

Vol. 20 No. 3

November 25, 2023

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

SHOP SM **SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY**

Shopping Local

By Heather Sensabaugh

places to shop. We have even seen some great new stores added recently! It helps our community

Cortland has a lot of great \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, approximately \$70 will stay in the community, compared to shopping at local chain stores, where

a nightmare, and it is all too easy to be scammed these days. Even if the item you ordered online looks great, it likely isn't built to last, and you never know who you are buying from or what you might be supporting with your money (like child labor, and other atrocities). Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong – in your community! Saturday, November 25th is Small Business Saturday – a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities. Founded by American Express in 2010 and officially cosponsored by the Small Business Administration since 2011, Small Business Saturday has become an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season, sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Businesses typically offer sales and other incentives to get customers through the door and boost revenue.

Consider shopping locally this year to invest your dollars back into our wonderful community!

when you shop locally. For every

PRSRT STD AUTO .S. POSTAGE PAID WARREN, OH PERMIT NO. 39 U.S.

the same \$100 spent yields only about \$40 back to the community.

Local stores employ local folks and make it their mission to carry items desired by locals. Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation, so it helps the environment as well. Also, studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chain stores. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local businesses ensures a strong community.

Online shopping is easier, but have you ever ordered something online that wasn't at all what you expected it would be? I certainly have. Returning items ordered online can be



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CortlandNews.net

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CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor 330-637-4003 City Hall 330-637-3916 Fax 330-637-4778 Clerk of Council 330-638-0142 Service Director 330-637-4637

POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY 911 Police - Business 330-638-1000 Fire - Business 330-637-2891

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

First and Third Monday of each month. Monday, Dec 4 – 7 p.m. Monday, Dec 18 - 7 p.m.

CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

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

PARKS AND RECREATION Second Monday of each month Monday, Dec 11 - 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING & ZONING Second Monday of each month Monday, Dec 11 - 7 p.m.

Meetings and agenda of Council and Planning meetings area available at www.cityofcortland.org

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

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

FIRE - POLICE - RESCUE 911 Police Department 330-638-5503 Fire Station #11 330-637-4136 3000 Warren Meadville Rd Non Emergency Calls ... 330-675-2730

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday Dec 12, 7 p.m.

A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org

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 11, 6 p.m.

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club	
Steve Rock	330-240-1634
Cortland Bazetta Historical Socie	ety & Museum
Sally Lane	330-638-2330
Cortland Lions Club	
Bill Lowther	330-719-4545
Cortland Masonic Lodge	
Chuck Chagnot	330-307-3405
Cortland Moose Lodge	
Bill Bartholomew	330-637-9957
Cortland Rotary Club	
Patrick Leper	330-224-3008
Cortland SCOPE	
Diane Jordan	330-637-3010
Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S	
Carla Kahler	330-856-2356
The Opera House (Event Rentals)
Maribeth Albu	, 330-219-1488

Four Seasons Garden Club	
Elaine LaRocca	330-637-0345
Johnston Senior Center	
Diana Shimko	330-924-0412
Warren City Federation of Women	's Clubs
Terri Crabbs	330-637-3845
American Assoc of University Wor	men
Ruth Bradshaw	330-307-1151
League of Woman Voters	
Peggy Boyd	330-856-5398
Cortland Area Cares	
Donna Kittle	330-637-0821
Friends of the Cortland Library	
(Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy)	330-637-2717
Lakeview Outreach and Fellowshi	р
(LOAF)	•
Please contact the Cortland New	vs if you

would like your organization listed here.

Our Next Issue December 16, 2023 Our theme will be *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

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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

Article Deadline by Dec 4 • Display Advertising Deadline is Dec 6 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.

Cortland News SELF	SERVE Paper Bo	x Locations
Cortland Bank	4 Star Diner	Vasilios
Lakeside Sport Shop	Top Notch Diner	

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.





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 ~ November 25, 2023 ~ Calendar, Business & Community

Community Events

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. See pg. 2 & 5

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 Public Library - Check out the ongoing events on page 18 https://wtcpl.org/locations-hours/cortland-library/

Cortland Senior Center - Open Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cortland Christian Church.

Youngstown Nighthawks Soccer League, Cortland League Schedulewww.facebook.com/ytownnigthhawks

Charity Benefit Pancake Breakfast, [1st Saturday] 9 a.m.-noon, Cortland Masonic Lodge, 3263 Everett-Hull Road (E. Main Street).

Church Events - See the Church News and Notes on the Faith pages.

NOVEMBER

25 Holiday Craft Fair / Cortland Christian Church / 10 AM - 3 PM / See pg 9

30 12 Days of Merry Mecca Christmas Begins / See pg 9

DECEMBER

- 1 Last day for Shafer Winan Coat Drive / See below
- Charity Breakfast / Masonic Lodge / 9 AM Noon / See pg 5 2
- Braceville Historical Society's Open House / 3-5 PM / See pg 8 3
- 7 TCTC Open House / 6 PM / See pg 6
- Live Nativity / Bazetta Christian Church / 4-7 PM / See pg 8 16
- 16 Last day to help 'Bag Hunger' / Cortland Mower / See pg 5
- Holiday Bed Delivery for Sleep in Heavenly Peace / 9 11 AM / See pg 18 16
- God Provides A Meal, Free Community Lunch / Cortland United Methodist 16 Church / 11 AM - 1 PM / See pg 9
- "Claus for a Cause" Breakfast with Santa and his friends / Opera House 17 for the Lakeview Levy Committee / See pg 4
- 19 Community Christmas Concert / LHS / 7 PM with The Cortland Community Band & Community Choir / See pg 16

Business News and Notes

By Thom Foley

Cortland Lanes has Bargain Bowling every Monday night from 7 PM – 10 PM. Also book your Holiday Party Now for your family, friends or work.

Mark Thomas Ford has a huge selection of new and used cars and trucks. No need to head to anywhere else.

Centerra has all kinds of Wild Bird feed and accessories on sale

Champion Tax Service Reminds you to gather your tax information starting now so you will be prepared when tax season arrives.

Cortland Mower is helping to BAG HUNGER in our community. You can help by bringing a tote bag of food and household items in - you might win a new snow blower

Totally Dog has all your dog needs. Plus they offer grooming, doggy day care and training. Don't forget to check out their Holiday sales! We are stocked



with Christmas ideas.

TCTC is having an open house see their ad in this issue.

Vasilio's has Kolachi again!! Be sure to book your holiday party soon they are filling up very fast!!

Do you need a **Santa** to visit your home or work party this year? Ee his ad in this issue.

Daffron's Auto Body hopes you don't get into a fender bender this year. But if you do – they are the experts at getting you back on the road quickly.

Speaking of fender benders, if you get banged up for any reason this season, go see the experts at Action **Physical Therapy**. They will have you back to you former self in no time!

Did you know that Apostolakis Honda services all makes and models of cars? They are the service experts in this area.

Shafer Winans 26th Annual "Collection Of Coats For The Needy"









Cortland Rotary Club To Hold Raffle

The Cortland Rotary is having a raffle to win gift certificates to local restaurants. They will be giving away 24 prizes for various amounts totaling \$5,000. Their overall grand prize will be dinner, a night stay and 18 holes of golf for four people at the Avalon Grand Resort in Howland. Tickets are on sale up until the day of the drawing, which will be held on December 18th. Tickets are \$20 for one and \$30 for two. See any of the local Cortland Rotarians or stop in at Totally Dog located at 252 West Main St., Cortland.

We are collecting new and used clean winter coats and jackets for men, women, & children to be given away FREE at the Salvation Army Headquarters in Warren, Ohio. This marks the 26th year of collection of winter coats.

Coat donations accepted now through Dec 1 at Lane Funeral Homes locations in Trumbull County: Shafer-Winans Chapel, 164 N. High St. Cortland 330-637-4986; Roberts-Clark Chapel, 180 Garfield Dr. N.E., Warren 330-392-2559; Madasz Chapel 6923 Warren Sharon Rd. Brookfield, 330-448-6969.



NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR ANY ADULT OR KIDS LEAGUES





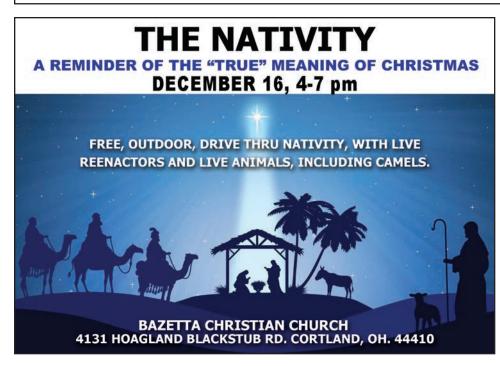
LOTS OF FOOD SPECIALS

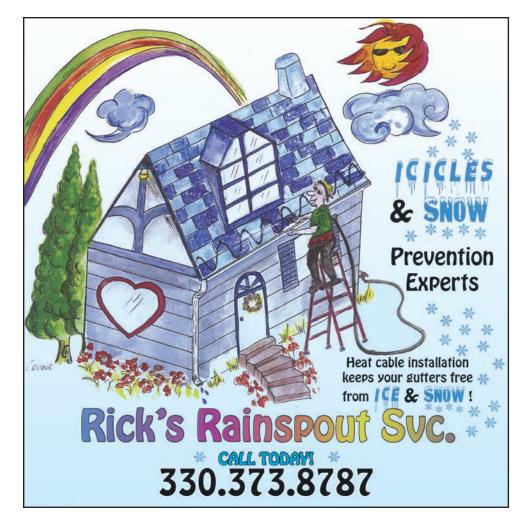
OPEN BOWLING MONDAY - 5:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM TUESDAY - 6:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM WEDNESDAY - 3:30 PM ~ 5:30 PM THURSDAY - 10:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM FRIDAY - 5:00 PM ~ CLOSING SATURDAY - 12:00 PM ~ CLOSING SUNDAY - 12:00 PM~ 8:00 PM

COSMIC BOWLING

PRICES: 1 HOUR 1 LANE \$30

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Cortland Mower to "Bag Hunger"

Cortland Mower Sales would like to remind you that there are only a few weeks left to help "Bag Hunger." They are teaming up with three local organizations to help combat the hunger problem in our area. Many families, including those with schoolaged children, do not have enough to eat. You can help feed them and maybe win a new Toro 18" Snow Blower, a \$579.00 value.

Stop into Cortland Mower at 118 Walnut St. and pick up a green Cortland Mower Tote Bag. Bring the bag back to Cortland Mower filled with nonperishable food items before Dec. 16. You can fill as many bags as you like. Each time you return a filled bag you will receive one entry for a chance to win the TORO Snow Blower.

All donations will be distributed to the Lakeview School Food Pantry, The Patchwork Foundation, and the Maplewood Rocket Fuel Program.

Help "BAG HUNGER" in our community.





Little Flags Give Big Honor

By Robert Adkins

A little more flags bring Good News to Cortland, Ohio. Driving by north of Cortland on Rt. 5, a field of little American Flags stand guard against the rising sun. Look and see what the Girl Scouts are presenting to you and me! Clear plastic ties attach veteran names that come down from history.

Ten rows of 10 American Flags attached to capped wooden sticks celebrate history of war and peace. Girl Scouts add credence to our country and are looking for more Veterans names to add to the field.

LED lights comfort the little flags all night long. Falling raindrops add to the tears on each of the memories, including those who never came home. Drive by or look closely at a name. Pray for families that perpetuate the heart of America.

This is all done by Girl Scout Troop 80161 led by Sarah Gyure. Sarah and her husband own the property and just moved from Camp Lejeune, NC. to join their family. They are accomplishing the following with their project:

"Girl Scout Troop 80161 formed September 2023 and started off strong with a plan close to their hearts, Veterans. The girls collected names of family members and community members who serve/have served in the United States Military throughout the month of October, while completing the *Continued on page 9*





Claus For A Cause

house

DEC. 7, 6:00-8:00 PM

Open House is an opportunity for parents and families of current 8th graders and sophomores to meet with instructors, ask questions, and make an informed decision before submitting an application to TCTC. Applications will open on December 7 at 6:00 pm for the 24-25 school year. To register for Open House, visit **tctchome.com/page/open-house**.

Claus For A Cause

The Lakeview Levy Committee Presents "Claus for a Cause". Join Santa & Mrs. Claus as they welcome their special friends: Elf of the Shelf, The Grinch, Cindy Lou Who, Frosty, Elsa, and Buddy the Elf for Brunch!

Help us stack up support for the school levy while enjoying pancakes with your favorite holiday characters!

Date: Sunday, December 17. TWO seatings: #1 at 11:00AM and #2 at Noon

Location: Opera House, 115 N. High Street, Cortland.

<u>Cost:</u> Children: \$8, Adult: \$12 <u>Payment:</u> Debit Card, Credit Card, or PayPal via https://bit.ly/ claus-payment

<u>Questions:</u>

lakeviewlevycommittee@gmail.com



Just the Facts Trivia

How many pounds of personal prescription medication has been turned in to the Cortland Police Department and disposed of over the past year?

- a. 102
- b. 124
- c. 146
- d. 118

Answer - The correct answer is d. 118. The Cortland Police Department does accept personal prescription medication to be disposed of from residents of the city of Cortland or those who work within the city of Cortland. No liquids or needles will be accepted. Medication is accepted Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, except 12:00 – 1:00 pm when the Police/Finance Administrative Clerk is at lunch.

Firefighter/Paramedic Applications

Applications will be accepted at the City Administration Building, 400 N. High St., Cortland OH 44410 from Monday, November 13th to Wednesday, November 29th from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. Mon – Fri. (Closed 23rd & 24th). Examination date – Monday, December 4th. The time depends on the number of applicants.

QUALIFICATIONS: To be appointed to this position, an applicant must be certified as a Paramedic, must be at least 18 years old and must have a valid Ohio Driver's License. Applicants upon appointment may be required to present a current Certification of Completion of a Firefighter's Physical Agility Test or complete a Physical Agility Competency Test administered by the Dept.

There is hereby established a maximum age of 40 (before or on the applicant's date of appointment) for a person to apply to the City for an original appointment to the City's Fire Department. Applicants that have transferable full-time credit from a State of Ohio retirement system or from Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund shall use this time to reduce their actual age to meet the (age 40) maximum age for

original appointment provided the applicant passes a fit-for-duty medical evaluation.

All other Verifiable documentation <u>must be</u> submitted upon return of the application and/or prior to the day of the examination.

<u>The City of Cortland Civil Service</u> <u>Commission</u>

Façade Grant Program

The goal of this initiative is to improve the visual appearance of the city and be a conduit of development and revitalization within our community. The city would like to offer a 25% match up to \$2,500. The application deadline has been extended to **Nov. 30, 2023**.

Toys for Tots

The Cortland Fire Dept. is accepting new, unwrapped gifts now through December 8th.

Angel Tree

City Hall and the Cortland Police are participating in The Salvation Army Angel Tree program again this year. If you decide to join in helping children of families facing hardship, stop in! Choose an angel (or 2) from the tree, shop, and return the gifts by December 12th.

Cortland Christmas Tree Lighting

The 3rd annual lighting is presented by Just Pizzelles on Saturday, November 25th.

There will be caroling, horse-drawn carriage rides, ornament making, Santa & Mrs. Clause and MUCH more! This will all take place in the courtyard green across from the old Cortland Bank building on W Main from 3 – 7; tree lighting at 6:00 pm.

Dates to Remember

December 4th – City Council meeting – 7 p.m.

December 11th - Parks - 5:30 p.m. December 11th - 7 p.m. December 18th - City Council

meeting – 7 p.m.

Shop Local for the Holiday!

Charity Breakfast to Benefit Children



Cortland Lions Club Delivering Turkeys For Thanksgiving

At our recent Lions Club meetingour club voted to donate 20 turkeys to the Warren Family Mission for their Thanksgiving community Turkey Dinner. Our Club members purchased the turkeys locally and delivered them to the Mission. We plan on additional activities of giving back to the community during the month of December. Thank you for supporting our fund-raising activities so we have the means to help those in need. Every dollar raised by the Lions Club goes back to the community.





LET US HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE WORLD OF INSURANCE



Needing Beds

A fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, from 9 am to Noon at Cortland Masonic Lodge located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland.

The "all you can eat" breakfast will benefit "Sleep In Heavenly Peace", an all-volunteer organization that builds beds for children who have no bed to sleep on -- and they provide the mattress and linens.

The charity pancake breakfasts are held each month by the Cortland Masonic Lodge, and 100% of the proceeds are donated to a local charity. The public is invited, and representatives from "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" will be present to answer questions about their program. The breakfast cost is \$8.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for youth age 6 to 10, and FREE for any children age 5 and under. Included are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee, with takeouts available.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

500 WAKEFIELD DRIVE CORTLAND, OHIO

Small Business - Big Impact

By Constance Amstutz

As we dive into the heart of the holiday season, Santa's helpers are preparing their lists - and checking them twice. On the top of the wish lists of many children are the latest gadgets and toys that can be found at big box retailers. While these items may provide instant gratification for little ones, many parents know all too well how quickly kids "sit it and forget it". What won't be forgotten? The lasting impact that is felt by the hands of our neighbors and friends when we shop locally.

For Just Pizzelles owner, Christina Benton and her family, their business is a family business. "When they say, "You support a small business, you support a family, you support their daughters' dance lessons" - that's all true! For us, this is it. We are all in - 24/7, 365 days, even on holidays."

Stanley Grace boutique, a women's clothing store recently opened its doors on South High Street in Cortland. The owner, Angel Williams, shares how her business is all about her family. "I left the corporate world five years ago. My son gets off the bus here, my daughter comes and spends time with me here." Managing her small business creates a family-oriented atmosphere fueled by love and passion.

Small Business Saturday, which takes place on November 25th this year, is a centralized focus nationwide to increase small business activity. Shopping small business isn't just for the holidays; it's for every day of the year. Whether birthdays, business gifts, or just because, our local businesses have so much to offer throughout the year.

Christina says it's not just about small business Saturday. "We should

try to shop locally all year around. Much of our business is shipping products elsewhere, and we have visitors come from all over – Cleveland, Pittsburgh, New York. Without local support, though, we wouldn't be here." If you are unsure of what your gift recipient may enjoy, shops offer gift certificates and gift cards allowing a future experience to be at the palm of their hand.

Supporting small businesses can be accomplished on many levels. Word to mouth is the best referral for business, including sharing businesses social media posts. "Don't forget to shop small and not only shop small but support small. Times are tough, and I'm huge on sharing other small businesses posts," says Angel.

Remember as you navigate this holiday season - and through the remainder of the year - shopping locally is more than just buying gifts; it is giving the gift of growth, stability, and prosperity to our friends and neighbors.

TCTC To Host Open House

TCTC is hosting an Open House for prospective students and parents Dec 7 from 6-8 PM. An Open House is an opportunity for parents and families of current 8th graders and sophomores to meet with instructors, ask questions, and make an informed decision before submitting an application to TCTC. Applications will open on December 7 at 6:00 pm for the 24-25 school year. To register for Open House, visit tctchome. com/page/open-house.



What Is The Difference Between Medicare Supplement Insurance And A Medicare Advantage Plan?

There are significant differences Medicare Supplement between Medicare insurance plans and Advantage plans. Both work well to help cover costs of care that Original Medicare Insurance does not cover. What will work best for you will depend on your specific situation and preferences. One size definitely does not fit all and there are numerous good options available.

Medicare supplement plans work with original Medicare Insurance. With a Medicare Supplement you do not cancel or replace your Medicare Part A or Part B coverage and you still have all your Medicare insurance benefits, rights and protections. These plans are a secondary (supplemental) insurance to original Medicare insurance and help cover costs not covered by Medicare. For example, Part B of Medicare Insurance covers outpatient services, doctor appointments and tests. Typically, Medicare pays 80% of approved costs after a deductible is met and you are left with the remaining 20%. There are no limits the 20% with only original Medicare insurance. A supplement will pay some or all those costs depending on the specific plan. There are several different supplemental insurance plans

available. These plans are required to be the same from company to company and are approved by CMS (Medicare). However, each company sets their own premiums and rate increase schedules. These plans do not include prescription drug coverage (part D), vision, dental or hearing benefits. A separate prescription plan needs to be added to the coverage to avoid potential Medicare late enrollment penalties.

Medicare Advantage Plans (Part C) combine Parts A, B and possibly D. They are administered by the individual insurance companies instead of Medicare. Many of these plans include prescription drug coverage and most offer extra benefits. They typically have lower premiums and are either HMO or PPO plans. HMO plans require you to see doctors within the network or services are not covered except in an emergency. PPO plans do not require you to see in network doctors but will pay more of the costs if you do. The premiums for these plans vary from plan to plan. They typically have copays for services and are required to set maximum out of pocket amounts for the year. Even though they are administered by individual insurance companies, they are regulated and approved by Medicare each year. They are also required to provide benefits at least the minimum medically necessary coverage equivalent to Original Medicare.

If you have a Medicare Advantage plan or a standalone prescription drug plan (Part D) with a Medicare Supplement insurance plan each year between October 15 - December 7 you have the option to review your plan and switch plans if there is a better option for your specific needs. Each of these plans vary in coverage, premium and availability based on the county you live in. If you have one of these plans it is a good idea to touch base with your local agent to see if it is still a good option for you. Your local agent knows the plans available in your specific area better than an agent somewhere else answering the 1-800 numbers you see on TV. They can check the costs of the plans with your prescriptions and make sure your doctors are in network if you choose an Advantage plan. They can also compare plans from different companies. If you have a problem, you can contact them directly for help. Jill Freeman is a licensed insurance agent with Wiley Insurance Services, located at 3470 Warren Meadville Rd, Cortland. She can be reached at 234-244-4014 or JFreeman.WileyInsurance@gmail.com.





Cortland News ~ November 25, 2023 ~ Community



Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Matt Fidram, Kristen Paolillo, Bazetta Firefighters Cole McIasaac and Kyle Stern.

By Constance Amstutz

The Bazetta Police Department, Bazetta Fire Department and The Ohio State Highway Patrol and other Trumbull County Departments partnered together for our communities on Saturday, November 18 for the annual "Can the Cruiser" and "Fill the Pot" food drives. The event took place at the Walmart on Millennium Boulevard where they collected food and monetary donations.

Ghosts, Goblins And **Barbie Visit Cortland** For Halloween

There were lots of ghosts, scary goblins and several Barbies going door to door for treats on Halloween. Bazetta and Cortland were filled with excitement as hundreds of children visited as many homes as they could for candy.

Police and Fire departments from Cortland and Bazetta made the rounds passing out candy and keeping everyone safe. There were also 'Trunk & Treat' events downtown, at churches and businesses throughout the week. Just one more reason why this is the best place in the world to live!



The Malone children: "Bam Bam" [Easton] and "Pebbles" [Sutton] with "Barbie" [Tessa] and "The Grim Reaper" [Kelsey]

This is the 13th year for the food drive. What started as a local event has since spread roots into surrounding communities. The food drive was held Continued on page 9

Est. 1985 330-638-3718 WE HAVE KOLACH Let us cater your Holiday Party with PICK UP CATERING Book our party room for your Holiday Event We take care of everything for you!



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252 West Main St.-Cortland

neighborhood We know you; we know your pet.

Thanks for shopping with us and don't forget to check out our Holiday sales ! We are stocked with Christmas ideas.

Our store supports workingdogsforvets.org any spare change in the donation box goes directly to the cost of raising, training and vetting of dogs donated to their program! You can help make a difference at both ends of the leash.









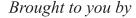


Police Officer" Dontea 'DJ' Dawson and his sister "Princess Elsa" Naomi.

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BAZETTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH REV. TIM MCCOLLUM, PASTOR

SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 AM

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I don't know about everyone else, but I tend to pull for the underdogs quite often in any form of competition. While I have favorite sports teams, if I'm watching sports and I don't have a favorite in the game, I almost always pull for the underdog. Underdog stories almost always tug at people's hearts in powerful ways. There are even some of the best stories depicted in movies based on real life. And even the stories not based in real life, the nature of a "hero's journey" almost always requires them facing an obstacle bigger than they are, being beaten initially, and then overcoming the challenge.

Throughout scripture, God always seems to prefer the underdog. There is a catholic value that grew out of Latin America of having a preferential option for the poor. It's evident in so much of scripture and particularly in the work of Jesus. It's evident through almost all the work of the prophets. If they aren't coming to restore hope to Israel amid oppression, they are coming to pronounce judgment for the way people in Israel are oppressing others.

It's one of the reasons I love the story of Gideon so much. You can find it in Judges chapter 6 if you want to look it up. But the short version goes like this. God calls Gideon, the smallest man in the smallest tribe, to overcome their foes. Gideon says, "no Lord, not me, I'm too small and insignificant". And God says, "that's what makes you perfect for the task ahead, let's get to work." Now I don't get enough words in this article to tell the story, but Gideon gets to work with God by his side and they overcome the challenges before them.

Its interesting to me that the vast majority of churches in our area are small churches. In many ways, they are doing good work trying to better the community and support those in need. God is still sharing in the work of the underdogs, spreading grace and mercy through the faith and love of those who gather in the name of Christ. Having served small churches most of my ministry career, I've learned there are a lot of things to love about being part of a small church. The people in small communities, at small businesses, and in small churches build relationships that last a lifetime and some even longer.

If you've been considering a new step in a spiritual journey, consider stepping in the doors of a small church. We're all a little different, each one of us blessed and graced differently. But there's a lot of good folks doing wonderful things in small ways. I don't want to discount the big churches doing great things, because they often are. And I still believe God shows up amid the small things just to show off great love.

There's something about a baby, and a story to be told ... but that's for the pastors who get to write the next few articles. ;)

I love ya, and I know God loves you so much more, Your friendly neighborhood Pastor Tim

Free Outdoor Live Nativity

Bazetta Christian Church is celebrating its 175th year in 2023 and has a special event this Advent season - its very own Outdoor Living Nativity. The event will be on Saturday, December 16 from 4 - 7 PM at the parking lot behind Bazetta Christian Church, 4131





"12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ... 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 27).

At Trinity this year we are celebrating 80 years as a congregation. It is exciting to have been able to share the Gospel with Trumbull County. To be the body of Jesus to our community, and to see the body of Jesus live out the Faith throughout the years in the history of our congregation.

The church finds herself united with Jesus like members of the body. In our body we have many members from toes, to fingers, to hands, to feet, and to our head. Our bodies have many various abilities due to our various members. Each member with its own task, or gift so to speak. The Lord unites with us through His Word and Sacraments. He gives us the Holy Spirit in the Waters of Baptism and unites us to Himself, and His Victory won on the Cross and His resurrection from death. He gives you forgiveness, salvation, and life everlasting.

All who believe in Jesus are the Body of Christ. Jesus bore your sins, and died for you on the Cross, that He would defeat for you the ancient enemies of sin, death, and Satan's Tyranny. In Jesus you will find forgiveness, and salvation. Where you once had death you now have Life Everlasting. Jesus, Your God incarnate in your flesh, the flesh of mankind, bore your sins and died on the cross for you, His blood covering your sins, paying the price of your transgression, freeing you from the bondage to sin, death and Satan's tyranny. Where you once were bound in sin and death and temptation, you now are bound in Jesus as a member of His Body, given life that will not end and a place to rest forever in His Kingdom. God's Peace be with you.

Senior Showcase Presents 'Seniors Got Talent' Show

Senior Showcase will stage its 'Seniors Got Talent' show at the beautiful Robins Theatre located in downtown Warren, Ohio. The only performance of this unique show based of the popular 'America's Got Talent' TV show, will feature performers from 55 to 92 years of age on Saturday January 6, 2024 at 2 pm.

Reserved seat tickets are \$22 or \$15 and can be purchased daily at the Robins Theatre box office 160 East Market Street or at robinstheatre.com Join us for an amazing talent show at the recently renovated historic theatre, which will be filled with singing, dancing, magic, musical groups, comedy, and skits. This show, with 26



Hoagland Blackstub Rd., {Bazetta Rd.)

All are invited to witness the night of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, featuring costumed reenactors and live animals, including camels in the Nativity scene! This will be an amazing experience and we hope you take time to center your attention on "The True Meaning of Christmas."

acts and 80 performers plus production crew, is sure to please one and all.

Len Rome and Jim Lowboy of WYTV 33's Daybreak Morning Show will share the Masters of Ceremony duties for this event. The new non-profit group Senior Showcase is working with SCOPE Senior Services, Sunrise Entertainment, and Downtown Development Group on this talent show.

Wildare Church

330-637-5000

7211 North Park Ave. Cortland, OH 44410 Email: wildarehl@gmail.com

Sunday Services: 9:00am & 11:00am Men's Bible Study, Womens Bible Study Tuesdays at 8:00 am.



RELIGIOUS SERVICE DIRECTORY

Church News & Notes

Cortland Christian Church Holiday Craft Fair November 25 - 10 am-3 pm. All the things you need to start or finish off your Christmas Shopping. Teacher's gifts, neighbor surprises, anyone who drops over, a little something. Maybe a couple of items just in case, gifts to have on hand or just something for you. We have a large fellowship hall full of crafters and Vendors, a lot of new ones and many of our faithful, fun and talented crafters are back with us. We have a Raffle, A Bake Sale, A good lunch is available. Stop over and see what we have to offer. Thank you Cortland for always supporting us in our

endeavors, missions, and projects.

Cortland United Methodist Church: God Provides A Meal, Free Community Lunch, December 16, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Menu: Turkey, Stuffing roll ups, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, dessert & beverage. Please come and bring a friend.

Wildare Church - Every Sunday Children/Youth Fellowship: SPARKS group for ages 10-14 from 12:30-2:30 pm and Ignite Youth Fellowship for ages 15-18 from 2:30-4:30 pm. Contact Barb for more information at wildarebw@gmail.com

worshipped in our church, or grown-up

in our church, and have been blessed by

the call to ministry. Don Barnes, Randy

McCafferty, John O'Hara and Robert

Frantz are all ordained Pastors, and are

currently serving in, or retired from,

Our final 175th Celebration was held

during worship service on November

19th. Since 1966 Pastor James Osuga,

Pastor Jeffrey Wheeler and Pastor

Paul Leone have served the church

congregation. Our current Pastor is Rev.

Timothy McCollum. We are excited that

our guests will include former Clergy

and others that were and currently are

an integral part of our Bazetta Christian

What a befitting way to celebrate in

God's house! If you were a part of our

history, or if you would like to become a

part of our history we thank you.

their own respective churches.

Bazetta Christian Church 175th Anniversary Celebration Part Three

Bazetta Christian Church history continued in 1995, with the purchase of a pipe organ for our sanctuary. Construction began immediately and it was installed in 1997. Our next addition was a "gathering space" complete with coffee and tea beverages. We most recently remodeled all our Bazetta Christian Church Childcare classrooms! Upon reflection, we are ever mindful of the many generations that preceded us, how their faith led them, and the responsibility we carry when making today's decisions for our church. We are humbled when we realize all that has been accomplished. We thank the surrounding communities that support and participate with us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with other Church congregations on projects.

We call to mind four men that have

Can The Cruiser...continued from page 7

Church history.

at four locations across the county today. Collected items and donations will serve to stock five local food pantries. Between all four collection points in Bazetta, Champion, Howland, and Niles, more than 4 tons of food donations were collected along with approximately \$9,600 in cash donations. "Three years ago, we partnered with The Ohio State Highway Patrol, and got them involved. Then, it spread from here locally to other areas in Trumbull County on the same day," says Bazetta Chief of Police Chris Herlinger.

Chief Herlinger was there when the event came about all those years ago and says the heart of the food drive

supporting those in need. "We wanted to give back to the community, and to be seen in a different light other than just on the street and at calls."

As with many successful events, it takes a village and Chief Herlinger has much appreciation for all the hands at work. "We appreciate the community's generous support through their food and monetary donations. Everything that is taken in is given directly back to the food bank." All proceeds collected at the Bazetta Walmart were donated to Cortland Area Cares. Cortland Area Cares serves the Lakeview School District, as well as qualifying members of supporting area churches.

Mecca Community Church & Mecca Township 3rd Annual 12 Days Of Merry Mecca Christmas

• Day 1 – Thursday November 30 Hot Cocoa & Paint @ Mecca Community Church, \$25 per person - must register by Nov 19

• Day 2 – Friday December 1 Ugly Sweater Bingo @ Mecca Townhall 6 pm

• Day 3 – Saturday December 2 Free Christmas Community Dinner @ Mecca Community Church 6 pm

• Day 4 – Sunday December 3 – Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony @ Mecca Circle 5:30

• Day 5 - Wednesday December 6 - Night before Christmas @ CaRayna Farms 6 pm - 8 pm

• Day 6 – Thursday December 7 – Christmas Mystery Event @ location to be announced 6 pm

• Day 7 – Friday December 8 – Home 4 The Holidays Post your virtual Christmas Card & Tree photo.

• Day 8 – Saturday Dec 9 All aboard

Christmas Spectacular free drive-in movie @ Mecca Community Church 5:30 pm

• Day 9 – Monday Dec 11 – Sunday Dec 17 – Winter Wonderland Walk through @ Mecca Community Church 6 pm – 9 pm

• Day 10 – Thursday December 14 – Christmas Candy Car-A-Van @ Mecca Community Church 6 pm

• Day 11 – Friday December 15 – Card Making @ Townhall 5:30 pm

• BONUS EVENT – Saturday December 16 – Sleigh Ride – Tour the lights of Mecca – see the Facebook page for Maps & details.

• Day 12 – Sunday December 17 Breakfast with Santa @ Mecca Fire Dept 10 am -1 pm

Please refer to the 12 Days of Merry Mecca Christmas Facebook page for more details.

Quilts of Valor Award Kenneth J. David Vietnam Veteran

By Bob Adkins

Kenneth J. David gave a great talk on his experiences 53 years ago in Vietnam. He was honored at the Cortland Christian Church with a special award called, The Quilt of Valor for meritorious service.

His life was spared several times and he also saved others. He learned in the war " Believe in yourself and you will find that others will believe in you". He and his Platoon received many honors for bravery and meritorious service to their country. In his greatest battle, he thought he would die as he held on to his radio and "Saw a great white light showing God was still with him and would save his life. "His buddy took over his radio, still reporting on the battle.

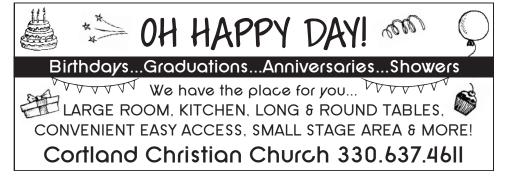
He has devoted his last 53 years supporting and extolling his fellow Veterans with no retirement in sight. His Award Blanket was wrapped around him at the end of the service. QOVF awards quilts only to service members and living veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. QOVF acknowledges and appreciates the support of families. We also remember and honor those who have given their lives for our freedoms, but do not award QOVs posthumously.

Little Flags...continued from page 4

patch program ONA (Operation Never Alone) which teaches Girl Scouts about the military and those who serve. Each name was then printed and attached to a US Flag and strategically placed in their leaders' yard facing a highly trafficked road. Many community members stop and reflect at the sight of the flags, reading the names and appreciating the display. In total, 100 flags were placed with the hope from the girls to research more Veterans in their community and place 200 flags next year!"

Pictured are Hannah B, Hazel H, Lauren B, Adalyn G, Briella R, Casey B. Not pictured: Afenix P, MacKenzie T, Sarah G, Laura E, Jess P

Thank you Troop 80161 for helping to make this the best place in the world to live!



came from a hope bigger than just

Braceville Historical Society Open House

Braceville Historical Society's next open house will be on Sunday, December 3rd from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Town Hall. Please join us for an oldfashioned Christmas party. We're going to deck the Hall as in days gone by, so come and enjoy Christmas cookies and hot chocolate and sing Christmas carols. Art Smallsreed will be our guest speaker talking about 5 generations of farming in Braceville. Everyone is welcome.



RELIGIOUS SERVICE DIRECTORY



From the Desk of the Superintendent

By Velina J. Taylor

While it's never a bad time to reflect and be thankful, November is an especially good time to do just that. As I type this message, we are re-grouping as a district following the defeat of our levy campaign.

It must be recognized that the Levy Committee, composed largely of community members, worked tirelessly in support of the effort to share information as broadly as possible. These people sponsored fund raisers, informational sessions, and community events with the aim of bringing voters together to talk and learn. Our district is deeply thankful for their work.

We are all thankful for the people who took time out of their lives to attend any event held so they could learn more and have their questions answered. It has been heartening to have frank conversations with people who willingly shared their concerns and explained reasons for their opinions.

Hopefully as we look ahead, the lessons learned during the fall levy campaign will help us to formulate a plan for spring that is more responsive to our community and their expectations and aspirations. In the meantime, please stay in touch with the Levy Committee's work by searching Facebook for "Lakeview Levy Committee." They would love for you to be a follower, too.

Together – We are Lakeview

Lakeview Land Lab - A Hidden Treasure

The Lakeview Local Land Lab is celebrating its 42nd birthday this month. On November 20, 1981, Lakeview Schools officially took possession of 32.46 acres of land that was formerly used as a training site for the US Army Reserve.

At the time of transfer, the land was valued at \$292,000.

Thanks to the persistence and advocacy of school officials at the time, our district became only the second school system in Trumbull County to have an outdoor learning facility for student and community group study and enjoyment.

Since that time, thousands of students, scouts, and other groups have visited the lab and learned more about their natural surroundings.

In recent years, the Land Lab has hosted apple cider and maple sugar days and has welcomed volunteers who have improved the facility during clean-up and work sessions. In 2020 Miller Yount Paving gave the Land Lab a huge boost by improving the parking lot area and driveway using grindings from paving jobs.





Cecelia L. Collin L., Audrey H. work on pressing apples for cider.

Background: J. Johnston helped set up the press and start the process

November 4th proved to be a great day for making apple cider at Lakeview Local School's land lab. Over 50 people showed up to make fresh apple cider on an antique cider press. We did an entire bin of cider apples so that was an awful lot of hand cranking those apples through!! Everyone was invited to bring food to cook over the open fire and those that wanted to hike the trails could complete (or at least try!) a scavenger hunt.

The land lab is 34 acres of wooded lands dedicated to outdoor education for the district. There are trails to hike, a small pond, and a pavilion for gatherings. Volunteers are always welcome to help clear the trails on our clean up days. Please reach out to 330-330-638-1060 if you would like to be included an email list for work days or

LMS Students Finish 1st & 2nd In Math Challenge

Challenge 24 is a fast-paced math card game. The participants view a card with four numbers on it. They then try to be the first to get the numbers to total to 24. They can add, subtract, multiply and/or divide to get to the final answer which is always 24. They must tap the card and provide the final answer as well as the steps that took to arrive at the answer. From tap to response must take three seconds or less. This requires the students to not only be fluent in math facts but also able to recall the multiple steps required to reach the answer 24.

Our Lakeview team of three students (team numbers are set by the hosts of the tournament and depend on the number of schools involved) was selected from a pool of 26 students. Any student that was interested in trying out was invited to attend two weeks of open practices. At the end of the open practices our team was determined through a mock tournament. The team then regularly practiced after school.

The county competition was hosted by Warren Harding on November 9. Sixty plus competitors and alternates from 21 schools converged on the floor of the Harding gym. Students from fourth to eighth grade pitted their math skills in two rounds of the tournament. Upon the conclusion of the first two rounds the field was then reduced to 16. The semi-final round then took the numbers to the final 4. Our two Lakeview students faced competitors from Howland and Mathews in the final round resulting in a first and second place victory. Our Lakeview team consisted of Sienna Brainard, Connor McKowgan (second place in the county) and Henry Keck (first place in the county).

Class of 2023 **Spotlight Bulldog**

By Michael DeToro

This tri-weekly installment will spotlight an outstanding graduating senior at Lakeview High School. Each showcased student will be someone who represents their family, Lakeview Schools, and most importantly, our Bazetta/Cortland community with integrity, commitment, and loyalty.

This issue's Spotlight Bulldog is Brett Gottfried. Brett is the son of Elsa and Daniel Gottfried and Brett has attended school with the Lakeview Local School District his entire career. Brett displays a high level of academic success. He is currently ranked #1 in his graduating class and

is on pace to become a valedictorian this coming spring. His academic schedule this year includes only college courses through Youngstown State University, Kent State Trumbull, and Eastern Gateway Community College. Brett has participated in the National Honor Society, Senior Beta Club, and Foreign Language Club. Outside of school, Brett has a keen interest in photographing nature and seemingly always has his camera with him. Looking to study physics, Brett is hoping to continue his education as an undergraduate student at Ohio State, University of Arizona, UCLA, Cal Berkley, Michigan, or MIT.

Get to know Brett better with a quick 60-second rapid-fire interview. 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well? - I am really into doing astrophotography and photography as a whole. I spend most of my time doing that and I think I'm pretty good at it.

2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District? -Probably the teachers. I have had good connections with them, especially Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Wood.

3.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland? - The lake

4.) You might catch me ... - Outside at the park [Mosquito] with my camera and my dog. 5.) What are your future aspirations? - I want to be an astrophysicist and mostly do research or perhaps become a professor.

Cecelia L. takes the wheel on the cider press.

events.

Laura DePizzo has served as the coordinator for the Land Lab and has planned the many activities offered to students and community members over the last several years. She is a passionate advocate for the Land Lab and for the value of outdoor education for all. Her efforts are greatly appreciated by all who have benefitted from her work.

LHS Welcomes Winter Walkers

place to walk in the winter? Lakeview



Looking for the perfect indoor High School is open to Winter Walkers from 3 pm – 6 pm until the end of the season. Please just walk in through the main entrance. We will have a coat rack for you in the lobby. We have 2 floors available for you to walk safely. Walk at your own pace for as long as you wish. Come join us for free fun and exercise.

Congratulations to our wonderful smart students!!



Sienna Brainard, Connor McKowgan, Henry Keck and Teacher/Math Coach Tara Costarella.



Page 11

Lakeview Middle School Band Director To March In Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

Special to the Cortland News

Tyler Husosky, the middle school band director and assistant high school director in the Lakeview School District applied for a once in a lifetime chance to join in marching in a band of 400 band directors from across the United States in the historic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on November 23, 2023, as a part of the "Saluting America's Band Directors" marching band. He will be playing the crash cymbals in the drumline. The band will again convey its theme, "America's band directors: We teach music. We teach life." to recognize the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors and music educators everywhere.

The music educators in this band have collectively mentored and taught hundreds of thousands of students. Band directors not only teach music but teach many of the life lessons that will assist their students in becoming successful adults. Setting goals, hard work, teamwork, experiencing the rewards of community service are just a few of these.

The experience the band directors who are involved in this project gain will be an asset to their students in many ways. The use of novel techniques to reach out to their students, new ideas for teaching music and utilizing new resources available to keep their instruction fresh and relevant are a few educational tools directors will be able to gain from this experience, and then be able to bring that information and those techniques back to the band classroom.

During their time in New York City, the "Saluting America's Band Directors" marching band will spend time practicing music and marching beginning on Sunday evening, and will continue on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. They will also perform at the 9/11 National Memorial and Museum on Monday afternoon by participating in a wreath laying ceremony and performing Amazing Grace and the Star-Spangled Banner.

The state of Ohio serves as a leader in helping to organize this outstanding musical opportunity for the band and is well represented. The sponsoring organization behind the Saluting America's Band Directors project is the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to the school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for almost 40 years. The marching band is also under the musical direction of nationally known music educator and innovative band director, Dr. Jon Waters from Bowling Green State University. Ohio is also very well represented with participation as locally there are 8 band directors participating from Trumbull, Mahoning, and Ashtabula counties. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will begin at 8:30 am, with coverage on NBC, CBS, and streaming on Peacock. The "Saluting America's Band Directors" marching band will be marching behind the "Snoopy" float and will march across the famous "Herald Square" during the televised broadcast between 9:30 - 10:00 am.





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¹ Benefits are available to personal checking account owner(s), and their joint account owners subject to the terms and conditions for the applicable Benefits. Some Benefits require authentication, registration and/or activation. Benefits are not available to a "signer" on the account who is not an account owner or to businesses, clubs, trusts, organizations and/or churches and their members, or schools and their employees/students.

² Special Program Notes: The descriptions herein are summaries only and do not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the Benefits described. Please refer to the actual Guide to Benefit and/or insurance documents for complete details of coverage and exclusions. Coverage is provided through the company named in the Guide to Benefit or on the certificate of insurance. Insurance Products are not insured by the FDIC or any Federal Government Agency; not a deposit of or guaranteed by the bank or bank affiliate.





Pawsitivity - Please Adopt

Hello Cortland & Bazetta! With the holidays quickly approaching, I wanted to write about the importance of adopting and encourage you to consider adopting your next pet rather than purchasing from a shop or a breeder!

Many people decide that the holiday season is the time to add a pet to their family. With the extra time off to spend with the new addition to the family, this can absolutely make sense for some people! You might see the appeal in purchasing a new "purebred" pet from a breeder or from the pet store, but consider all the other animals that are looking for their forever home this holiday season.

Local shelters (Animal Welfare League, West Side Cats, New Lease on Life, and Empathy for Animals) and the pound are overrun and overwhelmed this time of year with animals that need homes. By checking their online websites or by visiting their locations and meeting some of the animals that need a home, you are opening your heart to the idea of rescue. Worst case scenario, you don't meet the dog, cat, bird, etc. that's a fit for your family and can wait for another opportunity.

There are also plenty of animals that need another home because

their current owners can no longer care for them, or found them as a stray and can't keep them. Check online websites such as Adopt-a-pet (https://www. adoptapet.com/) to find cats and dogs locally that are looking for a home.

Did I mention that adoption and rehoming is often a much less expensive way to acquire a pet than a store or breeder? Most shelters' adoption fee also includes the animal already being spayed/neutered and up-to-date on vaccines, as well as microchipped! That's hundreds of dollars worth of value right there!

By adopting or rehoming, you are literally saving a life. You are showing that you value and respect an animal in general rather than just the idea of a purebred title. Rescued animals always seem to know that you played a part in saving them. They are grateful for it and will never forget that you loved them enough to take them in and give them the lives they deserve.

Thank you for considering adopting an animal instead of purchasing one from a store or breeder. Email Hello.Pawsitivity@gmail.com with comments/questions or article ideas! Until next time - be paw-sitive! Thanks for reading!

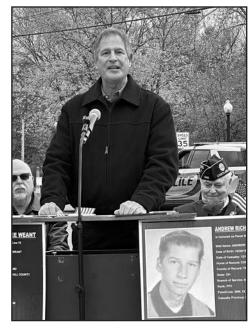
Vietnam Memorial Bridge Dedication Held In Cortland

By Dick McClain

The Cortland Veterans Memorial Committee together with the American Legion Post 540 of Cortland held the dedication ceremony for the newly renamed bridge on East Main Street in Cortland.

Working with the Cortland city officials and the Trumbull County Commissioners and the County Engineer's office, the bridge has been named the "Vietnam Memorial Bridge" in honor of PFC Andrew Sinchak, Jr. and SP4 Terrance Weant, both Lakeview High School graduates who were killed in action, in Vietnam. Weant was a member of the 1965 graduating class, and Sinchak graduated in 1967.

The public dedication ceremony was held on the bridge, on Saturday,



David, brother of Andrew Sinchak, Jr., shares remembrances of his brother.

Nov. 11th, at 2:00PM, and an estimated 150 were in attendance. The program emcee was Ian McAleer and the guest speaker was Jim Rapone -- both are Marine Corps and Vietnam veterans. Rapone is currently serving as a Trumbull County Veterans Services Commissioner. Honored guests included Sinchak and Weant family members who shared comments and remembrances, and joined in the unveiling of the new bridge signs.

Cortland Mayor, Deidre Petrosky, presented the Proclamation enacted by the Cortland City Council and Garey Watson, of the Trumbull County Honor Guard, shared a bio in tribute to both of the honorees. The Lakeview High School band performed several numbers. And the Cortland Police, Fire, and Service Departments assisted with street closures, traffic control, and emergency preparedness. The dedication ceremony concluded with a rifle salute by the combined members of the American Legion Post 540 and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 11.



Members of the Honor Guard are ready to fire a 21 gun salute.



Family members of Terry Weant stand in front of the sign in his honor. His sister, Pam Schmazlried, is in the white coat.





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SCOPE honored veterans at a special ceremony recently. John Turner and Chuck Sayers of the Howland American Legion Post 700 with their certificates at the SCOPE Veterans recognition day. They presented the colors to start the event.

POW MIA Homage

By Constance Amstutz

Eighty-One Thousand (81,000). That is the approximate number of military members still missing today. A staggering portion of those veterans missing are from World War II. Thanks to advances in technology, more discoveries are coming to light. Until all return home, we honor those soldiers who were taken as prisoners of war, and those who are still missing in action.

Jim Rapone, President of Veterans of Foreign Wars, former USMC Sergeant, presented GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League with the program, Missing Man Table, at their November monthly meeting. This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. Each item placed represents a significant meaning, from the round table to a pinch of salt. "You are not forgotten."



Jim Rapone, President of Veterans of Foreign Wars, USMC.

Vietnam Veteran Pinned At DAR Meeting



Kim Welch presenting Terry Shavers with the Vietnam Veteran Pin.

The November meeting of the Mary Chesney Chapter NSDAR was held at the Veterans Service Center in Warren. Our guests were Terry and Gwen Shavers who graduated from Braceville High School along with DAR member Janice Powell Kistler. Terry is an honorably discharged Vietnam Veteran and recipient of both a silver and a bronze star medal.

Janice had the privilege of honoring Terry with the Vietnam Veteran pin, recognizing his sacrifice and thanking him for his service. The Silver Star Medal is awarded by all branches of the Armed Forces to any person who, while serving in any capacity, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourthhighest ranking award a service member can receive for a heroic and meritorious deed performed in an armed conflict. It signifies their sacrifice, bravery and honor while serving their country.

Halloween "Eleanor Style" Continued from last edition - you can view it on our

Continued from last edition – you can view it on our website www.thecortlandnews.com

By Cait Morgan

You may recall, it was Halloween night and my favorite holiday. An epic block party was planned. Eleanor had been in an accident; my stepfather and uncle were home alone with candy and a bushel of apples for the Trick or Treaters and we were in ER. She had just informed me that "Maybe" the insurance would be able to help with the costs....

Me: What....did....you...do???

E: I cancelled the coverage on the car and cut my liability and that other coverage in half - it's up to others to carry coverage if they make the mistake, so why would I need it? You will take care of things.

Me: Nurse! I need a pillow in here! Now this was when the ER was all just curtained cots. The staff had been privy to this whole conversation and knew exactly why I wanted the pillow. They are perfect for smothering little old ladies, you know. They opted not to bring me one. Apparently, they had been talking to the YPD officer who opted not to loan me his service revolver. Needing to punish someone, I decided to punish myself and phoned "the men" who were handling Trick or Treat. My uncle answered the phone in a panic.

Uncle Curt: Hello?? Hello?? Hello?? Me: Whoa! What's going on?

UC: Something is really wrong here! Me: What's the matter?

UC: There's all these strangelooking people and children and they want us to feed them! They look homeless!

Me: It's Halloween. Give them the apples. Or the candy.

UC: We can't. It's gone.

Me: WHAT?? Turn out the front lights and go into the family room and watch TV. Do NOT answer the door. Apparently, they ate the candy and gave the entire bushel of apples to the first two kids that came. But that brought up an interesting question: If they did that, what had they been handing out? So I called their neighbor.

Me: What's going on over there?

- N: You have to get here!
- Me: What is going on?

N: They got confused and they're handing out stuff from the fridge. Kids are coming here with containers of leftovers, canned goods, mayo, ketchup, mustard. I'm taking it and giving them extra candy.

Me: This can't be happening... As I went back past the nurses' station

trying to calm down, I could hear Eleanor fussing about leaving right away because she was missing Wheel of Fortune. Took her to Xray myself, left her in the hall outside their door and I hit the vending machines. As I passed the nurse going back to ER, she handed me a pillow. I took this as a bad sign. Seems Eleanor wouldn't stay still for the x-rays, basically having a temper tantrum. They called our doctor who said if she was being that bad, she was ok and could go home as I "knew what to do with her". Oh, I had ideas. But instead, I took her home, got her leftovers and condiments back and I made the adult festivities back in my neighborhood. I was given my very own bottle of Bailey's. They knew her, no explanations were needed.

My lesson from this? If you get a call from a Spanish priest on Halloween ... just hang up!



Two Great Men

By Bob Adkins

Hear we stand on Veterans Day 2023, On a little Cortland bridge honoring. Two great men who died for their country.

Living now in our fondest memory.

58, 240 men died in Vietnam in Americas longest war, Too great a strife to end, a nations score. They still live in the memories of their courageous families. Flow on little creek, carry their names for all to see.



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TAG "Trees At The Gallery" Holiday Marketplace Returns

The Trumbull Art Gallery is again holding its "Trees At the Gallery" Holiday Marketplace event at the gallery in downtown Warren from through January 6, 2024.

The event features a curated walkthrough marketplace with over 20 displays showcasing unique gift items handcrafted by local artists including

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art, jewelry, seasonal and holiday décor and more. Additional items are on display and available for purchase in the TAG Gift Shop. Local artists were asked to design

holiday tree displays made from materials such as artificial greenery, wood, metal, wire, ceramic, etc. or provide table-top displays - all used to showcase their handcrafted items for sale.

New this year, some of the participating artists will be showcasing their work during live demonstrations of their craft during show hours. And a special Opening Reception will take place on Small Business Saturday from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.

Also Included in the event, is a holiday tree raffle featuring a fullydecorated tree filled with handcrafted items donated by each participating artist. The raffle drawing will take place Continued on page 16

ADOPT A PET MICHAEL LUPIN Neutered male



• 7.5 years old Alaskan Malamute/Mix, black/tan coloring Up to date on all vaccines and microchipped

Neutered male 3 years old Domestic Shorthair, Black Up to date on all vaccines and microchipped FIV positive. FIV is an nmunodeficiency virus that makes a cat more susceptible to contagious illness. FIV is not contagious to humans and can only be transferred to other cats

via deep bite wounds Adoption fee: \$40 Michael has been waiting at AWL for his forever home for 170 days now. He was brought to AWL severely underweight and very timid. He may be a bit shy first, but since staff and volunteers have been spending time with him. Michael has really

 Adoption fee: \$90 • Lupin should go to a home with another canine friend around, since he thrives and will really come out of his shell. He needs son one patient who can work with him to build his confidence, and a calm home environment since loud noises scare him. Lupin has lived with both kids and cats in the past and would likely be fine living with them. He sustaine a leg injury at some point in his life so he will need joint supp nts for the rest of his life. He LOVES to bury his ys in holes he digs in the ya



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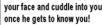
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come out of his shell! He's

unbelievably sweet and loves to be held and pet. He may just lick

If you're interested in either of these pets or you'd like to learn more about our current animals available for adoption, please email our Adoption Supervisor at Adoptions@awltrumbull.com or call Animal Welfare League of Trumbull County at 330-539-5300. For more information about our adoption process, visit https://www.awlrescueme.com/adopt/

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A Guide To Choosing Between Independent And Assisted Living At Ohio Living Lake Vista

By Sara Pecchia

As another year winds down, you or your loved one may be considering the possibility of transitioning from your home to an independent or assisted living setting. The idea of downsizing to move to a new community can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be! With good organization and the right mindset, downsizing can be less about saying goodbye to material possessions and more about saying hello to an empowered new lifestyle.

At Ohio Living Lake Vista, we pride ourselves on helping you live healthier and happier, in alignment with our mission to provide adults with caring and quality services toward the enhancement of physical, mental and spiritual well-being consistent with the Christian Gospel. Our community offers a variety of housing options, including independent and assisted living, all enhanced by industry-leading amenities, programs and services.

When comparing independent and assisted living options at Ohio Living Lake Vista, there are some similarities and a few differences. **Independent living**

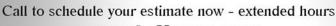
For independent living residents, we offer private one- or two-bedroom apartments, complete with a full kitchen, and in-unit washer and dryer.

From timely lawn care and snow removal to interior and exterior maintenance of home and appliances, our maintenance team takes care of all the details, so you don't have to. Lunch and dinner are provided, along with biweekly housekeeping, a wide range of social events, transportation services, and 24-hour emergency, safety and security systems. Additional supported services can be contracted by residents. **Assisted living**

For assisted living residents, we offer private studio-style or onebedroom units, complete with a small kitchenette and mini-refrigerator. Our caring and compassionate team provides daily assistance with personal care plans, 24/7 medical assistance, medication management and regular check-ins. Weekly housekeeping and linen services, laundry assistance, transportation services and three meals per day are also provided, along with engaging daily activities.

As you search for the right life plan community, we are confident that we provide the activities, resources and caring staff that truly make a community a home. To learn more or request a tour of Ohio Living Lake Vista, contact Nicole Yozwiak, director of business development, at 330-883-7123.





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A Guide to Unclaimed Cash and Property

Every year across the United States, billions of dollars go unclaimed. These assets are held by state and federal Treasuries until their rightful owners are found. Anyone who has lived or worked in the United States can check these financial repositories to see if any dollars are owed to them or a family member. Here's an overview:

Unclaimed assets arise from a wide range of sources. Unclaimed cash can come from a variety of incomplete transactions, including financial abandoned bank accounts, uncashed checks from previous employers, investment dividends, utility overpayments, insurance company payouts, and uncollected security deposits. Estate settlements and safety deposit boxes also can yield unclaimed property.

Sometimes owners can't be tracked down. A change in residence, marital status, or employment can result in undelivered mail, which in turn can lead to unredeemed payments. Businesses are required by law to make reasonable efforts to reunite owners with their assets. Uncollected cash and property must be turned over to the government following the legal "dormancy" period. Unclaimed assets often sit unclaimed in government coffers because the owners are not aware of their existence.

Online databases make it easy to

search for unclaimed assets. Anvone can find out if they have unclaimed cash or property owed to them or a family member. They can do so by searching the free online databases operated by the states in which they have lived, worked, invested, or conducted business. The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA) maintains a list of unclaimed property websites for all 50 states at www. unclaimed.org. The federal government also provides a list of databases of unclaimed money at www.usa.gov/ unclaimed-money. Periodic searches, especially following a life event change such as a move, change of employment, or name change, can reveal unclaimed assets

The claims process starts online. Claimants will be asked to substantiate their right to the property. This process often requires uploading or mailing documentation that proves ownership. If the claimant is the rightful owner, the claim will be paid by check or direct deposit.

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TAG Trees...continued from page 14

Thursday, December 21. And again this year, TAG will continue its "Angels for Art Education" fundraising campaign.

Admission to the seven-week event is free.

The Trumbull Art Gallery, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and was formed in 1957, is located at 158 North Park Avenue on Courthouse Square in downtown Warren and is currently open for the holiday season Thursdays Noon-6:00 pm; Fridays Noon-4:00 pm; and Saturdays 11:00 am-4:00 pm through January 6, 2024.

To find out more about this holiday event visit TAG's website at www. TrumbullArtGallery.com or check the gallery's Facebook page





Improved Digital Service Through "Where's My Refund?" Tool

• In filing season 2024, taxpayers will benefit from important new updates to the "Where's My Refund?" tool, which is the IRS' most popular customer service tool. In 2022, "Where's My Refund?" was used by 54 million taxpayers and generated 550 million hits. However, the tool provides limited information, often leading taxpayers to call the IRS to inquire about their refund

• The updates to "Where's My Refund?" will allow taxpayers to see more detailed refund status messages in plain language. These updates will also ensure "Where's My Refund?" works seamlessly on mobile devices. Taxpayers often see a generic message stating that their returns are still being processed and to check back later. With the new and improved "Where's My Refund?", taxpayers will see clearer and more detailed updates, including whether the IRS needs them to respond to a letter requesting additional information. The new updates will reduce the need for taxpayers to call the IRS for answers to basic questions.

• Example of current message: "Your tax return is still being processed. A refund date will be provided when available. For more information about processing delays, please see our Refund Frequently Asked Questions."

Example of new and improved messages: "To protect you from identity

theft, your tax return is currently being reviewed. To help us process your return more quickly, verify your identity and tax return information. If you recently received a letter from us, follow the instructions on the letter. Please have your tax return (Form 1040 series) available and read the website or letter before starting the verification process. If you already reviewed your identity and tax return information you may check the status of your refund in 2-3 weeks."

• "We received your return and sent you a letter requesting more information. Please respond by following the instructions in the letter. If you don't respond, your refund amount could be changed. It may take 2-3 weeks for you to receive the letter."

• "We have reviewed your return and any information we may have requested from you and are now processing your return. Any changes to the status of your refund, including any new refund date, will be reflected here when any new update is available."

 The IRS wanted to make these updates for years and is now able to thanks to Inflation Reduction Act resources. It's estimated that taxpavers will view the new and improved status updates 70 million times next filing season. Further upgrades are planned for future filing seasons.

Calling All Singers! We Need You To Join This Chorus!

The Cortland-Bazetta Community Christmas Concert is a joyous and special event! The date is Tuesday, December 19th at 7 PM at Lakeview High School. Starring in this production is the beloved Cortland Community Band. The band entertains throughout the year. The chorus comes together during the holidays for this one special night.

There are no auditions! If you like to sing, you're in!

There are no professionals in this group. You will join others who just enjoy singing! The choir sings a selection of Christmas songs, then performs a special song with the band, and then helps to close the concert along with the band and the audience as beloved carols are sung by all!

We need YOUR VOICE! The choir director is the talented Michelle Robbins Jones. She brings out the best in everyone with great fun! Singing in this group will provide many rewarding experiences throughout the season as we approach the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus.

The rehearsals take place at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 490 North High Street. The time for each practice is 10 AM on December 2 and December 9. For comments or questions, contact Carole Wiley @ 330-720-9136.

Being part of this fun group will provide many rewarding experiences throughout the season as we approach the time we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Singing in the choir will greatly enhance your personal joy of the season! For any questions contact Carole Wiley (330-720-9136 or cwiley9@yahoo. com). If you cannot attend every rehearsal, rest assured almost no one can! Join anyway!



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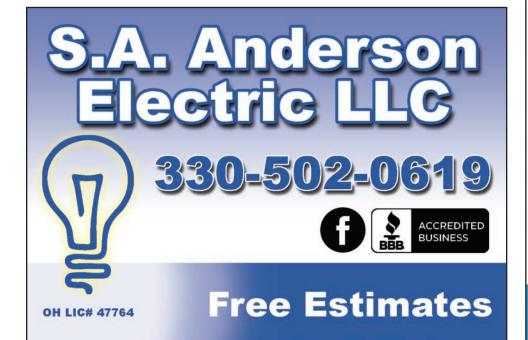
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Christmas Lights Coming To Town



Christmas is around the corner and Cortland & Bazetta residents are prepared! Many people have already decorated their homes, such as the Cullen Chadwick family at 267 Maple Ave. Santa's elves tell us that there are already FOUR fully decorated trees

inside - with more to come! "We are iust a real Christmas family" Cullen told the elves. Thank you to Cullen and all of you who decorate your homes so the rest of us can enjoy looking at them. Just one more reason why this is the best place in the world to live.





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Sleep In Heavenly Peace Events

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a local organization that builds beds for children that need them. They are having two events where you can help.

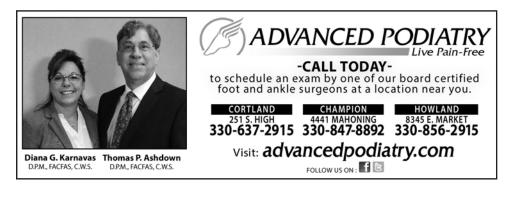


The first is a Pancake breakfast with special guest Santa at Cortland Masonic Lodge, Saturday Dec. 2 at 9 am-12 pm. The second event is Saturday Dec 16 at 9 am-11 am. The Holiday Bed Delivery. Volunteers will meet at 2541 Larchmont Ave Warren. Delivery teams will head out to deliver beds to local children in need. No experience necessary, just bring yourself and a friend! We will show you how to help! Let's spread HOLIDAY CHEER!

Please join SHP Trumbull Co as we deliver our handmade wooden bed frames to local children in need. We also provide a brand-new mattress, pillow, sheets, comforter and a cozy blanket! Volunteers can sign up via https://x.gldn.io/e/qJoQEyEIqEb

Let's help Santa get these kids into a warm cozy bed!









Cortland Library Events in December

Holiday Closings - All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations and services will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan 1. This includes the libraries in Brookfield, Cortland, Howland, Liberty, Lordstown, and Warren; the Bookmobile; and outreach services.

Events at the Cortland Library, 578 Lakeview Dr

• **Toddler Tales**, Mondays at 10 a.m.: Dec. 4, 11; Storytime for toddlers ages 19 – 35 months old with a parent or caregiver. Free.

• **Preschool Storytime**, Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Dec. 5, 12 Preschool Storytime features stories, songs, and movement activities and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. For children ages 3 – 5 with a caregiver. Free.

• Teen Advisory Board, Tues., Dec. 5 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. Teens in grades 7 – 12 can share ideas about what they would like to see at the library, collaborate on creative ideas, and earn service hours as part of the



Republican Women

Trumbull County Republican Women held their monthly meeting on Nov. 2 at the Chophouse with guest speaker, Tom Shortreed, who spoke on "Being Prepared for the Financial Challenges Ahead". The next meeting will be held on Dec. 7 at the Chophouse with guest speaker Valerie Kokor, employed by the CDC for 35 years. Please call/text Cathy at 330.719.0185 by Nov. 30th for reservations.



Jo Anne Szczyglowski, Lynda Chos, Tom Shortreed, Judy Shortreed, Lori Hineman.

Teen Advisory Board. Applications are available in the library at the Teen Desk or the Checkout Desk. Registration is requested; call (330) 638-6335 to sign up. Free.

• Midweek Mayhem, Wednesdays at 3 p.m.: Dec. 6, 13 Teens in grades 7 – 12 may enjoy games, activities, and a small snack at this weekly teen hangout. Free.

• A Cortland Christmas, Thurs., Dec. 7 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Bring the family for kids crafts and listen to music provided by guitarist Tyler Guerrieri and vocalist Nick Kerpsack. Santa will visit, and cookies and punch will be served. This program is provided by support from the Friends of the Cortland Library. Free.

• Family Movie Night, Thurs., Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. Join us for an all-ages movie night as we have popcorn and cocoa and enjoy a showing of a holiday movie on the big screen. Call the library at (330) 638-6335 for the title of the movie to be shown. Free.

Four Seasons Garden Club Installs New Officers

The Four Seasons Garden Club of Cortland has elected and installed their new officers for 2023-24.

Members of the club recently replaced all the American flags on the bridge over Rt. 11, at King-Graves Rd., and they are now preparing the Christmas wreaths and the snowflakes which will be decorating Cortland streets during the upcoming holidays.



Shirley Wittenauer, recording secretary; Kathleen Ferris, vice-president; Nancy Finley, President; Pam Hallett, parliamentarian; and Tammy Metzger, treasurer. Not included in photo was Cindy Bianchi, corresponding secretary.

Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together.

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Chloe is a proud 2022 graduate of Ohio Northern University School of Law

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