

# CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 20 No. 4

December 16, 2023

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

## MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

### FROM THE CORTLAND NEWS

#### Christmas Music

By Heather Sensabaugh

My good friend is ecstatic when radio stations start playing Christmas music in November. I prefer to only hear it in December, as do 65% of Americans, according to studies. Christmas music has documented positive psychological and physical benefits, however.

Listening to our favorite holiday songs can be especially beneficial during what can be a busy, stressful time, of travel and gift buying, baking and stretching our resources thin. People in Western countries often use music to self-soothe. Christmas music tends to evoke feelings of nostalgia and happiness in many people. Its popularity can also be attributed to the 'exposure effect'. It has been proven in research that the more often we hear a song the more likely we are to love it. Predictability is satisfying to our brains.

Studies have shown that Christmas music boosts the body's immune system and reduces blood pressure, heart rate, and cortisol levels, thereby reducing stress. The nostalgia you feel listening to your favorite Christmas tune has a pleasant neurological effect as well, in which the brain's pleasure circuit is stimulated, releasing dopamine and serotonin (the "feel good" chemicals). There's something about "that Christmas feeling" that words can't describe, but Christmas music captures. The feeling associated with the season -

a feeling of warmth, love, and joy - helps us to deal with the early darkness and the (often) gray, cold skies of December.

The earliest known carol was written in 129 AD, and entitled, "Angels Hymn". The word carol actually means a dance or a song of praise and joy. Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has continued to this day. Most Christmas music is written in a major key. Major keys tend to be happier and more upbeat which of course is perfect when you want to evoke happy memories!

Interesting trivia can be found regarding Christmas music. For example, "Silent Night" actually inspired a short truce during World War I. On Christmas Eve 1914, British troops spotted Christmas trees on the German side, and later heard German soldiers singing "Stille Nacht" around them (the original version of the carol). British soldiers then started singing the English lyrics so that the Germans could hear them. German and British soldiers

then gathered together to celebrate Christmas! Christmas carols created peace then, as they continue to! Happy Holidays!

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City of Cortland welcomes our newest business. See article on page 3



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**CortlandNews.net**

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**CORTLAND CITY**

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

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City Hall ..... 330-637-3916	Dispatch ..... 330-675-2730
Fax ..... 330-637-4778	Police - Business ..... 330-638-1000
Clerk of Council ..... 330-638-0142	Fire - Business ..... 330-637-2891
Service Director ..... 330-637-4637	

**MEETINGS**

<b>CITY COUNCIL</b> First and Third Monday of each month. Tuesday Jan 2 - 7 PM Closed New Years Day Tuesday Jan 16 - 7 PM Closed MLK Day	<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b> Second Monday of each month Monday, Jan 8 - 5:30 p.m.
---	---

<b>CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL</b> Read the minutes from Cortland City Council meetings at www.cityofcortland.org under City Council Minutes.	<b>PLANNING &amp; ZONING</b> Second Monday of each month Monday, Jan 8 - 7 p.m.  <i>Meetings and agenda of Council and Planning meetings area available at www.cityofcortland.org</i>
---	---

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<b>Road Department</b> ..... 330-637-8311	<b>Fire Station #11</b> ..... 330-637-4136 3000 Warren Meadville Rd <b>Non Emergency Calls</b> ... 330-675-2730

**BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

Tuesday Jan 9, 7 p.m.

A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit [www.bazettatwp.org](http://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, Jan 8, 6 p.m.

**Area Service Clubs**

<b>Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club</b> Steve Rock ..... 330-240-1634	<b>Four Seasons Garden Club</b> Elaine LaRocca ..... 330-637-0345
<b>Cortland Bazetta Historical Society &amp; Museum</b> Sally Lane ..... 330-638-2330	<b>Johnston Senior Center</b> Diana Shimko ..... 330-924-0412
<b>Cortland Lions Club</b> Bill Lowther ..... 330-719-4545	<b>Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs</b> Terri Crabbs ..... 330-637-3845
<b>Cortland Masonic Lodge</b> Chuck Chagnot ..... 330-307-3405	<b>American Assoc of University Women</b> Ruth Bradshaw ..... 330-307-1151
<b>Cortland Moose Lodge</b> Bill Bartholomew ..... 330-637-9957	<b>League of Woman Voters</b> Peggy Boyd ..... 330-856-5398
<b>Cortland Rotary Club</b> Patrick Leper ..... 330-224-3008	<b>Cortland Area Cares</b> Donna Kittle ..... 330-637-0821
<b>Cortland SCOPE</b> Diane Jordan ..... 330-637-3010	<b>Friends of the Cortland Library</b> (Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) .. 330-637-2717
<b>Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S</b> Carla Kahler ..... 330-856-2356	<b>Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship</b> (LOAF) ..... 330-720-9136
<b>The Opera House (Event Rentals)</b> Maribeth Albu ..... 330-219-1488	

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

**Our Next Issue ... January 13, 2024**

Our theme will be  
*Happy New Year*

Article Deadline by Jan 2 • Display Advertising Deadline is Jan 4  
Email articles to [editor@cortlandnews.net](mailto:editor@cortlandnews.net)

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

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

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

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

**Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations**

Tr. Co. Health Dept    4 Star Diner    Vasilios  
Lakeside Sport Shop    Top Notch Diner

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

The Cortland News will no longer 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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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newspaper, the Cortland News cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

## Community Events

Cortland City/Bazetta Township and Lakeview School Board meetings and schedules. *See pg. 2 & 15*

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

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

Cortland Public Library - Check out the ongoing events on 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.

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.*

### DECEMBER

- 16 Live Nativity / Bazetta Christian Church / 4-7 PM
- 16 Last day to help 'Bag Hunger' / Cortland Mower
- 16 Holiday Bed Delivery for Sleep in Heavenly Peace / 9 - 11 AM
- 16 God Provides A Meal, Free Community Lunch / Cortland United Methodist Church / 11 AM - 1 PM
- 16 Christmas Light Run / Timbercreek / 5 PM / *See pg 9*
- 17 "Claus for a Cause" Breakfast with Santa and his friends / Opera House for the Lakeview Levy Committee / *See pg 15*
- 19 Community Christmas Concert / LHS / 7 PM with The Cortland Community Band & Community Choir / *See pg 5*

### JANUARY

- 6 Charity Breakfast / Masonic Lodge / 9 am - Noon / *See pg 6*
- 6 Senior Showcase Presents 'Seniors Got Talent' Show Robins Theatre / *See pg 15*

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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*



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## Center For Progressive Dentistry's Dental Membership Plan

Did you see The Center For Progressive Dentistry's 481 D High St., Cortland Facebook post about their new dental membership plan? It is excellent for those who do not have insurance or who have high-premium plans with limited benefits.

According to Dr. Joseph Bedich, not having to deal with traditional dental "insurance" and having "insurance" dictate what treatment a patient can have, Dr. Bedich and the patient can decide what treatment is best for the patient.



If you aren't satisfied with your dental plan, check out the dental membership plan at The Center for Progressive Dentistry.

## Daffron's Body Shop

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## Health Department Moves To Cortland

The Trumbull County Combined Health District relocated to 194 W. Main Street, Cortland in the former Cortland Banks/Farmer Bank building on Dec 11. Frank Migliozi, Health Commissioner, said "We are excited to be here in Cortland. This building is a perfect fit for our needs and the community has been very friendly welcoming us to town."

Mayor Diedre Petrosky presented

Migliozi with a proclamation and said "The city of Cortland extends a heartfelt welcome to the Trumbull County Combined Health District. We look forward to having you in our community and will continue working with you to further expand our partnership."

There will be an open house in the coming weeks and we will have more on this story at that time.


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FRIDAY - 5:00 PM ~ CLOSING  
SATURDAY - 12:00 PM ~ CLOSING  
SUNDAY - 12:00 PM ~ 8:00 PM

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Financial Advisor

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### Brian Davin Joins Local Office Of Ameriprise Financial

Brian Davin has joined the Cortland office of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC as a Financial Advisor. He is joining Guidelight Financial Group, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Their office is located at 3378 State Route 5, Cortland, OH 44410

"I am thrilled to join Guidelight Financial Group because of their strong, positive reputation in the community and the way they provide exemplary service to clients," said Davin.

He has 10 years of experience in the financial services industry. Davin studied Business Administration at Kent State University and graduated from Warren JFK in 2004. Brian and his family are current Cortland residents. In his spare time, Brian enjoys coaching, playing golf, and traveling.

As a private wealth advisory practice, Guidelight Financial Group



provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and provided in one-on-one relationships with their clients. For more information, please contact Brian at 330.638.5525, visit the Ameriprise office at 3378 State Route 5, Cortland or visit their website [www.guidelightfinancialgroup.com](http://www.guidelightfinancialgroup.com)



Gingerbread Walk 2023 sponsor Girl's Cortland Music 101 with Christmas singers Kelly, Chelsea & Joe, Mariah, Julia, and accompanist Candice, clarinetists Dr. Chris, Alex, Aaron had a wonderful time entertaining the community Saturday Nov. 25th, during the City of Cortland's annual Gingerbread Walk event! Thank you Cortland.

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Amanda, Google Review 12/4/23



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# Merry CHRISTMAS &

# Happy new Year!

Christmas is a time for thinking of those who have a special place in our lives and in our hearts, amazing people like you.

Sending warm thoughts at Christmas and hoping you know how much you brighten our lives the whole year through!

YOUR FRIENDS AT KING BROTHERS AND KING SANITARY SERVICE



Guidelight Financial conducted a Food Drive to support Second Harvest Food Bank. Pictured: Gabby Stoehr, Melissa Crown, John Smith, Brian Davin, Claire Donis.

## Apostolakis Honda Donates To Second Harvest Food Bank

### Apostolakis Honda

Apostolakis Honda and Shenango Honda are excited to announce they're making December EXTRA special this year by donating \$50 for every new and used car they sell this month to Second Harvest Food Bank of Mahoning Valley and Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County!

The President of the two dealerships, John G. Apostolakis, has always supported the local food banks. He knows the need is especially great during the holiday season so this is a wonderful way to make the holidays a little brighter for our neighbors in need. This will also help our customers feel like they're giving back when they buy a car with us this December.

How's this work? Every customer will simply choose which local food bank they'd like the donation from Mr.

Apostolakis to go to and at the end of the month we'll present checks to Second Harvest Food Bank of Mahoning Valley and Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County.

This just continues our season of giving as we're continuing to collect non-perishable food and our box is quickly filling up.

## Free Little Art Galleries Open Across Cortland

By Sara Pecchia

A new, interactive way to enjoy art is popping up across Northeast Ohio! Free Little Art Galleries, or FLAGs, are standalone structures that showcase art and media pieces in a collaborative way, similar to the Little Free Libraries that invite community members to take and share a book. Instead of books, FLAGs showcase small artworks, photos, letters, ceramics, yarn works, or even poetry. Visitors are encouraged to take the art/media item on display and leave another unique contribution in its place.

The FLAG movement is a national effort that started with a Seattle-based family who wanted to safely communicate with their mother who was undergoing chemotherapy treatments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their hope was to shed a little light and levity during a difficult time, by launching a Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG) in their community. They believed that anyone could do art, and anyone could own art. Within the first 30 days of opening the inaugural FLAG, roughly 90 pieces from various people came and went. Since 2020, an estimated 400 additional FLAGs have been assembled across the country.



"Free Little Art Galleries are a way to build community, give young and old a place to display their work, and spread good news," explained Denise Rubano, Ohio Living Lake Vista independent housing manager and event coordinator. Rubano championed the addition of five permanent FLAGs in the Cortland area, which were funded by donations from the Ohio Living Foundation.

"We worked with a local construction company, Christopher Milo Construction, to build four FLAGs, and one of our Ohio Living Lake Vista residents also built a fifth one," continued Rubano. "Since late October 2023, we've seen strong participation from the community, and I check on all the locations each week to be sure they aren't empty. So far, I have observed an array of items, including jewelry, artwork and even ornaments being left in the FLAGs."

The five Cortland area FLAGs are located outside of Lakeview High School, Ohio Living Lake Vista, Cortland Public Library, Fowler General Store, and inside of Cortland Nutrition. Rubano hopes to expand the initiative with additional locations in the years to come.

"To me, this is a little something that makes someone smile in this world today," Rubano added. "I love that FLAGs provide an expressive means for communication and a platform for people to express themselves by making and displaying their art."

## Music, Cookies, and Animals

By Carole Wiley

The community Christmas Concert, performed by the Cortland Community Band and chorus, will take place on Tuesday 19th at 7PM at Lakeview High School. The wonderful music of the season will be produced by groups, individually and then together. The show will end with the audience joining in to sing carols.

Following the music, more than 1,000 cookies made by LOAF churches, will be served in the cafeteria. Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) routinely raises funds at this event for a local, meaningful entity. Recently LOAF became very aware of the financial hardship that the Trumbull County Animal Welfare League is struggling with. They have had to reduce the number of dogs and cats they can care for. They totally depend on donations to feed the animals and to pay their staff. The concert is free and open to all. Cortland is blessed to have a community

band that performs year-round at no cost to us. It's another reason that makes Cortland a great place to live.



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## Eleanor's Christmas Silver Alert

By Cait Morgan

Shopping is always so much fun in December. The glitter, the piped in Christmas music, the over-powering urge to thump on someone in time with Little Drummer Boy – such joy! I hate to shop. And if at all possible, I did not take Eleanor shopping. Thankfully our friend and neighbor, Patty, used to be able to take her without all the angst that would happen if I did.

So, one cold December day, off they went to Sam's Club to Christmas shop. It was relatively new then and Mom had never been there. Eleanor was a Depression baby, therefore her idea of security was a well-stocked pantry. The idea of buying in huge amounts was exhilarating for her. She was in paradise! But soon, I got a call at work from a panicked Patty.

P: Can you come to Sam's Club RIGHT NOW?

Me: I'm with a client but give me about 15 more minutes...

P: No, NOW! She's... she's... gone!

Me: Are the medics coming? Are they there? What happened?

P: Not gone, gone. Just gone. Missing. Everyone in the store is looking for her.

Me: I will be there as soon as I can. Just let me finish up here.

Seems when they were shopping, Eleanor went off on her own without telling Patty that she was changing course. I proceeded to explain to my client what was going on, she was

very understanding and must have the same sort of relative as I remember her commenting about "not looking too hard" for a little while. We were just finishing up with our business when my secretary told me that Patty was on the phone again. The client opted to stick around for the report.

This was Sam's Club's first ever "Silver Alert" – a storewide alert for a senior citizen on the loose. People cover each door, staff stop what they are doing and walk every aisle and department and some head to the parking lot. It took a while, but they found her. Somehow, she had wandered into the back loading area/stockroom and didn't know how to get out so she sat down on a pallet of stuff and was entertaining herself by singing Christmas carols.

When they were walking her back out, she asked if they could deliver a pallet of paper towels to her house as it wouldn't all fit in Patty's car. They declined. Bless them.

The two of them finished their shopping and called it a day. My client and I celebrated the successful Silver Alert and I headed to the box of chocolate we had in the break room.

It was some time before Patty took her shopping again. As far as I know they never went to Sam's Club again.

May your Holidays be filled with love and laughter and great memories be made!

## ON COURSE

Navigating your Insurance Needs

PRESENTED BY JILL FREEMAN



## Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) Is Over, Now What?

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period ended December 7. If you made changes to your plan, you should have received detailed plan information for your new plan and new insurance cards prior to the end of the year. If you did not switch plans, you should have received a summary of any changes the insurance company made to your current plan. Most plan changes during the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period will take effect on January 1. You will need to update your information with your medical providers and pharmacies. If you fill prescriptions through a mail order pharmacy, you will probably need to contact your physician or provider to obtain a new 90-day prescription to provide to the new mail order company. If you fill your prescriptions at a local pharmacy, you will simply need to provide them with the new card to update their billing information. You can contact your agent if there are issues or surprises with your coverage that you were not aware of or if you have any questions concerning what your plan does or does not cover. You can also call the customer service number

on your new card.

If there are changes to your personal circumstances throughout the year it is a good idea to review your plan and coverage with your agent. For example, if you move to a different county or state you will need to change to a plan offered in that area. If your income decreases, you may become eligible for help covering some medical or prescription costs.

Conversely, if your income increases you may become subject to IRMAA, the income related monthly adjustment amount. IRMAA is an increase on your Part B and Part D premiums if your modified adjusted gross income from your tax return is above a certain amount. For 2023 the amount is \$194,000 married couples who file a joint return and \$97,000 for individuals and married couples who file separately based on your 2021 income tax return.

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



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



## Merry Christmas

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

**Ted Stazak, CFP®, AAMS®**  
1889 Niles Cortland Road Ne  
Warren, Oh  
330-856-7082

**Stacey L Rozzo**  
4753 Mahoning Ave Nw  
Warren, Oh  
234-830-0035

**Eric Vitelli**  
Howland Square  
8015 East Market St.  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330-856-9665

MKT-9811D-A AECSPAD 20298440

## Masonic Lodge Charity Breakfast On Jan. 6th

Cortland Masonic Lodge will hold their next Charity Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, January 6th, serving from 9am to 12noon.

Because all the breakfast supplies are donated, as they are each month, the lodge is able to donate 100% of the income to a local organization or community project.

On Saturday, January 6th, the breakfast will benefit Scout Troop 28, and members for the troop leadership will be present to answer questions about their program and activities.

The "all you can eat" breakfasts feature pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice,

and coffee served at the Masonic Lodge located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St., just over Rt. 11). The cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for youth age 6 to 12. Any youth age 5 and under are FREE, and take-outs are available.



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## Pin Pal League

By Trisha Betts



The Pin Pal league has finished their fall season of bowling at Cortland Lanes. At the banquet, each bowler received a medal with their high game and two game series on it. The parents and bowlers congratulated each of the bowlers for their accomplishments.

This league is an adaptive league for bowlers age 5 to adult with disabilities. This league was started last year by Trisha Betts who is a multiple disabilities teacher at Trumbull County Educational Service Center. She stated there are not many activities for people with disabilities in this area and with a little bit of work and planning the Pin Pal League was formed. There are two seasons per year. The Fall season which ended in November and a spring season that will start again in February.

Lastly, she would like to thank the parents, grandparents and caregivers for bringing the bowlers each week. Also to Alice Betts, Ronnie Baldwin and Maxton Baldwin in helping with setting up the ramps, bumpers and helping

wherever needed. Jason Ruddy for keeping the kitchen open for cooking delicious food for the bowlers. Without these dedicated people, this league would not be as successful as it is.

For more information about the league or to join, please call Cortland Lanes at 330-637-2961. New bowlers are always welcome.

*Congrats!!*



Jeff Francisco wearing his participation medal. His highest single game was 158 and high 2 game set was 268.





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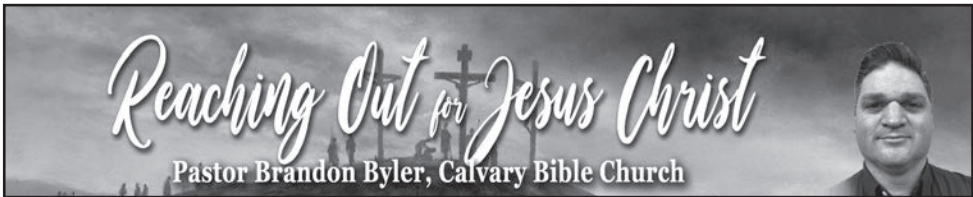
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### In the Fullness of Time

Growing up, I was fearful of loud noises. Sitting in the stands at an Indians' game was no fun because I feared the fireworks after the national anthem and occasional home run celebration. The fear of an unexpected loud noise took the joy out of the game that I now love. I see people living life this way. We don't want to, but even in times of rejoicing, we can be unable to live life to the fullest because we have the thought of the "what if..." in the back of our minds.

Christmas is often sold and marketed as "the most wonderful time of the year," and indeed it can be! Family, cookies, showing our love and appreciation through gifts, seeing family from all over the state, country, or even the world is a wonderful joy. However, there is a side to Christmas that goes unseen. The lonely man or woman who sits in the nursing home feeling forgotten. The widow or widower who dreads their first Christmas without their spouse. The parent who has tragically and unexpectedly lost their child. What joy can there be for hurting hearts at Christmas?

I have good news! God has thought of you—yes you!—when He sent His Son "at the fullness of time to be born of a virgin" (Galatians 4:4). What a strange phrase, at the fullness of time. The word Paul used for fullness means to be full to the point of bursting. Like the firework that I dreaded, when the time was ready, Jesus burst onto the scene and the world was never the same. Jesus lived in this world, through difficulty, poverty, hardship, and sadness. He lost loved ones, including His father, had people betray Him, including one of His closest friends, and suffered injustice that no one in this world ever has. Here is the joy of Christmas: He did this for you! Whether your celebration is filled with all the pageantry normally associated with Christmas or if your celebration is radically different this year for all the wrong reasons, In the fullness of time, a Savior who came for you. I pray you seek Him this Christmas, for He is the best gift you can ever receive. Having Jesus is what makes Christmas a joyous celebration. Merry Christmas!

### Christ came with Purpose

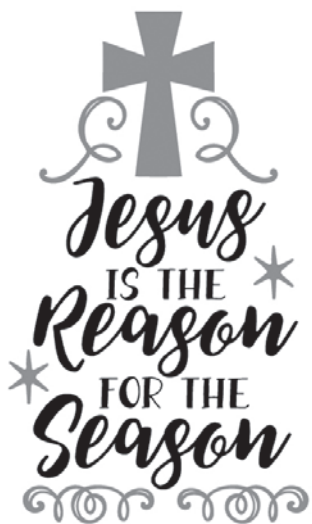
As we look to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior once again, have you ever taken time to consider why He came? The Bible says in John that God loved us and decided to send His only Son. God had purpose with sending Jesus to earth to be born. The Bible also foretold hundreds of years before Christ's birth that a Messiah would come. It says that He would be born of a virgin. It also says that He would be born in the small town of Bethlehem. What was the reason He came to earth to be born then? The answer is, He came to be born in order that He may die.

God had to make a way for us as mankind to have a relationship with Him. After man fell and sin entered the world by way of Adam, the first man, we have had a severed relationship with God. The only way for sins to be atoned for and forgiven, is for God Himself to pay the sin debt that we owe because of the sin nature we all are born with. Man cannot save himself. God had to

make a way possible, and He did. We now celebrate yearly His coming to be born. This is a great time of year to be with friends and family. As we gather, take time to ask others if they know the reason Jesus came and was born. When the conversation happens, you can be the one to give insight as to the purpose of His birth.

The Bible also tells us that when we believe in Jesus, recognizing that we fall short and need forgiveness, praying to God confessing it all to Him, then we can have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Our sins have been paid for; we can then enjoy a close walk with Him now as we also look forward to an eternity with Him one day. Christ came with purpose; do you believe that? If so, tell that back to God and have a relationship with Christ today as we celebrate His birth. Merry Christmas and God bless each one.

Living Life...God's Way, Pastor Matt Lowe, Journey Christian Church



### A Grand Day of Celebration

What a celebration was had at Bazetta Christian Church on November 19! Friends and family attended our Church service from far and near! The service featured fond memories spoken from each selected guest, whether it be a current church congregant, the child of a church congregant that passed, or a former Senior or Associate Pastor. The service opened with a 91 year-old former Pastor and continued with other Pastors, one that was raised in our church, and Pastors' a church in Texas! Other past clergy sent in either video or written script! Our current Pastor spoke about change and brought us all full circle!

We fondly remembered Pastor Jim Osuga, and his wife Maureen both deceased, and were treated to music from their son, an internationally acclaimed solo and chamber artist/pianist!

We were honored to have in attendance Regional Minister and Regional Disciples of Christ President

of Ohio, Allen V. Harris, and Cynthia Klingemier, Bazetta Christian Church Regional District Elder.

As we made our way down to Fellowship Hall, the family of Larry Sanfrey gifted us a beautiful "in remembrance ornament". Larry's ornament reminded us of him, and the many other pillars of faith that were not present, but certainly remembered for all their acts of faith, and work at Bazetta Christian Church. The afternoon culminated with delicious food prepared by DiLucia's Banquet facility! We are extremely grateful for the celebratory day!



Bazetta Christian Church Pastors and other clergy: Bob Penrod, Associate Pastor, Jeffrey Wheeler, Pastor, Sanford Downs, Interim Pastor, Timothy McCollum, current Pastor, Allen Harris, Minister and Regional President Disciples of Christ, David Babcock, Pastor, Cynthia Klingemier, Reverend and Regional Elder, Robert Frantz, Pastor Northgate Christian Church, El Paso, Texas. Missing from photo: Pastor Paul Leone, Pastor James Osuga (deceased).



When they saw the star,

they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:10

**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.

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 CORTLAND, OH 44410  
 330-637-6312  
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**Cortland United Methodist Church**  
 155 N High St  
 Cortland OH 44410  
 330-637-2571  
 CortlandUMC1880@gmail.com  
 Rev. Jonathan Williams, Pastor  
 Service 10:00 am Sunday

**PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Sunday Service 9:30 am  
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church -Cortland OH  
 490 North High St.  
 Reverend David Vensel, Presiding

**Journey Christian Church**  
 Living Life...God's Way  
 Sunday Service 10 a.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.  
 2878 Warren Meadville Rd.  
 234-244-4199 www.journeycc.today



## Church News & Notes

**Mecca Community Church** wants to thank the community for their participation in our events over this past year and we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**The Cortland Christian Church,** Women of Worship met at Four Star Restaurant on December 13th. We meet once a month to talk about our projects and to enjoy each other's company. Please join us. We will be celebrating this year's fun and productive projects and events. And thanking the Lord for our abilities to do them. It has been a great year, a few bumps along the way but "Thanks to all" who helped make 2023 a success. We also "Thank the Community" for their support for our Soup and Sandwich Luncheons. We appreciate your patronage and always enjoy visiting with you. Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

**Bazetta Christian Church** Free Live drive thru Nativity on Saturday, Dec 16 from 4 - 7 PM

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church** would like to say thank you to all our members and those who support our ministry. We are grateful for your support in 2023 and for your continued support. We look forward to serving with you in 2024. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God's Peace be with you." "Trinity will continue Advent services on Wednesdays Dec 20th with potluck soup dinner at 5:30 pm (free to all who would like to join us) and service at 6:30 pm. We hope you can join us. Any questions call Pastor Robert Wacker at 330-647-6402.

**Cortland United Methodist** Please join us for our "God Provides A Meal" luncheon on Saturday, December 16th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a gift to our community. Lunches are held on the third Saturday of each month.

## Warren Post Announces 2023 Dispatcher of the Year

Kathryn L. Kringeta has been selected for the 2023 Ohio State Highway Patrol Telecommunications Award at the Warren Dispatch Center. The selection of Kringeta, 34, is in recognition of outstanding service during 2023 at the Warren Dispatch Center as a dispatcher. Sworn officers and dispatchers chose Kringeta based on technical job

knowledge and ability, enthusiastic work attitude, teamwork, and prompt and courteous response to the public's requests for information and assistance. Dispatcher Kringeta joined the Highway Patrol in 2014 and has served at the Warren Dispatch Center. Originally from Champion she is a graduate of Champion High School and Kent State University.

## Christmas Light Run

By Valerie Sweeney

The fourth annual Christmas Light Run in the Timber Creek neighborhood will be held December 16 @ 5:00PM. We meet at the corner of Elm Road and Beaver Trail in the parking lot opposite Goodyear. Runners of all fitness levels, including dogs, come together for a casual run, to take in the festive lights and enjoy each other's company. This is a free, at your own risk, casual, easy paced, friendly run. The roads are open

to traffic. The run is posted annually on Facebook at the Everything Cortland page. Costumes and personal Christmas lights are encouraged!

The Mosquito Lake Gang, as we like to call ourselves, hosts the annual Christmas Light Run. We are a group of runners who enjoy the camaraderie of running and racing together. We invite the community to join us weekly at the beautiful Mosquito Creek Lake Park every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 5:00AM. The meeting location is in the beach parking lot.

There is a 7-mile course that loops through the park but there are plenty of opportunities to cut the run shorter. It's a safe place to run without traffic. A flashlight or headlight is advised, especially in the winter months. Meeting together provides accountability for our fitness by getting up early and meeting a group that counts on you to be there, as well as forging friendships with like-minded people. All fitness levels are welcome. Find us on Facebook.



## Lakeview Churches Holding Blue Christmas Service

Several of the churches in Cortland will be coming together for a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 17 at 3:30 pm. We will be meeting at All Saints Community Church (4530 N Mecca St).

There are some people for whom the Christmas season is not one of joy. Some have experienced grief, loss, or change that they now associate with the holidays. Some have specific painful memories from this time of year. Some are simply facing ongoing challenges that make being joyful feel inauthentic. If any of these sound familiar to you, we invite you to come to our Blue Christmas service.

A blue Christmas service is a service that celebrates Christmas but is designed to do so without exuberant celebration. It is meant to encourage and comfort; to provide space to experience the hope of Christmas without any requirement to pretend to be happy if you are not.

So, if this sounds meaningful to you, you are welcome to join us on the 17th."



## Christmas Services at Lakeview Area Churches

The Churches of the Lakeview area welcome our community to observe the Reason for this Season with opportunities to gather Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
Dec 24, Day, 9:30 am Service including communion. Dec 24, Evening, 7:00 pm Service including communion and candle lighting ceremony. Dec 25, no services. Dec 31, Day, 9:30 am Service including communion. Jan 1, no services.

**Mecca Community**  
Christmas Eve morning Service Sunday School 9 am, Coffee & Donuts 9:45, Morning Worship 10:15, Christmas Eve Candlelight service 4 pm, Christmas Eve service is at 4pm.

**Calvary Bible Church**  
Christmas services: December 17- Presentation of the Musical Angels Aware 9:30 AM with refreshments following the service. December 24- Christmas Eve Service at 9:30 AM Communion will be served. December 31 NY Eve Service at 9:30 AM Communion will be served.

**Cortland Church of the Nazarene**  
Christmas Eve, 5 pm; New Years service Dec 31 10:45 am. Christmas Day 10:45 am.

**Trinity Lutheran**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 pm, Christmas Day at 10:15 am.

**Wildare Church**  
7211 N. Park Ave., Cortland Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm in our Family Life Center.

**Cortland Methodist**  
All are welcome to Our Christmas Eve Service on at 7:00 pm. Fowler UMC has a Xmas eve service at 4:30 pm. Both will be services of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight.

**Journey Christian Church**  
Sunday Service 10:00; Christmas Eve Service 4:00,

**Cortland Christian Church**  
Christmas Eve Service at 7pm All are welcome.

**Bazetta Christian Church**  
Dec 24 - 10 AM Regular Service; 5 PM Christmas Service  
Dec 25 - No service  
Dec 31 - 10 AM Regular Service

## JCC Winter Campus Open For Skating

The Winter Campus at the JCC of Youngstown will be open for skating on its synthetic ice rink and curling lane through Dec. 31.

Hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Fridays and noon to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Skates are available to rent and snacks are available for purchase at the Ice Shack. The rink does not require below freezing temperatures which allows for fun anytime.

Special events included Hanukkah on Ice on Dec. 13 and a "Noon" Year's party from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 31. These events are free for JCC members and \$5 for non-members.

The Winter Campus is made possible through grants from the Youngstown Foundation, Western Reserve Health Foundation, and J. Ford Crandall Memorial Foundation.

The JCC of Youngstown offers social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs in a Jewish environment. Everyone is welcome. JCC is an agency of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. For more information visit [jccyoungstown.org](http://jccyoungstown.org).

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**Cortland Christian Church**

153 Grove Drive  
Cortland, OH 44410  
330-637-4611

Sunday Worship  
10am

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor Chuck Hargenrader

---

9:30 am Sunday Adult Connection Group. (Bible Study)  
10:45 am Traditional Worship  
10:30 am Wednesday Faith Lesson & Soup

**293 E Main St, Cortland 570-567-4486**

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Robert Wacker, Pastor

Sunday Service - 10:15am

Pastor Cell: (330) 647-6402  
Pastor Email: [pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com](mailto:pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com)  
(330) 372-1897  
[trinitylutheranwarren@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheranwarren@gmail.com)

2742 North Rd NE Warren, OH 44483  
[www.trinitylutheranwarren.org](http://www.trinitylutheranwarren.org)

Mecca Community *Welcome home!*  
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Pastor Steve Garces

---

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**5920 Phillips Rice Rd - Cortland, OH 330-638-5537**

[www.meccacommunitychurch.com](http://www.meccacommunitychurch.com)  
[mcc@meccacommunitychurch.com](mailto:mcc@meccacommunitychurch.com)



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## From the Desk of the Superintendent

By: Velina J. Taylor

As this issue of The Cortland News arrives, you are probably in the midst of the hustle and bustle of a busy Christmas season. There are always many ways to celebrate and enjoy this time of year whether it involves seeing family and friends or going someplace special or even taking in a show, concert, or movie—it's all game for making good memories. At our schools, it's much the same. Lots of learning still takes place, but everyone finds ways to make that just a bit more fun.

There are door decorating contests, a real-live elf on the shelf whose shenanigans are quite unpredictable, a PTO-sponsored Santa's shop visit to make gift purchases for family members, and secret Santa gift exchanges, to name a few of the activities that add to the festive atmosphere in our schools. We all hope you were able to join us for at least one of the many concerts offered by our music department—they pull out all the stops to make sure the audience leaves with a little more bounce in their steps and a song or two to sing or whistle on the way home.

Most importantly, though, those of us at Lakeview Local Schools hope you also have the chance to rest a bit and remember the many reasons you are thankful for your place in this world. Sending the best holiday wishes your way.



## Lakeview Schools And The Packard Band

The Packard Band hosted their annual Christmas Show on December 1, for area schools and on December 3, for the public. The annual event features several dance studios, young singers and, as it turns out, lots of connections to Lakeview Schools.

The free event is one of many hosted by the different Packard bands from an endowment by W.D. Packard. The Lakeview people associated with this show are: Nathan Sensabaugh, High

## Lakeview Inducts New Members Into The National Honor Society



Lakeview High School recently inducted new members into the prestigious National Honor Society.

The 2023 NHS Inductees are: Addison Allen, Bradyn Armstrong, Ava Bacon, Caden Baldwin, Kennedy Bartlett, Lily Bell, Addison Briell, Katarina Candor, Rachel Clark, Chelsea Dean, Jalyn DeLeon, Jason DeMonica, Brent Denman, Lacie Diemert, Jaren Dye, Marissa Eddy, Ava Foertch, Ashley Graczyk, Addison Groves, Raelynn Hall, Yasmin Ismail, Cassandra Klotz, Jacob Langmeyer, Lorelai Lowe, Mallory Mailach, Anthony Marble-Salem, Reiley McCleery, Addison Nicholas, Jacob Nicholas, Griffin Oravec, Leo Parise, Thomas Pavlansky, Benjamin Petrick, Olivia Petrilla, Mason

Pratt, Reagan Price, Adrienne Rich, Cooper Schiavone, Colben Schick, Mara Schmader, Molly Stuart, Brianna Totten, Clover Wagner, Mason Wheeler, Luke Whitmore, Katelyn Wutrick.

They were welcomed into the Society by current members: Zoe Baker, Andrew Brown, Dylan Clements, Ellie Davies, Matthew DeProfio, Elizabeth Fazekas, Gianna Ferraro, Ethan Gavitt, Ryan Gee, Brett Gottfried, Joshua Hudson, Emerson Hyde, Elisa Kotsatos, Jaden Kropp, Lillian McCarthy, Saige Muresan, Aidan O'Rourke, Jack Peterson, Ethan Probst, Luke Rider, Matthew Seikel, Kyle Senkowitz, Ashley Solis, Jacob Spencer, Abigail Sulc, Makenna Werner.

Congratulations to all the members.

## LHS Welcomes Winter Walkers

Looking for the perfect indoor place to walk in the winter? Lakeview 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.



For the second year in a row Lakeview Junior Meliah Persino has won 1st Place in The Salvation Army's "Art of the Red Kettle" event. Students from local schools competed by decorating their kettle and their school logo. Kettles were displayed at the Eastwood Mall in early November. A community vote was taken at the Red Kettle Kick Off and Persino was the winner of that vote. **Congratulations Meliah!**

## Class of 2024 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 Kalib Murgola. Kalib is the son of Rachel and Paul Murgola. Kalib has been a lifelong Lakeview student during his educational journey. After his sophomore year, Kalib decided to attend TCTC to study Landscape Design. Because of his incredible work ethic, attention to detail, and solid grasp of the content, Kalib was chosen by TCTC to be placed in their "Early Experience Week On Week Off" work-based learning program. Through this unique opportunity, Kalib attends TCTC every other week for academic and program classes.

During the weeks that he is not at TCTC, Kalib has been hired by the Trumbull County Engineers Office and works fulltime maintaining roads, mowing, and ditching. His favorite task currently is when his crew gets to patch pavement on various county roads. The Engineers Office has offered him permanent work once he graduates in the Spring promising him attractive wages with solid benefits. While his education looks a little different than most of his peers, Kalib's performance has allowed him to excel in a non-traditional manner. Get to know Kalib better with a quick 60-second rapid-fire interview.

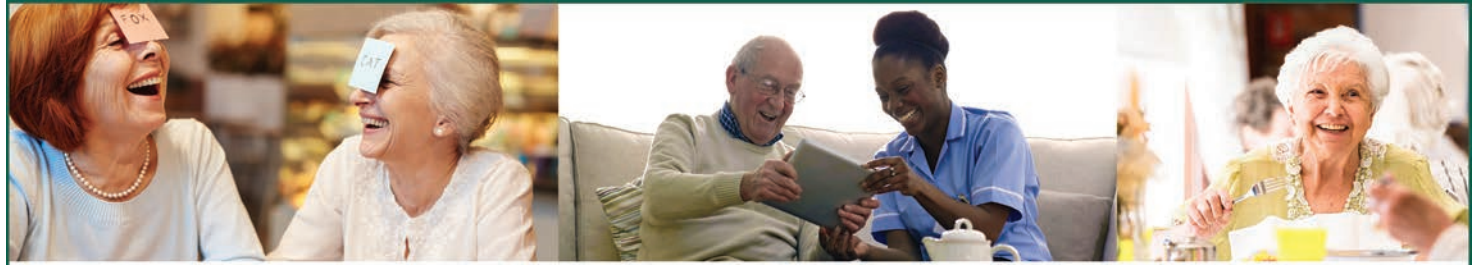
- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well?  
- Play music. Playing guitar.
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District?  
- The friends. There are some good people here.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? - El Torero
- 4.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland? - The parks. Willow Park and Pearl Park.
- 5.) You might catch me ... - Goofing around. Walking around. I walk a lot.
- 6.) What are your future aspirations?  
- I really don't know what I want to do yet. I'm still figuring everything out.





The Cortland Lions Club made a \$250 toy donation to the Toys for Tots promotion by the Growlin Howland Browns Backers.

The Backers meet at The Iron House. Pictured left is Basil Jarrett from the Cortland Lions Club and Kris Vadas organizer of the Growlin Howland Browns Backers.



## Clearview Lantern

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## ADOPT A PET

**MICHAEL**      **MIA**



- Neutered male
- 3 years old
- Domestic Shorthair, Black
- Up to date on all vaccines and microchipped
- FIV positive. FIV is an immunodeficiency 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 over 200 days. He is unbelievably sweet and likes to sit up close to your face so he can drape his arms around you and lick your cheek and chin. He frequently "boops" your face or legs to show how much he likes being around you. He's a big time cuddler, but he also has a playful side. He especially likes small sparkly plush toys that he can carry around in his mouth. Can Michael count on you to give him a home for the holidays?

- Spayed female
- 2 years old
- Siberian Husky/Mix, White/Grey coloring
- Up to date on all vaccines and microchipped
- Adoption fee: \$125
- Mia is your typical husky (Husky owners and lovers will know exactly what we mean by this!) and is still young so she has plenty of energy and love to give. She does well with other dogs and doesn't seem to mind being around cats either, so Mia would likely be fine in a household with other pets. She came in through AWL's Humane Department in terrible condition and the veterinarians almost had to amputate her leg because of the severity of the injury she'd sustained before being rescued. She's lucky to still be trotting around on all four legs, and very happy to have another chance at a happy life!



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](mailto: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 \$5.95 monthly service fee applies, but can be waived for accounts maintaining a \$5,000 or more in average daily balances. The monthly service fee is reduced to \$3.95 for Seniors (ages 62+) and Students (ages 16-24). Monthly paper statements are available for \$2.00.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



## Warren Women's Club

By Peggy Boyd

The Warren Women's club welcomed Joe Bell, director of communications for the Eastwood Mall, as their guest speaker for their November meeting. The topic was on holiday shopping and the new stores which recently opened their doors in and around the Eastwood mall. Small gifts were given out to the members and a luncheon was then enjoyed by all attendees.

The Warren Women's club will open the new year with two Mardi Gras celebration luncheons. The dates are February 4 and 11. At 1 PM. Both are elegant, sit-down full course luncheons featuring Louisiana style menus. Each will be at the historic clubhouse located at 708 North Park Avenue in Warren. The cost is \$25 per person. Seating will be by reservation only. Please call Sandy Mahaffey at 330 518-6927.



Peggy Boyd, President, Joe Bell & Ruth Ann Capito, President Elect.



## Judge Marty Nosich Hosts Joseph Badger High School Students

Abigail Demsey

Judge Marty Nosich, of the Trumbull County Eastern District Court in Brookfield, recently hosted eight Badger high school seniors for a job-shadowing project. The students spent their day observing court employees, attorneys, and other court personnel. In addition to this, the students were able to observe criminal cases throughout the day, some of which with quite unique scenarios. At the end of the day the students were provided lunch and had the opportunity to ask Judge Nosich questions about his background, the judicial system, and about the court proceedings that they witnessed. Several students indicated this was their first exposure to the judicial system and seeing real court cases. Badger student Kyleigh Lasko said, "Never have I

thought that I would want to go back to court, but after all we got to see and hear, I want to go back every day!"

Judge Nosich stated that he was excited for the opportunity to work with Badger schools and the students. Judge Nosich said, "I want to thank Principal Bill Hamilton for helping put this together and provide Badger students with a great opportunity. I would also like to thank Mr. Pat Carney for chaperoning the students. They were well behaved the entire time; I believed they learned a lot and had fun doing it. I hope we have inspired the next generation to pursue a career in the public service sector. I look forward to the possibility of hosting Badger students again in the near future."



Badger HS students with Judge Nosich



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Editor's note: We are thrilled to introduce a new feature. Cortland/Bazetta is the best place in the world to live. And the main reason for that is the people! The very talented Constance Amstutz has joined our staff and, among other things, is going to introduce us to our neighbors in her new column Meet Your Neighbor. We hope you enjoy it as much we do.



When my husband and I chose to relocate to Cortland almost 5 years ago, we felt drawn here. Of course, Lakeview Schools were a determining factor, but the desire to be in a community that felt close-knit carried weight. Although still being newer to the area, it has indeed given us such comfort; but my yearning to meet and grow relationships with those in our community has inspired this column.

Everyone has a story; a personal one shaped by experience, traditions, and values. Each unique in their own way, but one commonality we share - we call this place home. So what is your story?

While it may be difficult to conclude a person's journey in the column of our paper, the goal is to open our minds (and hearts) to learn more about who our neighbors are as individuals. Each issue, we hope to feature at least one person, and you - our great community - will meet a new neighbor.

So we begin here, with our first neighbor spotlights. Meet Liz Paster.



Liz lives in Cortland with her husband, Jay and two young boys. When Liz was in second grade, her family relocated here and most of her childhood was spent doing things locally - like visiting the skating rink. After graduating from Lakeview in 2006, Liz attended college out of state. During her college adventure, she spent two summers in Alaska for an internship where she lived out of a tent while completing a salmon population study. Liz wanted to be a wildlife biologist originally but has since transitioned into being an educator like her mother - a powerful role which shapes the minds of students.

After marrying in 2019, Liz and Jay moved to Cortland the following year. Not only was Cortland a familiar comfort for Liz, having new small businesses coming in and growing holiday traditions as a community were icing on the cake. When asking Liz to define our town with one word, she chose "quaint" because "It is like a Hallmark kind of town." Liz envisions Cortland blossoming into a destination filled with 'mom and pop' shops where people come on a Saturday afternoon for shopping. The great people of our town make it truly special.



Similar to Liz, Erica Massaro and her family embrace the community spirit and seasonal activities. "We love going to the parade every year and participating in food truck events and the tree lighting," says Erica. "Great events, great schools, great people."

Erica, who works in mental health, has a heart twice in size. As a foster parent, she is welcoming children in need while simultaneously hoping to build resources for those who walk in similar shoes. Erica dreams of having a 'foster closet' where county foster parents can obtain resources they need when they get the call to foster. "My hope is to eventually open a 'foster closet' because there are not many resources for foster families. Most kids come with nothing except the clothes on their back." This would allow families to gather necessary items quickly to care for their new foster children. Many times, the calls come unexpectedly, and the age range can vary. While Erica would describe herself as open-minded, compassionate can be added to the list. But Erica is not alone. Cortland/Bazetta communities are sewn together by gracious individuals. As you'll see, the passion that drives our community can be found in the spirit of the people who make up our great area. While individually we are unique in our own way, together we are incomparable.

**NEIGHBORS  
CAN MAKE  
THE BEST  
FRIENDS**



## Thank You For Your Support Of The Cortland Lions Club

By Ralph McCord


Thank you for supporting the Cortland Lions Club Fund Raising Projects this year. Our Lions Club sells French fries at all home football games at Lakeview and we were able to donate \$2,200 to the Lakeview Band Boosters and \$2,200 to the Lakeview Athletic Boosters. In addition, our club in the past few months has been able to donate to the following needs: \$1500 to the Cortland Police Department for AED replacement batteries and \$1500 to the Cortland Fire Department for a new Jaws of Life, we donated 20 turkeys to the Warren Family Mission for their annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

We contributed \$500 to Cortland's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event and also passed out free Hot Chocolate, Hot Cider and cookies to attendees of this event, we donated \$1000 to Someplace Safe to reduce and prevent domestic violence, we donated \$2,500 in Food Gift Cards to Cortland Area Cares to help support our local Food Bank, we also donated \$2,200 in Food Gift Cards to support residents in need at the Lions

Club sponsored Cortview Village, we donated \$250 in toys for the Toys for Tots held at the Iron House and donating \$225 to purchase pizzas for our annual Pizza Party for the residents of Boyd's Home in Kinsman.

Prior to October we awarded \$5,000 in scholarships, \$173 to the Lakeview Food Pantry, \$500 to the Safety City Project, \$200 to the Bazetta Trustees in support of their Easter Egg Hunt at Imagination Station and \$2128 to support various Lions International Projects such as Pilot Dogs, Ohio Lions Eye Research etc.

Our donations this year totaled in excess of \$22,250. It has been a busy year and we are thankful for your support and the support of the women and men members who donate their time, talent and treasure to meet area needs. Our members do not receive any financial benefits from our fundraising. Please consider joining our club so we can expand our donations and support in our community. Please contact Ralph at 330-219-4879 for information.



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## 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](http://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 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.

## Girl Scouts Spread Birthday Joy

By Sarah Gyure

In the spirit of giving the girls of Troop 80161 collected and assembled 'Birthday Bags' for the Warren Family Mission. The community service project evolved when the Troop celebrated Girl Scout Founders Day 10/31/23 - Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday. The girls wanted to make an impact on their

community and spread birthday joy. Each bag contained: birthday cake mix, icing, cake pan, birthday banner & party hat. The girls hope the bag can brighten an individual's birthday who otherwise would be unable to celebrate. Pictured is Adalyn G. delivering the bags.



It was a true joy for the Cortland Church of the Nazarene to present new coats to the children of Trumbull County Children Services recently.

# Happy Birthday!!



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Our store supports [workingdogsforvets.org](http://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.

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The Cortland Lions Club presented a check for \$2,200 to Karin Hudson, President of the Lakeview Band Boosters. Pictured left to right is Bill Lowther, President of the Cortland Lions Club, Karin Hudson, President of the Band Boosters and Constance Amstutz, a Lions Club Member.





## 401(K) Limit Increases To \$23,000 For 2024 IRA Limit Rises To \$7,000

The contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans, as well as the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased to \$23,000, up from \$22,500.

The limit on annual contributions to an IRA increased to \$7,000, up from \$6,500. The IRA catch up contribution limit for individuals aged 50 and over was amended under the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 (SECURE 2.0) to include an annual cost of living adjustment but remains \$1,000 for 2024.

The catch-up contribution limit for employees aged 50 and over who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans, as well as the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan remains \$7,500 for 2024. Therefore, participants in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans, as well as the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan who are 50 and older can contribute up to \$30,500, starting in 2024. The catch-up contribution limit for employees 50 and over who participate in SIMPLE plans remains \$3,500 for 2024.

The income ranges for determining eligibility to make deductible contributions to traditional Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), to contribute to Roth IRAs, and to claim the Saver's Credit all increased for 2024. Taxpayers can deduct contributions to a traditional IRA if they meet certain conditions. If during the year either the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work, the deduction may be reduced, or phased out, until it is eliminated, depending on filing status and income. (If neither the taxpayer nor the spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work, the phase-outs of the deduction do not apply.)

Here are the phase out ranges for 2024:

- For single taxpayers covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between \$77,000 and \$87,000, up from between \$73,000 and \$83,000.
- For married couples filing jointly, if the spouse making the IRA contribution is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between \$123,000 and \$143,000, up from between \$116,000 and \$136,000.
- For an IRA contributor who is not covered by a workplace retirement plan and is married to someone who is covered, the phase-out range is increased to between \$230,000 and

\$240,000, up from between \$218,000 and \$228,000.

- For a married individual filing a separate return who is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between \$0 and \$10,000.

The income phase-out range for taxpayers making contributions to a Roth IRA is increased to between \$146,000 and \$161,000 for singles and heads of household, up from between \$138,000 and \$153,000. For married couples filing jointly, the income phase-out range is increased to between \$230,000 and \$240,000, up from between \$218,000 and \$228,000. The phase-out range for a married individual filing a separate return who makes contributions to a Roth IRA is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between \$0 and \$10,000.

The income limit for the Saver's Credit (also known as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit) for low- and moderate-income workers is \$76,500 for married couples filing jointly, up from \$73,000; \$57,375 for heads of household, up from \$54,750; and \$38,250 for singles and married individuals filing separately, up from \$36,500.

The amount individuals can contribute to their SIMPLE retirement accounts is increased to \$16,000, up from \$15,500.

Additional changes made under SECURE 2.0 are as follows:

- The limitation on premiums paid with respect to a qualifying longevity annuity contract to \$200,000. For 2024, this limitation remains \$200,000.
- Added an adjustment to the deductible limit on charitable distributions. For 2024, this limitation is increased to \$105,000, up from \$100,000.
- Added a deductible limit for a one-time election to treat a distribution from an individual retirement account made directly by the trustee to a split-interest entity. For 2024, this limitation is increased to \$53,000, up from \$50,000. Details on these and other retirement-related cost-of-living adjustments for 2024 are in Notice 2023-75, available on IRS.gov.

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

## THE WISE INVESTORS

By  
Guidelight Financial Group



### Financial Gifts with a Lasting Impact

The gift-giving season is fast approaching. If you are like a lot of people, this means you are brainstorming presents to give your children and grandchildren. While it may be tempting to purchase items like toys and clothes that can be immediately enjoyed, you may want to consider gifts that will provide value to the recipients for years to come. Here are a few financial gift ideas that they can use and appreciate long after the wrapping paper comes off.

**Contribute to a savings account.** Help instill the importance of financial discipline by gifting funds to open a savings account. Encourage young ones to save at least a portion of what they earn through allowance, chores, or a part-time job. Like any habit, saving takes practice before it becomes second nature.

**Purchase a U.S. savings bond.** Give someone you care about a secure way to save. Savings bonds are an investment backed by the U.S. government. There are no fees or expenses, and bonds generally do not trigger state or local taxes.

**Donate to charity in the recipient's honor.** A charitable donation is a thoughtful way to acknowledge a cause your loved one cares about. As you research charities to support, look for ratings that indicate how efficiently these organizations use donations.

**Fund education savings.** Your generous gift can help a student start saving for future college costs. There are several types of savings and investment plans designed to help students, parents and other supporters save for

future education expenses. Every little bit helps. A small contribution to a 529 plan today will be given the chance to potentially grow and could make a significant difference when your child or grandchild is ready for college.

**Help chip away at a debt.** Many young adults are burdened by student loan debt. Juggling work and loan repayments can be challenging. Your loved one will be pleasantly surprised when you relieve them of loan payments.

**Help with a down payment.** Purchasing a car or a first home may be out of reach for many young adults. If you have loved ones who could use help with these major purchases, your financial gift can assist them as they get settled and on their way to greater financial stability.

**Give the gift of cash.** Everyone appreciates a cash infusion. If you're so inclined, you can suggest how the money is spent, but they may appreciate being able to decide for themselves.

**Gift an appointment with a financial advisor.** Help your loved ones establish a financial plan with the assistance of an advisor you know and trust. This thoughtful gesture can create lasting value by helping lay the foundation for future financial security.

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## Healthy Hearts And Paws Pet-Away Project

By Jason Cook

The Healthy Hearts and Paws Project is proud to present the "Christmas Thru New Year's Day Pet-away" -- a program designed to give our pups a LONG break from shelter life and keep you and your family company during the holidays.

Beginning at 10 am EST on December 25th, 2023, ALL HHPP pups will be made available to immediately leave for a foster home until January 1st, 2024, at which point they can either be adopted, continue being fostered or returned.

All approved participants will receive all necessary medications, dog food and free vet care for their furry guest during their stay.

Any individual interested in participating in the "Christmas Thru New Year's Day Pet-away" event must fill out an application online; schedule a visitation appointment and provide proper identification; and sign a foster agreement and waiver.

We are an "Open Adoption" shelter, which means that barriers one may typically encounter when getting a dog are removed to create a more friendly, non-judgmental experience. We do reserve the right to deny anyone



for any reason from participating in this program.

If you have other dogs in your home, we encourage you to bring them with you to meet the dog you are interested in taking home.

Finally, if you decide that your guest will be staying permanently, your adoption fee will be discounted to just \$75.

Please contact HHPP if you have any questions.

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## Donation to Clearview Lantern Suites

The GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League recently donated holiday items to Clearview Lantern

Suites in Champion. Provided were holiday cards, sweet treats, and a gingerbread men craft activity for the residents.



Clearview Executive Director Krista Clawges, WJWL Member Constance Amstutz, and Clearview Activities Director Lori Smith.

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## The Lakeview Levy Committee Presents: Claus For A Cause



Join Santa & Mrs. Claus as they welcome their special friends: Elf on the Shelf, the Grinch, Cindy Lou Who, Frosty, Elsa and Buddy the Elf for brunch. Sunday December 17 from 11:00 to 1:00 is the time to join in on the fun at the Cortland Opera House, 115 N High St behind the Cortland Methodist Church.

The first seating is at 11 AM and the second is at Noon. Adults are \$12 and Children \$8. Help us stack up support for the school levy at a pancake breakfast with all your favorite holiday characters.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

### Dreaming Of Dolls Display At Bristol Public Library

A collection of wooden doll toys from the 1930's is now on display at the Bristol Public Library. The antique collection, which any little girl would love for Christmas, is owned by Bloomfield resident Judith Sheridan.

The top of the display case has dining furniture and beds with doll sized quilts, designed by Mrs. Sheridan. The bottom of the case holds a rock & roll set of beds. The green bed rocks and

the white bed has wheels to be rolled around.

The dollhouse dreams display is located on the second floor of the Bristol Public Library and will be on display through the end of the year. For more information contact the circulation desk at 330-889-3651.

The Bristol Public Library will be closed on Friday, December 22nd and Monday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday and closed on Friday, December 29th and Monday, January 1st for New Year's.

The staff of the Bristol Public Library wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year.



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### News From TC Tourism Bureau

Nick Lehner, marketing manager at the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau, has successfully completed the Professional in Destination Management (PDM) Certification, enhancing his destination marketing, management, and sales expertise.

The PDM program offered by Destinations International, the professional association for destination marketing and management, offers cutting-edge education and critical skills for professionals entering and seeking to deepen their understanding of the travel industry. Developed by industry experts, this comprehensive curriculum covers destination marketing and management functions and emphasizes their vital role in community development, brand management, destination stewardship, and investment, as well as effective programs for promotion and sales - all pivotal components driving the success of organizations like Trumbull Tourism. Destination promotion is a catalyst that serves as a bridge that connects people to places, allowing them to explore, celebrate, and appreciate the uniqueness of each community. Our purpose is to attract and cultivate an environment in which a community thrives as an ideal place to visit, invest, live, work, and play. Participants develop the necessary expertise to excel in the competitive travel and marketing industry.

This accomplishment showcases Nick's dedication and expertise, establishing him as a trusted professional in the travel and marketing industry. His achievement strengthens the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau's position as a leader in destination management, while highlighting their commitment to excellence as well as to the betterment of the county.

The Trumbull County Tourism Bureau is dedicated to promoting and enhancing Northeast Ohio's travel industry. The bureau strives to generate economic growth, by showcasing the area's unique attractions and experiences through effective marketing strategies and initiatives. For more information, visit [exploretumbullcounty.com](http://exploretumbullcounty.com).



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