk through the hostile streets of Richmond? More to the point, what resources do we need when walking towards people who have hurt or wronged us? If memory serves me correctly, Jesus had something particularly significant and on point to say about forgiving our enemies.

Church News And Notes

Cortland United Methodist -

Blood drive Sept 10 12 -5:30 pm.

Community Breakfast Buffet Sept 13, 8:30-10:30 am all are welcome to join us! Donations only to benefit the Epilepsy & Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundations. Presented by Men of Cortland United Methodist Church

Menu: eggs, pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham, potatoes, biscuits & gravy, coffee, tea, and juice. * God Provides A Meal Sept 20 11:00 am-1:00 pm Menu: meatball sub, tater tots, veggies with ranch dressing, dessert & beverage. Donations accepted but are not required.

Trinity Lutheran Church -

Katharina’s Closet Sept drop off is Sept 8. If you would like to drop off donations please call. Do not leave donations on the narthex porch or by the parking lot entrance. The next distribution is Thursday November 20.

Donation Drive and Fundraiser Baby Shower in the style of a poor-man’s soup dinner, Sunday, September 28 at 12:30 pm. ice. Bring a donation of diapers, wipes, baby clothes, or a monetary donation to help fill Katharina’s Closet and enjoy some soup to eat in or take-home.

Bible Studies Join us as we dive into God’s Word on Sunday at 9 am. Wednesday at 5:30 pm. We are studying Angels and Demons.

Sunday School at 9 am for 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.

Join us for our Rally Day celebration on September 7th for a devotion, meal and fellowship.

Hymn Sing we invite you to join us Saturday September 20 from 5:30 pm-8 pm for our Hymn Sing and Oktoberfest themed potluck. If you are able to bring a favorite food to share that is great, if not please still come and enjoy a wonderful meal and hymn sing.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402 or pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com

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USDA Conducting Vaccine Drops To Combat Wildlife Rabies

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health and several local county health departments in Ohio, will begin distributing oral rabies vaccine (ORV) baits for wildlife in parts of eastern Ohio and surrounding states. ORV baits have been distributed in Ohio through aerial drops and by hand since 1997 in partnership with state and local public health agencies and others as part of the USDA National Rabies Management Program. This effort seeks to prevent the westward movement of the rabies virus most often spread by raccoons by creating a barrier along the Appalachian Mountains from the Canadian border to Alabama.

ORV baits will be distributed using fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters, or from vehicles on the ground. The project based out of North Lima, OH, will take place through September 9th. ORV baiting in Ohio began on August 18, when helicopters dispersed baits in urban and suburban areas such as Ashtabula, Belle Vista, Boardman, Campbell, Canfield, Cortland, Girard, Lordstown, Mahoning, Salem, Warren and Youngstown. Beginning August 25th, USDA staff distributed baits by vehicle in several towns.

From approximately September 4-9th, baits will be distributed by fixed-wing airplanes in rural areas of eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, including large portions of Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull counties. Approximately 474,000 baits will be distributed in Ohio alone.

The vaccine distribution campaign in Ohio will use an ORV bait called ONRAB. The vaccine, which is contained in a blister pack, is covered in a waxy green coating that has a sugar-vanilla smell. The odor attracts targeted wild animals, such as raccoons, who eat the baits and are then vaccinated against rabies. ONRAB has been safely distributed in parts of Ohio since 2012



as part of an ongoing field evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the ORV bait in raccoons and skunks. The vaccine baits have been proven safe in many species of animals, including domestic dogs and cats. Humans and pets cannot get rabies from contact with the baits. If found, leave the baits undisturbed. If a person has contact with a bait, immediately rinse the contact area with warm water and soap. Do not attempt to remove a bait from an animal's mouth, as you could be bitten. Ingesting the bait will not harm your pet. If your pet has eaten several baits, the pet may experience vomiting or diarrhea that is self-limiting.

Rabies is caused by a virus that infects the central nervous system in mammals and represents a serious public health concern. If exposures to the virus are not treated it is almost always fatal. Costs associated with detection, prevention and control of rabies may exceed \$500 million annually in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 90 percent of reported rabies cases in the U.S. are in wildlife. People are urged not to contact or feed wildlife and to keep pet rabies vaccinations current.

Monarch Butterfly...continued from page 7

That statistic is more than alarming. For my Girl Scout Gold Award, I decided to combine my passion for writing and conservation, and I wrote and illustrated a children's picture book on monarch butterflies titled Mission: Monarch. As another component of my Gold Award, I also hosted a series of two presentations. Monarchs on the Move was hosted at the James H. Barrow Field Station on August 9th, and at the Bristol Public Library on August 12th. The presentations were focused on children, but adults were welcome to attend! A reading of my book was featured at these programs, but I also provided information on the monarch butterfly life cycle, threats to their survival, and what people can do to help them thrive again. There were live monarch caterpillars, chrysalides, and butterflies for program participants to view, along with some specimens to study other insects that inhabit milkweed plants. To help the monarch butterflies, you can do a number of things! You can plant a pollinator garden, limit your use of insecticides and herbicides, reduce the frequency that you mow fields, and most importantly, plant milkweed! I was thrilled to have such wonderful participation at my programs. Those who attended asked many thoughtful questions and were eager to learn more about these remarkable pollinators and what makes them truly special.



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Lakeview School News

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Lakeview Hall Of Fame Spotlight

By Michael DeToro

Editor's Note: The Lakeview School District is inducting 9 new members for 2025 on Saturday, September 13.

1990's Track Boosters Contributors

The Lakeview High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce the induction of the 1990's Track and Field Booster Club as part of the Class of 2025. This dedicated group was the driving force behind the county's first eight-lane, all-weather track and provided nearly three decades of unwavering support through hosting prestigious meets, upgrading facilities, and advocating for student-athletes.

In a similar manner to the "if you build it, they will come" spirit popularized by Field of Dreams, a group of parents and boosters saw Lakeview as the perfect home for a state-of-the-art track and field facility. In the early 1990's, such tracks were rare in the Mahoning Valley, and none existed in Trumbull County. Running large-scale meets on a cinder track with chalked lane lines was challenging, but this group saw an opportunity to create something better.

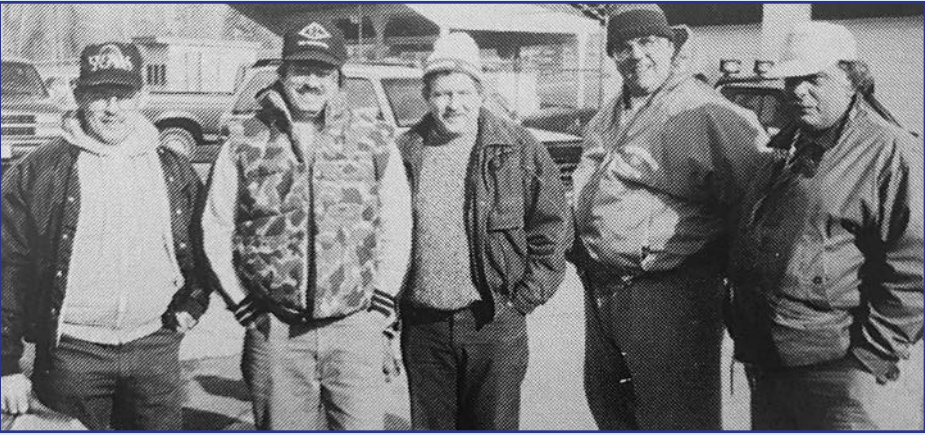
With the support of school administration and the Board of Education, community members—including families such as Dillon,

Snodgrass, Stockton, Lewis, Scherer, Guesman, Bristol and Gibson—launched a multi-year fundraising campaign. Creative efforts like aluminum can recycling drives, which generated thousands of dollars, and the Labor Day Ducky Race, which became a community tradition, brought the vision closer to reality. Ground was broken in the summer of 1993, and by spring 1994, Lakeview athletes were competing on their new track.

For nearly 30 years, the Lakeview Track Boosters not only hosted track events but also maintained and upgraded the facilities. Many members served as certified OHSA track officials, allowing them to both run and officiate meets.

Thanks to their dedication, nearly every major track event Lakeview athletes participated in during that era could be held at home, something few schools could boast.

The 1990's Track and Field Booster Club's vision and commitment transformed Lakeview athletics and created a lasting legacy for generations of student-athletes.



Diane Neighbarger Class Of 2025

The Lakeview High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is proud to announce that Diane Neighbarger, a longtime teacher and coach, will be inducted as a member of the 2025 class. For more than 35 years, Diane Neighbarger's legacy at Lakeview High School is one built on dedication, leadership, and decades of success in multiple sports.

A 1970 graduate of Mt. Vernon High School in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Diane went on to Ashland University, where she was an immediate starter in both women's basketball and softball. She graduated in 1974 with majors in Physical Education (K-12), Health Education (7-12), and Adapted Physical Education (7-12).

That same year, Diane joined the Lakeview staff as a physical education teacher, as well as head coach for girls basketball and track and field. Over ten seasons as the Bulldogs' basketball coach (1974-1979, 1984-1989), her teams compiled an impressive 138-65 record, winning two district championships, three league titles, and earning her "Coach of the Year" honors three times. Between those stints, she coached the women's basketball team at Kent State Trumbull (1979-1982), leading them to the Ohio Regional Campus State Tournament championship and earning a place on KSUTC's "Wall of Fame" for coaching.

In 1992, Diane stepped in to coach JV girls soccer, guiding the team to an undefeated season. Every player learned every position, and every player scored at least one goal, an accomplishment she still recalls with pride.

Her coaching résumé also includes five seasons as Lakeview's cross country coach (2004-2009), during which the Bulldogs won four

league championships, one county title, and qualified for regionals in three seasons.

But it was in track and field where Diane left perhaps her greatest mark. Over 33 seasons as head coach, her teams won 17 league championships, six county championships, and six district championships.

Many of her athletes set school records, qualified for the state meet, and earned podium finishes, among them Robin Hartman, the 1975 80-yard hurdle state champion, and Kristen Best, who placed in the 100m hurdles for four consecutive years (1983-1986), including a runner-up finish.

In 2008, Diane was honored by the Ohio High School Athletic Association with the "Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award" for girls track and field.

Diane has been married to her husband, Tom, since 1974. They have two daughters, Heather and Heidi, and four grandsons, Logan, Austin, Ethan, and Owen





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50th Reunion For LHS Class Of 1975

By Chris Brown

The Lakeview High School class of 1975, 50th class reunion will be held on Sept 20, 2025 at 3 pm. It will be at the SLOAS Airport Museum at 4059 North River Road, Warren. Jim Whetstone will be hosting the event. The 50th reunion will be a fun, casual event with corn hole and lots of catching up and conversation. Bring your own beverage of choice.

RSVP to Jan Williams Onatz at Kejajo@aol.com with your name. Please include the name of your plus one guest if you plan to bring a guest. We need to gather a head count.

See You There!



Once A Bulldog, Always A Bulldog!

A special surprise arrived for LHS Chemistry teacher Mr. Josh Murphy ... a thoughtful photo banner from recent alumni to hang in his classroom! This gift is a wonderful reminder of the lasting bonds between our students and staff, and the impact our teachers have long after graduation.

We absolutely love our alumni and the way they continue to give back, inspire, and stay connected to Lakeview.

Autism Society Provides Teachers With Classroom Grants

The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley is thrilled to announce the winners of our 2025 Autism Teacher Mini-Grant Program. This year, we selected three winners from more than 30 applicants to award \$1000 to dedicated special education teachers across Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties. Sponsored by Goulish-Kosco Insurance Agency, these grants aim to support educators in expanding resources and enhancing classroom experiences.

Here are the 2025 winners and their projects that the Autism Society will help to start or support.

• 1st Place receiving a grant of \$500 - Andrea Wasko, East Liverpool City Schools - Westgate Middle School. The grant will be used to create a greenhouse. This will help meet the needs of our students with Autism by teaching them independence, life skills, and socialization.

• 2nd Place receiving a grant of \$300 - Christy Pepperney, South Range Local School District - South Range High School. She will use the funds to create a calming, hands-on art corner that meets students' interests in a sensory-friendly way, turning passions into professions.

• 3rd Place receiving a grant of \$200 - Donna Stewart, Columbiana County Educational Opportunity School. She will create a drink and cookie stand so that they can practice life skills, such as interacting with older peers, managing money, and running a business.

"We appreciate all the hard work that special needs teachers provide every day and with these grants, we hope other teachers get ideas for new projects for their classrooms too," stated Dr. Laura McBride, ASMV Board Member and Committee Chair.

The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley revived this project in 2017 to show appreciation and support for the great teachers in the Valley who help children and teens on the autism spectrum. The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley Board, a group of community members and parents, reviewed the applications and selected the winners. The group hopes to

continue to make it an annual project.

The Mahoning Valley chapter of the Autism Society of America was founded by local families in 1989 to support families in Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties. Their mission is to create connections and empower everyone in the Autism community with the resources needed to live fully. For additional information on ASMV, please visit www.autismmv.org.



Bryan Kosco, Dianne Kosco of Goulish-Kosco Insurance Agency (sponsor of the 2025 Autism Teacher Mini-Grant Program); Dr. Laura McBride, Autism Society Mahoning Valley Board Member and Grant Committee Chair; Christy Pepperney, 2nd Place Grant Recipient; and Andrea Wasko, 1st Place Grant Recipient.



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A PATTERN OF CORRUPTION AS DETAILED IN THE CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MONDAY AUGUST 18, 2025 AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTES. *Below are summaries of what was presented.*

January 22, 2025; Mayor Petrosky presented Ordinance O-04-2025 to Council, in Emergency naturally, hiring Sean Ratican to serve as interim service director as an “Independent Contractor” for almost 5 months or until a permanent service director could be hired. Ratican will work “in office and remotely” and be paid \$8,668 monthly, equivalent to an annual fee of \$104,016..... There is NO mention in the ordinance of full-time, part-time, no-time or any-time. Our previous service director was paid \$70,000 plus benefits and worked every day in the city building. Why council would approve an equivalent \$30,000/yr increase to a contractor, to work primarily remotely, whatever that means, is beyond comprehension.

May 19, 2025; Ordinance O-26-25 is presented to Council..... again IN Emergency, hiring Sean Ratican as the City’s Service Director.....continuing as an Independent Contractor who will work in City Hall and Remotely and be paid \$9,580 monthly, or an equivalent \$114,960 annually. That’s \$45,000 more than the previous Service Director.....But it doesn’t include benefits as the Mayor argued last meeting! Contractors DON’T get benefits and you don’t reimburse a contractor for the benefits he would receive if he were actually an employee! Additionally this Ordinance specifically states that Ratican comes to the City with a “certain set of skills that will allow him to continue operating the Service Department.”

Niles has an experienced degree’d engineer as their Service Director. He runs three municipal utilities in a city of 18,000 people. His salary is approximately \$90,000.

Council Votes Down this Ordinance, O-26-25. But yet as we stand here today and as was discussed in great length last meeting, Ratican is still the Interim Service Director and was stated several times his current contract ends August 31. So then I started to think and asked some questions and I couldn’t find another Ordinance let alone one voted on by Council that currently supports Ratican’s current status with the City as “Interim Service Director.”

So, how did we get here? To understand what is going on currently its important to understand how we got here and to do that we actually have to go back a few years to when Jeffrey Jing was hired by the City as a part-time seasonal employee. May 2022; Jing was hired under Ordinance O-09-2022 for seasonal part-time employees at a rate of \$9.30/hr.

September 6, 2022; 4 months later, Council approves Ordinance O-45-22 continuing Jings employment under a newly created position called “Special Projects Coordinator” at a rate of \$15.30/hr., 30hrs/week for one year. That’s approximately a \$24,000 contract. Though I couldn’t find any Resolution that actually established this position within the City. Despite that, it was presented as a position that had potential to be beneficial to the City. During this time, I understand that Jing is going to school at Kent State, where he meets Sean Ratican, a professor teaching one of Jings classes.

April 3, 2023; a handful of months after Jing is hired into a special position, which included a \$6.00 pay raise, Council is presented with Ordinance O-14-23, in Emergency again, which authorized the Mayor to enter an agreement with Lake Shore Strategic Consulting, LLC to review and amend and update the City’s zoning ordinances and to provide Economic Development assistance. This contract is for \$40,000.....to review zoning ordinances.

Lake Shore Strategic Consulting came into existence February 8, 2023, just 2 months prior to Ordinance O-14-23. Prior to that there was NO Lake Shore Consulting. Lake Shore Consulting is Sean Ratican. Ratican and Lake Shore are one in the same.

August 21, 2023; Move forward one year from Jings last contract which is due to expire on August 31, and on August 21, 2023, Council is presented with Ordinance O-44-23, presented as an Emergency and extending Jings employment for an additional 4 months thru the end of the year, now at a rate of \$15.77/hr at 30hrs/week. Jing gets a .47 cent raise. Total cost of this contract now is \$7600.

January 2, 2024; As that contract expires, January 2, 2024, Council passes Ordinance O-64-2023, which again extends Jings employment contract for another 4 months. This still at a rate of \$15.77/hr, 30hrs/week. This contract now gives Jing an extra \$40/month for his use of his cell phone. It’s important to note that with all these contracts, Jing was allowed to work both in the office AND remotely. Sound familiar?

In early January 2024, someone...Mayor, Council, Service Director, IDK, were presented with a ‘book’ from Lake Shore Consulting entitled “New Program Development, Rental Occupancy Permit and Vacant Property Registration.” For \$40,000 we got a book that is supposed to implement rental property registration! This has nothing to do with beautification of the downtown? I looked at this book....It’s a whole new section of proposed zoning ordinances, registration and fees for rental properties and vacant land. I threw this book into Chat GPT and asked it some questions.

- First question to Chat GPT; Search the internet to see if this book was copied. Answer: Search results show that there are similar programs in place for the City of Cortland, New York, including rental registration and vacant building ordinance.

- Then I asked Chat GPT; Do the proposed zoning ordinances look copied from anywhere else in Ohio. Answer: Similar cities include Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, North Canton, Youngstown and Columbus.

- Then I aksed; What city does Cortland’s proposed zoning ordinances most closely resemble. Answer: Youngstown in their comprehensive approach to both rental and vacant properties.

All metropolitan cities with rundown neighborhoods and vacant properties.

Now, IDK where this book came from but I do know that a smart consultant can use Chat GPT to come up with book, make blanket changes, create some cover letters, probably in a matter of hours..... We paid \$40,000. This is something everyone has to be aware of when it comes to hiring “Consultants.” February 5, 2024

Council gets Ordinance O-10-24, in Emergency in which the Mayor now wants to enter into another contract with Lake Shore Strategic Consulting, LLC to assist with occupancy permit and vacant lot registration.....“the book.” This Ordinance is for \$47,000.

This ordinance states:
- “Whereas it is in the best interest of the City to continue working with the original consulting firm, and
- Whereas the City chose to work with Lake Shore Strategic Consulting “in what would be described as Phase One.”” Now this is Phase Two.

Was Council mislead on Lake Shores first contract as it was never labeled or described as a Phase One or Two or Three or what the total cost of this project was going to be all going to Lake Shore Strategic Consulting? This looks more like this is one big continuous contract totaling \$87,000 in which the Mayor deceptively broke into pieces without disclosing to Council, or the residents of Cortland what her complete intentions were. Just like Jings continuous 4 month contracts.

May 20, 2024; Now we move to May 20, 2024 just when Jings contract is expiring again and Council once again is presented with another Jing Ordinance, in Emergency, Ordinance O-30-24 in which Jing’s employment is continued for another 4 months, now at a rate of \$18.00/hr plus his \$40 cell phone allowance. That’s now another \$2.23/hr more than the previous contract. The cost of this 4 month contract is now \$8800. This contract expires September 30, 2024.

August 5, 2024; 2 months before Jings most recent 4 month contract expires, Council is presented with Ordinance O-56-24, in Emergency, whereas Special Projects Coordinator Jing suddenly resigns effective August 1, 2024.

On that same day, the very next Ordinance is O-57-24... the immediate previous was O-56-24. This Ordinance, in Emergency again, now is to enter into a contract with Fuji Lee Strategies, LLC for consulting services. And this Ordinance also states “Whereas the Mayor has researched consulting companies and conducted her due diligence in conjunction with professional grant consultants” NO she didn’t. This contract is now for \$2500/mo or \$32,000 PLUS a \$4500 contingency for expenses for the year and is effective August 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2025.....11 months.

Fuji Lee Strategies, LLC is Jeffrey Jing. Jing and Fuji are one in the same. Fuji Lee Strategies, LLC come into existence May 26, 2023, just a few months after Lake Shore Strategic Consultants LLC did.

In the minutes of August 5, 2024, the Mayor states; “I will talk about Ordinance O-56-24 and O-57-24 at the same time. This is repealing Jeffrey’s contract, so he will no longer be an employee of the City of Cortland. The second Ordinance hires him as a consultant. He will continue to do the same things he has been doing for the city but as a consultant rather than an employee.” This is ILLEGAL under federal payroll tax laws. You cannot reclassify an employee as an independent contractor and bypass employment taxes. IRS rigorously seeks out these schemes for audit.

January 22, 2025; Council is presented with Ordinance O-04-25, in Emergency, establishing the position and wage rate for an Interim Service Director. This Ordinance states:

- There is an immediate need to fill the position of Service Director until a full-time Service Director can be found and hired permanently, and
- The Mayor has reviewed and approved the qualifications, and is therefore recommending the services of Sean Ratican, NOT Lake Shore Strategic Consulting, although they are one in the same, to serve as Interim Service Director for approximately 4 months, and
- Ratican comes to the City with a “certain set of skills” that will allow him to operate the Service Department as an “INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, who will report to and consult with the Mayor.

I was obvious from the prior meeting that the Mayor never looked at any qualifications. She never saw his resume. He never gave her one.

Under Federal payroll tax laws, you cannot mis-categorize an ‘employee’ as an independent contractor to avoid various employment taxes. And the heading of this Ordinance sets the tone.....“Establishing the position and wage rate for Interim Service Director.” This isn’t a contract for consulting or independent services as other Ordinances are. This is an Ordinance for an employee we want to pay as an Independent Contractor. This constitutes ‘tax fraud’ and its in black and white.

With this Ordinance which expires on May 30, 2025, Ratican is to be paid \$8,668/mo, equivalent to an annual compensation of \$104,000. The total Ratican will be paid in these 4 ½ months is \$39,000, working in City and Remotely. Ratican will “operate the City’s Service Department with full authority as prescribed in the City’s Charter and Codified Ordinances.” Again this spells out his position is really that of an employee.

May 5, 2025; Council gets Resolution R-21-25 establishing the position of Economic and Community Development Manager” which Council passes.

May 19, 2025; Council now is presented with Ordinance O-26-25 on May 19, 2025 mentioned at the beginning of my statement in which the Mayor wanted to hire Ratican as “Service Director”, but as an Independent Contractor, which is in violation of Federal tax laws, at an annual rate of \$114,960. Kim Blasco, degree’d as an engineer, left being paid approximately \$71,000 plus benefits.

MAYOR PETROSKY –“The resulting search failed and ended up with zero qualified applicants.”

She continues: “Now, according to Section 4.04(f) of our Charter, the authority to appoint and remove department directors lies solely with the Mayor, which is why the legislation says submitted by the Mayor instead of submitted by Council. Here’s the reality. This is the final scheduled meeting before Sean’s contract expires. We are up against a deadline. I will not be presenting any alternative candidates. Sean is the best choice and best value for the city. We are paying him a salary only and not paying him benefits” (Well you’re reimbursing him the cost of benefits because you want to pay him \$50,000 more than Kim was paid.)

“He is also value higher as compared to our previous Service Directors. Again, he is being paid just a salary; he is not costing the city any other benefits.” (You want to give him \$50,000 more than previous Service Directors)

MAYOR PETROSKY – “I want to be clear about what’s at stake. Refusing to confirm this appointment undermines the responsibility I was elected to carry out as Mayor. I will not continue asking for permission to do the job that the people of Cortland elected me to do, to handle the executive and administrative operations of the city. I am not asking for input on this appointment or candidate; this is my decision alone. I am asking you for your confirmation at this point of this appointment, as you are required to do as it is spelled out in the city charter. To me, this is a turning point in our relationship. I would like to continue to work with Council going forward. If Council decides not to move forward with this appointment, I want to be transparent. It will impact how we continue to work together moving forward. My willingness to extend professional courtesy has its limits, and I am going to go so far as to suggest that if Council leaves the city without a city Service Director that would border as malfeasance, or nonfeasance. That’s all I’ve got to say. (So the Mayor literally in black and white threatens Council)

Council fails this Ordinance. And by the way, Council NEVER created the position of “Director of Public Service Independent Contractor” by Resolution.

As the Fuji Lee Strategic contract, ie: Jeffrey Jing, Ordinance O-57-24 dated August 5, 2024 is about to expire on June 30, 2025, Council is presented with Ordinance O-27-25, appointing and setting the wages and benefits and establishing the terms for the Economic and Community Development Manager as created in Resolution R-21-25 and naming Jeffrey Jing to the position to be effective June 1, 2025. But, Jing is still being paid as an independent contractor thru June 30, 2025 as Fuji Lee! Council failed this ordinance at the next meeting on June 2, and good thing because its probably illegal to hire as an employee the same person who is also being paid as an independent contractor.

If this Ordinance would have passed, the Mayor wanted to pay Jing \$28.70/hr plus all the benefits available to a city employee. \$28.70/hr is equivalent to \$60,000 annually plus benefits which results in a total compensation package of about \$100,000.

In just 2 ½ years, Jing or Fuji Lee, whatever’s convenient at the time, has worked his way up the ladder in the Mayors “Administration.”

Starting wage for a police officer is \$25.97.
EMI/Firefighter about \$20.
Clerk of Council, \$26.66
Assistant Finance Director, \$26.66
Administrative Assistant, \$20.46
Utility Administrator, \$23.91
Police/Finance Clerk, \$20.46
Service Department, \$21.00 for laborer
Service Dept. Superintendent, \$28.00

The Mayor wanted Jing to get \$28.70/hr. He is somehow more important than every other general employee in the City!!! In fact, he’s almost as important as the department heads!

June 2, 2025; Council Failed O-27-25 hiring Jing, but they were also informed at the same time, that without Council’s knowledge, the Mayor unilaterally came up with another.... an additional contract for Jing for approximately 15 days for an additional \$3000! This ran concurrent with the existing contract which was expiring June 30. This guy has so many contracts its damn near impossible to keep track of.

So.....why do these two guys want to be independent contractors and not employees? Because its more lucrative for them from a tax standpoint!

- They get to write off a bunch of expenses
- They get to write off their cars
- Maybe they write off their boats as some sort of entertainment
- They write off their mileage expense, cell phone
- The get to write off home office expenses, depreciate their house, write-off utilities
- 20% of their net business income is not taxable for federal purposes
- And up to \$250,000 of business income is not taxable for Ohio tax purposes.
This entire scheme is meant to benefit them....not the City! And the Mayor is the facilitator!

Continued on page 13

Taking Eleanor To The Canfield Fair

By Cait Morgan

Every year, I would take Mom to the Canfield Fair and often we would go to the races. She always had to place her own bets. My job was to keep her supplied with fair food, her very favorite food. By the time the races were done, she would be surrounded by empty bags, dishes, cups, Styrofoam and various sandwich wrappers but the first thing she would say as we were leaving was “Ok! Let’s EAT!!”.

You think it’s expensive to take kids to the Fair? You should have tried taking Eleanor.

She loved the Fair and I loved the Fair and anything we could agree on was a rare and wonderful thing. One year she decided after having a cinnamon roll, Strouss’ malt and funnel cake plus a plethora or lemon shakes it was time for ribs. A sit-down dinner of ribs. Now fair ribs mean one place in particular and it comes complete with a hostess who saw her coming. She hollered “Right in here, Girl Friend! I have you covered!” and proceeded to take her through the line telling all of the servers to “Pile it on for my Girl, here” and they did. I decided not to order anything because there was no way she was going to be able to eat all that. We sat down and she leaned in and said “I think she thinks she know me! She keeps calling me her Girl Friend! I don’t know her, do I?”

I had to walk away for a minute

so she wouldn’t see how hard I was laughing. Meanwhile, she ate every bite. And the minute we were back outside of the tent she looked around, zoned in on a cotton candy vendor and started pulling me down towards it yelling “Over here!! Over here!! Cotton candy!!”.

We also both enjoyed going to the Arts and Crafts and Fine Arts buildings but as she got older and lost her filter I steered clear of them with her after she went into great detail one year about how a certain work of art was not even close to art as it required no concept of structure, form or mixing of color and could have been done by the family dog. Of course she said this to the artist who made it.

I said something about smelling gyros and we beat feet out of there with me giving apologetic looks to the artist who still looked stunned as we exited the building.

Eleanor always had a plan for everything and I developed one that day, keep her mouth full and away from abstract art while at the Fair. It just made it more enjoyable for everyone.



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A PATTERN OF CORRUPTION...Continued from page 12

So. At the last Council meeting, there was a lot of discussion about a contract for Ratican, when does it expire, etc. The Mayor stated his current contract as continuing Interim Service Director now expires August 31. There were a lot of questions about Council renewing it.

There is NO documentation that Council was ever presented with approving any continuation of Ratican’s contract. So how is he now getting paid \$11,660/mo, again equivalent to \$140,000/yr when the ordinance he was originally hired with, the ONLY ordinance he was hired with at a rate of \$8,668 monthly, or equivalent annual rate of \$104,000 expired and nothing else was ever voted on? That’s a \$3000 monthly increase or a \$36,000 annual increase.

Remember back to May 19 when the Mayor stated: “this is a turning point in our relationship. If Council decides not to move forward with this appointment, I want to be transparent. It will impact how we continue to work together moving forward. My willingness to extend professional courtesy has its limits.”

Well she meant it. In fact she planned it! She said the hell with Council, I’m going to do what I want to do! I’m the Mayor!! And she conspired with the Law Director to twist a provision of our purchasing Ordinance in such a way as to justify continuing Ratican’s services with the City, using a “Purchase Order” and calling it an Emergency. So she gives him a \$3000/mo increase from the previous Ordinance, creates a Purchase Order calling it an Emergency and describes it as “continued services as Interim Service Director, June 2 thru August 31, 2025, then lists out an amount of \$5,830 (bi-monthly for 6 payments). And even makes a notation to the Finance Director....“I spoke with Patrick, Follow-up to confirm.” She knows this violates our Charter and undermines Council’s authority to approve or disapprove all expenditures and contracts that exceed \$7500. And this somehow by-passes Council’s knowledge and authority as stated in the City’s Charter and Codified Ordinances.

This is another Contract with Ratican for an additional \$34,980....its’ not 6 separate purchase orders for \$5,830 each! Section 8 of Ordinance O-31-25, Purchasing Procedures states: “If an emergency requires the expenditure of funds exceeding \$7,500, the Mayor shall have the authority to approve such, provided the emergency is of a nature that creates a direct potential threat to the lives and safety of the community.”

So, by some elaborate stretch of the imagination, the Mayor, unilaterally, and with the backing and opinion of the Law Director completely bypasses Council....basically giving them the middle finger and saying The Hell With You. If the Mayor can leverage the Law Director and do something like this.... why do we even need a Council???

Examples of emergency’s are;

- The air conditioning breaks and its 90 degrees
- A water main breaks and threatens flooding homes
- A tornado goes thru and infrastructure is destroyed
- Any ‘common sense’ expenditure that must happen NOW and cannot wait for another meeting of Council.

The lack of an Interim Service Director to continue your projects does not constitute an Emergency that threatens the lives and safety of the community.” By any stretch of the imagination! The Service Department has a Superintendent and has the capability to deal with I’m sure most if not all actual Emergency’s. Its only an emergency because you want it to be and because YOU failed at seeking and presenting a qualified candidate to fill the role of Service Director. You failed at working with Council. By your own words you stated you weren’t going to work with Council any longer if you didn’t get your way. If its an Emergency, You Mayor created it! Council DID NOT deem it to be an emergency as they disagreed with your choice for the position!

And all these Ordinances presented as Emergency’s are for one reason.....to get them passed before Council or the community can have time to ask questions.

Ratican first gets \$8,668/mo. Council turns down an Ordinance paying him \$9,580/mo. So the Mayor goes behind Council’s backs and pays him \$11,660/mo. And on top of it all, his hiring no matter how you want to describe it violates Federal Tax Law!

And to add to this entire convoluted mess, tonight the Mayor has the audacity to submit another Ordinance, O-45-25 to hire Lake Shore Strategic Consulting, LLC, ie: Sean Ratican for \$38,900 to deal with the school building we just purchased of which he was directly involved with presenting the information to Council! If this isn’t insider self-dealing, I don’t know what is!

To date both Jing and Ratican have been paid; 255,000, 85000 to Jing, 170,000 to Ratican, with most of it being in just the past 2 years. Plus the ordinance tonight for another \$40,000.

This is Cronyism. A form of CORRUPTION when someone in government directs money or resources to their friends or close associates.

There isn’t one employee in this City besides Jing and Ratican that want to work with or under the Mayor because of the preferential treatment these two have gotten. Employees have been bullied not to speak up. Employees have been threatened not to come to council meetings. Council has been bullied by the Mayor.

In the Mayors own words she has stated she’s not working with Council any longer. Her recent actions prove it! The facts as laid out exhibit a pattern of Corruption, in which taxpayer funds were directed or steered to friends and associates.

For exact details of what was said, please refer to the City of Cortland’s website to view the video recording of the August 18, 2025 Council meeting.

The aforementioned information was researched compiled and documented by Jerry Bayus of Cortland.

This ad is paid for by Rob Freeman of Cortland, Ohio

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GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women’s League Introduces New Members

By Constance Amstutz

GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women’s League held their Provisional Welcome Tea at the Warren Women’s Club on Sunday, August 3rd welcoming 4 Provisional members. The 2025-2026 Presiding President, Dodie Baritell, and board members coordinated the tea. Provisional members will be part of the club year from September to May learning the purpose, cause and passion of the league while embracing their own philanthropic desires through various projects.



Esther Gartland, Sylia Scott, Ashley Cercone, Lori Stull, Marla Bluedorn, Mandi Kuhn, Stella Kotsatos-Angelo, Pam Vines, Dodie Baritell.





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I want to retire before I'm eligible for Medicare. What are my insurance options?

Depending on the specific situation there are a few options for health insurance if you retire or otherwise lose employer coverage. Employer plans can be continued through COBRA. This is an offer to continue the current employer coverage with the former employee paying the full individual or family premium.

Another option is the healthcare marketplace or exchange that was created through the Affordable Care Act. These plans are commonly referred to as Obamacare Insurance Plans. Insurance companies that offer these plans are required to follow guidelines set by the government. They are "guaranteed issue" and "guaranteed renewable" to anyone that applies during the Open Enrollment Period that runs November 1 - December 15 each year. There are also Special Enrollment Periods available to anyone who experiences specific changes in their personal circumstances throughout the year, such as losing employer coverage. While rates, deductibles, out-of-pocket costs and benefits are set by the insurance company and vary from plan to plan as well as company to company, there is no underwriting, and you cannot be denied coverage or charged a higher premium for a pre-existing condition. The only factors that are allowed to be considered to determine the premium are county of residence, age, gender, and tobacco use. These plans are specific to geographical area. They are not a good option if you are eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or other State Assistance programs or if you have an offer of employer insurance. There can be income tax consequences if you enroll in a marketplace plan and are later found to be eligible for other coverage.

ACA Marketplace plans are categorized into different levels of coverage Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. For the most part, bronze plans will have higher deductibles

and out-of-pocket costs with a lower premium while the platinum plans will have lower deductible and out-of-pocket costs but a higher premium. The silver and gold plans fall in between. There are also "Catastrophic" plans however they are only available to someone under age 30 or individuals 30 and over who qualify for a hardship or affordability exemption.

Part of the ACA legislation provided for a Premium Tax Credit to help individuals pay for a portion of the premium cost. This credit is based on your annual household income as filed on your income tax return at the end of the year. It is important to estimate income as closely as possible to avoid having to repay part of the credit. For example: marketplace plans that start in 2025 will have premium tax credits based on the income you estimate you will make in 2025. When you file your 2025 income tax return in 2026 there will be a form that will need to be completed showing the cost of the insurance and the credit towards that premium throughout the year. You will receive a form 1095-A showing the information needed to complete the tax return. If income is underestimated, you will be responsible for returning a portion of the premium credit as part of your tax return and possibly subject to a penalty depending on the amount of the difference. Likewise, if income is overestimated and you should have received more credit towards your premium those funds will be credited to you on the tax return. Information on these plans can be found at healthcare.gov or through a local insurance agent that is familiar with these types of plans and has completed the training required to assist with the enrollment process.

Zachary Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. He can be reached at 330-720-4815 or Zachary@AWileyInsurance.com.



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INSURANCE ANSWERS

By Amelia Gavolas, Platt Insurance Agency



September is Life Insurance Awareness Month Term vs. Whole Life Insurance

As we enter Life Insurance Awareness Month, there's no better time to pause and ask yourself a vital question: If something happened to me tomorrow, would my family be financially secure?

Life insurance is one of the most important—yet often overlooked—parts of a solid financial plan. It provides a safety net for your loved ones in the event of your death, helping cover major expenses such as funeral costs, outstanding debts, a mortgage, or even college tuition for your children. In short, it buys your family time and financial breathing room when they need it most.

There are two primary types of life insurance: term and whole life.

Term life insurance provides coverage for a set period of time—usually 10, 20, or 30 years—and is often the most affordable option. It's ideal for families who want coverage during their peak earning years or while raising children.

Whole life insurance, on the other hand, provides lifetime coverage and builds cash value over time. This can be

used as a financial asset for future needs like retirement or emergencies. While whole life is typically more expensive, it offers long-term benefits that may align with your financial goals.

So how do you choose? It depends on your stage in life, your family's needs, and your long-term objectives. A young couple just starting out may lean toward term life, while someone building wealth or planning an estate may find whole life more fitting.

The biggest mistake? Waiting. Rates are lower when you're younger and healthier. The longer you wait, the more expensive life insurance becomes—and unexpected health issues can make it harder to qualify at all.

But even if you're older, there are still options. Many companies offer policies designed specifically for seniors or those with health conditions.

Check with your local independent insurance agency, they can help you find the right policy for your stage of life and budget.

This September, take the time to protect what matters most. Your loved ones are worth it.

Mustangs Care Pancake Breakfast

By Jessica Licata

A pancake breakfast is being held at the Cortland Masonic Lodge on Saturday September 20 from 9-11:30AM to benefit the charity Mustangs Care. Tickets are available at the door and pre-sale via the QR code or our Facebook Page. Adult tickets are \$9, children 12 and under are \$6. Children 5 and under eat free.

Mustangs Care was founded in 2018 and provides weekend take home food for all students in need in grades K-12 at Mathews Local School District. Each year approximately 70-80 students are provided with food discretely placed in their back pack or locker every week of the school year. Grades 6-12 at Mathews High School are also given access to a food pantry at the school.

All food is purchased by generous donations from individuals and businesses like you! Mustangs Care is a registered 501c3 non-profit corporation. We at Mustangs Care are so grateful

to all that have donated to us the past seven years and the Cortland Masons for supporting us so that we may help more kids!

Please consider donating. Every cent goes toward the purchase of food for the children. Online donation is available through the QR code or our Facebook page.

Donations can be sent to: Mustangs Care P.O. Box 13 Vienna, OH 44473. We can be contacted at mustangscare@outlook.com



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TCTC Will Continue Policy For Serving Meals To Students

By Morgan Tondo Cretella, TCTC Community Engagement Coordinator

The Trumbull Career & Technical Center will continue to offer its policy for serving meals to children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Schools qualifying to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provide breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge and eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. This new approach reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that students receive nutritious meals.

FREE HEALTH CARE: Families with children eligible for school meals may be eligible for FREE health care coverage through Medicaid and/or Ohio's Healthy Start & Healthy Families programs.

These programs include coverage for doctor visits, immunizations, physicals, prescriptions, dental, vision, mental health, substance abuse and more. Please call 1-800-324-8680 for more information or to request an application. Information can also be found on the web at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/familychild.stm>. Anyone who has an Ohio Medicaid card is already receiving these services. For additional information please contact Jerry Gorgie TCTC, 847-0503, jerry.gorgie@tctchome.com

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA.

The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442
- Email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

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Your Health Savings Account Can Be Integrated Into Your Retirement Planning

When you retire, one of the biggest expenses you may be confronted with on a regular basis is health care. Even if you enroll in Medicare, you may need to pay various medical costs out-of-pocket - and, in general, costs are going up, not down. Fortunately, there are tools that can help make these expenses more manageable, one of which is a Health Savings Account, or HSA. If an HSA is available to you, you may want to explore its potential benefits.

A targeted, tax-advantaged savings tool - HSAs are savings plans associated with high-deductible health insurance policies. Many employers offer policies with HSAs, but if you're retired, an account may be available to you if you purchased individual coverage in the past. Keep in mind that you can participate in an HSA prior to age 65 (the age at which you qualify to enroll in Medicare).

HSAs are funded with pre-tax dollars. For those still working, pre-tax dollars can be funded through payroll deductions, which are made before income tax withholding is calculated on each paycheck. Otherwise, it can be done through tax-deductible contributions. In 2026, you can make a contribution of up to \$4,400 in an HSA for self-only coverage, which is a \$100 increase from the 2025 contribution limit. A family can contribute up to \$8,750 per year, which is a \$200 increase from the 2025 contribution limit.

The power of HSAs is that you may

use the funds to cover qualifying medical expenses today or in the future. When you make a payment from an HSA, funds are withdrawn with no federal taxes due and, in most cases, no state taxes as well (check with your tax advisor to find out what rules apply in your case).

A flexible account for retirees Money in the account can be invested and grow on a tax-deferred basis. Any dollars remaining in your HSA can continue to accumulate in your account and help offset medical expenses in retirement. At that time, you can withdraw dollars from your HSA on a tax-free basis to meet expenses such as:

- Medicare premiums
- Health insurance deductibles
- Dental, vision and hearing care
- A portion of premiums for tax-qualified long-term care insurance
- Other out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Good planning makes a difference While saving in an HSA, you may want to try to retain as many assets as you can in the HSA to take full advantage of it as a retirement savings vehicle. Talk with your financial advisor to learn more about how an HSA can be incorporated into your comprehensive retirement plan.

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Cortland’s Pavlansky Graduates U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Stephen Pavlansky, son of Tom and Kate Pavlansky, of Cortland recently graduated Cum Laude from the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point, NY. Pavlansky earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the U. S. armed forces. He also earned a Merchant Marine officer license, qualifying him to serve as an officer on any ship in the U.S. flag merchant marine. Pavlansky is a graduate of Lakeview High School.

The United States Merchant Marine Academy is one of five U.S. federal service academies. It educates and graduates licensed Merchant Marine officers to serve the nation during peace and war. In addition to the rigorous academic and physical requirements for admission, applicants must be nominated by their Congressman or Senator.

All USMMA graduates incur an obligation to serve the United States. The U.S. Flag Merchant Marine – manned exclusively by American mariners – is essential for securing the country’s commerce in peacetime and delivering warfighters, weapons, and military supplies in times of conflict. The majority of “Kings Pointers” serve for eight years as Navy reservists in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program while working aboard U.S. flag vessels; others will serve on active duty in our nation’s armed forces. Pavlansky will serve on active duty with the US Navy Civil Engineer Corps as an Ensign.

By virtue of their elite training and real-world experience, graduates are ready to go on day one in service of American military strength and



economic power. As part of his four year education, Pavlansky spent one year training as a cadet aboard ocean going vessels. The Academy welcomed Secretary of Transportation Sean P. Duffy as the commencement speaker. Secretary Duffy told the graduates, “The mission you all are about to embark on could not be more important at this very moment when our nation confronts conflict in the Middle East. Whether it’s the Strait of Hormuz or the South China Sea, there are rough waters ahead. You will find yourself in harm’s way. And you do it for your country.” Dedicated during WWII, USMMA has since served the nation in both peace and war. Learn more at www.WeAreTheUSMMA.com For more information about the Academy, visit <https://www.usmma.edu/>.

Trumbull County Breast Cancer Organization To Host Grand Finale Fundraiser At Fairgrounds

By Kelly Weir

A nonprofit organization that helps Trumbull County breast cancer survivors with their medical bills will host a grand finale fundraiser on Sept. 27 to celebrate its 15th – and final – event.

This Means War Against Breast Cancer, an all-volunteer group that has raised more than \$200,000 for breast cancer survivors since 2011, will host the 15th Annual War Against Breast Cancer Raffle-Auction from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds. The event will feature a 300-item basket raffle, a Cow Patty Bingo contest to win up to \$500, live music, princess and superhero character performances, food trucks, a bake sale and free archery. Admission and parking are free.

The event will celebrate the

organization’s past 14 years and serve as a fundraiser to help Stage 3 breast cancer survivor Colleen Case of Niles with her lost wages and outstanding medical expenses related to her aggressive cancer treatments and surgeries.

For more information about Colleen and the event, visit WarAgainstBreastCancer.com or facebook.com/WarAgainstBreastCancer.



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Mosquito Lake Named One Of America’s Top 10 Labor Day Fishing Destinations

FishingBooker, the world’s largest platform for booking fishing trips, has named Mosquito Lake in Trumbull County, Ohio, one of the Top 10 Labor Day Fishing Destinations in the U.S. for 2025.

The ranking puts Mosquito Lake alongside iconic spots like Lake Tahoe, Montauk, and Panama City Beach, shining a national spotlight on Northeast Ohio just in time for the holiday weekend.

Why Mosquito Lake? One of Ohio’s largest reservoirs, Mosquito Lake, is a favorite for largemouth bass, walleye, and crappie fishing, with northern pike occasionally in the mix. Families and casual anglers enjoy the easy access, quiet coves, and reliable action on the water. Beyond fishing, Mosquito Lake State Park offers camping, trails, kayak and boat rentals, and lakeside picnics, making it an all-around outdoor getaway.

FishingBooker’s 10 Best Labor Day Fishing Destinations (2025):

- Mosquito Lake, OH
- Montauk, NY
- Panama City Beach, FL
- Ketchikan, AK
- Orlando, FL
- Lake Texoma, TX
- Lake Tahoe, CA
- Lake of the Woods, MN
- Coeur d’Alene, ID
- Lake Lanier, GA

FishingBooker is the world’s leading platform for booking fishing trips, with 53,000 trips available in more than 2,460 destinations worldwide. Since 2013, FishingBooker has connected anglers of all levels with unforgettable fishing experiences.

Special Needs Family Portrait Opportunity Offered

The Autism Society of Mahoning Valley is excited to announce it is accepting reservations for its 13th annual Family Portrait Session event for families with disabilities. The pre-scheduled sessions will take place on Sunday, September 7 from 12:00 – 3:00 PM at Fellows Riverside Gardens 123 McKinley Ave in Youngstown. Cost is \$20 (to reserve a spot). Space is limited. Pre-registration is required and available online at AutismMV.org on our Family Portraits page.

“The harsh flashing and controlled environment of typical studios, combined with unprepared photographers, is often impossible to overcome. This has made it exceedingly difficult for our families to have a quality family picture taken,” says Ashley Roberts, Autism Society of Mahoning Valley event chair. “We have found that by creating a liberal, open setting, these family mementos can be created and cherished for years to come.”

Participating families will receive a sitting, a best choice 5x7, and an edited professional-level image taken during their session for unrestricted personal use and reproduction, taken by one of three local photographers. For more information call 330-333-9609 or email info@autismmv.org.

LIBRARY NEWS

Cortland Library Events In September

By Apryl Gilliss

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a perfect time to sign up for a library card! This year’s theme, “One Card, Endless Possibilities,” is a reminder of how Warren-Trumbull County Public Library cardholders can borrow books and so much more!

The library’s collection now includes a “library of things.” Library cardholders can borrow items such as crafts, games, technology equipment, and tools for home or vehicle.

The library’s digital resources include electronic media (including hoopla, Kanopy, and the Libby App by Overdrive) and research resources (such as video courses, databases, and foreign language learning).

Visit the Cortland Library for a variety of activities for children, teens, and adults! There is also going to be a Shred It Day between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Sat., Sept. 13 sponsored by the City of Cortland and the Friends of the Cortland Library you will not want to miss!

For a list of events at all W-TCPL locations, visit www.wtcpl.org/events.

Holiday Closing

CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day.

Events at the Cortland Library

578 Lakeview Dr.:

Teen Advisory Board

Tues., Sept. 9 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 collaborate on creative ideas can be part of the Teen Advisory Board! Free.

Friends of the Cortland Library
Quarterly Meeting Wed., Sept. 10 at 1 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 that helps make the Cortland Library great are invited to attend.

Midweek Mayhem

Wednesdays from 3 – 4 p.m.: Sept. 10, 17, 24

Teens ages 12 – 18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library’s weekly teen hangout! Free.

Shred It Day at the Cortland Library

Sat., Sept. 13 between 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Cortland Library, in partnership with the City of Cortland and the Friends of the Cortland Library, will hold a free document shredding event for city residents. This event is for residents only, and documents from businesses and commercial properties will not be permitted. Residents may bring the equivalent of up to four medium-sized boxes (18”x12”x15”) filled with paper for shredding in the library parking lot at no charge. Free.

Toddler Tales

Mondays at 10 a.m.: Sept. 15, 22, 29 A fun and active Storytime for toddlers ages 19 – 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Sept. 16, 23, 30 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.

Trivia Night for Teens

Tues., Sept. 16 from 4 – 5 p.m. Teens ages 12 – 18 can form a team, or play solo to test what they know. Teens can enjoy pizza and win prizes. Free.

Fair Housing with Community Legal Aid

Thurs., Sept. 18 at 12 p.m.

Learn more about the rights and responsibilities of tenants and the basics of Fair Housing Law. This program is supported by a grant through the Trumbull County Planning Commission’s Fair Housing Program. Free.

Family LEGO Night

Thurs., Sept. 18 from 6 – 7 p.m. Practice problem-solving and engineering skills while building with the library’s collection of LEGO building bricks. Finished projects will remain at the library. For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

Only Murders in the Library

Mon., Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. This discussion group focuses on a true crime topic each month. The group will use and share resources such as books, articles, and podcasts before each session.

Totally Tweens

Tues., Sept. 23 from 3 – 4 p.m. Tweens ages 10 – 14 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and activities. Free.

Puzzles and Pizza

Sat., Sept. 27 from 2 – 3 p.m. Kids ages 5 – 12 can assemble jigsaw puzzles, solve word puzzles, and create their own puzzles to take home while enjoying a slice of pizza. Registration is required by Sept. 24. Sign up online at www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

“EPIC: The Musical” Party

Tues., Sept. 30 from 4 – 5 p.m. Teens ages 12 – 18 can enjoy an “EPIC: The Musical” themed party, with music, games, and trivia all inspired by this retelling of Homer’s “Odyssey.” Teens can feel free to dress up as their favorite character. Registration is required by Sept. 27. Sign up online at www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.



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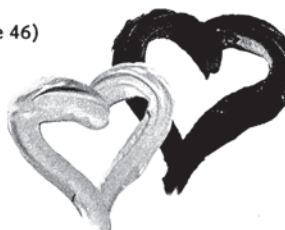
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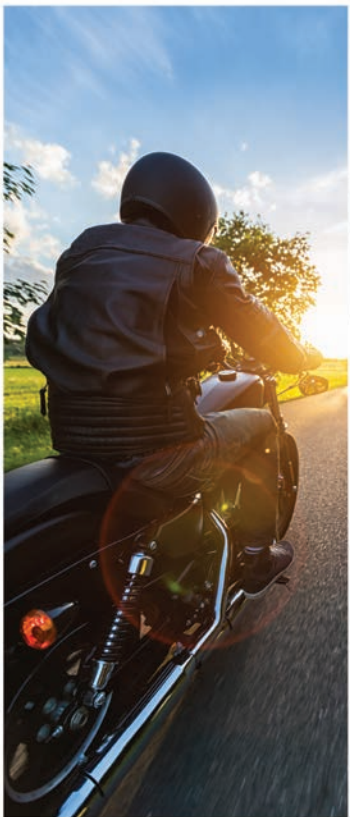
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