

# CortlandNEWS

"The Good News Newspaper"

Vol. 16 No. 12

June 13, 2020

Serving the Lakeshore Communities

## Summer Time Fun



### Summer fun is homemade

By Sally Lane

Just as May honors mothers, June means a special day for Dad. While Mom's day often includes a special dinner and sentimental cards, Dad's day is usually less formal. Time to fire up the grill and play

outdoor games! The sentiment is still there, just expressed in a different way. Father's Day is June 21. Happy Father's Day to all those wonderful fathers! May your day be filled with laughter and love!

Father's Day also signals an uptick in summer activities. Graduation celebrations are over, and after Dad's day, people look forward to Independence Day fireworks. Who knows how July 4 will be celebrated this year? Stay tuned.

In the meantime, being the head of the kids' "Entertainment Committee" has never been my favorite job. Mothers all know what I mean. "I'm bored," or "There's nothing to do," are whiny lines from children as they plop down on the couch and pout.

Most of us can guess the next thing Mom would say: "Well, find something to do or I will find something for you to do" - in a voice that meant you wouldn't like whatever she picked out. We DID find things to do, just like kids today do. That's when my friends, sister and I sat down and made a list of "everything to

do when there's nothing to do." As an adult I would probably have two lists, one for outside/active fun and one for quiet times. We cut the list into strips and put them in a jar. When needed we would draw an idea or two from the jar.

When my friends and I ran out of things we wanted to do, it was time to build a tent over the clothesline in the back yard. My children constructed "obstacle courses" and raced around the yard. Now my grandchildren build "forts" with lawn chairs and blankets. We used a clothespin to attach a baseball card to our bicycle wheels to make noise. Kids today still love riding bikes. We played badminton and croquet. That still works for families although most have added a cornhole game. We were outside until the streetlights came on.

We looked forward to a vacation - usually to a cabin in Canada where Dad taught us how to fish. Many times, we just piled into the old car and took a ride around the countryside and visited produce stands or hiked in parks. We picked every kind of berry at local farms. We made jam and froze

fresh vegetables for winter. My dad's "company picnic" was at Conneaut Lake Park and was a highlight of the summer. We always went to the county fair. Family vacations were a little different then, but they were just as much fun.

This year is a little different. For the first time in even your grandmother's memory summer lacks the special events that give the season its ZIP! Fairs, concerts on the lawn, fireworks, class reunions, amusement parks and family reunion picnics...all put on hold. But that doesn't mean there aren't things to do. With some forethought, social distance can be kept. I'm not ready to hang shower curtains between picnic tables, but I'm working on it. It is bound to be a learning experience and there will be fun!

A drive around the county shows that many people are discovering or re-discovering the fun in fishing. There is also a renewed interest in hiking as a family. There are many places to walk and enjoy the sites. It might help

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**CORTLAND CITY**

CITYOFCORTLAND.ORG

Mayor ..... 330-637-4003	<b>POLICE/FIRE EMERGENCY ..... 911</b>
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, Parks and Recreation, and Planning & Zoning Commission meetings will be temporarily held via video conferencing, not in person.**

<b>CITY COUNCIL</b> First and Third Monday of each month Monday, June 15, 7 p.m. Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.	<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b> Second Monday of each month Monday, July 13, 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, July 13, 7 p.m.  Meetings and agenda of Council and Planning meetings area available at <b>www.cityofcortland.org</b>

**CORTLAND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE NOW ON TV**

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

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Road Department ..... 330-637-8311	3000 Warren Meadville Rd Non Emergency Calls .... 330-675-2730

**BAZETTA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

Tuesday, July 14, 7 p.m. - A 60 minute caucus with department heads preceding.

**Meetings held via ZOOM. Visit www.bazettatwp.org**

**LAKEVIEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

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

Monday, July 13, 6 p.m.,  
through video conferencing.

**Area Service Clubs**

<b>Cortland-Bazetta Historical Society and Museum</b> Sally Lane ..... 330-638-2330	<b>Bazetta-Cortland Optimist Club</b> Charlie Harper ..... 330-847-0114
<b>The Opera House</b> Maribeth Albu ..... 330-219-1488	<b>Cortland Rotary Club</b> Donna Zuga
<b>Cortland Lions Club</b> Matthew Smith ..... 724-584-0894	<b>Four Seasons Garden Club</b> Becky Bucco ..... 330-637-9115
<b>Moose Lodge #1012</b> ..... 330-637-9957	<b>Friends of the Cortland Library</b> Di Matijejevic ..... 330-637-2717
<b>Warren-Trumbull Branch of AAUW</b> Jennifer Soloman ..... 330-637-3483	<b>League of Women Voters of Trumbull County</b> Terri Crabbs ..... 330-637-3845
<b>Cortland Masonic Lodge #529</b> Chuck Chagnot ..... 330-307-3405	<b>SCOPE</b> Darlene Fry/Diane Jordan ... 330-637-3010
<b>Lakeview Outreach and Fellowship (LOAF)</b> ..... 330-720-9136	<b>Cortland Opal Chapter #181, O.E.S.</b> Carla Kahler ..... 330-856-2356

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

**Our Next Issue .... July 4, 2020**

**Our theme will be 4th of July**

**Article Deadline by June 19 • Display Advertising Deadline is June 24**  
Email articles to editor@cortlandnews.net

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

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

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

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

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

**Cortland News SELF SERVE Paper Box Locations**

Cortland Bank      4 Star Diner      Vasilios  
 Lakeside Sport Shop      Top Notch Diner

**PUBLISHER**

Fox Run Publishing, L.L.C.  
 Jim Woofter - Publisher/Owner  
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Sally Lane

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 Rev. C. R. Chapman  
 Jean A. Corliss  
 Christine Dorma  
 Kathleen Ferris  
 Thom Foley  
 Evelyn Shealey  
 Tom Shortreed  
 Jennifer J. Slywczak

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 Cortland, OH 44410  
 (330) 565-2637

www.cortlandnews.net

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

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

Article submissions to:  
 editor@cortlandnews.net

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

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

SCAN TO VISIT CORTLAND NEWS



## Community Events

### Event Calendar June 13 – July 4

The Cortland News is offering an abbreviated calendar due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hoping a full calendar of events will resume shortly.

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

**Lakeview Local School activities and sports schedules** visit [www.lakeviewlocal.org](http://www.lakeviewlocal.org).  
**American Red Cross blood donations**, various dates. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or 1-800-733-2767.

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

#### JUNE

21 Father's Day

26 Cortland United Methodist Church free community shred day, 1-3 p.m.  
See pg. 5

27 Men of Faith Open Praise, 9 a.m., Courthouse Square, Warren. See pg.13

#### JULY

3 Cortland City Offices Closed

4 Fourth of July

## Business News & Notes

By Thom Foley

Most Cortland and Bazetta businesses are back open but have varying degrees of restrictions. We highly recommend that you contact the business before venturing out to see what restrictions they may have. Here are just a few of the revised changes from our last issue.

**Totally Dog** is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are constantly spraying surfaces down with Clorox spray and use social distancing. We are still offering curbside pickup, and delivery options are also available. You can find more information on our FB page or by calling. Grooming is also available. Call Kym at 330-637-2239.

**Elite K-9 Training and Doggy Daycare** has limited the number of people in classes, with chairs being 6 ft. or more apart. We clean before and after every class. There is hand sanitizer in the shop and training room. We do not demand that you wear a mask; that is up to you. We are very happy to be back open and ready to help train all those puppies people got during the shutdown.

**Roman Supply** (formerly Buckeye Bulk) is offering pick up or delivery. Feel free to browse all the different material in the yard or you may pay over phone. Just mark on your property where you want the product left and our truck will unload it there. We take credit cards, checks and cash and are open six days a week.

**Action Physical Therapy** is open for those who are in need for therapy and are taking all precautions to ensure your safety and the safety of our staff. All staff and patients are screened at the door. All staff and patients must wash their hands before treatment begins. All equipment is disinfected immediately after use.

**Attorney Martin Nosich** is meeting clients by appointment only. Call the office for more information.

**Gessner & Platt Co., L.P.A.** is now open for appointments only. Please call 330-637-3906. Masks are appreciated.

**Attorney William H. Brooker** is meeting clients by appointment only. Call the office for more information. Masks are required.

**Mark Thomas Ford** is open for business as usual. Hours are Monday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We are taking all the required safety requirements. If you are interested in

buying a vehicle and don't wish to come in, we can bring it to your home with the paperwork. Please call and make arrangements. Our service department is also open regular hours. Please call to make an appointment.

**Auntie V's Pizzeria** is using ONLY the drive thru window for orders. Delivery is available Wednesday through Saturdays.

**M.D. Denna Heating and Cooling** is operating with normal business hours for heating and cooling repairs. We offer 24 hour emergency service. Please call the office for more information. Our technicians are wearing masks, gloves and booties when they are in a customer's home. We are doing our best to keep all our customers and employees safe.

**Vasilios's** dining room is open. Carry out is much stronger than ever. We added more tables outside and people liked that for bigger groups. We have gone above and beyond what the state health board recommended for your safety. Thanks for your support during the shutdown.

**Campbell Carpet & Flooring** is once again open daily Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have remodeled and updated our showroom with all the latest styles of carpet and hard surface on display. We are practicing social distancing, and clean and sanitize regularly. John and Becky both have been wearing masks when you enter the office/showroom. The customer is not required to wear masks. Thank you to those of you who have patronized our shop throughout the years. We look forward to serving all existing and future customers with their flooring needs.

**Centerra** is open for business as usual! We have a large inventory of hanging baskets and a complete inventory of our regular products. We are wearing masks for your safety and would appreciate you doing the same.

**Cortland Mower** is open for business as usual. We have a large inventory of products and parts. The service department is running at full speed so call for an appointment. We wish everyone continued health and safety!

**Cortland Pediatrics, Dr. Lynn Johnson** is seeing well check patients in the morning and ill patients in the afternoon. Please call for an appointment before coming in. We are maintaining our regular hours.

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**QUESTION:**  
Should I add Identity theft coverage to my home insurance policy?

**ANSWER:**  
With the COVID-19 pandemic, scammers have stepped up their game in an attempt to play on people's emotions and steal their personal information. When it comes to protecting your identity, it's just as important as protecting your home or automobile, and with Identity Recovery from Erie Insurance, you receive more than just coverage for stolen credit cards. You receive access to fraud specialists 24/7 and proactive protection services that give you peace of mind knowing your good name is protected. At Greenwood Insurance, we're here to help.

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## Campbell Carpet remodels showroom to offer increased inventory

During the shutdown, Campbell Carpet Inc. & Flooring completely remodeled its showroom. They updated with one of the largest inventories of waterproof vinyl plank or tile with attached pad in 12 mil-22 mil wear layers. It is a drop and lock floating floor installation or can also be installed with a direct glued down method for heavy commercial traffic. They also added a

large selection of factory direct carpet by the top leading manufacturers that is made in the U.S.A. carrying lifetime stain, fade and pet resistance warranty. Twelve-month financing is available through Wells Fargo. Campbell is family owned and operated for over 50 years providing quality service and installation to area residents, churches and schools.




# Adopt A Pet



Charlie Brown is a laid-back, affectionate boy! All he wants in a forever home is a good snuggle buddy that will provide treats on command. Charlie Brown is an older dog at 8 years old, but you would never know with his playful personality. He arrived at the Animal Welfare League in February when his previous owners could no longer care for him. Charlie Brown would thrive best in a single pet home where he can get all the attention he deserves. Contact the AWL at 330-539-5300 for more information.

Nozy is a quiet, happy senior kitty that adores everyone she meets. She loves to be carried around or snuggled up with her favorite person. Nozy found herself at the Animal Welfare League in March when her previous owners could no longer care for her and her furry companions. In her previous home, Nozy cohabitated with other cats and dogs. She tends to get along with everyone after a proper introduction. At 14 years old, Nozy would love to find a forever home with a relaxing environment to enjoy her retirement and keep up with her hobbies of sun bathing and birdwatching.



For more information on Charlie Brown, Nozy or other adoptable animals at the AWL, contact the shelter Tuesdays-Saturdays between noon-6 p.m at 330-539-5300. Adoptions are by appointment only at this time. AWL shelter is located at 812 Youngstown Kingsville Road SE in Vienna, across the street from Avalon at Squaw Creek.

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## Pop-up shower

During these unusual times people have gotten very creative on how to handle common events. Friends of Katie and Brandon Luoma of Cortland, recently held a "pop-up baby shower" for them at their Cortland home. For a few hours on a Sunday afternoon in May, friends and relatives dropped by the pop up tent in their driveway to

leave baby gifts and share in the food and games. Everyone maintained a safe distance, wore masks and limited how many people were there at a time.

Editor's note: We are happy to report that baby girl Avery Luoma arrived healthy and happy on May 14. Mom, dad and Avery are all doing well and adjusting to their new life.



From left are Elizabeth McKnight, proud dad Brandon Luoma, niece Ella Dasinger, new mom Katie Luoma, Sara Hines, Jessica Dasinger and Brenda Waters.

## Madyson Barnard celebrates 16th birthday in quarantine style

On May 16 Madyson Barnard of Cortland turned "Sweet 16" in quarantine. Led by Cortland Police, the

road was blocked and several gathered to do a drive by birthday. The amount of support was phenomenal and Madyson said it was her best birthday yet! The community support was so appreciated and so overwhelming.




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## Garden Club provides flags for Cortland streets

Summer is finally here and USA flags, provided by the Four Seasons Garden Club, have been hung up and down the main streets of Cortland. Many thanks go out to the garden club members and the city maintenance staff for making Cortland beautiful. The Garden Club members also provide and hang the flags on the bridge over state Route 11.

## Remembering a son

By Sally Lane

Three fir trees and some forget-me-nots were planted next to Cortland's Opera House in honor of Kent Harrison, son of Carol and Ray Harrison who died July 26, 2019 in Colorado. "We wanted to honor him in his hometown," said his mother.

Kent was a 1997 graduate of Lakeview High School. He was an Eagle Scout, and active in school and around the community. He had many friends and was known for his outgoing personality.

His sister Jill Jankovich of Cortland wrote his obituary after his tragic motorhome accident near Steamboat Springs, Colo. "Kent was a fun-loving adventurer and believed in living life passionately and to its fullest every single day. His love for adventure and nature took him places all over the world and he traveled the U.S. extensively with his dog, Dirk. Skiing was his greatest passion and he enjoyed the most challenging and extreme terrains... he was generous with his love and generous with his life.

When they began to think of something to honor their son's life in Cortland, Carol and Ray decided that the north side of the Opera House was perfect for a planting of special trees. Kent had helped his mother with community activities, often at this historic building. His parents decided

that Canaan fir trees, a special tree in Colorado, would be a good choice. Grounds manager for the Cortland Bazetta Historical Society, Richard States, and Kent's father picked out and brought the trees for planting recently. Richard added some forget-me-nots (Colorado's state flower) from his garden for a special effect. A sign honoring Kent Harrison will be dedicated when the historical society resumes meetings this fall.



Carol and Ray Harrison purchased three Canaan fir trees in memory of their son Kent. Ray worked with Richard States to plant them at the Opera House on Park Avenue.

## Cortland Lions Club partners to provide meals to staff at HRH

The Cortland Lions Club recently partnered with Enzo's Restaurant and Banquet Center to provide meals for the nursing staff at Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital. The restaurant generously donated spaghetti dinners and salads for the staff. The food donation was in recognition and appreciation of the

work done by the Hillside staff, their kindness and caring for their patients during this time.



De Anna Fuchilla RN, BSN; Trumbull County Commissioner Mauro Cantalamessa; and Dennis Gartland, Cortland Lions Club, Membership chairman, participated in the donation of meals to Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital.

## Business News & Notes...continued from page 3

**Greenwood Insurance** is open regular hours. Our lobby is closed but we do have a payment window in the front. We can service you via phone, email and online. Texting is available. Please be safe. Congratulations to all 2020 graduates!

**Lakeside Sport Shop** is open - the drive thru is best for beer, cigarettes, etc. The lobby is open for bait and other items. The floor is taped 6 feet apart, so please use social distancing. We are constantly wiping and sanitizing the store. Please be safe.

**Jody Sova Realtor** is adapting and doing business as safely and efficiently as the guidelines allow. We are utilizing the available technology for your safety and ours. Most paperwork can be done through using the internet. All precautions are taken to see that everyone is safe.

**Vlad Pediatrics** is open for business as usual. Please call for an appointment. We are taking all the required safety

measures for our patients.

**Petrosky Brothers Construction** is taking all the necessary precautions to keep its workers and customers safe during this time. We have installed an automatic sanitizer and deodorizer in all of our vehicles. It immediately disinfects the worker and the vehicle. Your safety is always our first concern.

**JOLLY STORE Crafts** retail store will reopen for business on June 15. Hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. We are located 3539 state Route 5, Cortland. Online ordering with curbside pickup is still available at jollystorecrafts.com.

**Girt's Cortland Music 101 & Music 101** (Fowler-Center) have re-opened! We now offer the option of virtual lessons through our Music101Ohio.com Online Music Lesson Academy. We teach summers and are accepting a limited number of new in-store students. Call ahead to reserve your spot today!

**Paper shredding offered June 26**

The Cortland United Methodist Church is offering a free community shred day Friday, June 26 from 1 to 3 p.m. There is a limit of five bags/boxes per vehicle. Paper only. Drive through is service provided, so please remain in your vehicle and follow current COVID-19 guidelines.



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**Simply Slavic announces call for scholarship applicants**

The Simply Slavic committee is seeking applicants for its academic scholarship and they are looking no further than Youngstown State University.

YSU students who have completed their freshman year and are currently enrolled at YSU at the undergraduate or graduate level are encouraged to apply for the \$1,000 scholarship. All applicants will be required to submit a 500-word essay on how Slavic culture has influenced their lives. Funds can

be used for tuition as well as applied to study abroad programs.

A panel made up of members of the Simply Slavic organizing committee will select the winners after reviewing their essays and academic achievements. The deadline for scholarship applicants is Saturday, June 27, 2020. The winners will be announced in early August. Applications are available at simplyslavic.org under the tab FORMS. For more information contact info@simplyslavic.org.



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**Cortland resident graduates from Case law school**

Megan Elizabeth Goedeker of Cortland, was in the 2020 graduating class of Case Western Reserve University Law School. Megan graduated cum laude, received the Stanley I. and Hope S. Adelstein Environmental Law Award for the best prepared environmental law paper. After passing the Bar Exam Megan plans on working in Environmental Law. In 2017, Megan earned a B.S. in Biology from John Carroll University and in 2013 graduated from Lakeview High School. Megan is the daughter of Kim and Randy Goedeker of Cortland.



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

By Christine Dorma, Administrative Assistant

## NOTICE TO ALL CORTLAND RESIDENTS

The city of Cortland would like our residents to have all the latest information when making a payment to the city. You have several options to pay your water/sewer bill:

1. In person at City Hall;
2. Through the U.S. mail;
3. Via autopay directly with the city;
4. Online through the direct link to the city of Cortland payment portal.

None of these options cost you an extra fee.

If you do not go directly to the city's payment portal at <https://cortlandoh.authoritypay.com> and perform a general internet search you may end up in the control of a third-party vendor. If you choose to pay through a third-party vendor, you need to be aware of the following:

1. The third-party vendor may charge you a fee to send the city a check from your checking account. One example of a fee from a third-party vendor is \$3.99 or 3.5%, whichever is greater.

2. It takes approximately 7-10 days for a third-party vendor check to reach City Hall.

3. If the check does not reach the city by the due date even though you may have authorized the third-party vendor to make the payment sooner, you will still be assessed the late fee penalty. Paying through the city of Cortland payment portal allows the city to immediately verify that payment was made.

4. The city has no way of knowing or controlling how secure a third-party vendor is with your confidential information.

There is no fee for making a payment through the city's portal from your checking or savings account; however, if paying by credit card you will be redirected to the credit card vendor's site. There is a convenience fee of 2.5% or \$1.50 minimum paid to the credit card vendor, and the city will receive your payment the next day. Penalties are only assessed if payment is received after the due date.

The direct payment link for the city of Cortland is <https://cortlandoh.authoritypay.com>

If you have any questions, feel free to call the City at 330-637-3916.

### Mosquito Spraying

The schedule is set up for every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. to midnight, weather permitting. For effective mosquito control, it must not be raining, the winds need to be between 5 to 10 miles per hour and the temperature above 50 degrees. If the proper conditions are not present, the spraying will be cancelled and a make-up date will be for the following evening.

June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16

### Brush Chipping

The city of Cortland Service Department will conduct free branch and limb pick up service along city streets through October. Be sure to have the limbs at the curb the evening before; only one pass per street will be made.

Be sure to follow the rules that can be found on our website - [cityofcortland.org](http://cityofcortland.org)

### 2020 Brush Chipping Schedule:

- Week of June 22
- Week of July 27
- Week of Aug. 24
- Week of Sept. 28
- Week of Oct. 26

### 2019 Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report

The city's annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report is now available. The Ohio EPA requires the city to make available to all water consumers by July 1 of every year the results of the previous year's testing. The CCR is mailed in the water bills and can also be accessed at our city website. The EPA's schedule of compliance dictates the contaminants and frequency of testing. The city of Cortland receives its drinking water from seven wells. Four of these wells are located in Willow Park, two wells are located on the property behind City Hall, and the seventh well is off of Bradley Brownlee Road. Our water comes from a limestone aquifer which is approximately 300 feet deep. The only treatment the city performs is fluoridation and chlorination.

### Electric Rates

Electric Aggregate Rate for meter read dates March 2018 through July 2020 is 5.54¢ per kWh. Meter read dates for July 2020 through July 2023 will be

5.05¢ per kWh. You have to opt-out to be excluded. Energy Harbor 1-866-636-3749

### Dates to Remember

- June 15 - City Council - 7 p.m.
- July 6 - City Council - 7 p.m.
- July 13 - Parks Board - 5:30 p.m.
- July 13 - Planning & Zoning - 7 p.m.

\*Please watch the city website for changes.

City Hall will be closed Friday, July 3 for the holiday.

## Farmington Senior Center

Opening for Monday morning breakfasts June 15 from 7 a.m. until noon. Reservations recommended. COVID-19 compliant. Call 330-889-2733.

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## How to fix your bad dog's behavior fast & easy

Have you've been hoping there's a way to stop your dog's bad behavior without ruining their awesome personality... I want to introduce you to Ohio's secret weapon for modifying any bad dog behavior. Jeff Feuerwerker, head of CIA Dog Training has been helping people with their out-of-control dogs since 2005. Featured multiple times on the news and he also helped train the first singing dog on hit TV show "America's Got Talent."

Just listen to what some of his clients had to say...

"I give Jeff an A+ for his dog (and owner) training techniques. He has an incredible understanding of dog behavior and is always positive with the dog and the owner. He was able to correct my dog's bad behavior in one session. She used to be aggressive around other dogs and by the end of the first session, she sat calmly while three other dogs walked around her and sat right next to her."

*Susan Beck*

"Jeff came to our house for an hour consultation. Our major concerns were the way our two dogs reacted when visitors came. Jumping - barking - running out the door. Within one hour of observing them, he was able to give us the tools to correct their behavior (and ours). We actually had a delivery during the hour and our dogs were calm for the first time ever - using Jeff's insight and tools! Thank you Jeff for giving us the understanding of our two most loved companions!"

*Dianne Broadway Mager*

"Jeff is a legit miracle worker!!"  
- Morgan Merkel



Jeff And Luke the Pitbull Grad

"Jeff from CIA Dog Training was out to help with our dog Oliver this week. What a difference it has made with our boy. Jeff is wonderful at explaining why our dog does what he does and what we need to do to correct our problems. I wish I would have called him soon! Thanks so much, Jeff!"

*Joely Lilly Braham*

"Jeff is a legit miracle worker!! He saved our dog's life. Our puppy was extremely aggressive after we rescued him, and we were so upset and thought he'd need to be put down. But after sending him to Jeff for three weeks, and keeping up with the training... he is a new dog!! Can't thank Jeff enough for his time and effort spent on Tucker. Tuck loves you, Jeff!"

*Morgan Merkel*

*Continued below*

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"I give Jeff an A+..." - Susan Beck

"Best decision I made for my chihuahua! He was very aggressive toward my young nieces and nephews and actually bit two of them. Within less than a month, the dog and the kids were getting along and actually playing. Jeff not only taught me and my dog, but also spent so much time teaching the kids as well (ALL FIVE OF THEM). Dawn was always very helpful with everything also. If you're having dog problems, these are the people for you! So much progress in so little time, it was amazing and I'm so thankful."

*Jennifer Bradley Blazek*

As you can see, it doesn't matter the problem, Jeff from CIA Dog Training can help. Call 330-240-0915 to speak with Jeff today.

## Keeping Cortland beautiful

Little did the Four Seasons Garden Club know that last year when they accepted the responsibilities of the disbanded Cortland Beautification Committee, that the first year at attempting these projects would be during a pandemic. But the club has been able to accomplish the projects with help from many Cortland institutions and businesses to make Cortland look like the charming city it is. Under the guidance and supervision of Brookside Gardens' owner Annette, the club has planted the barrels on Main Street. Cortland city workers were instrumental in placing the barrels on the street and will help with watering these plants during the summer months.

The club members involved in maintaining the "Welcome to Cortland" sign areas have been busy weeding and cleaning around the signs and planning ahead to next year when they can make some additional changes.

The monetary funds to purchase the plants were provided by Cortland Bank, Huntington Bank, Middlefield Bank, Chemical Bank and The Cortland Masonic Lodge. Members of the garden club said that they could not have done all of this without the support of these local institutions. The Four Seasons Garden Club hopes everyone will enjoy the signs of spring during trips on Main Street and the welcome signs this summer.



Four Seasons Garden Club member Kathleen Ferris is shown planting one of the many barrels on Main Street.

## Summer fun...continued from front page

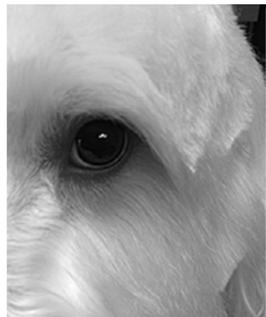
make these walks more interesting for everyone if you do a little research ahead of time, like, "this trail is supposed to have bluebird houses, let's see if we can see some."

This is strawberry season. See about pick-your-own places or visit a fresh produce stand. Have your children help you prepare a dessert or help make jam. Strawberry shortcake, yum!

Of course, there are games...

old favorites like Yahtzee, monopoly, card games, plus your kids' favorites on computers and phones. Games are enjoyable ways to learn math, reading and strategies. Most parents are concerned about the schooling that our children missed this spring. Games can help develop and keep skills sharp. Write a summer family diary, take pictures, read. Talk to each other.

This summer is destined to be different. Make the most of it and have fun!



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## History of Cortland, Ohio



In 1795, the Connecticut Land Company offered for sale a 17,247-acre tract of land named Bazetta Township. This large tract of land was divided into 100 parcels and offered for sale to the early pioneers. The first settlers arrived in the township in 1805. The area was wilderness, and their first tasks were to clear the land, plant crops, build a log house and a stockade for their animals. Deer, turkey, rabbit and squirrel were plentiful. So were bears and wolves. By 1812, most Indians had left the area.

Samuel Bacon moved to Bazetta Township in 1816. The Bacon family operated a sawmill from 1816 to 1850. Samuel Bacon erected some of the first frame buildings, developing stores in the community. Thus, the area now named Cortland was locally called Baconsburg.

The village of Cortland became a reality in 1874 when the first railroad was built with a depot in Cortland. By 1882, the population of the village rose to 614 people. There were three churches, two newspapers, stores, mills and other enterprises.

Agriculture was the first and foremost industry in the area. Most other industries were farm related: feed and flour mill, cheese, dairy and canning factories, mercantiles and lumberyards

## Bristol Public Library opens curbside pickup

The Bristol Public Library began a phased reopening with curbside service on June 1. The initial hours for curbside service will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During this first, curbside phase of the reopening, the building will not be accessible to the public. The staff will prepare requests for books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, audiobooks and other circulating materials for efficient curbside pick-up in the library's parking lot. Items can also be returned using the drive-up book return. More information on how to place holds is available on the library's website [www.bristol-libraryoh.org](http://www.bristol-libraryoh.org). Faxing, copies, notary and internet services will be available by appointment only and can be scheduled by calling 330-889-3651.

This partial reopening of library service involves extensive safety measures to ensure the health of the public and library staff. All employees will wear personal protective equipment as required by state orders, will practice social distancing at all times and will engage in frequent disinfecting of equipment and high contact surfaces used by staff along with other measures to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

The Bristol Public Library is already preparing for the next phase of its reopening. The staff is eager to open the doors for public browsing and will just as soon as they are permitted to safely do so. The library's board, staff and administration thanks everyone for their patience and continued support.

## W-TCPL reopens with limited hours

The Warren-Trumbull County Public Library system reopened June 1 with limited in-person services and operating hours.

Jim Wilkins, W-TCPL director, said the six libraries in the system began implementing a phased reopening plan based on guidelines from state and federal government and health officials. "We reopened with enhanced protocols in place to support the health and safety of our customers and staff," Wilkins said. "We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the library in the safest manner we can."

During the first phase, all libraries will operate on reduced hours, with the first hour of each day reserved exclusively for seniors and those who are especially vulnerable to the coronavirus. The libraries in Brookfield, Cortland, Howland, Liberty and Warren will be open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the

97 staff members who were furloughed at the beginning of May. Wilkins says the decision is part of an effort to cut operating costs in anticipation of a projected decrease in future state funding.

The adjusted hours will also give staff more time to safely shelve books and other materials and sanitize library materials and public areas. All books, DVDs, and other library materials that are borrowed and then returned will be quarantined for at least 72 hours and then cleaned and sanitized prior to being put back on library shelves.

Customers are asked to wear a face covering while inside the library. Children age 12 and younger must have an adult with them at all times. Library staff will be required to wear face masks and participate in a daily health assessment. Plexiglass protective barriers installed at the checkout desks and other social distancing measures are being put in place at each library.

During the initial reopening phase, some library services that require close person-to-person interaction or present concerns about maintaining sanitized surfaces will not be offered. Customers will be able to visit the library to pick out books and other items but leisure reading or studying at the library will be discouraged during the first phase. Most tables and chairs are temporarily being removed from each library.

No computers will be available for public use at the Warren Library during the initial phase. A limited number of public computers will be available at other W-TCPL locations to begin the reopening phase. The Local History & Genealogy Center in the Warren Library will remain closed. The Bookmobile and other outreach services remain suspended at this time. Homebound Library Service will transition from in-person visits by library staff to by-mail only delivery for current customers. No library meeting rooms will be available for public use through the end of the year, and all in-library programming and events are canceled.



Lordstown Library will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The hour from 11 a.m. to noon each day is reserved for library customers at higher risk for severe illness, including adults age 65+ and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions. Wilkins said that dedicating the first hour each day for more vulnerable customers will offer them an opportunity to visit the library in a less crowded environment.

Reducing the number of hours the libraries are open will allow the system to operate with fewer staff hours. The W-TCPL is currently recalling 32 of the



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**Kinsman 330.876.2255**  
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## Trumbull Regional Medical Center welcomes Dr. Steven Hand

Trumbull Regional Medical Center is pleased to welcome Steven Hand, DO, MS. Dr. Hand is board-certified in Orthopedic Surgery and has clinical interest in shoulder, knee and hip replacement surgery, hip and knee replacement revisions, general fracture surgery, sports medicine and hand surgery. The addition of Dr. Hand enhances high-quality orthopedic care to the Mahoning Valley.

Dr. Hand has practiced medicine for nearly 20 years primarily in the Lawrence County area. He earned his

*Continued on page 12*



# FROM the Garden

By Kathleen Ferris, Master Gardener

As houses get bigger, yards grow smaller and there is less and less room to grow a garden. Small gardens quickly become over run by full-size shrubs when the home owner doesn't have the time or the inclination to be constantly pruning them down to a suitable size.

Downsizing doesn't just mean a smaller house, it also means less property, so a smaller garden. Gardening in a limited space means being very particular about the plants you choose. There is no room for the lackluster underperforming plants you always want to give more time so they can prove themselves worthy to keep.

Gardening in a limited space doesn't have to mean you can't continue to grow and enjoy some of those favorite shrubs that usually need a lot of space to look good. In recent years, many plant breeders have introduced tighter, smaller and more compact cultivars of the older, larger much loved common shrubs. Since these shrubs mature to a more manageable size, they generally need less pruning to look their best, and they fit rather effortlessly into smaller spaces. More time to enjoy them rather than maintaining them.

Small shrubs are generally easier to plant. One to two gallon containers are the norm for dwarf flowering shrubs, no balled and burlap wrapped root ball or five gallon container to wrestle with. Dig a hole double the size of the container but not deeper, remove plant, place in hole, backfill. They can be planted close to the house or patio so you can enjoy their flowers, fragrance and foliage.

If you love anything hydrangea like me, here are three compact cultivars to fantasize about. The first one is a big leaf/mop head type, Pistachio. This *Hydrangea macrophylla* grows 4 ft. x 3 ft. and is a reliable re-bloomer, the flower colors are a variety of greens, reds and purples until late in the season when it becomes a vibrant red. Tiny Tuff Stuff is a mountain hydrangea (*H. serrata*) and is a micro re-blooming lacecap variety. The flat lacy flowers look delicate but Tiny Tuff Stuff is extremely bud hardy so it flowers in sites where other hydrangeas struggle with late spring freezes, plus it grows only 2 ft. tall and the flowers are shades of blue.

The third petite hydrangea is Invincible Wee White a dwarf Annabelle. This *Hydrangea arborescens*, grows 1 to 2.5 ft. tall and wide and produces white flowers on sturdy stems all summer and blooms on new wood. I planted two this spring between other hydrangeas. Blooms up high, blooms low, that's the plan.

Lilacs are a sentimental garden favorite, but the old large common lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*) are out of the question for many small gardens. Just one-third the size of a typical lilac, Boomerang lilac can be planted in the border or under a window. Growing to 3 ft. purple flowers cover the plant in late spring and then intermittently throughout summer and fall. Then there is Tiny Dancer lilac with a mature size of 4 ft. x 4 ft. to consider. Both are considerably smaller than Grandma's lilac.

Gardens can benefit from a vertical accent. Conifers can meet this need, but they can be difficult to incorporate into today's smaller gardens without sacrificing too much space in a small area. 'Filip's Magic Moment' arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) is an upright conifer, growing to 8 feet tall and 4 feet wide, with fluffy yellow-green foliage that doesn't outgrow the spot next to the front door or crowd the walk. A taller but still compact vertical accent arborvitae is North Pole (*Thuja occidentalis*). Fifteen feet tall, but only 4 feet wide, North Pole can be squeezed into tight spaces, and grab attention without overpowering other plants.

Whether your garden is short on space, you are short on time or you simply like compact and carefree shrubs and plants, the ever increasing selection of down-sized cultivars will make a big impression. Roses, butterfly bushes, ninebarks, weigelas, spireas and other plants have new compact varieties. Adding flowering shrubs with showy foliage is a good way to add color and texture for multiple seasons. Shop around, read the plant IDs and find something new, exciting and take it home.

Happy gardening!  
*Kathleen Ferris is a Trumbull County Ohio State Extension Master Gardener and a Cortland resident.*



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## Trumbull Regional Medical Center

...continued from page 10

medical degree from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville, Ky., completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Horizon in Farrell, Penn. and a residency in orthopedic surgery at Millcreek Community Hospital in Erie, Penn. He also completed a fellowship in total joint reconstruction/adult reconstruction at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland.

"We are proud to have Dr. Hand join our care team at Trumbull Regional Medical Center," said Krista McFadden, MSN, RN, president at Trumbull Regional Medical Center. "Dr. Hand is an experienced and skilled orthopedic surgeon and our patients will benefit from his expertise." He will see patients at Steward Primary Care, Cortland, located at 2668 Elm Road NE, Building C and at Steward Medical Group

Orthopedic Specialists, 2395 Garden Way in Hermitage, Penn.



Let your light shine . . . Matthew 5:16

Folks ask me what I do. My response: "I sit down for a living. Doesn't get any better than that." All kidding aside, I do my best work sitting down. You see, I'm a professional "people-talker." In the hall, at the drinking fountain, over lunch, in the parking lot - my job entails assuming a posture and setting a mood that allows for meaningful conversation. For instance, I had an interesting conversation just this morning. The anguish of spirit was real: "Pastor . . . what has happened to our world! What can I do? How can one person make a difference?" Not the first time I've fielded that question and I always give the same answer:

**"You can make a difference - just you - by yourself. Start where you're at. There will be plenty of work to do."** Allow your light to shine. Put on the "full armor of God" and allow your life to be characterized by "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5: 22-23). Folks will take note. That's the beginning of something spectacular! You're making a difference - you're changing the world!

Jesus had something to say about making a difference. He put it simply: "Let your light shine." In scripture, light, symbolically-speaking, is good and dark is bad. In the first chapter of John, the Evangelist says: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1:5. Jesus is the Light . . . and he is passing the torch to you. He calls, empowers, and blesses each one - where we are at - to be about the work of changing the world.

I pray this prayer every morning: "Lord, grant me opportunities to serve you and when those opportunities present themselves grant me courage and wisdom to "make my light shine." The Lord has never failed to produce and I have done my very best to respond. Let me give you a couple of pointers that have served me well over the years:

1. Bloom where you're planted. Don't try and change the world overnight. God will give you more than enough to keep you busy right where you're at.
2. Be a friend to everyone. Smile, offer a welcome word, and remember names. If you remember names people will remember you.
3. Practice unconditional positive regard. I'm not called to judge, but to care and listen.
4. Be a quiet presence; know how to listen; when the time is right, ask good open questions.
5. Jesus said: "Love your neighbor."
6. Live the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

When I look at you, I see something - something new and exciting. There's an aura - a light - and it's getting brighter. God bless you my friends. There is work to be done. If each one of us blooms where we are planted, we will make a difference. We will change the world!

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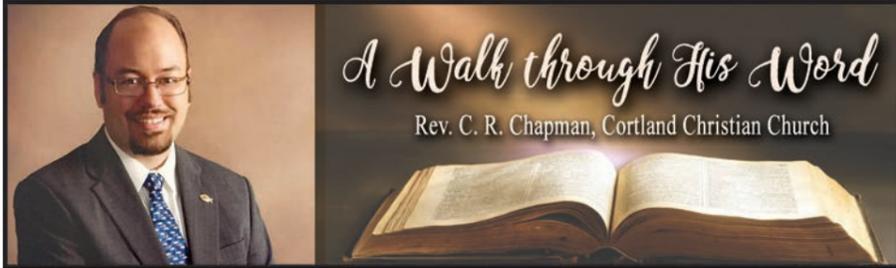
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### 'Don't forget your spiritual well-being'

Air conditioners are coming on all over the city. Daily temperatures are increasing. Summer weather is here. With this warmer weather comes an increase in people desiring more normalcy in their lives even while much loved fairs and events remain canceled. As the work begins to rebuild our society and economy where does one start? One starts in the Word of God. One starts by rebuilding their spiritual life. One starts by rebuilding God's church.

In 520 B.C. the Temple of God was laying in ruins after being destroyed by the Babylonians. As God's people began to return to Jerusalem years later, they neglected rebuilding the Temple. As a result, their physical lives suffered. Their lives suffered because our physical life is tied closely with our spiritual life. If one part suffers, so does the other. The people had not made this connection, and so, the prophet Haggai told the people in Haggai 1:2-4 "The LORD of Hosts says this: These people say: The time has not come for the house of the LORD to be rebuilt." The word of the LORD came through Haggai the prophet: "Is it a time for you yourselves to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"

While, today, there have been those growing spiritually, many have neglected their spiritual well-being. The body of Christ has been separated for a prolonged period of time. We were not

designed to function independently, but in communion with one another. It is time to rebuild the church - which is the body of Christ by returning to corporate worship as we are commanded to do in Hebrews 10:25. It does not mean that we are to be unsafe about it, for the Bible encourages us to use wisdom, but we do need each other. Do not be deceived that you do not need the church. We each have our role to play in the body, and if you choose to go it alone you will be like a hot coal removed from a fire... you will slowly go out. United with the fire that coal comes quickly back to life. United with the body you will grow in the faith because believers support and encourage one another.

If you have concerns about returning to corporate worship, speak to your pastor. See how you can safely participate in the body. Pastor's care about their flock that Christ has entrusted them with, and they prayerfully make the best decisions for their specific flock's physical and spiritual well-being, for all flocks are different and different considerations need to be made for each. Do not go it alone. If your congregation has decided not to reopen yet, still stay connected on a regular basis. Do your best to grow spiritually and as soon as you are able, again each person is different based on their health and age, return to corporate worship as the LORD has intended. Do not go it alone.

### Men of Faith Open Praise on the Square

The Men of Faith Open Praise on Courthouse Square, Warren, will take place on Saturday, June 27 starting at 9 a.m. The Mahoning Valley is coming together in unity to praise the Lord. Keno Hills, former NFL player on staff at the Warren Family Mission, is delivering his testimony. John Farmwalt, who was raised Amish, will tell his lifesaving rescue story. Pastor Jordan Biel is coming to provide the uplifting praise music on guitar and vocals. All safety protocol guidelines set forth will be followed. Bring a lawn chair and a friend.



### Cortland Methodist Church offering crosses during this time of need

If you have driven by the Cortland Methodist Church on High Street, you may have noticed small white crosses lined up in the front lawn. These crosses are being made available to anyone who wants one to place in their yard. Over 200 crosses have already been displayed in Cortland and surrounding areas. If you go by, take one and one for your neighbor. Church members are making crosses as fast as they can. Also there is an opportunity to donate canned goods and non-perishables in metal, glass or plastic containers for your neighbors-in-need at our "blessing benches." Bring some or take some depending on need.



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## The importance of an emergency fund

No one could have predicted with certainty how quickly the COVID-19 pandemic would change the lives of so many around the world. Fear of infection, stay-at-home orders and a rallying cry to help “flatten the curve” have drastically changed how people behave in their daily lives. In the face of so much uncertainty, the need to have an emergency fund – a tool that can help your family manage the financial fallout in the case of a job loss or other unwelcome impact – has come to the forefront.

What constitutes an emergency fund and why is it so important to have one, particularly in times like this?

### Here's a primer.

Financial solvency matters. Financial experts generally encourage you to set aside three to six months' worth of living expenses in an emergency fund. Without it, you are at risk of losing what you've worked hard to achieve if life throws a curve ball. A stash of funds can help you meet your monthly obligations, keep your credit report clean and preserve your way of life.

**Put your priorities in order.** An emergency fund deserves to be at the top of your list of financial priorities. Emergency reserves are designed to provide a safety net to prevent financial disaster. Saving for your retirement comes next, to help protect your financial future. Even better if you can save for both priorities at the same time. If you're currently saving for your future, consider allocating a portion of monthly contributions to go toward an emergency fund. Once your emergency account is funded at a satisfactory level and you regularly contribute to a retirement account, you can start setting money aside for discretionary items such as new furniture, a vacation or a vehicle upgrade.

**Set a goal.** Determine how much you would need to stay afloat for an extended period of income disruption.

At a minimum, how much would you need on hand to pay your bills and buy groceries each month if your paychecks stopped coming? Then multiply this amount by six.

**Start where you can.** If you don't have a large chunk of money available to establish your emergency fund right now, don't let it prevent you from starting an account and working toward your target. Any amount is a step in the right direction – even if that's \$50 or \$500. If you don't need your stimulus check to cover immediate cash expenses, use it to start or supplement your emergency fund. Your tax refund is another potential source of cash to grow an emergency fund. Revisit your current budget to see where you can trim expenses and put more into savings.

**Create and stick to your guidelines.** Your emergency fund should be reserved for times of financial crisis. It's not an account to pay for life's extras, however tempting that may be. With guidelines in place, you can avoid dipping into these funds unless necessary.

**Keep emergency funds within safe reach.** When uncertainty strikes, you may need money in a hurry. For this reason, emergency savings should be held in cash or easy-to-access investments like a money market fund. You also may want to open a dedicated interest-bearing savings account, potentially in a bank separate from your other accounts, to keep your emergency funds at a safe distance if you're one who may be tempted to spend it.

Working with a knowledgeable financial advisor who understands your savings goals can help you prepare for unforeseen circumstances that can change your life and your family's life in an instant.

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



## Protecting yourself from opportunistic fraud

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis has spurred much confusion and unprecedented economic challenges. It has also created ample opportunities for dishonest individuals and criminal organizations to prey on the anxieties of many Americans.

As the year rolls along, fraud schemes related to the crisis will continue as well, potentially becoming even more sophisticated. Here are some protective actions you can take.

### Watch out for phony charities

When a catastrophe like COVID-19 strikes, the charitably minded want to donate cash and other assets to help relieve the suffering. Before donating anything, beware that opportunistic scammers may set up fake charitable organizations to exploit your generosity. Fake charities often use names that are similar to legitimate organizations. So, before contributing, do your homework and verify the validity of any recipient. Remember, if you're scammed, not only will you lose your money or assets, but those who would benefit from your charitable action will also lose out.

### Don't get hooked by phishers

In a “phishing” scheme, victims are enticed to respond to a deceptive email or other online communication. In COVID-19-related phishing scams, the perpetrator may impersonate a representative from a health agency, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They may ask for personal information, such as your Social Security or bank account number, or instruct you to click on a link to a survey or website.

If you receive a suspicious email, don't respond or click on any links. The scammer might use ill-gotten data to gain access to your financial accounts or open new accounts in your name. In some cases, clicking a link might download malware to your computer. For updates on the COVID-19 crisis, go directly to the official websites of the WHO or CDC.

The IRS reports that its Criminal Investigation Division has seen a wave of new and evolving phishing schemes against taxpayers – and among the primary targets are retirees.

### Shop carefully

In many parts of the United States, and indeed around the world, certain consumer goods have become scarce. Examples have included hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, masks and toilet paper. Scammers are exploiting these shortages by posing as retailers or direct-to-consumer suppliers to obtain buyers' personal information.

Con artists may, for instance, claim to have the goods that you need and ask for your credit card number to complete a transaction. Then they use the card number to run up charges while you never receive anything in return.

Buy from only known legitimate businesses. If a supplier offers a deal out of the blue that seems too good to be true, it probably is. Also watch out for price gouging on limited items. If an item is selling online for many times more than the usual price, you probably want to avoid buying it.

### Hang up on robocalls

You may have noticed an increase in “robocalls” – automated phone calls offering phony services or demanding sensitive information – since the COVID-19 crisis began. For instance, callers may offer COVID-19-related items at reduced rates. Then they'll ask for your credit card number to “secure” your purchase.

Reputable companies, charities and government agencies (such as the IRS) won't try to contact you this way. If you receive an unsolicited call from a phone number that's blocked or that you don't recognize, hang up or ignore it.

In addition, don't buy into special offers for items such as COVID-19 treatments, vaccinations or home test kits. You'll likely end up paying for something that at best doesn't exist and at worst could harm you.

### Tarnish their gold

For fraudsters, this year's worldwide crisis is a golden opportunity. Don't let them take advantage of you or your loved ones.

*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.*

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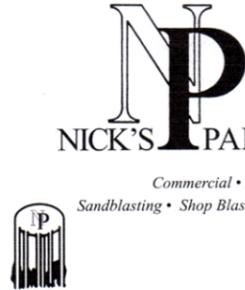
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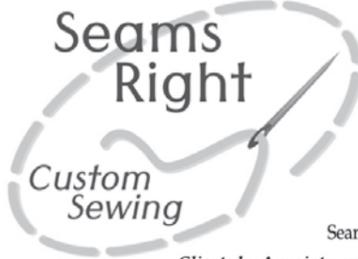
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