

CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 22 No. 6

January 31, 2026

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

The Sweetest Refrain: Why Bacharach's Anthem is the Valentine We Need in 2026

By Alex Irman

The year was 1966. The world was vibrating with the friction of the Cold War, the escalating conflict in Vietnam, and the tectonic shifts of the Civil Rights Movement. Amidst that cacophony, a soft, syncopated waltz began to drift from radio speakers, led by the crystal-clear, sophisticated phrasing of Dionne Warwick.

"What the world needs now is love, sweet love / It's the only thing that there's just too little of."

When Burt Bacharach and Hal David penned those words, they weren't writing a saccharine Valentine's card. They were issuing a plea for survival. Today, sixty years later, as we navigate a global landscape defined by digital tribalism, environmental anxiety and a relentless 24-hour news cycle of discord, that plea has never felt more urgent. This Valentine's Day, we are reminded that love is not just a flurry of red roses and overpriced chocolates—it is the only infrastructure capable of holding a fractured world together.

More Than a Feeling: Love as a Global Imperative - In our modern era, "love" is often dismissed as a "soft" emotion, something secondary to the "hard" realities of economics, politics, and technology. However, if we look through the lens of Bacharach's masterpiece, love is presented as a scarce and vital resource.

The song famously notes that we don't need another mountain or another meadow; nature has provided us with plenty of physical beauty. What is missing is the human element—the "sweet love" that acts as a bridge between "just for some, but for everyone."

In 2026, our turmoil is often born from a lack of empathy. We have



Photo by Tim Marshall on Unsplash

become experts at building walls, both digital and physical. We curate our lives into echo chambers where "the other" is easily vilified. Love, in its most courageous form, is the act of breaking those chambers. It is the recognition of a shared humanity that supersedes ideology.

The Science of Connection - While the poets have always known the power of the heart, modern science is finally catching up. Research consistently shows that love—defined as deep social connection and compassion—is a biological necessity.

When we choose love, we aren't just making ourselves feel better; we are literally altering our brain chemistry to be more receptive, more patient, and more capable of solving problems. In a world in turmoil, a regulated nervous system is a revolutionary act.

Love in the "Small Things" - It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the "big" problems of the world. We look at the headlines and feel small. But the beauty of the Bacharach/Warwick anthem lies in its intimacy. Love is not a monolithic force that descends from the heavens; it is a series of small, intentional choices

made by individuals.

"Love is the only gold." [Alfred Lord Tennyson]

This Valentine's Day, the invitation is to move beyond the commercialized "romantic" love and embrace the agape love, the universal goodwill that the song celebrates.

- It is the neighbor who checks on the elderly resident during a heatwave.
- It is the stranger who chooses a kind word over a sharp retort in a crowded checkout line.
- It is the collective decision to lead with curiosity rather than judgment.

These are the "meadows and cornfields" of the soul. When we cultivate them, we create a microclimate of peace that can eventually influence the global weather.

A Call to Harmony - Dionne Warwick's 1966 recording is famous for its understated elegance. It doesn't shout; it persuades. It reminds us that love doesn't have to be loud to be powerful. In fact, in a world that is far too loud, the quietest acts of love often resonate the longest.

As we exchange cards and sentiments this February 14th, let us listen to that 6/8 time signature again. Let us remember that love is a practice, a discipline, and a necessity. We have enough mountains. We have enough oceans. We have enough technology to reach the stars.

What we need—what we *truly* need—is to turn toward one another. The world is in turmoil, yes. But love has always been the quiet engine of restoration.

This Valentine's Day, let's give the world what it's been missing. Not just for some, but for everyone.

Super Bowl LX: The Bay Area Prepares for a Milestone Matchup

As the 2025 NFL postseason reaches its fever pitch, all eyes are beginning to turn toward the West Coast. On February 8, 2026, the football world will descend upon Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, for Super Bowl LX. Marking the 60th edition of the league's championship spectacle, this year's game promises a blend of high-stakes competition, cultural milestones, and a nod to American history.

The Venue and Atmosphere

This marks the third time the San Francisco Bay Area has hosted the Super Bowl, and the second time at the home of the 49ers. Ten years after the Denver Broncos hoisted the Lombardi Trophy at Levi's Stadium for Super Bowl 50, the venue is undergoing significant preparations to welcome roughly 68,500 fans. The region is already buzzing with

Super Bowl Week events, including the Super Bowl Experience at the Moscone Center and the 2026 Pro Bowl Games, which have been integrated into the pre-game festivities.

A Historic Halftime and Entertainment

The entertainment lineup for Super Bowl LX is particularly notable for its cultural impact. Global superstar Bad Bunny is set to headline the Apple Music Halftime Show, making history as the first solo Latin artist to lead the event. After his appearance with Shakira in 2020, he returns to the stage with a performance he has dedicated to his people and culture. The pre-game ceremonies are equally star-studded, featuring a high-energy tribute from Bay Area legends Green Day, a performance of the National Anthem by pop sensation Charlie Puth, and

patriotic honors from Brandi Carlile and Coco Jones.

A Military Tribute to Freedom 250

In a unique addition to the 2026 celebrations, the game will coincide with the early festivities for America's 250th birthday. To honor this milestone, the U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct a massive joint flyover featuring B-1 Lancers, F-15C Eagles, and F-35C Lightning IIs. This powerful display of airpower pays tribute to the nation's journey since 1776 and serves as a centerpiece for the pre-game ceremonies. As we wait to see which two teams will emerge from the AFC and NFC brackets, one thing is certain: Super Bowl LX is shaping up to be more than just a game—it is a historic cultural event.

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CORTLAND CITY

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

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month.
Monday, February 2nd - 7 PM
Monday, February 18th - 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, February 9th - 6 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month
Monday, February 9th - 7 PM.

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

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BAZETTATWP.ORG

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Admin Building

330-637-8816
3372 State Route 5 ...fax: 330-637-4588

Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector

and Cemetery Sexton

330-637-8816
Road Department

330-637-8311

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, February 10 - 7 PM

A 60 min. caucus with dept. heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

PARK BOARD

Wednesday, February 4 - 6 PM

THE CORTLAND BAZETTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

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

LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

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

Monday, February 16 - 6 PM

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club

Steve Rock

330-240-1634

Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum

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

Cortland Lions Club

Dawna Wiland

330-219-9852

Cortland Masonic Lodge

Chuck Chagnot

330-307-3405

Cortland Moose Lodge

Bill Bartholomew

330-637-9957

Cortland Rotary Club

Donald Petrosky

330-637-7627

Cortland SCOPE

Terri Donahue

330-980-5363

Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S

Shawn Woods

330-442-7549

The Opera House (Event Rentals)

Maribeth Albu

330-219-1488

Four Seasons Garden Club

Nancy Finlay

330-637-8931

Johnston Senior Center

Jim Bacorn

330-924-0412

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs

Terri Crabbs

330-637-3845

American Assoc of University Women

Ruth Bradshaw

330-307-1151

League of Woman Voters

Peggy Boyd

330-856-5398

Cortland Area Cares

Donna Kittle

330-637-0821

Friends of the Cortland Library

(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) ..

330-637-2717

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship

(LOAF) Bob Mangold

330-637-8956

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

Our Next Issue February 21, 2026

**Article Deadline by Feb 9 • Display Advertising Deadline is Feb 11
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.

Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations

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Community Events

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

JANUARY

31 Arts with Hearts / Cortland Library / 2:30–3:30 p.m.
 Children ages 5 – 12 can get ready for Valentine's Day by creating craft projects with hearts. Free.

FEBRUARY

2 The Trumbull Boat Club Meeting / First Monday of every month
 Monty's Restaurant / State Route 88 in Mecca / 6 PM.
 Reservations required for dinner.

6 Acclaimed Organist Ralph Holtzhauser Concert / Christ Episcopal Church
 2627 Atlantic Street NE, Warren / Performing Black History Music

7 A.A.U.W. Charity Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge
 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. / 9 am to 11:30 am

11 American Red Cross Blood Drive / Cortland United Methodist Church
 12 noon - 5:30 pm

12 Travel Club Trip / Warner Brothers Museum

14 Valentine's Day

19 Cortland Christian Church Soup and Sandwich / 11 am – 1 pm

21 "God Provides A Meal"/ Cortland United Methodist Church /11am -1pm

CORRECTION

In the last issue there was a notice about the "Presidents' Day History Walk" on February 16. This was for Cortland, New York, NOT Cortland, OH. We regret the error.

Trumbull Boat Club

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

Share Your Trumbull Story For America 250

As we look ahead to the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026, we're not just celebrating a national milestone; we're celebrating the unique story of Trumbull County.

Every family, every neighborhood, and every generation has a thread in the vibrant tapestry of our community's history. To capture this living history, we are launching the Trumbull Living Memories Project—a digital storytelling time capsule for future generations.

We need your voice to tell the full story of Trumbull County.

We invite you to share your unique experiences, memories, and reflections. What makes Trumbull County special to you, your family, and your community? Your story will help us document our shared history, growth, and exciting future.

What stories should we save for the future?

- Remember when your family first settled here?
- Remember your first date at a local theater or diner?
- Remember a special parade, fair, or community event?
- Remember why you chose a school, a job, or to raise a family here?
- Remember an old building, business, or attraction that is gone but not forgotten?

- Remember an impactful person who shaped your community?
- Remember what life was like growing up in Trumbull?

No memory is too big or too small. Every story is welcome.

How to Share Your Story: The Trumbull Living Memories form is open now through December 2026.

1. **Share Online (Easiest!):** <https://www.trumbullcountyhistory.com/america-250/>

2. **Prefer to Write?** Send your handwritten stories to

Trumbull County Historical Society
 Attn: Savannah Moss
 P.O. Box 1907
 Warren, OH 44482

This project is for everyone. Please share this to your neighbors, friends, family, and anyone with a connection to Trumbull County. The more stories we collect, the richer our story becomes.

Let's come together to celebrate Trumbull's past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

The Team at Trumbull County Historical Society

P.S. Have questions about the Trumbull Living Memories project or other America250-OH initiatives? Contact us at info@trumbullcountyhistory.org. We can't wait to hear from you!

A Valentine Outing With Travel Club

By Peggy Boyd

Escape the winter cold and snow and join members of the Trumbull County Travel Club on a "Wine, Chocolate & Museum Too" day outing. The date will be Thursday, February 12. The deluxe motor coach will depart at 9:30 am for the Historic Warner Brother's Museum. Arriving at 10:15', the group will get a guided tour of the Warner Brothers first step into the motion picture business. A 1940 12-minute film "The Great Train Robbery" will be watched before all travelers will be whisked off for lunch.

The buffet will feature Gallo's Italian favorites with tax and tip included in the scrumptious lunch. No Valentine day could be complete without including chocolate. Treat oneself to this sweet treat with a stop to Daffin's in Sharon, Pa. Finish the day with a wine taste included at Webb Winery. Everyone will sample five wines with crackers between tastes. Arrival home will be around 4:30 pm.

The cost is \$145.00 per person. Please call Peggy at 330-609-3971 for further details. The Travel Club is open to any person wishing to travel and make friends. There is no membership fee to belong.

A.A.U.W. Charity Breakfast On February 7th

The next charity fund-raiser pancake breakfast at Cortland Masonic Lodge will be held on Saturday, February 7th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Lodge, which is located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland. As always, the public is invited.

The benefiting charity will be the local American Assoc. University Women [AAUW] which is raising funds for their educational efforts about Human Trafficking.

The charity breakfasts are held each month by the Masonic Lodge, which provides all of the meal supplies and cooks the menu, so that 100% of the breakfast income can be donated to a local charity. Since the charity breakfasts began about 6 years ago, the Lodge has raised and provided over \$130,000 to various local organizations.

The "all you can eat" breakfast costs \$10.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for youth age 6 to 10, and FREE for any children age 5 and under. Included are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee, with take-outs available.



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Birds Of A Feather

Birds of a feather flock together. Or not. When it comes to feeding wild birds, different species that would not necessarily mingle, come together in an unnaturally small area to share food. In the words of The Three Stooges "SPREAD OUT"! Bird feeders too close

together can cause conflict and spread disease. Maybe add another feeder. Try to keep them 10-15 feet apart to promote a healthy environment. Stop in at The Bird Nest inside Cortland Mower Sales for your birding needs.

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

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To meet these animals, message the Healthy Hearts and Paws Project Facebook page, contact us at healthyheartsproject.org/contact-us/ or fill out an adoption application at healthyheartsproject.org

About 5 years old, ~40 lbs
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What's "news" in the City of Cortland

Just The Facts

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

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

Find the answer at the bottom of the article.

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

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

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

Visit our NEWLY DESIGNED Website at cortlandnews.net



[Like us on Facebook](#)

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

Dates to Remember -

February 2nd - City Council - 7 p.m.
February 9th - Parks - 6 p.m.
February 9th - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.

February 18th - City Council - 7 p.m.
* City Administrative Offices will be closed on Presidents Day, February 16th. Water/sewer payments can be placed in the secure lock box next to the front door.

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

Bazetta Township Park Board

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

Our first spring cleanup day at park is on Saturday, March 7th at 9 AM. We are in need of volunteers. And our second spring cleanup date is on Saturday, April 11th when we will begin to paint the shelters, picnic tables, etc. We will need volunteers to help us achieve these goals. Please call Mary at 330-360-7867 or the Bazetta Township Administration Office Monday through Friday from 10 AM until 2 PM at 330-637-8816 to help us beautify the township park.

Grand Opening/Craft Show at the park will be on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 AM until 4 PM. If you wish to reserve a vendor spot for the craft show, vendor applications are \$10 and you can call the numbers listed above for an application.

Lots of fun events are being scheduled, please stay tuned. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 4th at 6 PM at the Bazetta Township Hall. All Bazetta residents are welcome to come.



Free Car Washes for Cortland Police Dept

Recently, Chief David Morris presented a certificate of appreciation to Cortland Auto Spa Director of Marketing Abigale Blashinsky and Technician Evan Schwarz thanking them for providing free car washes to the Cortland Police Department. For the past several years, Cortland Auto Spa has generously donated unlimited car washes to the department at no cost. These car washes keep our cruisers looking professional and allow us to use the funds for other training and equipment needs.



Abigale Blashinsky, Evan Schwarz, and Chief David Morris

- Find out About Us
- Check our Deadlines & Rates
- Read Past Issues
- Click on Community Links



Cortland Voters To Decide Mayor's Future In Historic Recall Election

For the first time in over thirty years, the residents of Cortland are heading to the polls for a special recall election. On February 3, 2026, voters will decide whether Mayor Deidre Petrosky will serve out the remainder of her second term or be removed from office effective immediately.

The election follows a tumultuous year at City Hall, marked by public clashes between the Mayor's office, City Council and a vocal group of local residents.

The Road to the Recall - The effort to remove Mayor Petrosky began in earnest in late 2025. Organizers, led by residents Jerry Bayus and Michael Matheny, cited a "pattern of corruption" and "unprofessional behavior" as the primary drivers for the petition. Specific grievances raised during heated council meetings included:

- Administrative Friction: Controversy surrounding the Mayor's selection of a city service director, which council did not support.

- Fiscal Transparency: Allegations of mishandled contracts, including a recent garbage disposal agreement that residents claimed they were "blindsided by."

- Internal Communication: Claims of "demeaning and scolding" emails sent to council members following votes that went against the Mayor's ordinances.

Mayor Petrosky has staunchly defended her record, refusing calls for her resignation. "I have a responsibility to the city of Cortland to finish these

projects," she stated during a November meeting, pointing to downtown revitalization efforts and infrastructure improvements as evidence of her administration's success.

The Logistics of the Vote - The Trumbull County Board of Elections certified the recall after organizers submitted 511 signatures—well above the 381 required by the city charter.

Early voting began on January 6 at the Board of Elections office in Warren. On Election Day, February 3, polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at two primary locations: Cortland Christian Church and the Cortland Masonic Lodge.

The special election is estimated to cost the city between \$6,000 and \$10,000.15

Exact Ballot Wording - Voters have been urged to read the ballot question carefully, as the phrasing requires a specific "Yes" or "No" based on the desire to keep or remove the Mayor.

The official question on the ballot is: "Shall Deidre Petrosky be allowed to continue as Mayor of the City of Cortland?"

- A "YES" vote means you want Mayor Petrosky to stay in office.
- A "NO" vote means you want Mayor Petrosky to be removed from office.

Under the city charter, a majority affirmative (Yes) vote is required for the Mayor to retain her position. If the "No" votes prevail, the office will be vacated, and the process to appoint a successor will begin according to city law.



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Patrol Issues Winter Driving Safety Reminder To Motorists

By Sergeant Benjamin Barnard, Ohio State Highway Patrol

The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) wants everyone traveling on the road to be prepared for the unpredictability of winter weather. Drivers must prioritize safety and preparation to ensure their vehicles are fully winterized before they hit the road.

"During the winter, Ohio drivers need to be prepared to face the possibility of snow and ice," said Governor DeWine. "It's important that drivers always remember to give themselves extra time to get to their destinations on days when poor weather conditions impact the commute."

Last winter, there were 15,647 crashes on snow, ice and slush-covered roads in Ohio. That is nearly twice as many as the previous winter's total, and the highest amount over the last five years. Of the crashes recorded during last winter, 17 were fatal, resulting in 17 deaths. Eight of those fatal crashes occurred in January.

"Good driving habits become even more important when the weather is bad," said Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent. "The message is simple: slow down, use extreme caution and keep extra space between you and

the vehicle ahead."

Many winter crashes are avoidable. According to Patrol statistics, unsafe speed by the at-fault driver was listed as the cause of 22% of crashes on snow, ice or slush-covered roads. Other crash causes include driving off the road and following too closely.

In the event of a broken-down vehicle or crash, turn on your hazard lights, safely move your vehicle as far off the roadway as possible, remain inside the vehicle and safely call #677 or 911 for assistance. If your vehicle becomes stuck in the snow, clear the tailpipe of any possible debris to decrease the chance of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Drivers are reminded to stock their vehicles with a winter car kit that includes an ice scraper, shovel, jumper cables, flashlight, warning devices, blankets, cell phone charger, first aid kit, water and food. It's also important to make sure that your tires have plenty of tread, check your battery and keep your windshield washer reservoir full.

If you must travel in winter weather, visit <https://www.ohgo.com/> for real-time traffic conditions from the Ohio Department of Transportation.

"These unselfish and heroic acts helped save the drivers life," said Chief Morris.

Cortland Officers Receive Lifesaving Award

On January 5, Cortland Police Officers John Mosora and Chuck Lohry received a Life Saving Certificate from Chief David Morris and the City of Cortland. They answered an emergency call on Dec 27 about a car fire on Bradley Brownlee Road. They found a car overturned and engulfed in flames. There were containers of flammable material nearby so Officer Lohry extinguished the flames while Officer Mosora broke the sun roof and dragged the badly injured driver from the car. Multiple fire departments helped extinguish the blaze.

"These unselfish and heroic acts helped save the drivers life," said Chief Morris. "The officers risked their own lives to save another's life. We are honored to have these brave officers in our Police Department."

Officer Mosora said, "We are thankful to the citizens of Cortland for providing the funds for the

proper equipment for these and other situations."

"We want to thank the department, the Chief and the city for purchasing the needed equipment and training so that we are able to help others" added Officer Lohry.

Mayor Deidre Petrosky added "I am incredibly proud of Officer John Mosora and Officer Charles Lohry for their bravery and compassion. In a terrifying and fast-moving situation, they did not hesitate to put themselves in harm's way to save another person's life. Their actions reflect the very best of who we are as a community and the dedication our officers bring to serving others every day."

On behalf of The Cortland News and all the residents of Cortland we want to say THANK YOU to these Officers. We are indeed proud and grateful to have them in our Police Department.



Officer Chuck Lohry, Chief Morris and Officer John Mosora

Trumbull County Tourism Welcomes Two New Board Members

By Samantha Ensminger,
Marketing Manager

Trumbull County Tourism has announced the appointment of Lauren Lindvig of Bliss 360 Marketing and Renee C. Sherry of Ultium Cells to its Board of Directors, strengthening the organization's leadership as it prepares for a pivotal 2026.

Lindvig brings deep experience in helping regional small businesses and communities share their stories and impact in meaningful, people-centered ways. Sherry contributes her insight from a major regional employer in advanced manufacturing, offering a strong connection to our local and global workforce, industry, and a broader economic picture here in the Mahoning Valley.



Renne Sherry, Alyse Robinson,
Lauren Lindvig, Beth Kotwis Carmichael

"As we head into 2026, having thoughtful, engaged board leadership is critical," said Beth Kotwis Carmichael, CEO of Trumbull County Tourism. "Lauren and Renee will be important voices at the table as we continue to grow visitation, support our local businesses, and build stronger connections between the travel industry, economic development and our community partnerships."

Trumbull County Tourism's Board of Directors oversees the organization's strategic direction, financial stewardship, and long-range planning while supporting staff in promoting our destination, one that inspires innovation, embraces tradition and continues to support a robust economy.

Trumbull County Tourism's Executive Committee currently includes:

- Alyse Robinson, President
- Tyler Williams, Vice President
- Rosalyn Hill, Treasurer
- Kelli Denman, Secretary
- Beth Kotwis Carmichael, CEO

For more information about Trumbull County Tourism and its Board of Directors, visit TrulyTrumbull.com.

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How Is Your Imagination?

I was reminded this morning by my friend Joel Pelsue who encourages people in the art world to use their gift of imagination. That our imagination is a gift from God is an understatement. It is essential for life, for meaning, and for creativity. Without imagination, we could not read the old stories and conceive their meaning. Without imagination, we could not look at the heavens and perceive the God who made them. Without imagination, we could not tell stories, nor comprehend what stories were.

Without imagination, we cannot understand most of what happens in our daily routine. (If only we adults could go back into our childhood and capture the imagination we had as children). So bottom line imagination is not only for those involved in the art.

Too often, we speak of imagination as something special that artists and creative professionals possess. A special gift for only the creative types. But this is dangerous. It breeds a divide between creatives and the rest of the world around us. It pretends that it is not a gift for everyone. And it breeds jealousy and animosity between the have and the have-nots when it comes to

creativity and imagination. Imagination is an essential part of humanity, a vital component of spiritual understanding. In Ephesians, we are exhorted to use our imagination to contemplate the breadth and depth of God's love. We are exhorted to dream of a love that surpasses knowledge. And this imagination serves a spiritual longing in our hearts for experiencing the fullness of God.

I'm always amazed at the people I am daily surrounded by, that find it difficult to imagine doing anything in their lives that challenges them. Have you even begun to imagine all that God has invited you to imagine? No wonder so many people have no hobbies or use their imagination to expand their horizons.

Lord, forgive us for our small standards and little ambitions when it comes to this wonderful imagination you have given us. May we grow stronger in this area as we learn to imagine the beauty, majesty, and depth of your love. *Read Ephesians 3:14-21, asking God to renew and refuel your imagination. Then ask him to realign your imagination with what He has for you this day, this month, and this year.*

LOAF Grateful for Community Support Of Adopt-A-Foot

By Theresa Hutton

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) is deeply grateful to our community for their generosity in supporting children through our annual Adopt-A-Foot program. Through our continued partnership with Neal's Shoes in the Elm Road Plaza and the kindness of community donors, 126 pairs of shoes—each valued at \$30—were purchased and distributed to children in the Lakeview, Maplewood, Mathews, Champion, Badger, and Bristolville school communities.

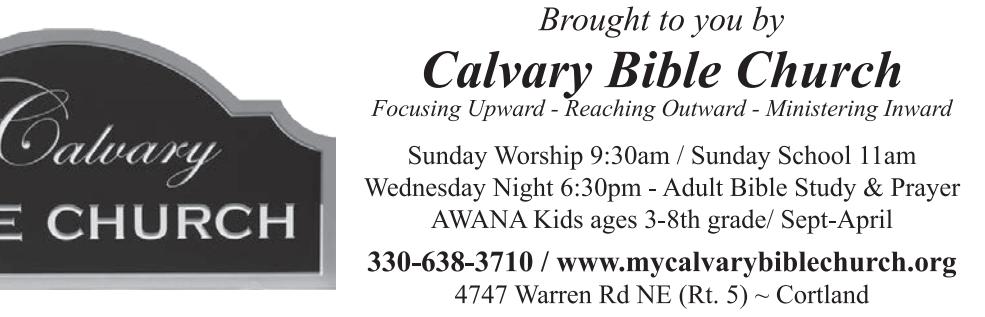
Every contribution made a meaningful impact, providing children with much-needed footwear

and bringing encouragement to their families. During challenging times, families are often faced with difficult decisions, and necessities like shoes can be delayed. Adopt-A-Foot exists to ensure that every child has access to sturdy, supportive shoes that help them move forward with confidence.

We extend special thanks to Neal's Shoes for their ongoing partnership and for thoughtfully selecting quality footwear for this ministry year after year. Together, through compassion and collaboration, we continue to support children and families—one step, and one pair of shoes, at a time.



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Putting In The Work

I am a big sports fan and in about a week the 60th playing of the Super Bowl will determine the champion of the National Football League. The first Super Bowl took place on January 15, 1967, and was played between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. The Packers beat the Chiefs 35-10 in that game. Their head coach was the NFL legend Vince Lombardi, who led the Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowls. He is quoted as saying, "The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." Isn't that so true? In this day and age, everyone wants to succeed without putting in the work. We are looking for "get rich quick schemes" and take short cuts whenever possible, thus not putting the work in. In the end of it, taking short cuts only causes us more frustration. We find that the quality of our work has diminished, and we are more prone to accidents, errors and even financial loss. When we put in the effort, and work hard at a task, we grow

in character and discipline.

In the Book of Proverbs, the wise King Solomon writes (Proverbs 13:4, NLT), "Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper." While there may be a material benefit to your hard work, this is not guaranteed. What we can be assured of is the emotional and spiritual benefit to working hard in life. You will grow emotionally and as a person. You will also grow spiritually. Colossians 3:17 (CSB) says, "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." When we realize that our hard work is not for the benefit of others (or even ourselves) but for the Lord, then everything we do will have a much higher meaning and purpose. I do not live my life to make others think more highly of myself, I live my life to glorify God. This attitude allows me to work hard knowing that my reward is in heaven.

God Bless, Chaplain Dan Squezello



A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Community

By Theresa Hutton

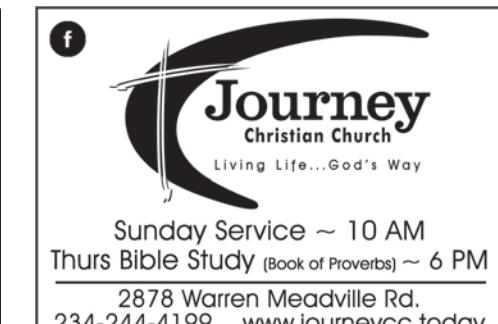
Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) extends our sincere thanks to everyone who joined us for the Christmas Community Band and Choir Concert on December 14th at Raidel Auditorium at Lakeview High School.

The afternoon was truly joyful and uplifting, filled with beautiful music, shared community spirit, and the warmth of the holiday season. With sincere appreciation and gratitude, LOAF thanks the talented Community Band, directed by Mr. Garry Watson, and the Choir, directed by Mrs. Michelle Jones, whose dedication and musical leadership brought inspiration

and richness to the program.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the leadership of Lakeview High School for generously providing the date and use of their wonderful facility. LOAF is blessed by the collaborative spirit of our schools and community partners, and we are grateful for this continued partnership.

The sing-along selections, cookie fellowship following the concert, and the generous free-will donations collected for Sleep in Heavenly Peace all helped make this a meaningful free community concert and a memorable holiday experience for everyone who attended.



Black History Month Concert Features Organ Music By African-American Composers

Christ Church presents a special Black History Month concert celebrating the rich and powerful legacy of African-American composers through the grandeur of the pipe organ. Acclaimed organist Ralph Holtzhauser will perform on Friday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. in a program dedicated to music that reflects both historical depth and contemporary vitality.

Holtzhauser is a distinguished organist and educator, renowned for his versatile performances, dynamic collaborations and dedication to engaging new audiences. He serves as Diocesan Music Director for the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown and Music Director of the Cathedral of St. Columba. In 2023, he was appointed Professor of Organ in the Sacred Music Program at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he leads a thriving

organ studio.

This Black History Month program will highlight the artistry and influence of African-American composers whose contributions have shaped—and continue to shape—the American sacred and concert music traditions. Through works that span a range of styles and periods, the concert invites listeners to experience the expressive breadth of the organ as a vehicle for storytelling, reflection and celebration. The concert is part of Christ Church's ongoing Arts on Atlantic concert series, which seeks to present performances of the highest artistic quality while fostering community engagement.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Christ Episcopal Church at 330-372-4998 or visit www.christchurchwarren.org

Church News & Notes

Cortland United Methodist Church - American Red Cross blood drive, February 11, 12:00-5:30 pm. Also, We are hosting "God Provides A Meal" Saturday, February 21 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Menu: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Bread & butter, salad, dessert & beverage. Donations accepted but are not required.

Cortland Christian Church is having their monthly Soup and Sandwich on February 19, from 11 am - 1 pm. We have chicken noodle soup, Vegetable Beef soup, Ham and Bean soup (said to be the best ever).

Our sandwiches are hard to beat, chicken salad sandwiches with grapes and dried cranberries. And tasty Sloppy Joes, where else can you get a good sloppy joe in this area? And for a real taste treat, pick from a large variety of pies, Cherry Cheesecake, Cream pies, berry pies, apple pies, custard, Lemon and Butterscotch and many more. Hot coffee is served and soft drinks and water. How does that all sound to you?

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Trinity Lutheran Church - Katharina's Closet: Donation drop off - Drop off is the first Monday of the month from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. We are receiving donations of Diapers, Wipes, and Baby Clothes. If you would like to drop off donations at another time please call Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402 to arrange a time. Please do not leave donations on the narthex porch or by the parking lot entrance. We will have to dispose of such donations.

Thank you for serving with us.

Distribution - The next distribution day will be announced soon.

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

Bible Studies: Our congregation invites you to join us as we dive into God's Word in our Bible Studies. Bible Studies on Sunday are at 9 am on the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays September through May. We are making our way from Genesis to Revelation. We are currently going through the book of Exodus. Wednesday Bible Studies at 5:30 pm and we are studying what the Bible says about Angels and Demons.

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

Coffee, Prayer, and Chat with Pastor Wacker will be meeting with people for coffee, prayer, and chat twice a month on Thursdays. Please check out our Facebook page for more details. Also to inquire or set up an appointment please call/text Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402

Lent Midweek Services will begin with Ash Wednesday Service on February 18th at 5:30 pm and will take place on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm until March 25th.

Journey Christian Church has bible study on Thursdays at 6 PM. We are currently studying the Book of Proverbs, Everyone is welcome so please join us as we study the word of God.



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Fitter, <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0f57038a/eT4S68mEkECN-gylbmRYIA?u=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=audNeaGJxhI>

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Lakeview School News

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2026 LES Spelling Bee

The 2026 Lakeview Elementary School Spelling Bee took place on Tuesday, January 13th. Eighteen third and fourth grade students participated in the school bee, as each third and fourth grade homeroom sent their two classroom champions to represent them.

Mrs. Rachael Miksit from the Trumbull County Educational Service Center was the bee's caller. Judges were 3rd Grade Teacher and Spelling Bee Coordinator Melissa Kmetz, Title 1 Reading Teacher Christy Liber and Intervention Specialist Crystal Faatz.

Of course none of this can happen without wonderful teachers who help, encourage and develop ALL of the students. The 3rd grade teachers are Mrs. Liplin, Mrs. Townsend, Miss Hoolihan and Miss Kmetz. The 4th grade teachers are Mrs. Zurinda, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Lammers, Mrs. Denman and Mrs. Conley.

Principal Mackiewicz gave the

welcome address and the spelling bee began moments later. After a spell-off that was live-streamed to all students in the building, a winner and runner up emerged.

4th grader Sutton Pizzurro was the school champion and 4th grader Kaylee Allen was the runner up. The school champion will participate in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at Stambaugh Auditorium in March.



Runner up 4th grader Kaylee Allen and Champion Sutton Pizzurro, 4th grader



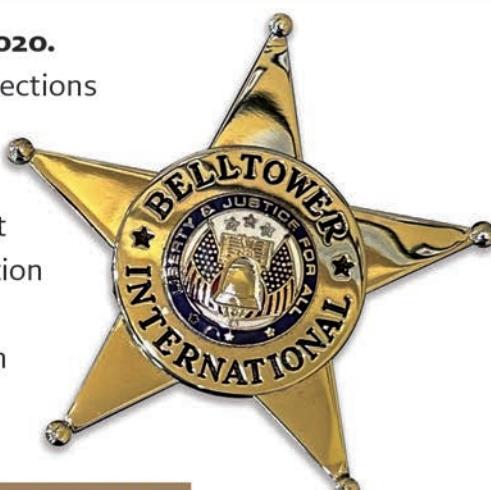
18 participants - Front Row: Michael B., Robert M., Sutton P., Kaylee A., Bobby C., Mila C., Henry Y. Back Row: Addyson D., Chase W., Myles M., Gavin T., Alayna N., Rowan L., Everest E., Kipton B., Anderson Z., Chloe B., James S.

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Lakeview Middle School Chess Club

It was dark and the wind chill was 7 degrees, but that didn't keep 49 students from Lakeview Middle School from arriving at 7:00 A.M. for the weekly chess club meeting. Some brought breakfast and some brought boxes of donuts to share. Others came to do more watching than playing.

When he was in 5th grade, Eyan Riedel wanted to start a chess club. He asked Mrs. Graeser to be the sponsor. They agreed to meet on Friday mornings at 7:00 for the months of January and February. Now, four years later, Chess Club is flourishing. Kids of all ability levels are welcome to attend, one time or every week. They fill Mrs. Graeser's classroom and spill out into the pod. As many as 63 kids have attended.

One more reason why Lakeview is the **BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LIVE!**



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

By Michael DeToro

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

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

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

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

Class of 2026 Spotlight Bulldog

By Michael DeToro

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

This issue's Spotlight Bulldog is Avery Oaks, an accomplished senior at Lakeview High School. Avery, the daughter of Stacy and Clint Oaks, has been a proud Lakeview student for her entire academic career and ranks in the top 15 percent of her graduating class. Avery has been an active member of the Lakeview community both inside and outside the classroom. She is a letter winner in cross country. She is also involved in Senior Beta Club, Yearbook and Student Publications.

Avery's creativity truly stands out through her artwork. She earned an Honorable Mention at the 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and won two Silver Key awards in 2026 at the same event, which was locally held at Youngstown State University. You probably have seen some of her work if you have driven through town, as she also helped paint the community mural on the side of Cortland Mower. Looking ahead, Avery plans to attend Kent State University, where she hopes to study Visual Communication Design and continue developing her artistic talents.

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

1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well? - I do exceptionally well at challenging myself creatively.

2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District?

- The community. I have received an abundance of support and encouragement from the staff and my peers.

3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? - El Torero.

4.) Describe your fashion style.

- I would describe my fashion style as heavily inspired by music and streetwear culture. I always try to match my shoes to the overall vibe of the outfit.

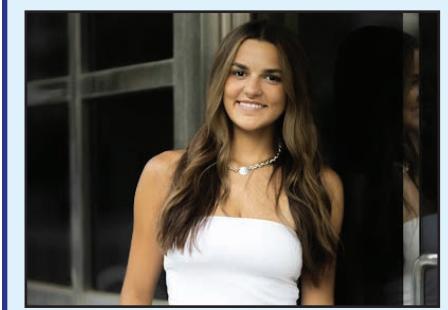
5.) You might catch me ...

- Working on my latest art pieces, going for a run around Cortland, at the gym, or hanging out with my friends.

6.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now? - Right now, I've been listening to A\$AP Rocky's new album DONT BE DUMB.

7.) What are your future aspirations?

- My future aspirations include attending Kent State University to study Visual Communication Design. I hope to work with established brands as either a creative director or a graphic designer.





A Rainbow Of Colors

By Robert Mangold

You might ask where can a Rainbow of Colors be found in mid-winter? Certainly not outside in NE Ohio. Cold, snow, sleet, blowing leaves and rain make this impossible.

The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on North High Street enjoys an indoor Rainbow of Colors every December and into early January. How can this be? The answer is QUILTS.

Over 30 of them cover the pews throughout the Christmas season each year. Creating these quilts is an all-volunteer effort led by the quilter in charge, Marcia Berry. Work starts anew each January. Church members donate gently used material, thread, and most important sewing skills learned over a life time. Every color in the color wheel is represented in these quilts. Come January they are donated to several local charities in need such as Someplace Safe. A gift of a Rainbow of Colors guaranteed to create smiles.

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs 2026 Scholarship

By Terri Crabbs

Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs is seeking applicants for a \$750 scholarship to be awarded in April 2026. The scholarship is designed to assist a Trumbull County woman in furthering her education in an accredited educational program. The applicant must be 24 years of age or older and a resident of Trumbull County. The applicant must submit a written narrative describing her career goals and her plan to achieve those goals, including any financial hardship she may be facing, and how she will benefit from the scholarship.

Applications are available by contacting Louise Kline, President at 330-727-8515. All applications must be returned by March 31, 2026.



A Day Full Of Gratitude, Pride, And Happy Tears

Courtesy of Lakeview Schools Facebook Page

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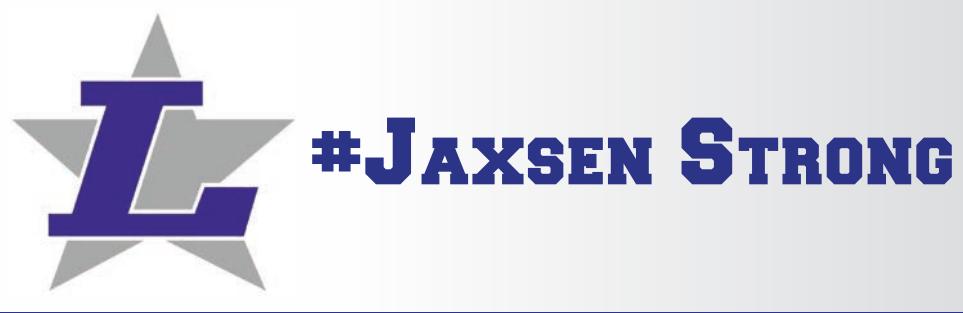
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Miss Giada assisted part of the Toddler class in building a fort around the "building carpet" during playtime at Bazetta Christian Church Childcare.





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Trumbull Art Gallery Offers Art & Clay Classes

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

ART WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

• A SUN EVENT MAKE & TAKE STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 12, 12:00-3:30 pm, Instructor: Lynne Provance, TAG Member: \$100.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$110.00

• VALENTINE DATE-NIGHT COUPLES PAINTING

Friday, February 13, 6:00-8:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvissky, TAG Member: \$40.00 per couple, Non-TAG Member: \$50.00 per couple

• MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

Two sessions: Saturdays, February 21 & 28, 12:00-3:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvissky, Class fee: \$50.00

• DESIGN YOUR OWN STAINED GLASS

Two sessions: Thursday, February 26 1:00-3:00 pm, Thursday, March 5 12:30-3:30 pm, Instructor: Lynne Provance, TAG Member: \$140.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$150.00

• PALETTE KNIFE FLOWER PAINTING

Thursday, February 26, 6:00-8:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvissky, TAG Member: \$30.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$35.00

• A FLOWER MAKE & TAKE STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 26, 12:00-3:30 pm, Instructor: Lynne Provance, TAG Member: \$100.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$110.00

• PARENT AND CHILD ART CLASSES

Three sessions: Saturdays, April 11, 18 & 25, 10:00-11:30 am, Instructor: Sue Senvissky, Children (ages 3 & up): \$50.00 per child · Adults: Free

• ALL OCCASION CARDS IN WATERCOLORS

Thursday, April 16, 6:00-9:00 pm, Instructor: Sue Senvissky, TAG Member: \$25.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$30.00



CLAY@TAG WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

• BASICS OF CLAY HAND-BUILDING

Four sessions: Saturdays, January 24, 31 & February 7, 14, 12:00-2:00 pm Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$80.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$100.00

• PAPER TOWEL HOLDERS

Two sessions: Saturdays, February 21 & March 7, 12:00-2:00 pm Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$40.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$50.00

• ANGEL STATUES

Two sessions: Saturdays, February 28 & March 14, 12:00-2:00 pm Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$40.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$50.00

• COIN BANKS

Two sessions: Saturdays, March 21 & April 4, 12:00-2:00 pm Instructor: Stephanie Sferra, TAG Member: \$40.00 · Non-TAG Member: \$50.00

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



Tails of Hope Celebrates 10 Years

This year marks a major milestone for Tails of Hope as the first-and still the only- nonprofit Spay/Neuter clinic in Mercer County, PA. They are celebrating their 10th anniversary of providing lifesaving, affordable veterinary care programs to animals, families, and shelters/rescues in almost 40 counties across Western PA & Eastern OH. Founded with a simple but powerful mission: to reduce animal overpopulation and suffering through accessible and affordable Spay/Neuter and preventative care, Tails of Hope has spent the past decade turning compassion into action and more importantly, impact.

Since its founding, Tails of Hope has helped over 18,000 companion animals, homeless pets, and shelter/rescue pets receive critical services, including spay and neuter surgeries, vaccinations, microchips, and more.

These services have played an important role in reducing shelter overcrowding and financial burden, preventing unwanted litters, keeping people and our community healthier, and keeping pets healthy and in loving homes. For example, for many families who are facing financial hardship, Tails of Hope has been the difference between having to surrender a beloved pet and being able to keep their family together. As demand for affordable veterinary care continues to grow, Tails of Hope is looking toward the future. In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the organization has launched a new Endowment Campaign designed to ensure its programs continue for generations to come. An endowment provides a permanent source of funding, generating annual income that

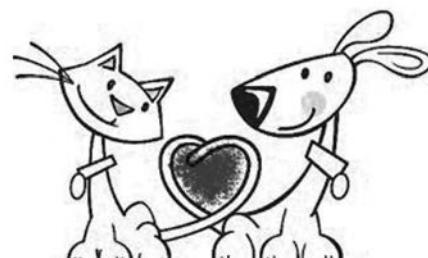
supports essential services regardless of economic changes or fundraising challenges.

"Ten years of impact is just the beginning," said Tails of Hope's Executive Director, Soraya Hejazi. "Launching our endowment allows the community to invest in providing compassionate, preventative care that has the largest impact at the lowest cost possible for families, shelters/rescues, and the community overall."

Community members are invited to be part of this milestone moment by supporting the Endowment Campaign through donations, legacy gifts, or planned giving. Contributions of any size help build a sustainable future for compassionate animal care and will help create a better future for our community. Gifts can be made directly to Tails of Hope or to 'A Tails of Hope Fund' at The Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH.

After ten years of impact, Tails of Hope is not just celebrating the past – it is investing in the next decades of hope, health, and humane care for animals, other animal organizations, and our community.

Tails of Hope
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Medicare IRMAA Premium Adjustments For High Income Beneficiaries

Medicare Part B & Part D premiums can vary based on income. While most people will receive Medicare Part A with no premium and Medicare Part B for a standard premium, some individuals will be subject to additional premiums from the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount also known as IRMAA. IRMAA was first enacted in 2003 as part of the Medicare Modernization Act to address the financial hardships of Medicare. At that time, it only affected Part B premiums. In 2011 as part of the Affordable Care Act, IRMAA was expanded to include Part D premiums for prescription coverage.

The Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount is imposed as a surcharge on Medicare Insurance Part B and Part D premiums for higher income beneficiaries. It is primarily based on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income from your tax return 2 years ago. Therefore, the 2026 premiums are based on your 2024 tax return and the premiums for 2027 will be based on the 2025 tax returns that are currently being filed. This year the additional premium amounts are assessed if your 2024 income was \$109,000 or more for an individual or married couples filing separately, and \$218,000 for couples filing jointly. For example, while most people will pay \$202.90 per month for 2026 an individual with a MAGI between \$109,000 and \$137,000 on their 2024 tax return will pay a Part B premium of \$284.10 per month for 2026 and an additional \$14.50 on the

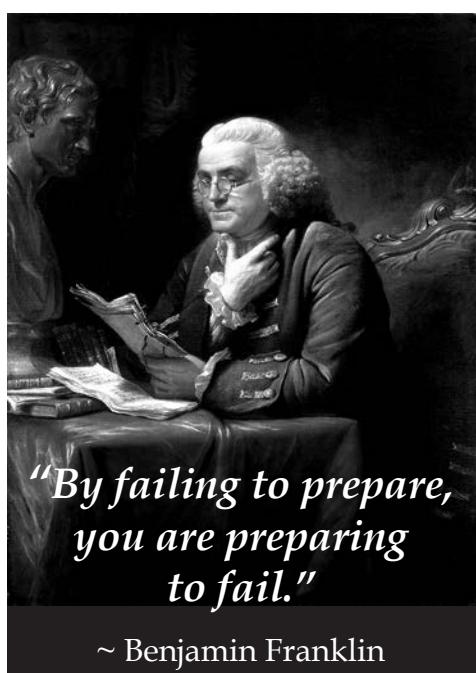
Part D premium. The part D premium adjustment is assessed on both stand-alone Part D Prescription drug plans and Part C Medicare Advantage Plans that include prescription coverage. A complete table showing the different Part B and Part D premium levels can be found at Medicare.gov.

If you are subject to the IRMAA premium increase, you will receive a letter from Social Security with details and premium amounts. Part B premiums for Medicare Insurance are paid directly to Medicare. If you receive monthly Social Security benefits your Medicare Insurance premiums are deducted from your monthly Social Security benefit payment. If you do not receive Social Security benefits Medicare will send a statement, typically quarterly, for the premium owed or you can set up an automatic payment on the Medicare.gov website.

If you believe you have been charged the extra premiums incorrectly or if your life circumstances have changed and your income has decreased, you can appeal the decision by contacting Social Security and asking for a redetermination. Since these amounts are based on your MAGI, it may also be helpful to consult your financial advisor or tax professional to plan ahead for next year's premium calculation.

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

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"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

~ Benjamin Franklin



INSURANCE ANSWERS

By Amelia Gavolas, Platt Insurance Agency



When The Unexpected Happens: How To Navigate An Insurance Claim

By Amelia Gavolas, Platt Insurance

When something unexpected happens, a storm, a fire, a break-in, the stress of damage is often compounded by uncertainty about the insurance claims process. Understanding what to expect can help homeowners and drivers make informed decisions and avoid unnecessary frustration.

The first priority after a loss is safety. Make sure everyone is out of harm's way, then take reasonable steps to prevent further damage. This might include shutting off water, covering a broken window, or moving undamaged items to a safe area. Document what you can: take photos of the damage before repairs begin and keep receipts for any emergency expenses.

Once things are stable, gather as much information as possible. Write down what happened, when it occurred, and what was damaged. Take multiple photos from different angles. If the loss involves theft or vandalism, filing a police report is essential, as insurers often require one to proceed.

Before filing a claim, it's worth pausing to consider a few key factors. Start with your deductible. If repairs cost less than your deductible, filing a claim may not make financial sense. It's also important to know whether the

damage is covered. Certain losses—such as flooding, long-term wear and tear, or pest damage—are commonly excluded from standard policies.

This is where working with a local independent insurance agent can be especially helpful. An agent can walk you through coverage questions, explain potential impacts on your policy, and help you decide whether filing a claim is the right move.

If you do proceed, the insurance company will assign a claims adjuster to review the loss. The adjuster verifies details, evaluates damage, and determines what is covered. You may be asked to obtain contractor estimates, which can be useful if there's a discrepancy in the settlement amount.

After approval, payment timing varies. Some claims are resolved quickly, while others take weeks. In many cases, insurers issue payment in stages—first covering the actual cash value, then releasing remaining funds once repairs or replacements are completed.

Insurance claims don't have to be overwhelming. Knowing the process—and having a trusted local independent insurance agent to guide you—can make a difficult situation far more manageable.



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Beat The Winter Blues Without Breaking The Bank In Ohio

70 free indoor attractions for Winter in Ohio adventures

The holiday season may be in the rearview, but the winter fun in Ohio is just getting started. To help families and travelers make the most of the season, Ohio is spotlighting 70 free indoor attractions across the state – perfect for adding extra stops to your itinerary or planning affordable weekend getaways that feel anything but ordinary.

The full list of attractions is available now at Ohio.org on the newly refreshed Winter in Ohio landing page.



"I know from experience--winter in Ohio after the holidays, especially with kids, can be difficult to plan activities for, which is why making a free indoor attractions resource like this one was a must for TourismOhio," said Sarah Wickham, Ohio's state tourism director. "Whether you're looking to extend that day trip or just need an excuse to get out of the house, these are great destinations to make warm winter memories happen."

The list was curated by TourismOhio, in partnership with County Convention and Visitors Bureaus. Attractions include museums, historical sites and centers, and art galleries. Featured attractions include:

Massillon Museum – The Massillon Museum is home to more than 100,000 items of preserved regional history and local art, including the Paul

Brown Museum space dedicated to the legendary Ohio football coach who led the local high school team early in his career.

University of Findlay's Mazza Museum – The Mazza Museum is the world's largest collection of original artwork by children's book illustrators. Their goal is to promote literacy and enrich the lives of all people through the art of picture books.

Ohio Craft Museum – The Ohio Craft Museum showcases the work of Ohio Designer Craftsmen artists, national and international craftsmen. The museum also offers workshops and adult programs, fairs, and other craft events.

Paul A. Johnson Pencil Sharpener Museum in Logan – What started as a post-retirement hobby grew into a truly one-of-a-kind museum in the Hocking Hills region. Along with a newly furnished display space, the Pencil Sharpener Museum has grown to nearly 5,000 pieces – making it one of the most extensive public displays in the country.

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park – The Paul Laurence Dunbar House Historic Site, Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, and Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center provide free, educational experiences within the Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Cleveland Museum of Art – One of the top comprehensive art museums in the nation, the Cleveland Museum of Art is renowned for the quality and breadth of its collection and recognized for its award-winning Open Access program.

Continued on next page

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Out & About in Trumbull County

~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~



Beat The Winter Blues

...continued from previous page

TourismOhio research shows that 95 percent of overnight visitors showed satisfaction with their Ohio trip, 87 percent were likely to recommend Ohio, and 93 percent were likely to return. In addition to these already high satisfaction scores, this same research also shows that participation in at least three travel activities increases Ohio trip satisfaction overall.

"Ohio is home to world-class museums, inspiring cultural institutions, and truly unique destinations—and many of these incredible experiences are available at no cost," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development, which oversees TourismOhio. "We want people to discover just how much there is to see and do here. These free attractions make it easy to add more to your itinerary and experience the very best of Ohio this winter."

From winter hikes and scenic road trips to romantic getaways and luxurious hotel stays, there's so much to explore this winter in Ohio. Share your Ohio adventures this season with the #WinterinOhio and #OhioTheHeartofitAll hashtags – your story might even be featured on our official channels.



Photo: Ohio.org

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Ostatki 2026

Polish- Youngstown is hosting ostateki 2026 on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, transforming this long-running Polish Carnival tradition into a romantic, upscale night out at the Youngstown Country Club.

Often described as Poland's answer to Mardi Gras, Ostatki features an imported vodka tasting, gourmet dinner, live entertainment with broad, modern appeal by Leather & Lace,

games, raffles, and the beloved Pączki Parade – all with a Valentine's twist. Tickets are \$85 per person, with no tickets available at the door.

This year's event is designed to appeal to more than just Polish heritage, positioning Ostatki as a unique Valentine's alternative for couples and friends looking for something festive, social, and unexpected.

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Cleveland Play House Explores The Transformative Power Of Connection With Primary Trust

The Cleveland Play House (CPH) presents the 2024 Pulitzer Prize winning play Primary Trust by Eboni Booth from Sunday, February 8 through Sunday, March 1, in the Outcalt Theatre at Playhouse Square.

About The Play - "This is the story of a friendship. Of how I got a new job. A story of love and balance and time." So begins Kenneth's tale of finding a new job and discovering new beginnings, new friends, and new hopes. It's absorbing, funny, and deeply moving—it's no wonder that Primary Trust is one of the most popular plays in the country. It is a gentle, quietly powerful play about Kenneth, a soft spoken bookstore clerk who's carefully ordered life unravels when he loses his job. As he's nudged toward new possibilities — including an unexpected opportunity at the local bank — Kenneth begins to open himself to connection and discovers that even small acts of trust can reshape a life.

Director Sideeq Heard explains "Primary Trust speaks to those who have been othered, whose humanity has too often been overlooked. Kenneth's journey mirrors the isolation

and loneliness many of us have learned to cope with in the modern world, particularly in the age of smartphones and social media. Despite the protagonist's trauma and fear, Eboni Booth's vivid language, and use of the fourth wall reminds us of the power of vulnerability as a vessel for connection."

"I'm thrilled to bring this beautiful, Tony-award winning play to Cleveland," adds Cleveland Play House Artistic Director Michael Barakiva. "Primary Trust is the perfect kind of feel-good story that is guaranteed to bring joy to people in the new year."

Performances run Sunday, February 8 through Sunday, March 1, 2026, in the Outcalt Theatre at Playhouse Square. Performance times are Wednesdays through Sundays at 7:30 PM, with weekend matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 PM.

Pay What You Will tickets are available for Sunday evening performances, making it easier than ever to experience the magic of live theatre. For tickets and more information, visit clevelandplayhouse.com or call the Box Office at 216.241.6000. Tickets are on sale now and are expected to sell quickly.

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By
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Is The 4% Rule The Right Retirement Income Strategy For You?

Planning for lasting retirement income requires a thoughtful strategy, especially with factors like longevity, market volatility and evolving lifestyle needs in play. As retirement approaches, one of the most common questions people face is: "How much can I safely withdraw from my savings each year?" For decades, the 4% rule has served as a widely accepted guideline. The premise is straightforward: withdraw 4% of your total savings in the first year of retirement, then adjust that amount annually for inflation.

While the 4% rule offers a straightforward framework, it doesn't account for the many variables that can affect your retirement income needs. For example, the age at which you retire plays a significant role. Retiring earlier means your savings need to last longer. Market performance is another key factor. Extended downturns could deplete your funds faster, while strong markets might allow for more flexibility. And of course, no one can predict exactly how long they'll live, which makes it difficult to plan with certainty. Given these uncertainties, it's worth exploring additional strategies to help ensure your retirement income is both reliable and sustainable.

Seek reliable income sources. Social Security provides a dependable monthly income for life. If you're fortunate enough to have a pension, that's another steady source. But for many retirees, these alone may not be enough. Annuities can help fill the gap by offering guaranteed income for a set period — or even for life. Whether you're covering essentials like housing or healthcare or simply seeking peace of mind, annuities can be a valuable part of your retirement plan. Annuities are a complex investment product, so it is important to consult a financial advisor before incorporating them into your strategy to determine if they're the right fit for your situation.

Embrace flexible spending. A flexible, dynamic spending approach allows retirees to adjust withdrawals based on personal circumstances and market performance. Unlike the fixed

4% rule, this strategy adapts to real-life circumstances. For example, during strong market years, a retiree might feel comfortable taking out more to fund a major purchase or experience. In contrast, during downturns, they might scale back spending to preserve their portfolio. This method helps extend the longevity of retirement savings while allowing for a more responsive and personalized financial plan. It requires regular review and a willingness to adapt, but it can offer greater sustainability and peace of mind over the long term.

The bucketing strategy. Some retirees prefer a "bucketing" approach to manage their savings. This strategy divides assets into three time-based buckets:

- Bucket 1: Holds two to three years of cash in liquid accounts, untouched by market volatility.
- Bucket 2: Contains three to four years of short-term investments with modest risk and return, used to replenish bucket 1 as needed.
- Bucket 3: Invested in long-term growth assets like stocks and diversified funds, designed to outpace inflation and grow over time.

As the third bucket appreciates, funds are gradually moved into the second and then the first, creating a sustainable flow of income. This layered approach can offer peace of mind by aligning investment risk with time-based spending needs.

Tailor your strategy to fit your life. There's no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to retirement income. Your lifestyle, goals, and risk tolerance should ultimately guide your strategy. Your financial advisor can help you evaluate the pros and cons of each strategy and build a plan that supports both your current needs and long-term financial health.

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Trumbull County Tourism Unveils 2026 Visitor Guide

*By Samantha Ensminger,
Marketing Manager,
Trumbull County Tourism Bureau*

Trumbull County Tourism has released its 2026 Truly Trumbull Trip Ideas, a special publication that blends trip-planning inspiration with stories tied to America/Ohio-250.

The cover features a warm, Americana moment from the Newton Falls Fourth of July Parade, two local boys enjoying popsicles along the route, capturing the spirit of small-town celebrations and community pride that runs through the entire guide.

"Our team is really proud of this year's guide! We wanted visitors and locals to see the everyday scenes that make this place feel like home, while also honoring Trumbull County's role in Ohio and America's story." said Beth Kotwis Carmichael, CEO of Trumbull County Tourism. "We encourage our residents to use it when their visiting friends and family come to town."

Throughout the guide, readers will find history highlights and facts, along with features that showcase:

- Innovation and “firsts” - original places, inventions, and stories rooted in Trumbull County
 - Museums and attractions – from industrial heritage to living history and local art
 - Comfort food and regional dishes – Italian favorites, grandma-style portions, and local originals
 - Historic sites and walking tours – architecture, neighborhoods, and guided strolls through the past
 - Entertainment and art – theaters, galleries, live music, and community events
 - Outdoor escapes – nature areas, trails, fishing spots, and golf courses
 - Thrifting and shopping local – antique shops, indie boutiques, and small-town main streets
 - Family-friendly fun – kid-focused attractions and easy day-out ideas
 - Sports and recreation – baseball, racing, disc golf, and places to bring your dog

The 2026 Visitor Guide is available in print and online, and can be requested by our residents, visitors, meeting planners, and local partners who wish to share it with guests and customers.

View the guide: <https://trulytrumbull.com/visitor-info-guides/>

For more information or to request copies of the 2026 Trumbull 250 Edition Visitor Guide, visit TrulyTrumbull.com or contact Trumbull County Tourism at kimmer@trulytrumbull.com.

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BBB Introduces "Aging With Trust" Guide To Help Older Adults Find Trusted Businesses

For more than a century, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) has stood for one essential value: trust. That commitment continues with the release of Aging With Trust, a new guide designed specifically for older adults and their families, featuring valuable BBB resources and advertising from trusted local businesses and organizations.

Today's marketplace offers convenience and opportunity, but it also presents risks, particularly scams and misleading offers that often target older consumers. Aging With Trust was created to empower older adults with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions, protect their finances, and connect with businesses they can rely on.



"Aging should bring peace of mind, not worry," said Melissa Ames, President and CEO of BBB. "Whether someone is planning a home improvement project, seeking healthcare services, or shopping online, BBB is here to guide them with tools and resources that put trust and safety first."

The Aging With Trust guide is available at bbb.org/youngstown

Consumers who would like their own copy may contact BBB at 330-744-3111 or email info@youngstown.bbb.org.

Mckinley To Speak At Bristol Public Library

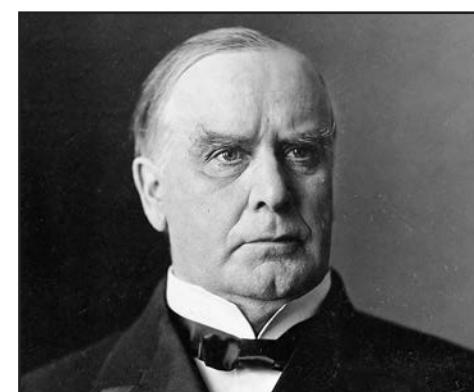
By D'Lynn Johnson

On Monday, February 16th at 5 pm, former President William McKinley will speak at the Bristol Public Library. Portraying President McKinley is Mike Wison, director of SCOPE Senior

Services of Northeast OH.

Mr. Wilson has portrayed our 25th President for 33 years. Mike believes in bringing history to life and has performed as the former president all over the nation. He was even filmed for C-SPAN giving a front porch speech as part of their series on the presidents.

The program is in conjunction with the new Bristol Older Adult Center. Seats are limited and registration is required. For more information and to register contact the circulation desk at 330-889-3651.



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A Day Full Of Gratitude... *...continued from page 11*

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce Development and there couldn't be a more deserving honoree.

The Ohio RISE Award (Recognizing

Inspirational School Employees) honors classified school employees who demonstrate extraordinary commitment, passion, and service to students and their school communities. It shines a light on the behind-the-scenes heroes whose daily work helps



create safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environments for all students.

Margie isn't just an essential part of our school; she's at the heart of it. She shows up with warmth, encouragement, and steadfast dedication every single day, and her impact is felt in countless ways throughout our community.

Watching her reaction - the surprise, the emotion, the pure joy, was a powerful reminder of how deeply she is valued. Pictured with staff from the Office of Whole Child Supports at the Ohio Department of Education, Margie represents the very essence of what it means to care for the whole child.

Today, we celebrated kindness, service, and community, and we are so proud to honor Margie Petrunia for everything she does to make our school a place where students thrive.

Congratulations, Margie, thank you for being at the heart of our schools.

LIBRARY NEWS

Cortland Library ~ February 2026 Events

Closed For Presidents' Day - All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed on Mon., Feb. 16 for Presidents' Day.

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

Arts with Hearts

Sat., Jan. 31 from 2:30 — 3:30 p.m. Children ages 5 - 12 can get ready for Valentine's Day by creating craft projects with hearts. Free.

Toddler Tales

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

Genealogy Class: Ancestry Library Edition

Mon., Feb. 2 from 2 — 3 p.m. Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition to jumpstart your family history by finding census, marriage, death, birth, military, and immigration records, and more. Registration is required. Sign up online at www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 399-8807 ext. 202. Free.

Preschool Storytime

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

Midweek Mayhem

Wednesdays from 3 — 4 p.m.: Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. Teens ages 12-18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly teen hangout! Free.

Totally Tweens Special Edition

Thurs., Feb. 5 from 6—7 p.m. Tweens ages 10-14 will construct fun and functional bags that they can keep. Registration is required. Sign up online at www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

3rd Annual For the Love of Chocolate Mon., Feb. 9 from 4—5 p.m. Teens ages 12-18 can try various types of chocolates and chocolate desserts. Registration is required by Feb. 4. Sign up online at www.wtcpl.org/events or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

Teen Advisory Board

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

First Chapter Book Club

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

Totally Tweens

Tues., Feb. 17 from 3—4 p.m. Tweens ages 10 - 14 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and activities. Free.

Family LEGO Night

Thurs., Feb. 19 from 6—7 p.m. Practice problem-solving and engineering skills while building with the library's collection of LEGO bricks. Finished projects will remain at the library. For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

Movie Night for Romantics

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

End of the Rainbow

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

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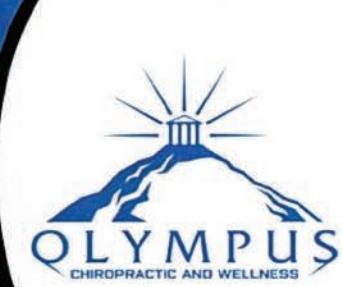
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