

# CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

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April 4, 2026

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

## Easter In Cortland

By Alex Irman

As the morning mist clings to the surface of Mosquito Lake and the first hints of spring green begin to prick through the soil of Trumbull County, the City of Cortland is preparing for its most vibrant Sunday of the year. Easter in Cortland has never been just a date on the liturgical calendar; it is a community-wide exhale, a celebration of resilience, and a definitive signaling that the long Ohio winter has finally lost its grip.

From the quiet pews of the Christian Church of Cortland to the bustling breakfast tables at local diners, the city is buzzing with the logistics of tradition. For many residents, the holiday begins long before the sun rises. The annual sunrise services, often held with a panoramic view of the water, offer a moment of profound stillness. There is something uniquely "Cortland" about watching the sky turn from a bruised purple to a hopeful gold over the state park, a reminder that renewal is a cycle as reliable as the seasons.

For the various congregations that dot Main Street and High Street, Easter is the culmination of weeks of reflection. At St. Robert Bellarmine and the Cortland Trinity Baptist Church, preparations have been underway since Ash Wednesday. Choir directors have pushed for that extra bit of resonance in the "Alleluia" choruses, and altar guilds have spent hours sourcing the perfect white lilies—symbols of purity and rebirth that will soon fill the sanctuaries with their heady, sweet perfume.

However, the spirit of the day extends far beyond the church doors. Easter in a small town like ours is a social glue. It is the one day of the year when the generational divide seems to vanish. You see it at the local parks,



where grandparents in their Sunday best chase toddlers in pastel crinoline and clip-on ties. The city's landscape becomes a mosaic of hidden treasures as thousands of plastic eggs are tucked into the nooks of oak trees and beneath the blades of dormant grass.

Local businesses also feel the surge of the holiday's energy. For Cortland's florists and bakeries, this week is a marathon. At the local shops, the scent of fresh-baked hot cross buns and sugar cookies shaped like lambs competes with the floral arrangements being loaded into delivery vans. These small businesses are the backbone of our local holiday economy, providing the centerpieces for family dinners and the chocolates that fill the baskets of expectant children.

"There's a different kind of smile on people's faces this time of year," says one local shop owner. "Even if the weather is typical Ohio gray, people

come in looking for color. They want the bright yellows and the soft pinks. They're buying hope, really."

That sentiment is echoed at the dinner table. The Easter feast in Cortland remains a stalwart tradition, often featuring the classic honey-glazed ham, scalloped potatoes, and the occasional deviled egg tray that serves as the centerpiece of any respectable Midwestern gathering. These meals are more than just sustenance; they are the anchors of family history, where recipes passed down through generations of Trumbull County residents are served on the "good" china.

While the candy and the clothes provide the pageantry, the true heart of Easter in Cortland lies in the concept of a fresh start. This year, that theme feels particularly poignant. As our community continues to grow and evolve, navigating the complexities of a changing economic landscape and

the modern world, the holiday offers a chance to pause and recalibrate.

It is a time for neighbors who haven't spoken since the first snowfall to lean over fences and exchange greetings. It is a time for the city's volunteer organizations to redouble their efforts, ensuring that no family in the Lakeview School District goes without a proper holiday meal. This quiet, unassuming charity is the hallmark of our town—a reflection of the "love thy neighbor" ethos that remains a cornerstone of life here.

As the bells of the local churches ring out this Sunday, they won't just be signaling the start of a service; they will be announcing the arrival of a new chapter. The ice on the lake is gone, the downtown flower beds are being prepped, and the children are ready to run. In Cortland, Easter is a bridge. It connects the hardships of the past year to the possibilities of the summer ahead. Whether you spent the morning in a pew, on a hiking trail at the park, or simply enjoying a quiet cup of coffee while watching the birds return to your backyard feeder, the message of the day remains the same. It is a day to celebrate the light, to cherish the people around us, and to appreciate the unique beauty of calling this corner of Ohio home.

As the sun sets on Easter Sunday, casting long shadows over the sprawling fields and quiet neighborhoods of Cortland, there is a collective sense of peace. The eggs have been found, the dinner dishes are soaking in the sink, and the promise of spring has been officially kept. In this small town, the miracle of the season isn't just a story from the past—it's a living, breathing reality seen in every blooming bud and every neighborly smile.

## The Roots of Easter Symbols

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The association of rabbits and eggs with Easter stems from a blend of ancient pagan traditions and Christian adaptation.

### The Hare and the Goddess

The rabbit (originally the hare) was a symbol of Eostre, the Germanic goddess of spring and fertility. Because hares are highly prolific breeders, they naturally became the emblem for the "rebirth" of the land after winter.

In the 1700s, German immigrants brought the tradition of the "Oschter Haws" (Easter Hare) to America. Legend told of a rabbit that laid colored eggs as gifts for well-behaved children, who would build "nests" in their caps or bonnets to receive them.

### The Symbolism of the Egg

Eggs have represented new life across cultures for millennia:

- *Paganism:* Ancient Persians and Egyptians exchanged eggs during spring festivals to celebrate the world's "awakening."

- *Christianity:* Early Christians adopted the egg as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus. The hard shell represents the sealed tomb, and the cracking of the shell symbolizes Christ emerging alive.

### Why We Color Them

The practice of coloring eggs is historically practical and religious. During Lent, Christians were traditionally forbidden from eating

eggs. To prevent them from wasting, people boiled them to preserve them until Easter Sunday. They were often dyed red to represent the blood of Christ or bright colors to celebrate the end of fasting.

Today, these symbols have merged into a singular secular tradition of the Easter Bunny delivering eggs, representing the intersection of seasonal renewal and religious celebration.





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## CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor ..... 330-637-4003	<b>POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY ..... 911</b>
City Hall ..... 330-637-3916	Dispatch ..... 330-675-2730
Fax ..... 330-637-4778	Police - Business ..... 330-638-1000
Clerk of Council ..... 330-638-0142	Fire - Business ..... 330-637-2891
Service Director ..... 330-637-4637	

## MEETINGS

### CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month.  
 Monday, April 6 - 7 PM  
 Monday, April 20 - 7 PM

### CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

Read the minutes from Cortland  
 City Council meetings at  
[www.cityofcortland.org](http://www.cityofcortland.org) under  
 City Council Minutes.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

Second Monday of each month  
 Monday, April 13 - 6 PM

### PLANNING & ZONING

Second Monday of each month  
 Monday, April 13 - 7 PM

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

## BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

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

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

### BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

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

**Tuesday, April 7 - 7 PM**

A 60 min. caucus with dept. heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit [www.bazettatwp.org](http://www.bazettatwp.org)

### BAZETTA TOWNSHIP PARK BOARD Wednesday, May 6 - 6 PM

### THE CORTLAND BAZETTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

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

## LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Regular meetings the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m.  
 in the Lakeview High School Media Center, unless otherwise noted.  
**Monday, April 20 - 6 PM**

## Area Service Clubs

### Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club

Steve Rock ..... 330-240-1634

### Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum

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

### Cortland Lions Club

Dawna Wiland ..... 330-219-9852

### Cortland Masonic Lodge

Chuck Chagnot ..... 330-307-3405

### Cortland Moose Lodge

Bill Bartholomew ..... 330-637-9957

### Cortland Rotary Club

Donald Petrosky ..... 330-637-7627

### Cortland SCOPE

Terri Donahue ..... 330-980-5363

### Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S

Shawn Woods ..... 330-442-7549

### The Opera House (Event Rentals)

Maribeth Albu ..... 330-219-1488

### Four Seasons Garden Club

Nancy Finlay ..... 330-637-8931

### Johnston Senior Center

Jim Bacorn ..... 330-924-0412

### Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs

Terri Crabbs ..... 330-637-3845

### American Assoc of University Women

Ruth Bradshaw ..... 330-307-1151

### League of Woman Voters

Peggy Boyd ..... 330-856-5398

### Cortland Area Cares

Donna Kittle ..... 330-637-0821

### Friends of the Cortland Library

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

### Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship

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

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

## Our Next Issue ... April 25, 2026

**Article Deadline by Apr 13 • Display Advertising Deadline is Apr 15**  
**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

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 Lakeside Sport Shop      Top Notch Diner

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

The Cortland News will no longer  
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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 See their website for upcoming events.

### APRIL

- 1 The Upton Association celebrates "America 250"  
 Program about Ohio suffragist Frances Jennings Casement / 10 a.m.
- 4 Pancake Breakfast / Lakeview Little Bulldogs Fund-Raiser  
 Cortland Masonic Lodge / 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The public is invited.
- 4 Chuck Williams, Live Jazz Music / The Makers Market / 6 - 8 PM
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 6 The Trumbull Boat Club Meeting / Bazetta Township Hall, 3372 State 5 / 6:30 PM
- 6-30 Scrap Tire Collection / The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District has provided the City with a grant
- 7 Cortland MS Support Group Meeting / Cortland Library Meeting Room / 6 PM
- 10 Lakeview Band Boosters Fundraiser ~ A Night at the Races / Candlelite Knolls  
 The doors will open at 5 PM / Dinner at 6 PM / Races will start at 7 PM
- 11 Bazetta Park Clean-up Day / Imagination Park / 9 AM
- 11 Women's Health and Healthy Living Workshop / The Makers Market / Noon - 2  
 Featuring Jess Dasinger - Country Roads Bakery & Kristy Edgar - Cultivated Health
- 18 A "Snack and Paint" Event / Benefit of Trumbull Boat Club  
 Bazetta Township Hall / 4 PM
- 21 Cortland Main Street Revitalization Monthly Meeting / The Makers Market  
 201 W Main St. / 6-8 PM
- 23 & 24 Spring Clean Up for Cortland / Republic Services / Items will be collected with your regularly scheduled garbage day
- 27 Brush chipping / begin the week of April 27th continuing through October; it is the 4th Monday of each month

## Business News & Notes

By Thom Foley

**Brookside Greenhouse** is now open and has Easter Plants. Hurry, get them while they last as there is a limited supply. Also, they now have Gift Certificates. Everybody loves their plants. Let them pick out the ones they want.

**Champion Tax** tells us that it is not too late to get your taxes done. But you better not wait much longer. Uncle Sam wants his money. Just don't give him more than he deserves.

**Cortland Mower Sales** is having their annual ECHO Days on April 11 from 9-2. You can save 15% off All ECHO units. This only happens once a year so don't miss it.

Have you seen the used cars **Mark Thomas Ford** has in stock? WOW! What a great selection.

**Black Cat Tax Preparation** can help you save money on your taxes and will be there for you all year long. Don't

go to those 'once a year' places. Go to the professionals who are always there.

**Cortland Pediatrics - Dr. Johnson** tells us that they are filling up fast for summer physicals. Now is the time to call so your child can participate in all the summer fun.

**Action Physical Therapy** is the place to go when you need to get back to health the right way. After surgery or a an accident, see the professionals who have your best interest in mind.

Did you know that **Apostolakis Honda** has won awards for the best repair service AND the best sales service? They have been serving our area for decades.

**Campbell Carpet and Flooring** has a wide range of carpet and Vinyl planking. They have done every floor in my home. Shop local - it is always a better deal!

## Ohio Veterans Convention To Welcome Vet Community, Supporters

2026 promises to be momentous for the Ohio veteran community and one of the highlights will be the upcoming Ohio Veterans Convention, which is set for Aug. 8 in Columbus.

This highly anticipated, daylong event will be held at the Ohio Union on the main campus of The Ohio State University. It will be a cornerstone gathering for Ohio's veteran community, bringing together current and former service members, families, advocates and partners from across the state.

Veteran organizations, nonprofits and many other exhibitors who support

former service members will want to make sure to reserve their spot at the Convention, which projects to be our most impactful yet with an array of dynamic speakers, engaging breakout sessions and a comprehensive resource fair.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with more than 100 organizations offering services in healthcare, veteran benefit opportunities, employment, education, and more. Whether you're a veteran, caregiver, service provider, or advocate, there is something for everyone.

## Lakeview Little Bulldogs Fund-Raiser Breakfast April 4th

The Lakeview Little Bulldogs will be the beneficiary of the next fund-raiser pancake breakfast at Cortland Masonic Lodge. It will be held on Saturday, April 4th, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The public is invited.

The charity breakfasts are held each month by the Masonic Lodge, which provides all the meal supplies and cooks the menu, so that 100% of the breakfast income can be donated to a local charity.

The "all you can eat" (AYCE)

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

The lodge is located at 3263 Everett-Hall Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland. Their parking lot has been expanded for plenty of free parking.



**Volunteers Needed**  
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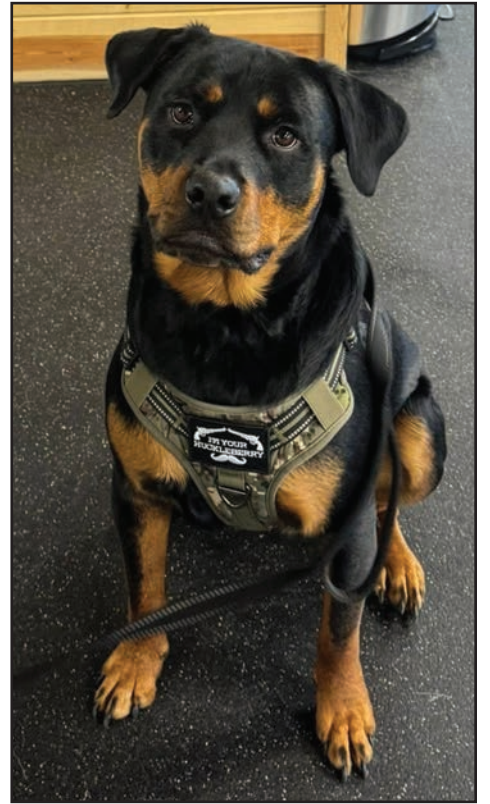
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**An AWL Adoption Success Story**

By Bethany Cluckey

Reuben came to AWL after being seized by Humane Agents. He, along with 10 other dogs, were removed from unsanitary living conditions and arrived very thin. He quickly became a staff and volunteer favorite as he began his rehabilitation journey!

After almost 3 months, Reuben was adopted by one of AWL's devoted volunteers! He and his owner have been through 4 different training classes together and are currently going through the 5th! DNA testing revealed that he is a purebred Rottweiler!



Stories like Reuben's are why we do what we do at AWL. Supporting our organization through adoption helps us carry out our mission: Rescue. Rehabilitate. Adopt. Educate.

Consider adopting a pet today. It will make your life - and the pet's life - a lot brighter!



The Local Tap & Grill once again listened to their customers who wanted EVEN COLDER Beer. So they invested in a Newer Cooler. Enjoy 'A cold one' on the Lake. Always support Local businesses!



**girl scouts**

**Girl Scout News**

By Sarah Gyure

It is Girl Scout cookie season, and amid the busy schedule of sorting and sales, a local Troop recently experienced a truly heartwarming moment. During her first booth of her 6th cookie season, Adalyn G. from Girl Scout Troop 80161 of Cortland received a meaningful gift. A local resident, John Gregory of Warren, visited the booth and later returned to present Adalyn with a Girl Scout sash that belonged to his late sister, Carol Gregory. His gesture ensures his sister's legacy in Girl Scouts is honored and carried on.

Moments like these serve as a wonderful reminder of the supportive community that surrounds us and encourages our youth to better the future.





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

**Just The Facts**

In which country do children go door to door for candy dressed as witches because of the belief that witches are most active between Good Friday and Easter Sunday?

*Find the answer at the bottom of the article.*

**Scrap Tire**

The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District has provided the city with a grant for tire collection. April 6th through April 30th, the Service Garage at 184 Willow Dr. will collect tires between the hours of 7 am and 3 pm Monday - Friday.

**Spring Clean Up**

April 23rd and 24th! Republic Services will be having a Spring Clean Up for Cortland residents contracted with them. Items will be collected with your regularly scheduled garbage day.

**Curbside Brush Chipping**

This will begin the week of April 27th continuing through October; it is the 4th Monday of each month. Be sure

to check the rules and regulations on our website to ensure that your brush is taken. Only 1 pass per street will be made. Private roads are not included in brush pick up.

**Garage Sales**

Planning on getting rid of some of your no-longer-needed items? If you decide to have a garage sale, don't forget to get a permit. They are only \$2.50 per day.

**Dates to Remember**

- April 6 - City Council - 7 p.m.
- April 13 - Parks - 6 p.m.
- April 13 - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.
- April 20th - City Council - 7 p.m.

*\* City Administration Offices will be closed Good Friday, April 3rd. Water/sewer payments can be placed in the secured, locked box next to the front door.*

**Answer**

Finland. They knock on doors holding willow twigs that they decorate to use to "bless the house and send away the evil spirits". The homeowner then rewards them with a small treat.

## OSP Trooper Goodnite Promoted To Sergeant At Warren Post

Trooper Nickolas B. Goodnite, Canton Post, was promoted to the rank of sergeant on February 22 and was recognized yesterday by Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, during a ceremony at the Patrol's Training Academy. Sergeant Goodnite transferred from his previous assignment at the Canton Post to serve as assistant post commander at the Warren Post.



Sergeant Goodnite began his Patrol career in May 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of the same year and was assigned to the Canton Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Training Academy, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement and the Criminal Patrol Unit. He also served at the Ashland and Cambridge posts. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement four times. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in law from Lake Erie College in 2005.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is an internationally accredited agency whose mission is to provide unbiased, professional public safety services through inclusion, collaboration and innovation.




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## Why Italian Food Defines Northeast Ohio

So...WHY is there so much amazing Italian food in Trumbull County? For this community, food is....well, more than just food! It tells our stories. It means family and connection. And for the Italian Food Trail, it shows us the history of Italian families moving to the area.

"The Great Arrival" was a mass wave of Italian migration that happened in the early 1900s due to poverty in Southern Italy especially. These families were especially drawn to job prospects at industrial centers of the time like Niles, Girard and Warren in Trumbull County as well as many other similar cities in northeast Ohio and western PA. Following the "Great Arrival," nearly one-third of Trumbull County's residents were of Italian descent.

Joe Tucciarone, a historian from Hubbard and a descendant of one

of the first Italian settlers in 1873, documents this rich history in a book he co-wrote with Ben Lariccia, "Coal War in the Mahoning Valley." Italian workers were drawn to the area after the discovery of high-quality coal in Coalburg in 1857, spurring industrial growth.

Many Italians continued to come to Trumbull County for decades, seeking manufacturing and industrial jobs to improve their lives. Despite facing cruel discrimination of the time, they developed their own neighborhoods and customs, many of which are highlighted in the Italian Food Trail passport.

And so, with the immigration of a new group of people also comes all of their culture, traditions, and recipes. These families brought their staples like pasta dishes, tomatoes, olive oil



Bottom Row: Leonard Campbell, Mary Warsaw, Catheline, Rose Youll Chiaromonte, Angeline Solimando Parillo, Pauline Solimando Ruben, Anthony Tauro, Rosa Fusco, Rose Solimando DeMasi, Youll Children (Nick and Mary?)  
 Second Row: Olympia Solimando, Concetta Tauro Gonella, Maria Mango, Rosa Mango, Maddalena Fusco Solimando, Rosa Tauro, Maria Domenica Youll  
 Third Row: Frank Rock, Sam Mango, Mike Solimando, John Lapolla, Francesco Tauro, John Fusco, Vincent Lapolla

and more Italian-based vegetables to table...literally. Combining these staples with American dining habits lead to the creation of regional dishes like Brier Hill Pizza, wedding soup, and hot peppers in oil. All dishes you can try today along the Trail!

We also still see traditions like

the Feast of the Seven Fishes during Christmas and regular, competitive bocce tournaments across the county. Visit an annual Italian festival like the Warren Italian-American Festival, Girard's Mt. Carmel Festival, or the Niles Mt. Carmel Festival to see these dishes, traditions, and sports in person!



Front row: Lena Belcastro, Dora Fagnano, Clement Candio, Jim Belcastro, John Sidoti, Joe Chrisafi

## Eastgate Announces Gohio Commute Bike Month Commuter Challenge

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is hosting a Bike Month Commuter Challenge through the Gohio Commute Platform from May 1st-31st. During the entire month of May members of Mahoning & Trumbull

Counties can log their sustainable commutes for the opportunity to win gift cards and gain access to commute perks. You can participate by creating an account on the Gohio Commute App or website at [gohiocommute.com](http://gohiocommute.com) and

logging your sustainable commutes to and from work or university.

A sustainable commute is any commute where you are not driving alone for example carpooling, biking, walking, scootering, riding public

transportation, or using a bikeshare all qualify.

All participants logging a bike trip will be eligible to receive a bike repair kit. All participants logging sustainable commutes throughout the month of May will be eligible to win a gift card in the amounts of \$200, \$100, \$50, & \$25. Weekly raffles of \$25 gift cards. Gift card fulfillment is through Tango and winners can select location for where they want the gift card for.

Any participant logging a bike commute on Friday May 15th for National Bike to Work Day will be eligible to receive a Gohio commute bike bag. All sustainable commutes count for the Commuter challenge, but additional items will be given out to participants that log bike commutes for bike month. More details about the Bike Month Commuter Challenge can be found at <https://gohiocommute.com/#/challenges>. Questions regarding the commuter challenge can be directed to Tricia D'Avignon, Regional [tdavignon@eastgatecog.org](mailto:tdavignon@eastgatecog.org)

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## More Than A Ride Discovering A Future In Highway Patrol

By Constance Amstutz

Guarding the miles between cities and the moments that matter, the Ohio State Highway Patrol has long stood as a quiet, steady force of safety and trust on our roads. Every late-night drive and uncertain moment, there are men and women on Ohio's highways who see themselves not just as officers, but as part of our community - committed to protecting the lives of those who live here. These real-life superheroes protect us through every season, every crisis; keeping our families safe and ensuring our livelihood.

If you've ever wondered what it was like to live a moment in the life of an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) officer, you've come to the right place.

Shortly after the start of the new year, Assistant Post Commander at the Warren Post of the OSHP, Sergeant Benjamin Barnard, opened their doors to us. As we entered the building on Parkman Road, we quickly learned of the team that's assembled to navigate any arising circumstances - Lieutenants, Sergeants, Troopers, and dispatchers. It was evident the sincere gratitude for the dedication and skills each team member has, especially dispatchers like Katie, who are balancing incoming calls, car assignments, data research and more. Although 12 Troopers currently are assigned on site, the goal of 15 is their target.

Sgt. Barnard who has been with OSHP for 15 years found himself in 2010 looking to be, as he said, "...part of something bigger than myself." As first-generation law enforcement for his family, going through Kent State Trumbull Police Academy, Sgt. Barnard saw first-hand the professionalism and way OSHP carried themselves while



of a repeat driving under suspension individual. The respect and dignity he displayed throughout these moments spoke volumes to what it means to be a Trooper. It isn't about writing citations, or a 'slap of the wrist.' It's about first and foremost safety and protection in the communities, which often times can include working towards changing behaviors.

"Our biggest thing is safety, whether coming from removing drugs from the streets, getting impaired drivers off of the road, being proactive getting people off of their phones ... at the end of the day, we want everyone to be as safe as can be," shared Trooper Calleja. With an astounding 19 fatal crashes in 2025 in our county alone, their work is more important than ever. It takes a special person, one with honesty and professionalism, caring and protecting our communities. It was evident to me these same qualities existed when I rode along with Trooper Jarett Calleja. Before entering the patrol car, Trooper Calleja was thorough in showing and explaining important components and tools within the vehicle. In case of emergency, he made sure we were well equipped before heading out on the road. As we began to drive, I learned more about his own personal story - one of resilience, sense of pride, and true honor in being a Trooper. Trooper Calleja shared how many of his family members were military servicemen and the strong desire he had to be part of a paramilitary organization that provides good service to others. As we patrolled the night, I watched as Trooper Calleja handled with grace various situations - including the arrest

to commit themselves to protecting our communities, our roadways, our families. If you have been considering a career in law enforcement, now is the time. Whether a career change, or finding a career for the first time, the opportunity is here. In the words of Sgt. Barnard, "Do not be afraid to seek a career change if you feel drawn to Law Enforcement. Although hard at times, my almost 15-year career so far has been filled with many rewarding moments. Many of which started as a "normal" day and ended with myself and my fellow Troopers being the "light" for someone in their darkest times." To begin the next step in your journey towards becoming part of the OSHP, visit their website: <https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruitment-and-training/recruitment>

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The Trumbull County Republican Women's Club hosted their March meeting with Rep David Thomas (OH-65) and Rep Nick Santucci (OH-64) at the Chop House in Warren. Both representatives updated the TCRWC of the OH legislative bills they have presented/passed in their current terms. Pictured are: Seated, Jo Anne Szczyglowski, Judie Shortreed, David Thomas, Carol Jochman, Nick Santucci, Lori Hineman, Cathy Lukasko.



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## Amazing Combination of Talent, Coaching and Fans

By Stephanie Pykare, Basketball Head Coach, Maplewood Lady Rockets

- NAC CHAMPS
- DISTRICT CHAMPS
- REGIONAL RUNNERS-UP
- Final Record: 23-4
- NAC Record: 14-0

It's hard to compose words after a season like this. It's historic in so many ways. It's truly special, even magical, and it'll have a ripple effect for a very long time! The program, school, and community won't be the same! Richer tradition and real culture has been established, and the program now has a higher standard!

I am so grateful to lead this program and be surrounded by like-minded coaches and community that believe in the girls and myself.



Thank you to ALL players, parents, and to our greater community of support for everything you have poured into making this season unforgettable! Your time, donations, words of encouragement, cheers, and presence through the highs and lows are seen. I speak for the players and coaches when I say THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts.



Aliah Brumit, Raegan Krieg, Claire Urchek, Morgan Himes, Lauran Krieg

To our Lady Rocket Seniors - it's surreal to believe that your time has come to move on from us. You embody everything we are and have left the program better than you found it. For that we are all so very grateful and we've had a blast watching you grow up into the young woman and players that you are!

My tears are of joy, thankfulness, and a reflection of my gratitude. I am proud to have wore the uniform a long time ago and now wear the coach's uniform. Both sides have been incredible. I am grateful to have been given this opportunity and give back to the game and program that I gained so much from!

With a season like this, several players have been honored!!!! Their unseen hours of dedication have paid off.

- OHSBCA District 1 honors: Morgan Himes & Claire Urchek
- 1st team All-NAC: Morgan Himes & Claire Urchek
- 2nd team All-NAC: Aliah Brumit
- Honorable Mention: Lauran Krieg and Raegan Krieg



Raegan Krieg, Morgan Himes, Coach Stephanie Pykare, Lauran Krieg.

*"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."*  
~ Mother Teresa

## The Warren Women's Club

By Peggy Boyd

The Warren Women's Club, located at 708 North Park Avenue, Warren held their March meeting featuring guest speaker Bonnie Wilson, Director of Family and Children's First Council. Wilson guided all members through all aspects of her job and what services are available to residents of Trumbull County.



Ruth Ann Capito, Bonnie Wilson and Michele Kubicina.

Lunch was served to 36 members before the business meeting was brought to order. Rose luncheon tickets were distributed for the June 17, 2026 luncheon. Information and tickets for this event can be had by contacting Terri Crabbs at 330-637-3845.

The Warren Women's Club meets at noon on the third Monday of the Month. September through June. The monthly meetings feature a luncheon prepared by the ladies of the club, fellowship and a program with speaker. Contact Louise Kline for membership information at 330-399-4661.

The club house is available also to rent. With Spring coming it is the perfect space for graduation, bridal and baby shower. The club house is handicap accessible. Contact Sandy Maffey at 330-518-6927 for rental details.

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## The League Of Women Voters

By Peggy Boyd

The League of Women Voters of Trumbull County celebrated and supported Women's History Month by attending the Women's History Luncheon held on March 21. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase

understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The club members meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 6 pm at various locations and with a speaker at each. Membership information can be obtained by contacting Jan Gibson at 330-716-0094.



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Came to AWL through a partnering humane agency in February. Arrived emaciated and riddled with parasites! He is now 100 lb! Big floppy goofball! Super sweet and affectionate, just wants to sit in your lap (if only he could!) Gets along well with dogs and cats, but due to the state in which he arrived, feeding him separately from other pets would be best!

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As you read this, Easter is almost here. As our celebration of the resurrection approaches, I want to invite you to think one more time about the season of Lent that led to it.

Some people choose to give things up for Lent. Traditionally, what is encouraged is letting go of a bad habit or a vice, though this practice has sometimes been misunderstood as giving up something you enjoy. Neither is the whole story.

The practice of giving up meat or vices for Lent began in an era when those foods or items needed to be stored up for the winter and may have been running out by the time Lent began. This practice, especially when done communally, was a way of being intentional about using them up early and then going without them as a form of personal spiritual discipline, rather than trying to stretch them to make them last. It became a way to be faithful and proactive about facing a likely reality.

A second truth about this practice was and is that giving something up

can create space to add something new in its place. When planting a garden, you seldom have great success if you add seeds to a plot where other plants are already growing. First, you need to make room and prepare the soil. While it is possible for new growth to happen anywhere, farmers and gardeners make the choice to clear space for it, and they usually reap a better harvest as a result.

Lent is now over and Easter is coming. And as we celebrate new life and resurrection, the question remains: how do you need to prepare the soil in your life for new growth? If you need to take time and make room for it, perhaps even by giving up something that you used to need or enjoy, Lent can still be your guide. You can choose to make space in your life for new things whenever you need to.

And as you do, may you trust that God, who has always made a habit of inspiring new life and growth, even when everything feels dead, will in the same way put whatever space you create to good use.

## Annual LOAF Easter Sunrise Service Mosquito Lake State Park



Lakeview Outreach And Fellowship (LOAF) Community Easter Sunday April 5, Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM.

Celebrate the Easter Resurrection as the sun rises across the lake at Mosquito Lake State Park Swim Beach (Park Entrance SR 305) with a brief gathering open to all. Special music, readings, prayer and a brief message of Easter's Good News are planned. Communion of individually-sealed and packaged grape juice cups with gluten-free wafers

will be offered to all desiring to receive them. The event is free of charge and offered to the public as a service and ministry of LOAF.



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155 N High St  
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330-637-2571  
CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com  
Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor  
Service 10:15 am Sunday

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## Church News & Notes

**Prince Of Peace Lutheran Church**  
Good Friday April 3 Worship with Communion 6:00 PM. Good Friday Reading of 14 Stations of the Cross Worship will begin with Communion in Remembrance of the Last Supper. Easter Sunday, April 5 Worship with Communion 9:30 AM

**Cortland United Methodist Church**  
Easter worship service at 10:15 am Sunday, April 5.  
They also invite you to God Provides A Meal Saturday, April 18, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Kielbasa, mashed potatoes & gravy, sauerkraut, carrots, dessert & beverage. Donations accepted but not required.

**Journey Christian Church**  
Good Friday Service 3:00 on April 3rd. All are welcome. We also have Bible Study every Thursday @ 6:00.

**Cortland Christian Church**  
Easter Sunday Service at 10 AM. All are welcome to attend. We are the home of the Carillon and ring the bells and hymns on the hour. We are celebrating 200 Years of existence in Cortland in 2028.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
Easter Times: Easter Vigil - 3 pm joint service being held with our sister congregations at Gethsemane Lutheran North Jackson (1110 N Salem Warren Rd, North Jackson).  
Easter Sunday: Breakfast - 9 am, Service - 10:15 am.

**Katharina's Closet:** Thank you to all helped with our March distribution. We are very grateful for all donations and volunteers and for being able to see the Lord bless many families.

**All Saints Community Church**  
Trash and Treasure Sale on Thursday, April 30 from 9 am to 5 pm, Friday, May 1 from 9 am to 5 pm and Saturday, May 2 from 9 am to 2 pm.

## Cortland Nazarene Church Craft Day



A few ladies from the Cortland Nazarene Church came together for a crafting day. From left to right, Mary Traekle, July Monti, Sharon Bailey, Gloria Hargenrader, JoAnn Hineman, Marilyn Harris, Lucille Starr, Alisha

Seemann, Debbie Dean; and missing from the photo were Brenda Harris and Cathy Bechtel. We have a Spring Fling day retreat planned for May 16. All Ladies are invited. More information is coming soon.

## Book & Puzzle Sale 2026

By Donna Pate

Looking for great books to read? Have a favorite author? Like to do puzzles? Cortland United Methodist Church has the answer for you! Shop at



our big book and puzzle sale on Friday, April 24 from 9:00 am-7:00 pm and Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at 155 N High Street.

Priced to sell - fiction, non-fiction, children's, favorite authors, do-it-yourself books. Sharing with you what others have enjoyed!



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Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor  
Service 10:15 am Sunday

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**Journey Christian Church**  
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Sunday Service ~ 10 AM  
Thurs Bible Study (Book of Proverbs) ~ 6 PM  
2878 Warren Meadville Rd.  
234-244-4199 www.journeycc.today



## SCOPE Showcase at the Robins Theatre Rehearsals and United Way Dolly Event



## Local Jewish Teens Share Their Jewish Experiences With Other Students

By Elise Skolnick

Local Jewish teenagers are visiting area schools to talk with other students about Judaism as part of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation's Student to Student program.

This nationwide initiative is a proven, classroom-based experiential program that brings Jewish and non-Jewish high school students together to learn about Judaism through personal storytelling.

Tres and Blythe Hively (Bio-Med), Maddie Long (Crestview High School), and Sid Brawlasce (Beaver Local) recently spoke to students at Campbell Memorial High School about their Jewish identities, basic facts about Judaism, and their experiences with antisemitism.

Jensen McKelvey (Ursuline High School) and Eli and Jake Hagler (Poland High School) discussed their experiences with more than 20 students from Newton Falls High School.

As part of the Student-to-Student program, the Jewish high school student presenters visit local high schools with few, if any, Jewish students. Local teens will next visit Salem schools.

The Jewish Community Relations Council represents the Jewish communities of Mahoning and Trumbull Counties in Ohio and Mercer and Lawrence Counties in Pennsylvania to safeguard the rights of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world. It's an agency of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. To learn more, visit [jewishyoungstown.org](http://jewishyoungstown.org).

## Maple Syrup Season in Northeast Ohio

By Amy Oakley

Did you know that Ohio is one of the top producers of maple syrup in the country? Ohio consistently ranks 4th or 5th in maple production in the United States, contributing \$5 million to the state's economy. We've got all the details on how maple syrup is made and where to find it in Trumbull County.

Whether you're drizzling it on a stack of hot pancakes, using it as a sweetener in your coffee, or infusing it into a delicious, sweet treat, it's hard to go wrong with maple syrup.

### How (and when) is maple syrup made?

According to the [Ohio Maple Producers Association](#), maple syrup is made in the spring. This is when temperatures rise to above freezing during the day, but stay below freezing at night. Maple producers drill small holes into maple trees that drain a small portion of their sap, which is gathered in buckets or tubing. Excess water is then boiled away in the "sugarhouse," where the clear sap is turned into the thick golden syrup we know!

The syrup is filtered, bottled, and ready to be sold as an all-natural product. It takes between 43-50 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. In Northeast Ohio, maple syrup season can vary depending on the weather. In recent years, producers started the "tapping" process in late February and finished at the end of March.

### Where does Ohio maple syrup come from?

There are producers throughout the state, including several producers right here in Trumbull County. Trumbull County maple producers include [Sutton's Maple Syrup](#) in Kinsman and [Black's Family Farm](#) in Brookfield Center. The county is also home to many backyard producers who sell their syrup occasionally at roadside stands.

Hopewell Farm in nearby Geauga County is also a big producer—you can find their syrup throughout the region, and feel good knowing that your purchase helps support their resident treatment program for individuals with severe mental illness.

### I have maple trees. Can I make my own syrup?

Yes! (Well...maybe.) Both the Ohio Maple Producers Association and the Ohio State University Extension Office have great information about getting started with backyard maple syrup production. We recommend checking out the local OSU Extension Office for Trumbull County, which offers classes and resources on many topics, including maple syrup production.

### I want more maple! Where can I find maple products in Trumbull County?

While the production season for maple syrup may last for only a few weeks, the good news is that maple

products can be found year-round in Trumbull County. Here are some of our favorite places to get your maple fix around town:

### Syrup and Maple Flavored Treats

Do you really need an excuse to visit End of the Commons General Store in Mesopotamia? There's not much this charming general store doesn't have! Shop around and you'll find Ohio-made maple syrup, maple flavored treats, and even maple scented candles.



End of the Commons General Store

We also recommend checking out Cortland's B& K Farm Market and the Howland Farmers Market, which takes place on the first and third Saturday of each month. Be sure to visit the Black's Family Farm booth! There you can find maple marshmallows and lollipops in addition to their maple syrup.



### Candy

Sweet Memories Vintage Tees & Candy is a haven for anyone with a sweet tooth. If you're looking for something maple flavored, there's a good chance you'll find it here. If you prefer chocolate, why not check out PMG Chocolatier in Warren? They have a wide variety of flavored chocolates, including—yep, you guessed it—maple.

### Coffee and Baked Goods

Maybe you need a little caffeine to go with your maple fix. Cadence Coffeehouse & Creperie in downtown Niles has a great Maple Brown Sugar latte. In Warren, you can't go wrong with the Mocha House, which has an extensive selection of baked goods and flavors that can be added to your coffee.

### Ice Cream

Of course, we can't talk about Trumbull County without mentioning ice cream. Local favorites Handel's and Katie's Korner both offer delicious seasonal maple flavors that we recommended trying. Warren's own Cockeye Creamery sometimes offers an incredible Maple Walnut flavor (made with real Ohio maple syrup). It's still too soon to know if that flavor will return this year, but we've got our fingers crossed.

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# Lakeview School News

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

By Michael DeToro

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

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

Nomination forms are available



online at [lakeviewlocal.org/athletics](http://lakeviewlocal.org/athletics) or through the district's Facebook page. The deadline for this cycle's nominations is April 15, 2026.

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

## Lakeview Football Starts New Letterman's Club

By Michael DeToro

Lakeview High School Football is excited to announce the start of the new Lakeview Football Letterman's Club. This club is open to all former Lakeview varsity football lettermen, no matter what year you played.

The goal is to bring the football family back together and keep the Bulldog tradition strong. Members will stay "in the huddle" with updates

*Continued on page 14*



## 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 Landon Baker, son of Kimberly and Jeremy Baker. A member of Lakeview Schools since Kindergarten, Landon has made an impact through his leadership and school spirit. In the classroom, Landon is a regular on the Honor Roll and takes a challenging schedule including CCP Courses through Youngstown State University.

Landon is a staple of the arts and music programs. He has starred in multiple productions with the Lakeview Drama and Thespian Group and performs in both the marching and symphonic bands. His positive attitude and endearing personality have gained him the respect of his peers, who voted him Homecoming King this past fall. Beyond the classroom, Landon stays active by volunteering at St. Robert Bellarmine Church. He also consistently plays tennis. After graduation, Landon plans to attend the University of Mount Union to study biology. His ultimate goal is to become a physician assistant.

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

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well? - What stands out are my ways to communicate and be respectful to others. Being very accountable.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District? - The staff and teachers around me. It makes the experience here wonderful because they are personable.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? - Any Mexican restaurant that I can find.
- 4.) Describe your fashion style. - Converse and a flannel.
- 5.) You might catch me ... - Studying, sleeping, acting or playing outside with my little brother.
- 6.) What is something you are watching, listening to, or reading right now? - Rita Hayworth, Shawshank Redemption by Stephen King.
- 7.) What are your future aspirations? - I want to be a physician's assistant. I want to graduate in Biomedical Concentrated Biology and see where it takes me.

## Lakeview Lady Bulldogs

By Cullen Chadwick

The Lady Bulldogs had a full day on Saturday March 7. They opened their day playing a doubleheader at the Watson and Tressel center in Youngstown, winning both scrimmages. The girls went home and got cleaned up in less than an hour so they could volunteer at the 36th annual Snowflake Ball for adults with disabilities. The event is put on by Hope and Action run by Heather Jakubec. Hope and Action is a local organization that was started by Miss Roberts along with some other parents. This was Heather's 3rd year running the event as well as the 3rd year of the Lady Bulldog softball team helping.

The Bazetta Optimist club donated the hall and DiLucia's donated the food. The Bulldog team had an incredible time with the 300 plus people who attended, dancing to the music played by the band, Guys Without Ties.





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# Community Event To Benefit The Lakeview Band Students

By Shari Sollberger

The Lakeview Band Boosters will be having a fundraiser, A Night at the Races, on Friday, April 10 at Candlelite Knolls, located at 2619 Hoagland Blackstub Rd, Cortland. This event is open to the entire community as we are planning for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students to march in Disney!

This upcoming school year will



be a very busy and exciting, but also expensive, year for our band students. Please consider spending the evening with us at the races. You will not only be supporting a great cause, but you will be able to enjoy a delicious dinner, have a chance at numerous raffle baskets and 50/50, catch up with friends and neighbors and bet on some horses. Tickets for the race are only \$20, which includes dinner. Pre-sale tickets are encouraged. You may also reserve an entire table for your group.

If you would like to be a sponsor, we have five different levels of sponsorship to choose from.

We still have some horses that need named. All help would be greatly appreciated.

The doors will open at 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM and races will start at 7 PM. If you would like to help in any way, be a sponsor or reserve tickets or a table, please reach out to Shari at 330-503-5339.

# LHS Football New Letterman's Club

...continued from page 12

during the season, receive game recaps, and be recognized in the fall sports program.

There are two ways to join for 2026:

- White Tier (\$30): Includes seasonal e-newsletters, weekly game recaps straight to your inbox, and recognition in the fall sports program.

- Blue Tier (\$75): Includes everything in the White Tier plus an embroidered 2026 Letterman's Club

golf polo. (Join and pay by June 1, 2026, to receive your shirt before the season!)

Membership dues and extra donations will help support the current team's equipment, facilities, and program needs.

If you're a former Bulldog football player and want to reconnect, sign up today at: <https://forms.gle/AbrG6Af2KhTiU4S97>

*Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!*

# Maplewood Boys Baseball 2026 Season Preview

By Matthew Vadas

The Maplewood Rockets enter the 2026 season with a strong mix of experience, depth, and high expectations after finishing as district runner-up a year ago.

Head coach Matthew Vadas returns a solid core of letter winners led by senior first baseman Luke Shipman, catcher Tyson Webster, and middle infielders Zach Suba and Gabe Erwin. In the outfield, Kenyon Clover brings speed and playmaking ability after an impressive junior campaign.

The Rockets also look to get an early boost from a group of talented freshmen in Preston Cooper and Bryson Sutcliffe, both expected to contribute on the mound and in the outfield as well as Cole Urchek and Matthew Bolton who both will see innings this season.

Maplewood brings back a core of underclassmen who will be asked to produce at a high level. They include Cohen Hooper, Jayden Zumerling, and Josh Suba.

Maplewood's biggest strength heading into the season is its pitching depth, which should allow the team to stay competitive in every game. The roster is also well-balanced across all four classes, with contributing players

each from the senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman groups—providing both leadership and long-term stability.

Last season, the Rockets finished 14-7 overall and 6-2 in the Northeast Athletic Conference. Several returning players posted standout performances. Gabe Erwin hit .387 with 18 RBIs while going 3-0 on the mound with a 0.66 ERA and 27 strikeouts. Tyson Webster batted .394 with 18 RBIs and added a 2-0 pitching record with a 2.88 ERA and 20 strikeouts. Kenyon Clover hit .333 and stole 16 bases, while Zach Suba also hit .333 and drove in 16 runs.

With that production returning, expectations are high. Maplewood is aiming to compete for a Northeast Athletic Conference title and take the next step in the postseason by capturing a district championship.

The Rockets will be tested with a competitive non-conference schedule that includes matchups against Jackson Milton, Garfield, Champion, Brookfield, Heartland Christian, Cornerstone Christian, and Warren JFK.

With experience, depth, and motivation from last year's postseason run, Maplewood looks poised to make another strong push in 2026.



Photo by Nikki Hufford

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## Turning Retirement Dreams Into Travel Realities

One of the most rewarding aspects of retirement is the opportunity to reclaim your time and invest it in pursuits that bring joy, fulfillment, and personal growth. For many retirees, travel is not just a leisure activity but is a long-held aspiration and a central part of their vision for this next chapter of life. If traveling in retirement is on your to-do list, the following considerations can help you evaluate your options and build a strategy that supports your desire to explore the world on your financial terms.

**Be strategic about timing.** When it comes to retirement travel, timing matters. Many retirees choose to embark on their most ambitious trips during the early years of retirement, when physical and mental health are often at their peak. These initial years may involve longer or more frequent journeys, which can result in higher travel expenses. If this aligns with your personal goals, consider front-loading your travel budget to accommodate a more active lifestyle early on in retirement. Adjusting your financial plan to reflect this pattern can help you enjoy your adventures while maintaining long-term financial stability.

**Define your travel style and preferences.** Understanding your travel preferences is key to estimating costs and planning effectively. Are you envisioning short road trips to nearby destinations, extended RV road trips, or regular international travel? Each approach comes with its own financial implications. For example, domestic travel by car may be relatively affordable, while overseas trips can involve higher costs for airfare, lodging, and insurance. By clarifying the type and frequency of travel you envision, you can tailor your retirement plan to reflect realistic spending expectations and avoid surprises.

**Look for ways to reduce travel expenses.** Travel doesn't have to break the bank. There are many ways to reduce costs without sacrificing enjoyment. Consider renting a home or apartment if you plan to stay in one location for an extended period as this can be more economical than staying in hotels. Take advantage of your flexibility as a retiree by traveling during off-peak seasons, when prices for flights and accommodations are often lower. With a little research and planning, you can stretch your travel dollars further and make each trip more affordable without sacrificing the experience.

**Review your insurance coverage.** Insurance is an often-overlooked aspect of travel planning, but it can be crucial, especially in retirement. Travel insurance can provide peace of mind by covering unexpected events such as illness, trip cancellations, or lost luggage. It's also important to understand the limitations of your health insurance coverage. Medicare, for example, does not provide coverage outside the United States, and even domestic travel may require supplemental insurance depending on your provider. Reviewing your insurance needs before you travel ensures you're adequately protected wherever your journey takes you.

Retirement is a time to embrace new adventures, and travel can be one of the most fulfilling ways to do so. Consider connecting with a financial advisor to create a well-crafted financial strategy that supports your lifestyle and brings your retirement vision to life without compromising your long-term goals.

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## “Not all those who wander are lost.”

~ J.R.R. Tolkien



Pictured is the check presentation at the recent Masonic Lodge Charity Breakfast on March 21, where the Lake Baseball organization was the beneficiary of \$2,683. The lodge raises money for local charities and all proceeds go to that charity. Pictured are Dan McMillin and Bob Barasch, of the Masonic Lodge, are with David Costas, center.

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## A Legacy of Flavor: The Cantalamessa Family Keeps Tradition Alive at Enzo's

By Jim Woofler

For over five decades, the aroma of simmering marinara and fresh-baked bread has greeted the residents of Warren, Ohio, at a local landmark: Enzo's Restaurant. What began as a modest "mom-and-pop" pizza shop in the 1970s has evolved into one of the region's premier destinations for authentic Italian-American cuisine, all while remaining firmly rooted in the values of the family that started it all.

family. You are always made to feel welcome from the moment you step through the door, and for the many regulars who call Enzo's their second home, the family almost always knows your name. This personal touch is mirrored by a very personable and longtime staff, many of whom have become familiar faces to the generations of families who dine there. This sense of continuity creates a welcoming



Mauro, Lina and Enzo Jr Cantalamessa.

The story of Enzo's is a classic American tale with deep Italian roots. Founders Enzo and Lina Cantalamessa brought their Old World culinary skills to Trumbull County, building a reputation for quality and consistency. Even after the passing of Enzo Sr., the family's commitment to the community never wavered. Lina continued the legacy alongside her two sons, Enzo Jr. and Mauro. Today, the restaurant is a true family affair, with the brothers overseeing operations while their mother's original recipes remain the heartbeat of the kitchen.

One of the most remarkable aspects of dining at Enzo's is the immediate sense of belonging. Upon entering the establishment, guests are usually greeted personally by one or even all three members of the Cantalamessa

environment where patrons feel less like customers and more like guests in a private home.

The menu is a showcase of time-honored family traditions. Signature dishes that have earned a loyal following include the famous Italian Wedding Soup—a recipe straight from Lina's kitchen—and the rich Tortellini Alfredo, which features pasta stuffed with veal and tossed in a velvety cream sauce. Other top-sellers include their classic Chicken, Veal, and Eggplant Parmigiana, each topped with a signature sauce that the family has often considered bottling for local grocery stores. For those seeking something from the sea, the Shrimp and Scallop Agli e Olio remains a sophisticated favorite.

Whether it's a quick lunch, a family dinner, or a major celebration in their 350-seat banquet hall, Enzo's continues to serve as a cornerstone of the Warren community. It is a testament to the Cantalamessa family's dedication that, decades later, the vision of Enzo and Lina remains as vibrant and delicious as the day they first opened their doors.

Enzo's is located at 2918 Elm Road NE in Warren. They are open Tuesday through Friday 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM, Saturday: 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM Sunday and Monday they are closed. Call 330-372-3314 for reservations.

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# Out & About in Trumbull County

~ FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ~

## Cortland Collaborative The Makers Market Entertainment Schedule

All events are FREE unless otherwise noted

### MONDAYS

#### • Mindful Monday's

11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

Meditation, Music and Puppy petting-A calming midday reset designed to melt stress and lift your mood. Settle into gentle meditation, unwind with soothing music, and enjoy the pure joy of puppy snuggles. It's the sweetest way to relax, reconnect, and recharge.

### TUESDAYS

#### • Midday Munch & Game

11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

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

### WEDNESDAYS

#### • Walkie Talkie's Walking Group

9:00 am

### THURSDAYS

#### • Yoga Every other Thursday

10:00 AM

Instructor Lindsey Snowden; (Beginner level) \$15/Session March 25

### SPECIAL WEEKLY EVENING EVENTS

#### • April 4th, 6-8 PM

Chuck Williams, Live jazz music

#### • April 11 Noon - 2 PM

Women's Health and Healthy Living Workshop. Featuring Jess Dasinger with Country Roads Bakery and Kristy Edgar with Cultivated Health.

#### • Cortland Main Street Revitalization Monthly Meeting

April 21 (Every 3rd Tuesday)

## The Local Tap & Grill Is Heating Things Up

Special to The Cortland News

The Local Tap & Grill is heating things up this season with exciting changes underway as the team sets its sights on enhancing the lunch experience and drawing in an even bigger crowd. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and commitment to quality, the restaurant is preparing to launch a new and improved menu designed to satisfy both longtime guests and first-time visitors.

A major part of this refresh comes with the addition of new kitchen manager Lucy, who brings five years of hands-on management and over twenty years' experience in the service industry. With a strong background in

Continued on page 19



## Entertainment At The Local Tap & Grill

Are you looking for some great fun and great food? Try The Local Tap & Grill at Mecca Circle, on the Lake.

- Line dancing every other Thursday 7:30 PM April 9 & 23 FREE Lessons
  - Trivia every other Thursday at 6:30 PM April 2 16 30
  - Music every Friday night 6-9
  - Karaoke every Fri night 9 pm
  - Music every Sunday 2-5.
  - Minnow Races April 18, 6-8 PM
- They are Family Friendly by Day & "The Local After Dark" after 8 PM

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Every Other Thursday 7:30 PM  
April 9 & 23  
FREE Lessons

**TRIVIA**  
Every Other Thursday at 6:30 PM  
April 2, 16, 30

**MUSIC**  
Every Friday 6-9 PM  
Every Sunday 2-5 PM

**KARAOKE**  
Every Friday 9 PM

**MINNOW RACES**  
April 18, 6-8 PM

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<b>Any Two Strombolis</b> <b>\$18.00</b> One coupon per visit • Not valid with any other offer • Expires 5/11/26	<b>Hot Gondola Sandwich</b> <b>\$8.00</b> One coupon per visit • Not valid with any other offer • Expires 5/11/26	<b>Any 12-Cut Specialty Pizza</b> <b>\$20.00</b> One coupon per visit • Not valid with any other offer • Expires 5/11/26

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## Six Ways To Ease Spring Safety Concerns

Joshua Palmer, VP Operations, L Calvin Jones

As the seasons change, so do the types of safety issues workplaces may encounter. Spring, in particular, brings a mix of weather shifts, maintenance needs, and increased activity that can introduce new risks. Taking a little time to review and refresh safety practices can go a long way in keeping everyone protected.

**Take a fresh look at housekeeping.** A clean, organized workspace naturally supports safer work habits, and spring is a good time to see how current housekeeping routines are holding up. Cluttered areas, poorly stored materials, worn tools, missed spills, or inconsistent cleaning can all contribute to slips, trips, strains, or other injuries. Creating clearer routines—such as designated storage areas, end of day cleanup habits, and periodic walk throughs—can help reduce these risks. Making sure employees understand cleaning expectations, proper storage, and protective equipment use, especially through refresher training, also helps keep standards consistent.

**Use the season as a cue for deep cleaning.** Even workplaces with solid daily cleaning practices can benefit from a more thorough seasonal reset. Spring is a great time to address HVAC systems by cleaning air ducts, which can improve air quality and reduce dust and allergens as warmer weather approaches. Professional cleaning of carpets, floors, mats, upholstery, and hard to reach areas helps remove built up dirt and germs. Replacing damaged flooring and cleaning windows, blinds, and exterior walkways can also improve both safety and overall appearance.

**Be mindful of unpredictable spring weather.** Spring weather can be unpredictable, bringing storms, flooding, high winds, or muddy

conditions—especially at outdoor sites. These conditions may increase risks like slippery surfaces, falling debris, lightning exposure, or trench instability. Reviewing emergency response plans, checking supplies, and reminding employees of weather related procedures can help everyone feel prepared. It's also a good time to look over building structures, roofs, and windows, and to think about protecting equipment and data if severe weather hits.

**Think ahead about storm recovery.** When storms do occur, cleanup and recovery work can introduce additional hazards, including electrical, environmental, or biological risks. Clear communication and practical training are especially important during these times. Many organizations find it helpful to lean on OSHA resources or local emergency management partners to guide safe recovery efforts.

**Keep seasonal outdoor hazards in mind.** Spring often means more exposure to insects, plants, and wildlife. Poison ivy, ticks, and rodents can all create issues if overlooked. Encouraging protective clothing, insect repellent, and equipment inspections—especially for items that haven't been used recently—can help prevent avoidable problems.

**Offer extra support to newer workers and social activities.** With many workplaces relying on newer or less experienced employees, additional guidance, mentoring, and supervision can make a real difference. Clearly defining which tasks require experience or supervision helps set safe boundaries. It's also worth being mindful of company sponsored sports or social events and understanding how participation may relate to workers' compensation coverage.

## ON COURSE

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### What Are The Actual Costs Of Original Medicare?

Original Medicare is made up of Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance). But understanding what the actual out of pocket costs are, isn't always simple. Here is a straightforward look at what beneficiaries will pay in 2026 for premiums, deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance if they are utilizing only Original Medicare without adding a Medicare Supplement plan or enrolling in a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan.

**Medicare Part A** – Hospital Insurance: Part A helps cover care in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice, and some home health care. Most people qualify for premium-free Part A because they have paid Medicare taxes while working. If you do not qualify for premium-free Part A because you or your spouse did not pay into Medicare for at least 40 working quarters, you can buy coverage. Currently that premium is \$311 per month if you worked 30-39 qualifying quarters (about 7½-10 years) or \$565 per month if you worked fewer than 30 qualifying quarters.

In addition to the premium, there are deductibles and copays associated with Part A. These amounts change each year. For 2026 the deductible you will pay if you are admitted to the hospital is \$1,736 for each benefit period. This is not an annual deductible. Medicare benefit periods are 60 days and once you have not received treatment or services for a 60-day period, a new benefit period will start.

If you receive services or treatment and do not have a 60-day break there is a copay of \$434 per day that is assessed for days 61-90. After day 90, the copay increases to \$868 per day and is limited to 60 lifetime reserve days. After exhausting the lifetime reserve days you are responsible for all costs. Part A also covers Skilled Nursing Facilities for a rehabilitation stay. At these facilities, days 1-20 are covered with a \$0 copay but days 21-100 have a copay of \$217 per day. After 100 days, you are responsible for all costs. Part

A also covers hospice care and some home health services. These are often covered with little or no costs.

**Medicare Part B** – Medical Insurance: Part B covers the outpatient care we receive including doctor visits, tests, preventive services, therapy, durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, oxygen, etc), and more. Some medications are considered Part B drugs. Typically, these are received in a physician's office or a facility under the supervision of a trained professional. For example, chemotherapy medication received by infusion as an outpatient would fall under Part B of Medicare and not under prescription drug coverage.

Part B has a monthly premium. For 2026 most people will pay \$202.90 per month however, individuals with higher incomes pay more due to the income-related monthly adjustment amounts (IRMAA). Part B coverage runs on a calendar year basis, January - December and there is an annual deductible that must be met. For 2026 that deductible amount is \$283. After meeting the Part B deductible, Medicare generally pays 80% of approved costs and you are responsible for the remaining 20%. There is no Maximum Out of Pocket cap on annual costs. Therefore, if you have high claims or a significant number of claims your 20% could be substantial.

Original Medicare does not include prescription drug coverage. A separate Part D drug plan can be obtained through individual insurance companies either through a stand-alone drug plan or as part of a Part C advantage plan. Oftentimes beneficiaries will consider adding supplemental coverage such as a Medigap policy or enrolling in a Part C Medicare advantage plan to limit potential out of pocket costs. More information on Medicare costs can be found at Medicare.gov.

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

<p><b>William H. Brooker</b> Attorney at Law 197-C West Main Street Cortland, Ohio 44410 <i>(In Lions Club building)</i> 35 Years Experience 330-638-7347</p>	<p><i>General Practice of Law</i> Specializing In Probate Law - Estates - Estate Planning Wills - Trusts - Deeds Marriage Dissolution</p>
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## Cortland MS Support Group Meeting

By Linda Ford

If you or a loved one is living with Multiple Sclerosis, join our supportive and welcoming MS Support Group in Cortland. We meet in person on the first Tuesday of every month at the Cortland Library to share experiences, offer encouragement, and connect with others who truly understand the journey.

Whether you're newly diagnosed or have been managing MS for years, this group provides a safe space for conversation, resources, and community. Light refreshments will be provided.

Our first meeting is Tuesday April 7, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Cortland Library Meeting Room, 578 Lakeview Drive, Cortland. For more information or to RSVP, contact: Linda, linda@jfcollections.com or 330-282-7112. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Women's Health And Healthy Living Workshop

On April 11 from Noon until 2 PM The Cortland Collaborative at 201 West Main St will hold a Women's Health and Healthy Living Workshop. It will feature Jess Dasinger with Country Roads Bakery and Kristy Edgar with Cultivated Health. Admission is free and reservations are not required.

## TCHS Acquires Archaeological Collection

The Trumbull County Historical Society (TCHS) is proud to announce the acquisition of a vast and historically significant archaeological collection, a collection decades in the making that permanently preserves the prehistory of the Mahoning Valley. The archive was generously donated by the late Thomas R. Pigott of Southington who passed away in July 2025.



Varner Site - 1950's

Pigott, a dedicated steward of local history, spent years curating the materials, which he collectively named *The Pigott Archives*. The collection represents the life's work of three local figures in Ohio archaeology: Pigott himself, the late Dr. Olaf Prufer, and the late Charles "Chuck" Sofsky. It contains irreplaceable original research, documented artifacts, field notes, and photographic records from some of the few archaeological excavations ever conducted in Trumbull County.

**Chuck Sofsky's World:** The life's work of Charles Sofsky, a self-described "doer" who founded the Warren Archaeological Society in 1953. His work led to the formal registration of the first sixty archaeological sites (33TR1 - 33TR60) in Trumbull County.

His collection includes materials from excavations at the Byler Mound, Morgan Village, and the extensive Erskine Site.

**Dr. Olaf Prufer's Legacy:** Artifacts, photographs, and the personal library of Dr. Prufer, who was considered a preeminent figure in Ohio archaeology from his arrival from Harvard in 1959 until his death in 2008. The collection includes documentation from his seminal 1967-1968 excavations at the Late Woodland Libben Site in Ottawa County, one of the largest excavations carried out in Ohio in the last century. Pigott, a former student and friend of Dr. Prufer, penned the professor's obituary in the *Ohio Archaeologist*.

The collection also includes materials from Robert Converse, longtime editor of the *Ohio Archaeologist*; thousands of scanned slides and documents that expand the region's archaeological record; and hundreds of Archaeological reference books.

TCHS will now begin the meticulous process of cataloging and conserving the collection. In the future, the Society will establish a dedicated research room to house *The Pigott Collection & Archives*, providing scholars, students, and the community with an unprecedented window into the ancient history of the Mahoning Valley.

For more information about *The Pigott Collection & Archives* or to inquire about supporting its conservation and the creation of the dedicated research room, please contact the Trumbull County Historical Society at 330-394-4653 or visit [www.trumbullcountyhistory.org](http://www.trumbullcountyhistory.org)

# HH

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## The Local Tap & Grill ...continued from page 17

accounting, Lucy combines creativity in the kitchen with a sharp understanding of cost control and efficiency, which is an approach that helps ensure every dish delivers both flavor and value.

The upcoming menu will feature fresh takes on customer favorites along with exciting new offerings aimed at boosting lunchtime traffic. From hearty comfort foods to lighter, quick options perfect for a midday break, there will be something for everyone. The goal is simple: provide a restaurant-quality lunch that fits seamlessly into the busy schedules of the surrounding community.

In addition to the updated lunch menu, The Local Tap & Grill will begin a monthly brunch and bloody Mary bar, giving guests even more reasons to visit. These rotating selections will highlight seasonal ingredients and creative twists on classic brunch favorites along with live music.

The Local Tap & Grill has always been more than just a place to eat—it's a gathering spot where friends, families, and coworkers come together. Whether you are a regular or stopping in for the first time, now is the perfect time to experience what's new at The Local.

They are located just east of the Mecca Circle on the Lake, Rt 88.

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2026 ESCAPE ACTIVE AWD</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">LEASE \$389</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">RENEWAL \$371</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">PLUS TAX 48 MONTHS</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">7,500 MILES PER YEAR. \$2000 TOTAL DUE.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 10px;">Stock# T36011</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2026 EXPLORER ACTIVE</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">LEASE \$459</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">PLUS TAX 36 MONTHS</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">7,500 MILES PER YEAR. \$2000 TOTAL DUE.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 10px;">Stock# T36037</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2025 MAVERICK AWD</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">\$30,998</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">REBATE -\$2500</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">BUY FOR \$28,498</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 24px;">\$387</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">PLUS TAX 84 MONTHS @5.99%</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">\$2000 DOWN PLUS TAX, TITLE AND FEES. RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 10px;">Stock# T35394</p>

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### Maplewood Seniors Sign to Malone University

Twins, Raegan and Lauran Krieg, announce that they are both beginning their next chapter with Malone University. They will be playing Softball for the Pioneers.

#### Maplewood Team Accomplishments

- Undefeated NAC 2 years
- Undefeated on home court for 2 years
- Undefeated in home opener 4 years
- Regional Runner Ups



#### RAEGAN

I plan to attend Malone University to major in exercise science while playing softball. I was on the All District team for softball past 2 years. Also played on the soccer team and helped them win the first game in four years.

Thank you to the basketball community for showing up the past 2 years. I could not have done it without Lauran Krieg and Morgan Himes, along with the entire coaching staff. I am thankful to my teammates, who continued to show up and put in countless hours in the gym and every single one of my coaches throughout my four years in the program.

My freshman year ended early because of low numbers and Morgan breaking her ankle. Sophomore year we only had seven girls and lost one senior. Junior year we were undefeated in the NAC and were District Runner-Ups. My senior year, thanks to much hard work and lots of hours in the gym, we were undefeated in NAC again, District Champs, and Regional Runner-Ups.

#### LAURAN

I plan to attend Malone University to continue softball career undecided on what major. Honorable Mention NAC for 2 years, Honorable Mention NE District. Played on soccer team as goalie, and giving the program their first win in four years. Including playing volleyball for 4 years to reach the District Semi Final this year.

To the entire community, I thank you for the continued support especially these last 2 seasons. This success would not be possible without Coach Stephine Pykare. I also couldn't do it without Morgan Himes and Raegan Krieg, the entire coaching staff, the alumni and my teammates. Thank you to the team for always showing up for the countless hours spent in the gym during the summer to show this success. Thank you to all the coaches and teammates over the past four years.

Freshman year, season ended early because of low numbers (6) and Morgan breaking her ankle. Sophomore year we had one senior, with seven girls. Junior year undefeated NAC, and District Runner Ups. Senior year, for the amount of hard work put in we earned another undefeated NAC title, District Champions, and Regional Runner-Ups. To the program, thank you for showing me how to never give up on each other and to keep believing.



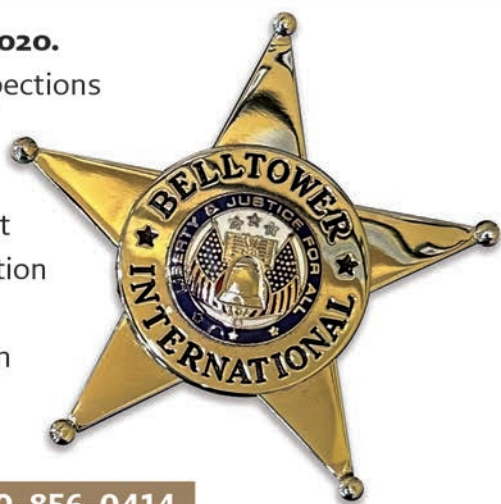
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## Trumbull County Travel Club

By Peggy Boyd

The Trumbull County Travel Club began their "Spring" motor coach tours with a day out in Pittsburgh. Thirty-eight members, men and women, toured St. Nicholas Church and the Vanka Murals painted inside the church. The included lunch was at the Grand Concourse where the girls on the bus gathered for a photo opportunity. The afternoon was celebrated with a walk through the gardens at the Phipps Conservatory.

On Thursday, April 16, members will jaunt off to Canton. A stop at Fanny May Chocolates, Canton Car Museum, Lunch included at the Tavern and a tour of the First Ladies Museum will round out the day. Eight seats remain. Call Peggy at 330-609-3971 for details.

On June 20 the club will go to Barcelona, No Passport needed. The great Western Adventure for August 23 - September 5 still has 10 seats on the bus.



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Our sweet girl Paris came to us last week as an owner surrender... and you can just feel it — she's missing her home. Paris is SO incredibly sweet. She has the cutest little wiggle when she sees you — that full body, happy girl wiggle that says, "Hi... please love me." The good news? Paris came in with two small dogs, and she has done wonderful with them, so we do feel comfortable saying small dogs are her friends.

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**Book & Puzzle Sale**  
 Shop at our big book and puzzle sale on Friday, April 24 from 9:00 am-7:00 pm and Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at Cortland United Methodist Church, 155 N High Street.

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**(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)

**April at Bristol Public Library**

By D'Lynn Johnson

The Bristol Public Library will be closed on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.

The youth department will host a Make & Take Craft on Monday, April 6th from 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm. Children ages 3 through 12th grade can hop in to make a Hopping Bunny to take home.

On Monday, April 20th at 5:00 pm Tom Phoolery will present Titanic: The Aftermath. This is Part Two of Titanic: Tragedy of Errors you've been waiting for!

Registration is required for both programs and can be made by contacting the circulation desk at 330-889-3651.



**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Cortland Library April 2026 Events**

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Libraries will be closed April 20 for staff in-service training

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

**Toddler Tales**

Mondays at 10 a.m. April 13, 27 A fun and active Storytime for toddlers ages 19 - 35 months with a parent or caregiver. Free.

**Preschool Storytime**

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. April 14, 21, 28 Preschool Storytime features stories, songs, and movement activities and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. For children ages 3-5 with a parent or caregiver. Free.

**Midweek Mayhem**

Wednesdays from 3 - 4 p.m. April 8, 15, 22, 29. Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at the library's weekly hangout! Free.

**Teen Advisory Board**

Tuesday, April 14 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 who have ideas about what they'd like to see at the library, want to earn service hours, or like collaborating on creative ideas can join the Teen Advisory Board! Free.

**First Chapter Book Club**

Thurs. April 16 from 6 - 7 p.m. Children ages 9 - 12 can hear and discuss the first chapter of a book. Activities and games will help kids decide if the book is one they want to finish reading on their own. Free.

**Totally Tweens**

Tues., April 21 from 3 - 4 p.m. Tweens ages 10 - 14 can let their creative juices flow with crafts and fun activities at the library. Free.

**Family LEGO Night**

Thurs., April 23 from 6 - 7 p.m. Practice problem-solving and engineering skills while building with the library's collection of LEGO bricks. Finished projects will remain at the library. For families with children ages 3 and older. Free.

**Teen Yoga and Mindfulness**

Tues., April 28 from 3 - 4 p.m. Teens ages 12 - 18 can enjoy a relaxing yoga and meditation session. Teens can bring their own mat or use one of the library's. Registration is required by April 24. Sign up online at [www.wtcpl.org/events](http://www.wtcpl.org/events) or call (330) 638-6335. Free.

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GREAT GROCERIES

**Ohio EPA Awards More Than \$2.8 Million for Public Water System Projects**

Ohio EPA is awarding more than \$2.8 million to 122 public water systems in 58 counties to support critical improvements that will help ensure safe, reliable drinking water for Ohio families.

These grants, which are funded through U. S. EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Capitalization Grants, will help public water systems maintain a continuous supply of safe drinking water, strengthen the protection of the water source, properly close inactive wells, and invest in emergency generators.

"Being able to offer this funding to more than 120 water systems across the state is the definition of a win-win," Ohio Director John Logue said. "It helps these systems to have the capability of enhancing what they do and how they do it at no extra cost to them - but, more importantly, it helps Ohio families have access to more reliable, safer, healthier drinking water."

Ohio EPA prioritized emergency generator projects to help water systems maintain service and protect the water supply during power outages. The grants will reimburse systems for the initial costs of generators and necessary accessories. Thirty-eight systems were awarded \$1.28 million for emergency generators.

Approximately \$1.6 million has been awarded for additional water quality improvement projects.

• Condition Assessment Program: Helps small community public water systems increase their

technical capacity to provide water by contracting with a third party to develop their asset management program.

• Source Water Assessment Protective Strategies: Supports the implementation of strategies to safeguard source water for community public water systems.

• Well Abandonment: Assists with the costs of properly abandoning inactive public water system wells.

The \$2.8 million being awarded is going to public water systems in 58 counties. Locally these counties have been chosen: Ashtabula (3 projects), Mahoning (3 projects), Portage (5 projects) and Trumbull (3 projects).

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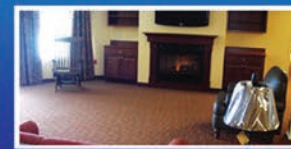


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- ✓ Allocated \$175k for Mecca Twp. townhall and daycare
- ✓ Allocated \$1.5M for County Fairgrounds infrastructure improvement

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