



# SYLVANIA ADVANTAGE

FEB. 2 - FEB. 15, 2026

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## Sylvania's No. 1 Source for Community News

### Hafner Florist gives back to local organizations

JENNIFER ALEXANDER RUPLE

**H**afner Florist is known for providing great client experiences and creating unique floral designs that feel as thoughtful as they are beautiful. That same spirit of caring extends beyond their floral shop and home décor boutique to their deep commitment to their community and local nonprofit organizations. Through meaningful partnerships with the Toledo Arts Commission and Sylvania Area Family Services (SAFS), owners Josh Miller and Kyle Vierling are channeling their compassion into supporting local arts, strengthening families, and enriching the place they call home.

Since becoming owners of Hafner in 2022, the partners have grown into who they are and where they stand as a brand. "We've always been about the customer experience, and we are finding ways to give back to our community," said Miller.

For the past four years, Miller and Vierling have been involved with SAFS fundraising events including On Tap and Uncorked, supporting the organization by elevating and creating unique displays for silent auction items. In addition, Hafner donates a portion of the proceeds from sales during their annual holiday open houses to the organization. Miller emphasized, "We want to help bring light to our community where there is a need."

On April 25, Hafner Florist will receive one of three SAFS Ray of Hope Awards, which were established to honor outstanding individuals and businesses who make a lasting impact in the community. Miller and Vierling will step onto the Red Carpet at the organization's Oscar-themed party to receive their award.

The Toledo Arts Commission is another one of Miller and Vierling's passions. They have helped with florals and installations at the organization's annual fundraiser, The Mix, and Vierling is one of the chairs of this year's event on May 2. Vierling is also serving as a board member for the organization. "It's such a welcoming and great organization to be a part of. There are so many people who want



**Kyle Vierling** and **Josh Miller** are owners of Hafner Florist. Rudy the dog is the shop mascot.

to give back," said Miller.

One of Hafner's goals is to provide local artists a platform to explore the retail environment highlighting glass artist Tess Healy and ceramicist Lia Colapietro. Their pieces are ideal for marrying with Hafner's unique choice of flowers. "We enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with local artists," Miller noted.

"SAFS and the Toledo Arts Commission have become a way of life for me and Kyle. It's all about arts and community and we are



Handblown glass vessels are created exclusively for Hafner Florist by artist Tess Healy.



New merchandise is arriving daily for the upcoming season.

grateful for the opportunity to have a voice for them," Miller said.

With Valentine's Day around the corner, it's a good time to stop in and see the new arrivals at Hafner. Customers can choose from a custom made arrangement or build their own from The Flower Bar, with flowers that change weekly. Miller mentioned, "Here you'll discover items that are not commonly found in this region, ever-changing home décor and sweet gifts for your valentine."

### What's Inside

## Dental Health Month

Pages 10-11



What's Up	2-5
Government	6-7
Business	8-9
Dental Health Month	10-11
Schools	12-13
Sylvania Then & Now	14
Sizzle Simmer Sauté	15
The Stars Speak	16
Community	17
Local Services	18
Classifieds	19
Seen in Sylvania	20

## Happy Valentine's Day!

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(Pssst... Our Gift Cards are a good option too!)



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## Festival of the Arts to remain at Toledo Botanical Garden

### Toledo Artist Club continues 60-year tradition

Members of the Toledo Artist Club and Gallery will continue the tradition of the Toledo Festival of the Arts at the Toledo Botanical Garden, 5403 Elmer Dr. The event will be held June 27 and June 28. Club members anticipate hosting over 175 artists in what will be the 60th year such an event has been held.

"The club is really returning to its roots," said Paul Lyon, president of the Toledo Artist Club and Gallery. "The club is over 80 years old with a rich history of promoting outdoor shows. We held the first in 1941, The Outdoor Art Jubilee, and that show continued on into the 1990s."

**February 22, 2026 • 5 PM**

**"All God's Children"**

*with the*

Toledo Symphony Orchestra

*St. Martin de Porres*  
1119 W. Bancroft St., Toledo

Tickets available by calling  
**419-241-4544**



Club members also started a large outdoor show called the Rose Garden Art festival in 1966 in downtown Toledo in conjunction with the Toledo Department of Forestry. This festival, ran from 1966 to 1970 in the downtown area and later in the 1970s moved to Crosby Park and became known as the Toledo Festival of the Arts. As Crosby Park evolved into Toledo Botanical Garden in the 1980s, so too did the show which evolved into the Crosby Festival of the Arts."

Lyon stated, "We want this year's show to focus on local and regional artists and this is why we are returning its original name, The Toledo Festival of the Arts. We will also be hosting a historical retrospective of the works of great Toledo

artists in our gallery during the festival."

According to Lyon, there will be free admission to the show to promote the arts to a wider audience in the greater Toledo area.

Registration is currently open on the website, [zapplication.org](http://zapplication.org), for artists seeking to enter the festival. Artists should search for "The Toledo Festival of the Arts," Toledo, Ohio on the website.

The juried entry fee for the festival is \$35 and all artists in various mediums are encouraged to apply. More updates will be forthcoming from the club as preparations begin for the 2026 Art Festival. For more information, call 419-531-4079 or email [info@toledoartistclub.com](mailto:info@toledoartistclub.com).

### Sylvania Orchestra to hold Spring concert

The Sylvania Community Orchestra will hold a free community concert at 4 pm on Sunday, March 8 at Lourdes University's Franciscan Center.

The winner of the second annual Young Artists Solo Competition, Eddie Kruse, will perform Movement One of Haydn's Cello Concerto

in C Major.

The program will also include Grieg's Symphonic Dances, Haydn's Symphony No. 104, Delibes' Valse from Coppelia and Chance's Variations on a Korean Folk Song.

### Starlite, OSCP celebrate Black History Month

In commemoration of Black History Month, native Ohioan Kathy Schulz will talk about the Underground Railroad at "The Freedom Seekers," on Feb. 25 at 6:30 pm in Olander Park's Nederhouser Community Hall.

Schulz's book, "The Underground Railroad in Ohio," accurately details the system's development and workings.

Her presentation will be followed by the historical movie, "The Butler," directed by Ohio native Lee Daniels.

Advance tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at [starlitetheatergroup.org](http://starlitetheatergroup.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the door for the event presented by the Starlite Theater Group in collaboration with Outdoor Sylvania Community Parks.

**2nd ANNUAL Spring Craft Show**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026 • 10am-4pm**  
First Christian Church of Sylvania | 5271 W. Alexis Rd., Sylvania

**DETAILS:** \$35 donation fee for an approx. 8x8 wall space and approx. 8x6 center space (8 ft table & 2 chairs) or you may bring your own tables.

**LUNCH** will be available for purchase from 11am – 3pm or until it runs out.

**BAKE SALE** will also be provided by our Youth Group.

For an application email the church at [Sylvania.fcc@gmail.com](mailto:Sylvania.fcc@gmail.com).  
Questions? Please contact **Lisa Jones** at the church at 419-882-3313 or 419-356-4016 (cell) or **Sally Dunlap** at 419-320-5044. Please call the church before dropping off an application.

### The Artifact Escapade is back

The great Artifact Escapade is back, thanks to Heritage Sylvania. Can you identify the pictured artifact (right) from Heritage Sylvania's archives? Note, there is a connection to the Feb. 6 First Friday Art Walk theme, "Vow Renewal + Love." Send your guess to [heritagesylvania.org/artifact-escapade](http://heritagesylvania.org/artifact-escapade) before Feb. 6 at 5 pm to qualify for a prize. Participants may view the artifact and its story on display at the museum, and those who guess correctly may collect a prize at the Cooke-Kuhlman House and Museum, 5717 N. Main St., between 5 and 8 pm during the Art Walk.



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## Victory Center to host annual luncheon and fashion show, 'Courageous in Coral'

The Victory Center presents its 19th annual luncheon and fashion show, "Courageous in Coral" presented by Mercy Health on Friday, Feb. 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg.

The fundraiser showcases the latest Spring 2026 fashions from local boutiques, including Ragazza, Jjill, Chico's, JCrew Factory, Dillard's Fallen Timbers, Sophia Lustig, and Atlas Bridal, modeled by cancer survivors, supporters, and Friends of The Victory Center.

The featured survivor speaker is Beth Waggoner. "This event is more than a fashion show—it's a celebration of survivorship and the incredible community that supports cancer patients throughout their journey," said Dianne Barndt, executive director of The Victory Center. "Every ticket, table, and sponsorship purchased helps us continue to provide free services to those who need us most."

## Ace's Angel donations exceed goal



**Brian Yeager**, center, of Ace Neighborhood Hardware presents Sylvania Area Family Services Executive Director **Dottie Segur**, left, and Pantry Manager **Crystal Bland**, right with gift cards totaling \$7,128.24 from the Angel project held throughout December, topping last year's total. To date the program has raised \$20,866.30 in gift cards for families who are provided help by Sylvania Area Family Services.

## Mobile Meals to host Pies and Pints

The annual Pies and Pints to benefit Mobile Meals will be held Thursday, March 12 at Earnest Brew works two locations: Westgate, 3134 W. Central Ave., and south at 4243 S. Detroit Ave. from 4 to 8 pm. Enjoy the family-friendly fundraising event featuring a selection of pies, including Vito's pizza and craft beer, in support of Mobile Meals.

For \$10 guests will receive a slice of pie or pizza and a beer or non-alcoholic beverage.

A 50/50 raffle will be held at each location. Admission is free.

## 50-60's Dance

**March 21, 2026**  
**7-11pm**

**Bob Wurst & Cyndi**

**COST: \$10 PER PERSON**

**American Legion Post 468**  
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## Monroe Street Bridge closure 101

### JOSEPH E. SHAW, P.E., PS.



The holidays are behind us and Sylvania is counting the weeks down to when Mother Nature will show us some relief from this brutal winter.

The much-anticipated relief will also take the US-23 and Monroe Street interchange project out of hibernation and into Season Two work in early spring.

In Season One the new southbound on-ramp was opened to traffic and the new northbound off-ramp will be ready for traffic later this summer. The new substructure and beams have been set for the widened south side of the Monroe Street bridge over US-23 and major utility relocation work by First Energy (transmission), Toledo Edison (distribution), Columbia Gas, city of Sylvania (water), Frontier Communications, and Buckeye Cable are all nearing completion.

Season Two will include the most impactful and significant work of the project to the Sylvania community. There is a lot of chatter and anticipation about what motorists, businesses, and residents can expect.

Below are the top 10 questions the Service Department has heard over the last year leading up to this phase of the project along with answers to help you prepare. One of our great Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, said it best, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

#### Question 1 – Is the Monroe Street bridge closing and for how long?

Answer – Yes, the bridge will be closing to all traffic for 150 days beginning March 8, weather permitting. The 150-day duration was established by the contractor, Miller Brothers Construction, in their bid for the project.

#### Question 2 – Where are the Monroe Street and Alexis Road closure limits?

Answer – Monroe Street will be closed just east of Glasgow Road to just west of Acres Road. Alexis Road will be closed from Monroe Street to just west of Acres Road.

#### Question 3 – Will the interchange ramps remain open during the bridge closure?

Answer – Yes, all interchange ramps will remain open during the closure EXCEPT the westbound to northbound US-23 ramp nearest to Cushman Road, which will close permanently in March. There may be also periodic ramp closures (less than seven days at a time) when old ramps are closed and traffic is moved over to the new ramps. Any ramp closures will be posted 14 days or more in advance.

#### Question 4 – What will the posted detour be?

Answer – US-23 ramp detour signage will be posted at the Sterns Road, Corey

Road, and Dorr Street interchanges. Local detour routing will not be posted, but anticipated heavy use routes will be Harroun Road, Holland-Sylvania Road, Sylvania Avenue, Corey Road, and Whiteford Road. Motorists should expect increased travel times on all adjacent local routes.

#### Question 5 – Is Monroe Street getting resurfaced?

Answer – Yes, Monroe Street will be resurfaced from the interchange to Nantucket Drive in West Toledo as a part of this project. Work is scheduled to commence in May with nighttime milling and paving operations. Motorists can expect lane restrictions and travel time delays on Monroe Street for around 30 to 45 days while this work is completed.

#### Question 6 – What is happening to Seney Park?

Answer – Seney Park (named after the late, former Sylvania Mayor James Seney) will remain after the project, but will have a smaller footprint due to the new intersection configuration. After the ODOT interchange work has been completed the Park will have new trees, signage, and sidewalks to continue to honor the former Mayor for his 26 years of public service to our community.

#### Question 7 – What is happening to Acres Road?

Answer – Three traffic signals on the east side of the interchange are being reduced to one new signal at the intersection of Monroe Street, Alexis Road, and the northbound US-23 on/off-ramps. Acres Road will be removed between Alexis Road and Monroe Street. Also, the Alexis Road and Acres Road traffic signal is being removed and a new median will be installed from Monroe Street to just west of Taco Bell. Acres Road will be accessible to Alexis Road as a new right-in, right-out only unsignalized approach.

#### Question 8 – Is the City going to plant new trees?

Answer – Yes! A beautification project plan for after the ODOT interchange work has been completed by the city to plant new trees, install gateway signage, and beautify our most seen entry point to the city.

#### Question 9 – What should I do to prepare?

Answer – We ask that all residents and businesses begin to think about your daily and weekly routines and how the bridge closure may not only have an impact on your travel times and commutes but those of your vendors. Plan detour routes and allocate additional time accordingly. Most importantly, have patience with your fellow motorists and all construction workers building this important improvement for our community.

#### Question 10 – Who can I call with additional questions?

Answer – You can call the ODOT District 2 Public Information Office at 419-373-4428.

*Joe Shaw P.E., P.S., is the city of Sylvania's Director of Public Safety & Service.*

# THE BIG TO DO IN SYLVANIA

## ACTIVITIES

### Thursdays

**Bingo** • Sylvania Senior Center, 1:15-3pm, sylvaniacommunityservices.org

### Early Feb.

**St. Joseph Parish School Enrollment** • PreK-8th grade, to inquire email stjoessylvania.org

### Feb. 6

**Beautiful Blooms by Jen** • 15th Anniversary Party, 5pm

### Feb. 7

**Galentine's Craft & Tea** • Nederhouser Hall, Olander, \$15, register at outdoorsylvania.org

### Feb. 21

**Hot Cocoa Run** • by Sylvania Prevention Alliance, Olander Park, 9am, (1 mile, 5K, 10K), more pg. 12

### Feb. 25

**Black History Month Celebration** • Nederhouser Hall, Olander Park, 6:30pm, \$5 advanced tickets at starlittheatergroup.org

### Feb. 27

**Courageous in Coral Luncheon and Fashion Show** • presented by The Victory Center, Hilton Garden Inn, 10:30am, tickets \$85 thevictorycenter.ejoinme.org

### March 7

**Spring Craft Show** • First Christian Church of Sylvania, 10am-4pm, vendor applications now open

### March 21

**50s - 60s Dance** • American Legion Post 468, 7-11pm, \$10/person

## THE ARTS

### Feb. 6

**Red Bird First Friday Artwalk** • Annual vow renewal and celebration of love, downtown Sylvania, 5-8pm

### Feb. 9-March 18

**Youth Theatre Classes** • Beginners and Advanced Acting, ages 9-18, for more information, visit sylvaniaarts.org.

### Feb. 24

**Art in the Park PreK - K** • Olander, 10-11am, outdoorsylvania.com

### March 8

**Sylvania Orchestra Concert** • Franciscan Center, 4pm, free and open to the community

## TRIVIA

### Mondays

**Village Inn Pub Quiz** • 6:30 & 7:30pm

### Tuesdays

**Sidelines Sylvania** • 7-9pm  
**Bier Stube** • 8-10pm  
**Frogtown Johnnie's** • 9pm

## COMEDY

### Feb. 2, 16

**Stand-Up Comedy** • The Barn Bar & Grill, every other Monday, professional and new performers, 7-9pm, free

## COMMUNITY

### Feb. 2, 17

**City Council Meetings** • Council Chambers, 6635 Maplewood, 6:30pm, open to public

### Feb. 3

**Township Trustees Meeting** • Trustee Hall, 4927 N. Holland Sylvania, 5pm, open to the public

### Feb. 2-6

**Green Yard Waste Winter Pickup** • Call to schedule, 419-855-8950

### April 11

**Sylvania Spring Expo and Market** • Tam-O-Shanter, 9am-3pm, booth registration closes on March 13, sylvaniachamber.org

## FOOD & DRINK

### Feb. 4

**Wine Tasting** • Sofo's Market; 6 pours, Italian cuisine, live entertainment; 6-8pm; \$25; RSVP at shopsofos.com

### Feb. 7

**Ice Cream for Breakfast**

**Mayberry Ice Cream** • 8am, menu includes waffles, donuts, affogatos, coffee

**Charlie's Homemade Ice Cream and Burgers** • 8am, french toast and bacon with a twist, ice cream sandwiches, donuts

### February 11

**Tai Night Cooking Class** • Durocher's, 6-7:30pm, \$50/person, RSVP to 567-408-2409, durochersonline.com

### February 13

**Sister Gretchen's Valentine's Bake Sale** • Regina Conference Center, Sisters of St. Francis campus, 10am-noon

### Feb. 17

**Jiggs Dinner** • Fairways, offered every 17th of the month

## LIVE MUSIC

### Sundays

**Bobby May and Friends** • The Sodbuster Bar, 7pm

### Mondays & Tuesdays

**Chris Brown and Candace Coleman** • Ciao!, 6-9pm

### Tuesdays

**Tacos with Bobby & Frankie May** • Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 5pm

### Feb. 6

**The Cheeks** • Bier Stube, 6pm

**Renegade Lemonade** • Bar 145, 9pm

### Feb. 7

**Random Act** • Bier Stube, 8pm

**Pop's Garage** • Bar 145, 9pm

### Feb. 11

**Christian Lombardo** • Te 'kela, 5pm

### Feb. 13

**Grape Smugglers** • Bier Stube, 6pm

**Distant Cousinz** • Bar 145, 8pm

### Feb. 14

**2 Left Missing** • Bar 145, 8pm

### Feb. 20

**Aftershock** • Bier Stube, 6pm

**The Ladies Night** • Bar 145, 9pm

### Feb. 21

**Buzz Anderson Project** • Bier Stube, 8pm

**My 80's Vice** • Bar 145, 9pm

### Feb. 27

**Decade Divide** • Bar 145, 9pm

### Feb. 28

**Mud City Maniacs** • Bier Stube, 8pm

**Venyx** • Bar 145, 9pm

### March 1, 2

**Acoustics for Autism 19** • by Project IAm, The Village Idiot, Maumee, all ages, free, music all day and night

### March 6

**Echo Chamber** • Bier Stube, 6pm

**56 Daze** • Bar 145, 8pm

### March 7

**Pop's Garage** • Bier Stube, 8pm

**Slow Burn** • Bar 145, 9pm

**Bands and events are subject to change. Please confirm with venue.**



**SYLVANIA ADVANTAGE**

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**P Conway** - 11578 W Airport Service Rd. Swanton, OH  
**Secor Metropark** - 10001 Central Ave, Berkey, OH  
**O-I Glass** - 1 Michael Owens Way, Perrysburg, OH  
**Old Andersons** - 530 Illinois Ave, Maumee, OH  
**Kroger** - 7545 W Sylvania Ave, Sylvania, OH  
**Kroger** - 4533 Monroe St. Toledo, OH



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## Township talk ...

### Zoning report

At the Jan. 20 meeting of the Sylvania Township Trustees, Planning and Zoning Manager Daryl Graus presented the department's operation report noting that single-family housing permits were up three percent and the value rose 10.8 percent over the 2024 total. Zoning complaints were down nearly seven percent for 2025, and property maintenance code complaints decreased by 50 percent from the previous year. Overall, zoning permits were down 10.3 percent from 2024. However, some notable fourth quarter permits include Goodwill's \$150,000 renovation of the 7504 W. Central Ave. former Rite-Aide; the \$500,000 commercial renovation for Nephrology Physicians, 7644 Kings Pointe; the \$2.1 million training tower for the Sylvania Township Fire Department, 4210 W. Sylvania Ave.; and the \$1.5 million Speedway Gas Station and Convenience Store rebuild, 5910 W. Central Ave.

### New equipment

The trustees authorized Road Superintendent Rob Nash to purchase a new Kubota Skidsteer for \$69,711.78 from Columbus Equipment Co., an authorized Sourcewell Kubota dealer. This will replace the department's 23-year-old skid-steer used for construction and ditch work.

The trustees also authorized Nash to advertise for bids for the 2026 Sylvania Township resurfacing project for 2.5 miles of subdivision roads in Brint Crossing and Park Place.

### Training tower update

Sylvania Township Assistant Fire Chief Jeff

## City beat ...

### Speed limit lowered

At the Jan. 20 meeting members of Sylvania City Council authorized Deputy Service Director Eric Barnes to modify the speed limit on Centennial Road between Little and Erie/Sylvania Metamora roads from 50 mph to 45 mph following a speed study in accordance with ODOT standards, noting that 85 percent of drivers in that section travel at 46 mph. Barnes pointed out that the east side of Centennial Road between Little and Erie/Sylvania Metamora roads is maintained by the city of Sylvania, while the Lucas County Engineer maintains the road between Little and Brint roads and the entire west side of Centennial Road. The posted 50 mph speed limit will continue between Little and Brint roads.

### Heath Ditch improvements

Council members approved the Service Department's recommendation to accept the proposal for a \$40,650 bid from OHM Advisors to provide professional surveying and engineering services for the Heath Ditch Improvement Project. The scope of the project includes improving pedestrian access from Williamsburg Drive to Olander Park by replacing an existing three-and-a-half-foot sidewalk and concrete steps with a new five-foot, ADA-compliant sidewalk, replacing a retaining wall, and repairing the concrete channel along the ditch where needed.

### Waterline replacement

Barnes was also authorized to begin a solicitation for bids for design engineering services to replace 2,400 feet of waterline along Alexis Road as well as extend the existing waterline on Carter Road approximately 1,000 feet along Stewart Road to supply Regency Hospital with a redun-

Bennett's request to approve additional professional services not to exceed \$15,920 for the new training tower from Colliers Engineering & Design was authorized.

The trustees approved Administrator Oliver Turner's request to accept the street lighting petition for Twelve Lakes subdivision, Plat 13, and to set a Public Hearing for Feb. 17.

Turner was also authorized to renew the agreement with Teladoc through Allied, the township's third party administrator for \$6,000 and terminate the agreement with HealthiestYou, at a cost of \$13,500.

### Annual organizational funding

The Sylvania Township Trustees voted to approve the requests of several community organizations for 2026. Sylvania Area Family Services will receive \$20,000, Lucas Soil & Water, \$1,500; Sylvania Arts, \$3,000; and Sylvania Prevention Alliance, \$12,500. The request from the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation was tabled until another time.

### Fiscally responsible

Fiscal Officer David Simko provided the financial report, praising each of the department leaders and staff for their fiscal responsibility and ability to stay within or below the budget.

The next Sylvania Township Trustees meeting will be held on Feb. 3 at 5 pm.

### Citizen's Police Academy

Registrations are open for the 2026 Sylvania Township Citizen's Police Academy. Classes will be held on Wednesdays, March 4 to April 22, from 6 to 8 pm. Register by Feb. 9 by visiting [sylvaniatownshippolice.com/events](http://sylvaniatownshippolice.com/events).

dancy connection. The project will also provide the option to extend a new waterline along Stewart Rd. from Carter Rd. to Alexis Rd., upon successful petition by the residents. Barnes noted the goal is to have the consultant in place to begin work by April. He anticipates this to be a 2027 project.

In other business, council members gave the green light for the Service Department to accept the proposal of the Discovery Management Group to purchase two Skadi gold RTK Global Navigation Satellite Systems/GNSS GPS Receiver Units for \$27,070. The department was also given approval to approve the \$36,200 proposal to enter into a three-year agreement with Cyyl, Inc., a Boston-based technology company that modernizes infrastructure management.

### Economic development consultant contracted

With the retirement of Economic Development and Administrative Services Director Bill Sanford, council members approved entering into a one-year, \$18,000 economic development consulting agreement with Michael Beazley of Middlesex Consulting LLC.

### Reappointed

In a final vote, council members reappointed Shawn Murphy to serve as the city's representative to the Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District Board of Trustees.

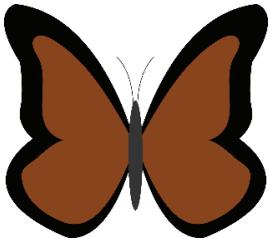
City Council President Mary Westphal set a Finance Committee Meeting to discuss Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) extensions and boundaries. That meeting is scheduled for 6 pm on Feb. 2, before the next council meeting, which begins at 6:30 pm.

**MARK FRYE****MAYOR'S MESSAGE****Mark Frye**

We may be in the middle of winter, but spring construction season is just around the corner. I have mentioned the construction on the bridge going over Route 23 and the entrances and exit ramps quite a few times but the work that is most intrusive on our community will be

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## Ribbon cutting opens new dealership



L-R: **Candace Hamilton, Anderson Hamilton**, Brown Honda Vice President and General Manager **Drew Hamilton, Camryn Hamilton, Christine McKibben**, Brown Honda Controller **Jean Hall**, and Brown Honda President **Doug McKibben** cut the ribbon for the relocated dealership at 5625 W. Central Ave. on Jan. 21. The Rudolph Libbe Group renovated the existing structure and added building space to the 58,000-square-foot facility.



Brown Honda is now at 5625 W. Central Ave.



The 12-year-old cartoonist is a Sylvania Township resident. He said one day his mother bought a comic book with Peanuts comic strips, and that is what got him hooked.

## PT Link is on the move



**Tom Hallett, DPT**

The Sylvania-based physical therapy company recently relocated two of its area clinics to accommodate its steady expansion. The former downtown Sylvania PT Link clinic at 6469 Monroe St., has moved to 5700 Alexis Rd.

"We needed more space for our growing practice," said PT Link Business Manager Joe Szafarowicz. "This space on Alexis Road is well-suited to meet our needs."

The company's original location and headquarters, which opened in 2013 at 4210 W. Sylvania Ave., has also moved to a larger facility at 4349 Talmadge Road. "This has been a great move, and the space is ideal for both our clinic and our offices," Szafarowicz said.

What began in 2013 as a small practice with two physical therapists — Tom Hallett and Mike Coulter — has grown into a network of more than 30 locations employing about 100 people. The company's footprint now stretches south to Fairborn near Dayton, east to Amherst, west to Napoleon, and north to Adrian, Mich. "We continue to fill in with locations in between," Szafarowicz said.

Growth has also come through partnerships. PT Link now provides physical therapy services for student-athletes at Kenyon College in Mount Vernon.

In its early days, PT Link therapists worked inside the offices of chiropractors, orthopedic specialists and pain management physicians before the company transitioned to freestanding clinics. Today, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants at PT Link treat a wide range of conditions, from back pain to post-surgical rehabilitation. The company is also invest-



**Mike Coulter, PT**

ing in new technology designed to improve patient outcomes.

Among the newer tools is the Neubie device, which uses direct current to promote faster recovery, reduce pain, improve movement, and enhance circulation. PT Link has also introduced Winback TECAR therapy, which uses radiofrequency energy to support healing, ease joint pain, and address some neuropathy symptoms.

"We are all very excited about these two new systems, as are our clients who have found success with them," Szafarowicz said. "However, they are only located in select clinics at this time, and they are not covered by insurance, whereas our other services are covered by most insurance plans."

In addition, PT Link recently introduced IIX Performance, an integrated, evidence-based rehabilitation and sports training program focused on improving mobility, strength, and pain-free movement. The company also offers specialized services, including aquatic therapy and dry needling, as well as customized sports performance programs. "Athletes can identify weak spots in their game and work to improve their performance with us," Szafarowicz said.

Stretch Pro Recovery Labs is another newer offering available at select PT Link locations. The service focuses on improving flexibility, reducing pain, and enhancing performance, while addressing back pain, muscle tightness, and mobility limitations.

As PT Link continues to expand both geographically and in the services it offers, Szafarowicz said the mission remains the same: helping patients move better and recover faster.



The Sylvania PT Link clinic's new location is 5700 Alexis Rd.



The former Sylvania Avenue PT Link clinic is now at 4349 Talmadge Rd.



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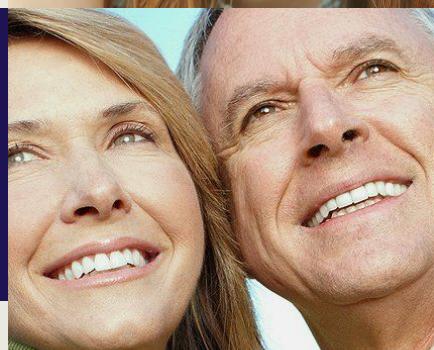
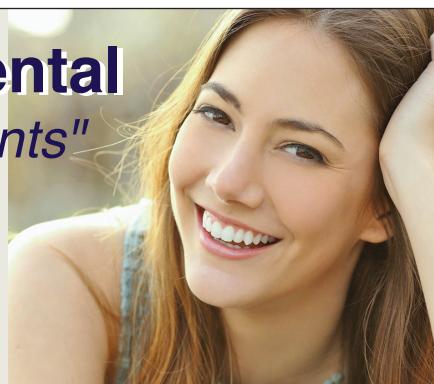
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The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that children first visit an orthodontist around the age of 7; however, orthodontic treatment is not exclusive to children and teens. About one in every five orthodontic patients is over the age of 21. Whether you're considering treatment for yourself or for a child, any time is a good time to visit the orthodontist.

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Maley Family Dental has been faithfully serving Sylvania and the surrounding areas for over 50 years. Dr. Matthew Maley and Dr. Les Crawford share the philosophy of compassionate care and treating all patients as they would want their own families treated.

The practice often participates in community events, including supporting teachers and providing custom athletic guards to teams at Northview High School, Dr. Maley's alma mater.

Teeth whitening, dental implants and laminate veneers are just some of the many dental services offered by the team and consultations and second opinions are always welcome.

Located on King Road, very accommodating hours are offered including morning appointments as early as 7:30 am and until 7pm on Tuesdays.

The office is currently accepting new patients. Call today and ask about how you can get \$150 off a teeth whitening service today.



## Sylvania Pediatric Dental Care

5860 Alexis Rd.

419-882-7187

[www.spdc.dental](http://www.spdc.dental)

The team at Sylvania Pediatric Dental Care, a leading pediatric dental practice located in Sylvania, consists of board-certified pediatric dentists Philip Sprague, Courtney Greenwood, Boley Greenwood, Erin McQuinn, and Ashley Paulus, all specializing in providing quality care for infants through teens.

Pediatric dentists are qualified to meet the dental needs of infants, toddlers, school-age children, and adolescents. They are required to take an additional two or three years of child-specific training after fulfilling dental school requirements. In addition to dental training, pediatric dentists specifically study child psychology. This enables them to communicate with children in an effective, gentle, and non-threatening manner. The pediatric dentist focuses on several different forms of oral care: prevention, early detection, treatment, and education.

The oral health of the entire family is also a top priority. We understand many patients have a fear of visiting the dentist, and our team is here to provide care in a comfortable environment. Convenient appointment times are offered, featuring the latest in dental technology and patient education for the entire family. We can submit claims to most dental insurance plans and offer a variety of payment options to make treatment affordable.

Patients will experience all that modern dentistry has to offer, including a comprehensive list of general restorative and cosmetic dental services to meet the needs of children of all ages.

## Brush, Floss, Smile!

Smile! February is National Children's Dental Health Month - a great time to promote the benefits of good oral hygiene, because developing good dental health habits (including regular dental visits) helps children get a jump start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. The American Dental Association has chosen this year's campaign slogan to be "Brush, Floss, Smile!"

National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio, on Feb. 3, 1941. The American Dental Association held the first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day on Feb. 8, 1949. The single day observance became a weeklong event in 1955. In 1981, the program was extended to a monthlong observance known today as National Children's Dental Health Month. Since 1941, the observance has grown from a two-city event into a nationwide program.

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Locally owned creative business led by Sylvania native Kayla Pittenger and her business partner and friend, Alli Cousino. Together, the co-owners design and create hand-crafted, hand-painted wood signs, along with small home decor pieces and personalized keepsakes. Shop their unique creations on Etsy, follow Ivy & Elm on Facebook and Instagram, and meet Kayla and Alli in person at the annual Sylvania Fall Festival.

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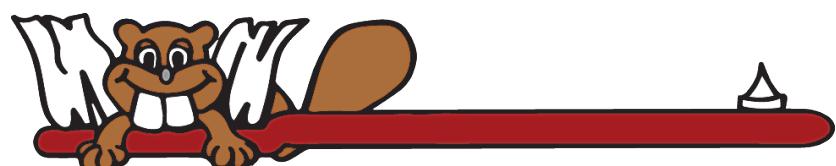
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## VERONICA MOTLEY Ed.D.

I am writing to inform you that the Sylvania Schools Board of Education has approved placing a 7.9 mill operating levy on the May 5, primary election ballot.

This proposed levy is intended to provide continued financial support for the district's day-to-day operations, including instruction, student services, transportation, utilities, and the maintenance of our school facilities. Like many school districts across Ohio, Sylvania Schools continues to experience rising operational costs while existing revenues remain limited by state funding formulas and property-tax restrictions.

The decision to place a levy on the ballot fol-

lowed careful review and discussion by the Board of Education, district administration, and financial leadership. This step ensures that the community has the opportunity to consider the district's long-term financial needs and how best to sustain the high-quality educational programs and services on which our students rely.

We are grateful for the ongoing partnership and support of the Sylvania community. Your engagement, feedback, and commitment to public education play an important role in shaping the future of our schools. In the coming months, the district will share additional factual information about the levy, including its purpose, duration, and estimated impact, to help residents make an informed decision.

## SACIC offers a public service scholarship

The Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation will offer a \$1000 scholarship to a senior from a local high school who has chosen to pursue a career in criminal justice, fire sciences, police officer, emergency medical technician or paramedic/firefighter. This is a non-renewable scholarship, to be used at an accredited two-year or four-year college, trade, or technical school.

To be eligible, students must be a resident of the city of Sylvania or Sylvania Township, and be a graduating senior from a local high school.

Applications can be obtained through each participating high school. They must be electronically typed as handwritten applications will not be accepted.

Applications are due on May 15 and may be submitted electronically to [kwines@sylvaniachamber.org](mailto:kwines@sylvaniachamber.org) or mailed to

Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce Attn: SACIC Scholarship, 5632 N. Main St., Sylvania, OH 43560

The Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation has been a in the community for several decades with a history of economic development programs, community enhancement projects/studies, and business support. The SACIC provides multiple services with the focus on enhancing the Sylvania area.

## Med Tech students advance to state HOSA competition in the spring

Several Med-Tech students qualified for the state HOSA competition this spring.

NV seniors include: Alex Van Zyl, first place, Clinical Laboratory Science; Layla Ettaher and Selena Khati, second, Community Awareness; Mohamed El Sheikh and Yacine Merkouche, fourth, Creative Problem Solving; Ava Coates and Caroline Mason, third, Health Career Display; Alyssa Barber, Olivia Beiswenger, Aubrey Clarkson, Hannah Cramer, and Brodie Smith, first, Public Service Announcement; Madelyn Horton, second, Respiratory Therapy; and Sal Roach, first, and Madison Parent, third, Veterinary Science.

SV students are: Lamar Allaf, Fatima Hashi, Vera Brown, Lilli Davis, Sarah Al-Turaihi, Bella Dwyer, Nabaa Al-Quraishi, Noor Bensalem, and Anjali Elha, first, Public Health; Julia Kolev,

first, Health Career Photography; Jenna Husseini, second, Research Persuasive Writing and Speaking; Gabby Morrison and Cara Postl, second, Mental Health Promotion; Lili Marroquin and Abby Erupe, second, Medical Innovation; Layla Ettaher, second, Community Awareness; Anaya Berro and Adriana Anaya, third, Public Service Announcement; Lilly Martinez, third, Human Growth Development; Brooke Stechschulte and Madison Vollma, third, Mental Health Promotion; Matt Haefner, Sean Kanjo, Emily Kurth, and Jack Leitch third, HOSA Bowl; Johnny Mielcarek, fourth, Sports Medicine; 4th place Mental Health Promotion- Brooke Snyder, Addyson Brennan, and Erin Comes, fourth, Mental Health Promotion; and Alivia Kuehle, fourth, Veterinary Science.

## NV, SV dance teams qualify for state tourney

The Sylvania Northview Dance Team and the Southview Cougarettes each qualified in all three dance events, jazz, pom, and hip hop. They will compete Feb. 8 in the 2026

OASSA Dance State Championships at Butler High School, Vandalia. Originally scheduled for Jan. 26, the event was postponed because of weather.

## Cookies for Better gives back in a sweet way

JENNIFER ALEXANDER RUPLE

In a world filled with opportunities to spread kindness, Cookies for Better has embraced the joy of giving back one cookie at a time. The student-led organization was founded in March 2024 by Gavin Ballard of Northview High School and Logan Dane of Southview High School for students to connect with one another while supporting local organizations.

The Southview High School Baking Club is the newest program to join Cookies for Better, now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to empower and enable people of all ages and backgrounds to give back to their community through their shared love for baking.

On January 21, approximately 25 students met in Southview's culinary room and baked 500 cookies to donate to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northwest Ohio and Connecting Kids to Meals. "Cookies for Better is a combination of my passions for volunteering and baking and provides a way to bring volunteerism to the students," explained Ballard.

The club meets weekly and is open to all high school students from Southview as well as other high schools. Students also earn school volunteer hours for participating. "I was already interested in baking, and I



Cookies for Better co-founders **Logan Dane** and **Gavin Ballard** display the first batch of chocolate chip cookies out of the oven on Jan. 21.

thought it would be fun to bake with friends," said sophomore Ellie Greenberg, regarding why she joined.

The students began their baking adventure by making chocolate chip cookies and will have the opportunity to suggest and vote for other types of cookies to make at future baking events. Events will alternate between their school and the kitchen at Temple Shomer Emunim on Sylvania Avenue.

Cookies for Better originally began at Northview High School, but due to lack of space, the program was put on hold. According to Dane, a new Northview club is in the works.

During the organization's inaugural year, cookies were donated to Sylvania Area Family Services, Food for Thought, Sylvania Police and Fire Departments, American Legion, Cherry St. Mission and the Jewish Federation's food pantry. The club also sold cookies at the Sylvania Summer Market at Olander Park to raise funds to support its program and has plans to participate again this season. "We have a lot planned for 2026. It's going to be a great year," said Dane.

Monetary and ingredient donations to help support Cookies for Better are always appreciated. Items needed are bleached all-purpose flour, white sugar, brown sugar, salt, baking soda, parchment paper and Dawn® dish spray. For more information, visit [cookiesforbetter.org](http://cookiesforbetter.org).



Juniors **Chrissie Hankenho** and **Cassidy Adams** prepare cookies during the Sylvania Baking Club's inaugural event.

## Safety Town, City registration open

### Safety Town

The Sylvania Township Police Department will hold Safety Town Monday, June 1 through Friday, June 5, at Central Trail Elementary School from 9 until 11:30 am. Teachers, police officers, fire personnel and a host of special guests will interact with your child daily. Each day your child will receive instruction presented in a fun and age-appropriate manner concerning various safety issues including stranger danger, fire safety, bus safety and pedestrian safety.

The fee is \$50 per child. Registrations must be received by April 19 and may be made by visiting [sylvaniatownshippolice.com/events](http://sylvaniatownshippolice.com/events).

### Safety City

The Sylvania Police's, Safety City will be held Monday, June 8 to June 12 at Maplewood Elementary School. The morning session will be held from 9 to 11:30 am and the afternoon session is from 12:30 to 3 pm each day. The fee is \$50 per child with an additional \$3 transaction fee. All registrations must be received by the Sylvania Police Division by May 21. Enrollment is limited.



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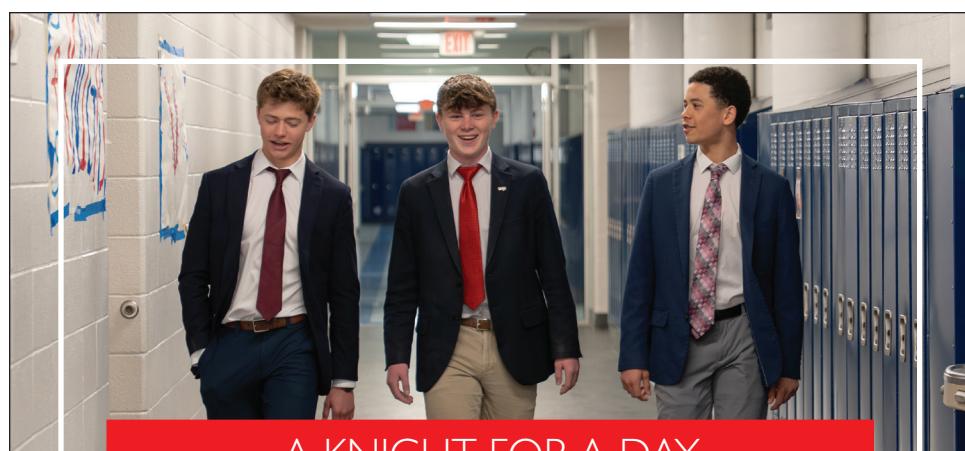
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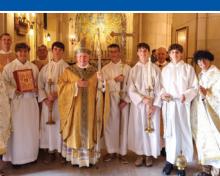


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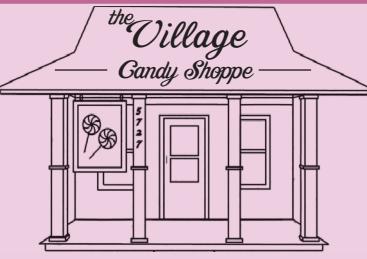


**GAYLEEN CINDY**

Before 1900 there is a long list of people that owned this property, now home to the Clean Express Car Wash, but no structures were built on it until 1903 after Jacob and Lena Dietrich purchased the 2.56 acre parcel and built their home. The 1910 census listed them living here as follows:

Jacob Dietrich - head - male - white - 44 years old - second marriage - currently married 17 years - born in Germany - came to the U.S. in 1865 - occupation - motorman - T & W Railway - owned home.

Lena Dietrich - wife - female - white - 45



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## SYLVANIA THEN & NOW

### 6307 MONROE ST.

years old - second marriage - currently married 17 years - born in Germany - came to the U.S. in 1865 - occupation - none.

They were still living here as of the 1920 census and he was still employed as a motorman for the T & W Railway, the passenger train service that used to run through Sylvania. Jacob died in February 1924 and his obituary said the funeral would be held at the residence, known as Toledo & Western Railway Stop 23. He was buried across the street in Toledo Memorial Park Cemetery. Funeral arrangements were made by Dolph, Reeb and Sons.

This property transferred into Lena Dietrich's name in 1924 and she was listed living there in the 1930 and 1940 census and as a widow. The 1940 census shows that she owned her home valued at \$1,900, was 75 years old, attended school through the eighth grade, and was not employed.

Lena passed away in 1947 at the age of 83. Her obituary appeared in the Toledo Blade on Dec. 8, 1947 listing only one brother, Joseph Foxhuber of Toledo, four nieces and three nephews surviving. In 1948 the property transferred to her brother and he sold it in 1949 to Jesse F. Crandall, a local farmer born and raised in Sylvania. Crandall owned other parcels along Monroe Street and properties to the rear. A 1949 aerial photo of the parcel shows that the property had been completely cleared of all structures. It was probable that Crandall cleared the land demolishing the 1903 house as there are no photos of this

house available.

In 1954 Frank Weis purchased the property and owned it until 1956 when he sold to Dorthea M. Burch. Her husband, William Burch was a well-known building contractor in Sylvania. They had been married in 1931 and by 1947 lived at 5604 McLain Dr. in Sylvania Township. At that time they were also operating Dari Fair, an ice cream business, at 5227 Alexis Rd.

They built a 20-foot by 24-foot cement block commercial structure on the Monroe Street property and opened a business called Dari-Fair Dairy Bar. Then, in 1958, they added a 14-foot by 20-foot addition on the rear of the building and opened a restaurant called "Bill's Big Burger." In 1959 they moved a one-and-a-half-car garage to the property for storage.

An advertisement in the Sylvania Sentinel in 1959 reads: "There's NO Burger As Good As BILL'S BIG BURGER - Two big lean hamburger patties, cheese and choice of relishes—only 50 cents - Now Serving Dinners - Chicken, Spaghetti, Roast Beef, Other Entrees - Delicious Pizzas - 6 Varieties to Choose from 30 cents to \$1.85 - Drive In - Carry Out - Table Service - 6307 Monroe Street."

In January 1961, an announcement in the paper said Bill's Big Burger would be closed for 30 days while extensive remodeling was underway. Burch reported that he was adding an indoor dining room and cafeteria to better serve the area.

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**BILL'S BIG BURGER**  
6307 Monroe  
Phone ahead for take out  
TU 2-5314

An ad in 1961.

The March 30, 1961 paper featured an ad as follows: "Announcing Bill's Big Burger Re-Opening - All New, Completely Remodeled - Now You Can Eat Inside or Use Our Dine-A-Mike Service From Your Car - - - QUICK SERVICE!"

A notice in the Jan. 28, 1963 issue of the Toledo Blade listed those who had taxes due.

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**6307 MONROE** **TU 2-5314**

An ad in 1962.

William F. and Dorthea Burch were listed, DBA Dari Fair and Bill's Big Burger, 5227 Alexis Rd. and 6307 Monroe St. in Sylvania. Five years later the Toledo Blade dated Oct. 21, 1968, listed the same notice regarding the businesses. The Blade classified section dated Oct. 16, 1969 advertised a restaurant auction at "Bill's Big Burger, 6307 Monroe St., Oct. 18, 1969, at 10 am Sale conducted by Ray's Auction." All the restaurant items that were to be auctioned were listed, and ad ended with: "This has been a well-operated and kept up restaurant. The merchandise is in fine shape. Owners Mr. and Mrs. William Burch." (No photos of this restaurant are available).

In 1970 the property was sold to the Gulf Oil Corporation, but before the purchase they requested permission from Sylvania City Council to convert the former Bill's Big Burger structure into an auto service center, with a combination car wash and gasoline station. Adjoining property owners objected to the plans for a filling station, claiming there were already 39 service stations within a three square mile area. After lawsuits were filed in attempts to stop the conditional use permit, city council approved the permit in September, 1970. On Nov. 19, 1970 a building permit was submitted to construct an automatic car wash and gasoline facility at a cost of \$50,000. In May 1971 a permit was granted to demolish the former restaurant building and a new car wash/gas station structure was built by 1971. From that time until 2023 it has served as a car wash and gasoline facility while the property was owned as follows:

1983 - Donald M. and Suzanne Kowalka  
1985 - The Sam Davis Company, Inc.  
1993 - David W. Greenberg  
1997 - Soft Touch Car Wash

2022 - Clean Express - Monroe Sylvania LLC

On March 24, 2023 a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open the Clean Express Auto Wash. The \$2.5 million renovation features state-of-the-art equipment.

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# Cake Mix Cookies: A Sweet and Simple Valentine's Day Treat

## Sizzle Simmer Sauté Sylvanico



JENNIFER ALEXANDER RUPLE

Think outside the box this Valentine's Day by making Cake Mix Cookies, a charming way to bring a little extra love to your sweethearts. With just three ingredients - your favorite cake mix, eggs and vegetable oil - you can whip up a batch of soft, chewy cookies in minutes. The simplicity makes them perfect for baking with kids, turning the kitchen into a fun, hands-on celebration of the holiday.

One of the best parts is how versatile they are. Choose any cake mix flavor to match your mood: classic chocolate, festive strawberry, or even red velvet for a romantic touch. Stir in chocolate chips, sprinkles, or festive candies to personalize each batch. For an extra sweet finish, press a chocolate kiss or a gooey caramel into the center of each warm cookie.

These cookies are quick, customizable, and guaranteed to spread Valentine cheer.

### Build Your Own Cookies

Use your imagination and create your own cookie combinations. Here are some ideas for inspiration.

**Cake mixes:** French vanilla, devil's food, dark chocolate, German chocolate, fudge, carrot, red velvet, strawberry, lemon, butter pecan and spice

**Add ins:** flavored chips - peanut butter, butterscotch, white, milk and dark chocolate

**Toppers:** peanut butter cups, kisses, chocolate mints, Rolo® caramels and M&Ms ®

#### Strawberries and Cream COOKIES

- Strawberry cake mix
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- Add ins: cream cheese flavored chips

#### Chocolate Peanut Butter Fudge COOKIES

- Triple chocolate fudge cake mix
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- Add ins: chocolate and peanut butter chips

Recipes yield 2 dozen cookies



### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350 F. To a large bowl, add the cake mix, eggs and oil. Stir to combine until the dough is smooth. Fold the chips into the dough if using. Refrigerate the dough for 30 minutes. This step will make the dough easier to work with.

Using a medium size cookie scoop, place dough on parchment paper lined baking sheets about two inches apart.

Bake cookies for 9-11 minutes until they are set. Do not overbake cookies - they should be on the softer side.

Remove cookies from the oven and press toppers in the center of the cookies if using.

Allow cookies to firm up for a couple of minutes before moving them to cooling racks.



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## JANET AMID

### THE STARS SPEAK

*If January is the month of change, February is the month of lasting change. January is for dreamers... February is for doers.* —Marc Parent

February 2026 is a powerful turning-point—awakening the heart, clarifying the future, and increasing motivation. This is a month of changes, intention and initiation. Saturn moving into fiery Aries brings stability built through courage, patience, and conscious action. Dream boldly—but build bravely.

Happy Birthday, Aquarius—this is your month to shine. With Saturn transiting into Aries, you're gaining much-needed structure, focus, and motivation, especially around career goals and long-term direction. Be confident—this is your season to lead, connect, and set powerful intentions for the year ahead.

**Full "Snow" Moon in Leo Feb. 2** - Emotions are charged - this creative Leo full moon shines a spotlight on creativity, romance, leadership, and authenticity. Emotional truths surface as Leo asks: Are you living from the heart—and being seen for who you truly are? A push/pull between personal expression (Leo) and the needs (Aquarius) of others invites balance, though not necessarily compromise. Those affected by this particular full moon will be Leo, Aquarius, Scorpio, and Taurus. Also, time of birth will indicate where this full moon is occurring in your own birth chart.

**New Moon in Aquarius Feb. 17** - A Cosmic Reset- This late-degree Aquarian new moon is one of the most pivotal of the year. It marks endings and bold new beginnings tied to community, technology, friendships, and long-term goals. With Pluto nearby, intentions set now carry

lasting, transformative power. This can be powerful for those born under a sign of Aquarius, Sagittarius, Gemini, and Libra. For others, time of birth will indicate its influence.

**Venus enters Pisces Feb. 11** - Venus, the planet of love, absolutely shines while transiting in Pisces. This is a time when love softens and heals. Venus in Pisces opens the heart to compassion, creativity, and soulful connection. Romance feels tender and intuitive, though boundaries may blur. A beautiful time for healing, forgiveness, and artistic inspiration—guided by discernment.

**Saturn enters Aries - Feb. 15** - A major shift begins as Saturn enters Aries for the first time since the late 1990s. Those born between the ages of 27 to 30, 57 to 60 and 87 to 90 will be impacted.. It calls for courage, accountability, and leadership. With Neptune also in Aries, dreams must take form. Cancer, Capricorn, Libra, and Aries will definitely feel the impact of this transit. For others, time of birth, will determine where Saturn is transiting in your birth chart.

**Fire Signs:** Aries, Leo, Sagittarius- a surge of motivation and visibility—lead with intention. Saturn in Aries ignites!

**Earth Signs:** Taurus, Virgo, Capricorn-Growth comes through collaboration and emotional openness. Changes will occur however it's up to you. Welcome the challenges ahead.

**Air Signs:** Aquarius, Gemini, Libra - Fresh beginnings, clarity, powerful connections emerge.

**Water Signs:** Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces- Deep emotional healing with stronger boundaries. Challenges bring on opportunities that you never thought you had. Open yourself up to it.

#### SIGNS:

**ARIES** - Saturn entering your sign begins a powerful two-year chapter of maturity and self-understanding. You are asked to slow down, commit, build wisely, reexamine choices. The

Leo full moon Feb. 2, highlights creativity and passion, while the Aquarius new moon on the 17th reshapes friendships and long-term goals.

**TAURUS** - Saturn activates your inner world, encouraging emotional boundaries and spiritual discipline. The full moon at your mid-heaven brings career or family matters to light, encouraging change and growth. The new moon on the 17th in your area of home, invites healing, rest, and a new private chapter.

**GEMINI** - Saturn restructures your social circles and long-term aspirations. Quality replaces quantity, as you see yourself more alert to who and what feeds your soul. The full moon energizes communication and learning, while the new moon on the 17th opens doors through travel, education, and new perspectives.

**CANCER** - Saturn demands responsibility in career and public life—your reputation matters now, more than ever. The Leo full moon highlights finances and self-worth, while the Aquarius new moon transforms shared resources and emotional bonds. This is a time where you work from the inside out. Clarification is key.

**LEO** - YOU are in the spotlight Leo, as the full moon on the 2nd is a personal spotlight moment—emotional clarity, recognition, and truth emerge. Saturn asks you to redefine beliefs and direction, while the new moon on the 17th supports powerful personal and spiritual growth.

**VIRGO** - Saturn encourages courageous changes in shared responsibilities, finances, and emotional commitments. The full moon brings closure and insight, while the Aquarius new moon resets work habits and wellness routines. This is your month to create a strong plan of action. Feel the motivation taking root.

**LIBRA** - Saturn restructures partnerships—commitments become serious and intentional. The full moon energizes friendships and group

connections. Your dance card is definitely filling up. The new moon reignites creativity, romance, and joy. Explore. Create. Be.

**SCORPIO** - Saturn in Aries asks for discipline in daily routines, health, and work-life balance, a good cycle to reestablish boundaries. The full moon illuminates career matters, while the Aquarius new moon shifts home, family, and emotional foundations. This can be your time to change, much for the better.

**SAGITTARIUS** - Saturn supports long-term creative projects, leadership, and purpose-driven passion. The full moon expands vision and truth, while the new moon activates communication, writing, and meaningful conversations. The next two years open up for you. Work from the inside out. This is your time!

**CAPRICORN** - Saturn reshapes home, family, and emotional security—foundations must be solid. The full moon highlights finances and values, while the new moon begins a fresh chapter around income and self-worth. It's a good time for a new beginning.

**AQUARIUS** - The new moon in your sign marks a powerful rebirth—new identity, direction, and purpose. The Leo full moon spotlights relationships, while Saturn stabilizes communication, contracts, and mindset. You may push limits. All good, and very favorable.

**PISCES** - Saturn anchors financial stability and self-reliance. Dreams must now be grounded in reality. The full moon brings awareness to health and routines, while the new moon encourages rest, intuition, and spiritual growth.

*Janet Amid is a media astrologer, who writes for the Sylvania AdVantage and can be heard every Monday morning from 8:10 to 8:45 am, taking your calls and texts at 419-240-1935. For an in-office session, you may call or text 419-882-5510.*

NO MATTER HOW LONG THE WINTER SPRING IS SURE TO FOLLOW.



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## Parents greatest gifts they leave us



Friends since 1973, **Adrianne Kolebuck, Hollie Reichle, Caryn Mambro, Molly Finn, Heidi Rummel, Mary Gradel Gothier, Margie Blood Laberde, and Betsy Kelly** gather from across the country to pay celebrate the life of Roger Rummel and support his daughter and their friend Heidi Rummel.

### CARYN MAMBRO

There are moments of loss that take a permanent, marked hold of your heart. For me, the last sound of my parents' hearts beating will never leave my senses. After their deaths, I recall feeling utterly insulted that the world did not stop. How can time continue, how can the sun rise, when they are no longer walking on this earth?

With time, comes learning. Grief, I have found, is a great, relentless teacher. It manifests in so many ways, and regardless of one's beliefs, the sheer, profound energy left behind from the absence of a loved one is palpable. And while loss does not discriminate, some of us are blessed to be gifted with more years than others.

My home is now in Boston but recently I returned to Sylvania to pay respects to the patriarch of one of my closest childhood friends. In one poignant moment at the funeral, eight of us childhood friends were huddled in a circle, comforting one another while celebrating 90 years of a life well-lived. It occurred to me that the unbreakable, lifelong friendships in that team huddle were only made possible by the very people who are now leaving us, one parent at a time.

I am the youngest of four, and my parents had made a conscious decision to send me to a different school than my older siblings. I still wonder how they arrived at that choice, and if they ever realized how that decision would ultimately help shape me into who I am today. My formal schooling was excellent, but the greatest product of that education has come from the friendships that have endured for over 50 years.

I'm certain my mom and dad never realized that decision would determine the course of my closest relationships. From 1973 until today, we've shared slumber parties, first crushes, driver's ed, college acceptances, weddings, miscarriages, cross-country moves, divorces, and the inevitable loss of family members. My childhood friends have been integral to my life, becoming more like sisters than companions.

Our parents pass away, yet these friends are the people ultimately left behind with us as we carry on in the absence. I hope my mom and dad know what good hands they placed me in when they made that simple choice. It's been said that reuniting with childhood friends is like coming home to your heart. Coming home to Ohio was precisely that.

With this trip, I am reminded of the greatest gift I'd ever received from my parents. Strangely, it was a funeral that brought this into sharp focus, as there is no avoiding the dreaded destination of grieving a parent. The same people who introduced us as young children are those we now gather around: reflecting on years of memories, giving thanks for the impact of the lives that brought us together, and saying our

final goodbyes. Sharing that grief together brings a unique, lasting comfort.

I am forever thankful to my mom and dad for the choices they made on my behalf. I can never repay them for those decisions, nor would they expect me to. It remains an unpaid debt, and I am forever grateful to be the beneficiary of the gift of my parents' lives—the gift of lifelong friends.

Stephenie Miller - Pre-Planning Advisor

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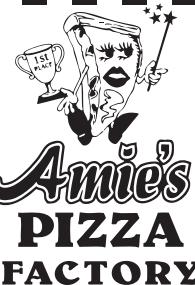


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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To lot and landowners and corporations affected by proposed improvement by artificially lighting streets and public ways in Twelve Lakes, Plat 13 unincorporated in Sylvania Township.

Notice is hereby given, that on January 13, 2026, a petition praying that the Board of Township Trustees of this Township take all lawful and proper proceedings to add lighting artificially to the streets and public ways in an unincorporated district in the Township, was filed in my office, and that on January 20, 2026, I notified the Board of Township Trustees of the date of such filing and delivered to them a copy of the petition.

Notice is further given, that the petition specified the metes and bounds of the said district, but included no lands more than 660 feet from, nor any lands not abutting on, the streets and public ways in said district.

Notice is further given, that a hearing will be held by the Board of Township Trustees of Sylvania Township on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Township Hall (4927 N. Holland-Sylvania Road; Sylvania, OH 43560) to hear any and all proof offered by any of the parties affected by such improvement and other persons competent to testify.

BY ORDER OF DAVID SIMKO, FISCAL OFFICER  
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## Casserole marathon held



Front row: **Jack Durham, Komi Ohene-Larkin, Melissa Yeager, Sr. Barbara Vano, Sarah Salatin, Austin Sample**; Second row: **Felipe Tramontin, Daniel Nascimento, Olivia Hickman, Dwayne Beggs, Scott Wills**; Third row: **Jason Salisbury and Darin Briscoe** volunteer for the first shift preparing casseroles to 'Fill the Freezer' during the 24-hour marathon Jan. 16-17 at the San Damiano Campus Ministry House. Lourdes students, faculty, staff, and board members work in two-hour shifts making casseroles to freeze for distribution throughout the year. The casserole marathon benefits the university's weekly Toledo Labre outreach project inspired by Benedict Joseph Labre, the patron saint of homeless individuals. Each Wednesday afternoon, Lourdes students gather at the university's San Damiano Campus Ministry House to prepare the casseroles, sandwiches, snacks, and hot chocolate or lemonade. The students, joined by other members of the Lourdes community, load up two vans and deliver the food and drinks along with good cheer, well wishes, thoughts, and prayers to those in need in two Toledo neighborhoods.

## Phase II construction plans unveiled



**Bob Westphal** talks with **Sandy** and **John Husman** during the Phase II Downtown construction project at the Jan. 13 public meeting.



Heritage Sylvania's **Tristen Turkopp** and **Samatha Ayres** check out one of the renderings for the Phase II Downtown construction project at the Jan. 13 public meeting.



**Mary Westphal** and Sylvania Police Chief **Danilynn Miller** look over one of the renderings of the second block of Main Street on display.



Interested Sylvania residents gather at the Jan. 13 public meeting to learn about Downtown Sylvania's Phase II construction updates.



## DAILY SPECIALS

### Monday & Wednesday

- **1/2 PRICE PIZZA**  
(\$1.25 Carry-Out Charge)

### Tuesday

- **0.75¢ WINGS** (min. of 10)
- **\$1.00 TACOS** (min. of 4)  
(\$1.00 Carry-Out Charge)

### Thursday

- **1/2 PRICE PASTA**  
(Starting at 4pm • Dine-In Only)

### Sunday

- **0.75¢ WINGS** (min. of 10)  
(\$1.00 Carry-Out Charge)

### Everyday

(Excluding Monday & Wednesday)

- **14" LRG 1-TOPPING PIZZA & LRG CHEESE BREAD \$19.75**
- **20" GIANT 2-TOPPING PIZZA \$18.00**  
(Dine-In or Carryout)

### To Go Pizza Special

(Excluding Monday & Wednesday)

- **2- 12" 2-TOPPING PIZZAS \$16.00**  
(Available only for Carryout)

## LUNCH SPECIALS

### MONDAY - FRIDAY

**11AM - 2PM**

**JUST \$8.25!**



## LENT FISH FRY

### FRIDAYS

**FEBRUARY 20 - APRIL 3**  
**STARTS AT 4PM**

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