



SYLVANIA ADVANTAGE

April 20 - May 3, 2026

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Sylvania's No. 1 Source for the Community's Good News

Where giving begins ...

Inside the experience of finding the perfect gift

While a young man's fancy may turn to thoughts of love in the spring, others may mark the season with something just as meaningful: renewal, celebration, and the quiet art of giving.

Spring's calendar fills quickly: weddings and bridal showers, baby sprinkles, graduations. Each occasion calls for more than a present. It calls for the intention of giving.

At Hafner Florist, the focus is not simply on what customers buy, but how they arrive at that decision.

Step inside the shop at 5139 S. Main St. in the Southbriar Shopping Plaza, and the experience begins before a single item is chosen. The boutique is designed to evoke a sense of discovery, a space where guests pause, take in the ambiance, and let the environment guide them. The goal, owners Josh Miller and Kyle Vierling say, is simple: for customers to feel something first, and shop second.

"Gift giving should be an experience," is a philosophy that shapes everything in the shop, from layout to inventory.

Shelves are curated with items not commonly found elsewhere in the region. A prominent display of Voluspa candles fills the air with layered scents, while nearby, handblown glass vessels, created exclusively for the shop by local artist Tess Healy, reflect the store's commitment to craftsmanship. Ceramic pieces by Lia Colapietro add another local touch, each piece offering a story as much as a function.

The experience extends beyond décor. Guests move from fragrance to flavor, browsing gourmet offerings from Finch and Fennel, including dill mustard, specialty vinegars, jams, and crackers, items meant not just to be gifted, but shared and savored. Paired with marbled Bergo charcuterie boards, perfect for entertaining tablescapes, inviting customers to dream of gatherings and conversations yet to happen.

In another corner, bath and body collections from Archipelago Botanicals and Botanico de Havana offer a more personal kind of indulgence, gifts that feel intimate, sensory, and restorative.

But perhaps the most distinctive feature is the Flower Bar.

Here, the act of giving becomes hands-on. Customers



Josh Miller and Kyle Vierling



A plethora of plants and pots



The Flower Bar at Hafner Florist



Finch and Fennel gourmet items

select individual stems, flowers that change weekly, and build arrangements that are entirely their own. Some come in with a vision. Others discover it as they go, guided by color, texture, or memory. For those who prefer a professional touch, custom arrangements remain a staple, each one designed to reflect a moment or milestone.

The boutique's approach reflects a broader shift in how people think about gifts. Increasingly, shoppers are less interested in convenience and more invested in meaning. They want the process, the searching, the selecting, the imagining, to matter as much as the final product.

That philosophy extends into their home consultations. Design services allow guests to carry the experience beyond the store, refreshing their spaces with new accents, lamps, mirrors, rugs, vases, and artwork, each chosen with the same sense of intention.

In the end, what customers take with them is more than a purchase.

It's the memory of how they found it.

Because the best gifts don't begin at the register. They begin the moment someone walks through the door, looks around, and starts to imagine someone else's joy.

What's Inside



Mother's Day 2026
SHOWER HER WITH LOVE

more on page 15

What's Up	2-5
Government	6-7
Construction Update	8
Sylvania Then & Now	9
Business	10-11
Schools	12-13
Camps	14
Mother's Day	15
Recycle/Reuse	16-17
Looking Sideways	18
Sizzle Simmer Sauté	19
Election	20
Lives Celebrated	21
Local Services	22
Classifieds	23
Seen in Sylvania	24

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**Epworth's 14th Annual Touch a Truck
Saturday, May 9 - 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM***

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**TRUCKS, MOTORCYCLES,
EMERGENCY VEHICLES, TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES**

Kids of all ages can climb aboard, honk the horns, and pretend to drive anything that rolls, flies or floats!

We'll have treats, concessions, and LOTS of FAMILY FUN!

**Sensory Friendly Times from 11:00 - 11:30 and 12:30 - 1:00*

Bring your family and friends to this FREE event!

Epworth United Methodist Church | 4855 W. Central Avenue | Toledo, Ohio
Across from Wildwood | 419.531.4236 | www.epworth.com

Epworth
United Methodist Church



Sylvania's annual Shred Day planned

The city of Sylvania will host its annual Shred Day on Saturday, April 25 from 9 am to 1 pm in the Sylvania Municipal Court parking lot, located at 6700 Monroe St.

AccuShred, a certified document destruction company, will provide the onsite shredding services. Residents may bring up to 50 pounds of personal documents in bags or boxes for shredding, about three medium-sized bags or banker's boxes, for free. Additional containers will be accepted for \$3 each. Staples do not need to be removed, but paper should not be placed in binders or include binder clips.

In addition, AccuShred will accept certain electronic items, including computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, small appliances, telephones and cellphones. Computer monitors will

be accepted for a \$15 fee; televisions will not be accepted. A complete list of eligible items is available at cityofsylvaniam.com.

Goodwill to participate

Goodwill Industries of Northwest Ohio will participate in this year's Shred Day event on Saturday, April 25.

Goodwill will be on-site accepting donations of gently used clothing, shoes, and small household items that are in bags or boxes.

Furniture and large items will not be accepted at this event. To contribute those items donors are encouraged to visit goodwillnwohio.com for a complete list of donation centers and guidelines.

May's First Friday Art Walk is 'For the Birds' with a 'Migration on Main'

Not only will downtown Sylvania be For the Birds during the May 1 First Friday Art Walk, the Red Bird Art District will be all aflutter with a Migration on Main, street, that is. Participating shops and businesses on both blocks of Main Street will welcome shoppers and guests to view their offerings along with the featured brightly glazed, whimsical birdhouses created by artists from Lourdes University, Northview High School, St. Ursula High School, and the Sisters, faculty and friends at Alverno Studio. The project was completed under the guidance of artists Sister Magdala Davlin and Jordy Rengifo Poma.

Billed as the Migration on Main, the birdhouse installation celebrates National Bird Migration Month and the 110th anniversary of the Sylvania Franciscans, fusing art and nature by providing 110 homes for native nesting birds. The installation honors the 110 years that 522 women religious have called Sylvania home for

their Motherhouse.

The birdhouses will be displayed inside shops along Main Street, with each location highlighting a native bird species from the Oak Openings region.

Visitors will have a chance to win their own ceramic workshop session in Alverno Studio.

Pick up a Migration on Main card at any participating business and have them marked at each location. Completed cards will be entered into a raffle to win a ceramic work.



The SPA Relay Challenge returns

Sylvania and Sylvania Township students, grades 6-12 and families, have until April 30 to sign up to participate in the Sylvania Prevention Alliance Relay Challenge 2026.

The event will be held on May 9 from 10 am to 10 pm at Timberstone Junior High School, 9000 W. Sylvania Ave.

Each team consists of up to 10 members.

Each participant will run or walk at least one mile at a time, then pass the timing chip to the next member, and so on. This process will continue for the entire event.

There will be continuous activities, entertainment and food. The cost is \$50 to participate.

Community events scheduled

Veterans Benefit Fair

The second annual Elks/Emblem Veterans Benefit Fair will be held on May 9 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Toledo-Sylvania Elks 53 Lodge, 3520 Holland-Sylvania Rd. Information on local and national organizations for Veterans will be available. There will also be a presentation on the American Disability Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm, regarding reasonable accommodations for work.

S.A.V.E. lecture

Lourdes University and Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment are hosting a lecture by Paul Pfeifer, Managing Director of Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Mich., on April 21, from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Franciscan Center Board Room. The 755-acre public garden and arboretum is located about 70

miles south of MSU. For more information, call S.A.V.E. President Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF, at 419-824-3691 or email save@lourdes.edu.

Annual Kids Trout Derby

The 34th annual Kids Trout Derby will be held April 25 from 9 am to 1 pm at Olander Park, 6930 Sylvania Ave. Children ages 15 and under, with a guardian, are invited to fish at this free event. Goodie bags, a t-shirt and raffle ticket are offered for \$5 for Sylvania School district residents and \$7 for others. Same day registration opens at 8 am.

Odds and Ends Sale

The Sylvania Senior Center Participants' Council will host its annual Odds and Ends Sale on April 30 from 9 am to 3 pm. Registration forms are available at the Senior Center office, 7140 Sylvania Ave.

MAY 30 & 31

2026

MAPLE & MAIN
ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL
IN THE PARK
OLANDER PARK, SYLVANIA, OHIO

MAKE YOUR MARK sylvaniaarts.org

Orchids bloom at the Zoo



While waiting for colorful blooms to appear in their own gardens, Toledo Zoo visitors can take in the sights and scents of the annual Orchid Show in the Zoo's Natural History Museum through May 3. Viewing over 2,000 orchid species, along with the history of and displays of elaborate terrariums, is included with Zoo admission. The Zoo will hold an orchid plant sale on Saturday, May 9.

Maple & Main Art & Music Festival returns to Olander Park

The 15th annual Maple & Main Art & Music Festival returns to Olander Park on May 30-31. More than 80 visual artists will display their work in booths during the juried art festival. Featured media includes photography, painting, jewelry, fiber, glass, ceramics, wood and more. Award winning artists from Ohio and Michigan and from many other states will participate in the festival.

"Art has a unique way of connecting people and shaping the spirit of a community, and we're thrilled to carry on that tradition through our festival each year," said Ken Dymond, executive director of Sylvania Arts.

Artist booths will be lined up and down the trails at Olander Park, a stage for musical performances will be located near the beach, and beer and wine will be available to enjoy throughout the festival grounds. A food court featuring 10 local street food vendors, and a children's art activity area will again be near the playground. Musical acts include local talent representing genres from rock and bluegrass to jazz, folk and polka. Buskers will perform at pop-up locations around the festival.

Arctic Clam will be the musical headliner on Saturday night. The festival will close on Sunday afternoon with Polka Floyd. Admission to the festival is free and open to the public and parking is available at the adjacent Tam-O-Shanter.

The complete performance lineup follows.

Saturday, May 30

10:30 am-noon, Jon Roth & Mike Gramza - the



Chloe & the Steel Strings will perform at the 2026 festival.

best in Americana, bluegrass and Motown
12-1:30 pm, Snyder & Caswell - folk rock and country blues

2-3:30 pm, The Folk Yeahs - rock and roll, country jam cover band

4-5:30 pm, Whiskey Charmers - alternative country/indie pop

6-7:30 pm, Chloe and the Steel Strings - psychedelic folk rock

8-9:30 pm, Arctic Clam - high energy classic rock and pop

Sunday, May 31

11 am-12:30 pm, Hector Mendoza - classical guitarist

1-2:30 pm, Live Roots - funky reggae band

3-4:30 pm, Polka Floyd - high energy rock with a polka twist

For more festival information, visit sylvaniaartsarts@gmail.com.

MINIMUM BID AUCTION \$175,000!

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 | 4 PM
5043 Barton Pl, Sylvania, OH 43560

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to bid on a beautifully remodeled ranch in one of Sylvania Township's most desirable neighborhoods. This move-in-ready home offers over 1,500 square feet of comfortable living space on a large, fully fenced lot, checking every box for the modern buyer. The interior features four spacious bedrooms, fresh paint throughout, and all-new flooring, complemented by a remodeled full bath and an updated kitchen. Major mechanical and structural updates, including newer windows and a newer furnace, provide added peace of mind. The floor plan is designed for versatility with both a living room and a family room, plus the convenience of two full bathrooms. Step outside to a private, covered backyard patio—perfect for relaxing or entertaining regardless of the weather.

Prospective bidders are invited to arrive early for a walkthrough and to complete the registration process, which will begin onsite the day of the auction at 2:30 PM. With all the hard work already completed and a motivated seller, this well-maintained property represents a fantastic opportunity to secure exceptional value at auction. Everything is done—just unpack and enjoy!



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lcmhrsb.oh.gov for a list of locations

Lucas County Drug Take Back Day - April 25th, 10am-2pm

- Holland Police Department- 1245 Clarion Ave. Holland, OH
- Kroger - 2257 N Holland Sylvania Rd. Toledo, OH
- Kroger - 2555 Glendale Ave. Toledo, OH
- Kroger - 4633 Suder Ave. Toledo, OH
- Kroger - 7059 Orchard Centre Dr. Holland, OH
- Kroger - 7545 W Sylvania Ave. Sylvania, OH
- Maumee Police Division - 109 E Dudley St. Maumee, OH

- Monclova Township Admin Building - 4335 Albon Rd. Monclova, OH
- Oregon Police Division - 5330 Seaman Rd. Oregon, OH
- Ottawa Hills Police Department- 2125 Richards Rd. Ottawa Hills, OH
- Scott Park District Police Station- 2301 Nebraska Ave. Toledo, OH
- Swanton Municipal Building - 219 Chestnut St. Swanton, OH
- Waterville Police Department - 25 N Second St. Waterville, OH



Sylvania celebrates America 250 with activities throughout the year



Dani Fuller unveils the Mural 250 designation during the April First Friday dedication of the mural.



The logo, Sylvania: America 250! is the design of Highland Elementary School fifth-grader Audrey Muehlfeld.

History isn't sitting quietly in Sylvania; it's showing up in murals, scavenger hunts, and even a vintage base ball game as the community marks America's 250th anniversary with a year-

long celebration. The efforts blends past and present, inviting residents to experience local history in hands-on ways.



The March Scavenger Hunt prize is a gift card from F&M Bank.

One of the most interactive activities is the monthly Sylvania Scavenger Hunt, which challenges participants to identify 25 iconic sites

throughout the city and township. Linda Kuyoth was the March winner as the first to submit the correct list. She earned a gift courtesy of F&M Bank.

A new round of 25 photo clues has been released for April, with entries due by 11:59 pm April 30. Monthly contests will continue through December, with each entry also qualifying for a grand prize drawing at year's end. The effort is fueled by Heritage Sylvania with Sylvania historian Gayleen Gindy, who curated the full collection of 250 images, one for each year of the nation's history.

However, history in Sylvania isn't just something to be found; it's also something to be experienced in person.

During the April 3 First Friday Art Walk, community members gathered for the re-dedication of "The Roots of Sylvania," a mural by local artist Dani Fuller that has earned a place on the AM250-Ohio Commission's official mural map.

Standing before the mural, Sylvania Arts Executive Director Ken Dymond and Heritage Sylvania Executive Director Samantha Ayres opened the program and introduced the artist, who reflected on the mural's deeper meaning: a visual narrative where art and history intersect.

Fuller's design tells a layered story, from the North Star guiding freedom seekers along the Underground Railroad to the legacy of Sylvania-born photographer Sam Abell. Even more fitting, the mural itself is a community creation. After completing the design in 2015, Fuller invited residents to help paint it, turning the art-work into a shared expression of local pride.

That sense of shared history continues with Arbor Day on April 27.

Mayor Mark Frye will host an Arbor Day ceremony at 1 pm on the Sylvania Administration Building lawn, where a Heritage Ohio white oak will be planted. The tree is part of a statewide effort placing one oak in each of Ohio's 88 counties, a living tribute to both the state's role in the nation's founding and the communities that continue to grow from those roots.

From there, the celebration expands into summer and beyond.

A vintage base ball game on May 16 will pit the Sylvania Black Swamp Frogs against a team of local "celebrities," played by 1920s-era rules on the grass at Veterans Memorial Field. The Memorial Day Parade on May 25 will carry the America 250 theme through the heart of the city.

Summer highlights also include a June 18 community movie night featuring "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the annual Star-Spangled Celebration on July 3, and a full slate of Independence Day events on July 4, including a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, the opening of a 1976 time capsule, and an All-American Homecoming picnic at Burnham Park.

Individually, each event offers its own moment of connection to the past.

Together, the events highlight Sylvania's role in a broader national milestone while emphasizing the community's history and traditions.

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Downtown Toledo, OH

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Enjoy **Early Bird Registration - \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth** - from now through **Mother's Day**. Celebrate **love, strength, and hope** with us at the 2026 Northwest Ohio Susan G. Komen **Race for the Cure.**

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THE BIG TO DO IN SYLVANIA

ACTIVITIES

Ongoing

America 250 Scavenger Hunt • Heritage Sylvania, find all 250 Sylvania landmarks, more info. at heritagesylvania.org/sylvania250

Through Dec.

Outdoor Sylvania Wellness Challenge • Complete 500 miles by the end of the year, \$5 residents, \$10 non-residents, must register by April 30, outdoorsylvania.com

Tuesdays

Upside Run Club • Upside Brewing, meet under the awning, 6-7pm, rain or shine

April 24

Smiles from the Heart • Free Dentistry Day by Dental Excellence Group, 5660 Monroe St., registration begins at 7:45am, first come-first served

April 25

Tree City Market • Spring Craft Show, Tam-O-Shanter, 10am-3pm
Kids' Trout Derby • Olander Park,

9am-1pm, children 15 and under with a guardian, free, register at outdoorsylvania.com

Lucas Co. Drug Take Back Day • 10am-2pm, free, more pg. 3

Ray of Hope Awards • presented by Sylvania Area Family Services, Sylvania Country Club, 6pm, tickets \$100, sylvaniaareafamilyservices.org/oscars

April 30

Odds and Ends Sale • Sylvania Senior Center, fundraiser for Participants' Council, 9am-2pm, reg. forms in office

May 2

Derby Casino Night • Event by LB Veterans Outreach, Sylvania Moose Lodge, 5:30-10pm, \$75 at door

May 9

SPA Relay Challenge • Timberstone Jr. High School, 10am, register at relaychallenge@sylvaniaprevention.org, more pg. 2

Touch-a-Truck • Epworth United Methodist Church parking lot, 10am-2pm, free, epworth.com, more pg. 2

COMMUNITY

April 20 & May 4

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

April 21

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

April 25

City of Sylvania Shred Day • Municipal Court parking lot, 6730 Monroe St., 9am-1pm, residents may bring up to 50 pounds of personal docs for free, more pg. 2

April 27-May 1

City of Sylvania Spring Unlimited Household Refuse Collection

FOOD & DRINK

April 29

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

May 9

Mother's Day Tea • by Heritage Sylvania, Cooke-Kuhlman House, two seatings, 10am and 1pm, \$40 per person, tickets heritagesylvania.org

May 17

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

May 26

Sylvania Summer Market Begins • Olander Park, Tuesdays 5-8pm

TRIVIA

Mondays

Village Inn Pub Quiz • 6:30 & 7:30pm

Tuesdays

Voodoo Brewing • 6:30-8:30pm
Sidelines Sylvania • 7-9pm
Bier Stube • 8-10pm
Frogtown Johnnie's • 9pm

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

April 24

The Grape Smugglers • Bar 145, 6pm

April 25

Decent Folk • Bier Stube, 8pm
The Ladies Night • Bar 145, 9pm

May 1

Kall me Kendra • Bier Stube, 6pm

May 2

Random Act • Bier Stube, 8pm
Andi Jo • Bar 145, 9pm

May 8

Chris Shutters • Bier Stube, 6pm

May 9

Ryan Dunlap Trio • Bier Stube 8pm

May 15

The Cheeks • Bier Stube, 6pm

May 16

Afterglow • Bier Stube, 8pm

May 22

Aftershock • Bier Stube, 6pm

May 23

My 80's Vice • Bier Stube, 8pm
Paper Covers Rock • Bar 145, 9pm

May 29

Stirred Not Shaken • Bier Stube, 6pm

Upcoming at Centennial

The Menus • June 13
Aaron Lewis and The Stateliners • June 25

Killer Queen • July 11
Hotel California • July 17
Hairball • July 18
Lee Brice • July 31

Get the Led Out • Aug. 15
 Tickets: centennialterrace.org

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



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Views expressed by advertisers or contributing writers do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher or staff.

THE ARTS

May 1

Red Bird First Friday Artwalk • *For the Birds*, downtown Sylvania, 5-8pm, more pg. 2

April 23-26

Matilda The Musical • Southview Theatre Department, April 23-25 7pm, April 26 2:30pm, tickets on sale April 1, southviewtheatre.org

May 30 & 31

Maple & Main Art & Music Festival • Olander Park, Sat. 11am-7pm, Sun. 10am-4:30pm, free admission and parking

COMEDY

Mondays

The Barn Bar & Grill • 7-9pm



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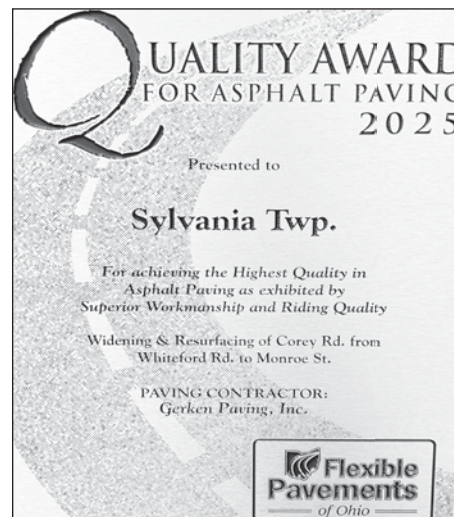
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Township talk ...



Accolades

Sylvania Township and Gerken Paving Inc. were recognized April 1 by Flexible Pavements of Ohio for excellence in asphalt pavement construction on the Corey Road widening and resurfacing project.

“Gerken Paving was a great partner on this project,” Sylvania Township Road Superintendent Rob Nash said. “The company

has been awarded many of our resurfacing projects over the last 25 years and has always met or exceeded our expectations.”

Flexible Pavements of Ohio represents the asphalt paving industry at the federal, state, and local levels and supports education and outreach efforts aimed at improving construction quality.

Appeal approved

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals voted to grant an exception for the sidewalk requirements for Sunset Village’s Phase V project fronting Allen Road.

Per Section 1106 of the Sylvania Township Zoning Resolution, the development and redevelopment of properties within the Township shall require the installation of sidewalks on all sides of the property that abut a highway, street, or roadway. Section 1106(C) allows for an exception to the sidewalk requirement from the Board of Zoning Appeals if the adjacent properties do not have sidewalks. However, if sidewalks are constructed on either adjacent property, the exception is revoked, and sidewalks must be constructed within 180 days.

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City beat ...



Committee for Sylvania’s Future chair **Tara Haye** presents the message regarding the school levy to City Council with support from committee member **Ben Malczewski**.



Sylvania Schools Superintendent **Veronica Motley**, D.Ed. presents the State of the Schools to City Council members at the April 6 meeting.

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Veronica Motley, D.Ed., superintendent of Sylvania Schools, opened the April 6 Sylvania City Council meeting with a State of the Schools presentation, outlining district progress and future priorities.

She was followed by Tara Haye, chair of the Committee for Sylvania’s Future, who spoke in support of the school levy scheduled for the May 5 ballot.

Arbor Day

Mayor Mark Frye issued a proclamation designating April 27 as Arbor Day in Sylvania, noting the city’s Tree City status and the importance of maintaining a healthy urban tree canopy. Frye invited council members and staff to attend a 1 pm ceremony on the lawn of the city administration building, where a Heritage Ohio white oak will be planted.

“As part of America 250, a Heritage Ohio white oak tree will be planted in each of the state’s counties,” Frye said. “Sylvania was se-

lected to be the home of the Lucas County tree.”

SUPs approved

In other business, Councilman Doug Haynam requested that two special use permits tied to The Ability Center expansion plans be approved following a public meeting held prior to the regular session. The permits cover a proposed building expansion and a new parking lot.

City Council also authorized the payment of two invoices from the Lucas County Engineer for the City of Sylvania’s portion of the Ten Mile Creek/Ottawa River Watershed Ditch Petition #1053. The right-of-way assessment amount was \$41,798.06 and property owner assumed assessment amount was \$126,249.58. This is the first of six annual payments through 2031 due to the County according to their six-year work plan.

MARK FRYE

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mark Frye

Caring for our community and the environment

April in the city of Sylvania is more than showers bringing May flowers. With Earth Day on April 22, it is also a time to reflect

on how we can better respect and protect our environment, starting with easy, everyday choices.

One simple way residents can make a difference is to reduce what goes into landfills. In that spirit, the city is hosting the annual Shred Day on Saturday, April 25 from 9 am to 1 pm in the Sylvania Municipal Court parking lot, 6700 Monroe St.

Shredding documents allows paper to be recycled rather than buried in a landfill. Like the city's curbside recycling and green yard waste programs, it is an easy and cost-effective way to support our environment. Shredding also helps protect personal information. Properly disposing of documents such as bank statements, credit card bills, and investment records is a key step in preventing identity theft.

AccuShred, a certified document destruction company, will provide on-site shredding for up to 50 pounds of personal paper documents, about three medium-sized bags or banker's boxes, for free. Additional containers will be accepted for \$3 each. Staples do not need to be removed, but paper should not be placed in binders or include binder clips. Each year, the event typically results in eight to 10 tons of paper being shredded.

In addition, AccuShred will accept certain electronic items, including computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, small appliances, telephones, and cellphones. Computer monitors will be accepted for a \$15 fee; televisions will not be accepted. A complete list of eligible items is available on the city's website, cityofsylvania.com. Last year, more than 3,000 pounds of electronic waste was recycled during the event.

For items that cannot be recycled but are appropriate for disposal, the city's Spring Unlimited Household Refuse Collection is scheduled for April 27 through May 1 on residents' regular collection days. Please refer to the flyer included with your water bill or visit the city's website for details.

April also brings an opportunity to celebrate Arbor Day and our city's longstanding commitment to urban forestry. A special Arbor Day celebration will be held on Monday, April 27, on the grounds of the city of Sylvania's Administration Building.

Sylvania has been selected as Lucas County's planting site for an Ohio Heritage Tree as part of the America 250 initiative. Joining me in the ceremony will be Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki, Destination Toledo Marketing Director Caleigh Heuring, and Sylvania Tree Commission Chairman Brady Kohlenberg.

Together, we will plant a native white oak — one of 88 trees taking root across Ohio — and celebrate Sylvania's recognition as a Tree City USA community for the 44th consecutive year. The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service, recognizes communities that demonstrate a strong commitment to urban forestry. To earn this designation, a city must maintain a tree board or department, adopt a tree care ordinance, support a comprehensive forestry program, and observe Arbor Day.

Sylvania's commitment to trees is long-standing. Since 1975, the city's Parks and Forestry Division has planted nearly 8,000 street trees. The division also maintains trees in parks, public lands, and rights-of-way, and cares for the flowers that enhance our city's public spaces.

Community partners play a significant role as well. The Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce and Sylvania Rotary Club have supported tree planting efforts for many years. This year, trees were planted following the April 1 chamber meeting to recognize the community's new and expanding businesses.

While we value every tree in our community, some tree removals are necessary due to disease, safety concerns, or infrastructure improvements. In those cases, the Tree Commission works closely with the Parks and Forestry Division to ensure thoughtful replanting with species suited to our urban environment.

I encourage all residents to join us in caring for our community by recycling, reducing waste, and planting trees whenever possible. Together, we can continue to make Sylvania a healthier, greener place to live.

If you have something you want to share with me or if you have a question on other city services, please call my office at 419-885-8926 or email cwitkowski@cityofsylvania.com.

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FROM 6

Infrastructure projects

In infrastructure matters, council accepted a \$67,700 proposal from Fishbeck for engineering design services for the Monroe Street waterline improvement project, which will span from Silvertown Drive to Whiteford Road.

Roundabouts

Progress also continues on planned roundabouts. Council authorized right-of-way acquisitions for the Erie and Monroe streets project, including the purchase of 0.41 acres, one tree, and a temporary construction easement from Sylvania United Church of Christ for \$52,907, as well as a smaller parcel and temporary easement from Julie Watkins for \$300. Construction of the Erie Street and Monroe Street Roundabout Project is scheduled for 2027.

In addition, council approved a \$387,700 proposal from Tetra Tech for engineering services related to the Main Street and Convent Boulevard roundabout project, scheduled for construction in 2029.

Municipal building

Several Municipal Building upgrades were also authorized, including an \$86,608.52 contract with Friends Office for new office furnishings, an \$8,484.37 proposal from Reemsnyder Decoration for carpeting, and a \$1,475 contract with Erard Custom Painting.

Appointment

In personnel matters, council confirmed Frye's appointment of Claudia Witkowski as clerk of council. She replaces Laura Smith, who has moved into the manager of human resources and communications role.

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ROAD WORK AHEAD

US-23/Monroe Street Improvements

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



Joe Shaw P.E., PS

The Monroe Street bridge closure over US-23 duration is around 25 percent complete. Miller Brothers Construction had a great first month of construction during March. The closure was set March 8 and motorists had their first attempts at managing detour routes on March 9.

A good navigational rule of thumb for the closure is to travel in a clockwise direction. For example, if you are on the west side of the bridge heading east, travel north through Michigan using left hand turns. Similarly, if you are on the east side of the bridge heading west travel south through Ohio using left hand turns.

Traveling counterclockwise forces motorists to use left turning lanes at signalized intersections. In particular, heavy left turning movements exist from southbound Holland-Sylvania Road to westbound Sylvania Avenue and from westbound Sylvania Avenue to northbound Corey/Whiteford Road. Signal timing adjustments at these intersections has been limited due to the amount of heavy through traffic that already exists on Sylvania Avenue.

Bridge work is on schedule. Miller Brothers had the deck fully removed within the first two weeks of the closure and has all bridge beams jacked and temporarily supported to allow for pier cap work. There are three existing piers and all are undergoing chipping and hand removal work to allow for new concrete to be placed to raise their bearing height. The Monroe Street bridge has been struck several times since its opening in 1962, raising the pier caps this should greatly help reduce any future strikes.

All new pier caps are scheduled to be poured by the end of April, with new bearings

set in early May. Motorists will see the bridge develop quickly in May with the deck falsework placed and reinforcing steel set to allow for an early June deck pour.

Outside of the bridge limits, Miller Brothers has been working steadily on roadway items, such as a new waterline crossing of US-23 and all new storm sewer. New catch basins are being set and all pavements are being fully reconstructed between Harroun Road and Acres Drive, complete with a new underdrain system.

Monroe Street west of the bridge, nearest to Kroger, is scheduled to be paved in late April with north side work to begin in May. On the east side of the bridge the Monroe Street nighttime resurfacing work between Acres Drive and Nantucket Drive (Toledo) will begin in May and should be fully completed by mid-June.

Downtown Sylvania roadwork

On Main Street, the utility aerial bury project between Maplewood Avenue and Erie Street is fully underway. Buckeye Cable, Charter Spectrum, Frontier Communications, and Toledo Edison aerial facilities are being buried below grade in new conduits and duct banks. This will allow for the utility poles to be removed so the first block of Main Street north of Monroe Street matches the second block.

The city's contractor, FET Construction, is on schedule to have below grade facilities ready for owner relocations by the end of May. Each of the four utilities will then begin the transfer from above grade to below grade and will tie-in all new services to businesses and residents in that block.

The city will begin the Phase 2 roadway construction advertisement process in late April with the goal of having the contract ready for award by early June. Roadway work can begin in July after the city's grant funding agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission has been signed. It is the city's intent to get as much of the Phase 2 project completed as possible in 2026 as weather allows. Any remaining work items would be completed in the spring of 2027 with all work items finished by Memorial Day 2027.



Workers are preparing to bury underground utility cables on north Main Street.



SYLVANIA THEN & NOW

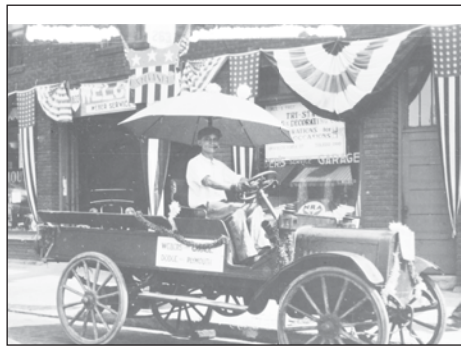
GAYLEEN GINDY

Continuing the history of Monroe Street development, in 1919 Christian "Fred" Sieler and his wife Christine purchased Lot No. 5 of Hubbard's Addition and sometime after the 1920 census was taken, which shows them living in Whiteford Township, Michigan, they built a house on this lot. They sold the home in 1924 to Willard and Addie Newcomb.

Willard and Addie were already living in Sylvania when they purchased the home. A 1925 Sylvania postal listing shows W.L. Newcomb living at this address, and in March 1927, he was issued a building permit from the village of Sylvania to construct a 10-foot by 16-foot garage on the lot.

The June 30, 1927, Sylvania Sentinel reported that son Earl Newcomb of Monroe Street, 27 years old and employed on the railroad, died in his Monroe Street home of tuberculosis. He was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Newcomb, one brother, Floyd, two sisters, Miss Rowena Newcomb and Mrs. Lucy Wotring of Adrian, Mich. Funeral services were held at the home.

By the 1930 census the Newcombs were renting this home for \$40 a month to Russell N. Keater, 43 years old and working as a shovel operator for a construction company, his wife, Leona R. Keater, 30 years old, daughters Thelma, 9, Ruth, 6, both in school; Norma, 2, and son Wade, 4 months old.



Clyde Weber celebrates Sylvania's 100 years in 1933 driving on Main Street.

In 1935, during the darkest days of the Depression, the Newcomb family lost the home to the Farmers & Merchants Bank. In February of 1936 the home and property were sold by Sheriff Auction to David H. and Zenobia C. Nhare who lived on Summit Street at this time. They rented the home to Clyde and Hazel Weber, and their children: Margaret; Robert; and Wade. During that time Margaret taught piano in this home and advertised her service every week in the local newspaper.

An article in the Jan. 21, 1937, Sylvania Sentinel said: "The Music Study Club pupils of Miss Margaret Weber will present the second in a series of studio recitals at 6371 Monroe St. on Tuesday evening..." Another article in the Sylvania Sentinel said that Miss Margaret Weber, pianist, would be heard in a 15-minute broadcast over



6371 MONROE ST.

WSPD. She was presented as the fourth in the Young Artist series of the Student Musicals.

The 1940 census showed Clyde Weber, 45 years old, an auto mechanic at a garage; his wife, Hazel, 43, daughter Margaret, 23, music teacher offering lessons in this home, sons Robert, 21, gas and oil station attendant, and Wade, 18, bank messenger.

Throughout the 1940s many articles appeared in the Sylvania Sentinel about Margaret and her professional life as a piano teacher. She also played the organ, and was a poet. She often could be heard on the radio, and was featured at numerous events both locally and nationally.

In 1943 Clyde Weber was involved in a bad accident while working for the Hickok Oil Company, spilling 1,700 gallons of gasoline on Route 120.

The Weber's son Robert was serving in World War II, and many of his letters to his parents were printed each week in the Sylvania Sentinel.

In 1956 the Sylvania Volunteer Fire Department honored Clyde Weber for 25 years of volunteer service, and for being a founding member of the fire department along with four others. The photo shown was featured in the Sylvania Sentinel honoring the five in March of 1956.



Ed Jacobs, Clyde Weber, Henry Pelton, George Huffman and Curtis Niles are honored for their service.

The Weber family continued to rent this home from the Nhare family until 1963. Clyde passed away in 1958, and his wife Hazel and daughter Margaret remained until 1963, when Margaret purchased a home at 1951 Jermain Rd. in Toledo where they lived the rest of their lives. The Nhares sold the home to Boyd O. Montgomery in 1965 and was rented until 1971, it then was listed vacant.

In 1969 the home sold to William C. Bayer, who in 1971 requested a building permit to demolish the home to give access to a parking lot behind his Chalet Village Restaurant.

In the next article we will talk more about that restaurant.

In 1986 John G. Day purchased all the lots that had been used by the restaurant to make room for a new complex and subdivision called River Crossing. Today the property where this house sat is the parking lot just west of Little Ceasars Pizza.



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Ciao! stays open, upbeat amid Monroe Street bridge construction



Ciao! General Manager **Geoff Stieve** welcomes guests to the longtime Sylvania eatery in front of the iconic stone fireplace in the dining room.

The hum of construction equipment might dominate Monroe Street, but at Ciao!, the clink of glasses and the buzz of conversation haven't missed a beat.

"We have been here for a long time, and we're here to stay. We're not going anywhere," said Geoff Stieve, general manager of Ciao!, 6064 Monroe St. Road work and a nearby bridge closure have created challenges for businesses along the corridor, but Stieve said loyal customers have helped the restaurant push through.

"Our loyal guests have been wonderfully supportive, and my staff and I are most grateful for their continued patronage through this construction challenge," he said.

Recent warm weather has offered an unexpected silver lining. Diners have filled the restaurant's patio, where meals come with an unusual form of entertainment.

"With this unexpected warm weather, guests have been able to enjoy dining on our outdoor patio with an added bonus of a front-row seat to view bridge construction progress," Stieve said with a laugh.

While regulars continue to make their way to Ciao!, Stieve is encouraging others not to be deterred by orange barrels and detours.

During construction, Monroe Street remains open to Glasgow Road and the restaurant's parking lot. For those approaching from the west, Stieve said traffic is lighter than usual, making access easier than before construction began.

Drivers coming from the east are encouraged to take U.S. 23 north to Sterns Road, then connect to Sylvania-Petersburg Road, Summit Street, and Monroe Street. An alternate route follows Sylvania Avenue to Holland-Sylvania Road, then Harroun Road to Monroe Street.

"We want people to know we're open and accessible," Stieve said.

Ciao! opened in 1992 under the Mainstreet Ventures banner and has built a steady following over more than three decades. Stieve credits that longevity to a consistent formula.

"It starts with a great staff, excellent service, and outstanding food," he said.

In the kitchen, Chef Ben Gorsha has fostered a culture that emphasizes flexibility and quality, often accommodating special requests while maintaining consistency across the menu.

Offerings range from traditional and specialty pasta dishes to entrees featuring chicken, lamb, beef and fish. Seasonal menus highlight lighter fare, including gazpacho and caprese, with herbs grown in the restaurant's own garden.

Happy hours are celebrated from opening to 7:30 pm, Monday through Thursday; 4 to 6 pm on Friday and Saturday; and all day on Sunday. Live music adds to the atmosphere early in the week, with Chris Brown and Candice Coleman performing for bar patrons on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 to 9 pm.

The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 10 pm; Friday and Saturday, 4 to 10 pm; and Sunday, 4 to 9 pm. The restaurant seats up to 170 guests indoors, with an additional 40 on the patio and 18 at the bar. Stieve recommends reservations to ensure having a table.

For now, he said, the focus remains the same: continuing to warmly welcome guests with a great staff and outstanding menu items in a friendly, comfortable environment.

Outside, the rhythm of construction carries on, engines idling, pavement shifting, routes changing by the day. But inside Ciao!, the lights stay low, the kitchen steady, and the tables full, a reminder that even amid detours and disruption, a good experience continues.

Boots to Blooms opens for this year's growing season



Mike and Amy Bass participate at the Sylvania Market in 2025.



Boots to Blooms bouquets are available for Mother's Day.

JENNIFER ALEXANDER RUPLE

A longtime obsession with flowers led Amy Bass to her happy place - Boots to Blooms - a business she and her husband, Mike, planted at their farm in Ottawa Lake, Mich. three years ago. The small-scale, cut-flower farm, located at 7364 Beck Rd., offers seasonal, home-grown flowers available in colorful bouquets at their farm stand and at area farmers markets.

"In 2023 my husband, 'Mr. Boots,' was going to build some raised beds for our vegetables, and I asked him if he could build an extra one so I could grow flowers," reminisced Bass. "One bed turned into six beds of cutting flowers, and before too long, friends and family started suggesting that I sell them."

With over 30 years of gardening experience raising vegetables, pumpkins and flowers, Bass used that first year for practice - learning how to grow a myriad of flower varieties. "I was loving it so much that in 2024, I transformed my personal hobby into a commercial venture," she said.

Boots to Blooms offers bouquets throughout the spring, summer and fall with flower combinations evolving as the seasons change. They are perfect for home décor, birthdays, anniversaries or sympathy gestures. In addition, Bass offers flower subscriptions and mini subscriptions. "Instead of one bouquet, customers will receive a few. Options are available for farm pickup on a

weekly or biweekly basis," she explained.

Boots to Bloom's menu also includes DIY Flower Buckets containing generous mixes of local flowers, filler flowers and greenery for those who wish to create their own arrangements for weddings and other events. And a Bloom Bar is available for parties and showers where guests can design their own personal bouquets and take them home.

"This is the best job I've ever had. Whether I'm in the greenhouse, sowing seeds, planting or harvesting, it all brings me so much joy. I want to share that feeling with others," said Bass. "I do get a little help from my eight grandchildren who enjoy going to the markets, digging and planting. And then there's Mr. Boots who is very supportive with watering, tractor work and building beds."

Boots to Bloom's flower stand, located at the entrance to the farm, will open for Mother's Day sales on May 9 from 10 am to 5 pm or until sold out. After that hours will be Saturdays from 11am to 7pm. The stand is self-serve and cash or Venmo payments are accepted.

You can also find Bass and her arrangements at the Whiteford Farmers Market on Mondays beginning June 15 from 4 to 7 pm and at the Sylvania Summer Market at Olander Park on select Tuesdays beginning May 26 from 5 to 8 pm. Follow Boots to Blooms on Facebook and Instagram for specific dates.



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Development options shared



Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation President **Greg Feller**, center, and Sylvania City Councilman **Shawn Murphy**, right, welcome Lake Erie West Regional Council Executive Director **Sandy Spang**, left, the April 8 guest speaker. She outlined her organization's mission and shared several economic development options available.



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Paws & Protect with Leo Stay safe

Spring is almost here for good! I'm sure we still have a couple cold days ahead here in Ohio, but my spring fever is already hitting. The sunshine overhead lifts my spirits and I'm always ready to play in puddles. So, while spring time is seriously fun, it can also come with some ruff weather! Here are some weather safety tips to help you all stay safe this spring.

When the Thunder Roars, Go Indoors: The big booms in the sky sometimes make me jump and be a little scared, and we have to remember they can also be really dangerous. Big booms of thunder signal lightning is within striking distance. So, the best way to stay safe is to head inside right away! I like to play a board game inside with my friends or read a book, these are just a couple ideas of safe inside things to do during a storm.

Spinny Skies? Time to Hide: This time of year, brings those big storms, and with them we sometimes start to get tornadoes. A tornado is a really violent storm that creates a twisty windy funnel that travels across the ground, with the potential to destroy everything in its path. If you get a weather alert or hear the sirens, go to a basement or small inside room right away, staying away from windows. I recommend you keep a radio and flashlight with you in case you lose power, and remember to stay low.

If It's Deep, Don't Take a Leap: When we get a lot of rain, it can sometimes cause a lot of flooding! I know some of my favorite walking paths sometimes get closed because they're flooded. Remember to never walk or drive through flooded roads. The water could be a lot deeper than it appears which can cause you and your car a lot of problems. Stay away from fast-moving water and tell an adult immediately if you see rising water. If you have a basement ... make sure you check it during heavy rain, as they can flood too. It's important to get it cleaned up quickly so you don't have new problems, like pesky mold, in your house.

Remember friends, being prepared is the best way to stay safe during severe weather. It's best to be proactive and quick to respond. Listen for the sirens and sign up for weather alerts from your local news and weather alert channels. Kids, if you don't know what the plan is during a weather emergency at your home, make sure you talk to your grown up so you know what to do. And grown-ups ... make sure you tell your kids what to do, and it never hurts to practice. I know I feel a lot more confident if I practice something before it happens. We even keep a storm kit, just in case there is an emergency. I keep a flashlight, radio, water, non-perishable food, first-aid supplies, and extra batteries all together so it's easy to grab if we need to take cover.



Remember everyone, stay safe, the Leo way!
Leo



Students give back



St. John Jesuit seniors **Anthony Caruso**, a Sylvania resident and St. Joseph Catholic Church parishioner, and **Jack Walsh '26**, have created a new outreach at St. John's. Born out of a presentation made by Caruso about tangible acts of faith and food insecurity in the local community. The idea to assemble 'Manna Bags' and empower classmates to distribute them in the community was an initiative Caruso saw succeed at his home parish. Manna Bags are gallon-sized freezer bags with non-perishable food items, toiletries, and a list of social service agencies with contact information. On April 1, during Holy Week, the bags were blessed and given to students to be distributed to those in need in the community.

Southview garage sale a success



Volunteers include **Tammie Featchers, Peyton Carlton, Rachele Barlow, Jan Stark, Sandra Vasquez, Sheryl Fennell, Beckett Walkup, Tasha Petersen, Ann Francis, Adrienne Elhai**, Officer **Zach Andrzejewski**, and **Stephanie Korzek** work to make the event successful.

Scholarships

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The Thomas O. Grove Scholarship Fund was established by Treva Grove Lawrence to provide scholarship grants to graduates of any public high school within the Sylvania, Ohio city limits. The fund is administered by Key Private Bank in Cleveland, Ohio. This is a one time, non-renewable scholarship.

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Student art celebrated



School Superintendent **Veronica Motley, D.Ed.**, center, congratulates **Graham Felver**, left, and **Adam Stutzenstein**, right, on their work, which was selected for the 25th annual Superintendent's Art Show. Selections from all 12 schools, grades K through 12, are on display at the King Road Library through April 30.



Maplewood art teacher **Lynn Breen** admires the work of her student, **Landon McCarthy**, while mother **Rebecca McCarthy** and sisters **Eloise** and **Peyton** enjoy the art show opening on April 7 at the King Road Library.

SACIC offers scholarship

The Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a senior from a local high school who has chosen to pursue a career in the fields of criminal justice or fire sciences and/or who has chosen to pursue a career as a 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 Sylvania or Sylvania Township resident, be graduating from a local high school and pursuing a career in criminal justice or fire science.

Applications are due May 15 and can be obtained through each participating high school. Applications must be electronically typed and submitted electronically to kwines@sylvaniachamber.org or mailed to Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce, Attn: SACIC Scholarship, 5632 N. Main St., Sylvania, OH 43560.

SV's annual horticulture sale planned

The 50th annual sale of Southview horticulture's spring collection, under climate-controlled optimization, begins Monday

April 27 for the general public. Alumni have early access starting April 24. The annual sale runs until May 10.

Southview band plays Disney



Over Spring Break, the Southview Band traveled to Orlando, Fla. and had the opportunity to perform in front of people from all over the world while marching down Main Street U.S.A. at Disney's Magic Kingdom.

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Call 419-517-1367 or visit sylvaniacommunityservices.org for more info!

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Mother's Day – How it began

HALEIGH MURPHY

Sunday, May 10 many families will be celebrating the 112th official Mother's Day.

While Congress passed the resolution that made Mother's Day a nationally recognized holiday in 1914, the history of the holiday in the United States stretches back to 1858. During the Civil War, Ann Jarvis helped organize women's groups to help treat sick and wounded soldiers. By 1868, her work had expanded and developed into what was called "Mother's Friendship Day," bringing together women on both sides of the war to foster a sense of community and peace.

After her death in 1905, her daughter, Anna Jarvis, began lobbying to create a holi-

day to honor her mother's work. She wrote letters to notable men such as President William Taft and organized church services to celebrate the efforts mothers had been making for their families and communities. Her efforts resulted in the official first Mother's Day.

Although Jarvis envisioned Mother's Day as a day of heartfelt, personal celebrations over the years it has evolved into a day now celebrated in many ways in over 100 countries.

Mother's Day is always celebrated on the second Sunday in May so don't forget to take a moment to honor the special women in your family!

Mother's Day tea is a tradition at the Cooke-Kuhlman House

The Heritage Sylvania's Mother's Day tradition returns on May 9 with tea, served from vintage pots gathered by volunteers, while guests enjoy creating new memories with mothers, grandmothers, or special mother figures.

There are two gatherings: one at 10 am and the second at 1 pm at the historic Cooke-Kuhlman house, 5717 N. Main St. Tickets are \$40 and \$15 for children. Registration is open until May 9.



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Sylvania-based company helps reduce plastic waste



Canberra Corporation CEO **Bruce Yacko**, **Christopher Yacko**, **Chase Yacko**, and **Sean Melvin** look over the line of JAWS products.

As Earth Day approaches and residents begin tackling spring cleaning, a Sylvania-based company is encouraging households to rethink how they clean, and how much plastic they use in the process.

Canberra Corporation, located on North Holland-Sylvania Road adjacent to the bike path, is spotlighting its JAWS® (Just Add Water System) line as a simple way to reduce single-use plastic in everyday cleaning routines.

The JAWS system pairs reusable spray bottles with small, concentrated refill pods. Users simply fill the bottle with water, insert a pod, and attach the sprayer to create a ready-to-use cleaner for glass, kitchens, bathrooms, and more.

"We are identifying market needs and fulfilling them with cleaning products that are right for surfaces, the people who use them, and the environment," said CEO Bruce Yacko.

The refillable approach helps cut down on plastic waste and reduce single use plastic spray bottles, while also reducing

shipping weight and saving storage space at home. Originally developed for commercial use, the system has grown in popularity with consumers looking for more practical, sustainable options.

JAWS products are recognized by the EPA Safer Choice Program, which evaluates ingredients for human and environmental safety. The company was also named a Safer Choice Partner of the Year in both 2023 and 2024.

Locally, JAWS products are available at Sautter's Market, Walt Churchill's Market, and the Appliance Center in Maumee, with demand continuing to grow.

Yacko noted that offering both ready-to-use bottles of cleaner and concentrate refill pods makes it easy for new customers to get started, and switch to refills over time.

With Earth Day around the corner, the company is encouraging residents to make small changes that can add up, like choosing refillable cleaning products to help reduce household waste.

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SYLVANIA'S STREAM

The Brightest Blend of Music

Epworth's Furniture Ministry brings new life and hope, making a house a home

Nearly 20 years ago, volunteers from Epworth Methodist Church helped build a house for a woman and her three children through Habitat for Humanity. When construction was complete, several volunteers offered to help her move in.

She told them she had nothing to move. Within days, a call went out to the congregation. Donations poured in, furniture, dishes, the essentials of daily life, and a house became a home.

From that moment, an idea took root. The church's Furniture Ministry was officially established in 2008, following the research of three members, Janice Harris, Merilee Jahnke, and Pat Holmberg, who developed a model tailored to the community. Partnerships were formed with Toledo-area service agencies, and clear guidelines were put in place. Donated furniture had to be clean and in good condition, with no rips or stains, and all items were inventoried before being offered to families.

Early questions about logistics were quickly answered.

A church member offered space in a Perrysburg warehouse to store donations, expecting the effort might last six months. Nearly two decades later, the ministry is still going strong.

As word spread, so did support. Community members began donating furniture, and local stores occasionally contributed floor models. A team of volunteers stepped up to handle pickups, eventually earning the nickname "the free-loaders." Today, the ministry's box truck makes weekly runs to collect items and deliver them to the warehouse.

Volunteers gather for "Sorting Friday," organizing household items affectionately called "blessings," and arranging them on shelves. "Selection Saturday," is held on the third Saturday of each month, when families referred by partner agencies arrive to "shop."

Each family receives up to five furniture units, such as a table and chairs counted as one, along with additional needed household items or "blessings."

But, sustaining the effort has become more challenging.

"Unfortunately, donations have decreased," said Furniture Ministry Coordinator Holly Bolenbaugh. "At one time, our donation pickups were scheduled up to a month out. Now it's one or two weeks. We have to decrease our offerings for each agency because we don't have enough furniture. This means fewer families are getting what they need."



Part of the crew, **Brian Bolenbaugh, Tom Patterson and John Kaminski** bring furniture to the warehouse.

The ministry is also feeling the strain of an aging volunteer base.

"Our team of free-loaders is aging, and we need willing volunteers to help," Bolenbaugh said. "It's an equal opportunity for men or women."

Additional help is needed behind the scenes as well, particularly with scheduling donations. No experience is required, she said, though basic computer skills are helpful. "While these are all volunteer positions, the rewards are tremendous."

Since its founding, the ministry has served 2,197 families through 2025. So far this year, 22 families have received furniture. Many are transitioning from homelessness into apartments or small living spaces, Bolenbaugh said.

"We focus on needs, not wants."



Greg Lisiakowski, John Kaminski and George France load a couch on the UHaul.



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Mark Luetke

Drug program notes success, future

This month Sylvania celebrates the success of one of our most durable and impactful non-profit institutions. It also recognizes that the issue the organization works to combat is still very much a problem. The focus? Addressing the issues among youth of use/misuse of substances, underage drinking and mental health wellness, while helping them build strong life skills.

The year 2025 marked the 40th anniversary of the Sylvania Prevention Alliance—formerly known as SCAT (Sylvania Community Action Team). Parents may remember attending informational programs and supporting anti-drug activities at their kids' school. But SCAT's goal has evolved under the Prevention Alliance from navigating substance use to empowering youth and families with the skills and knowledge to make safe and healthy choices.

Last weekend more than 100 people attended the "Prom for Prevention," an adult gala created to "look back and celebrate what the program has accomplished and what we are doing now," explained Deb Chany, SCAT's former executive director for 21 years and chairman of the event. Sylvania Rotary was the major sponsor, with additional support from Erin Ann's ice Cream, Sylvania Lions Club, and ACE Hardware.

John Marquardt, SCAT's first executive director, received formal recognition. Honorary co-chairs were Brad Rieger, former Superintendent of Schools, and Dave Spiess, former school board member and community volunteer extraordinaire.

But despite the revelry at its 40th birthday party, the work is far from over for the Prevention Alliance. Ms. Chany recalls that during her tenure as executive director, the primary concerns were the appearance of marijuana on the scene and underage drinking. Today, the issues seem more complex and threatening.

Sgt. Justin Bell, Community Affairs Sergeant for the Sylvania Police Department, continues to see underage drinking as a problem. But he describes the biggest challenge now as vaping (especially in schools) and prescription drug abuse—oxy, Vicodin, and other pain killers. He's already had more than 60 Vape investigations at our two Sylvania high schools since January 1.

(For those of us over 60: Vaping is an electronic cigarette that contains nicotine and other chemicals or flavorings like cannabis. Vaping typically involves nicotine, which itself is highly addictive. Many young users become dependent on vaping products.)

Sgt. Bell underscores that most of his department's work with young people is often proactive. This includes assigning full-time "resource officers" to each high school and sponsoring a Public Safety Cadet Program.

The community affairs officer for the Sylvania Township Police, Officer Matt Miller, fills a similar role in the six public schools in his jurisdiction. His assignment includes a ten-week drug and alcohol prevention curriculum for fifth-grade students, and he also heads the ongoing Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) program for all students in each of his schools.

However, both officers agree with the current executive director of the Sylvania Prevention Alliance, Torri Daggett, that demographics about substance misuse extend beyond teens and vaping. "Our goal has evolved from navigating substance abuse to empowering youth and families with skills and knowledge to make safe and healthy choices," Ms. Daggett says.

"We know medication found in the home is a common starting point for drug misuse among youth, making proper disposal a simple but powerful tool. These efforts not only reduce the risk of misuse but also help protect young children from accidental poisoning and support older citizens by minimizing confusion or medication errors," Ms. Daggett adds.

"Authorities see cases of young children getting into both legal and illegal substances in their parents' medicine cabinet, and seniors who overdose because they get mixed up and take the wrong medications. The simple solution is to reduce access to all types of drugs—both legal and illegal—starting in the home."

With that in mind, the city and township police have partnered with the Prevention Alliance and Kroger on two "Drug Take Back Days" each year since 2010. The next one is coming up on Saturday, April 25 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Kroger parking lot at Sylvania Avenue at King Road.

Anyone is welcome to dispose of their drugs on the 25th, but officers recommend that before citizens arrive, they empty all pills from their bottles into plastic zip-top sandwich or storage bags (in order to preserve individual confidentiality). Then, they can simply drive through the line and hand their bags to a police officer who will deposit them into a collection bin. Citizens do not even have to leave their vehicle.

Both Sgt. Bell and Officer Miller point out that in addition to drop-off day, permanent and confidential drop boxes for disposal of old medications are always available in the lobbies of both police stations—the Township on King Road and the City on Maplewood near Main Street in downtown. Bagging the meds is advised there, too.

Ms. Daggett of the Prevention Alliance points out that the take-back program not only offers Sylvania a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused or expired medications, it also keeps the substances out of the environment—and the wrong hands (particularly children and pets who might find them in the garbage can). "No questions are asked," she says. "The take-back event is a quick, safe, and hassle-free way to help protect your family and the community." Not a bad legacy after 40 years.

Longtime Sylvania resident Mark Luetke has served on city council, the board of education, and numerous foundation and community boards.

Riders Up – It's Derby Season!

Sizzle Simmer Sauté SylvaniO



BY JENNIFER ALEXANDER RUPLE

The Run for the Roses will soon be here, and Derby Day 152 calls for a celebration as bold and spirited as the event itself. Whether you're hosting a full blown derby party or simply adding a touch of Kentucky charm to the first Saturday in May, a few thoughtful details can transform your space into Churchill Downs at home. Two crowd pleasing essentials include slightly spicy, Apricot Bourbon Meatballs that capture the essence of Southern hospitality, and elegant Rose Julep Cups give your décor that unmistakable derby flair. From the first bite to the final flourish of red roses, you'll have everything you need to create a festive atmosphere worthy of the

most exciting two minutes in sports.

Rose Julep Cups

For extra Run for the Roses flair, arrange Rose Julep Cups and place them on the buffet and bar cart, or group a few together to create a table centerpiece.

What you need:

- Julep Cups
- 5 red roses per arrangement
- 6-8 stems of assorted greenery
- Floral foam brick
- Flower food



Directions:

Cut a piece of floral foam to fill 2/3 of each julep cup. Fill a large bowl with water. Add flower food to the water and let dissolve. Lay foam bricks on top of water and let soak for 1 to 2 minutes. Place soaked foam in julep cups and add more water.

Layer each julep cup with a generous amount of greenery.

Prepare the roses. Remove all the leaves and one layer of petals then fluff them for a fuller look. Measure and trim rose stems to desired height. The middle rose should be a little longer than those around the sides.

Arrange roses in cups, starting along the edges and then filling in the middle.

Apricot Bourbon Meatballs



Makes 48 meatballs

Meatballs

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup unseasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Fresh parsley, finely chopped

Sauce

- 1 cup apricot preserves
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup bourbon
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup onion, finely diced
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons hot honey
- Pinch of salt

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine meatball ingredients. Roll into 1-inch balls. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes or until no longer pink.

In a large saucepan, combine sauce ingredients and warm over medium heat. Add meatballs and simmer for 30 minutes. Garnish with parsley.

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Do I have to choose a party if I vote? Ohio holds an open primary in which all voters have a choice of four ballots, a Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or nonpartisan ballot. The party ballots help to narrow down their candidates for the general election held in November and include any local issues that are up for approval. Those who would rather not vote a party ballot can choose the nonpartisan ballot, which contains the issues only. This year in Lucas County those will be the Zoo Levy, the Lucas County 911 support levy and any local school or community issues. Voters can choose which ballot they prefer at the poll.

Voting Options

Lucas County in person early voting began on

April 7 for the May 5 primary election. Located at 3737 W. Sylvania Ave., entrance C, in Toledo, the election center is open weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. This provides a convenient option for those who may find it difficult to make it to their voting location on May 5.

The early voting center has poll workers standing by to check voter registration, guide users through the voting process and answer any questions that may arise. When entering off Sylvania Avenue, voters will find signs directing them to the correct parking lot and entrance.

Absentee voting is still an option. Information about obtaining an absentee ballot application, and all the information necessary to file one, is available at lucascountyohiovotes.gov.

Take note before you vote

Lucas County Auditor Katie Moline suggests Lucas County voters to “take note before you vote” with the updated online Levy Estimator that calculates property owners’ estimated tax levies for the May 5 primary election. Voters can visit the AREIS website to estimate how upcoming levies will affect their property taxes.

“It is important for voters to have accurate information to make informed decisions for themselves, their families, and their community,” Auditor Moline stated.

To use the Estimator, owners need to click on the Property Search button on lucascountyohioauditor.gov, enter their address on the property search screen, and click on the Levy Estimator on left side bar to view all levies for the

current calendar year, including those on the upcoming ballot.


The Levy Estimator allows owners to see the taxing authority, levy name, current taxes paid to the levy, and new taxes generated upon approval. They can also view levy details and read the ballot language for each levy on the ballot.

The following levies are on the May 5 ballot in Sylvania City and Township:

- Lucas County 9-1-1 and Public Safety Communication Systems (additional .8 mills, or \$28 per \$100,000 of home value)
- Toledo Zoo Operating (additional .9 mills, or \$32 per \$100,000 of home value)
- Sylvania City School District (additional 7.9 mills, or \$277 per \$100,000 of home value).

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**ISSUE
8**

toledo zoo.org/voteforyourzoo

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Donald A. Beebe

Donald A. Beebe, 88, of Sylvania, Ohio, passed away on April 10, 2026. He was born Jan. 4, 1938, in Toledo OH to Donald and Marion (Bassett) Beebe. He had an older sister, Patricia.

Don is the grandson of Walter Beebe who protected the village of Sylvania and the township as Night Watchman, Marshal, Constable and Prohibition Constable during the early 1900s.

Don joined the US Navy in 1955 and served six years. For two years he was aboard the USS Barry (DD 933), out of Newport Naval Station in Rhode Island.

Don owned and managed Don's Sohio in Maumee from 1961- 1972. He also worked at several Toledo area automotive dealerships including George Ballas for 13 years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman throughout his lifetime.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and granddaughter Chelsea Beebe.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving and devoted companion of 22 years, Bonnie; sons, Tracey (Deanne) Beebe, Kelley (Jody) Beebe, Jeremy (Leelin) Beebe; grandsons, Josh (Kayla), Andrew, Noah Beebe; and great granddaughter Charlotte Beebe.

Family and friends will gather for visitation at the Reeb Funeral Home, Sylvania on Saturday, April 25, 2026 beginning at 12 pm until the memorial service begins at 2 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Ducks Unlimited. Online condolences to reebfuneralhome.com



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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received online through Bid Express by the City of Sylvania via the Department of Public Service, until 11:00 AM, MAY 8, 2026 for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment necessary for the following project: Downtown transportation improvements phase 2.

The full Legal Notice and all Bidding Documents are available online at <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/87307/home>. All formal bids and bid questions shall be submitted via Bid Express.

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Visit the Lenawee ISD website at lisd.us for more information.

Background checks will be conducted. EOE



Please visit the Lenawee ISD website at www.lisd.us for more information. Background checks will be conducted. The Lenawee Intermediate School District (LISD) Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. For more details including policies and contact information please visit the following: https://www.lisd.us/downloads/lisd_admin_files/lisd_non-discrimination_eeo_board_policy.pdf

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Garden Club Forum, an organization of seven garden clubs including Corey Woods Garden Club, is holding its

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Sunday, May 10, 11-4

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SEEN IN SYLVANIA at the Artwalk and the Expo



The J&G, Upside Brewery, Dallas Tap-room team **Lindsay Dake, Abby Chaner, Rachel Marquis, Kylie Tonegato** and **Krista Allen** greet guests.



Patrick and Nicole Gerlach and their daughter **Vivian** enjoy a treat at Erin Ann's during the Art Walk.



George Cordray of Budget Blinds welcomes **Diane, Jean,** and **Michael Carter,** and **Kathy Bethel** at the Chamber's Expo.



Bryan and Tiffany Bosch help their daughter, **Sylvie,** make the front page.



Patsy Camp and **Judy Arkebauer** talk with **Cindy Betz** and her mother **Emmie Jakes** at the Art Walk.



Tristen Turkopp demonstrates rope making during the First Friday events at the portable History Post he created.



Steve Hamilton and his daughter **London** are in the news at the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo on April 11.



The Epic team, **Jack Schroeder, Doug Kwiatkowski, Kaylen Tram, Joanna Kalucki,** and **Katie Kwiatkowski** are on the job.



RELAY CHALLENGE

REGISTER NOW SIGN UP: MARCH 1ST - APRIL 30TH

MAY 9, 2026
10am - 10pm

Timberstone Track & Field
9000 W Sylvania Ave

📧 \$50 (plus service fee)
💰 relaychallenge@sylvaniaprevention.org

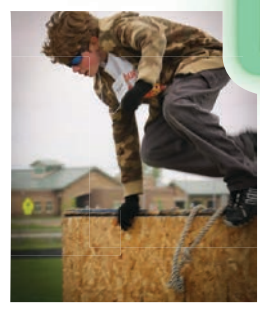


SIGN UP

SPA Relay Challenge



Scan to register



The Relay Challenge is a community event for 6-12 grade students & families of Sylvania bringing people together of all levels of abilities to participate in a unique and memorable experience.

Activites

- Volleyball • Pickleball • Crafts • Spikeball
- Cornhole • Tie Dye • Yoga • Yard Games
- Inflatable Obstacle Course • and so much more!!!

