

CortlandNEWS

“The Good News Newspaper”

Vol. 20 No. 6

February 3, 2024

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

United “4” Kids Program to Bring Support to Students at Lakeview K-7

By Christine Cope

On January 8th, United Way of Trumbull County attended Lakeview’s Board of Education meeting to officially announce their partnership with United “4” Kids through a United Way of Trumbull County program made possible with ARPA funds provided by the Trumbull County Commissioners.

The pilot program will be introduced in Lakeview’s Elementary and Middle Schools in late February. It will provide wrap-around services, including an academic assistance center with tutoring and social-emotional support to students who do not qualify for existing resources. In addition, a small portion of the program includes STEM and career readiness experiences. The maximum award for the grant is \$180,000 and will span 2.5 years.

The partnership came naturally to United Way, with a long history of supporting students through a range of programs to aid in improving childhood literacy and removing barriers that keep children from learning.

“We are thrilled to be able to partner with Lakeview Local Schools with our United “4” Kids initiative with the funds made possible by the Trumbull County Commissioners. Today’s students are faced with different circumstances than previous generations,” stated Christine Cope, President/CEO at UWTC.

Piloting this type of program will give us {UWTC} the needed structure



Front: Danielle Scherer, Lakeview Board Member; Taylor Pease, Lakeview School Board Member; Van Nelson, United Way of Trumbull Co., Board Chair; Ashley Handrych, Lakeview Middle School Principal; Melissa Maki, United Way of Trumbull Co., Board Chair-Elect; Christine Cope, United Way of Trumbull Co., President/CEO; Mark Harper, Lakeview School Board Member; Back: Angela Campana, Lakeview School Board Member; Jennifer Nicholas, Lakeview School Board Member; Velina J. Taylor, Lakeview Superintendent; Kristin Woods, United Way of Trumbull Co., Board Member; Not Pictured: Ryan Stowell, Lakeview Elementary Principal.

and insights in growing and supporting other United 4 Kids services. The framework is not new to Lakeview as the K-7 building successfully ran a similar program during COVID with

state ESSER funds.

“We are confident this program will be a game-changer for many students. We’ve seen the powerful impact and record of success in improving

academic performance, scores, and social-emotional well-being,” explained Velina J. Taylor, Superintendent at Lakeview Local Schools.

Unconditional Love

By Heather Sensabaugh

Unconditional love is love without limitations or judgments. It is often associated with the relationship between children and their parents,

but it is also present in the relationship between dogs and their owners. Dogs have a proven capacity for empathy, compassion, devotion and forgiveness. Josh Billings penned the quote, “A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself,” and subsequent research has shown that people that own dogs reap many benefits from this truth.

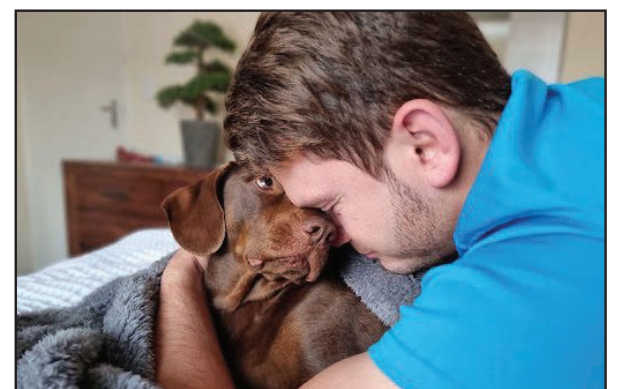
Dogs and humans have been living together for thousands of years – a dog skeleton was found alongside a human couple that dated back over 14,000 years in Germany. Dog owners have been found to have less stress, less loneliness and less anxiety than people who do not own dogs. Dog owners also predominantly have lower blood pressure. Interacting with a friendly animal has been found to improve levels of cortisol which helps to control blood sugar levels, improve metabolism and reduce inflammation. Petting and snuggling a dog regularly has also been shown to increase dopamine

which improves mood and increases motivation in humans.

Skeptics say dogs are only pretending they love us because we feed them. However, scientists conducted MRIs on dogs and found that dogs have oxytocin spikes (the love hormone) when they had prolonged eye contact with their owners, which is interesting because eye contact is an aggressive act amongst dogs and they seem to have evolved to make an exception for us. Researchers further found that the brains of dogs and humans respond to sounds of laughing and crying in similar ways, and both respond with comforting behaviors (like hugging/nuzzling, or snuggling). Dogs are also able to sense distress in their owners through subtle changes in their scent. They then know their owners are in need of extra comforting and the dog

then rises to the task.

As we near Valentine’s Day, what better way to bring more love into your life than to adopt a dog? Think of all the ways that owning a dog can improve the quality of your life! Check out one of the many shelters in our area, like All About the Pawz, Animal Welfare League, New Lease on Life, or the Trumbull County Dog Pound, and consider bringing a dog home who will love you unconditionally, for all of his or her days!



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CORTLAND CITY

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

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

MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL First and Third Monday of each month. Monday Feb 5 - 7 PM Monday Feb 19 - 7 PM	PARKS AND RECREATION Second Monday of each month Monday, Feb 12 - 5:30 p.m.
---	--

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

PLANNING & ZONING
Second Monday of each month
Monday, Feb 12 - 7 p.m.

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

BAZETTA TOWNSHIP

BAZETTATWP.ORG

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Trustees, Clerk, Zoning Inspector and Cemetery Sexton 330-637-8816	Police Department 330-638-5503
Road Department 330-637-8311	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.

Feb 13 - 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.

Feb 12 - 6 p.m.

Area Service Clubs

Bazetta Cortland Optimist Club Steve Rock 330-240-1634	Four Seasons Garden Club Nancy Finlay 330-637-8931
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society & Museum Sally Lane 330-638-2330	Johnston Senior Center Diana Shimko 330-924-0412
Cortland Lions Club Bill Lowther 330-719-4545	Warren City Federation of Women's Clubs Terri Crabbs 330-637-3845
Cortland Masonic Lodge Chuck Chagnot 330-307-3405	American Assoc of University Women Ruth Bradshaw 330-307-1151
Cortland Moose Lodge Bill Bartholomew 330-637-9957	League of Woman Voters Peggy Boyd 330-856-5398
Cortland Rotary Club Patrick Leper 330-224-3008	Cortland Area Cares Donna Kittle 330-637-0821
Cortland SCOPE Diane Jordan 330-637-3010	Friends of the Cortland Library (Cheryl Bush or Karen Murphy) .. 330-637-2717
Cortland Opal CH 181, O.E.S Carla Kahler 330-856-2356	Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) 330-720-9136
The Opera House (Event Rentals) Maribeth Albu 330-219-1488	

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

Our Next Issue ... February 24, 2024

Our theme will be

Women's History Month

Article Deadline by Feb 12 • Display Advertising Deadline is Feb 14
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 Box Locations

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

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www.cortlandnews.net

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

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

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

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



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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.

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.

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.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Charity Breakfast / Cortland Masonic Lodge / 9 AM / See below
- 9 A Night to Shine Special Needs Prom / Wildare Church / See pg 8
- 13 American Indians Program / Farmington Senior Center / See pg 12
- 14 Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday - Services at various churches
- 16 Mahoning Valley Autism Families Fundraiser / 6 PM / See pg 12
- 17 God Provides A Meal/ United Methodist Church/ 11 AM/ See pg 9
- 19 Martin Luther King Day - Government Offices, Banks & Libraries CLOSED
- 19 Black History Programs / The Warren Heritage Center / 6 PM / See pg 5
- 24 Chili Cook Off / Prince of Peace Church / 5 PM / See pg 9

Levy Committee Listens To Bazetta Residents

In an effort to listen and learn from Bazetta residents about their concerns for the school district, the Lakeview Levy Committee held a meeting at Bazetta Christian Church to ask questions, listen and learn from the residents. Approximately 60 people attended, broke into work groups and gave their opinions, thoughts and ideas to the committee about how the schools were doing and what can be done to make them even better.

"People really want to come back to the school district" said Bazetta resident Stephanie Hovis. "It offers so many great memories and it is a wonderful district. We just need to get the word out to everyone on why they need to support our schools."

Molly Townsend and her family moved here eight years ago from New York City. They were seeking a smaller town where everyone was friendly and cared about their neighbors. "We love it here" she said.

Kristy Johnson's children are a 3rd generation Lakeview family. "We have sentimental ties but we also want the best education for our children" she said. "Lakeview provides that for us. Perhaps people are hesitant to support the levy and are apathetic because we are doing so well academically. People just assume we don't need the money but we do."

Lauren Catuogno-Jones said "Everyone wants to be here. The schools are our biggest strength."

Lauren Zuga said "Lakeview provided a great education for me and allowed me to take advantage of so many opportunities. I would not be where I am today without our school system. I want it to continue to get better and be here for future generations."

School Board members and administration along with Levy Committee members listened, took notes and were very grateful to those that took the time to give feedback and input.

Business News and Notes

By Thom Foley

Greazy Daves Auto Repair LLC is having a money saving special- \$5.00 off an Oil Change for most vehicles plus a Free Inspection with any oil change.

Cortland Playroom is growing again and has an opening for an Infants and Toddlers teacher. Also, they are now taking applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Better hurry - they fill up fast.

It is tax time and that means it time to call the experts at **Champion Tax Service & Schraders Insurance**. They have been helping area residents save money for over 50 years.

This year take your sweetheart where she really wants to go for Valentine's Day - **Vasillios**.

Auntie V's Pizzeria has a great Super Bowl Special - check out their ad.

Charity Breakfast To Benefit Scout Troop 4008/4028

A fund-raiser pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, from 9 am to Noon at Cortland Masonic Lodge located at 3263 Everett-Hull Rd. (E. Main St.) in Cortland.

The public is invited to enjoy the "all you can eat" breakfast and help support Scout Troop 4008/4028. In addition to the hearty breakfast, the event will include basket raffles and drawings. The Troop is very active, and they welcome interested youth and parents to inquire about their activities and programs.

The charity pancake breakfasts are held once (and sometimes twice) each month by the Cortland Masonic Lodge, who donate all the supplies so that 100% of the proceeds can be provided to a local charity.

The breakfast cost is \$9.00 for adults, and \$6.00 for youth 6 to 10 and FREE for children 5 and under. Included are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, and coffee, with take-outs available.



Lakeview Athletic Club Fundraiser

The Lakeview Athletic Club will be having a Game Night Gala Fundraiser at the beautiful Grand Resort on Saturday, March 2nd. Our Fundraiser benefits our Little Baseball and Softball players-for this upcoming season. See our ad in this issue of The Cortland News.

Please wear Festive Attire and show off your personality with bright colors and accessories and cocktail attire with a creative flair. Doors open at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. Music will be furnished by the-No Funk No Justice Band from 7-10 pm. Tickets are \$125 per person or purchase two tickets for \$200. You may also purchase a table for 10 guests for \$1000. Your ticket includes a five-hour open bar, Hors-D'oeuvre's, a delicious Dinner Buffet and one Complimentary "Sorry" Raffle Ticket.

Tickets are sold online only. If you would like to purchase a ticket, be a sponsor or donate to the Silent Auction or can't attend but want to contribute please contact Becky or Kelli at lakeviewathleticclublac@gmail.com

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Apostolakis Auto Group Donates \$4,700 To Local Food Banks!



Renee Fuller, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley Director of Development; Jess Briganti, Apostolakis Auto Group Marketing Director; John G. Apostolakis, Apostolakis Auto Group President; Rebecca Page, Mercer County Food Bank Development Executive Director; Alexis Spence-Locke, Mercer County Food Bank Development Director

Apostolakis Honda and Shenango Honda were honored to present Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley and Mercer County Food Bank with checks totaling \$4,700 from a month-long campaign in December. This campaign earmarked a \$50 donation for every car sold from the dealerships based on each customer's choice of which local food bank would get their designated donation. Apostolakis Honda presented a \$2,900 check to SHFMBV and Shenango Honda presented a \$1,800 check to MCFB.

Apostolakis Auto Group President, John G. Apostolakis, has a long-standing relationship with the local food banks and this was an exciting way to tie the customers in with the gift of giving. "I

Continued on page 5

UNITED "4" KIDS

Reading Great by 8
Born Learning Trail
StoryWalk
Imagination Library

Stuff the Bus
School Pantries
Support for English
Language Learners

Social Emotional Wellness
Kindergarten Readiness
STEM & Career Readiness
In School Tutoring

United Way of Trumbull County

295 Harmon Ave. NW
Warren, OH. 44483
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Helping people thrive in Trumbull County

School programs are partly funded by the Trumbull County Commissioners with ARPA funds

Leap into '24

at Ohio Living Lake Vista

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February 8 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Move in by February 28 and get \$1,000 off a month for a year!

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What's "news" in the City of Cortland

2024 Cortland City Council

Thank you for all that you do.



Front Row (Left to Right) – Kathy Fleischer, President, Kevin Piro, Vice-president, Don Moore, Scott Rowley
 Back Row (Left to Right) – John Picuri, Jim Bradley, Dick McClain

Just the Facts

How many calls for service did Cortland Fire Department respond to in 2023?

- A. 2122
- B. 5000
- C. 675
- D. 2023

If you have followed our department's Facebook page this question should be easy. However, before we get to the answer let's look at what our call volume has done over the years. In the year 2000 we responded to 800 calls for service, and by 2013 that number had jumped to 1040. Over the last decade this progressively increased by just over 50%. Please keep in mind that these numbers are not static and can vary by a hundred or so from year to year.

With the ever-evolving circumstances of medical accommodations and demographics of our area, this upward trend has no end in sight. Our department will continue to do our best to meet the needs of our city, and through your continued unwavering support we will do our best to meet the ever-growing needs of our community. Find the answer at the bottom.

Sled Hill

The Eastlake Park at 422 N. Mecca St. is open from dawn to dusk for family sledding.

Snow Removal

Please remember that it is the property owner's responsibility to keep their sidewalk clear of snow and ice for pedestrians. Do not blow or pile snow that would obstruct the vision of motorists and do not put your snow in the street. Also, during times of snow, try not to park on the street. City snowplows need to clear the roads. Thank You.

Communication

When the city has news advisories such as parking bans or boil alerts, we

communicate in the following ways:

- Notice on the Community Sign in front of Speedway
- Notice on our website – www.cityofcortland.org
- Notify local media outlets
- E-mail to our e-news subscribers
- City of Cortland Police and Fire Department Facebook Pages.

Dates to Remember

February 5th – City Council meeting – 7 p.m.

February 12th - Parks meeting – 5:30 p.m.

February 12th - Planning & Zoning – 7 p.m.

February 20th - City Council meeting – 7 p.m.

- City Administration Offices will be closed Monday, February 19th for Presidents' Day.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Answer - A. 2122



All Star Chevy Dealers And Wollam Chevrolet Help Sponsor Jaws Of Life For CFD

Lou Wollam Chevrolet and the All-Star Chevy Dealers helped sponsor the purchase of new rescue tools for the Cortland Fire Department. They provided \$15,000 to help secure new, state of the art fire and rescue equipment for the department. The equipment will also be used to help neighboring communities because of mutual aid agreements.

The CFD purchased a new Jaws of Life, Strong Arm, Ram, Spreader, Cutter and Combo. Most of it will be on the new fire engine CFD purchased in 2023.

It replaces older equipment that has aged out. The new equipment requires fewer fire fighters to handle and are all battery operated.

CFD secured additional grants from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation and donations from the Cortland Lions Club and the Johnson VFW to help cover the costs.

The Cortland Fire Department and the City of Cortland thank Lou Wollam Chevrolet and the All-Star Chevy Dealers for their sponsorship.



Matt Fye, Used Car Manager of Lou Wollam Chevrolet, Cortland Fire Chief David Rea and Steve Prindle, Executive Director of Lou Wollam Chevrolet.

Apostolakis Donates ...continued from page 4

strongly believe in giving back to those in need in our communities" says John G. Apostolakis. "Our neighbors should not go without the basic necessity of food and I'm grateful our dealerships could help the local food banks with a monetary and non-perishable food donation. We're so thankful to have these important food banks in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys."

In addition to the monetary donation, the dealerships held a food drive at each location and were able to collect 100 lbs worth of food at Apostolakis Honda and 119 lbs worth of food at Shenango Honda.

Black History Month

The Warren Heritage Center AKA the Kinsman House will be having its annual Black History Programs on February 19th, and 20th starting at 6:00 PM. Doors open at 5:30. Light refreshments will be available.

"We've come this far by faith" The Warren Heritage Center celebrates and honors the history, heritage, impact and importance of the African American church in Warren. February 19th - Keynote speaker - Reverend Dr. Shane Floyd - Pastor of Grace A.M.E Church-the oldest African American congregation in Warren-celebrating 150 years this year. February 20th - Keynote speaker - Reverend Sampson Murray - Pastor of Triedstone Baptist Church-celebrating 100 years this year.



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Cortland Resident Publishes Poetry Book



said, "This book was a result of my poetic pondering and emotions upon reading great non-fiction books about the art and tragedy of war." Robert has also enjoyed writing poetry for his six grandchildren and great grandchild, as each were born Robert wrote a poem and read it at each child's Dedication Service.

Robert's book is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, his publisher-Author House and here in Cortland at Papa's Book Shop, 197 W Main Street. A reviewer of the book on Amazon stated "These historical wartime stories set to rhythm. A must for every history teacher."

Robert is also a contributing writer for The Cortland News. If you have questions or comments about his book or would like to have Robert do a reading of his poems at your next event please contact him at adkinsrobertj70@gmail.com. Text: 330 883 0048 to request Public Speaking concerning this book and poetry writing.

Robert Adkins, a Cortland resident and a retired Electrical Engineer from Packard Electric wrote a book entitled War Story Poems. These War Poems are dedicated to those who served their country to preserve our liberty in the air, on the ground and on the sea. Robert

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Navigating your Insurance Needs

PRESENTED BY JILL FREEMAN



Medicare IRMAA Premium Adjustments For High Income Beneficiaries

Medicare premiums can vary based on income. While most people will receive Medicare Part A for no cost and Medicare Part B for a standard premium, some individuals will be subject to additional premiums from the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount also known as IRMAA. IRMAA was first enacted in 2003 as part of the Medicare Modernization Act to address the financial hardships of Medicare. At this time, it only affected Part B premiums. In 2011 as part of the Affordable Care Act, IRMAA was expanded to include Part D premiums for prescription coverage.

The Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount is imposed as a surcharge on Medicare Insurance Part B and Part D premiums for higher income beneficiaries. It is based on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income from your tax return 2 years ago. Therefore, the 2024 premiums are based on your 2022 tax return and the premiums for 2025 will be based on the 2023 tax returns that are currently being filed. This year the additional premium amounts are assessed if your 2022 income was \$103,000 or more for an individual or married couples filing separately, and \$206,000 for couples filing jointly. For example, while most will pay \$174.70 per month for 2024 an individual with a MAGI between \$103,000 and \$129,000 on their 2022 tax return will pay a Part B premium of \$244.60 per month for 2024 and an additional \$12.90 on the

Part D premium. The part D premium adjustment is assessed on both stand-alone Part D Prescription drug plans and Part C Medicare Advantage Plans. A complete table showing the different Part B and Part D premium levels can be found at Medicare.gov.

If you are subject to the IRMAA premium increase, you will receive a letter from Social Security with details and premium amounts. Part B premiums for Medicare Insurance are paid directly to Medicare. If you receive monthly Social Security benefits your Medicare Insurance premiums are deducted from your monthly Social Security benefit payment. If you do not receive Social Security benefits Medicare will send a statement, typically quarterly, for the premium owed or you can set up an automatic payment on the Medicare.gov website.

If you believe you have been charged the extra premiums incorrectly or if your life circumstances have changed and your income has decreased, you can appeal the decision by contacting Social Security and asking for a redetermination. Since these amounts are based on your MAGI, it may also be helpful to consult your financial advisor or tax professional to plan ahead for the next years premium calculation.

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



One Night. One Show. One Cause. Live Benefit Concert for Tails of Hope

Registered ASCAP recording artist, member of The Songwriters Guild of America, and named "one of Pittsburgh's Premier Songwriters" in 2007 by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, musician and singer Stephen Christopher Kelleher will perform at a benefit concert and fundraiser for Tails of Hope on Saturday, February 24. Presented by Mortals Key Brewing Company and hosted by 40 Below inside the ACTS Performing Arts Center in downtown Sharon, PA, eventgoers will experience an intimate concert from a true storyteller, weaving reality-based tales into melodies with raw emotion that linger in the hearts of those who listen.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Tails of Hope, the only 501c3 nonprofit low-cost to no-cost Spay/Neuter clinic in Mercer County, PA. Tails of Hope has Spayed/Neutered and provided vaccinations for over

14,000 pet and homeless cats and dogs from Western PA and Eastern OH since its doors opened in 2017.

In addition to the live musical performance, the benefit concert event also offers food available to purchase, 50/50 raffle, Lottery Tree raffle, a free Door Prize Raffle and complimentary Swag Bag. Tickets for the event are \$20. Seating is limited and it is recommended to reserve your spot early. For more information, please call Tails of Hope, (724) 346-4673. Tickets can be purchased online at TailsofHopeWPA.org



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Human Trafficking Awareness Day

By Constance Amstutz

In 2007, the U.S. Congress designated January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Warren Junior Women's League raised awareness during their monthly general

meeting by not only wearing blue, but having guest speaker, Stacey Altieri, founder of ORRIN (the Ohio Response, Recovery, and Intervention network) educate our members and special guests.



LOAF Donation To Animal Welfare League

By Carole Wiley

The donations given at the December 19th Christmas Concert, starring the Cortland Community Band, totaled \$950.01. Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF) had become aware of the major financial difficulties of the Animal Welfare League. They depend totally on public donations. The donations are used to feed the animals and pay the hired staff. Lack of funding has caused them to significantly decrease the number of animals they can care for. LOAF members voted unanimously to give these funds to assist in their care of the animals.



Evelyn Shealy of the Animal Welfare League, LOAF members Donna Pate and Carole Wiley. Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship encourages all to make donations when able.

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Let the Good Times ROLL!

Pin Pals

Pin Pals an adaptive bowling league for special needs individuals of all ages is starting their Spring season Feb 19 at Cortland Lanes. Registration is Feb 12 from 5 -7 at the Bowling Alley. There is a \$5 registration fee and it is \$8 each week to bowl. That includes 2 games weekly, a shirt, shoes, use of a ball and the banquet. Find more information on their FB page @PinPals Adaptive Bowling League.

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HOMEBOUND

lessons for the journey

Pastor Steve Garces, Mecca Community Church

Foundations of Faith

Rev Robert Wacker - Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

"I love you the way a drowning man loves air, and it would destroy me to have you just a little." - a quote by Rae Carson.

What a powerful way to describe love! It shows the type of hold love can have on an individual that is willing to embrace it. Can we truly love something to where it becomes our very life? Can we be loved to that extreme? I have asked these questions to myself many times. Questions that challenge the thinking and confront the insecurities of worth.

To be loved by someone seems to give a sense of purpose. It tends to motivate us to please. To truly understand what it means to love like this, we must go to the origin.... The Creator. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten

son..." That is extreme love! Another passage states "I have loved you with an everlasting love: Therefore, with lovingkindness have I called you."

It is incomprehensible to imagine God reaching out to us in that way, yet He sees our worth and desires to be actively involved in our lives. He has declared His love since the beginning of time. He has sent letters of love in His Bible and even sent His son to represent Him.

His love is shown in the very breath you breathe, revealing your worth. This Valentine's Day remember there is One that has lavished you with love since the day you were born. Why? For what purpose? You need to ask Him! It is your turn to respond to His 'Valentine' message of love.

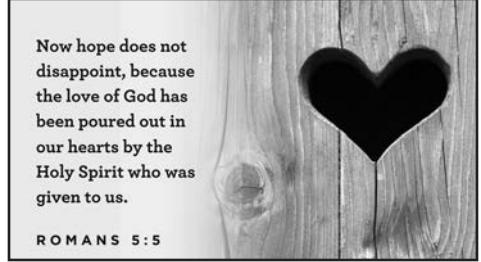
Growing up I remember in grade school what giving the little cardboard Valentines to my Classmates. They had cute punny sayings like: "You're Purrrfect Valentine", "Thinking of you knight and day, Valentine", or "Bee Mine". If not punny they often were about friendship, and best wishes, like: "There's one word for us, friends", "Hope you have a great day", "Remember who you are-someone terrific", or "You're fun Valentine". The cards had choices from every animal to favorite book or tv-show to your favorite sports teams.

Our society loves to focus on love in various ways. In grade school you have kids learning to love as friends and even having their first crushes. As adults we hopefully have learned to love neighbors, friends, and maybe even a spouse. Society even has taken over the feast day for St. Valentine and changed the mythos to be that of a winged baby named Cupid who will hit you with his arrows of love. Hallmark has made it about consumerism. While this is not the case nor is Cupid really a

god of love. We know a God who is love [1 John 4:16]: The Trinity (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit), the creator.

This year two feast days of the church overlap St. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. This is a curious overlap as we remember through St. Valentine that God loves us and we should love others. On Ash Wednesday we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return (death) because of sin. On Ash Wednesday we also see the love God poured out in the savior, Jesus Christ, the Son, and how far He will take His love. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) God sees all His created people as friends and wants all to be saved, so He came into the flesh of mankind, bore our sin and died.

He took His love gave it through the blood of Jesus for you covering your sins forever, and He rose from death, that you shall rise from death too, to live eternally with Him. This is God's love for you. Happy Valentine's Day and may God be with you as your strength this season of Lent.



Wildare Church, 7211 N. Park Ave., Cortland announces Pastor Steve Anderson as our new pastor. We welcome Pastor Steve, his wife Leslie and son Ehren to our congregation. Pastor Steve will share on Sunday, February 11 at a 10:30 am service. The community is invited to attend.

Wildare Church To Host "Night To Shine Prom" For People With Special Needs

Wildare Church announced that they will serve as one of more than 400 churches in the US and many around the world that will host Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, simultaneously on Friday, February 9, from 6-9 pm. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older.

Wildare will host about 85 guests at Night to Shine. They will enter this free event on a red carpet complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi. Once inside, guests receive the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining areas, a limousine ride, prom photos, corsages and boutonnieres, dinner, karaoke, prom favors for each honored guest, a Respite Room for parents and caretakers, and, of course, a dance floor... all leading up to the moment



when each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom. The address of the church is 7211 N. Park Ave. Ext., Cortland but the location is in Champion Township, just north of Warren at the corner of N. Park Ave. and Bristol-Champion Townline

Road. Guests begin arriving at 5:30 pm. Dancing will start about 7pm. For more information on the worldwide movement of Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, visit <http://www.timtebowfoundation.org/index.php/night-to-shine/>

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
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Trumbull County Board Of Health Opens In Cortland

The Trumbull County Board of Health moved into the former Cortland Bank Building to better serve the needs of all county residents. There was an open house on January 24 attended by about 100 people who toured the building and met employees and staff of the department.

The facility has 2 levels, as well as a basement. The main level is approximately 18 thousand square feet, with 36 office and cubicle spaces. It has a waiting area at the main entrance for clients receiving any nursing or environmental services, as well as an

examination room and vaccine room. It also has 4 meeting rooms of various sizes that will serve multiple purposes during times of emergencies. There is a primary staff training room that will also be used to hold media press conferences during a health emergency. The basement houses a large kitchen for the staff lunches and an incident command center to plan and carry out various initiatives during an event to better control the situation. It also has many areas to store supplies and files. The 2nd floor has approximately 6,000 square feet that houses a large climate-controlled room for electronics, such as their server. The remaining area is not currently in use, but they hope to house the county's 911 Center in the near future.

They began the process of looking for alternate space for the health district nearly 2 years ago as the number of personnel was expanded during the COVID pandemic. They soon outgrew the building they were in and it began to impact the number of grants we sought to obtain. This was impacting the ability to bring in additional programs to our county to improve health outcomes. This new facility has plenty of room for continued growth, and they are already seeking new grant opportunities in the areas of maternal and child health, addiction services, as well as reproductive health, which are all items identified in the current Community Health Assessment as a top priority to address. In short, this facility will allow them to better deliver quality services and carry out the mission of the organization to protect and promote the health of our county and to prevent disease.



Frank Migliozzi, Trumbull County Health Director



Trumbull County Board of Health members Bob Biery, Greg Dubos, Jack Simon, Kathy Salapata, Board President John Messersmith and Dr. Harold Firster.

Frank Migliozzi Trumbull County Health Commissioner said "I would like to thank our Board Members for spending many hours on this endeavor to find us a new facility and authorizing its purchase, especially our Board Building Committee consisting of Dr. Harold Firster, Jack Simon and Bob Biery. I also would like to thank our staff for their support during the relocation, especially our administrative staff of Kris Wilster, Johnna Ben, Dan Dean, Dan Bonacker, Jenna Amerine and Kris Kriebel. Kris Wilster and Johnna also served on the building search committee. I want to thank Commissioner Denny

Malloy for bringing this building to our attention and I want to thank our general contractor, Keith Denman, for doing a wonderful job and keeping the various contractors on schedule so that we were ready to move on our scheduled date. Lastly, I would like to thank Mayor Petrosky for welcoming us to this facility and to the City of Cortland. Mayor Petrosky's and city council's kindness did not go unnoticed by staff or myself and it was much appreciated.

"So far, this has been a great experience, and I know that we have made the right move."

Project AHA! An Equity Awareness Experience

In order to raise awareness about the real and varied difficulties people living in poverty experience, the Trumbull-Mahoning DEI Collaborative will be hosting a training event called "Project AHA! An Equity Awareness Experience." Participants attending this interactive training will be faced with difficult choices on how to maintain their home, and feed and care for their family, with limited resources and varying circumstances.

Participants will then share their experience and discuss ways to bring opportunities, resources, support, and belonging to those who live with the challenges of poverty. After the training, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a community health fair showcasing resources in the Mahoning Valley.

Carol Holmes-Chambers stated that, "anyone working with people living in poverty or in under-resourced areas are encouraged to attend."



Continuing education credits are available.

The training is March 15th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm at the Metroplex Expo Center at 1620 Motor Inn Drive in Girard, Ohio. Anyone interested in registering, or for more information, contact Carol Holmes-Chambers at 330-675-2765 or cholmeschambers@trumbullmhrb.org.

Church News & Notes

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (490 N. High St.) will host a Chili Cook Off on February 24th beginning at 5PM. Admission is free.

Cortland United Methodist Church. God Provides A Meal; Saturday, February 17, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Menu: Goulash, Salad, Breadstick, Dessert & Beverage. Join us for this delicious lunch. Bring your friends. Donations accepted. We will also have an Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to participate.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - Katharina's Closet is a wonderful new ministry that serves women and families in need who could use a helping hand. Our goal is to provide diapers, wipes, and clothing to people in our community. We are currently collecting donations to fill the closet and would be so grateful for any help you can provide. Every

little bit counts! We need monetary donations, diapers, wipes, and infant and toddler clothes for this ministry. March 2024 marks the beginning of the donation kick-off to fill our closet! We will have two donation drop-off days, March 4 & 18 from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm at the donation area in the back of the church building. As our closet fills-up we will establish a permanent distribution schedule. In addition, we will continue to collect donations on the first Monday of each month starting in April 2024. Trinity is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. For questions about donating or volunteer opportunities please contact Pastor Wacker at 330-647-6402 or pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com. You can find Katharina's Closet on Facebook as well.

Lent Midweeks Services - Lent midweek services will be at 6:30 pm with dinner at 5:30 pm. Services will be held Wednesdays starting on February 14th, 2024 (Ash Wednesday) through Wednesday March 20th.

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Rev. Robert Wacker, Pastor
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Pastor Cell: (330) 647-6402
Pastor Email: pastortrinitywarren@gmail.com
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Lakeview School News

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From the Desk of the Superintendent

By Velina J. Taylor

After the winter break, our middle school students were offered an opportunity to participate in Chess Club, sponsored by Mrs. Graeser. She has generously provided the equipment needed and is donating her time to help build her students' skills in the game of chess.

Chess Club currently has more than 30 members who come to school early each Friday to play against one another, hone their skills, and possibly enjoy a donut. The club welcomes anyone who is interested in learning about the game (no prior knowledge is required).

Another new student organization at the middle school is the Garden Club. Several fifth-grade students approached Mrs. Handrych earlier in the year and proposed they start a Garden Club. They tried their hands at planting cool weather plants like lettuce in the raised gardens that are part of the building's rooftop garden in the late fall.

In addition, if you visit the K7 building, you will see various indoor plants in the offices. These are cared for by the Garden Club. They are looking forward to spring and more opportunities to work with plants outdoors.



Tristan F., Brandt C., Tyler B. and Kaden B.

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 Jaden Kropp. Jaden is the son of Alan and Jill Kropp. Japan is where Jaden grew up and he attended Japanese public schools from Kindergarten through fourth grade. After the fourth grade, Jaden was schooled digitally online through an American educational institution. In 2022, Jaden became a Lakeview Bulldog when his parents moved to Cortland after Jaden's father was assigned work in Trumbull County.

Academically, Jaden is finishing his high school career by taking a mixture of high school courses and college courses through Youngstown State University. Jaden is an outgoing student and quickly acclimated himself to Lakeview's extracurricular activities. As an athlete, Jaden has been a mainstay in the varsity cross-country lineup and track and field teams for the last two years. Jaden participates in the Ski Club and National Honor Society.

Next year, Jaden will attend Huntington University in Indiana to study Cross Cultural Ministries with the hope of leading a church one day. Get to know Jaden better with a quick 60-second rapid-fire interview.

- 1.) What is something that you do exceptionally well? - Running and competing
- 2.) What is your favorite part of the Lakeview Local School District? - The teachers are great. The people are friendly. The people here at Lakeview have really made a difference for me.
- 3.) Where is your favorite place to eat in Bazetta/Cortland? - El Torrero
- 4.) Where is your favorite place to hang out in Bazetta/Cortland? - My friends' houses
- 5.) You might catch me ... - Playing some video games like Smash Bros. Nintendo was everything in Japan!
- 6.) What are your future aspirations? - I'm going to follow God's calling and travel where I'm told to go.

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- Weekdays Wed., Feb. 21- Fri., Mar. 8, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Mon., Mar. 11- Fri., Mar. 15, 7:30 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.
- Sat., Mar. 16, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. OR Sun., Mar 17, 1-5 p.m.
- Tue., Mar. 19 Election Day, Polls 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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March 19th



Learn More: lakeviewlevy.com



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.



Miss Judy and the Orange Room children aren't bothered by the cold weather because they love to learn! While listening to a "Snowy" story on a snowy day to reviewing colors and shapes - they never stop having fun while learning.





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Levy Committee Fundraisers



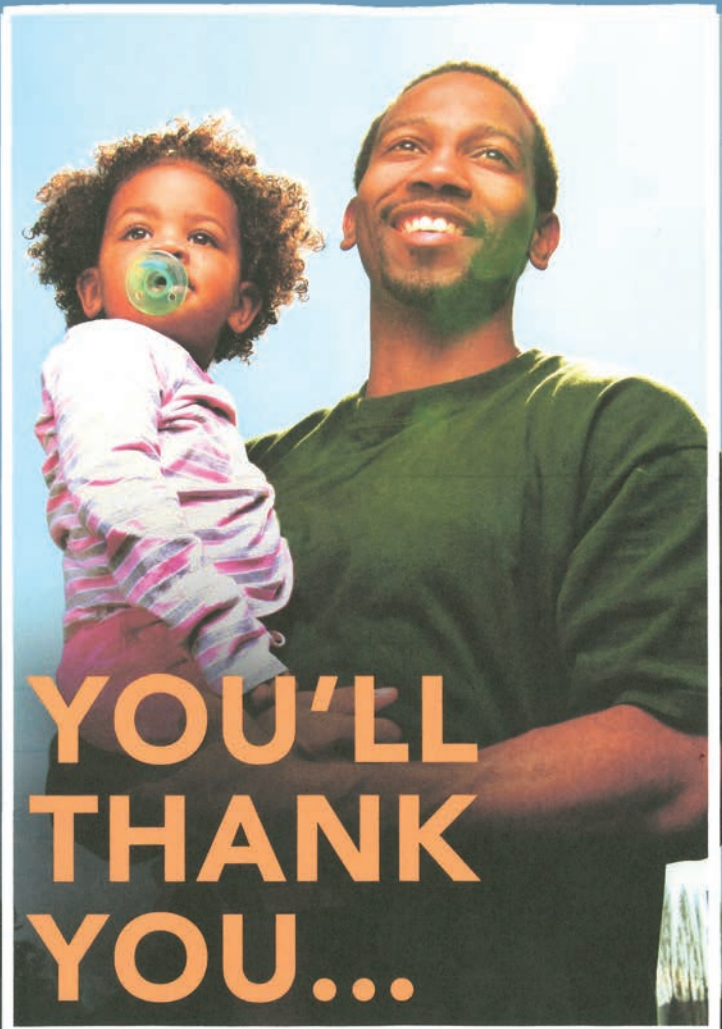
The Lakeview Levy committee recently held two fundraisers at the Cortland Roller Rink where over 500 children and adults had fun and helped raise over \$800 for the Levy committee. Included among those having fun skating [instead of doing homework] were Riley Costas, Austin Sturgeon, Conner Teagarden, Ava Doring, Aaren Sturgeon and Charlotte Sturgeon.



GFWC Ohio Warren Junior Women's League and Champion Schools are accepting donations for the 8th Annual "Bling Prom Boutique." This prom dress event is FREE to high school young ladies in the Tri-County area. We are looking for items such as prom-like dresses, shoes, jewelry, purses, or unused makeup. For donations, please contact WJWL President Becky Bucco at (330) 720-8995 or drop off items at any Champion school.



Pictured with their dresses from 2023 are Payton Fleischer, Emma Harris and Caitlyn Truong.



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Spring Lunch and Learn Program

Community members are invited to take advantage of monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions on the first Thursday of each month at Ohio Living Lake Vista. As part of the campus's commitment to lifelong, continuous learning, Lunch and Learn sessions feature a unique speaker, hearty lunch spread and talkback session for participants to discuss what they've learned together.

"We started this series last October and so far, have seen a fantastic response from the Cortland community," said Denise Rubano, Ohio Living Lake Vista independent housing manager and event coordinator. "People are thrilled to have an opportunity to come together and learn something new. So far, we've planned a wide array of engaging programs, from sound meditation to the history of the wedding table!"

The last Lunch and Learn event was held Thursday, Feb. 1 in the Ohio Living Lake Vista clubhouse centered on The History of Chocolate.

"You're never too old to learn," emphasized Rubano. Also scheduled this spring includes Thursday, March



7 Historian and author Sean Posey will speak on his new book, Hidden History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

April 4 Youngstown and the Titanic Presented by Traci Manning of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Several Youngstown families were aboard the Titanic. Come hear the history of their journey.

Finally, on May 2 learn about 19th Century Home Medicine and Medical Artifacts presented by Cassie Nespor from the Melncik Medical Museum of the Mahoning Valley. Actual artifacts will be on display.

To sign up for the Lunch and Learn session, call Denise Rubano at 330-638-2420, ext. 1000. More details about Spring 2024 Lunch and Learn events can be found on the web at www.ohioliving.org/lakevista or the campus's Facebook page.

Mahoning Valley Autism Fundraiser

Join us to celebrate love and make a difference for Mahoning Valley autism families. The Sophia's Gift Fund will host its inaugural fundraiser, the Wine & Chocolate Dinner, at the beautiful, recently restored Von Isley Estate in Niles on Friday, February 16, 2024, from 6 -10 PM. Proceeds to benefit the Sophia's Gift Family Emergency Fund.

It promises a delectable five-course wine-paired dinner, exciting wine pull, live performance from Leather and Lace, and chocolate dessert tasting perfectly timed to enjoy with your colleagues or your special Valentine.

It also will serve as the area premier of the award-winning, powerful short film, Sophia, I Love You, that chronicles the autism family experience of area residents, Sophia and her father, Scott Austalosh. The filmmaker, as well as Scott, will be with us this evening to share his and Sophia's stories, dreams, and triumphs.

Whether you're a wine connoisseur, a chocolate lover, or just want to support area families, this event promises to satisfy your cravings and ignite your taste buds.

Join us at Sophia's Gift Wine & Chocolate Dinner for an evening of pure indulgence and unforgettable memories! Pre-registration is requested. For more information and to register go to autismmv.org/events or call 330.333.9609.

Free Programs At Farmington Senior Center

Here are some programs offered at the Farmington Senior Center. Lunch (\$5.00) is at 11:45 and the programs starts at 12:30 and are free. The Center is located at 150 College St. in West Farmington next to the Fire station. Everyone is welcome.

February 13th. (Tuesday)

THOSE THAT PRECEDE US: AMERICAN INDIANS. Norman Kwallek will take us back in time to when our area was populated by Indians. Come hear about the Indians and their mounds that were built in our area and some, of which, are still with us.

February 27th. (Tuesday)

ECLIPSES by Marty Mullet. With an upcoming total eclipse visible in our area in April, Marty will prepare us for this once in a lifetime event.

March 5th. (Tuesday)

COIN COLLECTING AND EVALUATIONS by Wayne Aubel. Are you looking for more info about the coins you have or are you interested in investing in silver & gold, come update your awareness.

March 26th. (Tuesday)

RECYCLING DO'S AND DON'TS by Jennifer Jones. Come hear how you can improve your recycling habits.



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Thanks to all the people who attended the 'Senior Showcase' Talent Show. Over 70 senior citizen performers

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Lakeview Jazz Band Plays At Prestigious Conference

By Heather Sensabaugh

The Lakeview Blues, Lakeview High School's advanced Jazz Ensemble, traveled to Columbus on January 31st to play at the annual Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Professional Development Conference. This conference is one of the three biggest Music Conferences in the United States, and this opportunity was only realized through an audition process that included all Ohio schools that apply. Lakeview Blues was one of three High School jazz ensembles that were selected to play at this conference. Mr. Sensabaugh, the ensemble's director, is very proud of the students to have earned this opportunity.

The last year a High School ensemble was selected from Lakeview was in 2007, when the Lakeview Symphonic Band, under the direction of Ken Young, was selected. Lakeview has never previously sent a Jazz Ensemble to this prestigious event. However, this is the 2nd year in a row that a Lakeview Band has played at this conference. In 2023, the Lakeview 8th Grade Band, under the direction of Tyler Husosky and Nathan Sensabaugh, auditioned and were chosen to play at the same event. Having a school send two ensembles in back-to-back years is very rare!

Lakeview Blues' performance included eight selections of differing jazz styles. One piece they played was written by Youngstown State University composition and jazz professor, Dave Morgan that features Lakeview Alum Alex Miller on tenor saxophone, entitled, "The Universal Dance." Another piece they performed, specifically commissioned for the Lakeview Blues, aptly titled "The Lakeview Blues," was composed by renowned composer and YSU alum, Mike Kamuf.

Other selections included the jazz standard, "Caravan," as played by Chicago, and arranged for jazz ensemble by Mike Tomaro. They also played a ballad by Mike Dana that featured the ensemble's lead alto saxophonist Gage Mymo, called "True North," and a piece that was written by the Lakeview Blues themselves, with the help of Jefferson Area Schools Band Director and Lakeview Alum, Fred Burazer called "Subway to the Stars." The band was accompanied by five different Lakeview Alumni that are current music teachers in the area.

Congratulations, Lakeview Blues!



AAUW Women's Scholarship

By Laura DePizzo

AAUW (American Association of University Women) is offering a scholarship to assist a current Trumbull County female full time senior student who is pursuing a degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) or STEAM (the Arts). The scholarship award will be \$1000.

Applicants must have at least a 3.2 minimum GPA and be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program at an accredited college or university located in the State of Ohio. Applications for the scholarship are available AAUW.TrumbullCounty@gmail.com. Applications are due Feb. 29, 2024.

Cortland Playroom Teacher Of The Month

Ms. Stacey has been the infant teacher at Cortland Playroom for 3 years. She can often be found sitting on the floor in the infant room playing with one baby and rocking another! She is a multi-tasker and gets the job done, all while giving compassionate care to the babies at the Playroom. Ms. Stacey comes up with cute crafts that include tiny hands and feet that go along with the seasons.

Ms. Stacey has worked in childcare for over 20 years. She is loyal and takes pride in the care she provides for her children. Outside of work she spends time with her daughter and enjoys her 5 dogs.

Thank you, Ms. Stacey, for the hard work every day! The babies, parents and staff all appreciate you!



It's Sap Season!

The Lakeview Local Land Lab is offering up the opportunity for anyone in the district to come take part in seeing the process of making maple syrup in the coming weeks. Known as the Breakfast Club, anyone interested can come take part in every aspect of making fresh syrup.

We start out with cutting the firewood needed to boil the sap and do a general clean up of the trails. Once the weather gets to be perfect sap weather, we will tap the trees and then collect the sap. After there is enough collected, we will have boil days on the weekends. At the end of the season, we will host a breakfast so that everyone can sample our hard work. This is a completely weather dependent type of project so there is not a whole lot of notice ahead of time when things will take place at the land lab.


Another added bonus is the fun of cooking over an open fire and hiking the trails to check off the list on the scavenger hunt.

The Land Lab is over 30 acres of wooded property owned by the school

district to be used for outdoor education. Remember, this is open to anyone to come take part, you do not need to have children attending school here. This is simply open for anyone to come see the process, either just once or commit to attending every event. If you would like to be included on when things will take place, please email Laura.DePizzo@lakeviewlocal.org or call 330-638-1060. The Lakeview PTO will post events on their Facebook as well.

This is a weather dependent project so we can't plan ahead—sap runs best when day temps are in the 40s and nights are in the 20s. Just can't plan weeks ahead for it. We will post on the Lakeview PTO site and make announcements at the schools.



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meet YOUR NEIGHBORS
 By Constance Amstutz



It may be cold outside, but we are just warming up to one of our newest columns. In case you've missed our prior issues, our goal is to bring the spotlight to individuals in our community.

If we think about the word 'love', we can easily draw a connection to Cortland. One of Merriam-Webster's definitions of love says it is a "warm attachment, enthusiasm or devotion." Wouldn't you say there is quite the warm attachment to the place we call home? I believe Tricia Cox would certainly agree.

After growing up in Johnston, safety and education were a top priority for her family. Tricia wanted the best for her children, and that meant the best schools our community has to offer. Tricia knew her family needed to be in Lakeview Schools. "As a parent, you want someone to be just as passionate about your child as you are; to push them to their greatest limit that they could possibly reach." That call was answered by the faculty and staff at Lakeview. "It's nothing I've ever felt before. The big part of why I stay here is the schools...The staff I've had interactions with, they are all understanding and passionate about what they do."

As a mom of 3, on top of a good education, a safe community was vital. "I never imagined I would live in the city after growing up in the country. It's such a nice community."

Tricia's two oldest children play in band, a talent she says they didn't inherit from her. As a mom, Tricia works diligently to teach her children to be hard-working, trustworthy, and

to always set out to do the right thing. She shared the strength she witnessed from her own mother. Tricia started working around 12 to 13 years old at a local vegetable farm. "Mom taught us, 'If you want it, you got to work for it,'" and Tricia caught on to this at an early age.

Tricia and her husband, Bob, purchased their Cortland home in 2017, and they have no plans on going anywhere anytime soon. When asked



how Tricia would describe Cortland, she chose the word passionate.

"Cortland does what it sets its mind to, and ultimately, although people may believe in different things, we come together to do what is right for the community."

And that, my friends, speaks volumes to the devotion - or one could say love - we have for our city and the people in it.



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Warming the Community

By Constance Amstutz

On one of the coldest days of January, Warren Junior Women's League members braved the frigid temperatures to bring warmth to the community. Alongside The Women's Park fence and fountain fence at Courthouse Square, hats, gloves, and scarves hang for easy access to those in need.

Pictured are WJWL Secretary Maureen Bevan, Past President Sue Smith, Treasurer Dodie Baritell, First-Vice President Jen Philips, Tara Watkins, and President Becky Bucco.



Pawsitivity - Love Knows No Age!

Hello Cortland & Bazetta! Today's issue is about adopting senior pets. I recently overheard a conversation between a couple in their 80's about not wanting to adopt an "old" pet. They left the shelter with an 8-week old kitten that day. I thought to myself, "If Seniors can't even value Seniors, then who will?"

The problem - Our society is notorious for devaluing both humans and animals that are older. Some shelters, like Angels for Animals (Canfield), euthanize senior animals surrendered to the shelter before ever giving them a chance at adoption. What do these actions say about how we view seniors?

I'm a strong believer that an animal should never be euthanized for anything other than suffering beyond help. But I also believe that older people and animals have just as much value as young people and animals. Unfortunately, if people continue to place more value and importance on youth, senior pets will continue to be overlooked and even killed for being born "too long ago."

What is a senior pet? In cats, professional opinions vary on this, but generally a cat becomes a "senior" somewhere between 7 and 11 years old. For dogs, the senior age depends on the dog's size; small dogs - around 11 years, medium dogs - 10 years, large dogs - 8

years, giant dog breeds - 7 years old.

The solution - Consider adopting a senior pet and encourage others to do the same. Some senior pets may be in a position where they need to visit the vet more often or take medications, but others are in great health and lower maintenance than a new kitten or puppy! One of the best parts of adopting a senior pet is that they typically take lots of naps and have established personalities. This way, you know what you're getting as far as behavior and temperament when you meet them!

Many local shelters and rescues do help senior pets and give them another chance to be adopted. Some excellent local places to check for senior cats & dogs:

- All Paws are Perfect (Boardman)
- Animal Welfare League (Vienna)
- Animal Pawtectors (Cortland)
- Empathy for Animals (Cortland)
- Every Dog Matters (Youngstown)
- Healthy Hearts & Paws Project (Brookfield)
- Legacy Dog Rescue (Youngstown)
- Senior Hearts Rescue & Renewal (Bradford Woods, PA)
- West Side Cats (Youngstown)

Email Hello.Pawsitivity@gmail.com with comments/questions or article ideas. I hope 2024 is turning out to be a paws-itive year for you!

City Of Cortland Needs Your Help

Please check your next water bill for some important information being requested by the City of Cortland. The EPA is requiring all Public Water Systems to identify all water service lines by October 16, 2024. That includes the water line that is coming into your home or business (between the meter and the wall) and the water lines throughout your home or business. These are sometimes the same and sometimes different. The letter in your water bill will explain how you can report this information back to us. There will also be information on how to identify your lines.



Terri Donohue is the new manager of the Cortland Senior Citizen Center located at Cortland Christian Church on Grove St. Terri has an extensive background in home health care. The Senior Center is open 9 am till 3 pm Monday through Friday.

Thank you!

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Col. Sebesta Assumes Command Of The 910th OG

By Tech. Sgt. Juliet Loudon
910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Col. John Sebesta took command of the 910th Operations Group on Jan. 6 at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station. Col. Michael Maloney, 910th Airlift Wing commander, officiated the ceremony.

"This 910th OG is one of the top-tier units in the major leagues," said Maloney. "We have a national asset that is called upon in good times and bad, and it is not an easy task. It took me a while to find the exact perfect person, and he is sitting to my left."

Sebesta, having over 10 years' experience with the 4th Air Force, sought out leadership opportunities in other areas, and the positive environment he had heard about YARS, made here his new home.

"The working relationship between ops and maintenance, the leadership in place and the accolades from all over the Air Force, and the fact I have never heard anyone saying, 'I want to leave,' made it an easy decision," said Sebesta. With YARS being selected as the new home C-130J models, the 910th OG will play a crucial role in the conversion.

"This is a no-fail mission and we are moving from the old C-130H to the new C-130J," said Maloney. "There will

be challenges at the exact same time that somebody of John's caliber needs to tackle."

Sebesta, a veteran of unit airframe transitions, is excited to work with people during this time of historic change at YARS.

"I have been through a couple of aircraft transitions and each had unique issues," said Sebesta. "My small part is to use that knowledge to help guide us and weather the challenges of this monumental process and to watch the awesome Airmen of this group, and ultimately the wing, succeed like I know they will."



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Want To Increase Your Home's Value? Start With Your School District

Most first-time home buyers are young families or young adults who plan to start a family in the near future. Numerous factors weigh on those looking to make this crucial investment. Recent research has provided evidence that one factor stands head and shoulders above others: the school district. In fact, according to the 2023 NAR Home Buyers and Sellers Generation Trends, 30% of buyers named "quality of the school district" as a top factor when looking for a home. Realtor.com recently conducted a survey to find out what buyers are looking for in a school district. The data showed the importance of accelerated programs, high test scores, fine art programs, and low student-teacher ratios at the top of the list.

It is not hard to draw a direct correlation between your home's

current and future value and the strength of the school district.

Realtor.com data even further revealed that homes in high-performing districts sell faster – eight days faster, in fact.

It is also shown that homes in these districts received 26% more views than those located in an average district and 42% more frequent views than underperforming districts. Yet another study, performed by the National Bureau of Economic Research, found a link between additional school funding and higher property values. The findings show that for every \$1 spent in per-pupil funding by the local school district, property values increased by almost \$20.

Lakeview students currently receive the 7th lowest per-pupil funding in the entire state.

THE WISE INVESTORS

By
Guidelight Financial Group



Financial Checklist for the New Year

The changing calendar presents an opportunity to reflect, adjust and begin again in the direction of your goals. Consider completing this checklist to ensure your financial outlook is as bright as it can be in the New Year.

✓ **Review income and expenses.** Has your income changed over the past year? Did you experience any unexpected expenses? Inflation has made an impact on most households; look back to identify where your bank balance was most affected. If your spending has strayed from past financial goals, the New Year is a good time to reset and start fresh. Tally subscriptions and end non-essential or low priority services. Isolate problem areas and set realistic targets going forward.

✓ **Review your investments.** Market conditions from the past year may have affected your investment portfolio. Are you still satisfied with the amount and diversity of your holdings? Schedule an annual review with your financial advisor to gain personalized recommendations on your investment strategy. This meeting is also an appropriate time to discuss other areas of your financial life and determine if your risk tolerance, time horizon or goals have changed.

✓ **Confirm beneficiary designations.** It is important to ensure all your beneficiary designations are correct. When you die, assets without designations are placed into probate, which means the court determines the recipient according to inheritance laws. The process can be slow and costly. A life event such as marriage, divorce, adoption, or birth of a child can affect your beneficiary designations. If any notable events happened in the last year, now can be a great time to confirm

your beneficiaries are still accurate.

✓ **Evaluate insurance coverage.** Insurance can help protect the financial security of your family when things don't go as planned. Home, life, medical, auto, disability – all of these coverages can help restore the financial impact of an unexpected event. Conversely, the lack of these coverages can leave you financially vulnerable. Talk to your financial advisor about insurance plans that allow you to build resources for the future.

✓ **Prepare for tax time.** Gather documents you'll need to complete your taxes. Account for all earnings, including realized capital gains. Itemize deductions, if applicable. If you expect a tax refund, the sooner you file, the better, as it allows you to invest your return if you wish. If you anticipate a tax bill, plan now for the disbursement.

✓ **Evaluate short-term and long-term financial goals.** Vacations, weddings, welcoming a child, home improvements, a new car, retirement – many of the things that enrich our lives also come with a price tag. Be sure you're on track with plans that require financial commitment.

This checklist is a great place to start to ensure your financial priorities are set for the upcoming year. Working with a seasoned financial advisor can help you determine if your financial goals have changed over the last year and develop a plan to ensure you feel confident for the new year to come.

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Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation ART GALLERY

New Exhibit At Thomases Family Endowment The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery

"A Celebration of Abilities" will be on display in the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery from Feb. 1 through Feb. 29 at the gallery in the JCC, 505 Gypsy Lane. A "meet the artists" reception will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 4.

In honor of Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month, the Thomases Family

Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery is working in collaboration with Fairhaven Foundation for the display, an exhibition showcasing artwork from local artists served through Trumbull County Board of DD and Fairhaven Foundation.

For more information visit jccyoungstown.org and tcbdd.org.

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see

- Edgar Degas



Council Member, Jim Bradley, supports Special Projects Coordinator, Jeffrey Jiang at the recent Polar Plunge fundraising event for Special Olympics Ohio sponsored by the Cortland Moose Lodge. The event was held on Friday, January 19 at Mosquito Creek Lake State Park. Thank you both for repping the city at this worthy event.

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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 [Not So] "Calming Soak" In The Tub

By Cait Morgan

I pulled something in my hip a few weeks ago. "Soak in the tub" they said. "It will help your hip" they said. Right. Last night I couldn't handle the ache anymore and decided a soak was needed. Now a 'soak' in my book is a deep long tub, preferably a claw foot, filled to capacity with water that could cook a lobster and bubbles. Lots of bubbles. Unfortunately, we have a small and shallow tub with a low placed over-flow drain. But I was not to be dissuaded. I had purchased an over-flow stopper a couple of years ago. Time for a bubble bath. My fave is Mr. Bubble because ... BUBBLES!!! Unfortunately I then recalled throwing it out after a couple of years because there was no way I'd ever be stupid enough to try to take a bath again thanks to my two fake knees. But stupidity was in charge, so I dumped a ton of shower gel in the tub and turned on the water. So far so good. I like to get in and have the tub fill around me because that way I can get the water super-hot and adjust to it gradually as it fills. However when getting to the floor or anything on that level, due to lack of cooperation from my knees, the last two feet or better

is basically a free-fall. I stepped into the tub, got about halfway down and unceremoniously flopped into the tub. Not a soft nor graceful landing but I was there. Backwards.

Somehow my back was at the spigot. This is not good nor comfortable so I attempted to rotate myself and ended up crammed sideways in there somehow dislodging the plug, causing a decent amount of water to abandon ship. By moving the shower doors, I was able to throw one arm out and unedge my overgrown posterior to get turned around. When I moved the doors back, I found two of our dogs, Maggie and Cooper, staring at me with worried looks on their sweet little faces. Maggie whined and sat to hold vigil, Cooper yapped and left.

I still couldn't get the water level up, so there I was looking like a beached manatee. I did get the temperature up, thus managing to par-boil the back half of my manatee-bod and contemplated just how I was getting out of there. By this time, Maggie had given up on the vigil and was sound asleep and snoring on the bathmat, totally unaware that a wet and slippery mass of blubber was coming her way. I managed to roll over onto my side, pushed with my arms and yanked myself up and out. I even missed landing on Maggie. My hip felt pretty good! For all of 15 minutes. I think today I'm using the heating pad. I am not up to another calming soak in the tub...



Cortland Library Events February 2024

Presidents' Day Closing

All Warren-Trumbull County Public Library locations will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for the Presidents' Day holiday. This includes the libraries in Brookfield, Cortland, Howland, Liberty, Lordstown, and Warren; the Bookmobile; and outreach services.

Toddler Tales

Mondays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 5, 12, 26 Storytime for toddlers ages 19 - 35 months old with a parent or caregiver. Free.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.: Feb. 6, 13, 27 Preschool Storytime features stories, songs, and movement activities and reinforces the development of early literacy skills. Children ages 3-5 with a caregiver. Free.

Teen Advisory Board

Tues., Feb. 6 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 Teen Advisory Board. Registration requested call: 330-638-6335. Free.

Midweek Mayhem

Every Wednesday at 3 p.m.: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28. Teens in grades 7 - 12 can enjoy a weekly hangout at the Cortland Library with games, activities, and a small snack. Free.

Only Murders in the Library

Mon., Feb. 12 from 7 - 7:45 p.m. This new discussion group at the Cortland Library will focus on one true crime topic each month, with the topic being selected from group members' suggestions. The group will use and share resources such as books, articles,

and podcasts before each session. Free.

Write Here, Write Now

Thurs., Feb. 15 from 3 - 4 p.m. Teens in grades 7 - 12 can get that creative spark flowing with some quick writes to various prompts; if they would like, they can choose to share their work with other participants. Free.

Keep Calm and Take a Spa Day

Sat., Feb. 17 from 2 - 3 p.m. Adults may drop in for instructions and ingredients to make spa treatments to take home. Relax and feel your stress melt away! Registration is required; call (330) 638-6335 to sign up. Free.

Family Storytime

Thurs., Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. Come as a family to enjoy stories and activities for big kids, little kids and the young at heart. For families with children ages 3 - 8. Free.

Creative @ Cortland

Sat., Feb. 24 between 2 - 3:30 p.m. Kids in grades K - 4 can stop by the library to try activities that will let them explore their creative sides. A drop-in event. Free.

For the Love of Chocolate

Mon., Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. There's nothing like the sweet taste of chocolate. Come try various types of chocolates and chocolate desserts. (Allergen warning.) Registration is required by Feb. 15; call (330) 638-6335 to sign up. Free.

Totally Tweens

Tues., Feb. 27 from 3 - 4 p.m. Tweens can let their creative juices flow with crafts and activities at the library. For tweens in grades 5 - 8. Free.

CORTLAND LIBRARY

578 Lakeview Dr., Cortland, OH
(330) 638 - 6335

Monday: 9 AM — 8 PM
 Tuesday: 9 AM — 8 PM
 Wednesday: 9 AM — 8 PM
 Thursday: 9 AM — 8 PM
 Friday: 9 AM — 5 PM
 Saturday: 9 AM — 5 PM
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