

CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 16 No. 5

January 18, 2020

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

What's your vision for

2020

A New Year - A New Decade

**A new year, a new decade
Welcome, 2020**

**Dear Cortland City Council,
Residents and Businesses,**

By Sally Lane

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Welcome to the first issue of the "Cortland News" in 2020. As always, January is a time of moving forward while tidying up the last bits of the previous year. There is something satisfying, about removing the decorations and returning special serving dishes to cupboards. While we are busy doing that, we often find corners that need to be swept, dusted. Clutter needs to be organized or discarded ... you can guess what my New Year's resolution is. The house seems bigger, brighter and NEATER!

Before we get to the round-up of 2019, here are some thoughts about this new decade. I wonder for what this new decade will be known. My parents were part of the "Greatest Generation,"

Continued on page 3

This year has brought many challenges for my last year as mayor. My main concern in 2019 was to be sure all the city departments were adequately protected against any type of known cyber attack that could occur. The Finance Department is now using the latest software enabling us to do payroll, utility billing, on-line utility billing and collection. However, by doing so we must retain customer banking and credit card information. In addition, our city employee's private information is also retained. With our old outdated computer equipment, operating systems and firewalls, we were sitting ducks for a cyber-attack. The Police and Fire Departments are faced with similar problems as both retain a certain amount of private information

through their line of work. The first step was to hire a completely new IT service company that could handle such needs for a city of our size. After several meetings and interviews that included all department heads and city council, we ultimately selected a new company Executive Computer Management Solutions, Inc. (ECMSI) based out of Struthers, Ohio.

Many internal changes have since been made to bring our city into the 21st century of computing. Council approved an ordinance submitted by the mayor in June 2019 to contract with our new IT service company for no more than \$32,000 for new equipment including computers with the latest operating

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CORTLAND CITY

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

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL
 First and Third Monday of each month
 Monday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
 Monday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION
 Second Monday of each month
 Monday, Feb. 10, 5 p.m.

CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
 Read the minutes from
 Cortland City Council meetings at
www.cityofcortland.org under City
 Council Minutes.

PLANNING & ZONING
 Second Monday of each month
 Monday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
 Meetings and agenda of Council and
 Planning meetings area available at
www.cityofcortland.org

All meetings are held at City Hall and are open to the public

CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE NOW ON TV

Cortland City Council Meetings are now posted on YouTube. The videos are usually posted no later than the next day after the meeting and can be accessed via a link on the city website or by visiting www.youtube.com and searching "City of Cortland, Ohio"

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

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| | |
|--|---|
| Admin Building 330-637-8816 | FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE 911 |
| 3372 State Route 5 fax: 330- 637-4588 | Police Department 330-638-5503 |
| Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector and Cemetery Sexton 330-637-8816 | Fire Station #11 330-637-4136 |
| Road Department 330-637-8311 | 3000 Warren Meadville Rd Non Emergency Calls 330-675-2730 |

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 5 p.m. - A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings are held at the Township Administration Building unless noted

LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

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

Monday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m.

Area Service Clubs

| | |
|--|---|
| Cortland-Bazetta Historical Society and Museum Sally Lane 330-638-2330 | Bazetta-Cortland Optimist Club Charlie Harper 330-847-0114 |
| The Opera House Kathy Fleischer 330-219-4884 | Cortland Rotary Club Donna Zuga |
| Cortland Beautification Association Mary Kachurik 330-637-3098 | Four Seasons Garden Club Becky Bucco 330-637-9115 |
| Cortland Lions Club Matthew Smith 724-584-0894 | Friends of the Cortland Library Di Matijevic 330-637-2717 |
| Moose Lodge #1012 330-637-9957 | League of Women Voters of Trumbull County Terri Crabbs 330-637-3845 |
| Warren-Trumbull Branch of AAUW Jennifer Soloman 330-637-3483 | SCOPE Darlene Fry/Diane Jordan ... 330-637-3010 |
| Cortland Masonic Lodge #529 Chuck Chagnot 330-307-3405 | Cortland Opal Chapter #181, O.E.S. Carla Kahler 330-856-2356 |
| Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) 330-720-9136 | |

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

Our Next Issue ... February 8, 2020

Our theme will be Valentine's Day

Article Deadline by Jan. 24 • Display Advertising Deadline is Jan. 29

Email articles to editor@cortlandnews.net

The mission of the Cortland News is to focus on the positive aspects and events of our community. Our goal is to inspire pride and bring the residents of our community closer to one another by providing accurate, timely and useful information. We hold ourselves to high standards of journalism and strive to be a source of trust for our readers.

Based on the policy of the Cortland News to print positive news about our community, we reserve the right to reject contributed material considered inappropriate. We reserve the right to edit information accepted for publication for accuracy, style, length, spelling, grammar, and clarity.

The Cortland News wishes to present a fair and accurate news report. If you have a concern about anything published, please call our office at 330-565-2637 and leave a message for our Manager or Editor.

Death notices and obituaries will be printed in the Cortland News at the request of the family. Arrangement should be made to have information for death notices and obituaries sent directly to the Cortland News from the funeral home. Space restraints may require some editing. Publication dates for the Cortland News may prohibit an obituary from appearing prior to a funeral or memorial service.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newspaper, the Cortland News cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Cortland Banks | El Torero | Vasilios |
| Lakeside Sport Shop | Top Notch Diner | |

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Sally Lane

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 Jean Bolinger
 Rev. C. R. Chapman
 Jean A. Corliss
 Christine Dorma
 Kathleen Ferris
 Thom Foley
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www.cortlandnews.net

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

The Cortland News will no longer be accepting any facsimile "fax" documents. Please direct all communications to the following email addresses.

Article submissions to:
editor@cortlandnews.net

Display and classified advertising and photographs to:
sales@cortlandnews.net

The Cortland News is published every three weeks free of charge and mailed via USPS to over 5000 area residents and businesses in Cortland and parts of Bazetta Township.

SCAN TO VISIT CORTLAND NEWS



Community Events

Event Calendar January 18 – February 8

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. *See pg. 2 and 6*

Lakeview Local School activities and sports schedules visit www.lakeviewlocal.org. American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. www.redcrossblood.org or 1-800-733-2767.

Cortland Branch Library events. *See pg. 18*

Johnston Senior Center offers hot meals Monday through Friday at noon.

“Mustang vs. Camaro – Battle for Supremacy” exhibit, through April 15, 2020, National Packard Museum, 1899 Mahoning Ave. NW, Warren.

20th Annual Vintage Motorcycle Exhibit, “Two Wheels at the County Fair” through May 16, National Packard Museum, 1899 Mahoning Ave. NW, Warren.

Warren SCOPE Senior Center Help Heal Veterans art creativity classes, Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Warren Senior Citizen Center at YWCA, 375 North Park Ave., Warren.

Trumbull Career and Technical Center Restock the Shelves Food Drive in support of the Mahoning Valley Second Harvest Food Bank, through Jan. 30. *See pg. 9*


Youngstown Nighthawks Soccer League, Cortland League schedule, visit www.facebook.com/ytownnighthawks

JANUARY

- 18 “Historic Theaters of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley” by Sean T. Posey, 2 p.m., Warren-Trumbull County Public Library, Warren.
- 18 “Photo 2020” juried photography exhibition opens with reception 6 -8 p.m., Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren.
- 19 USA Dance Hustle lessons, 5 p.m., Orthodox Center, 1025 N. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown. *See pg. 12*
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20 Cortland City Offices closed.
- 20 All branches of the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
- 20 Bristol Public Library closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
- 24 St. John Orthodox Church fish fry dinner, 4-7 p.m., 2220 Reeves Road NE, Warren. *See pg. 9*
- 25 “History of Youngstown Air Reserve Station,” 2 p.m., Warren-Trumbull County Public Library Howland Branch.
- 25 The Fairhaven Foundation fundraiser “Laughability,” 6-9 p.m., Ciminero’s Banquet Centre, Niles.
- 28 Vienna Historical Society’s “Warren: Images of America” presentation by authors Meghan Reed and Josh Nativio, 7 p.m., Vienna Twp. Hall.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Trumbull County Men of Faith breakfast, 9 a.m., 4 Star Diner banquet room, 168 North Mecca St. (state Route 46), Cortland. *See pg. 9*
- 8 Charity pancake breakfast hosted by Cortland Masonic Lodge to benefit TNR, 9 a.m.-noon, Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett-Hull Road (E. Main Street). *See pg. 9*



OH HAPPY DAY!

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A new year...continued from front

I am a Baby Boomer, my children are closest to being described as Millennials. Their children are “Post-millennials” or Generation Z. Defining generations gets complicated since both ends of the generation tend to overlap. Why did I even bring this up? Because this is 2020, and there are six generations since 1920 that have people who are alive or in our recent memories. Each generation has had highs and lows: two World Wars, the Depression, the Women’s Rights movement, the Korean War, Vietnam, Iran, the rise from low technology of the 1920s to unbelievable high technology in the last two decades - and so many issues to consider. History is all around us. Sharing memories and experiences bonds us together and helps build a sense of community for the future.

What impressed me was the thought that these children born in the 21st

century have never known life without a computer, cell phone, or internet. They will never have to wait in line to use a pay phone to call home. They won’t wear boots lined with bread wrappers over their shoes. They don’t know that “rabbit ears” wrapped in aluminum foil increased television reception so that we could watch the World Series on a black and white TV. It will be interesting what memories these children will make as they pass through life. All of us living today will influence their memories and thoughts.

Now, on to our round-up of 2019 events that occurred after the deadline for the last issue of December 2019 and the beginning of 2020. You will find photos and stories throughout this paper that summarize the events of December in Cortland.

We wish all of you a happy new year!



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Business News & Notes

By Thom Foley

Does your home insurance cover frozen pipes? Check out **Greenwood Insurance's** ad to find out.

Take the family to Cosmic Bowling at **Cortland Lanes**. Good clean affordable fun for the whole family.

Did you know that **Cortland Mower** offers free pick-up and delivery on your riding lawnmowers from now through the end of February? I got mine serviced and it's back already!

Centerra has Wood Pellets, BIO Blocks, Water Softener Salts. They are also having a winter clearance on all Christmas and winter items.

Auntie V's Pizza is closed through Jan. 28 for their well-deserved winter vacation. Watch for some great Super Bowl Specials when they reopen on Jan. 29.

Vlad Pediatrics is now taking new patients so call soon for a visit for your children.

Is a new home on your New Year's Resolution list? Then **CALL JODY SOVA!**

Mark Thomas Ford tells us that they have a great selection of affordable used cars that are in great shape.

Have a dog? Then you should check out **Totally Dog**. They have high quality dog food, offer certified dog training and dog sitting services. On top of that they have one of the best groomers anywhere in the county.

You can watch all the playoff games, NCAA basketball and much more at the 29 big screen TVs **Iron House Bar & Grill** has! Be sure to ask for the game day specials.

If you need honest insurance advice check out **Mayflower-Wollam Insurance** on Main Street. They have serving our community for almost 100 years.

Legal questions? Need a will? Need help with trusts, estates, OVI? Family Court issues? Attorney **Robert Platt** can help you with all these issues.

Campbell Carpet has all kinds of flooring for your home. Don't get fooled by the big box stores alleged lower prices. Get the lowest TOTAL price along with great quality and personal service.

I hope you don't get into a fender bender this winter. But if you do **Daffron's Auto Body** is the best "fender UNbender" around.

Dear Cortland...continued from front

systems, firewalls, servers, software for emailing and of course labor to implement said items. Although cyber attacks are almost a way of life these days our residents can rest assured that the city is doing everything possible to protect this vital information and keep our city operating efficiently and running safely.

Another much needed upgrade to the city was to replace our aged phone system and lower our monthly telephone bills. Several meetings were held with the mayor and department heads to discuss and ultimately purchase an all new digital phone system through our IT company. An ordinance was submitted by the mayor and approved by city council August 2019 to purchase an Allworx Digital Telephone System. The current land-based system will be completely replaced in each of the city departments. By upgrading to a digital system, the city will eliminate its current land-based provider saving approximately \$10,000 annually. The new system will be installed early 2020. Residents will benefit as well with less hold times and faster routing to the departments.

Another benefit to residents and people doing business with the city is our newest ability to accept credit card payments through Certified Payments, a registered company with Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati, Ohio. The user will pay a small convenience fee which is

paid directly to Certified Payments and not to the city for the ability to use their charge card. This system was able to be installed after the implementation of our new computer system assuring the highest security of card user information.

Several city capital projects were completed as well. A new tennis court and fencing at Willow Park was reconstructed; cost \$90,000 with outside donations of \$14,000. Our annual road resurfacing was performed; cost \$210,000 with a \$75,000 Ohio Public Works Grant (OPWC). Cedar Drive waterline replacement; cost \$210,000 with a 100% loan from (OPWC). East Main Street resurfacing; cost \$310,000 with 100% costs covered with ODOT and OPWC Grants. Huntington Street Light replacement project; cost \$25,000. Other projects were South Colonial storm sewer replacement performed by City forces, mosquito spraying, crack sealing and entered a contract with ODOT to resurface sections of Route 305.

Future projects under design are the North Mecca street water line replacement and the North Mecca street resurfacing and intersection improvements.

Two new service department vehicles have been ordered but not received; 2019 Ford F550 4X4 pickup and a Ford F550 4X4 dump body and snowplow system.

The Police Department has strived

to improve the law enforcement services it provides to the community. Residents enjoy a relatively low crime rate and can safely enjoy their homes, schools, churches and parks. Notable 2019 accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

1. Our detective was certified as a Master Criminal Investigator through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy;

2. Nearly \$207,000.00 was generated in outside revenue, either through grants, sponsorships, donations, fine monies and other means;

3. Had representatives on the Trumbull County OVI Task Force until the grant funding was cut in October;

4. Currently have an officer assigned to the Trumbull Action Group Drug Task Force and the Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force;

5. Implemented Lexipol Policies & Procedures to ensure employees are utilizing the most up to date methods & standards for policing and that the officers are adequately trained in those policies;

6. Began using the State of Ohio MARCS radio system to improve interoperability and everyday communications with each other and the 9-1-1 Center;

7. Hired four additional part time officers;

8. Took delivery of three new police SUVs;

9. Officers received 1005 hours of advanced police training in addition to in-house firearms re-qualifications

10. Through a grant, select officers began carrying TASERs to improve officer and subject safety;

11. Continue the partnership with the Lakeview School District to maintain 2 full time police officers in the schools;

12. Engaged in numerous community outreach events

2019 proved to be another busy year for Cortland Fire Department. As of the end of November, they answered 1779 calls for service. This puts them on pace to meet, or slightly exceed last year's totals. In April of this year William "Scotty" Bower was sworn in as our newest full-time employee. He just started his seventh month of probation and is shaping up to be a valued long-term employee.

The department was fortunate to be able to participate in several grants totaling, \$210,000 and received donations from several local civic organizations. This success allowed them to replace equipment that was quickly becoming obsolete. The acquisition of eighteen (18) SCBA packs enabled the department to replace all the

old packs, spare bottles, and masks. The packs that were being used at the start of the year were starting to fail annual tests and required in-depth repairs that cost more than the depreciated cost of the packs. Several bottles were also set for mandated replacement over three (3) years. Also, part of the above grant monies obtained from Ohio Workers Compensation, State Division of EMS, and donations from local civic organizations were used to purchase a new power lift cot for our second ambulance. This will aid in reducing injuries from lifting patients.

Finally, the department was part of the FEMA- Assistance to Firefighters Grant awarded to Champion Township. From this they will receive seventeen (17) new MARCS radios totaling \$61,000. These units can communicate with local, state, and federal agencies, and are the current standard practices for emergency communications.

A beautiful new city sign incorporating the city logo was constructed and installed in front of City Hall by Mark Brown Signs of Cortland. The new sign was badly needed to replace the fading and peeling paint of the previous one.

Two new contracts were negotiated for garbage and electricity. An amended contract for two years was signed with Browning Ferris Industries of Ohio for the city-wide garbage collection. The negotiated rate had only a .49 cent base rate increase per month. A new contract was negotiated by the Mayor and signed with First Energy Solutions Corp. for the electric aggregation program starting in July of 2020 and running through July of 2023. A cost savings of 8% per kwh and a \$90,000 grant to be paid out over the three-year period for the general fund was obtained.

To conclude my year-end report, I would like to thank all of my department heads and each of our city workers from city hall staff, service, police and fire departments for their support of me as Mayor. It has been a real pleasure to work with such a wonderful group of dedicated people. Also, I wish to thank all our city residents that have shown their support and gratitude towards myself. All of you have given me the confidence and driving force to be the best mayor I could have been. Even though it has been very challenging at times, it has been a rewarding experience to serve our city for 18 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my job!

Sincerely,
Mayor Jim Woolfer



\$5 Lunch at Ohio Living Lake Vista

11:30 to 1 p.m. | February 05, 2020

Join Ohio Living Lake Vista for lunch the first Wednesday of each month! For \$5, you'll receive your choice of soup, sandwich and drink. Dessert will be available for an additional cost. Sit down to relax over lunch in our club house, or take it with you on the go.

Call Amy at 330.638.2420 to learn more!



Ohio Living

Lake Vista

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Jeff Liber joins Mark Thomas Ford

Mark Thomas Ford is proud to announce that Jeff Liber has joined their prestigious sales staff.

Cortland resident Jeff Liber will be selling new and used automobiles after an 18-year career at GM Lordstown. He also worked at his family business, Village Quality Solutions, which is a Quality Engineering Service Provider. His history in the automobile industry goes back to when to his youth when his grandparents owned the Liber Motor Company in Newton Falls.

Jeff graduated from Newton Falls High School where he was a star running back. He then attended Ohio Wesleyan University where also played running back.

Cortland and Bazetta residents may best know Jeff as the president of the Lakeview Athletic Club. He is the proud father of two boys, Jacob and Luke, who attend Lakeview Schools. He has been a Cortland resident for eight years and coaches baseball and basketball for the youths in our community.



TC Travel Club plans Louisiana trip

The Trumbull County Travel Club ended its 2019 season with a day excursion to Steubenville to see the Nutcracker Festival. There were 180 life size nutcrackers lining the streets as well as within the Fort and German market areas to view and snap photos. History unfolded with the guide's descriptions of the famous murals of Steubenville depicting the history of the town and those that made it famous. This was followed by a 5-star luncheon prepared at J.C. Winery. Polishing off the Christmas season, a Christmas open house was held at the secretary's home later to view the 70 or more Christmas trees in her home.

The 2020 travel adventures will kick off on April 14-21 with a planned motor coach tour to New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La. Literature is available on this spring vacation with final payment due the end of February. To receive the full details of this vacation, please mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the secretary. The address can be acquired by calling 330-856-5398. There are no trips planned for the months of January, February and March. Day trips are being formulated and will be available in February.

The Travel Club is open to any person who would like to travel with friends or to make new friends. There is no membership fees to belong to the club. The club meets twice a year to discuss ideas for travel with these meetings posted in local newspapers.

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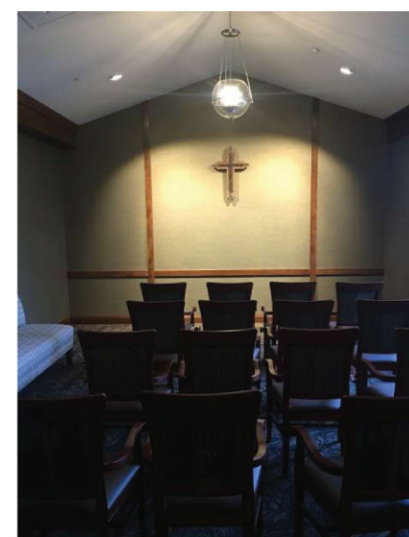
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NEW CLIENTS ONLY!

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Trumbull County's only memory care assisted living, Windsor House at Armstrong Memory Care Assisted Living, is Now Open. Located off Mahoning Ave. and Champion Ave., residents will enjoy the privacy of their own apartment, daily recreational and social activities, 3 fresh meals, assistance with activities of daily living, companionship of staff members and other residents, a secured outdoor courtyard and much more.

Tours Available Daily



234-806-3320 2 Windsor Place Warren, OH 44483
(Located of Mahoning Ave. & Champion Ave.)

www.ArmstrongMemoryCareAL.com

Meet our council and new mayor

By Sally Lane

Our local government officials began the new year with a new mayor and two new council members. Seated are Kevin Piros, president of council; Mayor Deidre Petrosky, and Scott Rowley, vice president of council. Standing are council members Kathy Fleischer, Don Moore, Patti Keller and the two newest council members, Richard McClain and Jim Bradley.

All the members of this council have served in local government either as a council member, or a member of the Parks Board or Planning Commission. Mayor Petrosky is the third woman to become mayor in Cortland. The other

two were Sandra Roscoe in the 1980s and Melissa Long in the 1990s. Petrosky has 21 years' experience in local government, most recently as council president in 2019.

Since Petrosky's council term does not expire until 2021, one of the first actions of the council at the reorganization meeting Jan. 3 was to select a person to fill out her unexpired term. They selected Richard McClain from five applicants. At the first official business meeting Jan. 7, McClain was sworn into office by Law Director Patrick Wilson.

Bios of council will be included in the Feb. 8 issue of the Cortland News.



Lakeview Boys Varsity Bowling Team wins tournament

Congratulations to the Lakeview Boys Varsity Bowling Team for winning the 12th Annual Edward Zitnik Memorial Bowling Tournament in Hermitage. They placed first out of eight varsity bowling teams while bowling 18

games to get the win. The LHS team bowls its home matches at Cortland Lanes. The team held the Lakeview Bowling Fundraiser on Jan. 10. If you would like to contribute to the team call 330-637-2961 for more information.



From left are: Blake Stockton, Charles Powlosky, Evan Pirtz, Conner Powlosky, Sebastian Ruddy and Brian Thomas.

Cortland Playroom children enjoy New Years

The public school children enjoyed celebrating the New Years with Miss Mackenzie while the public school had their winter break. They made snacks, crafts and played game to help celebrate the new year.

The Playroom is open to all public school children when the schools are closed. If you are interested in registering your children call 330-637-2296.



SCOPE names Spencer Volunteer of the Year

SCOPE volunteers were invited to an end of year recognition party recently. Each volunteer was recognized for their work in 2019. The SCOPE staff was also introduced by Director Mike Wilson for their efforts.

Don Spencer was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year. Spencer pushes his wheelchair five blocks to the Warren Center to help and out and calls the bingo games on Thursdays.

Nick Spano of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families located at the Warren SCOPE Center, watched Don wheel his chair almost every day crossing two four lane roads to come to SCOPE. Nick found out that Don was a veteran and talked with some veteran's services people and groups who found an electric wheelchair to give to Don.

Don spoke at the volunteer recognition event thanking everyone who helped him with his new ride.



Don Spencer

Cortland resident named to St. Vincent College Dean's List

Cassandra Murcko of Cortland, was named to the Dean's List of Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa., for the fall 2019 semester, according to Dr. John Smetanka, vice president for Academic Affairs. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 or better out of a possible 4.0. Cassandra is majoring in early childhood education.



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It takes a community... Thanks, Cortland

As people gathered in the lot across from the Cortland Bank, one could not help but be reminded of the great hometown spirit that we enjoy as residents of this town. It was the Second Annual Light Up Night for the group named "Cortland Christmas in Lights." The beneficiary of this year's event was the Summer Enrichment Program of Trumbull County (SEP). This organization conducts a summer day camp for children from age six through 22 and has been serving children with special needs in the county for over 35 years.

The committee would like to thank the donors and volunteers who made this event happen: Cortland Rotary and Ohio Living Lake Vista for the hot chocolate and cookies! Thank you Brothers Pizza, Cortland Cleaning, Cortland Masonic Lodge, Cortland Mower Sales, Cortland Playroom Preschool, Inc., Custom Counter Top & Kitchens, Cortland Dairy Queen, Factory Transfer, Furniture Decor & More, Heritage Florist, Maximum Auto Group II, Preston Builders, Topnotch Diner, Cortland Healthcare Center, Manners Christmas Tree Farm, Storeyland Christmas Tree Farm, Sunburst Environmental Service, Simply Done Occasions, and Quilter's Fancy for all of your donations!

Thank you Lou's Pressure Washing And Landscaping, Mark's Signs, and GC Construction for your donations and help with setting up the tree.

Thank you Cortland City Fire Department for giving Santa a lift to the event and helping to decorate the tree. Thank you Cortland Bank for allowing us to use your space for the event. Thank you Ron Sedlacko and all the volunteers from Venturing crew 4054 for your help at the event. And thank you to everyone that shared our posts and came out to the event! We appreciate everything everyone has done. The old saying that "It takes a village to raise a child," was certainly in full effect for this program.

If you would like to be involved in this event in 2020, please email lightupcortland@yahoo.com. They are looking for committee member, volunteers, donors, sponsors and a beneficiary. The beneficiary changes each year.



Lighting of the Christmas tree



Bob Woofter presents the proceeds of the event to the Summer Enrichment Program.



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A Walk through His Word

Rev. C. R. Chapman, Cortland Christian Church

'Amazing Grace in the New Year'

For the last Sunday of 2019 I preached a sermon entitled "Amazing Grace." In that sermon our congregation looked back at 2019 and then looked forward to 2020 all while keeping in mind those famous words by John Newton, the author of that beloved hymn.

God's grace is truly amazing. Newton begins this famous hymn crediting God's amazing grace for saving a wretch like him. As a former slave ship captain who converted to Christianity Newton, no doubt, understood his sinfulness. And it was the grace of God that taught his heart to fear. For the realization of God and understanding of His nature brings about the conviction of sin as one realizes the law of God that they broke. Breaking this law is sin, and the wages of sin is death. But ... for Newton, and many who have come to be Christians

throughout the age there is ... amazing grace. For grace our fears relieved. That grace such a precious thing, especially for the hour we first believed. For the moment that one accepts the free gift of God the Father, eternal life through Jesus the Son, they are saved from those wages of sin. For even though the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

The past year has brought many dangers, toils and snares, but today we have overcome, for God's grace has brought all of us safe thus far, and for this new year His grace will lead us all. Regardless of what you have gone through, are going through, or will be facing know that every believer and follower of Jesus Christ is not alone. The Master of all is with you each and every step of the new year. Happy New Year!

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Something to Think About

By Rev. Donald P. Barnes, Chaplain

All I want for Christmas is ... "a coloring book, crayons, and a bag of beans." A 10-hour flight turns into 18, the last leg via 15-passenger van packed with weary travelers. Wasn't a good experience for a first time flyer! Nonetheless, I'm undaunted. You see, I'm more than just a first time flyer. My destination will be my first time in a Third World country. My congregation sponsors Casa Julie, a mission school and community center in the slums of Progresso, Mexico. I'm spending a week learning how the "other half" lives. Didn't realize at the time, but the experience will change my life.

The potholes can swallow a car - many dogs run the streets - beggars line the thoroughfare - street-side rotisseries offer strange fare - tourists cut bargains with swarthy vendors - Progresso on a typical day. Casa Julie, our destination, is an oasis in the midst of a desert of sorrow and want. When the gate swings open at the "Casa," throngs of locals drop everything to spend time at the center. Worship is a high-point of the day and this pastor has been invited to lead. Tears flow down my cheeks as I consider my congregation - the poorest

of the poor. I'm humbled that God has granted me the privilege of being present in such a place. More tears. After services, men, women and children line up in front of the pastor, waiting their turn to share prayer request. We don't share a common language, but that fact has little effect. We're connecting. Then there she is. Five, maybe six, clutching a bag of beans. She draws close offering some muted words in Spanish. "She's sharing her Christmas list," Pastor Rhonda, my interpreter interrupts. I look down and draw her close. "What does she want?" "A coloring book, crayons, and a bag of beans."

Coloring book, crayons and a bag of beans. Not much, at least by our standards. There's a lesson in there for all of us. Don't know what it is. Do you? Something to think about.



Food drive being held at TCTC

The Office and Accounting Technology Adult Education Program at Trumbull Career and Technical Center is sponsoring a Restock the Shelves Food Drive in support of the Mahoning Valley Second Harvest Food Bank. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped off at TCTC now through Jan. 30.

Items most requested by the food

bank include: peanut butter, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna fish, dry pasta, canned soup and macaroni and cheese. Items must not be beyond their expiration date. Items may be dropped off at TCTC Adult Education front desk or lobby. TCTC is located at 528 Educational Highway, Warren. For more information contact TCTC at 330-847-0503, ext. 1610.

Charity pancake breakfast for TNR Feb. 8

The public is invited to enjoy a Saturday family breakfast on Feb. 8, hosted by Cortland Masonic Lodge, to benefit TNR, the trap and release program of Trumbull County.

The Charity Breakfast is held once a month at the Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett-Hull Road (E. Main Street),

from 9 a.m. to noon. The proceeds from each monthly breakfast is donated to a local charity.

The breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$6 for youth age 6 to 10, and free for children age 5 and under. "All you can eat" pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee will be served.

St. John holding fish fry dinner

A fish fry dinner will be held at St. John Orthodox Church, 2220 Reeves Road NE in Warren on Jan. 24. Dinner will be served from 4 to 7 p.m. The menu includes baked or fried cod or

shrimp, macaroni and cheese, French fries, cole slaw, dessert and drink, all for only \$11. Call ahead for take-out dinners at 330-372-3895.

Trumbull Co. Men of Faith breakfast

The Men of Faith breakfast brings men together in one accord. Fellowship will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the 4 Star Diner banquet room, 168 North Mecca St. (Rt. 46), Cortland. Free tickets for this year's Men Rally at the Covelli Center will be available. Ray Doerschuk, a businessman from North Canton will share how "I was a loser and becoming a winner through faith." Come enjoy breakfast along with a powerful testimony. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6.



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© Photo by Jim Woolfter

Historic Robins Theatre reopens

By Thom Foley

There is just something magical about going to the theatre - especially if it is a "Grand Old House" as they call it in the industry. They don't just show movies or host live entertainment. They create lifelong memories. Were you scared watching a movie as a child? Had your first date at a movie theatre? Went with your family to see a big Hollywood production? "Made out" in the balcony? Watched a play or heard a singer in a beautiful theatre? Yep, me too!

Having worked my way through college running movie theaters, I was thrilled when I was asked to write about the grand re-opening of the Robins Theatre in downtown Warren. I love old theatres and have fond memories of the ones I visited as a child and managed later as a young adult. Never having had the pleasure of attending the Robins Theatre but hearing so many of my friends talk about the great memories they had there I felt a strong obligation to do justice to this beautiful memory maker.

When I sat with Ken Haidaris of Sunrise Entertainment for this story you could feel the pride and excitement within him. This is more of a passion for him than just a project. "We are trying to do our part to help revitalize downtown Warren," he said. Haidaris is renovating and operating the theatre. Mark Marvin of Downtown Development Corporation owns the building and they have partnered to restore it.

Built by Daniel Robins (1874-1943) it opened Jan. 9, 1923 and closed in the early 1970s. He also built the Daniels, Ohio, Butler, McKinley and Warner theaters. Robins was a pioneer in the motion picture industry.

A plaque hangs in the outer foyer dedicated to Mr. Robins. It was lost for years but was bought by Marko Brakovich at a flea market before finding its way back to the theater.

The theater was designed for live performances and movies without any kind of sound system. It was built for and well known for its outstanding acoustics. The curved walls in the auditorium along with the open atrium in the outer lobby created what was known as a "roll over" sound system when constructed. It allowed the sound from the stage or movie to roll around the curved walls into the lobby, through the atrium and back into the auditorium. It was ahead of its time when built but still works well today. Major performers like Al Jolson and The Glenn Miller Band have performed at the Robins along with every major motion picture that was released during its tenure. In addition, a new state-of-the-art sound system has been installed along with a new graphic and lights display system to enhance performances.

After the theatre closed it was left dormant for many years until this project. Harry Leith of Highlander Coatings & Construction was the main painter, sculptor and rebuilders along with Master Carpenter Sean McNichol. "The place was in a real shambles when we first walked in. It looked like a war zone," said Leith. "But we knew we had to save this beautiful building and that we could do it."

They repainted walls, did reconstruction and rebuilding of all the trimmings, gilding and structural parts. A lot of it had to be completely gutted because it was deteriorated beyond repair. Wherever possible great efforts

were made to restore and reuse the original infrastructure and fixtures. The depth of the stage was doubled, and the stage floor was rebuilt. There are still many areas, unseen by the general public, that will need finishing in the future but for now it looks as good - if not better - than the day it opened 97 years ago.

A state-of-the-art projection system to show digital movies has been installed and will project onto a roll down 28' x 19' screen. The old projectors have been restored but for display only. The 1,400 seats are still the original frames but have all been recovered by AOS Theater Co. of Westlake, Ohio. This was done in part thanks to hundreds of seat sponsors, mostly individuals and local companies who paid for it and were rewarded by having a plaque with their names on those seats.

A beautiful new chandelier with 1,200 crystals was installed. It took a week to construct it. "It wasn't possible to salvage the old tapestry after 97 years, so we reproduced it as close as possible," said Haidaris.

When asked "why do this?" Haidaris said "I never heard anyone say there's too much to do here. While jobs are an important factor on where to live, so is the quality of life. We are just trying to help improve our quality of life here in the Mahoning Valley. We have had great success with River Rock and wanted to extend the success to a year-round venue. This building holds precious memories for so many people in the area and we wanted to help bring those memories back and to allow them to pass those memories, and new ones, along to their families. Our three biggest areas that we attract from are

Warren, Cortland and Pittsburgh. We believe that this will attract people from all over northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania."

The cooperative spirit and camaraderie among everyone I spoke with - the box-office personnel, contractors and designers - anyone who had a hand in all of this was so obvious. Everybody wanted to credit everybody else and all were thrilled that they "got to be a small part of this great project" (a phrase I heard from almost everyone I talked to).

Haidaris gave credit to everyone he could except himself saying "We used all local vendors whenever it was possible." Kevin O'Rourke of O'Rourke Electric of Warren explained the huge task it was to update an electric system that was almost 100 years old and was so proud that he and his company were part of it. Mark Marvin's wife, Lori Marvin was in charge of the design and decoration. All departments of the city of Warren helped by working hand-in-hand to see that any obstacles were dealt with fairly and quickly. Local graphic artist Joyce Polenick and Alyssa Connelly-Bissett, the event coordinator for Sunrise, handled most of the marketing, ads, graphic services, seat sponsorships and other promotional areas. Jimmy DeCenso, VP of DDC was instrumental with the project also. Thomas Simpson from the Kent stage is also a partner in the project.

There was also a lot of support from vendors. White Claw & Mike's Hard Lemonade gave the largest promotional contribution they have ever given in the state of Ohio. Sysco Foods, a major supplier to many of the local restaurants

Continued on page 12

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PARKING INFO

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RobinsTheatre.com/planyourvisit



AMERICA
50th Anniversary Tour
Fri., Jan. 17, 2020 at 8 p.m.



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Sat., Jan. 18, 2020 at 8 p.m.



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ABBA's Timeless Songs
Thurs., Jan. 23, 2020 at 8 p.m.



THE ODD COUPLE
Starring Jim Loboy & Len Rome
Fri. & Sat., Feb. 7 & 8, 2020 at 8 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 9, 2020 at 1 p.m. – matinee



DEAN LIVES
The New Dean Martin Tribute Show
VALENTINE'S DAY!
Fri., Feb. 14, 2020 at 8 p.m.



E5C4P3
The Journey Tribute
Sat., Feb. 15, 2020 at 8 p.m.



ANIMANIACS IN CONCERT!
Featuring Rob Paulsen & Randy Rogel
Sat., Feb. 22, 2020 at 8 p.m.



WISH YOU WERE HERE
The Sight & Sound of Pink Floyd
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Sun., March 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.



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Fri., March 20, 2020 at 8 p.m.



JONNY LANG
Blues Rock Guitarist Singer-Songwriter
Tues., April 28, 2020 at 8 p.m.



BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS
Sun., Aug. 16, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.



Individual tickets are available online and at the Robins Theatre Box Office. Season tickets are available only at the Box Office.



SHREK THE MUSICAL
Fri. & Sat., March 13 & 14, 2020 at 8 p.m.; Sun., March 15, 2020 at 3 p.m. – matinee



HEATHERS THE MUSICAL
Fri. & Sat., May 29 & 30, 2020 at 8 p.m.; Sun., May 31, 2020 at 3 p.m. – matinee



BE MORE CHILL
Fri. & Sat., July 31 & Aug. 1, 2020 at 8 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 2, 2020 at 3 p.m. – matinee



THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Fri. & Sat., Oct. 30 & 31, 2020 at 7 p.m. & midnight



HAIRSPRAY
Fri. & Sat., Dec. 11 & 12, 2020 at 8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 13, 2020 at 3 p.m. – matinee

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Robins Theatre...continued from page 10

has been extremely helpful. And Great Lakes Brewing has been an active supporter.

Former Cortland resident Bob Moody told me of the great memories he had going to the theater as children. "We would run around the atrium chasing each other between movies. When I stood in the balcony at the soft opening a few weeks ago I reminisced about those times and stood there laughing and felt like a little kid again."

Future plans call for bringing in major acts like Donny Iris & The Cruisers, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Lisa Lampanelli, Dean Lives, Abba Mania. They will also have local bands, old movies, (a "Godfather Weekend" is planned) and many more different types of entertainment.

One of those is The Millennial Theater, which is run by Executive Director Joe Asente of Girard. "We are thrilled to have the Robins as our new home where we will do five shows this

year. We are a group of all local people ages 18-40 who put on productions relevant to the millennial generation." Shrek will be March 13-15 and The Rocky Horror Show will be Oct. 30 and 31. For a complete list visit their website www.millennialtheatre.org.

Haidaris wants everyone to know that there is plenty of free parking in the area, about 900 spaces within walking distance and there will be bus shuttles also. "Our goal is to keep prices as low as we can. The more support we get the easier it is to keep prices low." Go to their website www.RobinsTheatre.com or call 234-430-0005 for more information.

They sold out for the Jan. 9 grand reopening and will be bringing many more quality nights of entertainment to fill the theater.

After 97 years "The show must go on AGAIN!"

Hustle dance lessons

USA Dance will hold dance lessons on Sunday, Jan. 19 that will feature Hustle lessons sponsored by Dave Czifra at the Orthodox Center, 1025 N. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown. The evening includes Hustle Basics for Beginners at 5 p.m., a Hustle lesson at 5:30 p.m., and open dancing to Ballroom, Latin, Swing

and Hustle from 6:15 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$5 for USA Dance members, \$10 for nonmembers and \$2.50 for students.

For more information on Ballroom dancing go to www.usadance2015.com or Facebook at USA-Dance-Chapter-2015-Youngstown-Warren-OH.

910th announces cancellation of 2020 air show

The 910th Airlift Wing, based in Vienna, has announced the cancellation of the 2020 Thunder Over The Valley Air Show and Open House, scheduled for June 20-21, 2020.

While the 2020 budget has been passed, the wing's current operational budget has to be prioritized toward the readiness training of the wing.

"My job as commander is to make the best use of resources provided to us, and our focus must be on prioritizing training to meet readiness standards," said Col. Joe Janik, 910th Airlift Wing commander and YARS installation commander. "An air show is a very rewarding, but is an expensive proposition, and it is my responsibility as the wing commander to ensure we have a combat-ready force, able to deploy at a moment's notice. We are making the very tough decision to cancel this much-anticipated public event based on the given budget we have now," Janik continued.

Janik said that although additional funds may become available in a couple of months with a 2020 appropriation, it would not be fair to everyone involved to wait to make this call. The commander said promoting good community relations is one of the reasons that military public events like air shows and open houses are held, and he hopes to hold an airshow again in the coming years.

"The Reserve Citizen Airmen of the 910th Airlift Wing and everyone working at Youngstown Air Reserve Station are always in awe of the support we receive every day from everyone outside of our fence line, especially here in the Mahoning Valley," said Janik. "Expressing our appreciation to the community is one of the reasons we hold these public events, and we hope we can resume the practice sometime in the near future. But, our mission is to be combat-ready now for tomorrow's fight. The community's support helps make that happen. For that we are always thankful."

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Tax Solutions

By Jennifer J. Slywczak

Goals for 2020 and beyond... Living the dream of early retirement

Many people dream of retiring early so they can pursue activities other than work, such as volunteering, traveling and pursuing their hobbies full-time. But making this dream a reality requires careful planning and diligent saving during the years leading up to the anticipated retirement date.

It all starts with retirement savings accounts such as IRAs and 401(k)s. Among the best ways to retire early is to build up these accounts as quickly as possible by contributing the maximum amount allowed by law each year. From there, consider other potential sources of retirement income, such as a company pension plan. If you have one, either under a past or current employer, research whether you can receive benefits if you retire early. Then factor this income into your retirement budget.

Of course, you're likely planning on Social Security benefits composing a portion of your retirement income. If so, keep in mind that the earliest you can begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits is age 62 (though waiting until later may allow you to collect more).

The flip side of saving up enough retirement income is reducing your

living expenses during retirement. For example, many people strive to pay off their home mortgages early, which can possibly free up enough monthly cash flow to make early retirement feasible.

By saving as much money as you can in your retirement savings accounts, carefully planning your Social Security strategies and cutting your living expenses in retirement, you just might be able to make this dream a reality.

The earlier you start saving for retirement, the better, you can't get back lost time and the power of compounding your savings. Starting early can only help your retirement savings later on. Anyone with earned income is eligible to contribute to an IRA. Even teenagers and college students working part-time and summers. And when considering ROTH IRA accounts, the compounding and tax-free withdrawals are an excellent strategy to consider.

Contact our firm for help.

Jennifer J. Slywczak, CPA, is the owner of Integrated Accounting and Tax Solutions LLC, located at 3378 State Route 5, Cortland. You can reach her at 330-638-2727 or by email at jennifer@jenjslycpa.com. To sign up for monthly newsletters you can visit her website at www.jenjslycpa.com.



The Wise Investors

By Guidelight Financial Group

Getting "2020 Vision" on your finances in The New Year

The start of the new year is a great time to focus on your finances and put them into perspective.

Competing demands on our time can often cloud our line of sight on what really matters. So, if you want a better handle on your finances, take these six foundational steps to get a better vision in 2020.

1. Review where you stand

Begin by looking at your broad financial picture. This includes determining your net worth (assets you own minus liabilities or debts you owe). Identify whether you can cut costs in order to put more money to work toward your key financial goals. Also make sure you have a sufficient emergency fund that could cover at least three to six months of income.

2. Reassess your goals

Determine if the goals you've established, such as education savings or retirement savings, are still appropriate based on your plans for the future. Are you on track to achieve them? Can you find more dollars to put toward them?

3. Consider your debt and credit score

If you haven't checked your credit score lately, it's a good idea to do so. Look at your current debts (auto loans, mortgages, student loans, etc.) to see if

there are ways they can be paid down more quickly or if you could benefit by refinancing any loans.

4. Review your portfolio

Investment markets have performed well for an extended period of time. Are you prepared for increased unpredictability in the markets? Make sure the risk reflected in your portfolio aligns with your risk profile. Consider rebalancing investments if your portfolio allocations have shifted due to varying performance for different assets.

5. Conduct a checkup of your protection strategy

Now is a good time to review your insurance policies to make sure you are properly covered. This includes everything from auto and home insurance to life insurance, disability income coverage and long-term care protection.

6. Solidify your estate plan

Pay special attention to your estate planning needs. This is a concern regardless of your age and assets. Review your will to be sure that it is current and reflects your wishes for how your legacy will be carried out. If you don't have a will, arrange to have one prepared. Consider whether trusts

Continued on page 18

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Mary Chesney Chapter NSDAR Christmas luncheon

Mary Chesney Chapter NSDAR held its Christmas luncheon at the Salvation Army in Warren and enjoyed an informative presentation by Capt. Kiley Williams on the workings and programs the Salvation Army offers to the community.

The annual George Washington Tea will be held on Feb. 15 starting at 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on East Market Street, Warren. Tickets are \$10. For more information on Daughters of the American Revolution Warren Chapter contact Registrar Diane Thomas at 330-373-0797.



From left: Kim Welch, Capt. Kiley Williams, Karen Mamula and Beth Aurillo

L.O.A.F. Christmas in Cortland Concert

Favorite holiday music performed by the Cortland Community Band and the LOAF Community Choir entertained a large crowd at Lakeview's auditorium Dec. 18. The band is conducted by Craig Weincek, while the choir is directed by Michelle Jones. The concert benefited Bazetta and Cortland Fire departments by raising funds to purchase bullet proof vests for their first responders. This was the fifth community concert for the combined choir and band. The band will celebrate 37 years since it began in February 1983.



Is youth e-cigarette use actually an epidemic?

By Teresa Merrick, R.N., PHN, Trumbull County Combined Health District

"The FDA has called e-cigarette use among teens an epidemic with no signs of stopping" according to research by the American Lung Association. They

are the most commonly used tobacco products among kids. The JUUL is the most popular on the market because it looks like a flash drive and produces very little aerosol so it can hide in plain sight. One JUUL pod contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. The e-liquid comes in menthol and fruit flavors to get teens to use them. E-cigarettes can also be used for delivery of marijuana and other illicit drugs. Teens do not realize the consequences of using tobacco products. They are harming their developing brains and lungs. The "My life, My Quit" program combines best practices for youth tobacco cessation adapted to include vaping and new ways to reach and coach youth using live text messages or online chat. The program includes educational materials designed for teens created with youth input. To enroll, text or call 1-855-891-9989 or visit <http://mylifemyquit.com>.

The American Lung Association offers a resource for teens to address this issue. Their teen smoking cessation program is called "Not on Tobacco" (N-O-T-). They are there to help teens who have been using tobacco products and want help quitting. The American Lung Association can provide the tools, information and support to quit. The Lung Help-Line is a free telephone support line, in over 200 languages that allows callers to have access to experts. They can be contacted by calling 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872) or www.Lung.org/helpline.

AWL **Adopt A Pet**
 ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE



Diamond is a 6-year old Pit mix that has been patiently waiting for her forever home since June 2019. She has a sparkling personality to go with that big smile! During her stay at the Animal Welfare League, Diamond has taken the opportunity to learn new things through the Caring Companions Training Program. She knows basic commands and is very well mannered on a leash. Diamond loves to play fetch or cuddle up with her person. Come meet this true gem at the Animal Welfare League.

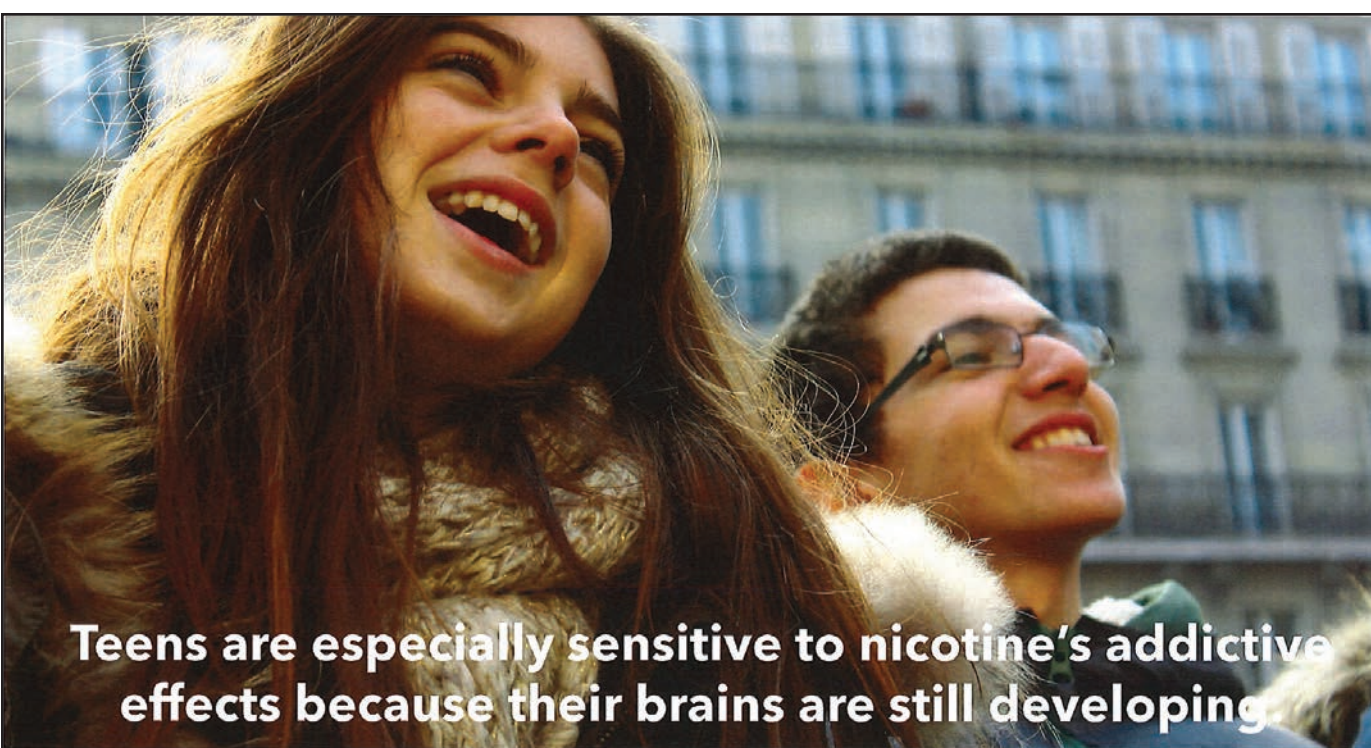


Meet Posie! This devoted mother has seen all three of her kittens find good homes and is now ready to find a loving home of her own. Posie and her kittens arrived at the Animal Welfare League in May when her previous family could no longer care for them. She is a young cat at 4-years old, but would do best in a quiet home where she can be free to lounge about or cuddle with her owners as she pleases.

Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Adoptions end at 5:30 p.m. The shelter is closed on Sundays and Mondays. AWL shelter is located at 812 Youngstown Kingsville Road SE in Vienna, across the street from Avalon at Squaw Creek. For more information call 330-539-5300 or visit www.awlrescueme.com.

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Fairhaven Movie Day

GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League continued its long standing tradition of hosting Movie Day for Fairhaven students and their families at Regal Cinemas in Niles. Each family was treated to two movies along with an endless supply of popcorn. Santa stopped by with a special treat for each guest. This year had record breaking attendance of over 225 attendees.



Front row from left: Alyssa Strickland and Kelly Kelly. Back row members: Jennifer Wyndham, President Marylou Jarrett, Diane Taylor, Santa, Moncia Olbrych, Kitty Neilson and Julianne Kessler.

Upton House hosts 'Storytime with Mrs. Claus'

The Harriet Taylor Upton home was the setting for "Storytime with Mrs. Claus." The children were enchanted with holiday stories read by Mrs. Claus. They then made crafts and enjoyed lunch. The family members were treated to tea and sweets in the parlor while Liz Clark presented the history of the historic home about Mrs. Upton and women's suffrage. E. Carol Maxwell has organized the program for 15 years.



SCOPE volunteers hold end of year recognition party

SCOPE volunteers were invited to an end of year recognition party recently. Each volunteer was recognized for their work in 2019. The SCOPE staff was also introduced by Director Mike Wilson for their efforts.



Strimbu Memorial Fund distributes \$200,000 in grants

By Jean A. Corliss

At its recent 31th Annual Gift Giving meeting the Strimbu Memorial Fund Board of Directors voted to disperse grant allocations to local economic development and charitable organizations approaching \$200,000 in annual gifts.

On Dec. 19, individuals representing these non-profits, charitable groups and those organizations involved in economic advancement, gathered at Penn-Northwest Development Corp. in Sharon, Pa., to receive their grants distributed by the Strimbu Memorial Fund Board of Directors.

Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- Brookfield Community Park
- Brookfield Police Dept.
- Buhl Club
- Building of Hope
- Children's Center of Mercer County
- Community Library of the Shenango Valley
- Eagle's Nest Life Equipping Center
- EOMAC-Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Guardian's Nest
- Inspiring Minds
- Joshua's Haven
- Kinsman American Legion
- L.I.F.T. (Lifting Individuals for the Trades)
- Meals on Wheels Shenango Valley
- Meals on Wheels Trumbull County
- Mercer County Coalition for Drug Awareness Program
- Mercer County Mentoring
- Penn-Northwest Development Corp.
- Prince of Peace AWESOME Program
- Shop with a Cop Program—Farrell
- The American Red Cross, Lake to River Chapter

- The Hope Center for Arts & Technology
- The Salvation Army—Sharon
- United Way of Mercer County—Success by Six Program
- Valley Shenango Economic Development Corp.
- Waterfire Sharon
- West Hill Ministries

"The Strimbu Memorial Fund awarded these grants to assist in these organization's development efforts and provide assistance and programs to those in need," said Bill Strimbu. "Their work is extremely important and beneficial to our surrounding communities."

Also at its Annual Gift Giving meeting, Jim Grasso, president; Gary Hoff, vice president; Frank Krieder, treasurer; and John Matune, secretary; were re-elected to terms ending in 2021. Also re-elected to terms ending in 2022 were Gary Hoff, Frank Krieder, Nancy Lukasko, Spencer Strimbu, Dustin Ghizzoni, Nick Strimbu, Frank Vendemia and Kara Kasula.

Since its creation in 1990, the Strimbu Memorial Fund has provided over \$3.6 million in donations to local economic development, individuals, scholarships and charitable

organizations. Just this past year, the fund awarded more than \$160,000 in such grants and scholarships to local students.

"Now in our 31st year, with the tradition of giving started by the example set by Nick Strimbu Jr. during his lifetime, we continue to perpetuate his legacy of philanthropic giving to assist with the needs of our community," said President of the Board Jim Grasso. He added: "We aspire to give a hand up, not a hand out."

The 23th Annual Wild Game Dinner is being planned for Feb. 16, along with the 31st Annual Strimbu Memorial BBQ set for May 6. Funds raised by the two events will enable the SMF to continue its philanthropic support of area charitable initiatives.



More information about the Strimbu Memorial Fund is available at the Memorial Fund's website, strimbumemorialfund.com.



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By Officer Julie Bevilacqua, Cortland Police Department

I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday activities and have a Happy New Year. Although the winter festivities surrounding the holiday season have come to an end, winter is still in full swing. The fluffy white snow can be pretty to look at, but it brings with it some precautions to keep in mind to endure the cold.

The city of Cortland has its very own sled hill, the Eastlake Metropark Sled Hill, across from the Pauni Apartments on North Mecca Street. The park is open to the public for use from dawn until dusk, however it is not to be utilized while smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages. Wear proper winter attire, such as snow pants, a winter jacket, or a hat. It may to be a good idea to avoid scarves or any loose clothing that could get caught while traveling down the hill. People of all ages enjoy the hill, so avoid activities, like making a ramp, which you may enjoy but may cause injury to someone else. It may also be a good idea to go down the hill facing forward

and with your feet first so you can see potential obstacles and avoid them with less chances of getting hurt.

Playing in the snow can be fun, but having to shovel or remove it is another story. Try to remove it when it is still fresh and light to lessen the chance of injury or strain. The longer the snow sits the heavier and more difficult to remove it becomes. If there is a sidewalk in front of your residence, it is your responsibility to keep its surface clear of snow as well. Be courteous of your mail carrier and shovel in front of your mail box. Keep an eye out for your neighbors, especially those that may not move around too well, to make sure they have not fallen and are hurt or need assistance in any way.

As always, you can contact the non-emergency dispatch number at 330-675-2730 to have an officer dispatched to you if you have an injury and want medical assistance or is you witness any suspicious activity. Or dial 911 in case of emergencies.

Garden Club decorates the 'Bridges of Cortland'

As part of its Christmas decorating projects in Cortland, the Four Seasons Garden Club placed pine and bow decorations on the bridges located on South High Street and East Main Street.

Pictured from left are Linda Wurthner, Kathleen Ferris, Tammy Metzger and Cheryl Zurawick.



Guardian Angels volunteers deliver gifts to seniors



Volunteers from Guardian Angels of Trumbull County recently gathered to organize and distribute gifts to over 150 residents of 20 local nursing homes. Many of the residents have no family and were very happy and grateful to receive a gift. The gifts were donated by various merchants throughout the Mahoning Valley. Home Instead Senior Care collected the gifts as part of the

17th annual "Be a Santa to a Senior."

The Guardian Angel volunteer program monitors the wards of the court through personal visits. They also reach out in friendship to individuals who are elderly and alone. For further information, contact Judge James A. Fredericka or Patricia Hovanic, at the Trumbull County Probate Court at 330-675-2521.

TC Republican Women's Club meets

The January meeting for the Trumbull County Republican Women featured Bob Marchese from Ohio Mental Health as its speaker. Included in the meeting was a high end purse raffle as a fundraiser for women in the party running for an office. The April 25 card party was discussed. Tickets for this annual event will be ready by the February meeting. The card party will be at the Cortland Christian Church in Cortland.

The next meeting for the club will be Thursday, Feb. 6 at Stone Bridge Tavern &

Grill. For membership information contact Barbara Rosier-Tryon at 330-550-1215.



Sarah Kovoov, Bob Marchese and Gail Drushel.

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WJWL keeps Warren Warm

GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League members have been recently volunteering throughout Warren to help keep the less fortunate and homeless warm. Members stepped up to help Lori Ticknor, founder of Warming Warren, distribute coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks and blankets in the parking lot on the corner of Mahoning Avenue and Summit Street in Warren. Over 100 people received coats along with chili and corn bread so everyone could go home with a warm meal.

Junior League also held its annual "Scarves of Love" at Warren's City Hall. Annually the members donate scarves, hats and gloves to hang on the fence in front of city hall for anyone in need.



Warming Warren volunteers include, front row from left, Marisol Easton, Andrew Smith and Mattie Easton. Standing are Thomas Easton, Lori Ticknor, Evie Coe, Julianne Kessler and Marylou Jarrett. Not pictured Molly Halliday.

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Lakeview's Madrigal Feaste 2019

By Abigail Leonard, Student reporter

One of the school's and community's most treasured holiday traditions, the "Madrigal Feaste" was performed Dec. 7 and 8 by the Madrigal and Choral groups of Lakeview High School's music department. For 36 years, the catered dinner has been served in the school's cafeteria, which is beautifully transformed into a beautiful Renaissance castle.

This show was directed and written by Lakeview's own choir director, Bonnie Chronister who is retiring after the 2020-2021 school year. The Madrigal Feaste was started in 1983 by then-director Jane Page.

The dinner show starred some of the school's brightest stars including senior Douglas Gurdak and the Lakeview

Madrigal singers as well as the advanced women's chorale. Comedy, acting and singing were features of the dinner show. The comical jester played by sophomore member of Women's Chorale, Karen Lamp poked some good-natured fun at the cast, royal court and the welcomed dinner guests.

Madrigal singer, Michael Kosarko played the part of the steward who was too "drunk" and forgot to bring desert to the royal court. The court responded by singing a treasured classic called "Figgy Pudding," with a fun twist with stomping and shouting at the poor sleeping steward.

After dessert, the guests enjoyed a holiday concert from both choirs with long speaking parts in between each song



From left are Hailey Osika, Haley Turner, Shelby Hunter, Douglas Gurdak and Elena Maybou.



Symphonic Band



Concert choir



Advanced women's chorale



Concert Band



Lakeview Madrigal Singers

telling the well-known story of a certain baby who lay in a manger.

Near the end of the show, former Madrigals from the past were welcomed to join the cast to sing once again with their former choirs. Among these singers were Abbey Leonard, Georgia Hershburger and Tim Gregory, as well as Donovan and Allyson Harwood.

The end of the treasured tradition is marked with a promise to do all of it again in 12 months time and then all the lights in the hall go out and it is lighted only by table candles and the candles of the singers now singing the holiday favorite "Silent Night" with one verse sung in German.

Lakeview High School's motto, "A Tradition of Excellence" was once again shown through the Lakeview Choir Department.

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What's "news" in the City of Cortland

By Christine Dorma, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Petrosky

City Hall would like to welcome Mayor Petrosky to her new role within the city. She comes with many years of experience having served on council for over 20 years!

Snow Removal Reminders

It is the property owner's responsibility to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice for pedestrians. Please refrain from shoveling snow from driveways into the roadways.

Eastlake Park

The sled hill at 422 N. Mecca St. is open from dawn to dusk. Happy sledding!

Dates to Remember

Jan. 21 - City Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
 Feb. 3 - City Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
 Feb. 18 - City Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
 City Hall will be closed Jan. 20 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

LIBRARY NEWS

Cortland Branch Library events

The following programs take place at the Cortland Branch Library, 578 Lakeview Drive, Cortland. For registration call 330-638-6335. All library events are free and open to the public. No reservations are required unless noted.

#TeenMidweek
Every Wednesday at 3 p.m.
 Join us every Wednesday after school for different activities! For teens in grades 7-12. Free.

Family Fun Storytime
Mondays at 6 p.m.: Jan. 27; Feb. 3
 Come as a family to enjoy stories and activities for big kids, little kids, and the young at heart! Fun for families with children ages 3 to 10. Free.

Teen Advisory Board
Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m.
 Want to help your fellow teens? Need service hours? Have a great idea for a teen event? Come to a Teen Advisory Board meeting! For teens in grades 7-12. Free.

Preschool Storytime
Tuesdays at 11 a.m.: Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11

Stories and a craft related to a weekly theme reinforce the development of early literacy skills. For ages 3 to 5. Free.

Babytime
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.: Now - Feb. 12
 Laugh and learn with your baby! For infants 6 to 18 months old with a parent or caregiver. Short stories, fingerplays, and simple songs. Registration is required

Toddler Tales
Wednesdays at 11 a.m.: Now - Feb. 12
 Cortland Library, 578 Lakeview Dr. Storytime for toddlers 19 to 35 months old with a parent or caregiver. Registration is required. Free.

LEGO Club
Saturday, Jan. 25 drop-in between 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Children ages 5 to 12 can join us for LEGO Club, a monthly program where kids can have fun with other kids creating LEGO masterpieces. The library supplies the LEGO bricks, and finished structures stay at the library. Free.

Genealogy Roundtable
Mon., Jan. 27 at 11 a.m.

Genealogy enthusiasts interested in researching their own family histories can discuss problems they've encountered and share tips on resources and methodology with other researchers. Beginners and longtime genealogy researchers are welcome. Free.

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Support through Expressive Arts helps people deal with mental illness

Support through Expressive Arts (SEA), meets every third Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trumbull Memorial Hospital, 1350 East Market St., Warren. SEA is a support group for persons with mental illness that focuses on self-expression through art. Each month participants will create projects designed to help promote self-exploration and mental health stability.

Support and funding for this project is provided by Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board, the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board and the HELMS Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. The free class is open to anyone dealing with mental illness. You must register by e-mailing staff@namimv.org or calling 330- 770-9214.

Getting "2020 Vision" continued from page 13

need to be in place or if those in place are up to date. Also review beneficiary designations on your financial accounts and insurance policies.

In all of these matters and others, it can be helpful to sit down with your financial advisor to review where you stand and plot out your next steps for the year ahead.

Column provided by Guidelight Financial Group offered through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA & SIPC.

Thank you Cortland American Legion Post 540

By Carole Wiley

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship sponsors the annual Christmas Concert held at Lakeview High School. The Cortland Community Band and Community Chorus provides the beautiful musical entertainment. This took place on Dec. 18. This is a free concert although donations are collected and then given to one organization or group for a worthy cause. This year LOAF learned of the need of the two local fire departments - Bazetta and Cortland. They need to provide protective vests to the EMS squads in the event of a dreaded and dangerous situation. Each department will need four vests at a cost of around \$600 each.

When the Cortland American Legion Post 540 learned of the need, they quickly stepped up! They agreed to match any amount collected at the concert up to \$540. This was announced by Craig Wiencek, the band director when he opened the program. Neither Craig nor either fire chief nor any LOAF member realized that the match would be made very quickly. In addition to the Legionnaires' generosity, those in attendance gave freely. The money collected that night totaled \$2,908. More money is needed but the goal is now in sight.

Many, many thanks to American Legion Post 540. These veterans served their country, protected our freedoms and continue to help us now. And thank you to the many folks who have given so generously.

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