

# CortlandNEWS

*"The Good News Newspaper"*

Vol. 22 No. 4

December 13, 2025

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

## Finding Joy In Togetherness: Celebrating Christmas 2025

By Alex Irman

As the festive season of 2025 approaches, it's easy to feel the weight of the world's complexities pressing down. From global shifts to everyday stresses, life has a way of throwing curveballs. Yet Christmas, at its heart, remains a beacon of hope, a time for warmth, connection, and rediscovering the simple magic of being together. This year, more than ever, let's embrace the spirit of togetherness and craft a Christmas that nourishes our souls, regardless of what's happening beyond our front doors.

In an age of endless options, it's tempting to feel the pressure to create a "perfect" Christmas, complete with elaborate decorations, a mountain of gifts, and a feast fit for royalty. This year let's release ourselves from that burden. Focus on quality over quantity. Perhaps a few lovingly chosen gifts that truly resonate, rather than a pile of forgotten trinkets. Simplify your meal preparations - a potluck where everyone brings a dish, or a comforting, traditional spread that's easy to manage. The joy isn't in the extravagance; it's in the shared effort and the laughter around the table.

Traditions are the threads that weave through generations, offering comfort and continuity. Dig out those beloved family rituals - whether it's decorating the tree with specific ornaments, reading a cherished Christmas story, or singing carols (even if slightly off-key!). Don't be afraid to create new traditions too. Perhaps a Christmas morning walk to admire the neighborhood lights, a board game tournament, or a creative craft session. These shared moments, however small, build lasting memories and strengthen family bonds.

In our hyper-connected world,



it's easy to fall into the trap of digital distraction, even during family gatherings. Make a conscious effort to disconnect to truly connect. Suggest a "digital detox" for a few hours on Christmas Day - phones tucked away, allowing for uninterrupted conversations, playful games, and genuine presence. Reintroduce classic parlor games, tell stories, or simply sit and enjoy each other's company without the glow of a screen. These are the moments that truly foster intimacy and understanding.

One of the most powerful ways to counteract global anxieties is to focus

on what we can control - our own kindness and compassion. Christmas is an ideal time to engage in acts of service as a family. Volunteer at a local shelter, prepare care packages for those in need, or simply reach out to an elderly neighbor who might be spending the holidays alone. These shared experiences of giving not only uplift others but also instill a sense of purpose and gratitude within your own family, reminding everyone of the true spirit of the season.

It's easy to get caught up in what's challenging but shifting our focus to gratitude can dramatically alter our

perspective. Start a daily gratitude practice in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Each family member can share one thing they are thankful for, no matter how small. This simple act can reframe our outlook, highlight the blessings we often overlook, and foster a more positive and appreciative atmosphere in your home.

Your home is your haven. Infuse it with the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas that bring you joy. Dim the lights, put on some festive music, light a fragrant candle, and simply bask in the warmth of your decorated space. This doesn't require a huge budget; even simple fairy lights and homemade decorations can transform a room into a cozy, inviting sanctuary. Let your home be a place where laughter echoes, stories are shared, and hearts feel safe and loved.

While focusing on family is paramount, remember that you can't pour from an empty cup. Amidst the festivities, carve out moments for personal reflection and rejuvenation. A quiet cup of tea, a peaceful walk, or an hour with a favorite book can help you recharge and be more present for your loved ones. When you take care of yourself, you're better equipped to spread joy to others.

Christmas 2025, despite the world's difficulties, offers a precious opportunity. It's a chance to intentionally choose joy, to prioritize human connection, and to rediscover the profound comfort found in the embrace of family. Let's make this year not about extravagant displays, but about rich experiences, shared laughter, and the enduring power of love that truly makes the season bright.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from our Cortland News family to yours.

## A Heartwarming Legacy: The History of Gessner & Platt Co., L.P.A. in Cortland

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The law firm of Gessner & Platt Co., L.P.A., located for decades at 212 West Main Street in Cortland, Ohio, was far more than just a place of business; it was a true family institution that served as a warm and reliable cornerstone of the community for over half a century. The firm's history is a beautiful testament to multi-generational dedication, both among the founding partners and within the vital staff who kept the office running like a well-oiled machine.

The story begins with the founding partnership established in 1958 between two highly respected men: John F. Gessner (1919-2001) and Robert Montgomery Platt Sr. (1924-2010). They created a space that quickly became a trusted resource for local residents dealing with everything from property deeds and real estate closings to delicate matters of estate planning. Both

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CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor ..... 330-637-4003

City Hall ..... 330-637-3916

Fax ..... 330-637-4778

Clerk of Council ..... 330-638-0142

Service Director ..... 330-637-4637

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY ..... 911

Dispatch ..... 330-675-2730

Police - Business ..... 330-638-1000

Fire - Business ..... 330-637-2891

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month.

Monday, Dec 15 – 7 PM

Monday Jan 5 – 7 PM

PARKS AND RECREATION

Second Monday of each month

Monday, Jan 12 - 5:30 PM

PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month

Monday, Jan 12 - 7 PM

Meetings and agenda of Council and Planning meetings area available at [www.cortlandoh.gov](http://www.cortlandoh.gov)

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

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

FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE ..... 911

Police Department ..... 330-638-5503

Fire Station #11 ..... 330-637-4136

3000 Warren Meadville Rd

Non Emergency Calls ... 330-675-2730

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, Jan 13 - 7 PM

A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit [www.bazettatwp.org](http://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, Dec 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) Bob Mangold..... 330-637-8956

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

Our Next Issue .... January 10, 2026

Our theme will be

Happy New Year

Article Deadline by Dec 29 • Display Advertising Deadline is Dec 31

Email articles to [editor@cortlandnews.net](mailto: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

Tr. Co. Health Dept

4 Star Diner

Vasilios

Lakeside Sport Shop

Top Notch Diner

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Fox Run Publishing, L.L.C.

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[www.cortlandnews.net](http://www.cortlandnews.net)

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](mailto:editor@cortlandnews.net)

Display and classified advertising and photographs to:

[sales@cortlandnews.net](mailto: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](http://www.lakeviewlocal.org).  
American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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.*

### DECEMBER

- 13 Cookies & Cocoa with Santa [Santa 2-3 Only] Live music and singalong with The Henderson’s, Ornament making, Games + Storytelling  
Maker’s Market Café / Free Event / 2 – 4 PM
- 14 Cortland Community Band LOAF Christmas Concert  
Lakeview HS Raidel Auditorium / FREE Event / 2 PM
- 17 Walkie Talkie’s Walking Group / Maker’s Market Cafe /FREE event / 9 AM
- 17 Cortland Community Band / Grace Methodist Church  
1725 Drexel Ave NW Warren / FREE Event / 7 PM
- 18 Yoga Class / Instructor Lindsey Snowden, Beginner Friendly  
Maker’s Market Cafe / 10 AM
- 18 Trumbull County MetroParks Board Regular Meeting  
Park Office in Howland Township / 4:15 p.m.
- 19 Live Entertainment: Trivia Board Night / Gather in 4 teams and play a Jeopardy style game! / FREE Event / Maker’s Market Cafe / 6 - 8 PM
- 19 OSP Blood Drive / Warren Post in Southington / 9 AM – 3 PM
- 20 God Provides A Meal / Cortland United Methodist Church / Menu: Stuffed pork chop, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dessert & beverage. Everyone is welcome. Donations accepted but not required / 11 AM - 1 PM
- 20 Live Nativity Event / Bazetta Christian Church / FREE Event / 4-7 PM
- 21 Cortland Community Band / Eastwood Mall in front of Santa  
FREE Event / 3 PM

### JANUARY

- 3 Charity Fund-Raiser Pancake Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge  
Benefitting Cub Pack 25 / 9 - 11:30 AM

## Ohio State Highway Patrol Blood Drive

The Warren Post 78 of the OSP encourages you to “Be a Holiday Leader and Help Prevent a Blood Shortage - Be a Lifesaver This Season.”

The summer and winter holidays are a time for celebration - but they can also bring a critical challenge. While many of us are enjoying time off with family and friends, the American Red Cross struggles to keep up with the demand for blood donations. When donations slow down but the need for blood doesn’t, shortages can happen fast - which can lead to delays in essential medical treatments for patients in need. Here’s the good news: You can make a lifesaving difference by donating at our blood drive Friday, December 19, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Warren Post 78 at 3424 US 422 in Southington.

Come give blood Dec. 19-Jan. 4 and get an exclusive long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, limited quantity. For an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

## Holiday Magic Comes To The Makers Market

By Mary Suzan

Cortland families are invited to celebrate the season at the Makers Market on Saturday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, where children can enjoy festive activities including letters to Santa, coloring, sing-alongs, and storybook readings from three local storytellers. Guests will be greeted by Santa’s cheerful elves, creating a joyful atmosphere for all ages. Each child will receive a holiday cookie and cocoa with one free refill, adding a sweet touch to the afternoon. With books, crafts, and cozy décor, the Makers Market promises a warm and welcoming space for families to gather, celebrate, and make lasting holiday memories. There will even be a guest appearance by Santa himself so the children can give him their letters.

## Best Winter Bird Seed For Outdoor Birds

By Sam Boyd, The Bird Nest

We often get asked “What is the best kind of seed for the birds in the winter?” There are many options. Birds need extra protein and high energy seed in the winter. Easily the best, all-around bird seed is black-oil sunflower seed. It will draw in a huge variety of species thanks to the fact that it’s packed with protein. Big birds and small birds alike love this seed!

Another great source is suet cakes which are made of rendered beef fat, seeds and grains. This high-energy diet is especially important in colder zones where a bird’s metabolism must work extra hard just to keep warm.

Finally, don’t forget the water! Birds need fresh water too. A small water dish that can be changed regularly is a plus. All of these are available at The Birds Nest inside Cortland Mower Sales.

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Winter Wren

Bald Eagle

Brown Creeper

Common Redpoll

Pine Siskin

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Northern Cardinal

## Snow Season Is Here – Protect Your Back!

By Joe Cvengros, PT, DPT, CSCS Peak Performance



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## Discover The Artistic World Of Alexis Reeves

Special to The Cortland News

Alexis Reeves is a multi-talented artist with a passion for capturing the essence of the horror community and nature-based pieces of work. As a photographer, she's known for her creative vision and technical expertise, bringing to life images that are both haunting and beautiful.

With a keen eye for detail and a passion for storytelling, Alexis works with her clients to create unforgettable



images that showcase their personality, style and special moments such as weddings and family photos. Her main specialty is her horror and fantasy shoots though, which she sometimes pairs up with special effects make-up artists for.

But photography is just one facet of Alexis' artistic talents. She's also a skilled sculptor, graphic artist, and painter, often incorporating natural elements like bones, moss, and gemstones into her work. Her artwork is a testament to her creativity and skill, with pieces that range from intricate bone-themed jewelry to stunning sculptures and murals. Her full-time job is a graphic artist for a local screen-printing company and she is currently working on some children books illustrations.

Some of her notable works include custom incense holders and ashtrays, two large murals for a Warren high school, animal portrait paintings and bone sculptures showcasing her versatility and artistry.

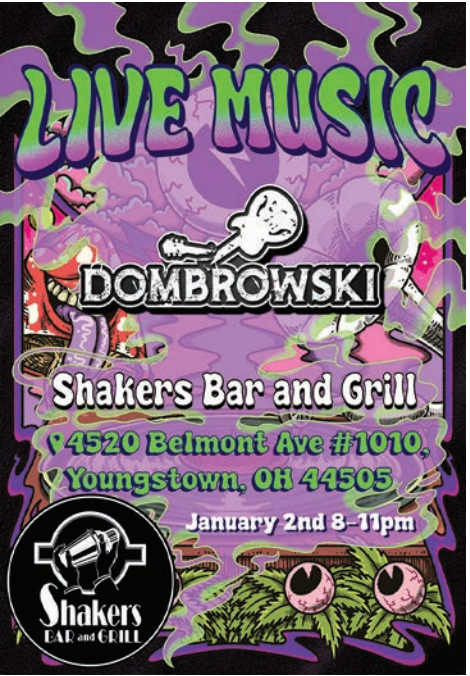
To take her photography to the next level, Alexis offers special effects makeup services, complete with a talented artist to help her clients transform into their desired characters.



Whether you're looking for a mystical realm or a dark fantasy world, Alexis has the skills and expertise to bring your vision to life.

If you're looking for an artist who can capture the essence of the unknown and the mystical, look no further than Alexis Reeves. Contact her at 234-275-

6621 (text or call) to learn more about her services and schedule a session. She also has two Facebook pages- one for her art and one for her photography she can be contacted through: LookingLens Photography and Creative Bone Creations and More. She is open to anything and everything art related and will work within YOUR budget!



## Patrol Continues Effort To Remove Impaired Drivers From Roadways During Holiday Season

As friends and families gather and winter celebrations fill the calendar, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) is reminding drivers of the dangers of driving impaired and sharing safety tips to ensure a safe holiday season.

"As we gather with loved ones for winter celebrations, it's important to remember that impaired driving has no place on Ohio's roads," said Governor Mike DeWine. "I encourage every driver to make a plan for a sober ride home."

The OSHP is asking every driver to take personal responsibility to reduce these numbers by:

- Designating a sober driver: Before your celebration begins, establish a sober driver. If plans change, call a friend or rideshare service.

- Knowing the different types of impairment: Troopers are not just looking for those impaired by alcohol. They are specifically trained to detect impairment from marijuana and other drugs that negatively impact driving ability.

- Knowing the consequences: An OVI conviction carries penalties, including the potential for jail time, heavy fines and license suspension.

"Every driver needs to make the conscious choice to promote roadway safety," said Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent. "That means designating a sober driver before the first drink, understanding that impairment isn't just limited to alcohol and realizing the consequences of driving impaired." According to Patrol statistics, troopers have issued nearly 95,000 OVI-related citations since the beginning of 2020. Nearly one quarter of those citations have involved a motorist impaired by marijuana and/or other drugs.

Let's work together to ensure this holiday season is safe for everyone. Remember, driving impaired is never worth the risk. Motorists play a vital

role in traffic safety and are encouraged to safely call #677 to report impaired driving, drug activity or reckless operation of a motor vehicle.

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As you start dashing through the Christmas Holiday season, take a minute to appreciate the true blessing of Christmas: the moments with family, the companionship of friends, & the fellowship with all.

Wishing you a safe, healthy & Happy Holiday season

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EJB-9811F-A-E-DA AECSPAD 26884338

A Heartwarming Legacy

... continued from front page

founding attorneys were profoundly dedicated to Cortland, extending their service far beyond the confines of the law office.

John F. Gessner was a man deeply woven into the fabric of Cortland. His commitment to service began with his time in the military, where he served in the Army and achieved the rank of Captain. During his service, he worked with German individuals, including prisoners at Camp Reynolds. Professionally, he was a trusted counselor and partner, establishing the firm's ethos of dedicated service. Beyond the law, his civic involvement was significant, notably serving on the Cortland Bank Board, ensuring local financial stability. Even more uniquely, John F. Gessner possessed a deep and enduring passion for local history, often acting as an informal, yet highly knowledgeable, local historian. He helped preserve the area's narrative and was a living link to Cortland's past, enriching the community with his knowledge.

Robert Montgomery Platt Sr., in particular, embodied a deep commitment to both his country and his community. His foundational commitment to service began long before his legal career, having served honorably as a decorated Navy veteran of World War II. After his military service, he earned his law degrees and, upon being admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1954, co-founded the firm with John F. Gessner in 1958. Platt Sr.'s service to Cortland was extensive and defining; he was a steadfast public servant who held the position of the beloved Law Director for the City of Cortland for an impressive 25 years, ensuring the legal integrity and stability of the municipality while simultaneously building his private practice. He was a trusted counselor who practiced law for 56 years, providing reliable guidance to generations of local families.

**The Lakeview and Law School Connection**

The firm's heart was defined by the continuation of two separate father-and-son legacies, all rooted in local education. The next generation of attorneys—George Edward Gessner (1945–2019), Judge Robert Montgomery Platt Jr. (1947–2024), and Jenna Gessner Polak—all proudly graduated from Lakeview High School before pursuing their higher education and legal careers. John F. Gessner's son, George Edward Gessner, joined the firm after an initial career in teaching, committing nearly fifty years to the practice. George served as the senior attorney for many years, becoming the principal counsel for the firm after his father retired, building a deep and trusting relationship with clients that spanned decades. His expertise focused on the most sensitive areas of law, including estate planning, wills, and real estate, making him a central figure in safeguarding the financial futures and assets of countless local families. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law. Following in his father's footsteps both as an attorney and a community leader, George also served on the Cortland Bank Board, reinforcing the family's deep connection to the town's financial and civic life.

Similarly, Robert Montgomery Platt Sr.'s son, Judge Robert Montgomery Platt Jr., earned his law

degree from Ohio Northern University, Claude W. Pettit College of Law. Rob Platt Jr. began his career doing title work and practiced law at the firm for many years, focusing on litigation and municipal law. Like his father, he dedicated himself to public service, serving as a municipal Law Director for Cortland and West Farmington. He capped his public career when he was elected Judge for the Trumbull County Eastern District Court in 2013, a role he held for six years. His transition to the bench was a reflection of his long history as a fair and dedicated practitioner of law in the community.

The tradition was further cemented by Jenna Gessner Polak, George's daughter, who earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron School of Law, following her father's path. Her commitment reinforced the practice's identity as a multi-generational family enterprise dedicated to the Cortland area.

**The Essential Office Team**

Beyond the attorneys, the essential heart of the firm resided in the administrative team, which ensured every person who sought help felt valued. This operational core was anchored by Lorna (Leni) Pekich, the dedicated paralegal who served as the firm's indispensable institutional memory and backbone. Lorna's educational foundation, rooted locally, began with her graduation from Maplewood High School in Mecca, Ohio, before she continued her studies at Kent State University. This educational background provided the rigorous base for her long career.

Lorna's role transcended simple clerical work; she was the engine that powered the entire legal workflow, expertly managing countless complex case details, preparing critical court documents, handling meticulous probate filings, and ensuring every deadline was met with absolute precision. For decades, her deep, reliable professionalism was the constant that allowed the attorneys to focus entirely on their legal arguments. She was not only a logistical master but also a source of steady, calm reassurance for clients, often translating intricate legal processes into understandable, human terms.

The firm's welcoming atmosphere was completed by the receptionists who offered the first friendly face to every visitor. This included the full-time office receptionist, Martha Dennis, and the part-time receptionist, Sue Platt, the wife of Judge Robert Platt Jr. Both Martha and Sue were known for their genuinely friendly and welcoming greetings, and their attentiveness to all clients, making the often-intimidating experience of walking into a law office feel comfortable and personal. This collective dedication from Lorna, Martha, and Sue maintained the firm's reputation for compassionate, family-oriented service.

**Closure**

Sadly, following the passing of key figures like George Gessner and Robert Platt Jr., the long and distinguished chapter of Gessner & Platt Co., L.P.A. came to a close. The law office at 212 West Main Street has recently closed, and the building itself was auctioned off, formally ending its tenure as a cherished institution. The firm's true legacy, however, lives on in the thousands of families they helped and the spirit of dedicated, multi-generational service they fostered in Cortland.





# What's "news" in the City of Cortland

**Just The Facts**

What is the most popular Christmas song of all time?  
a. White Christmas  
b. Jingle Bells  
c. Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer  
d. Rocking Around the Christmas Tree  
*Find the answer at the bottom of the article.*

**Republic Services**

Trash pick-up will be delayed by a day during the week of Christmas.  
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.

**Dates to Remember**

Dec. 15th – City Council – 7 p.m.  
Jan. 5th – City Council – 7 p.m.  
\* City Administrative Offices will be closed on Dec. 24th and 25th. Water/sewer payments can be placed in the secure lock box next to the front door.

**Answer**

a. White Christmas. This song by Bing Crosby is the best-selling Christmas single of all time. It has sold more than 50 million copies worldwide according to the Guinness Book of World Records! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## City Of Cortland Secures \$4.5 Million For The New Safety Service Complex

By Mayor Deidre Petrosky

The City of Cortland is proud to announce that Congressman Dave Joyce has secured \$4.5 million in federal funding in the FY2026 budget to support the construction of Cortland's new Safety Service Complex, a vital project that will strengthen public safety, enhance emergency response capabilities, and support long-term operational efficiency for our growing community.  
"Our first responders deserve first-class facilities and equipment so that they can serve their communities to the best of their abilities," said Congressman Joyce. "This new Safety Service Complex will allow Cortland's public safety personnel to coordinate and respond to a variety of needs for the community."  
Mayor Deidre "Dee Dee" Petrosky expressed the city's deep appreciation for the Congressman's commitment: "This is a transformative investment in the future of Cortland. Our police, fire, and emergency personnel deserve modern, efficient, and safe facilities that reflect the high level of service they provide every day. Congressman Joyce and his team understood the urgency

and importance of this project, and their support will significantly advance our ability to protect and serve our residents."  
The City also extends its sincere gratitude to Jeffrey Jiang for his support, guidance, and advocacy throughout the process.  
"Jeffrey's expertise and dedication were invaluable in helping us navigate the federal process and ensure Cortland's needs were clearly communicated," Mayor Petrosky added. "We are grateful for his partnership and professionalism."  
This federal investment will allow the city to replace aging, inadequate facilities and consolidate essential public safety services into a single, state-of-the-art complex designed to improve coordination, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and support Cortland's needs for decades to come.  
Mayor Petrosky also thanked the Congressman's staff for their partnership and support: "We are especially grateful for the responsiveness and diligence of Congressman Joyce's staff. Their collaboration and attention to detail helped ensure that this project remained a priority."

Judge James Fredericka recently swore in two Humane Society Agents of the Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County, Inc.



Judge Fredericka, Brooklynn Galios, and Sheriff Michael Wilson



Judge James Fredericka, Bethany Cluckey, and Sheriff Michael Wilson

## Cortland Mayor Recall Vote Set For February 3, 2026

Cortland City Council has officially scheduled a special election for February 3, 2026, allowing residents to vote on the recall of current Mayor Deidre Petrosky. The decision follows the successful submission and certification of a citizen-led petition calling for the election.  
The push for a recall came to a head last month when petitioners, led by residents like Jerry Bayus and Rita Dodd, submitted 511 signatures to the Council Clerk. The Trumbull County Board of Elections verified 488 of those signatures, easily surpassing the city charter's requirement of approximately 381 valid signatures.  
Mayor Petrosky, who is serving her second term, was given five days following the petition's certification to resign, but she declined to step down. "I am not going to resign ... I have a responsibility to the city of Cortland to finish these projects," she stated previously, adding, "I want the entire city to weigh in on this."  
The central issue driving the recall movement appears to be an increasingly strained and sometimes acrimonious relationship between the Mayor and City Council, coupled with concerns from residents over the handling of city business.  
Petitioners cited the Mayor's

alleged "unprofessional way of working with council and overseeing operations" and specific disputes, including:  
• Service Director Appointment: Council members voted against the Mayor's recommendation for a City Service Director, leading to public disagreements.  
• Contract Handling: Concerns were raised that the Mayor handles "too many contracts," citing a recent garbage contract as an example, leading to residents feeling "blindsided."  
• Public Conduct: Allegations of the Mayor sending "demeaning and scolding emails" to council members and walking out of meetings have fueled the unrest.  
The special election, which will determine Mayor Petrosky's future in office, is estimated to cost the city between \$7,000 and \$10,000. While some residents have suggested the Mayor should resign to save the city the expense, Council President Kevin Piros emphasized the democratic process. "This is a democracy," Piros said. "In a democracy is where the voters speak. If the residents feel the mayor should be removed, that is their decision to make."  
Voters will head to the polls on February 3, 2026, to decide whether the Mayor should be removed from office before her term expires in December 2027.

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

Cortland residents wishing to cast a ballot early in the special election to recall Mayor Deidre Petrosky will have their first opportunity on Monday, January 6, 2026.  
The Trumbull County Board of Elections announced that early in-person voting will be held exclusively at their office in Warren. Voters are encouraged to utilize this period to ensure their voice is heard in the special

municipal contest. The key dates and location for this special election are: Early In-Person Voting starts on Monday, January 6, 2026 at the Trumbull County Board of Elections Office, located at 2947 Youngstown Road SE, Warren, OH 44484. The Official Election Day is Tuesday, February 3, 2026.  
The deadline to register to vote and be eligible for this special recall election is Monday, January 5, 2026.



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**BUMPER KIDS LEAGUE - AGES 3-6**

**BOWL TWO GAMES**

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



**ADULT LEAGUES**

MON - SENIORS 10:00 AM  
TUES - LADIES 6:30 PM  
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SUN - MIXED 4:45 PM

**OPEN BOWLING**

\$4.50 PER GAME PER PERSON  
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WEDNESDAY - 9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM  
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# Lakeview School News

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## A Study in Gifts & Giving

By Sam Shilling, TCTC and LHS student

The smell of freshly roasted chestnuts, laid out beside the roaring hearth garnished with stockings and garland and maybe perhaps the dazzling lights of the Christmas tree reflecting gently off the sparkling ornaments a'plenty evoke a certain feeling within all of us: some feel the warmth and joy of Christmas decorations, others draw nostalgia, calling back to their childhood of simpler times; however, there's one more common feeling that all have felt before: the united hope for a better tomorrow, forgetting about today to pray for the future ahead.

It's around this time that any and all ill-will towards your fellow man is forgotten in better light of the collective prosperity of all souls, young and old alike, during the sugar-coated pines of December. With the bells of red kettles ringing all about to raise charity for the unfortunate souls around this year and the plentiful generosity of people to their neighbor, treating them not as another but as family, even if just for a little while.

We must take this time to step

back from the hustle of our daily lives and enjoy the quieter pleasures of this time of year. To hang garland about the tree, hand our gifts to our loved one, or maybe even cozy up alongside a good book with a cup of cocoa beside the open fire.

Whatever way you choose to spend your time can never be wrong so long as you enjoy it, which leads me onto another point; whether it be Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Ramadan you're still celebrating that Christmas spirit without celebrating Christmas, a thing people often forget around this time of year.

So instead of celebrating solely one or the other, taking away from the message of each celebration, why not appreciate the meaning behind each and every one of these holidays that are more alike than you think!

All I ask is that you say hello to friends you know and have a cup of cheer whilst you take your merry old time in preparing for the holiday.

As our year wraps up, filled with merry and gay memories, we

prepare ourselves for the turning of the hourglass, marking the end of something old and cherished and at the same time the start of something new, known or unknown. It's around the end of December that people begin to make last minute preparations for the ball at year's end, dreaming of a better version of themselves as we step closer towards a time of change and lasting marks.

Did you know that on average last year it was reported that for every ten Americans three made a New Year's resolution? Even further, over half of that group made more than one!

With Father Time growing young as the month comes to a felicitous close I'll speak my final thoughts on the matter. I wish you all the best and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with love and laughter of those you hold dear. I'll be sure to see you all come the drop of that crystal ball at Time Square at midnight.

From a close friend of the community and the Christmas lover who had their tree up since right after Halloween, goodbye!

## 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 Mallory Petrick, an exceptional student and the daughter of Dawn and David Petrick. A proud member of the Lakeview community since kindergarten, Mallory has grown into one of the most well-rounded leaders in the Class of 2026. Academically, she ranks in the top 20 of her class while balancing a rigorous schedule that includes both Lakeview High School courses and College Credit Plus classes through Youngstown State University.

Outside the classroom, Mallory has made a tremendous impact in the arts. She has been a key contributor to the Drama Club for the past four years, earning several starring roles. Musically, she shines as a member of our honors choir and the symphonic and marching bands. This year, Mallory's peers elected her president of the National Honor Society, a reflection of her character, leadership, and commitment to service. Looking ahead, she plans to pursue a career in healthcare, where her compassion and drive will undoubtedly serve her well.

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

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well?  
- This is random, but I stay calm during emergencies. I don't panic.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District?  
- The people and the community.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? - Panera
- 4.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland?  
- My friends' houses
- 5.) Describe your fashion style.  
- Depends on the day, but usually casual.
- 6.) You might catch me ...  
- Hanging out with my friends.
- 7.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading now?  
- I am always listening to Taylor Swift.
- 8.) What are your future aspirations?  
- I would like to be a nurse.



## TCTC Launches "TCTC Tales" To Support Community-Wide Literacy Efforts

By Morgan Tondo Cretella

The Trumbull Career & Technical Center (TCTC) is proud to announce the launch of TCTC Tales, a new community wide literacy initiative designed to inspire young readers and strengthen community collaboration around literacy development.

Developed by the TCTC Literacy Committee in partnership with students in the Interactive Multimedia program, TCTC Tales combines engaging video episodes, children's books, and hands-on classroom resources to promote literacy among early learners across Trumbull County.

As part of this launch, TCTC will distribute an initial kit of seven books—along with lesson plans, extension activities created by students in TCTC's Education & Family Services program, and access to the new TCTC Tales show—to all 20 associate school districts. These materials are designed for use primarily with students in grades 1-3 and connect literacy learning with real-world career exploration.

"TCTC Tales is designed to inspire our next generation of reader leaders," said TCTC Academic and Literacy Committee Supervisor Cara DeToro. "Each episode highlights one of the many career pathways offered at TCTC, introduces meaningful vocabulary, and pairs learning with a featured

Continued on page 19



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## A Thank You From The Family Of Bob Wilson

By Peggy Wilson

The Wilson family, Peggy, Molly, Robby, Katie & Evelyn would like to thank the entire Lakeview community for all the love and support throughout Bob's cancer journey. On November 6, a Memorial Blood Drive was held at Lakeview High School in honor of Bob Wilson, retired superintendent of the Lakeview Schools who recently passed away after a year and a half long battle with acute myeloid leukemia (AML.)



Working together to make this drive a tremendous success were Ashley Handrych, current Lakeview Schools Superintendent, Lawrence Herrholtz, LHS Principal, Michael DeToro, LHS Assistant Principal, and National Honor Society Advisor and LHS Science teacher, Sara Dager Smith in coordination with Christina Gargas, American Red Cross Donor Recruitment Representative.

Statistics from the November 6th Bob Wilson Memorial Blood Drive include the following:

- 108 registered donors with 100% turnout which does not include

the additional walk-ins that day

- Of the 108 scheduled donors, 50 were first time donors!

• The patient need target for the day was 78 pints with 89 pints collected, exceeding expectations

- 12 donations were "Power Reds" which per the American Red Cross is an incredible number

• According to Christina Gargas with the American Red Cross, these donations will help touch the lives of up to 267 patients

Mrs. Handrych shared that "Lakeview is beyond grateful for the outpour of community support for the Bob Wilson Memorial Blood Drive. Bob believed in people in a way that changed them, I was fortunate to be one of those people. His mentorship shaped



Larry Herrholtz, Rob Wilson, Peggy Wilson, Sara Dager Smith, Ashley Handrych, & Mike DeToro

my leadership and he taught me what leadership with heart truly looks like. If I can leave behind even a fraction of the good he offered this community, I'll have honored his legacy."

Moving forward, LHS National Honor Society will make the Bob Wilson Memorial Blood Drive an annual event. As a young, new high school principal in 1991, Bob initiated



Peggy Wilson, Butch Davis, Joyce Davis (1st time donor in Bob's honor) & Robby Wilson incognito!

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LHS National Honor Society Volunteers  
Mallory P., Ivy R., & Lily H.

the first Red Cross Blood Drive at LHS and was the first to roll up his sleeves to donate. Bob's inspiration and lifesaving tradition truly continued November 6th and will live on for years to come. As we enter the holiday season, there is so much to be grateful for as a member of this Lakeview community, a great place to live and raise a family. If you are so inspired, consider giving the Gift of Life by donating through the American Red Cross. Bob donated for over 35 years and it was while at a scheduled appointment to give that his journey with leukemia began. He was unable to donate that day due to low hemoglobin and was subsequently diagnosed with AML and began chemotherapy two weeks later on his birthday.

According to the Red Cross, Bob was considered a "Hero for Babies" due to his O positive, CMV negative

blood which is safest for immuno-compromised newborns in need of transfusions. Over the years and as frequently as the Red Cross allowed, Bob gave "double reds" hoping to "fill the tank" for those in need. His days of giving blood turned into days of receiving as he continued to need transfusions throughout his cancer journey. Bob hoped to have donated more blood than he received.

Together we can help alleviate the national blood shortage and make Bob's wish come true.



LHS National Honor Society Volunteers  
Sofia C. & Gianna V.

To meet these animals, message the Healthy Hearts and Paws Project Facebook page, contact us at [healthyheartspawproject.org/contact-us/](https://healthyheartspawproject.org/contact-us/) or fill out an adoption application at [healthyheartspawproject.org](https://healthyheartspawproject.org)

**ALLISON f CARTER**

The shelter heartthrob! This handsome 2-year-old, 55-pound hunk is so good-looking he could be a doggy supermodel. He's neutered, knows how to give paw, and loves showing off his charm to anyone who will watch. Carter is more than ready to be part of a family of his very own — and we'd love for him to be in a HOME for the holidays.

Allison is a gentle, loving girl who wants nothing more than to be close to her humans. She's calm in the car, a sweetheart at the vet, and happiest when she's curled up in your lap. She was a devoted mama who poured her whole heart into raising her puppies. Every single one of them has gone on to wonderful, loving homes — but after giving so much of herself, Allison is the one left behind in the shelter, waiting for someone to choose her for once. It's her turn to finally be loved the way she has loved. She enjoys her chew toys, and loves spending time with older, respectful children. Allison needs to be the only pet in the home — but truly, you won't need another when you have her.

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# Faith News





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Pastor Steve Garces, Mecca Community Church



## The Unfinished And Unfulfilled Plan

The unfinished and unfulfilled plan is something we are all familiar with. We work on a project and a key component breaks or the presentation doesn't work. We plan a special meal and the turkey burns and we must go to Denny's instead and they are out of all the good food and drink we want. Travel plans are foiled by weather or broken alarm clocks or flat tires, and planes, trains, and automobiles are no longer an option. As humans and sinners our foiled and failed plans are so common that movies and tv shows turn them into comedy scenes that are watched year after year. We are poor miserable sinners and we fall short of the glory of God; we are imperfect and can't pay for our sins or beat death or defeat Satan On our own. While that is the case for us it isn't the case for God.

God's plans always work. His plan for your salvation went on without a hitch. In Galatians chapter 4 St. Paul tells us of how God's plan to redeem

you and give you salvation went perfectly, "4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." God from the time of Adam and Eve knew what needed to be done to save you from sin, death , and Satan, and He did just that by coming born in the flesh of mankind born of the Virgin Mary.

This time of year we remember and confess the hope and joy we have with the Angels who spoke to the shepherds in the second chapter of St. Luke's gospel, "10 And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.c 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'" Jesus after his birth would grow up fulfill all of God's promises in scripture and die for you, crucified, on the cross for you. In Jesus you are Forgiven, have salvation, and eternal life.

As you celebrate this Christmas season and plans fail and fall apart, take heart and remember God's plans always work for you When the days feel long and you can't seem to get things correct, remember Jesus perfectly did what was promised and prophesied for your redemption, He did not fail. As God keeps His promise He, who ascended into Heaven in our Flesh, will return and bring you to His eternal kingdom as He has planned. This is why we spend this time in Advent looking to Christmas, for Jesus came to earth for you incarnate born of the Virgin Mary so He could redeem you. This is the truest Christmas gift, and it is perfectly planned and will not fail. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Christmas season is finally here! The season of Joy, love, & Cheer...sounds like a making of a song! As I prepared to write this article, my thoughts steered me towards a more somber approach. In the midst of the season's celebration, there are individuals that find no comfort in this moment. Their minds clouded with painful memories of a loved one's passing or a home broken by arguments. Their season is full of silent tears and bitterness. The 'hustle and bustle' of the holiday diverts the oblivious from their concealed pain.

What can we do?  
Take Notice! The season of Christmas is all about a God that saw us in our vulnerable state....hurt, bitter, and lost in sin. Yet, God, paused long enough to reach out to us. Isaiah 61:1 says He was 'sent to heal the

brokenhearted, to proclaim Liberty to the captives'. As we go further into the reason for the kind of response, we see a sacrificial love.

This same love is in the hearts of believers. What is sad to admit is, we can be selfish and too busy to notice or be concerned about the problems around us. Of all the holidays, this season should convince us to be aware of others and to respond with grace and love. If we tool a moment...a pause in the rush...we might see that individual that is lonely and hurting. If we put aside our need to rush through life and just paused...we might be the 'miracle' that someone needs. We might witness how God can use us to impact the 'brokenhearted' today. Its that 'pause' that helps us focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

## Snow Trees Poem

By Robert Adkins

Looking out my winter window,  
I see snow sticking to the trees.  
White flakes looking for  
some where to go,  
Float softly on the breeze.

Christmas songs sound  
quietly in the air,  
Sung by the angels everywhere.  
Sing to the Glory of the Christ Child,  
Born 2000 years ago to save a  
world gone wild.

Too cold now to melt the fallen  
and hanging snow,  
Makes you wonder,  
where does your life go.  
The winter moves on the air  
will blow warm,  
Leaves will again replace the  
snow and bees will swarm.

The weather evolves to summer time,  
Poetic reasoning will set a  
life to rhyme.  
Where did the snow on the trees go?  
It becomes water to make  
the leaves grow.



## Live Nativity Event



Join Bazetta Christian Church for a drive through their parking lot to witness the story of Christ's birth, complete with shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, a Roman soldier and real animals (including camels).

Celebrate the season with your family from the comfort of your vehicle. All are welcome! Saturday, December 20 from 4 to 7 PM. Please join us!



## Holiday Church Services

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
December 24, Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm / Open Communion.

**Cortland United Methodist Church**  
BLUE CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 21, 2 pm at Fowler United Methodist Church. Open to all and good for those who are struggling or grieving.

Christmas Eve Services, 4:30 pm Fowler United Methodist Church and 7 pm Cortland United Methodist Church

**Bazetta Christian Church**  
BLUE CHRISTMAS Service details: Tuesday, December 16, 7 pm

**Cortland Christian Church**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service starts at 7 pm

**Cortland Church Of The Nazarene**  
Dec 21, 4th Sunday of Advent, 10:45 am Service.  
Christmas Eve Service 6 pm

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
Advent Midweek Service Dec 17, 5:30 pm; Birthday Party for Jesus will follow Service Dec 21; Christmas Eve 5:30 pm ; Christmas Day: 10:15 am

**Journey Christian Church**  
Christmas Eve candlelight service at 4 pm

**Mecca Community Church**  
Christmas Eve Service is 4 pm to the Holiday Church Services

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Cortland OH 44410  
330-637-2571  
[CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com](mailto:CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com)

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



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Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.  
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## Christmas Community Band And Choir Coming To Town!

By Theresa Hutton

The sights and sounds of Christmas are returning to Cortland! You are warmly invited to an afternoon filled with joy, harmony, and holiday spirit as LOAF proudly presents its Annual Christmas Concert, featuring the Cortland Community Band and Community Choir. The concert will be held on Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. at Lakeview High School – Raidel Auditorium.

The program begins with the Community Band, directed by Mr. Garey Watson, sharing a bright lineup of well-known holiday melodies that reflect the cheer and warmth of the Christmas season. The concert then transitions to the Community Choir, under the direction of Michelle Jones, offering reflective and spiritually rich selections that celebrate the hope and promise of Christ's birth.

This free community concert has become a beloved holiday tradition – a

time for families, friends, and neighbors to come together, lift their hearts in song, and celebrate the true meaning of the season. Through the beauty of music, we are reminded of God's gifts of peace, joy, and love shared among us. A freewill offering will be joyfully received to support this year's chosen mission, Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Trumbull Chapter. This dedicated group of volunteers, hand-builds bunk beds for children in need, providing not only the beds themselves but also mattresses, bedding, and the assurance that "No Child Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town."

After the concert, everyone is invited to stay for a cookie and refreshment reception – a sweet time of fellowship and reflection as we celebrate the warmth of the Christmas spirit together. Come and be part of this joyful gathering as the music of the season fills our hearts and our community once again!



## Church News And Notes

### Bazetta Christian Church

is once again hosting their Live Nativity Event Saturday, December 20 from 4 to 7 PM. Join them for a drive through their parking lot to witness the story of Christ's birth, complete with shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, a Roman soldier and real animals (including camels). All are welcome!.

### Cortland Christian Church

will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 7pm.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Gingerbread Walk. All the Vendors, crafters, hosts and for all the advertising that was done. It was a magnificent day. Santa appeared to make things a bit jollier. You just never know for sure where he is so just be good all the time.

The 3 Sutliff Brothers won prizes with their gingerbread houses. Mackenzie and Austin also won a prize with their cute rendition of a gingerbread house and garage. Small Business Saturday is a special day in Cortland.

### Cortland United Methodist Church

God Provides A Meal, Saturday, December 20, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Menu: Stuffed pork chop, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans,

dessert & beverage. Everyone is welcome

Donations accepted but not required

### Trinity Lutheran Church

Katharina's Closet Donation 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.

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.

## Blue Christmas Service A Sacred Space Of Comfort, Healing and Hope

By Theresa Hutton

The Christmas season proclaims "good news of great joy," yet many hearts quietly carry burdens that make this time of year feel heavy. If you are walking through uncertainty, loneliness, loss, or a longing for God's peace, you are lovingly invited to a gentle, holy space where Christ meets us in our sorrow. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Psalm 34:18.

Come and rest in Scripture, prayer, candlelight, and the stillness of God's presence. Allow His light to touch the

places that feel dim. Allow His comfort to wrap around you. Allow His hope to rise within you once more.

You do not need to be cheerful to come. You only need to come as you are – and trust that Jesus will meet you tenderly, with compassion and grace.

Service details: Date: Tuesday, December 16th. Time: 7:00 P.M. Location: Bazetta Christian Church, 4131 Bazetta Road, Cortland, Ohio (Next to the Trumbull County Fairgrounds). For more information: 330-637-6312.



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## Meet The Artists Behind This Year’s Trees At The Gallery Holiday Marketplace

By Stephanie Sferra

TAG’s popular Trees at the Gallery Holiday Marketplace, which is celebrating its sixth year, continues now through Saturday, January 3, 2026. This annual event features a curated walk-through marketplace with a variety of displays showcasing unique gift items handcrafted by 29 local artists including art, jewelry, seasonal and holiday décor and more. Additional items are on display and available for purchase in the TAG Gift Shop.

As last year, TAG’s annual holiday raffle features a fully-decorated tree; a collection of handcrafted ornaments donated by each participating artist; and a TAG Gift Certificate that can be used to purchase an item in the Gift Shop or Gallery or used towards a TAG class. The drawings will take place on Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 pm. Winners need not be present to win. And for the fifth year, TAG continues its “Angels for Art Education”



This year’s artists include: Deanna Andamasaris; Brenda Armstrong; Dee Aston; Kristen M Baker; Linda M Carusone; Patty Cetrone; Patty Cleary-Talstein; Matthew Colla; Katerina Devadan; Denise DiLellio; Veronique Gerard; Susan Griffin; Deborah Hills-Haney; Marsha L Knight; Connie Kolarick; Salli Kowalski; Ron Krygowski; Kathy Lepro; Jeanne McMillion; Amanda Moriarty; Zane Moriarty; Wendi Raven Patrick; Lynne Provance; Marie Semko-Duncan; Regina Semko; Chuck Seidler; Stephanie Sferra; Ralph Teets; and Tulla Zambetis. Several of these participating artists will be on hand at the gallery each Saturday in December through December 20, where visitors will have an opportunity to personally meet and talk with them as some create additional items for their displays.

fundraising campaign. Gallery hours through Saturday, January 3, 2026, are Wednesdays (Noon-4:00 pm); Thursdays (Noon-6:00 pm); Fridays (Noon-4:00 pm); and Saturdays (11:00 am-4:00 pm). Admission to the event is free.



The Trumbull Art Gallery, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and was formed in 1957, is located at 158 North Park Avenue on Courthouse Square in downtown Warren. To find out more about this holiday event visit TAG’s website at [www.TrumbullArtGallery.com](http://www.TrumbullArtGallery.com) or check the gallery’s Facebook page.



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# Warren Women’s Club Hosts Zell Hart Deming

By Peggy Boyd

The Warren Women’s Club, located at 708 North Park Ave., Warren held their monthly meeting featuring Carol Stowe portraying Zell Hart Deming. Stowe in costume that she wore for the Ghost Walk; told of the preparation she needed to tell the story of the lady who owned the Warren Tribune and the Warren Tribune Chronicle in the first decade of the 20th century.

Lunch was served to 35 women after Carol’s historical portrayal before the business meeting was brought to order. The Warren Women’s Club meets the third Monday of the month, September through June. The monthly meetings feature a luncheon prepared by the ladies of the club, fellowship and program with a speaker.

The Club House is available for rental. It is handicapped accessible and is a great location for a baby shower, club meetings, birthday celebrations, teas, card clubs etc. for a nominal fee. Contact Sandy Mahaffey ay 330-518-6927.



Michele Kubicina, Carol Stowe, Ruth Ann Capito



On November 29th, Cortland kicked off the season with the Gingerbread Walk, followed by Sunday’s annual Tree Lighting – and what an incredible turnout we had. It was heartwarming to see so many neighbors, families, and friends come out to support our small businesses and celebrate together. Moments like these remind us just how special the Cortland community truly is. Pictured is Kathy with “BobKat Lil’ Critters.”

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# Heating Assistance Available To Help Ohioans Avoid Chill Of Winter Months

As temperatures start to drop across Ohio, the state is stepping in to help families keep the heat on by easing the burden of high energy bills.

Effective Nov. 1, income-eligible Ohioans can receive one-time assistance with their home energy bill through the Ohio Department of Development’s Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program.

“We’re proud to show up for Ohioans when they need us most, especially when Ohio winters create challenges for individuals and families,” said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development.

“The Winter Crisis Program is here to provide critical support so people can stay safe, healthy, and warm through our coldest time of the year.” Last year, the Winter Crisis Program assisted more than 73,000 households in Ohio, providing \$25.5 million in benefits.

The Winter Crisis Program assists Ohioans facing service disconnection, those who have already been disconnected, individuals needing to establish new service, and those required to pay for a service transfer. It also supports households with 25 percent or less of bulk fuel in their tank to maintain service. Qualifying households must have a gross annual income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four, that is \$56,262.50.




Households serviced by a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)-regulated utility must sign up for PIPP or another payment plan if there is still an outstanding balance on the utility bill after receiving assistance.

Ohioans can start their application online but must schedule an appointment with their local energy assistance provider to complete the application. Depending on the agency, the appointment may be in person, on the phone, or remote. The application and list of providers can be found online at [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).

Clients need to bring copies of the following documents to their appointment:

- Their most-recent energy bills, if available.
- A list of all household members and proof of income for the last 30 days or 12 months for each member.
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability, if applicable.


For more information about the Winter Crisis Program, visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).



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## 2026 Change to Retirement Catch-Up Contribution Rule

The year is already rapidly ending, making it peak season for assessing (and, in many cases, reassessing) contribution options related to retirement savings accounts. A major factor worth considering heading into the new year is changes to the SECURE 2.0 Act's catch-up contribution rule. The changes begin on January 1, 2026, and could have a significant impact on individuals 50 years of age and older who earned more than \$145,000\* in 2025. If you are part of this group of investors, read on to learn about what catch-up contributions are and what the new rules mean for your retirement savings.

**What is a catch-up contribution?** If you're age 50 or older and have any variety of qualifying retirement savings accounts — including 401(k)s, 403(b)s, 457(b)s — you have the option of contributing additional pre-tax funds beyond the standard contribution limits set by the Internal Revenue Service.<sup>1</sup> These catch-up contributions are designed to help people nearing retirement give their investments an extra boost, which is especially beneficial for individuals who weren't able to contribute as much during their younger years. Catch-up contributions give soon-to-be-retirees an opportunity to accelerate their savings to match their expected income needs in retirement.

**How did Secure 2.0 Act impact investors?** Passed in December 2022, the SECURE 2.0 Act was created to encourage greater use of retirement plans that allow Americans to prepare for their golden years. The legislation included a variety of tax credits and other provisions, such as opportunities for long-term and part-time employees to participate and save more for retirement. The act increased the age at which individuals must begin making required minimum distributions (RMDs) to accommodate employees who stay in the workforce longer. The catch-up contribution limit for

participants aged 60 to 63 was raised in 2025 to \$11,250 under this legislation, dubbed a "super catch-up" contribution. This allows individuals within this age group to contribute well above the standard catch-up amount and take advantage of their peak earning years.

**What is the new catch-up contribution rule?** Beginning in the new year, individuals with employer-sponsored 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b) government retirement plans who are 50 years of age or older and who earned more than \$145,000\* in FICA wages the previous taxable year, must put their catch-up contributions into a designated Roth account after taxes. Simply put, this means any catch-up or super catch-up contributions for these high-income earners will be subject to tax deductions. This change does not impact a participant's standard contributions to their employer-sponsored retirement savings, which will continue to be able to be contributed pre-tax, and will not impact individuals who made less than \$145,000 in FICA wages the prior year.

**How can I prepare for this change?** For individuals nearing retirement, it's important to regularly reassess your contributions and make sure they're aligned with upcoming regulatory changes, shifts in late-career professional plans, and your personal income needs and financial goals. This shift to the catch-up contribution rule presents new strategic opportunities for high-income earners. A financial advisor can help navigate these decisions and diversify investments to set you up for success in retirement.

*\* In Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) wages and adjusted for inflation. Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.*

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# INSURANCE ANSWERS

By Jaimie Pavkovich, Associate Agent ~ Ruddy Insurance Group



## A Christmas Tree Story!

Top dangerous ways your real tree might ruin your Christmas.

The real Christmas tree, that most glorious pine-scented monument to holiday cheer. It appears to be innocent, standing there all twinkly and beautiful looking. All the while quietly whispering to your homeowner's insurance, "see you soon".

You're busy with all things Christmas, like running to the store, baking cookies, and going to Christmas parties. After a few days of Christmas brain and holiday forgetfulness suddenly your tree goes from "fresh mountain scent" to "charred log cabin chic". One spark from a faulty string of lights and that's one festive bonfire inside the house. Fire damage is usually a covered peril, but they'll want to know you weren't roasting chestnuts via indoor bonfire.

Most of us have seen the movie

"A Christmas Story," when the dad plugs in the tree after putting up ALL the lights. Nothing says holiday cheer like plugging 15 light strands into one power strip. If your lights look like they were used in 1982 and the cord looks like the Christmas mouse chewed on them, it's time to replace them. Electrical fires may be covered, but they might raise an eyebrow at your custom light display.

A real Christmas tree brings nostalgia and magic, along with a few risks your insurance company would rather not think about. Just remember you must take care of a real tree. Keep it watered, check your lights and unplug before bed. Nothing says "Merry Christmas" like avoiding a claim. If you have questions about homeowner's coverage, call your local independent agent to help.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!



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# Out & About in Trumbull County

## ~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~





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Specials

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### Customer Comfort Confirmed: An’s House Vietnamese Cafe Receives Rave Reviews and Shares Its Full Menu

The family-owned An’s House Vietnamese Cafe Restaurant, a fixture on Warren’s Courthouse Square at 176 N Park Ave, continues to garner enthusiastic praise from the community, solidifying its status as a must-visit dining spot. The name “An,” signifying peace, encapsulates the serene, welcoming atmosphere cultivated by owners, Thomas Le and Dylan Trinh behind this authentic culinary venture.





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reviews pointing to both the quality of the food and the exceptional service. Customer Julianne L. praised the overall experience, stating, “Everything that I have ever ordered from here has been delicious! The staff is friendly, the ingredients are fresh and they give nice sized portions.” Another diner, Jacob S., celebrated the new option in the area, saying, “Finally a fresh Vietnamese place in Trumbull County... 10/10 we will be back.”

Perhaps the highest compliment came from customer Chuc Nguyen, who noted, “I’m Vietnamese and I’ve been to dozens of restaurants in the Cleveland and Ohio area ... and this is by far the most authentic I’ve had.”

The staff’s helpfulness is also frequently mentioned, as Andrea D. recounted, “Omgoodness!!!! The best experience I have had in downtown Warren ... I was pleasantly greeted, not familiar with Vietnamese food and explained the menu thoroughly, and my table service was impeccable.”

For those planning to experience the flavors of An’s House, the restaurant is open six days a week, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 8:30 PM, and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The restaurant is closed on Sundays.

The full menu, which includes options for every meal and dietary preference (including vegetarian choices), can be viewed and orders can be placed online for pickup or delivery: <https://www.anhousewarren.com/order>

The restaurant’s core mission of bringing genuine Vietnamese comfort food to Trumbull County is clearly resonating with guests. Favorites include their famous PHOnomenal Pho, a rich and flavorful noodle soup with a broth simmered for hours, and the ever-popular Freshly Baked Bánh Mi, described as a perfect, wholesome option for those on the go. Additionally, the unique Vietnamese Fish Noodle Soup—featuring crispy-fried Tilapia fillets and an aromatic broth infused with pineapple and ginger—has proven to be an adventurous hit. To complete the experience, the creamy, sweet, and strong White Coffee continues to be a highly recommended beverage.

The dining experience at An’s House is consistently celebrated, with

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SCOPE Senior Services Director Mike Wilson with Bristol Center Manager Robin Martorana at the Santaland at the old firehouse. The new older adult center plans to open in mid-January during the day with free lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call 330-399-8846 for more details or to get on the list to be called when the new center opens.



# Out & About in Trumbull County

## ~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~

### A Quick Jaunt For Flavor: Beautiful Whirl'd Eatery Welcomes Cortland And Area Neighbors!

Cortland and all area residents, get ready for a delicious discovery that is just a quick, painless drive away! The vibrant and health focused Beautiful Whirl'd Eatery, located right on Court House Square in downtown Warren, is extending a warm invitation to make the short trip into the city for a truly satisfying meal. This beloved local spot is the perfect escape for those seeking fresh ingredients, inventive flavors, and a feel-good atmosphere.



Owners Mary and Clint Elston have carefully cultivated Beautiful Whirl'd since 2016, building a reputation for serving food that is as nourishing as it is exciting. Their commitment to quality, mindfulness, and a little bit of fun shines through in their entire operation. The best part? The journey from the Cortland area is incredibly brief. Depending on traffic, you can be seated and ordering a specialty within 10 to 15 minutes, making it an ideal destination

for a quick, wholesome lunch or a relaxed mid-morning pick-me-up.

A Menu of Mindful Creations While Beautiful Whirl'd offers a full range of fresh sandwiches, salads, wraps, quesadillas, tacos, and crunchwraps, they are most famous for their refreshing, all-natural showstoppers. The cornerstone of their menu is the Custom Smoothies and Acai or Coconut Bowls, blended with all-natural ingredients and locally sourced fruit whenever possible. Fan favorites include The Green Goddess, packed with kale and chia seeds for a wellness boost, and perfectly blended fruit classics.

To quench your thirst, be sure to try their specialty Bubble Teas or their unique, house-made Lemonades in flavors like Ginger and Lavender. Plant-based diners will also find plenty to love, as the eatery proudly offers a wide variety of excellent vegan options, reflecting the Elston's focus on whole, sustainable ingredients.

Everything You Need to Know Beautiful Whirl'd Eatery is centrally located at 141-A W Market Street, Warren right on Court House Square. They are open from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. So, skip the same old routine and take the enjoyable, short drive from Cortland. A beautiful whirl'd of flavor awaits!



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The Cortland Lions Club donated approximately \$400 worth of toys to Howland Growlin Browns Backers Toys for Tots drive. This event is held annually at the Iron House Bar and Grill in Cortland. Pictured left to right is Kris Vadas of the Howland Growlin Browns Backers, Dawna Wiland Lions Club President and Matt Smith-Financial Secretary of our Lions Club.

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# Out & About in Trumbull County

## ~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~



### Travel Club Celebrates the Season

By Peggy Boyd

The Trumbull County Travel Club ended their season with a one-day outing to Cleveland. Visiting the Cleveland Aquarium, members were able to walk through world oceans and view sea life as it is in nature. Lunch included an Italian feast at Guarino's Family Restaurant located in the hub of Cleveland's Little Italy. Time was enjoyed in Little Italy as members explored the shops and bakeries of this part of town. Finale stop was the Dunham Tavern and Gardens where guides led all parties through the history of the stage coach stop.

The Travel Club is open to any person who wishes to travel. There is no membership fee to belong. The club's purpose is to help everyone travel with friends and make friends to travel with. Day outings and overnight vacations are offered throughout the year. The club meets three or four times a year at the

Warren Public Library. Members travel mainly by motor coach but do use the trains and airports plus have also cruised.

The next day trip is by motor coach, leaving on Thursday, February 12, 2026. It is two days before Valentines Day. Trip will be "Wine, Chocolate & a Museum Too." March day trip is in the works as well as April's. May the club is going first class by train to Ottawa Canada for the Tulip Festival. It is sold out at this writing. August 23,2026 to September 5, 2026, members have signed up for a Western Adventure to the "4 Corners". There are 18 seats still available on this vacation. December 2-4, 2026, club members will go to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see Joshua and two other Christmas shows.

To receive literature on all upcoming trips please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the secretary. Please call 330-609-3971 for information and further details.

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### Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period Is Over. Now What?

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period ended December 7. If you made changes to your plan, you should receive detailed plan information for your new plan and your new insurance cards prior to the end of the year. If you did not switch plans, you should have received a summary of any changes the insurance company made to your current plan. Most plan changes during the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period will take effect on January 1. You will need to update your information with your medical providers and pharmacies. If you fill prescriptions through a mail order pharmacy, you will probably need to contact your physician or provider to obtain a new 90-day prescription to provide to the new mail order company. If you fill your prescriptions at a local pharmacy, you will simply need to provide them with the new card to update their billing information.

You can contact your agent if there are issues or surprises with your coverage that you were not aware of or if you have any questions concerning what your plan does or does not cover. You can also call the customer service number on your new card.

If you have higher costing medications, you may want to look into programs available to help with the costs of those medications. If you have limited income and resources, you may want to apply for the Extra Help program offered through Medicare and Social Security. Also, several pharmaceutical companies offer assistance programs

that provide medications at lower or no costs if you qualify. Each company can set their own criteria to qualify but typically their income and resource limits are higher than those required to qualify for the Extra Help program. You can find specific information on the manufacturer's website. Many physicians have the forms or can get you the relevant information. Most manufacturers' programs require you to reapply each year. If you are on one of these programs this is the time to do so for 2026. Another option, if you qualify for Veterans' Administration services, you may want to investigate getting your medications from the VA.

If there are changes to your personal circumstances throughout the year it is a good idea to review your plan and coverage with your agent. For example, if you move to a different county or state you will need to change to a plan offered in that area if your current plan is no longer available. If your income decreases, you may become eligible for help covering some medical or prescription costs. Conversely, if your income increases you may become subject to IRMAA, the income related monthly adjustment amount. IRMAA is an increase on your Part B and Part D premiums if your modified adjusted gross income from your tax return is above a certain amount.

*Zachary Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. He can be reached at 234-244-4014 or Zachary@awileyinsurance.com*

### Cub Scout Pack 25 Charity Breakfast On January 3rd

The next charity fund-raiser pancake breakfast at Cortland Masonic Lodge will be held on Saturday, January 3rd from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Lodge, which is located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland. As always, the public is invited.

The beneficiary will be Cub Scout Pack 25. The charity breakfasts are held once or twice each month by the Masonic Lodge, which provides all of the meal supplies, and cooks the menu, so that 100% of the breakfast proceeds can be donated to a local charity.

During 2025 the Masonic Lodge held 18 breakfasts --- marking over \$120,000 raised by the lodge for various

local organizations and charities since the breakfasts were initiated about 5 years ago.

The "all you can eat" breakfast costs \$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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### TCTC Tales ...continued from page 8

children's book. We're excited to bring these resources to classrooms across the county."

Beginning this year, districts will receive new TCTC Tales episodes, books, and lesson plans, with each installment spotlighting a different career-technical program.

TCTC Tales is a direct extension of Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement and supports TCTC's recently developed Literacy Plan, which prioritizes community collaboration to improve reading outcomes. Over the past three years, TCTC educators have engaged in extensive Science-of-Reading professional development, and in 2023, the school was awarded the Reaching All Students through Language Literacy Grant. The \$200,000 grant has supported professional development, instructional tools, and

remediation materials—and inspired the Literacy Committee to expand literacy opportunities for all partner districts.

"This is a wonderful community collaborative initiative," DeToro added. "We are thrilled to see associate districts already adopting and implementing the TCTC Tales curriculum."

Districts such as Howland and Liberty are among the early participants and will serve as partners for media visits highlighting the program's implementation. Additional details for media scheduling will be provided by participating districts.

TCTC welcomes questions, feedback, and collaboration inquiries at [tctctales@tctchome.com](mailto:tctctales@tctchome.com). Explore TCTC Tales content at [tctchome.com/page/tctc-tales](http://tctchome.com/page/tctc-tales).



### Judge Engler Launches First Post-Divorce Experience Survey in Trumbull County

*By Caleb Holscher, Bailiff, Trumbull County Family Court*

Judge David L. Engler has launched an ambitious new effort to hear directly from the people who know the court best: those who have just completed their divorce, dissolution, or custody matter. This experience survey is among the first in Northeast Ohio. Individuals leaving the Domestic Relations/Juvenile Courtroom will receive a short experience survey designed to capture honest, unfiltered feedback about how the court can communicate more clearly, operate more efficiently, and better support families during a stressful chapter of life.

This project marks a major step in Judge Engler's ongoing mission to modernize the court and make it centered on the people. The survey that is emailed to all litigants asks people whether the process made sense, whether the court treated them with respect, whether instructions were clear, and whether they walked out knowing exactly what to expect next. Their answers will help shape future forms, staff communication, and the way the court guides families through one of the most difficult legal experiences they may ever face.

"Divorce is already challenging enough," Judge Engler said. "If the court can make this process easier to understand and less overwhelming, then we need to hear directly from the people who were actually in front of us."

Every response will be confidential. The court will review the results, identify common concerns, and release a summary of what it learned so the public can see how their feedback leads to real improvements. Judge Engler plans to take immediate action where patterns emerge, whether that means rewriting confusing instructions, updating online guidance, or strengthening follow-up communication so people never leave the courthouse feeling lost or unsure.

This new survey is more than a form. It is a signal that the Domestic Relations Court/Juvenile Court is ready to listen, willing to evolve, and always building a more transparent, responsive, and community-focused Court. Judge Engler wants every person who enters the courthouse to know that their experience matters and now, for the first time, the court is officially asking them to share it.

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## Cortland Lions Club Giving Back During The Christmas Season

By Ralph McCord

Due to the Cortland Area supporting this year's Cortland Street Fair and other Fund-Raising Projects-our Lions Club was able to make several donations:

- Lakeview High School Pantry \$300
- Browns Backers Toys for Tot's Drive \$400
- Warren Family Mission 23 turkeys
- Cortview Residents in need \$2100
- Cortland Area Cares Food Pantry \$2500
- Boyd's Home Annual Pizza Party \$250
- French Fry Sales at Lakeview Home Football Games- \$1900 to the Lakeview Athletic Boosters and \$1900 to the Lakeview Band Boosters.

Our Lions Club is thankful for your support of our various Fund Raisers which in turn supports our various Community and area donations. Thanks also to our members who provide the labor to accomplish these donations.



The Cortland Lions Club donated \$1900 each to Lakeview Athletic Boosters and Lakeview Band Boosters. These donations are a result of fry sales at Lakeview High School home football games. Pictured left to right is Amy Newton from the Lakeview Athletic Boosters, Dawna Wiland- President of our Lions Club and Rachel Butler from the Lakeview Band Boosters.



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# Tails Of Hope And Mercer County Food Bank Join Feeding Pets Of The Homeless Network

By Soraya Hejazi

Feeding Pets of the Homeless welcomes Tails of Hope and Mercer County Food Bank as official Pet Food Donation Sites in Mercer County, PA. Donations of pet food and supplies may be dropped off at Tails of Hope, 2450 Hoezle Road in Hermitage, or at the Mercer County Food Bank, 109 S Sharpville Ave, Suite A, Sharon, during business hours. Hermitage Petco will also collect canned dog and cat food at checkout through December in support of this new partnership.

Feeding Pets of the Homeless is the first national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing pet food for the food insecure and emergency veterinary care for pets that belong to people experiencing homelessness. The organization works with partners nationwide to collect donations and distribute essential supplies to help keep pets healthy and with their families.

"Tails of Hope believes feeding your pets and your family should not be an 'or'. We are proud to expand our community service to local residents by being a pet food collection site through a partnership with Feeding Pets of the Homeless and strengthening our community ties through cooperation with the local Mercer County Food Bank as a pet food distributor. Together we

will build a more resilient community, help to keep pets with their families and achieve a greater collective impact," said Soraya Hejazi, Executive Director of Tails of Hope.

"We are thrilled to expand our work to not only feed our neighbors but also their furry friends," said Rebecca Page, Executive Director of Mercer County Food Bank. "Partnering with Feeding Pets of the Homeless as a collection site alongside Tails of Hope allows the food bank to gather much-needed pet food donations, which we will distribute alongside our regular food programs. Together, we can support families and their pets, ensuring no one goes hungry. This partnership is especially meaningful to us, as so many neighbors have shared how they have had to choose between feeding themselves or their pets, and food should never be an impossible choice. This is one more way we can help make that choice easier."

According to Genevieve Frederick, founder and president of Feeding Pets of the Homeless, the organization has provided more than 6.8 million dollars in emergency veterinary care and assisted over 32,000 pets in need since its founding. More than 2.6 million pounds of pet food have been collected and distributed nationwide through

# Shelter is Overwhelmed & Needs YOU!!

By Jason Cooke via Facebook

**COUNTY IN CRISIS - PLEASE HELP!!! ALL INDOOR AND OUTDOOR KENNELS ARE FULL!!!**

The Healthy Hearts and Paws Project animal shelter in Warren, OH, is being completely overwhelmed with dogs and cats from Trumbull County, OH, and EVERYWHERE IS FULL!

The shelter has brought in 58 dogs since June 1st, 2025. The Healthy Hearts and Paws Project is in desperate need of the following just to keep up with the 100 dogs (yes, 100) currently here.

- Monetary donations
- People to attend our upcoming fundraisers
- Pedigree Dry Chicken Roasted and Vegetables
- Pedigree CHOICE CUTS in gravy
- Pedigree Chopped
- Laundry detergent
- KURANDA beds (L & XL, Vinyl)
- Large metal water buckets
- VOLUNTEERS
- FOSTERS
- ADOPTERS

All donations can be dropped off / mailed to The Healthy Hearts and Paws Project, 909 Martin Luther King Blvd SW Warren, OH 44485

*Thank you for your support during these extremely difficult times!*



Donation Sites like Tails of Hope and Mercer County Food Bank.

"Unfortunately for those with pets, homelessness becomes even more difficult, forcing them to choose between their pet and a roof over their head," Frederick said. "It is estimated that one in four people experiencing homelessness have a pet."

For more information on how to become a Donation Site or contribute, visit [petsofthehomeless.org](https://petsofthehomeless.org) or call (775) 841-7463.



To meet these animals & more, contact Animal Welfare League at (330) 539-5300  
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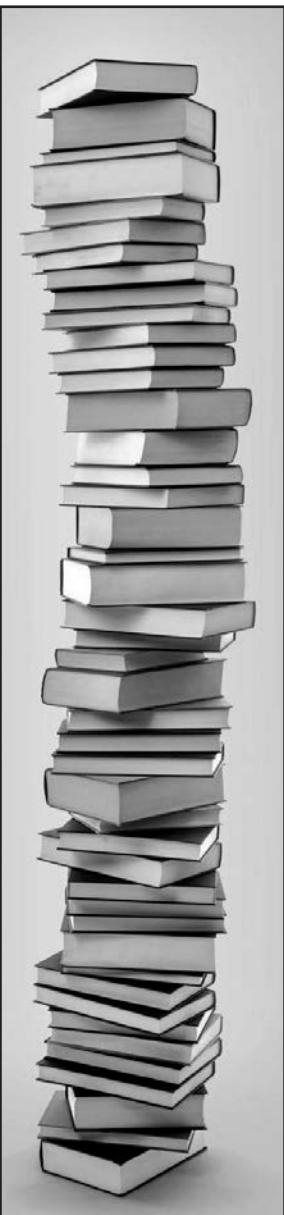
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LIBRARY NEWS

Cortland Library Events  
December 2025

Holiday Closings and Delays

All locations will open at 12 Noon on Tues., Dec. 16.

Christmas All locations will be closed on Wed., Dec. 24 and Thurs., Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday.

New Year's All locations will be closing at 5 p.m. on Wed., Dec. 31 and will be closed on Thurs., Jan. 1, 2026, for the New Year's holiday.

Holiday Movie Night

Mon., Dec. 15 from 6 – 7:45 p.m.

Adults can enjoy watching a holiday movie on the library's big screen. Refreshments will be provided. For the title of the movie to be shown, visit [www.wtcpl.org/events](http://www.wtcpl.org/events) or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

Homework Hangout

Tues., Dec. 16 from 3 – 4 p.m.

Teens ages 12 – 18 can enjoy the library's homework hangout, with calming music and tea. Teens can take the time to study, read, or write that paper. Free.

EVENTS - All events are at the Cortland Library, 578 Lakeview Dr.

Recognition Of Service Open House  
At Bristol Public Library

By D'Lynn Johnson

The Board of Trustees and Friends of the Bristol Public Library would like to invite you to a recognition of service open house, in honor of Shirley Price and Shirley Stoops-Frantz, on Monday December 15, from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, for their long-term commitment to the Bristol Public Library Board of Trustees. Light refreshments will be served.

Mrs. Price was a beloved school teacher at Bristol Elementary School and after her retirement accepted a position on the library board. She served twenty-two years and ended her term as the

board president.

Mrs. Stoops-Frantz served the Bristol community as a pastor, spending Sundays in church with her congregation and still performs ceremonies for the community she loves. She served nineteen years and ended her term as the board secretary.

A basket will be set up at the library's circulation desk for cards if you are unable to attend. Cards may also be sent in care of Bristol Public Library, PO Box 220, Bristolville, Ohio 44402.

Warren Senior Center Hosting  
Dementia Live Training

Senior Centers are very important as a way of health prevention such as dealing with Dementia issues. The activities which centers provide of both mental and physical programming have been effective in slowing down the onset of Dementia per the Surgeon General and health professionals.

SCOPE is very happy to be partnering with Ohio Living Home Health and Hospice to conduct a "Dementia Live" registered experience for professionals, families, caregivers and first responders.

On Thursday January 8th at the Warren Senior Center on N. Park Ave. from 9 am till 5 pm on every half hour four people will be provided a unique inside-out understanding of dementia as they learn the challenges facing those living with dementia. To sign up for this "Dementia Live" event call 330-399-8846 and register.

The Ohio Council on Cognitive Health explains there are multiple types of Dementia including Alzheimer's Disease which accounts for 60 to 80 percent of cases. Dementia is not a specific disease as It's an overall term to describe a wide range of symptoms associated with a decline in memory severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities.

SCOPE (Senior Citizens Opportunity for Personal Endeavors) is one of only a few agencies in the Mahoning Valley which handle information and referrals to not just for the elderly, but family members and caregivers. SCOPE also conducts assistance for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, prescription discounts, grief counseling, technology training, utility discounts, free tax preparations, Notary, employment, housing, and financial. These programs along with our activities and functions at our senior centers are so important to help with loneliness, isolation and health issues. Call 330-399-8846 for more information.

CORTLAND LIBRARY

578 Lakeview Dr., Cortland, OH

(330) 638 - 6335

Monday: 9 AM — 8 PM  
Tuesday: 9 AM — 8 PM  
Wednesday: 9 AM — 8 PM  
Thursday: 9 AM — 8 PM  
Friday: 9 AM — 5 PM  
Saturday: 9 AM — 5 PM  
Sunday: CLOSED

WARREN-TRUMBULL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

24/7 Digital Library: [www.WTCPL.org](http://www.WTCPL.org)



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