



# SHOP LOCAL for the Holidays



## Keep it local

### Shopping Small

• You may have already heard more mainstream statistics regarding your dollars (such as when you spend

\$100 at a local business, approximately \$68 stays in the local economy, rather than just the \$43 if you would spend that same money at a big-box store). But did you also know that small businesses accounted for more than half the jobs that have been created in the last decade?

• Additionally, small businesses donate 250 percent more than corporate businesses to non-profits and to community-based causes, according to the Seattle Good Business Network.

• While some shoppers won't purchase items directly on Shop Small Saturday, the shopping holiday has definitely increased small business awareness. People have begun to shop small on other days and more consistently throughout the year.

### Small Business Saturday

• Small Business Saturday started in 2010. That year, the event was sponsored and promoted by American Express to encourage the growth of

small businesses.

• Small Business Saturday 2017 saw 108 million shoppers who spent approximately \$12.9 billion.

• The state-by-state breakdown of the day shows that a majority of participation was through restaurants and bars, with 41 percent of people dining local. This was followed by purchases of clothing and accessories from small businesses (24 percent), grocery stores (23 percent) and then coffee shops (22 percent).

### The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Shopping local is the ultimate gift you can give your community and it is an incredibly patriotic act. By shopping local, you keep your money local, investing in the place that invests in you.

Read on for some inspiring reasons to shop local.

### You Make Your Town the Place to Be

Local shops and businesses are

what gives a town its flavor. By spending money in local shops – especially those that support local makers – you are making a statement that you appreciate those trades and would like to see them remain in the area. Supporting those businesses can even attract more people to your area. Towns and cities with vibrant downtown areas are hot spots during the shopping season, resulting in more revenue for many related businesses, organizations and tourism bureaus.

### You Help Shape Your Community

A community's small businesses are what give a town or city its heart; these are places that help shape your town's character and personal brand. Locally owned businesses tend to stock the items and products that they know will sell well. By purchasing from small businesses,

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www.thecortlandnews.com

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Cortland City

www.cityofcortland.org

Mayor

City Hall

Fax

Clerk of Council

Service Director

330-637-4003

330-637-3916

330-637-4778

330-638-0142

330-637-4637

Police/Fire

Emergency

Dispatch

Police - Business

Fire - Business

911

330-675-2730

330-638-1000

330-637-2891

Meetings

City Council - first and third Monday of each month

Monday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

Cortland City Council meeting minutes

Read the minutes from Cortland City Council meetings at <http://www.cityofcortland.org/> under City Council Minutes.

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

Cortland City Council Meetings are now on TV

Parks and Recreation - second Monday of each month

Monday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m.

Planning & Zoning - second Monday of each month

Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.

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

Bazetta Township

www.bazettatwp.org

Admin Building

3372 State Route 5

Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector and Cemetery Sexton

Road Department

Police Department

330-637-8816

fax: 330- 637-4588

330-637-8816

330-637-8311

330-638-5503

Fire - Police - Rescue

Fire Station #11 -

Non Emergency calls

911

330-637-4136

330-675-2730

Meetings

Bazetta Township Trustees Regular Meetings

Regular meetings the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 9 a.m. - A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7 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, Dec. 10, 6 p.m. - Lakeview High School Media Center

Area Service Clubs

Cortland-Bazetta Historical Society and Museum

Sally Lane 330-638-2330

The Opera House

Kathy Fleischer 330-219-4884

Cortland Beautification Association

Mary Kachurik 330-637-3098

Cortland Lions Club

Mike Hummell 330-372-7951

Moose Lodge #1012

330-637-9957

Warren-Trumbull Branch of AAUW

Jennifer Soloman 330-637-3483

Cortland Masonic Lodge #529

330-638-3110

Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF)

330-720-9136

Bazetta-Cortland Optimist Club

Charlie Harper 330-847-0114

Cortland Rotary Club

Donna Zuga

Four Seasons Garden Club

Becky Bucco 330-637-9115

Friends of the Cortland Library

Di Matijejevic 330-637-2717

League of Women Voters of Trumbull County

Terri Crabbs 330-637-3845

SCOPE

Darlene Fry / Diane Jordan 330-637-3010

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

Carla Kahler 330-856-2356

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

Our Next Issue....Dec. 15, 2018

Our theme will be Happy Holidays

Article Deadline by Nov. 30 • Display Advertising Deadline is Dec. 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Vasilios

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Fox Run Publishing, L.L.C.

Jim Woofter

Publisher/ Owner

330-565-2637

[info@cortlandnews.net](mailto:info@cortlandnews.net)

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

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

Article submissions to:


[editor@cortlandnews.net](mailto:editor@cortlandnews.net)


Display and classified advertising and photographs to:

[sales@cortlandnews.net](mailto:sales@cortlandnews.net)

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

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# Community Events

## Event Calendar November 24-December 15

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. *See pg. 2 and 7*

Lakeview Local School activities and sports schedules visit [www.lakeviewlocal.org](http://www.lakeviewlocal.org).

American Red Cross blood donations, various dates. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or 1-800-733-2767.

OhioCAN (Change Addiction Now) of Trumbull County Blessing Bags Drive, donation bin lobby of Cortland Administration Building, through Dec. 24. *See pg. 8*

Cortland Holiday Decorating Contest, entry application now-Dec. 1; winners announced Dec. 20. *See pg. 6*

Toys for Tots collection by Cortland Fire Dept., through Dec. 4. *See pg. 7*

Salvation Army Red Kettle Collection, various dates. *See pg. 9*

Salvation Army "Angel Tree Program," held by Cortland Police Dept. through Dec. 7. *See pg. 10*

Cortland Branch Library events. *See pg. 11*

"Corvettes of the Valley," National Packard Museum, 1899 Mahoning Avenue NW, Warren, through April 14, 2019.

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

North Bloomfield Historical Society O27 Lionel model train show, Town Hall, 2-5 p.m. every Saturday and 5-8 p.m. every Wednesday in December. *See pg. 22*

Youngstown Nighthawks Soccer League, Cortland League schedule, visit [www.facebook.com/ytownnighthawks](http://www.facebook.com/ytownnighthawks)

### NOVEMBER

- 24 Cortland Christmas in Lights light up night event, Rotary Park, 6 p.m. *See pg. 7*
- 24 Cortland Christian Church Holiday Craft Fair and Gingerbread House Contest, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. *See pg. 18*

### DECEMBER

- 1 SCOPE Senior Services Revive-A-Thon fitness event, SCOPE Senior Center located at Warren YWCA, 9-11 a.m. *See pg. 15*
- 1 Cortland Playroom Preschool Lunch with Santa, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. *See pg. 5*
- 2 W.D. Packard Band Christmas Concert, Packard Music Hall, 1703 Mahoning Ave., Warren, 2 p.m.
- 2 20th Annual TUBACHRISTMAS, Stambaugh Auditorium, Youngstown, 2 p.m.
- 2-4 St. Stephen Parish mission "The Loving Mercy of God," 7 p.m., 129 W. Park Ave., Niles. *See pg. 17*
- 7 W.D. Packard Concert Band Jingle Bell Swing Concert, Packard Music Hall, 1703 Mahoning Ave., Warren, 7:30 p.m.
- 8 St. Robert Bellarmine's High School Youth Ministry's Living Nativity performance, 6:30 p.m. *See pg. 20*
- 9 USA Dance (Youngstown Warren Chapter #2015) Snowflake Ball, Avon Oaks Ballroom, 1401 N. State St., Girard, 4-9 p.m.
- 15 Cortland Christian Church Christmas cookie sale, 9 a.m.-noon. *See pg. 19*

## Shopping from page 1

you are helping to dictate the items they sell, as well as their overall success in the community.

### You Support Your Neighbors

Well, maybe not technically your neighbors, but definitely others who live in your area. Not only do small businesses account for more than 99 percent of all the business in the country (that is a lot of jobs), but they support and give to local programs. One of the most popular ways small businesses give back is through sponsoring little league teams and major community events. And shopping local doesn't stop at purchasing gifts. Consider shopping local with your groceries or opening up a savings account at a local bank to save for your Christmas shopping all year round.

### Shop Local Fast Facts

Shopping local has become on trend thanks in large part to nationwide marketing campaigns. In fact, Small Business Saturday has become a shopping holiday in its own right — and fares well against its more big-box competitors Black Friday and Cyber Monday.


This is what it means to shop local in the United States.

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**Attorney Robert M. Platt**  
announces he is returning to the  
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## Attorney Platt returns to law practice



Attorney Platt started his law career with Gessner & Platt in 1974 after clerking for the firm for three years. Prior to that he taught at Southington High School for three years. Mr. Platt graduated from Cortland High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree at Otterbein University. He acquired his law degree Akron Law School attending at night from 1969 through 1974.

When asked his favorite part of being a judge he said it was the ability to help people through the process of getting their lives back to normal through the court. "It is a wonderful feeling when you see someone turn their lives around and realize that you were a part of that process," he said.

He and Judge Campbell of the Central District Court contributed \$150,000 of court monies to the Trumbull County Mental Health Board to fight addiction.

He has been married to his wife Sue for 49 years and they have two adult children, Wendy and Justin. He has lived in Cortland for over 50 years.

You can make an appointment by contacting his office at Gessner & Platt CO. LPA, 212 W. Main St. in Cortland, 330-637-3906. We wish him well as he returns to the full-time endeavor of helping others.

Attorney Robert M. Platt announces he is returning to the full time practice of law after retiring as Judge of the Eastern District County Court effective Dec. 31, 2018. He was elected to the bench in 2012 and Ohio law limits judicial terms due to age.

He will continue to serve the residents of Trumbull County in the general practice of law including trust, estates, wills, OVI, traffic and misdemeanors in Trumbull County Municipal and county courts as well as domestic and juvenile law.

## Mill Creek MetroParks receives donation from Home Savings

Home Savings recently donated a check for \$12,500 to Mill Creek MetroParks. The funds were used for the installation of fencing around the Dek Hockey Rink.

"A Dek hockey rink was constructed at the site of the former ice rink at the Wick Recreation Area in Mill Creek MetroParks. This project has returned recreation to a facility in our park which has been closed for nearly 15 years," explained Chris Litton, director of development, Mill Creek MetroParks. "Our program is modeled after several very successful Dek programs throughout Greater

Pittsburgh. We will reach our target audience by forming organized leagues and clinics at the rink. Mill Creek will utilize strategic alliances by working with local youth organizations."

"We're very pleased to be able to support Mill Creek MetroParks," said Trish Gelsomino, Home Savings. "Mill Creek MetroParks continues to contribute to the educational and recreational life of the Mahoning Valley and we are thrilled to be a part of that."

For more information regarding Mill Creek MetroParks call 330-702-3000 or visit [MillCreekMetroParks.org](http://MillCreekMetroParks.org).

## Easter Seals receives donation from Home Savings

Home Savings recently donated a check for \$2,000 to Easter Seals of Mahoning Trumbull and Columbiana counties. The funds were used to sponsor the summer program at the Community Center for the Deaf (CCD). This summer program was designed specifically for deaf and hard of hearing children as well as cochlear implant children.

"Our summer program is designed to include fun and educational activities so that children learn in different environments with deaf adult mentors; and so they continue to use their American Sign

Language (ASL) skills that they may not get a chance to use during the summer months," explained Tim Nelson, president & CEO, Easter Seals. "Each summer, we coordinate at least five events with other northeast Ohio CCD offices and an additional eight other summer events for our Mahoning Valley area youth."

"We're proud to support Easter Seals of Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties," said Trish Gelsomino, Home Savings. "There are so many children that benefit from their services within our communities."



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## Why should you shop local? Here's the answers

By Thom Foley

If you are looking for a few reasons to shop local or wondering what the local merchants have to offer we wanted to help. We asked our advertisers to tell us why YOU should shop with them this Christmas. Here are their answers.

If you want to give someone a delicious gift then give them Auntie V's HOMEMADE COOKIES. All the deliciousness with none of the mess. Sooo goood!

Sparkle Market says "Let us help you with your holiday needs. Assorted bakery, meat, cheese trays and fruit baskets available to order." (AND they have the BEST DONUTS anywhere - ask anyone!)

Jody Sova is not only your Neighborhood Realtor - she is also your neighbor. Nobody cares like she does! Call Jody!

Why buy local? At Cortland Mower we pride ourselves in creating a relationship with our fellow community members. We repair our customer's products before we repair anyone else's.

JoMarie's School of Dance & Gymnastics has been teaching children for 45 years with a friendly, fun, and positive perspective. Our philosophy is if you believe it you can achieve it and attitude is everything. (And if you haven't checked out their NINJA WARRIOR program you should. Don't tell the kids it is exercise - they think it's FUN!)

Campbell Carpet & Flooring will provide you with the personalized service and quality installation that you deserve. No cost in home consultation with estimate. We have quality carpeting and flooring

Mayflower Wollam Insurance has been helping the residents of Cortland since 1920. They can save you money and give you honest impartial advice.

Chrissy's Lake Tavern is a great restaurant with an unbelievable menu. Relaxed atmosphere, quality food and family priced. There is a reason those burgers and wings win awards - they are delicious!

At Guidelight Financial Group, we look to bring all the pieces of your financial life together, from cash management to retirement planning, to help you reach your

financial goals. Give us a call today for a free consultation with one of our advisors

It's Play-time at Music 101! Dedicated to education and proud to support local school music programs! Certified instrument repair service, personalized individual music lessons for all ages and excellent products and rentals all make us a top-choice for your local needs. Your patronage helps us build stronger local connections and enables us to support area school band programs and college music events.

Hand crafted wine, gift baskets, gift certificates and more is what you will find at Country Porch Winery. Carry out or relaxing atmosphere. #FRIENDSGATHERHERE

Action Physical Therapy - local professionals helping their friends and neighbors.

Beef 'O' Brady's is where friends go to watch the game, have great food and fun times.

At Centerra we have everything from wild bird feed, high quality dog and foods and treats to everything your farm animals need.

Cortland Lanes offers Cosmic Bowling on the weekend, leagues for all ages and abilities. Great family fun for everyone. Locally owned for over 50 years!

Furniture Décor & More has quality furniture and decorations at a fraction of the cost. Miss a day and you miss a lot.

Greenwood Insurance - helping our friends and neighbors for over 60 years ... where good advice is always free.

Petrosky Brothers Construction has been helping to build Cortland for 25 years. Let us help you with your next project.

Shafer Winans is there when you need us the most.

TNT Well Drilling and Repairs - the company you can count on.

Noble Reynolds Insurance is where you go to get help. We are a family business serving other families for over 50 years.

Vasilio's Family Restaurant offers carry out catering, a party room and great food at family prices. Let our family feed your family. Now open for breakfast.

## Business News and Notes

By Thom Foley

**Vlad Pediatrics** has been taking care of the children of our community for decades.

**Vasilio's** has carry out catering as well as a great party room for your holiday events.

**Aunt V's Pizzeria** has a couple of great coupon offers in their ad this issue.

Did you know that **Centerra** has one of the largest selections of wild bird seeds anywhere around? And they are on sale!

I had **Chrissy's Lake Tavern's** award winning wings the other night WOW! So good and so BIG!

**Dr. Lynn Johnson and Cortland Pediatrics** collected over **40 pounds** of Halloween candy and shipped to service men and women through Operation Gratitude. They want to thank the hundreds of patients who contributed.

**Girt's Music101Ohio.com** excitedly welcomes its newest private percussion instructor Anthony Tresky! Now accepting new students at Girt's Cortland Music 101.

**Greenwood Insurance** reminds you that the Medicare deadline is Dec 7. See Barry Piper for honest advice on which program is best for you.

**Mackenzie Catering at Gardenbrook** does carry out catering for your holiday party. Let them do the work - you do the eating!

Did you know that **Mark Thomas Ford** is an award-winning dealership? They were voted one of the top tier dealerships in the entire nation! Go to local people you can trust.

Do you need a **Santa Claus** for your Christmas party? See his ad in this issue.

When you are feeling the aches and pains from all the hustle and bustle of the holidays remember that **Action Physical Therapy** can have you back up and running (or walking) again quickly.

**Attorney Martin Nosich** does a general practice of law as well as domestic, wills, OVI, traffic and misdemeanors.

I see that **Campbell Carpet & Flooring** just installed new flooring in my neighbor's home. They did mine also. Let them do yours.

I hope you don't get into a fender-bender this year, but if you do, remember that **Daffron Auto Body** is the place to go to get it fixed up better than new.

Have you tried Cosmic Bowling yet? Call **Cortland Lanes** to see what all the excitement is about.

**Cortland Playroom Preschool** is hosting a Lunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a magic show and, of course, a visit from SANTA! It is open to the public and includes lunch. Call 330-637-2296 for details.

**Greenwood Insurance** is giving away a \$50 gift card to Sparkle Market. Just visit their Facebook page or drop in for details. Drawing is Dec. 12.

Don't forget that **JoMarie's School of Dance & Gymnastics** sells gift cards for their NINJA WARRIOR classes. Kids exercise while having fun and learning other values.

**Country Porch Winery** will have "POP UP CHEF" Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m. Crepes made fresh to order.



Sauni Shafer  
Administrative Assistant

### Shafer Winans

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## Holiday decorating contest

Dig out your holiday lights, blowups, reindeer and decorations because a new Cortland tradition is about to start. Decorate your home and yard in the most creative or festive way possible. Decorations must be visible from the roadway. All entries will be judged on a scale of 1-4 in these categories: Wow Factor, Completeness, Originality, Theme, and Creativity. Participants must ensure that all lights, animations, blowups and decorations are in place and in working order by Dec. 15 and 16 in order to be judged. Contest is for exterior decorations only, including window decorations visible from the exterior.

Judges for the event include Cortland Fire Chief David Rea, Cortland Police Chief David Morris and Donna Zuga, president of the Cortland Rotary. Prizes will be awarded to the home(s) that accumulate the highest scores.

The entry application is now until Dec. 1, with the winners announced on

Dec. 20. The judging period is Dec. 15 through Dec. 16, from 6 to 9 p.m.

All residents within the city of Cortland are eligible to participate and can enter their place of residence. Applications are available at Cooper's Cycle and Fitness, Sparkle Market and Brothers Pizza, or by emailing [lightupcortland@yahoo.com](mailto:lightupcortland@yahoo.com). All applications are due by 5 p.m. Dec. 1 and can be dropped off or mailed to Cooper's Cycle and Fitness, ATTN: Decorating Contest, 134 N. High St., Cortland, OH 44410.

Applications may also be submitted by email by sending all required information to: [lightupcortland@yahoo.com](mailto:lightupcortland@yahoo.com). Each applicant will receive a Decorating Contest Instruction sheet and an Entry Number Card (for display in front window or in view of judges) no less than one day prior to the judging period. The first 25 applicants will also receive a gift for participating.

## 2018 Cortland Oktoberfest Making A Difference

By Daynelle Sanner

The Love Life Foundation would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Cortland Community and beyond for the continued love and support in the success of the 2018 Cortland Oktoberfest. We appreciate all who believe in our mission and vision of both the Love Life Foundation and Cortland Lions Club.

A special thank you to the L.O.A.F churches for their prayers, presence, support and encouragement prior, during and after the event. Also, to the multitude of volunteers that were hands on in a variety of ways, we thank you! From the initial planning, to the preparation, the implementation of the vision and finally the dismantling, this event could not have come to fruition without each volunteer!

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the Local 573 for the electrical set up and various needs throughout the event. The Lakeview Soccer team deserves a huge thank you for their efforts to serve so willingly and assist in the cleanup. The quote by, John Heywood, "Many hands make light work," is truth! We appreciate each of you!

The 2018 Cortland Oktoberfest accomplished in creating a piece of

Jarrett Hutton's vision of loving life with all and for all! The 2018 Cortland Oktoberfest gave more than the immediate visibility of appetizing food options, unique creations in both Art Alley and the craft vendor area, beyond the games, entertainment and the opening on Saturday with the MOE-Mentum Trail Run! This event brought laughter, joy, handshakes, silliness, conversation and hugs! Families spending time together, friendships created, sharing a smile or conversation with a stranger! Many children coloring on the sidewalk or being creative with arts and crafts was heart-warming to watch. Those individuals stepping up to sing karaoke or cooking for a friendly competition in the Chili Cook-Off or chatting with a friend over a beer at Tangled Up In Brew! Every element of the 2018 Cortland Oktoberfest was carefully thought out to embrace the mission and vision of the Love Life Foundation. We will continue to foster creativity, positivity, faith and ingenuity, to be encouraging to others and to inspire through the arts!

Thank you to all for coming, enjoying and supporting this wonderful community event and helping make a difference! LOVE LIFE!

## Countdown to concert

By Carole Wiley

In just a few short weeks "Christmas in Cortland" will take place! The date is Monday, Dec. 17. The time is 7 p.m. The place is Ridel Auditorium at Lakeview High School. The Cortland Community Band is hard at work on Wednesday evenings rehearsing their various Christmas selections. The choir is practicing its music, all of which is just plain

beautiful! The concert is free. And that fact is something to celebrate as very things are free these days! Any monetary donations collected at the door will go to Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF). The concert is one week from Christmas Eve, a great time to attend this joyous hometown event as we prepare for the birth of our Savior and Lord. Merry Christmas!





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

By Christine Dorna, administrative assistant

### Blessing Bag Project

Trumbull County Strong, a local non-profit group, is holding a service project to aid our local homeless population. A donation bin is located in the lobby of the Cortland Administration Building. Items can be left there through Dec. 31. Trumbull County Strong members will gather the items, assemble the bags and distribute them to those in need. A list of the items being collected can be found on the city website or call 330-637-3916 for more information.

### Toys for Tots

The Cortland Fire Dept. is accepting new and unwrapped toys through Dec. 4 for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

### Water and Sewer

The city of Cortland is excited to announce that customers may now access their water and sewer account online. You may pay your bill online, view your bill and usage as well your usage history and elect to enroll in autopay as well as e-billing.

To set up your customer account please visit <https://cortlandoh.authoritypay.com>

You will need a CID (Customer ID number) and account number. You will find those numbers on your new bill. If you would like to set up an account online before you get your next bill please call us at 330-637-3916. We will be happy to give you your customer ID number and account number.

### Dates to Remember

- Dec. 3 - Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10 - Parks Meeting - 5 p.m.
- Dec. 10 - Planning & Zoning Commission - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 - Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25 - City offices will be closed.

## New software streamlines City Hall

By Sally Lane

When customers of the city's water and sewer utilities open their next bill, they will see a difference. No, the rates didn't go up, but the bill itself will look a little different. For one thing, you will see your usage history, and for another, there will be a place to sign up for autopay if you would like, or for paying online when you receive your bill if autopay isn't your preference. Unless you like making a trip to City Hall every three months to pay your bill, or don't mind trying to find an envelope and stamp, you will like the new system.

By the way, that older option of mailing in payments or paying in person at City Hall is still available. "However," adds Finance Director Patty Gibson, "for the next couple of billing cycles, we will only accept checks or cash if paying at City Hall. After that we then will be able to accept credit cards." Credit cards are accepted through the online portal.

Gibson knew that the old billing method needed upgrading, and researched ways for over a year before choosing Muni-Link utility billing software. "I couldn't believe how

efficient it would be," she said. "Our software is hosted at Tier-4 World-Class Data Center and keeps your data safer than it would be at a typical brick and mortar building," she said. At Muni-Link there are onsite security officers around the clock, 24/7, closed circuit TV, biometric and magnetic key card access to name just a few of the security measures in place.

Benefits to customers include allowing you to access your information 24/7 from anywhere. You may pay your bill online, view your bill and usage as well as your usage history and elect to enroll in autopay as well as e-billing. Paper billing will continue unless you opt for e-billing, but you may pay online.

To set up your customer account, please visit <https://cortlandoh.authoritypay.com>. You will need a CID (Customer ID number) and account number. You will find those numbers on your new bill. If you would like to set up an account online before you get your next bill please call 330-637-3916 and the office will be happy to give you your customer ID number and account number.

## Light up night at Rotary Park

Cortland Christmas in Lights will be having a light up night event at Rotary Park as well as a holiday home decorating contest. The light up night will be Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. There will be hot chocolate and cookies for sale and the proceeds will be donated to Lakeview High School Band Uniform Fund.



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## SANTA LUNCH AT THE CORTLAND PLAYROOM PRESCHOOL, INC.

The Cortland Playroom Preschool, Inc. is having a

**Santa Lunch that will be open to our children**

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**FROM  
the  
Garden**

By Kathleen Ferris, Master Gardener

Snow is coming, snow is coming and there are still chores to do before walking away from the garden until spring. Maybe the word chore is a little too strong to use this time of the year, garden tasks sounds better. I still have some time, Indian summer will bring some nice weather. I need to wrap my Nikko hydrangeas.

There is still time to plant spring blooming bulbs, the ground is not frozen, plant until it is. Remember to plant the bulbs with pointed tips facing up, water them in thoroughly so the roots become established.

Now is the time to clean and sharpen tools so you don't waste precious time in the spring. Store watering hoses and empty, clean and put away containers. For fun, consider purchasing a balled and burlaped live Christmas tree. If you decide on one, dig the hole for the tree now before the ground freezes, makes planting the tree much easier after the holiday. Don't keep the tree in the house longer than a week, and place it in the garage for a few days to help transition the tree back to cooler temperatures, then plant.

Plant amaryllis and paperwhites for holiday bloom. Paperwhites usually flower in two to three weeks and amaryllis take up to six to eight weeks. You can extend the bloom time by staggering the potting

time. A word of caution about paperwhites, you will either love or hate their fragrance.

If there is a gardener on your shopping list, there are cool gardening gifts for those family members and friends. Some choices include gardening magazine subscriptions, memberships to arboretums or gardens, (like Fellows Riverside Garden), garden tools including power tools, gift certificates to local garden centers or unique mail-order nurseries and bulb distributors. Gardening books on favorite plants, DIY books and garden journals are also great gift ideas.

If you are thinking about purchasing poinsettias either as gifts or for yourself, select plants that are in tight bud so they last for the entire season. A poinsettia's actual flowers are small, yellow and are in the center of the showy colored leaf like bracts. The freshest poinsettias won't be blooming yet and will have tight green buds. If the yellow flowers look like they are producing powdery yellow pollen or have started turning brown, the poinsettia is past its prime. Find a fresh one.

Happy gardening!

Kathleen Ferris is a Trumbull County Ohio State Extension Master Gardener and a Cortland resident.

## Blessing Bags Drive

OhioCAN (Change Addiction Now) of Trumbull County is sponsoring a service project to aid the homeless population in our area. Cold weather is fast approaching. The need is great and we can make a difference by providing a few basic necessities and comfort items. A donation bin is located in the lobby of the Cortland Administration Building. Items can be dropped off there. OhioCAN will pick them up, assemble the bags and distribute them to those in need. The

drive will run through Dec. 24.

Blessing Bag Supplies: New or gently used backpacks, gallon size zip lock bags, notes of encouragement (poem, passage, quotes or letters).

Personal Items: Toiletries such as; travel or hotel size shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothbrush kit, dental floss, soap, deodorant, feminine products, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, tissues, lip balm, razors, travel first aid kits, Band-Aids, combs and hair rubber bands.

Food, treats and drinks: Cookies or cracker snack bags, chips, tuna kits, beef jerky or dehydrated meat sticks, breakfast or granola bars, oatmeal packets, trail mix, dried fruit, fruit cups, assorted chocolate, chewing gum, fruit snacks, individually wrapped hard candy, breath mints, suckers, bottled water, energy drinks, juice boxes, instant coffee, hot chocolate packets and plastic spoons/forks.

Items for warmth: (New or gently used) child to adult size: warm socks, gloves, hats, blankets, hand warmers.

Tools for connecting with loved ones: Stationary, envelopes, pens, note pads and stamps.

Any items collected will be greatly appreciated. For additional details, please refer to the city website [www.cityofcortland.org](http://www.cityofcortland.org) or contact City Hall at 330-637-3916.

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By Ptl. Brandon Rice  
Cortland Police Dept./School Resource Officer

With the holiday season in full swing we hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving complete with plenty of good food and family time. I would like to just remind everyone a few tips for this holiday season.

First, while out shopping and in between stores do not leave packages in plain view inside your vehicle. Always try and secure items in the trunk or rear cargo area. Items left out in plain view can be tempting for thieves to break into your vehicle and steal your purchases. Also, do not leave valuables or personal items such as purses and cell phones unattended while shopping. These items are easy for someone to take and conceal without being obvious. Once you get home with your purchases, if any large boxes are being set out to the garbage, try and break them down so they are not as obvious. Thieves will use these boxes to gain an idea of what products are inside a residence and could be tempted to break in. Lastly, be sure to use extra caution while driving this holiday season. There is an increase in traffic due to people traveling and shopping and being aware of your driving and your surroundings could help prevent a crash or accident. If possible try and shop locally as well, as this helps support our community and family owned shops.

Heading into winter driving season it is also a good time to make sure your vehicle is prepared for the Ohio winter driving. Have your vehicle serviced for any routine maintenance and check your

battery to make sure it will be reliable during the cold winter starts. A good thing to have in your vehicle is a few blankets and a roadside emergency kit. This kit can include items as simple as a flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots and a first-aid kit. Also, make sure to have an ice scraper available and clear your windows of snow and ice before driving. We have all probably witnessed vehicles being operated on the road with a small clearing on the front window for the driver to see out of. This is only unsafe for the driver also for other nearby motorists. Also, make sure your mobile phone is charged and ready to use in an emergency.

If you are planning on traveling out of town during the holiday season please remember CPD offers residential vacation checks. Simply call the police station at 330-638-1000 to speak with an officer to complete a spot check and either the administrative assistant or an officer can take all of your info for the spot check form. Officers will then conduct random checks of your property during the provided dates and notify you of any issues.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season this year. Any questions feel free to contact us at 330-638-1000. As always, we remind you to follow us on Facebook @ Cortland Police and on Instagram @ Cortlandpdohio. Also on Drund (Lakeview Schools) as Cortland PD SRO's.

## Red Kettle helps area residents

By Jean Bolinger

You are now probably aware that it is Red Kettle time again as you are seeing Salvation Army Red Kettles manned by dedicated bell ringers faithfully standing at numerous retail stores in the area. As a matter of fact, you will no doubt see them at retail stores wherever you may be around the country.

The red kettles are a well-known symbol of the Salvation Army and its work to assist families everywhere who need a little boost. Members of Cortland area churches volunteer each December on specific weekends to ring the bell and gratefully accept your gifts at Cortland Sparkle and the center door of Walmart.

There is something special about these two kettle locations. All money that is given at Sparkle and the center door of Walmart on certain days stays in this area. There is a Cortland Unit of the Salvation Army that accepts requests for financial help for things such as utilities, medications and transportation to medical appointments. A family may be given up to \$250 in a calendar year.

The Cortland Unit bases its budget on the amount of money collected at local red kettles in December. Without the help of the community many people in need cannot be given assistance. So when you see a red kettle at the Cortland Sparkle

on Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14 or 15; at the middle (retail) door of Walmart Dec. 7 or 8, please be generous with your gift as you will be directly assisting your "neighbors." If you don't carry cash the Unit accepts checks in the kettle or you can send a check to P.O. Box 536 in Cortland.

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# High blood pressure: The silent killer

By Ashley Wolanzyk  
Youngstown State University senior nursing student

I want to raise awareness on a very important health topic: high blood pressure. Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure. Blood pressure is defined as the force of blood pushing against the walls of arteries. If your blood pressure stays high for a long time, it can damage your heart and lead to health problems. High blood pressure has no warning signs or symptoms, and many people do not know they have it. The only way to know if you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked by your health care provider.

Here are the guidelines for knowing what your blood pressure reading means. Blood pressure is measured with two numbers. The first number is called the systolic pressure and the second number is called the diastolic pressure. Normal blood pressure is considered less than 120/80. Prehypertension is the stage of increased blood pressure right before you develop the condition of high blood pressure. Prehypertension is a reading from 120/80 up to 138/89. Stage 1 hypertension (high blood pressure) is considered 140/90 to 159/99. Stage 2 hypertension (high blood pressure) is considered anything over 160/100.

According to the Center of Disease Control, about 75 million American adults have high blood pressure. If you have one of these conditions, you may be at risk for developing high blood pressure: diabetes, high cholesterol, or impaired renal function. Other

factors that can increase your risk of developing high blood pressure are: a family history of cardiovascular disease, African American ethnicity, men older than 55, and women older than 65. Unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, alcohol consumption, obesity and physical inactivity also increase your risk.

High blood pressure is a major contributor to cardiac, cerebrovascular, renal and peripheral vascular disease. It damages blood vessels throughout the body, especially in the heart, kidneys and brain. High blood pressure directly affects the heart and can lead to heart disease, heart failure, heart attack or hypertrophy (enlargement) of the heart. It also affects the kidneys by contributing to chronic kidney disease and renal failure. The brain can be affected as high blood pressure is a leading cause of strokes.

The best way to prevent high blood pressure is by being informed. Have your blood pressure checked regularly, know what puts you at risk, and try to lead a healthy lifestyle to minimize those risks. Remember that high blood pressure is often called the silent killer because it does not have any warning signs or symptoms. One out of every three adults in the U.S. has high blood pressure, and it is so important for our community members to be knowledgeable about this condition in order to prevent it the best we can!

# To TheEditor

Dear Editor:

Coming home with an infant who is only days old brings many challenges, changes and fears. One of the biggest fears of parents and caregivers is the safety of a child, which doesn't explain why thousands of infants are dying yearly due to unsafe sleep. According to the Ohio Department of Health nearly 3,500 deaths occur every year in the U.S. due to infants having an unsafe sleep environment, including Ohio with an average rate of three infant deaths per week. Infants spend most of their early months sleeping, which is why education on safe sleeping habits needs to be provided to the general public and early before pregnancy. The Ohio Department of Health promotes the Safe Sleep ABCs: promoting babies to sleep alone (A), on their backs (B), and in their cribs (C).

By following the Safe Sleep ABCs, an infant's likelihood to die from accidental suffocation and SIDS drastically decrease. A recommended safe sleep environment would include a firm surface such as a crib mattress covered with a fitted sheet and free of any pillows, blankets, crib bumpers, loose bedding and soft objects or toys. The most common unsafe sleep spaces for infants include adult beds, couches, chairs, and being held. According to the CDC 61 percent of unsafe sleeping environments include any form of bed sharing, 39 percent include the use of soft bedding, and 22 percent include not placing an infant on their back to sleep.

Although the U.S. has shown a steady decline in unsafe sleep related deaths since 1990, the rates are still drastically high for the amount of research and education that has been provided. Education needs to no longer center on parents and caregivers, but expand to the general public overall. A great way to educate the public is by running ads on buses, billboards, newspapers and television commercials. Publicizing the importance of safe sleep to everyone versus a specific group of individuals, such as parents, will provide a stronger base of followers and could provide a large improvement in the participants adopting safe sleeping habits. Something as simple as following the Safe Sleep ABCs will drastically decrease the rates of accidental sleep related deaths across the nation, and education provided to the general public could be the missing link needed.

Alayna O'Rourke

## References

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# Salvation Army Angel Tree

By Terri Barnovsky

The Cortland Police Dept. is participating in the Salvation Army "Angel Tree Program" this year. The program provides gifts of new clothing and toys to thousands of children who otherwise might not have anything for Christmas.

Children who are recipients of Angel Tree gifts are from families who have applied for Christmas assistance through the Social Services program of the Salvation Army. Recipients are individually screened to verify need and determine they were not served by other holiday programs.

The program provides new clothing or toys for children of needy families through the support of donors. "When you pick up an Angel Tree tag, you and The Salvation Army brighten Christmas for a child in need."

Angel tree tags can be picked up at the Cortland Police Station/ Administration Building. All gifts need to be returned by Dec. 7.

We thank the Cortland community in advance for your support of this program to help children experience the joy of Christmas morning.



# LIBRARY NEWS

## Cortland Branch Library events in December

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.

### Preschool Storytime

Monday at 6 p.m.: Dec. 3

Tuesday at 11 a.m.: Dec. 4

Preschool Storytime features stories and a craft related to a weekly theme and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write, and mastering these skills now helps children grow up to be good readers! For children ages 3 - 5.

### A Cortland Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 6 from 6 - 7 p.m.

Get in the holiday spirit with a visit from Santa, holiday music from Dana School of Music graduate Tyler Guerrieri on guitar, and refreshments courtesy of the Friends of the Cortland Library. For all ages.

### LEGO Club

Drop-in Saturday between 1 - 2:30 p.m.: Dec. 8

Let your imagination run wild and create with our collection of LEGO building bricks. All structures will remain at the library. For children in grades K - 6.

### Ornament Making

Thursday, Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.

Children can create a few new ornaments to hang on the tree at home or to give as holiday gifts! For kids in grades K - 3. Registration is required by Dec. 6.

### Lib-ratory

Friday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m.

NEW! Early afternoon programs created with our homeschool community in mind! Activities are designed to promote collaboration, literacy, and critical thinking. For children in grades K - 6. Registration is required by Dec. 21.

### Book Bingo

Thursday, Jan. 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Kids can learn about the new books at the library while playing some fun rounds of BINGO! For children in grades 3 - 6. Registration is required by Jan. 3.



## Adopt A Pet



Scooter is a quiet lady with a sweet personality. She has been patiently waiting at Animal Welfare League for her forever home since December of 2017! Scooter has stolen the hearts of our staff and volunteers, and it is about time she steals the heart of her forever family. She is a pleasantly plump, 7-year old Domestic Shorthair with beautiful brown tabby markings. You can find her throughout the day lounging in a cat tree or playing with one of her roommates. Scooter seems to do well with other cats, and she is searching for that perfect fitness buddy to help her get in shape. If you are interested in having your heart stolen by this precious girl, visit her at Animal Welfare League. Her adoption fee is \$35 and includes her spay, vaccinations, FeLV/FIV testing, microchip with registration, and more.

If you are looking for a laid back dog, look no further. Girr is a gorgeous 6-year old brindle Pit mix. She was brought to Animal Welfare League in May 2018 when her owner could no longer care for her. She is quite playful, but is always down to relax. Girr enjoys being an independent lady, but she does seek affection from the people she loves. Due to her independent nature, Girr would thrive best in a home without small children. She is a sweet girl and has quickly become a staff and volunteer favorite! Her adoption fee is \$120 and includes her spay, vaccinations, heartworm testing, microchip with registration, and more. Come visit and fall in love with Girr at Animal Welfare League.

Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Adoptions close 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](http://www.awlrescueme.com).



"AWL Adopt A Pet" Brought to you by



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## Cortland Playroom fall excursion

The children of the Cortland Playroom got to venture out in the cold weather for a field trip to Ridgeview Farms in Mesopotamia. They got to enjoy a wagon ride, walked through a corn maze with clues to find, played and explored the Amish way of living in a barn and also fed goats. However, the best part was they got to go out into the field and pick out a pumpkin. Thank you Ridgeview Farms.



## When did I turn into a curmudgeon?

By C. Mitchum

I was shopping in a local grocery store recently. The store shall remain nameless to protect the innocent. While in the store, my wife and I were attempting to fill the shopping list. During this shopping trip I became painfully aware of a personal transformation. When did this tattooed, ear pierced member of Gen X turn into a curmudgeon?

What sparked this personal realization, you might ask? Allow me to explain...

A 30-something mother was also shopping in the store with her child; the child must have been around nine or ten years old. The child was running in front of the other shoppers, darting in and out of aisles, making it difficult for the other

shoppers. The mother was chatting away on her cell phone, oblivious to the chaos that was unfolding.

I turned to my wife and made the statement that solidifies my place in "curmudgeondom." "When I was a child; if I would have behaved that way..." Yikes! There it was, the statement that demonstrates my transformation. At that exact moment I realized that the change was complete- "curmudgeon." In my mind a scene from the Universal horror classic, "The Wolfman" was echoing in my mind. The scene where the old Gypsy woman is talking to Lon Chaney Jr. "Though the way you walked was thorny, though no fault of your own." That is the scene that I am referring to. At that precise moment I knew that the change was complete.

As you read this, I know that there is a baby boomer curmudgeon that is nodding his or her head in approval thinking- "yes, the force does indeed grow strong with this one."

## Travel Club outlines future trips

The Trumbull County Travel Club met earlier this month and provided information about the two major vacations planned for the 2019. On the calendar is the three-day and two-night motor coach trip to Holland, Mich. The trip is planned for May 7-9 and will visit the Holland Tulip Festival. This yearly festival is staged with one of the biggest parades complete with wooden shoe dancers and tulips abound.

In the fall, Sept. 9-17, members will motor coach to Chicago for their first night. The following afternoon the group will board a 2 p.m. train for La Crosse, Wis. Dinner will be included on the five hour ride by rail. Members will make their journey across the country to Rapid City, S.D. The jeep ride that members experienced in Custer State Park with the buffalo herds will still be included with the outing.

The first day trip is on the books for March 14, 2019. Walnut Creek is the club's destination to have lunch and see the live performance of "When Amish Eyes are Smiling." A chocolate make-it-and-take stop and a candle making stop are included in the day's adventure.

A brown bag day trip is planned for April before Easter. If members remember the great pie stop the club made, you'll know where the trip is heading again. Call 330-856-5398 for more information.

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Exposure to second-hand and third-hand smoke

Smoking and second-hand smoke (smoke from a burning cigarette and exhaled by a smoker) are unhealthy. Another danger is third-hand smoke, which is residue that lingers long after you empty the ash trays. According to the Cleveland Clinic Research, third-hand smoke is residual, or leftover, nicotine and other chemicals that remain on clothing and surfaces after someone smokes in the area. Dangerous residue from tobacco smoke sticks to carpets, walls and other surfaces after the smoke clears. Researchers believe these lingering chemicals can harm your body just like smoking and second-hand smoke can.

When you smoke in a room or car, toxic chemicals like nicotine cling to walls, clothing, upholstery and other surfaces, as well as your skin.

Third-hand smoke residue builds up over time on most surfaces it touches. It can remain for weeks, months or even years. It resists normal cleaning methods and you cannot “air it out” of rooms or cars with fans or vacuums, according to Dr. Choi of the Cleveland Clinic. He stated that sometimes the only solution is replacing carpets, repainting walls and/or cleaning ventilation systems. This is all very expensive and can result in costly property damage. Apartment units and condominiums where smoking has taken place require extensive turnover work and repairs at a significant cost for you. Surveys show that most tenants prefer smoke-free housing according to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation.

Everyone should have the right to a healthy, safe housing environment that’s free from toxic air. The American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation has helped many property owners and managers implement smoke-free policies that are legal, reduces tenant complaints, saves you money, reduces fire risk and is an amenity people are looking for.

If you would like more information on implementing smoke-free policies, please contact the Trumbull County Combined Health Department.

Mission at St. Stephen in preparation for Advent

St. Stephen Parish, Niles, as part of its ongoing 165th Anniversary year celebration, is sponsoring a mission “The Loving Mercy of God.” The mission will be presented by Fr. Brian Walker O.P., from the St. Pius V Dominican Community of Chicago, Ill. on Dec. 2-4 at 7 p.m. in the church, 129 W. Park Ave., Niles. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Dominican men in formation and older friars. For more information contact St. Stephen rectory at 330-652-4396.

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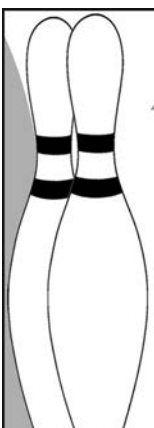
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### New tax laws may change how you approach your 2018 tax return

As 2018 winds down, it's time to think about if and how you may be able to reduce the taxes owed on your next tax return. New tax laws, which generally took effect on January 1 of this year, mean you may need to approach your tax strategy differently than you have in the past. Talk to your tax professional about whether the following five considerations apply to you:

#### 1. Claiming the standard deduction or itemizing deductions

As in prior years, you have the option to either take the standard deduction (an amount set by law and adjusted for inflation) or itemize deductions. The new tax laws nearly doubled the standard deduction, which may make it more attractive for people to choose this option. For individuals, it is now \$12,000 (up from \$6,350 in 2017) and for married couples filing jointly it is \$24,000 (up from \$12,700 in 2017). Those age 65 or older or who are legally blind may claim an additional standard deduction of \$1,300 to \$1,600, depending on your filing status.

However, if your total available itemized deductions are nearing the amount of the standard deduction, you may want to take steps to qualify for additional or increased deductions. Donating to charity, making an additional house payment with mortgage interest or for medical expenses (subject to an AGI floor) are common itemized deductions. Incurring these expenses in this calendar year may allow you to reduce your taxable income by more than the standard deduction. Certain limitations and deductions may no longer be available to you, so review your situation with a tax advisor.

If you believe you'll be closer to the threshold in 2019, you may want to delay deductible expenses until next year to the extent you are able to do so. Going forward, it might be beneficial to bunch deductible expenses in alternating years to utilize the itemized deduction option when you can.

As you review your tax strategy, remember that if you claim the standard deduction on your federal return you may still be able to itemize deductions on your state income tax return.

#### 2. Converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA

You can convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA anytime, however it may be more attractive to do so in this lower tax environment, particularly if you think you'll be taxed at the same or a higher rate in retirement. This is for two reasons. First, you may avoid higher future

taxes on the dollars earned in your Roth account. A Roth IRA differs from a traditional one because it is free from federal income taxes and the requirement to take a minimum distribution from the account after age 70 ½. This means you may be able to keep more of your hard-earned retirement dollars.

Second, converting triggers federal taxes because you would be withdrawing the money (which is considered taxable income) from the traditional IRA to put it into the Roth account. If you convert this year, you will pay the lower 2018 rates on this additional taxable income. This is a perk to taking action now, if converting to a Roth IRA is a strategy you're considering.

#### 3. Whether you are able to deduct state or local taxes

Under previous law, you were generally allowed to fully deduct your state and local income taxes (or state sales taxes, if elected) and property taxes from your income. Under the new law, the taxes are capped at \$10,000. This limit may impact your decision to itemize deductions.

#### 4. If you qualify for a deduction as a business owner

If you are a business owner in a sole proprietorship, partnership, LLC or S corporation, a new tax provision may apply to you: Twenty percent of your qualified business income may be deductible from your income. Certain limitations apply, including those based on your line of business and taxable income. The rules around this are complex, so contact a tax advisor for additional information.

#### 5. Reducing your taxable income

Many of the strategies previously used to reduce taxable income are still applicable under the new laws. A few to consider are:

- Deferring revenue into next year, if you're able to do so;
- Selling investments to generate capital losses that can help offset capital gains; and
- Increasing pre-tax contributions to workplace retirement plans to help boost savings while simultaneously reducing your current tax liability.

While it's always a good idea to be thoughtful about your tax strategy, the new tax laws mean it's important to prioritize reviewing your plan this year. Consult with a tax professional and financial advisor for guidance on the best financial strategy given your goals.

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

## Holiday Craft Fair at Cortland Christian Church

Cortland Christian Church is having a Holiday Craft Fair on Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many new and unique crafts will be displayed for sale, as well as gifts from around the world. There will also be steampunk jewelry, beach glass, other handcrafted jewelry, jams and jellies, hand sewn

and crocheted hats, scarves, ornaments, wood pallet art, Color Street, wall canvas artwork, Tupperware, hand knitted and crocheted accessories, Christmas decorations and a lot more wonderful items for gift giving. There will also be a bake sale and a soup and sandwich lunch.





## Taxable vs. tax-advantaged: Where to hold investments

### Taxable vs. Tax-advantaged: Where to Hold Investments

When investing for retirement or other long-term goals, people usually prefer tax-advantaged accounts, such as IRAs, 401(k)s or 403(b)s. Certain assets are well suited to these accounts, but it may make more sense to hold other investments in traditional taxable accounts.

#### Know the rules

Some investments, such as fast-growing stocks, can generate substantial capital gains, which may occur when you sell a security for more than you paid for it.

If you've owned that position for over a year, you face long-term gains, taxed at a maximum rate of 20 percent. In contrast, short-term gains, assessed on holding periods of a year or less, are taxed at your ordinary-income tax rate — maxing out at 37 percent. (Note: These rates don't account for the possibility of the 3.8 percent net investment income tax.)

#### Choose tax efficiency

Generally, the more tax efficient an investment, the more benefit you'll get from owning it in a taxable account. Conversely, investments that lack tax efficiency normally are best suited to tax-advantaged vehicles.

Consider municipal bonds ("munis"), either held individually or through mutual funds. Munis are attractive to tax-sensitive investors because their income is exempt from federal income taxes and sometimes state and local income taxes. Because you don't get a double benefit when you own an already tax-advantaged security in a tax-advantaged account, holding munis in your 401(k) or IRA would result in a lost opportunity.

Similarly, tax-efficient investments such as passively managed index mutual funds or exchange-traded funds, or long-term stock holdings, are generally appropriate for taxable accounts. These securities are more likely to generate long-term capital gains, which have more favorable tax treatment. Securities that generate more of their total return via capital appreciation or that pay qualified dividends are also better taxable account options.

#### Take advantage of income

What investments work best for

tax-advantaged accounts? Taxable investments that tend to produce much of their return in income. This category includes corporate bonds, especially high-yield bonds, as well as real estate investment trusts (REITs), which are required to pass through most of their earnings as shareholder income. Most REIT dividends are nonqualified and therefore taxed at your ordinary-income rate.

Another tax-advantaged-appropriate investment may be an actively managed mutual fund. Funds with significant turnover — meaning their portfolio managers are actively buying and selling securities — have increased potential to generate short-term gains that ultimately get passed through to you. Because short-term gains are taxed at a higher rate than long-term gains, these funds would be less desirable in a taxable account.

#### Get specific advice

The above concepts are only general suggestions. Please contact our firm for specific advice on what may be best for you.

#### Sidebar: Doing due diligence on dividends

If you own a lot of income-generating investments, you'll need to pay attention to the tax rules for dividends, which belong to one of two categories:

**1. Qualified.** These dividends are paid by U.S. corporations or qualified foreign corporations. Qualified dividends are, like long-term gains, subject to a maximum tax rate of 20 percent, though many people are eligible for a 15 percent rate. (Note: These rates don't account for the possibility of the 3.8 percent net investment income tax.)

**2. Nonqualified.** These dividends — which include most distributions from real estate investment trusts and master limited partnerships — receive a less favorable tax treatment. Like short-term gains, nonqualified dividends are taxed at your ordinary-income tax rate.

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](mailto:jennifer@jenjslycpa.com). To sign up for monthly newsletters you can visit her website at [www.jenjslycpa.com](http://www.jenjslycpa.com).

## SCOPE hosting a Revive-A-Thon fundraiser

SCOPE Senior Services will be hosting for the first time a Revive-A-Thon fitness event on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the SCOPE Senior Center located at the Warren YWCA.

Join Ann Johnson SCOPE's fitness Revive instructor for an "Off our Rockers" event. Ann will lead participants through this amazing morning with a combination of fitness programs including: Drums Alive, weights, bands, exercises, dance and crazy fun. Men and women of any age are invited to attend and participate.

There will be a light brunch afterward sponsored by Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital. Bring a friend or two for this "Off our

Rockers" event. Check in and payment will begin at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$20 per participant. The first 30 registrants will receive a Jetline cooling towel.

Pre-registration is required at the Warren SCOPE (YWCA), 375 N. Park Ave., Warren, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to noon or by calling 330-399-8846. Feel free to call for additional information.

Fitness and health programs have become more important especially for older citizens. The Revive-A-Thon will provide the opportunity to try out a variety of different fitness activities all in one place.

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## Cortland Christian Church Christmas cookie sale

The Cortland Christian Church will be holding a Christmas cookie sale on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Over 1,500 of the most popular cookies will be featured. There will be a lot of decorated cut-out sugar and gingerbread cookies to decorate your cookie trays. This has been a very popular event for over 10 years. Don't bother baking cookies through the holidays, just stop in and get the best here at Cortland Christian Church.

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## Family of Mathews Schools exchange student surprise son at senior night



Senior night for student athletes often marks the end of their high school athletic career. It's a time for the students to walk with their families in front of the hometown crowd and be recognized one final time.

Foreign exchange student Philip Dinges, who joined the Mathews High School football team when he arrived in America back in August, received those accolades as he was escorted across Booster Field by his host parents, Jodi and Lou "Pooch" Omerzo.

"It was Philip's dad's dream to see him play American football. Having raised three kids of my own, I knew how important this night would be for Philip's family," said Jodi Omerzo.

Not wanting his real parents to miss any of the experience of senior night, Omerzo contacted Darryl Anderson with International Cultural Exchange to see if the Dinges family could come to America. Typically, families are not encouraged to visit their child until the spring of their exchange year in an effort to allow the student to adjust to their new country and immerse themselves in the culture. However, the Omerzo family was convinced Philip would be able to handle it and it turns out, they were right.

As the Omerzo family escorted Philip across the track, Philip's parents, Mike and Marion, were walking toward their unsuspecting son.

"My parents actually told me I looked right at them as I walked out, but I had no clue. I never expected them to be there," said Dinges. "It was so overwhelming. I didn't know what to think at first or what to say."

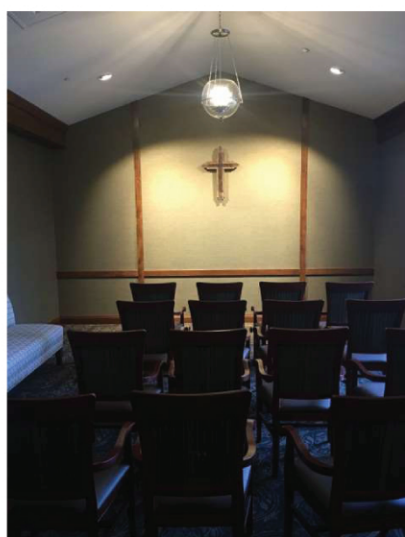
Prior to leaving for the U.S. in August, Philip had only ever been away from his parents for two weeks. Their reunion at Booster Field sent tears rolling down people's faces as Philip and his parents shared a hug.

"I played American football in Germany, but the sport is not nearly as popular. I was so excited that my parents were able to watch me play and experience the excitement of American football," said Dinges.

The Dinges family stayed in the U.S. for 10 days and were able to watch Philip play in his final away game of the season.

"We are so happy this all came together. His family was so excited to be able to watch him play and he was equally as happy for them to be there," said Omerzo.

## Armstrong Memory Care Assisted Living



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.

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[www.ArmstrongMemoryCareAL.com](http://www.ArmstrongMemoryCareAL.com)

## Living Nativity performance at St. Robert

St. Robert Bellarmine's High School Youth Ministry will present a Living Nativity performance on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. behind the church parking lot. Come see the annual tradition including live animals, the Bethlehem stable and traditional holiday carols.



## Lakeview's Lazzari selects Notre Dame College

*By Pamela Haake*

The Lakeview High School Bands have proudly represented Lakeview High School through various parades, concerts, fundraisers and community activities. The band students take pride in putting on their uniform and performing for the parents, school and community. The band boosters would love to see the band students in new uniforms for the 2019-2020 school year. To make that happen, the new uniforms will need to be ordered by February 2019. The projected amount needed to order the uniforms is \$110,000. The band boosters have raised \$70,000

Please consider donating to the Lakeview Band Uniform Fund. The uniforms reached their life span several years ago and the band is in dire need of new uniforms. For those who have already donated in some way to the Uniform Fund, the band boosters thank you for your support. You can mail your donation along with the form below to the Lakeview Band Boosters. If you would like more information on the Business Outreach Campaign or donating to the Uniform Fund, you may contact Pamela Haake at 330-978-9364.



be used as a utility fielder. Notre Dame College is a NCAA Division 2 program that is located in Lyndhurst, Ohio. The head coach of the Falcons is Len Barker, who threw a perfect game for the Cleveland Indians in 1981. Lazzari made his commitment official when he signed his National Letter of Intent on Nov. 14. This was the first day of the early signing period.

Pictured with Clay are his parents Paula and Greg Lazzari.

Send your donation and this form to: Lakeview Band Boosters  
1050 Johnson Plank Rd., Warren, OH 44481

**Please make checks payable to Lakeview Band Boosters**

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<sup>1</sup> When compared with clear aligners that are made of off-the-shelf, single-layer .030-inch material.

<sup>2</sup> With weekly aligner changes, compared with two-week aligner wear.

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A close-up photograph of a white ceramic bowl filled with a vibrant orange soup, likely pumpkin or butternut squash. A small sprig of fresh green herbs is garnished on top. The bowl sits on a rustic wooden surface, possibly a cutting board or table. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the wooden surface.



## Something To Think About

By Rev. Donald P. Barnes

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 118: 1*

Scented candles; linen table cloth and fine silverware; cranberry sauce, green beans and dinner rolls; mashed potatoes and gravy; a plump turkey with stuffing (Grandma's special recipe); the aromas, the sights, and the sounds of Thanksgiving. Aunt Betty offers a blessing and Grandpa slices the turkey. Steaming plates heaping with the aforementioned delicacies are passed hand-to-hand around the table. Childhood memories of Thanksgiving dinner at Grandma and Grandpa's. A bounty served up to acknowledge and celebrate blessings enjoyed over the course of the previous year. God is good.

I'm reminded of Thanksgivings that boasted similar fair, but circumstances were quite different - hardship was stacked on top of hardship. One in particular found Dad and I both out of work, my younger brother afflicted with a serious malady; Lorra pregnant with our second child, our only vehicle on the "fritz," and funds in short supply. It was a lean Thanksgiving that called anxious spirits to remember God at work and present in the storms of life. Fifteen heads bowed to acknowledge and celebrate blessings enjoyed over the course of the

previous year. To remember that God is always good - even when the chips are down. I'm reminded that it's easy to say thanks in times of plenty, but true faithfulness and appreciation are revealed when life seems to turn against us. Don't know what this Holiday Season brings for you and yours, but I'm reminded that many years ago, a small group of battered pilgrims circled the table and offered prayer, granting us valuable insights into what it means to give thanks. Consider the following thoughts concerning the first Thanksgiving:

The first American Thanksgiving didn't occur in 1621 when a group of Pilgrims shared a feast with a group of friendly Indians. The first recorded Thanksgiving took place in Virginia more than 11 years earlier, and it wasn't a feast. The winter of 1610 at Jamestown had reduced a group of 409 settlers to 60. The survivors prayed for help, without knowing when or how it might come. When help arrived, in the form of a ship filled with food and supplies from England, a prayer meeting was held to give thanks to God. ("Today in the Word," July, 1990, p. 22.)

## The Anticipation of Christ

By Rev. C. R. Chapman  
Cortland Christian Church

As Christmas approaches so anticipations increase. For children, the anticipation of receiving a gift increases. For parents the anticipation of giving to their children increases and seeing their happy faces. For the worker there is the anticipation of a few days, even a week off of work. For some there is the negative anticipation of spending time with that one family member who drives you crazy for some odd reason. There is a lot of anticipation at this time of the year, but for the Christian there is the anticipation of Christ.

Christmas is celebrated as the day that Christ was born. Christians do not anticipate Christ's birth, but rather what His birth brought for us. His birth brought a perfect sacrifice for our sins. His birth brought to us the promise of a new, eternal life. His birth brought to us peace.

Our anticipation is not for the birth of Christ because Christ has already been born. He already came from heaven and

took on the form of man in the frailty of a baby. He lived a sinless life and died for our sins a brutal death. Even more He rose from the grave conquering death and over 500 witnessed His resurrection. By this those who believe in Him as the Son of God, and follow Him, obeying His teachings are promised the gift of eternal life.

This time of year Christians anticipate the new covenant, which is the promise that Christ has given us. The hope of Glory. There are still many people in this world who do not have this promise or hope of life. For our unbelieving friends, colleagues, family members, and for the strangers that we encounter every day, we share the testimony of the birth of a Savior so that they might become believers and be revealed the Truth. Our goal is not to force religion, our goal is to warn the world of its fatal condition, which is sin, and to stir minds and hearts to repentance.

## WPO opens applications for free violin lessons to students

The Warren Philharmonic Orchestra is offering free violin lessons to a select group of Trumbull County third through seventh grade students, announced attorney Frank R. Bodor, president of the orchestra's board of trustees. The application deadline is Dec. 3, 2018, for the next class of students beginning Jan. 6, 2019. An application form and related documents are available to download from the WPO website at <http://www.warrenphilharmonic.org/strings-of-joy-2018-2019.html> or can be requested from the WPO office.

"The Strings of Joy program continues the orchestra's outreach to area schoolchildren," explained Bodor. "The orchestra performed a live concert for area students in October, and the winners of the student Art in Music Contest will be announced at our April concert. We appreciate the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber Foundation, other community organizations and individual donations that make Strings of Joy possible at no cost to the students," Bodor said. "A limited number of students can be accepted," he stressed. This third class will join other students who have been receiving instruction since January 2016.

The orchestra will loan each Strings of Joy student an age-appropriate violin

and provide individual, 20-minute lessons Sunday afternoons through December 2019, with a summer vacation. Occasional group lessons and performance opportunities will be scheduled, as well. The orchestra will provide printed music to the students at no cost. The lessons will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 2627 Atlantic St. NE, Warren. Lesson instructors will be professional musicians from the region.

"With string programs eliminated from most area schools, the Strings of Joy program helps fill a need for those students interested in learning to play the violin and develop a deeper appreciation for our musical heritage," Bodor explained.

Parents/guardians must be willing to provide transportation for the lessons, provide encouragement and practice space, and assume ultimate responsibility for the instrument. The Enrollment Agreement can be downloaded from the WPO website at <http://www.warrenphilharmonic.org/strings-of-joy-2018-2019.html>.

Parents/guardians needing more information about Strings of Joy can contact Barry Dunaway, the orchestra's executive director, at 330-399-3606 or [warrenphilharmonic@gmail.com](mailto:warrenphilharmonic@gmail.com).



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## 6th Annual Trains in the Town Hall

The North Bloomfield Historical Society will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. every Saturday and 5 to 8 p.m. every Wednesday in December for the area's largest free O27 Lionel model train show. The winter scene features a two level track layout in a snowy landscape. The summer side features townscapes, commercial and industrial areas. Many volunteer hours are spent constructing the more than 500 square feet of the layouts each year in the 125 year old Town Hall at 8830 Park

Drive. Visitors can enjoy free popcorn, punch, cookies and coffee as they watch the trains perform. This year on Saturday, Dec. 8, weather permitting, a special appearance by a kiddie train will give outdoor rides around the Bloomfield green. Santa Claus will also be visiting with the children that day. The popular scavenger hunt will return again so join us for a trip down memory lane. The hall is not handicap accessible. For more information call 440-685-4410.



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