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Volume 71 No. 15

Columbia Station, Ohio

January 26, 2026

CHS Atheltic Hall of Fame winners 2026



John Banyasz.

John Banyasz is a 2012 graduate of Columbia High School. He was an exceptional athlete in football and basketball. In football, he started all 4 years of his high school career on the varsity team, with 39 games at the quarterback position beginning his freshman year. John set several school records including most touchdown passes in a game with 5, most touchdown passes in a season with 23, most touchdown passes in a career with 57, most passing yards in a game with 415 yards, most passing yards in a season with 2,105 yards and most passing yards in a career with 5,781 yards.

During his junior year, John was a Chronicle Telegram Player of the Week, was selected to the Patriot Athletic Conference First Team, was named Conference Offensive Back of the Year and was selected for the All Lorain County 1st Team & the All Ohio 3rd Team. His senior year honors included selection for the Patriot Athletic Conference 1st Team and Offensive Back of the Year, 1st Team All Lorain County, Lorain County MVP Offensive Back of the Year and All Ohio 3rd Team honors.

On the basketball court, John was a 3 year starter on the varsity team. His honors included Patriot Athletic Conference 2nd Team as a sophomore, and as a junior, he was selected for Patriot Athletic Conference 1st Team, Chronicle Player of the Week and Raiders MVP. He was the recipient of the WEOL/First Place Bank Student Athlete Award. Due to an injury, John was not able to finish his senior basketball season.

John attended Lake Erie College on a football scholarship, earning a biology degree with a pre-physical therapy concentration. He obtained a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Walsh University. He currently works as a physical therapist for Cleveland Clinic.

HOF CONT. ON PG. 5



Jay Banyasz

Undefeated Wellington Youth Football Team clinches Championship Title



The team players are Baylor Wilson (#1), Payton Vance (#4), Michael Resar Jr. (#5), Weston Meese (#7), Allen Olson (#9), Sam Mourton (#15), Bryce Norris (#18), Cash Schramm (#23), Zach Goble (#29), Tucker Hyer (#32), Eli McConnell (#73), and Cole Ortiz (#86).

In a thrilling conclusion to a remarkable season, the Wellington Youth Padded Flag football team, led by Head Coach Adam Hyer, emerged as champions on Saturday, October 25, 2025, after clinching the title in an inspiring game that showcased their undefeated season. The final score was Wellington 27, defeating Firelands 6. This wasn't just a victory; it was a testament to the importance of teamwork, friendship, and community spirit.

From the very first practice of the season, it was clear that this team was special. Practices were both challenging and fun, helping players develop a strong bond both on and off the field. This positive environment helped build morale and encouraged everyone to give their best effort. Their trust in each other created a strong sense of teamwork that played a key role in achieving their undefeated record and dominance in all 10 games.

The championship game was not simply a match; it was a powerful gathering of the community. A crowd of enthusiastic Wellington Duke supporters filled the stands, proudly sporting team colors and cheering with infectious energy. From the team fat heads and loud cow bells to the air horns and 'Go Dukes' flag waving proudly, the atmosphere was electric, as families, friends, and residents came together to celebrate not only their team's achievements but also the spirit of unity proving that a strong youth football team can bring an entire community closer.

As we reflect on this unforgettable season, it's essential to extend heartfelt thanks to those who made it possible. Our sincere gratitude goes out to the coaching staff, Adam Hyer, Felicia Hyer, Dillon Norris, and Nate Wilson, whose dedication and knowledge guided the players every step of the way. The coaches instilled not only tactical skills but also sportsmanship and respect for one another, laying the foundation for lifelong friendships.

From the parents and families that stood behind each player to the school that supported the team, every contribution played a crucial role in this season's success. It was your enthusiasm that fueled the players' determination and pushed them to achieve greatness. The countless hours spent volunteering, cheering, and simply being there made all the difference.

The journey doesn't end here. While this season has come to a victorious end, the friendships forged and the lessons learned will last a lifetime. Here's to many more seasons of teamwork, victory, and community unity! The future is bright for Wellington Dukes.

Community Directory

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Our next Issue will be February 9. The Deadline for that Issue is February 4. For Office Hours, Issue Dates & Deadlines, See Page 6.

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Columbia News

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www.rural-urbanrecord.com

Community Art Show

Time to put on your creative hat! The Friends of the Columbia Library invite artists of all ages to participate in the "Habitat & Humanity" judged art show. Additional information is available at the Columbia Library or on the Friends Facebook page. Students and adults may submit up to 3 pieces each in four categories: Painting, Drawing, Photography and Mixed Media/Arts & Crafts. Pieces may be dropped off at the library May 9-20. The community is invited to join us for an afternoon of art, refreshments and presentation of awards on May 23, from 1-3 p.m.

Columbia Athletic HOF Thank You

The Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame Committee would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support and donations this year - Connie Arndt, Rebecca Brendza, Fraternal Order of Eagles #4003, John and Becky Karl, Jeff and Claire Karl, Valerie and Craig Templeton, NorthCoast Awards, Inc., Precious Petals, Red Wagon Brewery, The Rural-Urban Record, Schild's IGA, Ken and Deb Zapior, Mr. Graig Bansek, Mr. Brian Siftar, Mr. Jason Ward and Mrs. Beth Kobe. Thank you for helping to make the 2026 Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony an evening to remember.

Hosanna Lutheran Early Childhood Center

13485 West River Rd., Columbia Station (440) 666-0198

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE / REGISTRATION NIGHT
Wednesday, February 25, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



Come meet our teachers and tour our room.

This program is designed for children 3-5 and early 4's meet Tuesday & Friday 8:30-11 a.m. (child must be 3 by Aug. 1)
4's and early 5's meet Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30-11:30 a.m. (child must be 4 by Aug. 1)

For more information, contact Tanya Rindfleisch, Director at (440) 666-0198

VFW Ham Dinner

Valley City VFW Post #5563, located at 6731 Center Rd. (Rt. 303), in Valley City, is having a Ham Dinner. The dinner will include cheesy potatoes, green beans, salad and desserts. It is on Saturday, February 21, from 5-7:30 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12. All are invited to come.

Columbia Historical Society

The Columbia Historical Society will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, February 10, at 7 p.m. in Columbia Town Hall, located at 25496 Royalton Road. Our theme for the meeting is Valentine Season. At our meet and greet, we will be welcoming the new officers of the year. We will also be presenting some of our planned programs of the year. We are encouraging our guests to share some of their favorite valentines or valentine stories. And, of course we will have refreshments to share. Hope to see you there!!

Copopa Kindergarten registration/information night

If you have a child that will be 5 years-old on or before August 1, 2026, he or she may attend Kindergarten next fall. Copopa Elementary School is in the process of planning now for the 2026-2027 school year. This year they will have an information night for parents only please on Tuesday, February 3, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the K-8 cafeteria. This will be a time to meet the Principal, Mrs. Ashworth, the school counselor and teachers. Parents will get information on how to enroll their child. You will make your child's kindergarten screening appointment at this time also. Kindergarten screening dates for this year will be Friday, May 8 and Thursday, May 14.

If you cannot make it that night, please call Mrs. Lasecki at Copopa Elementary at (440) 236-5020, or Mrs. Wenzel, District Registrar, at (440) 236-1236. If you have friends or neighbors who may not have received or read this notice, please have them call also. Thank you for your assistance.



Brewery Events

4	RE-OPENING!
FEB	4-9pm
5	Trivia Night
FEB	6-8pm
6	Live Music- Charles Geil & His Ghost Band
FEB	6-9pm
7	Live Music- Steve & Sam
FEB	6-9pm
11	Open
FEB	4-9pm
12	Trivia Night
FEB	6-8pm
13	Live Music- Art Michaud
FEB	6-9pm
14	Live Music- The Electricats
FEB	6-9pm

LIVE Music Every:
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6-9

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www.redwagonfarm.com



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CHS Students of the Month



Claire Ondrejko



Ethan Wilmeth

Seniors Claire Ondrejko and Ethan Wilmeth have been chosen as Columbia High School "Students of the Month" for December. Nominees are chosen based on the following criteria: Maturity, Citizenship, Behavior and Effort.

Claire Ondrejko is the daughter of Shawn & Katie Ondrejko and the sister of Grant Ondrejko. She is the captain and a 4-year Varsity letterman of the wrestling team and football cheerleading team. She is the 2026 Class President, President of the National Honor Society, Secretary of the Student Body, Member of Leaders Club and the Columbia Service Club. Claire has received the Governor's Merit Scholarship, which awards the top 5% of each high school graduating class in Ohio. She was accepted into the National Honor Society in her junior year, achieving high-honor roll every year. Claire loves to volunteer for the benefit of the Columbia community. Some of her volunteer activities include being a camp counselor for the sixth graders' Outdoor Education trip, working Senior Citizen breakfasts, assisting in student-run blood drives and making blankets for NICU babies. In 2024-2025, Claire was selected by Principal Siftar to attend a 5-month-long Leadership Academy with other students from Lorain County. The seminars allowed her to sharpen her soft skills, practice effective communication and master creative thinking and character awareness. Outside of school, Claire loves working at Falls Ice Cream and participating in her Catholic youth group. After graduation, she plans to attend Bowling Green State University to study Finance and International Business. Claire is so grateful for her wonderful memories at Columbia High School and cannot wait to see what the future holds!

Ethan Wilmeth is the son of Eric & Jacy Wilmeth and the brother to Faith, Adam, Asher and Micah. Ethan is an active member of the CHS Marching Band, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra and the Tri-M Music Honor Society, of which he is the Treasurer. He is a member of the Columbia chapter of the National Honor Society, inducted as a junior, and is the Historian for the organization. He is the woodwind section leader and field crew captain for the Marching Band. Ethan also is a member of the CHS Track and Field team. He has been on the high honor roll throughout high school and has earned the Louis Armstrong Award in Jazz Band and has received Superior Ratings for his saxophone solo in solo and ensemble competitions. After graduation, Ethan intends to pursue a post-secondary education in a math related area at a college or university yet to be determined.

Workshop Players present..

"Same Time Next Year," by Bernard Slade and Directed by Michael Attali. Brighten your winter blues by joining them for one of the most popular romantic comedies of our time. This charming play features twenty-five years of manners and morals as Doris and George play out their love affair. Married to others, they originally meet just by chance at an inn, have dinner together and continue their evening. They agree to rendezvous every year at the same place and time. The progression of their lives is reflected in their relationship, and the end result is a charming evening of entertainment and nostalgia for the audience. Cast is Tim Hirzel and Lauren Wazevich. Note: Contains adult language and situations.

Performances are on February 5, 6, 7, 13 & 14 at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on February 8 & 15, at 3 p.m. Doors open 45 minutes before show time. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at workshopplayers.org or by calling the Box Office at (440) 634-0472.

COLUMBIA NEWS CONTINUED ON PG. 4



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#F1676900. 40K, Alloy's, Cruise

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2022 FORD ESCAPE SE



#F8574810. 39K, Alloy's, Cruise, Keyless

\$19,936

2023 FORD BRONCO SPORT



#F8572910. Big Bend, 4x4, 43K

\$23,936

2022 FORD BRONCO SPORT



#F8538110. 4X4, 35K, Cruise.

\$25,936

2024 FORD MAVERICK XLT



#F8598810. 14K, Tow Pkg., Cruise

\$26,936

2022 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM



#F8433110. 20K, Pano, NAV

\$27,936

2022 FORD F-150 CREW STX



#F8573510. NAV, Tow Pkg.

\$27,936

2024 FORD EDGE TITANIUM



#F8589810. AWD, Pano, NAV

\$28,936

2022 FORD EXPLORER XLT



#F8552710. 3rd Row, 4x4, 31K

\$29,936

2021 FORD EXPEDITION



#F8572210. Limited, Pano, AWD, NAV

\$32,936

2025 FORD ESCAPE ST-LINE



#F1667600. AWD, Hybrid, 9K

\$33,936

2025 FORD MUSTANG



#F1676200. 5K, Premium, Leather, Auto

\$36,936

2025 FORD MUSTANG



#F1677700. 3K, Premium, Leather, Auto

\$36,936

2023 FORD EXPLORER ST-LINE



#F8581410. 28K, Pano, NAV

\$36,936

2022 FORD BRONCO BIG BEND



#F8550010. 25K, 4Dr.

\$36,936

2021 FORD BRONCO OUTER BANKS



#F1659800. 43K, Leather, NAV

\$37,936

2022 FORD F-150 XLT



#F1668400. Sport, 5.0, Long Bed, 37K

\$41,936

2022 FORD F-150 XLT



#F8544410. 8K, 20" Chrome, Tow Pkg

\$43,936

2024 FORD F-150 STX CREW



#F1658500. NAV, Tow, 1K

\$44,936

2023 FORD BRONCO WILDTRAK



#F8592510. 34K, V6, Leather

\$45,936

2023 FORD F-150 XLT



#F8543010. Tow Pkg, 24K, Heritage

\$48,936

2025 FORD F-150 XLT



#F1667200. Sport, 5.0, 74 Mi., NAV

\$55,936

2024 FORD EXPEDITION



#F8595210. Platinum, 43K, Pano, Captain's

\$55,936

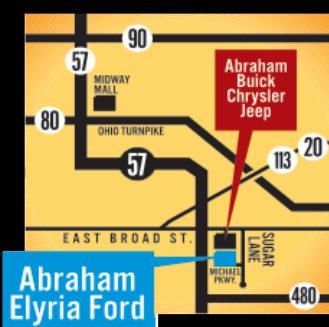
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Columbia Trustees Meeting

Blanche Nemeth
columbiatwp-oh.gov

The Columbia Township Board of Trustees met on January 20 in the Town Hall with all three Trustees present and the Fiscal Officer, Mandie Andrews. The Trustees voted to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting and the January 5, 2026 regular meeting, as presented. The Trustees voted to pay the bills and payroll. The bills amounted to \$1,072,203.67 and payroll amounted to \$41,474.38, bringing the total to \$1,113,678.05. The Receipts totaled \$106,164.25. The amount of the bills re-

flected the payment for the new fire truck.

Department Reports

The Zoning Inspector reported 16 permits issued, of which 13 were for single family homes, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 13.

Under Violations, 4 citations were mailed: 1 for drainage, 1 for a commercial vehicle in a residential area, 1 for a pool rental and 1 for an Air B&B.

The Board of Zoning Appeals will have a case in January for a variance of 153 ft. on Akins Road to build one home on one of the auction

lots. Another case for February is scheduled for residential lot splits on Root Road.

The Road-Service Director reported the issues with the snow plows repaired. Issue 1 for 2026 will be the repair of Forestview. The Township will be working with the County on some projects.

The Fire Chief reported 35 on file, 35 on call and 65 runs. There was 1 mutual aid assist and 2 mutual aid requests. Transport billing for December was \$16,903.52, bringing the total for 2025 to \$223,524.40. The new fire truck comes Thursday. The fire department is working on the smoke detector project for senior citizens. They hope to not only provide them, but to install them.

Rita Plata gave the Cemetery report: there was no activity recorded.

The Zoning Commission will meet Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. A Public Hearing will be held at 6:45 p.m. for Zoning Amendments 2026-1 and 2026-2. The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet Monday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall for Case 2026-1.

Old Business

Charmae Cottom gave an update on the Homecoming. The VFW is holding the Bingo fundraiser for them at the VFW two times a month. Charmae has received 3 quotes for fireworks programs from 3 companies. However, she has not been able to find a ride company. The Homecoming event has been selected to be representative of the 250th year of the anniversary of the United States of America. The Event will host Company K, a Historical Reenactment military group. Charmae also has 3 bands lined up. The Parade will be on Saturday at 2 p.m. this year. The focus this year will be on entertainment

New Business

The Trustees voted to accept the ODOT Mileage Certification – 49,688 miles. The Fiscal Officer presented 5 different road levies for the November ballot to the Trustees. They will be going to the Auditor for current values. The Trustees will have to choose which one will actually go onto the ballot.

The Trustees are in the process of writing a job description for the open Fire Chief position. The Trustees will be updating the Township Website. The contract for the present website will expire this year and there are a number of new requirements needed for the next website.

Columbia Township will be supporting the funding for a comprehensive traffic study along the State Route 82 corridor. It is a vital pathway to support our residential areas, commercial development and regional connections. The Township supports a traffic study to improve safety and mobility. A letter will be sent to ODOT.

In regards to the sale of the Snell Road Property, the Trustees will submit questions to be addressed by the County Prosecutor.

Committee Reports

The Lorain County Township Association will meet February 19 in Huntington Twp.

After community input, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 2, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Farm Bureau Scholarships available

The Lorain County Farm Bureau is offering scholarship opportunities to students pursuing post-secondary education. The scholarship amount is determined by the number of acceptable qualifying applications. Applicant's parent/legal guardian or themselves must be a resident of Lorain County, a current Lorain County Farm Bureau member at the time of application and payout. They must be a full-time enrollee of an accredited two or four-year college, university or technical school working towards an undergraduate degree. Applicants must show a 2.5-grade point average.

A General Scholarship, an Ag-Related Scholarship, a Continuing Education Scholarship and the Al DiVencenzo Memorial Scholarship are all available. A major in agriculture or a support field is required for both the Ag-Related, Continuing Education and Al DiVencenzo Memorial Scholarships. Multiple scholarships can be awarded. Eligibility and approval of applicants will be determined at the discretion of the Lorain County Board of Trustees or their designee.

The fillable form is available online on <https://ofbf.org/foundation/scholarships/lorain-county-scholarship/> at our website at lorain.ofbf.org, or by emailing lorain@ofbf.org. No handwritten forms will be accepted. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on March 31, 2026.

The Joseph Kelly Memorial Scholarship is also available and applications are due by March 31, 2026 as well, and can be found at <https://ofbf.org/foundation/scholarships/joseph-kelly-memorial-scholarship/>. This scholarship was established in 2018 to honor the life of Joseph Kelly and to continue his legacy of generosity and service.

For more information, contact the county Farm Bureau office at (440) 877-0706.

LPLS 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge

Lorain Public Library System is rolling out a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative to challenge caregivers to read to and with their children.

"Reading to children ages birth to 5 years old is vital for their development," Assistant Branch Manager Kelsey DeCoste said. "One simple story read-aloud fosters a strong child-caregiver bond and promotes language, literacy and social-emotional skills essential for a child's lifelong success."

The challenge is themed with fun images of Browster, the Lorain Public Library System's golden retriever mascot.

Parents can register for the program online or in person at any of the six branches. Upon registering, participants will receive a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (BBK) tote bag and a reading tracking sheet for their first 100 books. After completing the first 100, they return to receive their tracking sheet for the second hundred, then their third and so on. Each tracking sheet also features an early literacy tip.

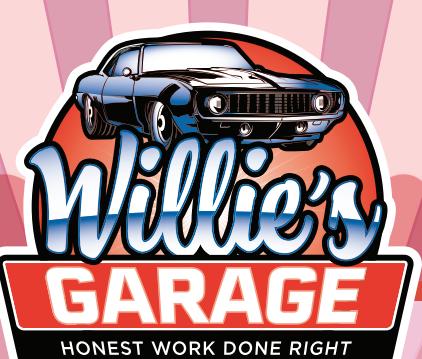
"Repeating titles is not only allowed, it's encouraged," Assistant Branch Manager Kim Edsell said. "While our littlest patrons are developing their early literacy skills, repetition of stories will reinforce new vocabulary, language patterns, story sequencing and their memories. The old adage of 'practice makes perfect' applies here, too."

With each 100 books completed, the child will receive a sticker. At 500 books read, they will receive a 20-page activity book featuring skills required to enter kindergarten. Upon completion of 1,000 books, they are awarded a Browster stuffed animal.

"Reading 1,000 books can seem rather daunting," said DeCoste. "However, if you and your child read just one book as part of your bedtime routine, that will equal 365 books in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years."

For more information or to get started on your reading journey, stop by any of the six Lorain Public Library System branches or visit LorainPublicLibrary.org.

COLUMBIA NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Willie's GARAGE
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MUSIC & EVENTS
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EVERY SUNDAY
Brunch from 9am-2pm
\$3 Bloody Mary's, Mimosas, Craft Cocktails

HOF CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Jay Banyasz is a 2014 graduate of Columbia High School. Jay also excelled in Columbia's football and basketball programs. Jay played defensively as a safety for the football team and was the starting quarterback beginning his Junior year. In the Raiders first ever home playoff game, Jay rushed for 271 yards & scored 4 touchdowns. He also completed 11 of 15 passes for 168 yards and scored 2 additional touchdowns. John earned an ESPN National Award, was selected for the Patriot Athletic Conference and Lorain County 1st Teams, and was named to the All Ohio 1st Team as a defensive back.

During his senior year, Jay completed 120 of 174 passes for 2,029 yards & 28 touchdowns, as well as rushed for 619 yards & 10 touchdowns. His accolades included Raiders MVP, Patriot Athletic Conference 1st Team & MVP Offensive Back, Lorain County 1st Team & MVP Offensive Back, All Northeast Lakes District 1st Team & Offensive Player of the Year, Cleveland Browns Player of the Week, Archie Griffin Athlete of the Week, Chronicle Telegram Player of the Week, Fox 8 Player of the Year, Morning Journal Player of the Year, Lorain County Golden Helmet Award as the county's top senior player and All Ohio 1st Team.

Jay was a 3 year starter on the Raiders varsity basketball team. As a senior, he was selected to the Patriot Athletic Conference 1st Team, Lorain County 1st Team, Lorain County Co-Player of the Year, 2nd Team All District and All Ohio Honorable Mention.

Jay attended Notre Dame College on a basketball scholarship, where he earned a Comprehensive Biology degree with a minor in Exercise Science. He earned a Masters Degree in Education from Baldwin Wallace University. Currently, he is the Director of Sports Performance at Elyria High School, overseeing the physical, nutritional & behavioral well-being of the student athletes, as well as developing strength and conditioning programs for the teams.

Congratulations, John and Jay, on your inductions into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame!

LPLS events

Books, Beats and Bubbles - North Ridgeville Branch, Tuesday, 11-11:30 a.m. on January 27 and February 3 & 10, or Monday, 6-6:30 p.m. February 2 & 9. A musical story time for families with children of all ages. Join us for stories with a beat, toe-tapping tunes, instruments and dancing.

LPLS Geek Squad - Columbia Branch, Wednesday, January 27, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. North Ridgeville Branch, Monday, February 2 and Thursday, February 5, from 1-3 p.m. Call us to book a 45-minute one-on-one appointment for tech help with your Kindle, iPad, tablet, email and more.

Book Discussions - Tuesday, January 27, at 1 p.m. North Ridgeville Branch, "Beartown" by Fredrik Backman; Wednesday, January 28, at 1 p.m. Columbia Branch "Outside" by Ragnar Jónasson; Monday, February 2, at 6 p.m. Columbia Branch "The Writing Retreat" by Julia Bartz; Thursday, February 5, at 6:30 p.m. Columbia Branch "Praisesong for Kitchen Ghosts" by Crystal Wilkinson. Spend time each month discussing a great book and making new friends. Copies of the books are available at the library. New members are welcome. Preregistration required.

The History of Board Games - Columbia Branch Wednesday, January 28, from 6-7 p.m. From the very first game of dice in 5,000 B.C. to Monopoly and Scrabble, follow the development of the board game from its prehistoric roots.

Fiber Arts Groups - Columbia Branch, Thursday, January 29, from 12-4 p.m. For new and longtime knitters and crocheters. No membership or prior fiber arts skills required, we're just a fun group that encourage, admire and enjoy each other's company.

Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch, Inc. General Membership Meeting - North Ridgeville Branch, Thursday, January 29, from 5-7 pm. Join a fun group of library enthusiasts who host book sales and volunteer at various programs in support of your beloved branch.

Bad Art Night - North Ridgeville Branch, Thursday, January 29, from 6-7 pm. We provide the supplies; you provide the imagination and see if anyone actually creates "bad art." Intended for ages 13 and up.

Drop-In Sublimated Pet ID Tags - North Ridgeville Branch, Friday, January 30, from 1-4 pm. Make an ID tag for your pet using our sublimation printer in the Create Space. All materials provided.

World Record Challenge - Columbia Branch, Saturday, February 7, from 2-4 p.m. Think you have what it takes to break a world record? Drop in for a fast-paced, fun-filled time where families take on wacky challenges and try to set their own records through creativity, teamwork and laughter!

Family Concert and Sing-Along - North Ridgeville Branch, Saturday, January 31, from 2-3 pm. Join Sheela Das of Creative Concepts in Music for an interactive family-friendly sing-along concert.

CheckMates - Columbia Branch, Saturday, January 31, from 3-4 p.m. The chess club just for younger patrons, from grade school to teens. Learn how to play chess, solve puzzles, watch live international competitions and compete head-to-head in friendly matches. All skill levels welcome.

People and the Posts: Mail in Early Lorain County - North Ridgeville Branch, Sunday, February 1, from 3-4 pm. Discover the origins of ten communities and their post offices that no longer operate; places such as Trinity, Shawville, Nickel Plate and Brownhelm. Learn about these post offices and related local postal history. Sponsored by The Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library, Inc.

Legacy Letters: Sharing the Story of You - Columbia Branch, Monday, February 2, from 10-11 am. Unlike legal wills that transfer material possessions, an ethical will bequeaths personal values, reflections, traditions, advice and memories to loved ones.

Game and Puzzle Social - Columbia Branch, Tuesday, February 3, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Play games, solve puzzles and have a cup of tea with other adults.

Browser's Reading Buddies - North Ridgeville Branch, Saturday, February 7, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Children ages 5 to 10 are invited to read to a therapy dog in the library. Please call to register your child for a specific 20-minute reading time. Bring a book or come early and select one to read.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament - North Ridgeville Branch, Wednesday, February 4, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Compete for the title of Super Smash Bros. Champion and the chance to win a small prize! For ages 10 and up. Preregistration required.

Bad Art Day - Columbia Branch, Friday, February 6, from 3-5 p.m. Explore your creative side in our open art studio for adults with no pressure or expectations. Materials provided for collaging, drawing and painting. Preregistration required.

Coffee and Donuts with the Township Trustees - Columbia Branch, Saturday, February 7, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. An open house for Columbia Township residents to meet and mingle with the Columbia Township Trustees. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Classic Movie Afternoon: "The Philadelphia Story" - North Ridgeville Branch, Saturday, February 7, from 2-4 p.m. Help thaw out your heart this Valentine's Day with the part romance, part screwball comedy classic in which Katharine Hepburn has to choose between James Stewart and Cary Grant.

Women in History: Sojourner Truth and Ida B. Wells-Barnett - North Ridgeville Branch, Sunday, February 8, from 3-4 p.m. Robin Echols Cooper portrays African-American abolitionist, Civil War nurse and suffragette Sojourner Truth and Jeannine Gaskin portrays African-American educator, newspaperwoman, anti-lynching campaigner and founder of NAACP Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Sponsored by The Friend of the North Ridgeville Library, Inc.

Aging and Disability Resource Center - Columbia Branch, Monday, February 9, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Learn about how the ADRC provides information, assistance and referral to help older adults and persons with disabilities maintain their independence.

Coloring for Adults - North Ridgeville Branch, Tuesday, February 10, from 2- 3:30 p.m. Experience the calming stress-relieving benefits of coloring beautiful designs and patterns made for adults. Coloring sheets and pencils will be provided.

Patrons can register for programs at LorainPublicLibrary.org/programs.

Columbia Branch, 13824 W. River Rd., Columbia Station, (440) 236-8751.

North Ridgeville Branch, 35700 Bainbridge Rd., North Ridgeville, (440) 327-8326.

**Programs at Columbia Branch****Legacy Letters: Sharing the Story of You**

Monday, Feb. 2; 10 to 11 a.m.

An ethical will bequeaths personal values, traditions, advice and memories to loved ones.

Evening Book Discussion; "Missing White Woman" by Kellye Garrett

Monday, Feb. 2; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Copies of the book are available at the library. New members welcome!

Game and Puzzle Social

Tuesday, Feb. 3; 10 a.m. to noon

Play games, solve puzzles and have a cup of tea with other adults.

Family Story Time

Tuesdays, 6 to 6:30 p.m.; Feb. 3, 10, 24

Thursdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m.; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26
Stories, movement, rhyme and play for children of all ages with their caregivers.

Fiber Arts Group

Thursdays, Noon to 4 p.m.; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

A fun group of new and longtime knitters and crocheters that encourage, admire and enjoy each other's company.

Cookbook Club; "PrairieSong for Kitchen Ghosts" by Crystal Wilkinson

Thursday, Feb. 5; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Bring a dish from the selected month's cookbook and share your experience and opinion on the book. Copies are available at the library.

PREREQ

Bad Art Day

Friday, Feb. 6; 3 to 5 p.m.

An open art studio for adults with no pressure or expectations. Materials provided for collaging, drawing and painting.

PREREQ

Coffee and Donuts with the Township Trustees

Saturday, Feb. 7; 10 a.m. to noon

An open house for Columbia Township residents to meet and mingle with the Columbia Township Trustees. Coffee and donuts will be served.

World Record Challenge

Saturday, Feb. 7; 2 to 4 p.m.

Families can drop in for fast-paced wacky challenges to try to set their own records through creativity, teamwork and laughter!

Aging and Disability Resource Center

Monday, Feb. 9; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ADRC provides information, assistance and referral to help older adults and persons with disabilities maintain their independence.

LPLS Geek Squad

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Call 440-236-8751 to book a 45-minute one-on-one appointment for tech help.

PREREQ Please note preregistration is required for some programs.

Visit the online calendar for the most current information

LorainPublicLibrary.org/programs.

Selling Your Stuff Online

Wednesday, Feb. 11; 1 to 2 p.m.

Learn to create accounts and sell items on Amazon, Ebay, Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, Letgo and more.

Young Artists Studio

Wednesday, Feb. 11; 5 to 6:30 p.m.

A monthly group activity for school-age children and their caregivers to create art.

Ice Cream for Breakfast

Saturday, Feb. 14; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Families with children of all ages are invited to drop in to celebrate Ice Cream for Breakfast Day and make a valentine card. While supplies last.

Friends of the Columbia Library, Inc. Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 17; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A fun group of library enthusiasts who host fundraisers in support of our beloved branch.

Chess Club

Wednesday, Feb. 18; 5 to 7 p.m.: Adults

Saturday, Feb. 28; 3 to 4 p.m.: Grade school and teens

Learn how to play chess, solve puzzles, watch live international competitions and compete head-to-head in friendly matches. All skill levels welcome.

Play Magic: The Gathering

Saturday, Feb. 21; 2 to 4 p.m.

A group play! Thanks to our partnership with MagiKids, provide cards for those that don't have their own.

Spice Kits

Monday, Feb. 23; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Drop in for a take-home kit that includes a small amount of a featured spice, a brief history and recommended recipes. While supplies last.

"KPop Demon Hunters" Night

Monday, Feb. 23; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grab your squad, charge your lightsticks and slay the night like legends with crafts, snacks and more. For ages 11 and up.

Afternoon Book Discussion; "People of Means" by Nancy Johnson

Wednesday, Feb. 25; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Copies of the book are available at the library. New members welcome!

Intro to Native Plants

Thursday, Feb. 26; 6 to 7 p.m.

Meadow City Nursery presents this intro to the importance and beauty of native plants.

Construction Crew to the Rescue

Saturday, Feb. 28; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

No construction job or rescue mission is too big for Rubble and his crew in this Paw Patrol-themed construction fun for ages 4 to 7.

PREREQ

Please note preregistration is required for some programs.

Visit the online calendar for the most current information

LorainPublicLibrary.org/programs.

The Rural-Urban Record

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Office Hours:

The Week Before Publication Date:
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Office open by Appt. Only, as our limited staff
works from home every other week.

2025 Issue Dates & Deadlines

Issue:	Deadline:
February 23	February 18
March 9	March 4
March 23	March 18

(440) 236-8982

news@rural-urbanrecord.com or
ads@rural-urbanrecord.com

Belden Methodist Youth Group

All school-age children are invited to be part of our Youth Group as we grow together in friendship and faith. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God while building connections in a fun, supportive environment. Each gathering will include a Bible lesson, games, activities, snacks and more!

Join us on Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m., February 12 and 26 and March 12 and 26. The church is located at 36130 St. Route 303, in Grafton. Call (440) 926-2209.

Pasta Dinner

Please join St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on Sunday, February 1, from 12-3 p.m., for their annual pasta dinner. The church is located at 25801 Royalton Road, Route 82, in Columbia Station. The dinner menu includes: pasta with an authentic homemade old-world sauce, meatballs, salad, roll, homemade dessert and beverage. Tickets will be sold at the door. Adult dinners are \$15 and dinners for children 12 and under are \$10. They are also offering an all-you-can-eat option for dine-in only. Carry out dinners are available. There will be a 50/50 cash raffle as well.

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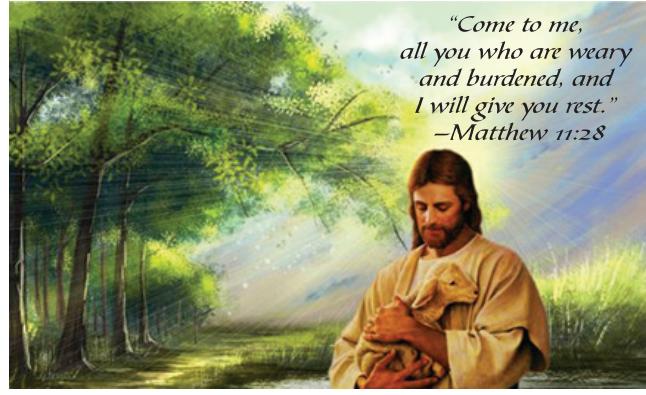
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and burdened, and
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—Matthew 11:28



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Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
211 Forest St., LaGrange
440-355-6872

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

Weekend Masses

(Church)

Sat. 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 8:30
& 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses
(Chapel)
Mon., Tues.,
Thurs., Fri. 9 a.m.
(Church)
OUR LADY
QUEEN OF PEACE
3rd Wed. of the
month 6:30 p.m.

GriefShare Huntington

United Church of Huntington started a GriefShare support group on Sundays, at 3 p.m. If you have lost a loved friend or family member, you can come to understand grief better, and to deal with it through this grief group time on Sunday afternoons. You can sign up at GriefShare.org or just come check it out at United Church of Huntington, located at 26677 St. Rt. 58 S., in Wellington.

GriefShare at Christ Church

You don't need to go through your grieving process alone. GriefShare is a faith-based support group for those who have lost a loved one and are looking for answers as you sort through grief. We offer support, comfort, and guidance through shared experiences and we encourage you to join us. Sessions are at Christ Church, located at 23080 Royalton Rd., in Columbia Station, on Mondays, February 23-May 18, from 10-11:30 a.m. Also at Christ Church West Campus, held at Solid Rock Community Church, located at 680 North Abbe Road, in Elyria, on Mondays, February 9-May 4, from 7-8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, visit Griefshare.org or call the church at (440) 236-8282.



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National Boy Scouts Week

February 1-7, 2026

**"On my honor I will do my best to
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at all times; to keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight"**

Cub Scouts Youth K-5

Cub Scouts focuses on building the foundations for leadership, citizenship & personal fitness through fun & engaging activities.

Scouts BSA Youth 11-17

The traditional Scouting program focuses on the development of outdoor survival skills, self-confidence & ethics. Increased attention to service, community engagement & leadership.



Discovery is at the heart of Scouting. Whether it's a campout, derby car race, or hike on the trail, we believe every adventure helps us uncover a little more about ourselves. We build the foundations for humility and compassion—strengthening character through actions—to prepare youth for a lifetime of leadership.

—Boy Scouts of America

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Carlisle/Eaton News

news@rural-urbanrecord.com

Snow Ban reminder

Just a reminder to Carlisle Township residents that a vehicle parking snow ban will be in effect when snow accumulation is 2" or more. On trash/recycling pick up days, do not place your trash/recycle cans in the roadway. Also, please be courteous and give snowplow truck drivers extra room to do their jobs and safely get home at night.

Book Swap at indoor walking

North Ridgeville Heart & Sole collaborative is hosting a book swap until January 30! Leave your books on the table after signing in, and browse other walkers' books to take home. Any leftover books at the end of the month will be donated to the Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library.

To participate, enter the building's main doors and sign in at the indoor walking table. There is no cost and all ages and abilities are welcome to attend. If the school or building is closed due to holiday closure or weather, indoor walking is canceled.

Indoor walking is available throughout this winter and spring at the following locations in North Ridgeville:

• LCCC University Partnership Ridge Campus, 32121 Lorain Road, North Ridgeville. Times: Mondays & Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.; Fridays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Indoor walking ends March 30.

• North Ridgeville Academic Center, 34620 Bainbridge Road, North Ridgeville. Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Indoor walking ends April 30. Enter through door #15 (main entrance).

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Check out other resources to stay healthy:

- Attend an exercise class through North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation or North Ridgeville Senior Center (adults age 55+).

- Download free, simple and tasty recipes at nrheartandsole.com/healthy-eating.

- Walk the paths at the Town Center Trail and the North Ridgeville Heart & Sole Fitness Trail at Shady Drive Complex.

- Join Silver Sneakers if you are 65 years or older. Some insurances cover these classes; visit SilverSneakers.com to check eligibility. LCCC hosts classes at University Partnership Ridge Campus at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

- Borrow a travel-size blood pressure kit from North Ridgeville Branch Library - all you need is a library card.

Heart & Sole is a community-based group powered by the United Way of Greater Lorain County and facilitated by Lorain County Public Health. The collaborative includes partners from local businesses, agencies and organizations working to improve physical, social and mental wellbeing of those who live, work and visit the community. Learn more at nrheartandsole.com and follow Heart & Sole on Facebook.

North Ridgeville Garden Club

The Garden Club of North Ridgeville meets once a month at various locations. Are you interested in sharing and learning about gardening? We welcome visitors and new members. Next meeting is February 10, at 6 p.m., at Sandy Ridge Reservation. The program will be "Natural Ohio," presented by Naturalist Josh Michalski. For more information, please call (440) 371-1775 or email Terrilmr@hotmail.com.

Garage Sale donations needed

It's time to clean out your basement, attic, garage, storage shed and back bedroom!

Donations for gently used items are welcomed by the Friends of the Metro Parks of Lorain County. Donations not accepted for this sale are: clothing, shoes, Christmas trees, electronics, large furniture, car seats and strollers. Drop offs are at the Carlisle Visitors Center, located at 12882 Diagonal Rd., in LaGrange. Drop off dates are: Monday, January 26, from 1-7 p.m.; and Wednesday, January 28, from 4-7 p.m.



How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

When temperatures drop below freezing (32°F), your home's pipes—whether plastic or copper—are at risk of freezing. Even a small crack, just 1/8 inch, can leak over 250 gallons of water daily, leading to flooding, structural damage, and mold growth. Protecting your home from frozen pipe damage is important. Taking preventive steps can help you avoid costly repairs and protect your home this winter.

Frozen pipes usually result from sudden temperature drops, poor insulation, or thermostats set too low.

Here's what you can do to safeguard your home:

- **Insulate Exposed Pipes:** Cover pipes in crawl spaces, attics, and other vulnerable areas—even if your climate rarely freezes—to shield them from cold temperatures.

- **Use Heat Tape or Heat Cables:** Wrap pipes with thermostatically controlled heat tape approved by trusted organizations like Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Make sure to use products designed for your pipe's location (indoor or outdoor).

- **Seal Air Leaks:** Block cold air from entering near pipes by sealing gaps around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes with caulk or insulation.

- **Disconnect Garden Hoses:** Remove hoses and, if possible, shut off and drain indoor valves connected to outdoor faucets.

- **Let Faucets Drip:** Allow a slow trickle of warm and cold water overnight to help prevent freezing.

- **Maintain Thermostat Settings:** Keep your home's temperature above 55°F, even when you're away for extended periods.

- **Open Cabinet Doors:** Allow warm air to circulate around uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

What to Do If Pipes Freeze

If you suspect frozen pipes, take these precautions:

- **Call a Plumber:** If no water flows when you turn on faucets, leave them open and contact a professional.

- **Avoid Open Flames:** Never use a torch or open flame to thaw pipes—it's a serious fire hazard.

- **Use a Hair Dryer Safely:** If safe, gently warm pipes starting near the faucet and moving toward colder sections. Ensure no standing water or flammable materials are nearby.

- **Shut Off Water Supply:** If pipes burst or your leak detector alerts you, turn off the main water valve. Make sure everyone in your household knows its location and how to operate it. Keep faucets open to relieve pressure.

Taking these steps can help you avoid costly damage and keep your home safe during cold weather.



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Grafton News

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Midview Bands Night at the Races

The Midview Band Boosters are rolling out the red carpet for one of the most exciting events of the year, the 2026 Night at the Races. The community is invited to join the fun on Saturday, February 28, at The Lodge of New Russia Township. This 21-and-over event promises an unforgettable evening packed with great food, lively races and nonstop entertainment. Tickets are \$40 and include a delicious buffet dinner catered by Pogies, plus soft drinks and beer. Guests are also welcome to bring their own favorite beverages and snacks.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., giving attendees plenty of time to mingle before the first race takes off at 7:30 p.m. Between races, guests can try their luck with gift basket raffles, 50/50 raffles, sideboards and more exciting surprises throughout the night. Can't make it that night? You can still be part of the excitement by purchasing a horse for just \$20. If your horse wins, you'll take home a \$50 payout, all while supporting the Midview band program.

Tickets and Horses must be purchased by February 15 and are available online at: <https://natr2026.cheddarup.com>. This high-energy evening is a favorite tradition and a vital fundraiser that helps support student musicians. The Midview Band Boosters look forward to seeing old friends, welcoming new faces and enjoying a thrilling night for a great cause.

For more information, email Chris Hensley at chensley1994@gmail.com.

OLQP Bingo

Our Lady Queen of Peace, located at 708 Erie St., in Grafton, is having Bingo on Thursday, February 4. Hall opens at 5:30 p.m.; Bingo at 6:30 p.m.; 16 games for \$25; \$50 payout per game. The final game of the night will payout \$250. 50/50; pull tabs, food and drink will be available. No Alcohol. For more information, contact (440) 926-2364 or info@olqpgrafton.org.

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Swing Your Partner 2

Saturday, January 17, 7:30 PM
At Grafton Township Hall

Lunch & Learn in Eaton

Wednesday, January 21, 12:30 PM

Herbal Infused Oils for Culinary and Self Care Practices

Monday, January 26, 6 PM

America 250: Ohio's Historic Tribes from Resistance to Removal

Saturday, January 31, 12 PM

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Angels Haven news

It is hard to believe our team has been Helping Horses, Helping People for this long and we are still trotting along. Please consider our Love Your horse event taking place on Sunday, February 8. Our 20 year anniversary event will be held on Sunday, March 15. We are offering our children's summer horse camp, for ages 5-16, and there are spots available. This year, we are adding an adult session for ages 17 and older. We also love having scouts (pet, riding badges or community service), private birthday parties, schools, retirement homes, veterans and anyone interested in visiting the horses. Their experiences have proven to be positive for both people and our four legged friends.

We are always looking for more volunteers to add to our dedicated team who are helping to evolve both horses and people. Please reach out to (440) 781-5060 for additional information. Happy 2026, the year of the horse! May it be healthy, peaceful and enjoyable!

Ohio Wesleyan U Dean's List

Ohio Wesleyan University is pleased to announce its Dean's List for fall semester 2025. Local students on the Dean's List are: Willow Brown of Elyria, Madelyn Browning of North Ridgeville, Abby Freedman of North Ridgeville, Natalie Hamilton of Grafton and Gemma Kilgore of North Ridgeville. Congratulations!

Future of Grafton's "Beacon Park" poll results revealed

Grafton Mayor Charles L. Duke Jr. will reveal results from a village-wide survey and host a public town hall discussion on the future of Beacon Park, featuring approximately 650 acres of developable, village-owned land. Beacon Park, located in the northeast portion of the village, was acquired from the State of Ohio in 2019. Thirty-three acres are committed to solar energy production under a long-term agreement.

Interest in most of the remaining land has been strong and has come from a range of industries. To manage that interest, the Village of Grafton has retained Kleinfelder Inc. to assist with economic development inquiries and the Toledo-based Shumaker law firm to handle legal review. Village officials acknowledge working with the county, and multiple proposals have been presented (including interest from data center developers), but no decisions have been made.

"We've got to gather enough information - especially for incoming members of Village Council - to make wise and logical decisions," Duke said. "The first step is

to poll and the second step is to talk about it. That's exactly what we'll do."

Duke said one purpose of the town hall is to remove the technical language often used by developers and explain, in plain terms, what is being proposed and what it could mean for the community.

The town hall will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at the Historic Grafton School, 1111 Elm Street. Duke said the location was chosen intentionally.

"I wanted it there because it's important and nostalgic

for many in Grafton," Duke said. "What Carlee has accomplished with the "Grafton Ghost Light Theater" there is extraordinary, and it's important to talk about our future in a place that harkens to our heritage."

At the meeting, village officials will moderate a panel representing both those in favor of development and those opposed to it. The panel discussion will be followed by brief remarks from Mayor Duke and an open town hall for residents' questions and comments.

The poll results aim to reflect Village of Grafton residents' opinions and submissions.

LCRD meeting

The Lorain County Rural Democrats (LCRD) will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m., at the Historic Grafton School, located at 1111 Elm Street, in Grafton. The first half hour of the meeting is set aside for socializing and the formal meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Speakers at the February meeting will be Drs. Valerie Fouts-Fowler and Laura Beene. Drs. Fouts-Fowler and Beene are the leaders of the group, Concerned UH Physicians. They have been spearheading a physician's unionizing effort at University Hospitals. In the presentation, they will share their many experiences in the fight for patient safety and physician working conditions.

To learn more about the LCRD, visit their website at www.ruralloraincountydems.com.

GRAFTON NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Grafton Township News

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Fire Department Pancake Breakfast

It is that time again. Come and enjoy breakfast and conversation at your local fire department. Join them at the Grafton Township Fire Department on February 15 for their semi-annual pancake and sausage breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. They are located at the roundabout in Belden. The meal is by donation only. Vitalant will also be there for a Blood Drive from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This is a great time to meet the EMT's, Paramedics and firefighters of Grafton Township. Ask for a tour of the station and get a look at the apparatus and equipment that you have helped purchase over the years.

They can't wait to see you!

Public Zoning Meeting

The Grafton Township Zoning Commission will hold a public zoning meeting at 7 p.m. on February 17 at the Grafton Town Hall, located at 17109 Avon Belden Road. The agenda topic is to be determined.

Belden Historical Society

Bundle up Belden! It is cold, but not as cold as it was in February 1899. The official recorded temperature in our vicinity at that time was -27 degrees Fahrenheit. Nevertheless, we at the Belden Historical Society are hard at work and would enjoy seeing you at our next meeting on February 14, at 10:30 a.m. Our meeting place will be at the Belden United Methodist Church. A special thanks to the Grafton Midview Library for inviting the Belden Historical Society to raffle baskets at their Swing Your Partner 2 event. Thank you, also, to Christian, who was a terrific helper! A grand time was had by all! Please don't forget to join us on Saturday, March 14, at the Grafton Township Community Hall to hear Clara Barton sharing her story, struggles and triumphs. This event is free and open to the public. Voluntary donations help support future educational programs.

GRAFTON NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Midview Schools

Superintendent Dr. Frank Major

Midview Families and Community,

It seems like just yesterday we were ringing in the New Year - and now, a few snow days later, we find ourselves wrapping up the first month of 2026! As we look ahead to February, we are approaching one of the most important milestones of the school year: course scheduling for the upcoming academic year. Our staff and administration have been working diligently to ensure families have a smooth scheduling experience and the information they need to make informed decisions. As part of this process, we are excited to welcome families to the annual Midview High School Showcase and CCP Information Night on February 5, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This event offers students and parents the opportunity to learn about our updated course guide, connect with teachers and current students and ask questions ahead of scheduling for the 2026-27 school year. Families can also learn more about Advanced Placement (AP) courses, career-technical education pathways and extracurricular opportunities available at MHS.

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2/3/2026 at 2:00 pm Sign up for Senior Dinner to be
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only.

2/10/2026 at 2:00 pm Senior Exercise Class being
instructed by **Debi's Personal Training** with fruit &
juice for participants.

2/10/2026 at 5:30 pm Senior Dinner for those that
signed up. **CANCELLATIONS FOR DINNER MUST BE
MADE BEFORE NOON.**

Dinners will now be held on the **second Tuesday** of each
month. Please call in on the **first Tuesday** (2-3-26) to sign up

- If you have questions on these programs, please contact the VFW's Canteen Manager by calling 440-926-3341.
- The VFW Hall is available for rent to use for your special occasions. Call 440-926-3341 and ask for the Canteen Manager for additional information.

In addition, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the APR, we will host the College Credit Plus (CCP) Parent Information Session for families of rising 7th-12th grade students who are new to CCP and would like to learn more. CCP is a great opportunity for students to get a head start on their college education by earning high school and college credits simultaneously. Our high school counselors look forward to sharing more about the program, how to participate, available courses and the application process!

Current and incoming Midview High School students, as well as families from outside our district, including homeschooled and online students, are welcome to attend the Showcase. Our future 7th and 8th grade Middies are encouraged to save the date for a similar event on March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m.

February is also an important month for our youngest learners! Beginning February 3, families can register their children for preschool and kindergarten at Midview Local Schools. Starting school is an exciting milestone, and we look forward to partnering with you as your child begins their educational journey.

Please note, per new Ohio law, the age cutoff date has changed to the first day of the school year (September 8, 2026), rather than August 1.

• To qualify as a Preschool Peer Model student, children must be at least THREE years old on or before September 8, 2026, and reside within the district.

• To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be FIVE years old on or before September 8, 2026.

More detailed information on preschool and kindergarten enrollment requirements and the registration process can be found at midviewk12.org/enrollment-registration. As always, if you have questions about scheduling, enrollment or the Midview Local Schools, please do not hesitate to contact the Midview Board of Education Office.

Once A Middie, Always A Middie
Dr. Frank Major, Superintendent

Grafton-Midview Library

To learn more about the Library or to get a Library card, call (440) 926-3317 or visit our website at gmplibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless noted. The Library is located at 983 Main Street, Grafton.

Change in Library Hours

- The Grafton-Midview Public Library has made an adjustment to our hours. We will no longer be open on Sundays, and the Library will now close at 5 p.m. on Fridays. We appreciate your understanding and continued support. Hours are now Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed on Sundays.

Preschool Storytime - Monday, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9, at 11 a.m. Join us for a magical journey through enchanting tales and adventures with songs, rhymes, and fun! For ages 3-5 with a caregiver.

Lifelong Learning at the Library - Tuesday, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, at 10 a.m. Attend our (almost) weekly program for seniors that includes a free lunch. Meet other seniors, socialize, and learn about all the great assistance available in your own community on a variety of topics! Registration is not required unless noted.

AARP Tax Aide Registration - Patrons can make appointments for AARP Tax-Aide assistance by phone only. No online registration. The Tax-Aide program appointments will take place on Fridays from February 6 through April 10, 2026, at Grafton-Midview Public Library in the Community Room. You must have a pre-booked appointment to participate in this program.

Baby Storytime - Thursday, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12 at 10 a.m. Introduce the world of stories, songs, rhymes, and lap bounces! For babies, birth to 18 months with a caregiver.

Toddler Storytime

Thursday, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, at 11 a.m. Let your tot's imagination soar as we explore the wonderful world of stories together! For ages 19-35 months with a caregiver.

Bento Lunchbox Creations - Thursday, January

America 250: Then & Now: Inventions and Innovators of Lorain County - Monday, February 2, from 6-7:30 p.m. Throughout 2026, the country will celebrate America's 250th anniversary, and Ohio will commemorate each month with a special theme to highlight our state's history and significance.

February's theme is "Ohio Works: Innovation and Industry". From the padded bicycle seat to Beeman's Gum, join Kayla Clark from the Lorain County Historical Society, to discuss the importance and impact of various inventors and innovations from Lorain County that contributed to the growth and development of the area and beyond.

This program will take place at North Eaton Christian Church Parish Hall, 35895 Royalton Rd., in Eaton Township.

Lego Legends - Friday, February 6, at 3:30 p.m. Use your creativity and our huge supply of LEGO bricks to complete fun building challenges—or create your own adventure, then put your masterpiece on display for everyone to admire until our next session!

Take Your Child to the Library Day - Saturday, February 7, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mark your calendar for Take Your Child to the Library Day. Stop in for a visit and enjoy our activities, especially rabbits from our local 4-H

families! Get a library card (they're free!), meet one of our children's librarians, and explore all the wonders that your local library has to offer your family. Your library is an ideal place for children to play, discover, make friends, and have fun.

Presidential Ailments Through History - Monday, February 9, at 6 p.m. Take a fascinating look back at the many medical issues faced by former presidents and the effects on their presidencies in this talk with Tom Strong.

Level-Up Gaming - Thursday, February 12, at 5:30 p.m. Each month, we'll host a unique event designed around games, anime, trivia, roleplaying, or puzzles for an evening of fun and socializing. Each event will be followed by a laid-back gathering where you can watch anime, play video games, and make new friends. Pizza and refreshments will be served. 18+ only, please.

A Photography Journey with Ron Jantz - Tuesday, February 17, from 6-7 p.m. Join Ron Jantz, Grafton native, former sportscaster, and Digital Media Coordinator for LCCC as he shares his love of photography and nature in this special program. Note: This program will be held at the Historic Grafton School located at 1111 Elm St., Grafton.

Gourmet Chicken Salad

This recipe is great for holiday potluck luncheons. Serve on crescent rolls, with crackers, or your favorite bread.

Ingredients:

2 (10 ounce) cans chicken chunks, drained
1 cup seedless green grapes, halved
½ cup sliced almonds
½ cup chopped celery
1 (8 ounce) can mandarin oranges, drained
¾ cup creamy cucumber salad dressing

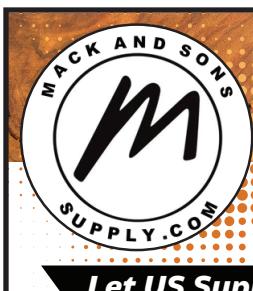
Directions:

Mix together chicken, grapes, nuts, celery, oranges, and dressing. Chill.

Note: For those who don't care for celery can sub with gourmet cucumber instead.

Submitted by Jan Kinnard, courtesy of www.allrecipes.com

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LaGrange News

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Lions Club Lenten Fish Frys

The LaGrange Lions Club & the Hornby Family Foundation will be holding their Lent Fish Frys starting February 13 and every Friday up to and including April 3. They will be held from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Lions Park, located at 240 Glendale St., in LaGrange. These are all drive-thru only. We accept cash and credit cards. No phone orders accepted!

The menu and prices are as follows: Full fish dinner - \$17; Full shrimp dinner - \$17; Half fish/Half shrimp dinner - \$17; Half fish dinner - \$12; Half shrimp dinner - \$12; Mac-n-cheese dinner - \$8; and Hot dog dinner - \$6. All dinners come with french fries, cole slaw, tartar sauce or cocktail sauce. Extra fish is \$3/piece; extra shrimp is \$2/piece. Substitution of mac-n-cheese for fries is \$2 extra per meal. A side of mac-n-cheese is \$2. Extra cole slaw or tartar sauce is \$1 each. They will be selling the weekly 50/50 tickets. The Lions 11th Annual Gun Raffle tickets will be available during weeks 5 thru 8, for \$20/ticket or 6 tickets for \$100. Buy early so you will be in the early bird ticket draw in May.

Come get a great meal and a chance to be a winner!

Mental health awareness training

Mental health is hard to talk about, but it doesn't have to be. Join the Keystone Empowers You (KEY) Collaborative for a free QPR training on Tuesday, January 27, from 7-8 p.m., at the LaGrange Global Methodist Church. Come learn how to support a friend, child or loved one in crisis through this QPR training. No registration required.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer - three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life. This training teaches you how to recognize the warning signs of someone in a mental health crisis, how to ask the right questions and how to help them get the support they need.

Whether you're a parent, neighbor, teacher or friend, the power to make a difference is in your hands. By attending, you're not just learning how to respond to mental health crises – you're joining a community of people dedicated to supporting each other. Every person trained makes our neighborhood stronger and safer. Take the step today to help make a difference – your actions could save a life.

This event is hosted by a trained, local QPR professional and the Keystone Empowers You (KEY) health collaborative. If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 to get connected to a counselor who can help.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The LaGrange Township Steering Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. at the LaGrange Township Complex, 40801 Biggs Rd, LaGrange.

The meeting is a continuation of efforts to update the Land Use Plan for the township with assistance from Envision Group, LLC. This is the rescheduled meeting from January 14.

The public is encouraged to attend as your input is critical in the development of the plan. We look forward to seeing you.

BOARD MEETINGS

Lorain County Conservation District

The Lorain County Conservation District has scheduled monthly Board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Center, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria. June and July meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. The August meeting will be held Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at the Soil & Water barn at the fairgrounds. All meetings are open to the public, meeting times are subject to change. Please contact the District office (440) 326-5800 for questions about times or the agenda.

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My Fellow Lorain County Residents:

I wanted to take this opportunity during the heart of winter to discuss how snow emergency levels in Lorain County are enacted and the significance of each level. My office has recently handled many inquiries into why Lorain County calls a particular level when other counties post a different level. The levels are enacted to ensure the safety of our residents and motorists.

Level 1: When road conditions are hampered by ice, drifting and poor visibility, we issue a level 1 snow advisory to warn the public to take additional precautions in handling potentially unsafe driving environments. We take into account the average of these road conditions over 495 square miles of the county and work closely with our county engineers office, ODOT and the 18 township road departments. Deputies are also assessed for their personal awareness of road conditions.

Due to a vast mixture of city, township and county roadways, Lorain County differs significantly from our adjacent county neighbors. What may be considered a Level 1 in one county may be a Level 2 in another county. We base our snow level advisories on the overall conditions of roadways in Lorain County.

Level 2: This level encompasses all the same factors of Level 1, however road conditions expose drivers to serious hazards and we encourage those who do not have to travel to stay home and only travel when absolutely necessary. In a Level 2 Snow Advisory, there is a responsibility placed upon employers to decide if their businesses will remain open or delay opening.

Although we do not recommend driving on roadways during a level 2, the burden of employees responding to work rests solely with the employee's manager or business owner who decide the importance of keeping their business open versus the severity of the road conditions. As we recommend, drivers should confirm with their employer about reporting to work during a Level 2 emergency.

In a **Level 3** emergency, only first responders and those who are essential workers (hospital workers, snow plow operators, utility workers, etc...) may travel upon roadways at their own risk. All others could face arrest by law enforcement. Non-essential businesses and government functions would close due to no roadway access to their operations – including postal and package delivery, transportation, daycares, factories and restaurants.

The County Sheriff may, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 311.07 and 311.08, declare a snow emergency and temporarily close all or certain highways, roads and streets within his jurisdiction when such action is reasonably necessary for the preservation of the public peace. Ohio Attorney General Opinion 97-015 issued April

1, 1997, concludes that this authority includes all Federal and State highways, County and Township roads and Municipal streets. Any person who knowingly hampers or fails to obey a lawful order of the Sheriff declaring a snow emergency and temporary closing highways, roads and/or streets within his jurisdiction, may be subject to criminal prosecution under Ohio Revised Code Section 2917.13, Misconduct at an Emergency. A violation under this section is a minor misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100. If the misconduct creates a risk of physical harm to persons or property, it is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, punishable by a jail sentence not to exceed thirty days and/or a fine not to exceed \$250.

Prior to calling a Level 3 snow emergency, I would work with our county commissioners, township trustees and local mayors to collectively arrive at this decision due to the enormous economic impact our county could be subjected to from a complete shut-down of our roadways. This is a decision I do not haphazardly make without ensuring the safety of our residents comes first.

In your service, Sheriff Jack M. Hall

www.rural-urbanrecord.com

American Flag Retirement Box

Due to IGA LaGrange closing, the Eagle Project - American Flag Retirement Box, completed by Owen Maiden, Troop #111, has been relocated to Z-Graphics by Jan, located at 11343 LaGrange Road, in Elyria. The other box will remain at the LaGrange Fire Department. Thank you for your support.

Kerry Smith Memorial Scholarship

The Kerry Smith Memorial Scholarship is for graduating seniors from Wellington or Keystone High School that are entering the trades or the workforce after graduation. This year, we have two \$2,500 scholarships to award. Applications are due by February 6, and the winning recipients will be invited to accept their award at their annual Texas Holdem' Poker Tournament on February 22, which funds the scholarship. Please email Jocelyn Smith at jocelynsmith7893@gmail.com for more information about the scholarship and/or the poker tournament.

January Wellness Challenge

Start the new year off by practicing healthy habits. The Keystone Empowers You (KEY) indoor walking program is offering the chance to win a \$25 gift card to a local business by completing one healthy habit for 21 of 27 days. The challenge will take place through January 30. Each day, the healthy habit focuses on a different part of overall wellness - mental health, physical health or healthy eating.

To enter the challenge, visit Keystone Elementary School or LaGrange Village Hall to pick up a calendar. Once you have completed the challenge, bring the calendar back into an indoor walking location, or email a completed copy to KeystoneEmpowersYou@gmail.com by February 6 to be entered into the drawing for a gift card. There is no cost to participate and all ages are welcome to join.

The January Wellness Challenge is a part of the KEY indoor walking program. Indoor walking is available four days a week, Monday through Thursday, at LaGrange Village Hall, located at 301 Liberty St. from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday, at Keystone Elementary School, 531 Opportunity Way, from 6-8 p.m.



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Wellington News

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Wellington Kiwanis Pancake Day

An annual winter tradition in Wellington, the Kiwanis Club's annual Pancake Day will be Friday, February 6, at the Wellington Eagles Hall, located at 631 S. Main St. The club will serve from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. and then reopen from 4-7 p.m.

Meals will cost \$7 per person or \$4 for children 8 and under. There will be no pre-sale ticket options this year. The menu includes pancakes, sausage and a drink. Take-out service will be offered. If needed, arrangements to purchase tickets can be made by email at wellingtonkiwanis@yahoo.com.

Proceeds support Wellington Kiwanis' service leadership programs – the Wellington High School Key Club, McCormick Middle School's Builders Club and Westwood Elementary School's K-Kids. Proceeds also help support Kiwanis' scholarship program and the club's signature project, raising funds for community playground equipment, including Union School Park.

Wellington Kiwanis has been serving the community since 1924. The club holds a meeting at 12 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at Bread-N-Brew, on the square in Wellington. A second meeting is held at the Kelly St. Fire Station, 202 Kelly St., at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. This meeting features a keynote speaker. Food is served at 5:30 p.m. during a fellowship period. The public is invited.

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!



Kerry Smith Memorial Scholarship

The Kerry Smith Memorial Scholarship is for graduating seniors from Wellington or Keystone High School that are entering the trades or the workforce after graduation. This year, we have two \$2,500 scholarships to award. Applications are due by February 6, and the winning recipients will be invited to accept their award at their annual Texas Holdem' Poker Tournament on February 22, which funds the scholarship. Please email Jocelyn Smith at jocelynsmith7893@gmail.com for more information about the scholarship and/or the poker tournament.

Scholarship opportunity

The Wellington Women's League Sherryl Perkins Memorial Nursing Scholarship was established in memory of Sherryl Perkins to support a Wellington High School graduate or Wellington resident pursuing a career in nursing. Sherryl was a longtime Women's League member and a dedicated nurse who exemplified a life of service to others.

Application deadline is March 9, 2026.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- Complete the official application form.
- Submit three letters of recommendation from a teacher, co-worker or acquaintance.

Scholarship Details:

- Award Amount - \$1,000
- Funds will be sent directly to the recipient's college or trade school.

• The recipient must provide a copy of their tuition bill, including the school's address and their student ID number, for payment processing.

Submission Instructions:

• Wellington High School students: Submit applications, recommendation letters and questions to Dawn Wyman, Secretary, 629 North Main St., Wellington, OH 44090. Phone: (440) 647-3734 Email: dwyman@wellingtonvillageschools.edu

• Wellington residents: Request an application and submit application, reference letters and questions to Wellington Women's League, c/o Jacky Stocking, P.O. Box 276, Wellington, OH 44090. Phone: (440) 610-3840.

Selection & Award:

The recipient will be chosen by a committee of Wellington Women's League members and announced at the WHS Academic Awards event, and/or notified by approximately June 1, 2026.

The scholarship is awarded once per year, is non-refundable and non-renewable.

Brownhelm Historical Association Paint-A-Slate

The Brownhelm Historical Association is offering their Paint-A-Slate event once again this January! The date is Monday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Brownhelm School, located at 1950 North Ridge Road, in Vermilion.

Bring the whole family out for a free, fun and crafty event. Choose your very own design to paint on a piece of historic slate. All paint, brushes, slate and supplies will be provided, as well as some light snacks!

For questions, please contact the Brownhelm Historical Association at brownhelmhistory@gmail.com. Please RSVP to Jim Giancaterino by texting (440) 315-5086.

Ms. Honey Bee's High Tea

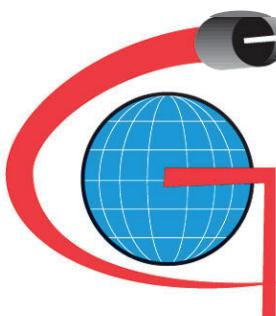
Ms. Honey Bee's High Tea will be on Sunday, March 8, from 1-3 p.m. at the Wellington Eagles, located at 631 S. Main Street, in Wellington. "Embrace the Buzz of Healing - Explore Bee Venom Therapy" is the theme this year. The Lorain County Beekeepers Association (LCBA) invites you to enjoy a delightful afternoon of music, food and education. Cost is \$40/individual or \$228/table of six. Advance ticket sales only. Purchase tickets at Queen Right Colonies or online at <https://loraincountybeekeepers.org/ms-honey-bees-high-tea>.

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD MEETINGS

Dates for the 2026 Pittsfield Township Zoning Board Meetings to be held at 7 p.m. at 16940 S.R. 58, Oberlin, Ohio. February 9 2026; April 13, 2026; July 13, 2026; October 12, 2026; December 14, 2026; January 11, 2027.

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The regular meetings of the Board of Trustees of Pittsfield Township will be held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Pittsfield Township Hall, located at 16940 State Route 58, unless otherwise provided.



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GLW will Replace units as needed if the unit shows no sign of abuse.

Indoor walking at WHS

Stay warm and active this winter by walking at Wellington High School, 629 N. Main St., from 6-8 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday through April 30, 2026. If school is canceled due to weather or a holiday, indoor walking is also canceled. View all the indoor walking details on THRIVE!'s Facebook page at Facebook.com/thrivesoloco, or at LorainCountyHealth.com/UnitedWeSweat.

Enter the school through the front doors and sign in at the indoor walking table - be sure to sign the waiver the first time you walk this year. There is no cost to participate. All ages are welcome to attend, as well as people using wheelchairs and strollers.

Indoor walking is also available Mondays through Fridays at Wellington Village Hall, located at 115 Willard Memorial Square, for seniors only, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. If Wellington Village Hall is closed due to weather or a holiday, indoor walking is canceled.

Herrick Memorial Library

The library is located at 101 Willard Memorial Square, in Wellington. Phone: (440) 647-2120; Fax: (440) 647-2103; Contact: Janet Hollingsworth by email - hollinja@herrickliboh.org.

Fiber Arts - First Tuesday of each month, from 1-3 p.m. Do you enjoy knitting/crocheting/needlepoint/embroidery? Join the library's group and work on your project while enjoying the company of fellow fiber enthusiasts. Call (440) 647-2120 with your fiber questions.

Technology Help - By Appointment. Do you need help using your laptop, tablet or smart phone? Call the library to make an appointment with a librarian for one-on-one technology help. Note - help hours used to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, however, they are now by appointment.

Adult Winter Reads - Though January 31. Winter is a great time to catch up on your reading and the library is full of interesting books. Adults, 18+, stop by the library and join the Winter Reads Program. Library staff will fill out a ticket each time you check out books, audio books and magazines (one ticket per day). Digital items from the LIBBY app count, too! On February 2, library staff will pull one ticket as the winner for our prize.

Winter Read Book Bingo - Through January 31. Teens & Tweens, ages 11-17, enjoy the winter by playing the library's winter bingo reading game. Pick up your bingo sheet at the library's front desk, complete a Bingo (5 squares in a row) and return the sheet to the library by January 31 to be entered into a prize drawing.

Winter Family Read Aloud - Now to February 28. Reading is too much fun with the Herrick Memorial Library's Winter Family Read Aloud. This program is an event targeting families with children up to age 7. Families will receive a Bingo game board to complete and win prizes. Do the extra activities listed on the sheet to win additional prizes. Tweens, ages 8-11, will have their own sheet to complete with prizes for every Bingo, as well as a final prize drawing. Register in the Children's Department by February 2.

Kumihimo for Beginners - Wednesday, January 28, at 5:30 p.m. Adults, 18+, learn the art of Kumihimo, a traditional Japanese art form for weaving silk braids and cords. Instructor Colleen Clayton will teach nine classes from beginning techniques through completed projects. All supplies will be provided. These classes are very limited and registration is a must. Register is now open and can be done by calling the library.

LCCC Wellington Center events

The Lorain County Community College Wellington Center is located at 151 Commerce Drive, in Wellington. Check our Facebook page (LCCC Wellington Center) or our webpage (www.lorainccc.edu/wellington) for other event details. Contact us with any questions at (440) 647-1776 or wellington@lorainccc.edu. We are open to any future event suggestions!

Dr Zolli's Talk With a Doc - Monday, January 26, at 1 p.m. Join us for this informative health talk on "The Importance of Vitamins." Free: Call (440) 647-1776 to register so we know how many to expect.

Seniors Above Ground (SAG) Program - Every Tuesday, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. SAG is a grassroots group of older adults in the community working together to offer socialization and activities for older adults.

GED Preparation Classes - Tuesday and Thursday, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The LCCC Aspire program is now offering free GED preparation classes at the LCCC Wellington Center. Interested students will need to attend an orientation prior to starting classes. Upcoming orientations include the following dates and times: Tuesday, January 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m. & Thursday, January 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m. To register or for more information on this program please contact the LCCC Aspire Program at (440)366-4530 or the LCCC Wellington Center at (440) 647-1776 or (440) 366-1776.

Bingo Bash - every fourth Wednesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. Join us for free Bingo Bash on Wednesday, January 26, from 1-3 p.m. Play among friendly competition, win a small prize and bragging rights. Bingo Bash is sponsored by Sprenger Elms Retirement Village and Wellington Eagles.

Total Parkinson's: A Parkinson's Fitness & Wellness Program - Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Is Parkinson's impacting your life? Take control with Total Parkinson's, a Parkinson's fitness and wellness program. Join the Elms Retirement Village and their licensed therapists for this free weekly exercise class, designed for those with Parkinson's, but beneficial to all.

Participants report significant improvements in quality of life and functional independence. Exercise plans are adapted to all levels of function. No registration required. For more information, please contact The Elms Therapy Department by calling (440) 647-7527.

Dulcimer Group - Wednesday February 4 & 18, at 1 p.m. Do you have a Mountain Dulcimer and are looking for a community of fellow musicians? This group provides a space to improve your skills and an opportunity to connect with others who share your passion for this beautiful instrument. Come join this group and have a blast playing together! Free; No registration required.

Chair Yoga - Mondays 10 & 11 a.m. through May 18. Chair yoga is a practice that is beneficial for all ages. Utilizing the support of a chair, you will learn new yoga poses, practice movement at your own pace, while incorporating breathing exercises. Benefits of chair yoga include increased mobility, strength, flexibility, and relaxation, as well as stress and pain reduction. Chairs will be provided. No registration required. No Chair Yoga, Monday February 16 in observance of President's Day

Mexican Train Dominoes - Every Thursday, starting at 1 p.m. Join us every Thursday to play Mexican Train Dominoes. No experience is necessary; we will teach you the rules if you're new. No registration required.

Medina County Park District events

Discovery Drop In: Fossils - Oenslager Nature Center, Sunday, February 1, from 1-4 p.m. This series promotes unstructured exploratory activities, which are perfect for any age to stay for as short or as long as their interest holds. Come view part of our fossil collection and learn about prehistoric creatures that have been found in the fossil records of Ohio. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Birds & Beverages - Oenslager Nature Center, Wednesday, February 4, from 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages ten to adult. Register by February 2. Free.

A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series - Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve, Saturday, February 7, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This is a continuous hike. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Nanook's World: Life as a Polar Bear! - Oenslager Nature Center, Saturday, February 7, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Join Jo Oklessen for this fun, family friendly playshop! Discover "cool" facts about polar bears, learn a polar bear song and work together to create a unique polar bear art project. All supplies are provided. Each family member must be registered. Ages six and up. Register by February 5. Free.

FrogWatch Workshop - Oenslager Nature Center, Sunday, February 8, from 1-4 p.m. Are you interested in learning more about the frogs that call Northeast Ohio home? Join us for this workshop which will break down the importance of frogs, how to identify them by sight and sound, where they live, and how citizen scientists all over the USA are studying them in their own communities. You can learn more about FrogWatch at <https://www.akronzoo.org/frogwatch>. Ages ten to adult. Register by February 6. Free.

Natural Discoveries - Sharon Nature Preserve, Wednesday, February 11, from 10-11 a.m. Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Love is All Around - Oenslager Nature Center, Friday, February 13, from 7-8 p.m. Whether you are single or have a partner, join us for this fun music concert to share good feelings with Circle of Friends and learn how to do a few folk dances, too! Ages 18 and up. No registration is required. Free.

Winter Bird Walk - River Styx Park, Saturday, February 14, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Let It Snow - Susan Hambley Nature Center, Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15, from 12-5 p.m. Drift by the nature center to make your own snowflakes and to learn more about this unique form of precipitation. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

SEE PARK ON PAGE 16

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PARK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Valentines Hike - Schleman Nature Preserve, Sunday, February 15, from 2-3 p.m. Bring your valentine for a romantic stroll through Schleman Nature Preserve, as we discover some romantic tales of local wildlife. Ages 18 and up. No registration is required. Free.

Birds & Beverages - Oenslager Nature Center, Wednesday, February 18, from 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages 10 to adult. Register by February 16. Free.

A Healthy Dose of Nature - Bluebell Valley, Thursday, February 19, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three to five mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. This is a continuous hike. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Medina's Marvelous Mammals: Black Bears - Oenslager Nature Center, Saturday, February 21, from 10-11:30 a.m. Do we have black bear in Medina County? We'll start inside and learn about these fascinating mammals and then we'll go outside for a hike. No live animals will be at this program. All ages are welcome, but interest level is for ages seven and up. No registration is required. Free.

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Winter Birds - Bluebell Valley, Sunday, February 22, from 3-4 p.m. February is a great time of year to observe our non migratory songbirds and a few winter visitors. These birds are predominantly seed eaters and often visit our backyard feeders. Join us to search for our winter birds. You are welcome to bring binoculars if you have them. Designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Meet the Animals - Oenslager Nature Center, Tuesday, February 24, from 1-2 p.m. or 4:30-5:30 p.m. Our nature center is home to a few educational animals, including turtles, a snake and a toad. Come in to learn all about their habits, care, and life history with a live animal presentation. Seating is limited to the first 50 people. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Invasive Species Workshop - Oenslager Nature Center, Thursday, February 26, from 10-11:30 a.m. During National Invasive Species Awareness Week, this workshop will focus on the identification and removal methods of the invasive plant, garlic mustard, and will include other invasive plant species we may encounter in the woods. Ages eight to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Skunk Cabbage - Green Leaf Park, Friday, February 27, from 1-2 p.m. Come with us to search for the earliest blooming wildflower in Ohio! The snow won't stop this smelly yet fascinating surprise! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Register for programs at www.medinacountyparks.com.

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Plan a special Valentine's Day

Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways, but it's not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town.

Valentine's Day is a busy holiday for many businesses, but especially so at restaurants and other romantic venues. So it's best to plan ahead to ensure a perfect evening. These tips can help you organize a Valentine's experience to remember.

Tip #1: Reserve early

The closer to Valentine's Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot - or anywhere but the most obscure establishment - be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine's Day dinner in December so you won't have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for Valentine's Day and book the moment you can.

Tip #2: Secure transportation

One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine, luxury car, horse-drawn carriage, or something similar also will require advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

Tip #3: Emulate a scene from a favorite film

The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it's a classic or more recent tear-jerker. When planning a romantic evening out, consider reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, recall when Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan at the top of the Empire State Building in "Sleepless in Seattle." Include a visit to the observation deck or roof as part of a whirlwind Valentine's Day experience.

Tip #4: Attend a live music performance

Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine's Day. Select an intimate venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

Tip #5: Think outside tradition

While dinner and a movie are Valentine's Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple's cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket at a nearby B&B?

Romantic nights out on Valentine's Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning

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