SYLVANIA ADVANTAGE
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Sylvania's No. 1 Source for Community News

Hafner Florist owners plan annual holiday open house

Hafner Florist co-owners Josh Miller and Kyle Vierling are celebrating their years of serving the Sylvania community with their annual holiday open house on Nov. 21.

"We are so grateful to the community for its support these past five years," Miller said. "Our annual open house is a way for us to showcase our holiday magic, featuring some of our newest additions along with holiday décor, gifts, local artists and more. It also gives us an opportunity to thank our loyal customers and welcome them and their friends to the store."

The celebration also provides an opportunity to give back. A portion of the day's sales will be donated to Sylvania Area Family Services to help stock its pantry shelves before Thanksgiving.

This year's event will feature the work of three local artists. Glass artist Cody Mohr will showcase his innovative hand-blown glass creations, including globes that encapsulate trees. Sylvania photographer Scott Hall will display his black-and-white nature photography and local artist Lia Colapietro will feature a new drop of her ceramics.

Guests can enjoy local entrepreneurs Casey Lucio and Meredith Smalley of The Graze Station as they incorporate Finch + Fennel seasonings into their charcuterie boards. Complimentary desserts and beverages will also be available.

"We want everyone to come in and enjoy themselves," the partners agreed.

Visitors will discover an expanded selection of merchandise throughout the store, including Finch + Fennel culinary goods, seasonings, jams, charcuterie boards and entertaining accessories. Familiar favorites such as the Frasier Fir line of candles, soaps and lotions will return, along with novelty and taper candles, candleholders, Voluspa's Noble Fir Garland and other fragrances, silk floral arrangements, rugs and tabletop accessories.

Several new product lines are also making their debut. Among them is Beatriz Ball, featuring upscale, handcrafted, hand-painted metalware made through an ethically sourced sand-casting process. The collection greets customers as they enter the store.

Another new addition is the Everlasting Candle Co. collection of refillable steel candles, which are designed to be fragrance- and smoke-free. An assortment of vintage-style ornaments also will bring a nostalgic touch to the holiday offerings.



Hafner co-owners **Kyle Vierling** and **Josh Miller** look forward to celebrating with guests at their open house.

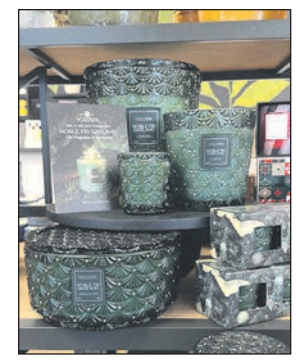
The open house will include several opportunities for customers to take home something extra. With a purchase of $200, shoppers can enter to win a Beatriz Ball bowl featuring a holiday arrangement, valued at more than $400. Additional giveaways include an Everlasting refillable steel candle and a Finch + Fennel gift. Customers also will receive a Noble Fir Garland ornament with a purchase.

While the annual open house has become a holiday tradition, the partners continue to find new ways to expand the business and create opportunities for customers to explore their creativity.

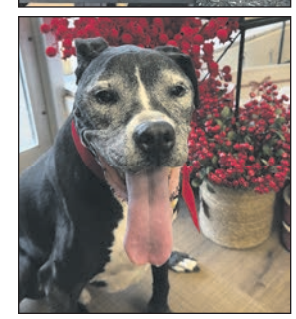
"It seems as if we start something new each year, and it just grows organically," Miller said. "This year, we're introducing Kyle's newest project."

For the past year, Vierling has been studying the centuries-old Japanese art of flower arranging and currently is a Sogetsu Ikebana student awaiting certification. He plans to offer a series of workshops in the partners' new studio, called the "Making Room."

Designed as a welcoming space for people to explore, experiment and rediscover their sense of wonder, the studio will offer participants an opportunity to experience the creative process in a relaxed setting.



An extensive line of holiday-scented Voluspa candles will be featured at the Nov. 21 open house.



Of course, **Rudy**, the shop's mascot, will be on hand to greet guests at the upcoming open house.

Vierling said studying Ikebana has been a grounding experience, providing an exciting and innovative creative outlet that he looks forward to sharing with others.

"The workshops will be affordable and accessible, as we're 'Making Room' at Hafner in the 'Making Room,' where everyone's creative voice can be heard," he said.

Of course, Hafner Florist remains, first and foremost, a flower shop. Its design team creates custom floral arrangements and décor for celebrations, special occasions and events of all sizes.

"Whether a client needs one centerpiece or their entire home decorated, our team strives to create something memorable," Miller said.

From fresh floral designs and seasonal décor to locally created art, distinctive gifts and opportunities to explore a new creative interest, Hafner Florist continues to build on its connection with the community it has served for five years.

Located in Southbriar Plaza, Hafner Florist is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm.



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Miracle on Main brings holiday magic to Main Street in downtown Sylvania

Celebrate the holiday season in downtown Sylvania Dec. 4 through 6 as Red Bird Sylvania presents Miracle on Main Street, a weekend featuring a tree lighting ceremony, local shopping, student performances and a lighted parade.

Friday's festivities begin with a Hill View Elementary performance at 5 pm, followed by the tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 pm. Scheduled guests include the Town Crier, Mayor Frye and Santa. Student performances continue from 6 to 8 pm in the Main Street tent.

The First Friday Art Walk will offer jewelry trunk shows, new exhibits, store specials and holiday shopping throughout downtown. The Grinch and Buddy the Elf are scheduled to return to the Historic Village, where holiday crafts are planned. Hot chocolate will be available at the Village's Carriage House Friday and Sunday.

Saturday's Mistletoe Market runs from 10 am to 5 pm, featuring vendors alongside opportunities to shop Main Street businesses.

The celebration concludes Sunday with the annual Holiday Lighted Parade through downtown, featuring decorated entries from local businesses, organizations and entertainment groups.

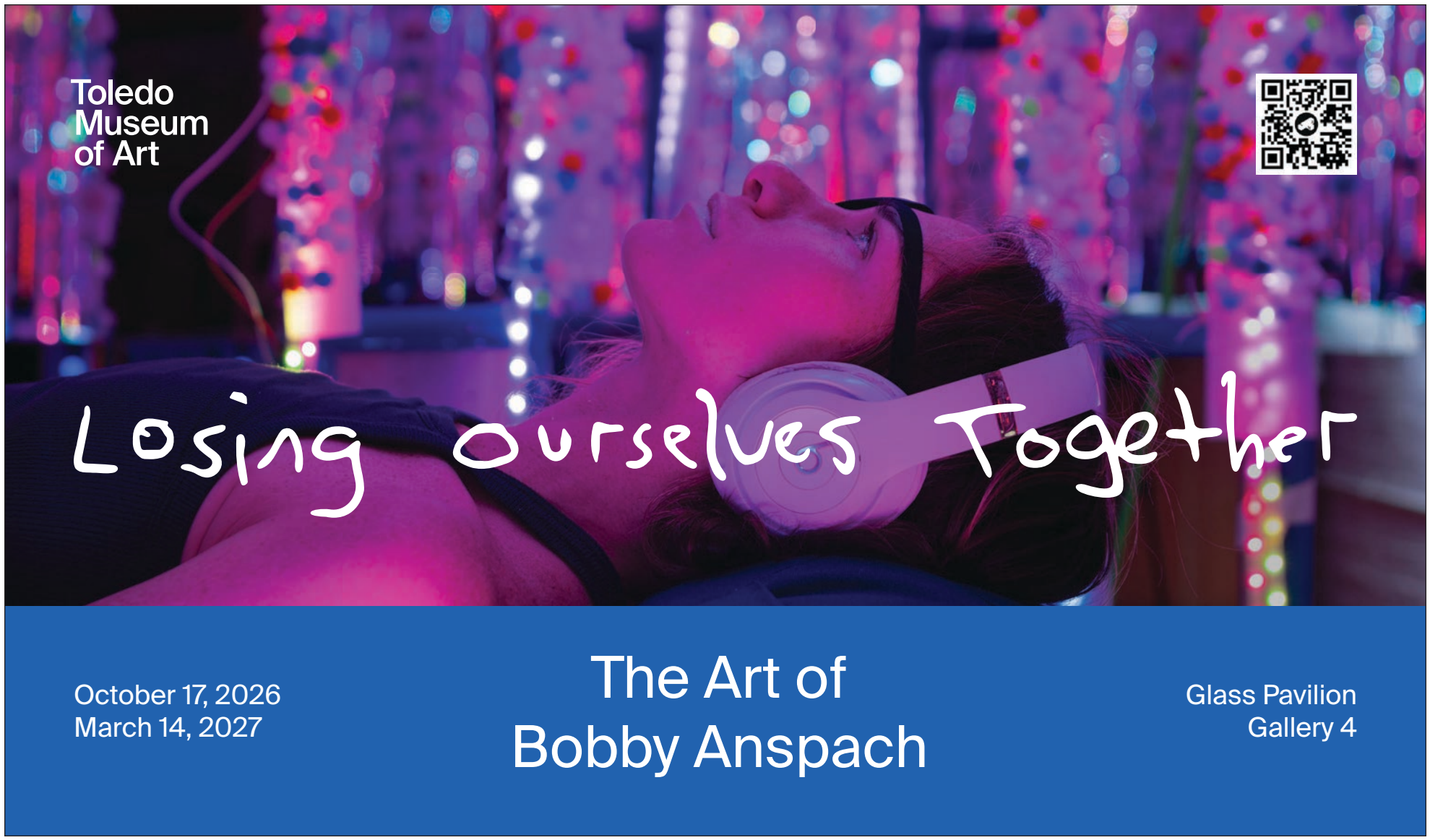
Croswell Theater to present 'Frozen'

Disney's "Frozen" opens at the Croswell Theater on Nov. 20 and runs through Dec. 6. Princess Elsa is crowned queen of Arendelle, revealing magical powers she has been hiding, causing her to flee. Her sister Anna, played by Elise Brown of Sylvania, joins forces with a hilarious group of friends to battle the harsh winter on an epic journey to bring Elsa home. "Disney's Frozen" includes all the film's beloved songs like 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman' and 'Let it Go', along with new music written exclusively for the stage.

The first weekend performances are on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 pm. The second weekend's performances are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 pm. The third weekend's performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 pm. Tickets range from $26 to $46 for adults and $16 to $26 for students, and may be ordered online at croswell.org or by calling 517-264-7469. The Croswell reminds patrons that it will never sell tickets for more than the advertised price, so any website offering tickets for a higher price is a scam.

Twinkle & Bloom offers Holiday shopping

Beautiful Blooms by Jen, 5675 Main St., Sylvania will host Twinkle & Bloom Holiday Night Markets Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 5 to 8 pm. Held on the first three Thursdays in December, the markets will feature a variety of local vendors, entertainment, food and drinks. Guests can browse vendors' offerings for fun, unique holiday gifts while shopping locally.



Sr. Gretchen bakes for Halloween



Sr. **Gretchen Faerber** hosts her 38th Halloween bake sale Oct. 29 in Regina Hall on the Sisters of St. Francis campus. The annual event features an array of handmade treats created by Faerber and her volunteer cookie team. Making a return to the sales - an assortment of jams such as red onion and dark cherry with amaretto. Faerber's Christmas bake sale will be held Dec. 11 from 9:30 am to 3 pm. Proceeds from her sales support ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis.

— ***Jennifer Alexander Ruple***

Holiday passport shopping program launched

The Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce launched its fifth annual Holiday Shopping Passport program Nov. 2, giving shoppers opportunities to support local businesses and enter prize drawings throughout the holiday season.

Participants present an official passport, available when making purchases at participating businesses, to receive stickers. The Passports are also available online at sylvaniachamber.org.

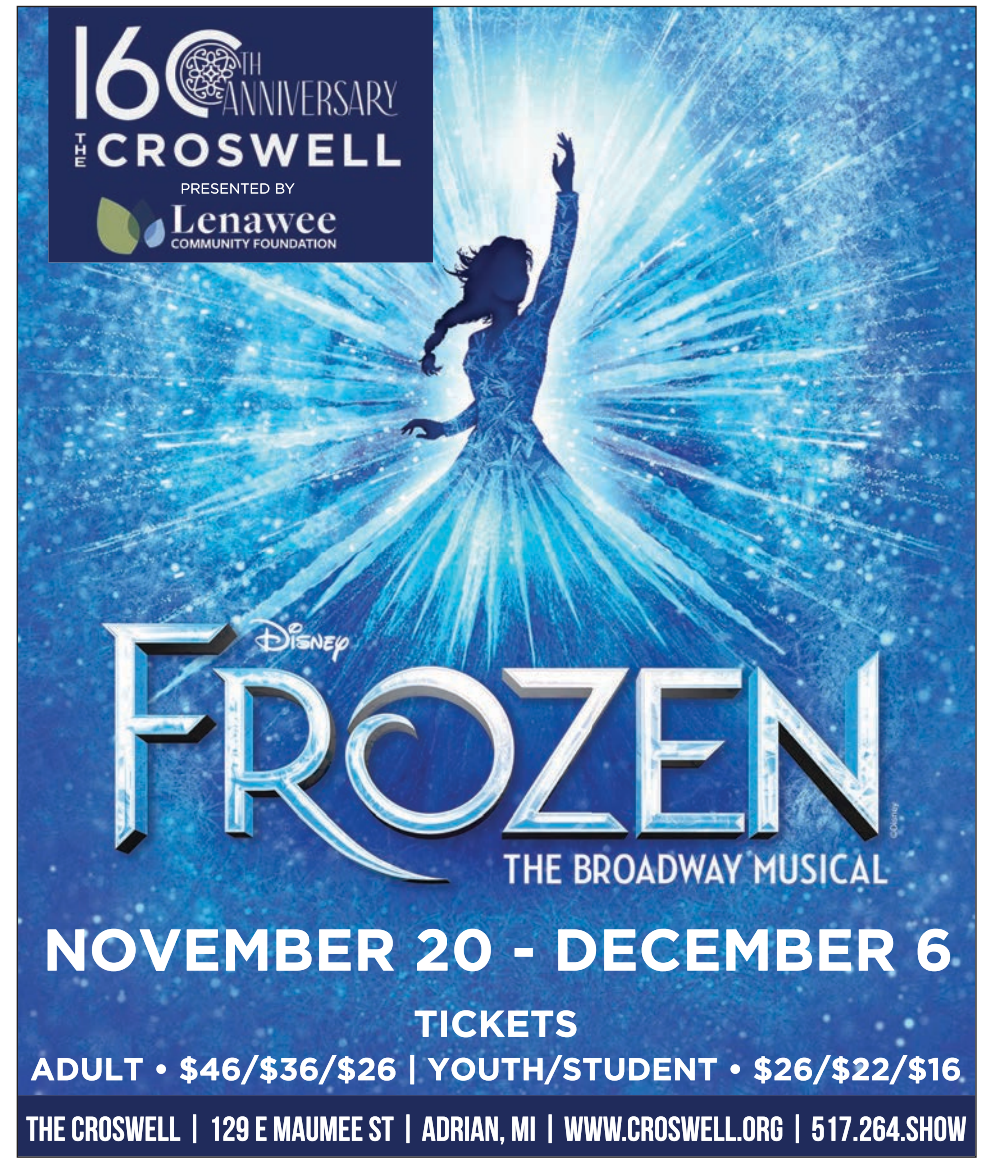
Completed passports can include purchases from multiple locations, and shoppers may submit more than one completed passport to increase their chances of winning one of the grand prizes.

Passports must be submitted by noon Jan. 4, 2027. Entries may be emailed to nmcdonald@sylvaniachamber.org, mailed or delivered to the chamber at 5632 N. Main St., Sylvania, OH 43560. Only stickers on official passports qualify.

Flower Hospital Guild plans gift shop open house

The Flower Hospital Guild will hold its annual Gift Shop Holiday Open House event Nov. 16 through 21, featuring daily specials throughout the week. The shop, located at 5200 Harroun Rd., will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 am to 5 pm; Thursday 7 am to 5 pm; and Saturday 12 to 4 pm.

Shoppers may receive 20 percent off items all week or partake in the 25 percent off daily specials including Monday – toys, games and puzzles; Tuesday - purses and jewelry; Wednesday - candles, warmers and spa items; Thursday - purchases from 7 to 10 am; Friday - clothing; Saturday - Christmas decorations and an opportunity to win a $50 gift shop gift card. Discounts apply to eligible, regularly priced merchandise.









Children's Wonderland, Donuts with the Clauses return to Tam-O-Shanter

Children's Wonderland, presented by Sylvania Recreation District, will return to Tam-O-Shanter Dec. 11–24, continuing a northwest Ohio holiday tradition that began more than 60 years ago.

The attraction at 7060 Sylvania Ave. will feature dozens of classic exhibits, train rides, collectible Mold-A-Matics and opportunities for photos with Santa.

Hours are 11 am to 8 pm Dec. 11–23 and 11 am to 2 pm Christmas Eve. The attraction will be closed Christmas Day. Admission is $7 for children ages 2 and older, $10 for adults and $7 for seniors ages 65 and older.

Families can also attend Donuts with the Clauses, scheduled for 8:30 to 10:30 am Sunday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Dec. 19, inside Children's Wonderland. The event offers donuts, photo opportunities, and story time with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

In addition, the event includes early private access to Children's Wonderland's classic animated displays and train rides. Each child will receive a goodie bag and crafts, adding activities to the morning before the attraction opens to the public. To register for Donuts with the Clauses, visit playsylvania.com.

Black Friday offers deals, goodie bags

Red Bird Sylvania's annual Black Friday shopping event returns to downtown Sylvania Nov. 27. The first 100 shoppers will receive a free goodie bag filled with coupons, giveaways and other surprises from participating businesses. Bags will be available for pickup at the Dallas Taproom, 5692 Main St., beginning at 9 am.

Last year, shoppers lined up at 8 am, and all 100 bags were distributed in less than 10 minutes. With a limited supply, the giveaway offers an incentive to get an early start on the day's shopping.

Many participating businesses will also offer additional promotions in their stores.

Registration open for the 'Yule Love the Blissfield Yuletide 5K'

Registration for a new holiday run through Blissfield is still open. The "Yule Love the Blissfield Yuletide 5K" takes off at 10 am Saturday, Nov. 14, during the village's annual Yuletide Festival. Registration begins at 9 am at the corner of Jefferson and Lane streets. Pre-registration is encouraged, but race-day entries at headquarters are accepted. Online registration is available by searching Yule Love the Blissfield Yuletide 5K at active.com through Nov. 11. For more information on the run, email advance@cass.net or text 517-605-0227.

Medals will be awarded to the overall male and female winners as well as the top two finishers in each male and female age division: 6-12, 13-20, 21-35, 36-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-plus. The first 100 runners will receive a commemorative ornament. Cocoa, coffee and water will be provided.

The Yule run entry fee is $25 for those 21 and older; $20 for young adults 6-20; with a family rate of $65 (limit of two adults per family who must live in the same household; additional adults $25). Children 6-12 must run with an adult. A holiday themed runner's costume award will also be given, however, costumes are optional. The 5K is hosted as a fundraiser by the Miss River Raisin Scholarship Program.

New items accepted for recycling

Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful has opened its Correct Recycling Month collections, accepting pumpkins, yard signs and candy wrappers at drop-off sites through December 6. It will also launch new one-day collection events from November through February, accepting a wide variety of items including artificial trees, batteries, vapes, vinyl records, hardbound books, and more.

During the holidays, the average household throws away about 30 percent more than it does the rest of the year, and much of that material can be recovered instead of landfilled.

"People want to recycle. What they do not always have is a place to take the unusual stuff." said Adam Cassi, executive director of Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful.

Pumpkins and gourds for composting:
Sylvania Township Hall, 4927 N. Holland Sylvania Rd., Sylvania

Yard signs: Toledo Botanical Garden, 5430 W. Bancroft St., Toledo

Candy wrappers:
All YMCA of Greater Toledo locations.

Special drop-off events:
Items accepted include vapes, batteries of all kinds, hardbound books, campaign signs, boat wrap, candy wrappers, (wrappers only, no candy or sucker sticks), artificial Christmas trees, holiday lights, greenhouse trays and pots, media - including 8-track tapes, Blu-ray discs, CDs, cassette tapes, DVDs, vinyl records, and VHS tapes.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 am to noon — Woodsdale Park, 1226 Woodsdale Ave., Toledo

Thursday, Dec. 3, 4 to 6 pm - Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful, 1011 Matzinger Rd., Toledo

Sunday, Dec. 13, noon to 2 pm - Navarre Park, 1001 White St., Toledo

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 4 to 6 pm - Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful, 1011 Matzinger Rd., Toledo

Sunday, Jan. 17, noon to 2 pm - Ottawa Park, Ottawa Parkway, Toledo

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 4 to 6 pm - Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful, 1011 Matzinger Rd., Toledo

For more information, visit ktlcb.org/special-recycling-collections.

THE BIG TO DO IN SYLVANIA

ACTIVITIES

Nov. 9
Veterans Day Appreciation Breakfast • Northview High School, 9:30-10:15am, all veterans welcome, RSVP to 419-824-8570

Nov. 14
Holiday Bazaar • Tree City Market, Franciscan Center, 11am-4pm, free admission

Nov. 16-21
Holiday Open House • Flower Hospital Guild Gift Shop, M,T,W,F - 10am-5pm, Th - 7am-5pm, Sa - 12-4pm

Nov. 20-Dec. 31
Lights Before Christmas • Toledo Zoo, toledozoo.org

Nov. 27
Red Bird Black Friday • downtown Sylvania, store specials, 100 bag giveaway, redbirdsylvania.org

Dec. 3, 10, 17
Twinkle & Bloom Holiday Markets • Beautiful Blooms by Jen, 5-8pm, more pg. 2

Dec. 4-6
Miracle on Main • Downtown Sylvania, Holiday Lights Parade, 6pm
Heralding the Holidays • The Artist Village at Toledo Botanical Gardens, free admission

Dec. 5-13
Holidays at the Manor House • Wildwood Metropark, 10am-8pm, free admission, metroparkstoledo.com

Dec. 10
Holiday Bazaar • Sylvania Senior Center, 11am-6pm

Dec. 11-24
Children's Wonderland • Tam-O-Shanter, 11am-8pm, (Dec. 24 11am-2pm), admission - kids 2+ $7, adults 18+ $10, Seniors 65+ $7

Dec. 13
Festival of Crafts • Toledo Craftsman's Guild, Franciscan Center, 10am-4pm, free admission

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THE ARTS

Nov. 20 - Dec. 6
Frozen The Broadway Musical • The Croswell, Adrian, Mich., tickets croswell.org, more pg. 2

Dec. 2
Christmas Concert • Epworth United Methodist Church, Academy Brass Quintet & Epworth Chancel Choir, 7pm, free, open to the public

Dec. 3 - 6
"It's a Wonderful Life" • Northview Theatre Dept., Northview High School, tickets CUR8.com

COMEDY

Mondays
The Barn Bar & Grill • 7-9pm

COMMUNITY

City Leaf Pickup • thru Dec. 7
Township Leaf Pickup • For round progress, visit sylvaniatownship.com

Nov. 16
City Council Meeting • Council Chambers, 6635 Maplewood, 6:30pm, open to the public

Dec. 1
Township Trustees Meeting • Township Hall, 4927 N. Holland Sylvania, 5pm, open to the public

Dec. 7-11
Green Yard Waste Winter Pickup • Call City of Sylvania to schedule, 419-885-8950

Dec. 19
National Wreaths Across America Day • Toledo Memorial Park, noon, free and open to all, more pg. 8

FOOD & DRINK

Nov. 11, 18
Wine Tastings • Sofo's Market, 6-8pm; 6 pours, Italian cuisine, and live music, $25; RSVP at shopsofos.com

Nov. 28
Breakfast with Santa • Scouting America, Erie Shores Council, Camp Miakonda, 9-11am or 12:30-2:30pm, tickets scoutingevent.com

Dec. 11
Sister Gretchen's Christmas Bake Sale • Regina Hall Conference Center, Sisters of St. Francis campus, 9:30am-3pm, more pg. 3

TRIVIA

Mondays
VI Pub Quiz • 6:30 & 7:30pm

Tuesdays
Voodoo Brewing • 6:30-8:30pm
The VI • Music Bingo, 6:30-8pm
Sidelines Sylvania • 7-9pm
Bier Stube • 8-10pm
Frogtown Johnnie's • 9pm

LIVE MUSIC

Sundays
Bobby May and Friends • The Sodbuster, 7pm

Mondays & Tuesdays
Chris Brown and Candace Coleman • Ciao!, 6-9pm

Tuesdays
Bobby & Frankie • Fuzzy's, 5pm

Nov. 11
Christian Lombardo • Te'kela, 5pm

Nov. 13
Double Take • Bier Stube, 6pm
Monte & Dawn of Gypsy Luvin' • Tékela, 6pm

Nov. 14
Whiskey Gypsy • Bier Stube, 7pm

Nov. 20
Madison Ave. • Bier Stube, 6pm

Nov. 21
Not Fast Enuff • Bier Stube, 7pm

Nov. 27
Mizer Vossen • Bier Stube, 6pm

Nov. 28
Beg to Differ • Bier Stube, 7pm

Dec. 4
Trans-Siberian Orchestra • Huntington Center, 3pm & 7:30pm, gotickets.com
Grape Smugglers • Bier Stube, 6pm

Dec. 5
Pop's Garage • Bier Stube, 7pm

Dec. 9
Christian Lombardo • Te'kela, 5pm

Dec. 11
Madison Avenue • Bier Stube, 6pm

Dec. 12
Random Act • Bier Stube, 7pm

Dec. 18
Aftershock • Bier Stube, 6pm

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

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Township talk ...

Sylvania Township Fire Chief Chris Nye, Auxiliary Fire Chief Jeff Bennett and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Behan administered the oath of service to new firefighter Cole Hogan during the Nov. 4 meeting of the Sylvania Township Board of Trustees.

The trustees also approved two amendments to the Otterbein Sunset Village Planned Unit Development (PUD) approved in 2015, allowing for additional residential and recreational amenities on the 73.4-acre campus.

The first amendment permits construction of a three-story independent living apartment building. The second allows for the addition of athletic courts for shuffleboard, bocce and pickleball, along with a fire pit and green space.

In other business, the board accepted Deputy Police Chief Kevin Pelwecki's recommendation to purchase three 2027 Ford Police Interceptors at a cost not to exceed $181,986.The purchase recommendation was prompted by Ford's announced production delays for the 2027 models and the opening of an early ordering window. Missing that window could push production to September or October 2027, with delivery delayed until 2028.

The trustees also reappointed Maureen Atkins as the township's representative to the Sylvania Arts Board of Directors through Dec. 31, 2027.

Township Administrator Oliver Turner led a discussion on a draft proposal outlining regulations for short-term rentals, including Airbnb properties. Turner prepared the draft with input from legal counsel and township department heads.

Following his presentation, four township residents shared concerns about a specific short-term rental property in their neighborhood. Another speaker, who owns multiple rental properties, discussed the importance of responsible Airbnb ownership.

The trustees thanked residents for their input and requested additional information about short-term rental ownership in the township. Discussion of the proposed regulations will continue.



New firefighter, **Cole Hogan**, takes oath of service.

The Sylvania Township Trustees are encouraging nominations for the 2027 Distinguished Citizen Service Award. The award highlights the unsung community heroes and specifically excludes elected officials or anyone who may have already been honored by the naming of a street, park, or other public space.

Anyone from Sylvania Township or the city of Sylvania may nominate a person by emailing oturner@sylvaniatownship.com, mail, or drop off nominations at the Sylvania Township Administration Building, 4927 N. Holland-Sylvania Rd. by Jan. 15, 2027.

At its Nov. 2 meeting, the Board of Zoning Appeals approved Mounier Deeb's conditional use request for a truck wash at 8110 W. Central Ave. Deeb, of Freedom Truck Wash, plans to construct a 5,125-square-foot truck wash on the 2.8-acre parcel, zoned C-2, on the north side of Central Avenue approximately .25 miles east of Centennial Road.

In other business, the board granted a variance from the required 30-foot setback to a 16-foot setback at the request of Ryan and Victoria Smith of 5166 Estess Ave., who wish to build a garage on their property. As their property is irregular in shape, the variance is necessary to accommodate the proposed garage.

City beat ...

Sylvania City Council approved several Service Department recommendations, including a property sale, project change orders, and the purchase of a replacement sewer jet truck during its Nov. 2 meeting.

Council members accepted Service Director Joe Shaw's recommendation to approve a real estate purchase agreement from Dankast Ltd. to purchase a 30-foot wide parcel of city-owned property at 8118 Brint Rd., for its appraised value of $1,800. The purchase agreement includes a reservation for a utility easement covering the entire property.

Council also approved two project change orders recommended by Shaw.

The first resulted in a savings of $39,005.82 for the Convent Boulevard and Little Road resurfacing projects. Shaw said less pavement repair was needed than originally anticipated. The final change order reduced the contract with Helms & Sons Excavating Inc. from $530,158.25 to $491,152.43.

The second change order involved the contract with US Utility to update traffic signals at Monroe and Main streets and at Summit Street. The project included upgrading signal operations and equipment at both intersections, adding pedestrian signal accommodations at Summit Street and improving the truck turning radius at the northeast corner of the Summit Street intersection.

Although the project was initially $5,418.95 under budget, additional work was needed to address pedestrian signal problems that developed at the Monroe and Main intersection shortly after construction began. Shaw said the issues were unrelated to the contractor's work. After troubleshooting, the contractor determined that an entirely new pedestrian signal system was necessary at a cost of $13,100.

The resulting final change order increased the contract by $7,681.05.

Council members also approved a joint cooperation agreement between the city and the Lucas County commissioners for the replacement of the Sylvania Avenue Pump Station, scheduled for construction in 2027.

Earlier, Fishbeck had been authorized to provide engineering services for the project. Council approved a $26,300 addition to the firm's contract for additional services requested by the Service Department.

In another action, council approved a $285,785.24 quote from Brown Equipment Co. for the future purchase of a demo model 800HPR ECO Jetter Truck. The demo model truck is over $25,000 cheaper than a new model

City beat to 7

MARK FRYE

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Being Thankful

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself thinking about how fortunate we are to call Sylvania home. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's easy to take for granted the things that make our community such a wonderful place to live. This time of year reminds us to slow down, count our blessings and appreciate all we share.

We are fortunate to live in a community where we enjoy peace, safety and prosperity. Our recent elections were conducted peacefully and honestly, reflecting a tradition of American democracy that is not always easy to achieve in other parts of the world. That is something worth appreciating.

We are also blessed with excellent schools that continue to attract families to Sylvania, along with several outstanding private schools. Having quality education close to home is a tremendous asset for our children and our community.

The same is true of health care. ProMedica Flower Hospital on Harroun Road, the ProMedica Health and Wellness Center on Monroe Street, Regency Hospital on Alexis, and Mercy Health-Sylvania Medical Center on Central Avenue near King Road provide important care right here in our community. People come to Sylvania for these services, and we are fortunate to have them so close to home.

Of course, feeling safe in our neighborhoods is one of the greatest comforts of all. We can be thankful for our well-trained police officers, dedicated firefighters, emergency medical workers and the many city employees who work behind the scenes every day to keep Sylvania running smoothly. Whether responding to an emergency, maintaining our streets, or providing essential services, these public servants help make our city where families can feel at home.

There is so much more to enjoy here. Our active Senior Center, variety of religious congregations, beautiful parks, dedicated service organizations and outstanding athletic and recreational opportunities through the Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District all add to the quality of life we enjoy.

But to me what makes Sylvania truly special is its people.

I am continually impressed by the number of residents who give their time and talents to help others. They volunteer in our schools and hospitals, support our churches, coach our young athletes, serve on community committees and lend a hand wherever help is needed. Much of this work happens quietly, without recognition or fanfare, but its impact is felt throughout our community. To all who give so generously, thank you. You make Sylvania a better place for all..

We also have plenty to celebrate in our hometown. The completion of Phase I and upcoming completion of Phase II of our downtown revitalization project along Main Street is an exciting step forward. Our beautiful fall weather has given us the opportunity to enjoy the outdoor gathering spaces, meet up with friends,, and rediscover the charm of downtown.

One of the things I especially appreciate about downtown Sylvania is the variety of locally owned businesses. From hardware and clothing stores to gifts, jewelry, art galleries and art supplies, there is plenty to explore. Our restaurants and gathering places give us even more reasons to spend time downtown, and new dining options on the way offer things to look forward to.

And our shopping choices certainly don't stop downtown. From Southbriar Shopping Center and Wickford Woods to Mayberry Village, Saxon Square, Timberstone Plaza, Promenade Shops, Country Squire and Sylvania Marketplace, businesses throughout our community make it easy to find what we need close to home.

I encourage everyone to take a fresh look at what our local stores have to offer. You'll find convenience, welcoming surroundings and, often, the kind of personal service that comes from getting to know the people behind the counter. Many of these businesses are owned and operated by our neighbors, who have invested their time, hard work and resources in Sylvania.

Shopping locally is one of the simplest ways we can give back to our community. When we spend our money here, those dollars help support jobs and keep our business districts thriving. Small-business owners employ our friends, neighbors and young people, and they frequently give back by supporting school programs, sports teams, prom nights, yearbooks, charities and community fundraisers.

These businesses do more than sell products or provide services. They help create the character of our community, and they deserve our support. The next time you need a gift, want to enjoy a meal out or are looking for something for your home, I hope you'll consider shopping or dining right here in Sylvania.

Keeping a vibrant downtown is important to Sylvania's future. Every one of us can play a part by visiting a local shop, having a meal at a neighborhood restaurant or saying a kind word to a business owner. It may seem like a small thing, but those gestures make a real difference.

As your mayor, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this community. I am thankful for the trust you place in me, for the people who work so hard to make Sylvania a better place, and for the many everyday blessings that make this city feel like home.

This Thanksgiving, please take a moment to look around and appreciate the good things right here in our own backyard, our families, our neighbors, our businesses and the people who step up to make a difference.

I know I'm thankful to call Sylvania home. I hope you are too.

As always, if you have questions about city services or would like to share an idea or concern, please email me at mayor @cityofsyvlania.com or call my office at 419-885-8925.

City beat ...

FROM 6

and the authorization acknowledges the City's intent to purchase upon final passage of the 2027 budget. Shaw explained that the Sewer Department's current jet truck is 27 years old.

Council also approved Mayor Mark Frye's recommendation to reappoint Brian Kezur to the Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District Board of Trustees.

Frye and Councilman Shawn Murphy commended Kezur for his leadership as chairman of the SAJRD board and his continued involvement in the community.

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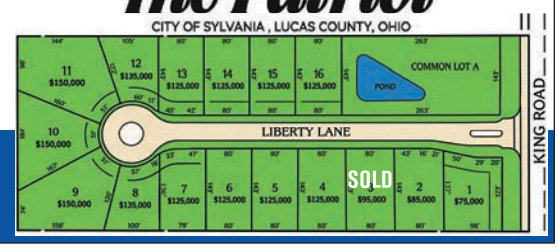
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NOVEMBER 11



Lucas County Recorder Michael Ashford with Purple Heart Vietnam Veteran Robert Stewart

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Retire flags while honoring a veteran

Distressed flags may be retired at the following locations:

Walker Funeral Home
5155 W. Sylvania Ave.

Joseph W. Diehn Post 468
American Legion
5580 Centennial Rd.

Toledo Elks Lodge
3520 N. Holland Sylvania Rd.

Boy Scouts of Erie Shores
Jadel Leadership Building
Camp Miakonda
5600 W. Sylvania Ave.



Wreaths Across America celebrates 14 years

The annual Wreaths Across America program at Toledo Memorial Park is set for Saturday, Dec. 19 at noon. The event marks the 14th annual presentation of wreaths at the Park.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen; honor those who serve; and to teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Visitors will experience a touching ceremony with wreath placement immediately following. This special event honors veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

There is still time to honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day and inviting family and friends to attend.

Specific grave requests at Toledo Memorial Park can be made by contacting Mel Harbaugh at 46elapid@gmail.com, to help ensure wreath placement.

Schools earn Purple Star recognition

All 12 schools in the Sylvania District earned the Purple Star Command Coin from the State of Ohio. This designation recognizes Sylvania School's support and the resources available for its military-connected families.

This prestigious honor highlights the District's continued focus on supporting military-connected students with resources. Veteran and MIC3 (Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission) Council Chair Pete LuPiba and Ohio Purple Star Advisory Board member Christine Young presented the coins and shared valuable resources and ideas to help the District continue to strengthen its support for military-connected students.

Free flags for veterans

Veterans may stop in the McGuire Insurance Group office, 6932 Monroe St., and receive a free American flag while supplies last.

Candy to be sent to overseas military

Brookview Dental Candy Buyout

After Brookview Dental's Great Candy Buyout, all candy collected will be sent to U.S. Troops overseas through Lake Erie Shores Blue Star Mothers.

Dental Excellence Candy Buyout

All candy and donated items collected at Dental Excellence will be packaged and shipped by the Vietnam Veterans of America in Ann Arbor, Mich. to military personnel overseas.

McDonald's offers free food to veterans

Toledo McDonald's restaurants will be recognizing Veterans Day by offering current and former military members free food.

Participating McDonald's restaurants will offer a meal to all veterans, with a valid military ID, all day on Wednesday, Nov. 11. For breakfast, until 10:30 am, veterans can enjoy one free Egg McMuffin meal, including a hashbrown and small coffee. For lunch or dinner, veterans can enjoy a free 3-piece McCrispy Strips Meal, with medium fry and any medium soft drink or tea.

The deals are only available via dine-in or drive-thru. They are not available in the McDonald's app.

TMA has free glassblowing classes for veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, active-duty service members and veterans are invited to participate in a free hands-on glassblowing workshop and create a glass artwork of their own. The event is set for Nov. 21 in the Hot Shop 1 and 2. Scheduled times are 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm.

Flavors of Fall Shine at Sylvania Pie Contest

Sizzle Simmer Sauté Sylvania

JENNIFER ALEXANDER RUPLE

The aroma of freshly baked pies and a spirit of friendly competition filled the air as bakers showcased their best creations at the annual Sylvania Fall Festival Pie Baking Contest sponsored by Durocher's. It was an honor to once again serve as a judge for the beloved event, coordinated by Heritage Sylvania and held Sunday, Oct. 18, at Mayberry Ice Cream. Seventeen pies were entered and graded on appearance, crust (color, texture and flavor), filling, and overall taste.

Entries varied in style and texture including a handful of apple pies, a cherry pie, a s'mores pie, a traditional pumpkin pie and a white chocolate fig pie.

Thank you to Judge's Choice Winner Elizabeth Clark and First Place Winner Evelyn Frandle for sharing their award-winning recipes with our readers, judges and all who participated in this year's contest.



L – R: **Carolyn Nehmer** of Heritage Sylvania and pie contest judges: **Sharon Lange**; **Kevin Myers**; **Jennifer Ruple**; and **Lucie**, **Carol** and **Ben Malczewski**

Bourbon Pecan Pie – by Elizabeth Clark



Elizabeth Clark



"My love for baking came from my granny as well as my great-grandma Clark. She was from Kentucky and made everything from scratch. Pecan pie was always present at Thanksgiving and almost always at Christmas. While great-grandma Clark did not put bourbon in her pecan pie, I am almost certain she would approve of this nod to her southern roots," Clark reminisced.

Ingredients

- Use favorite pie crust
- ⅔ cup granulated sugar
- ⅔ cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 tsp salt
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 2 tbsp bourbon
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups chopped pecans

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl whisk both sugars, salt and eggs until smooth, then whisk in corn syrup. Add bourbon, butter and vanilla. Stir in pecans.

Pour filling into chilled crust and transfer pie to foil-lined baking sheet. Bake until filling is nearly set, about 2 hours. Transfer pie to a rack and let cool completely.

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Spiced Caramel Apple Pie – by Evelyn Frandle

"I created this recipe after tasting a delicious orange caramel latte at a coffee shop in Cincinnati. As people naturally do, I thought 'this flavor profile might be good in a pie,'" said Frandle.





Evelyn Frandle with children **Lucien** and **Felicity**

Ingredients

CRUST
- Use favorite pie crust

FILLING
- 8 apples
- Juice from 1 orange
- 2 ½ tbsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp ginger
- ½ tsp cardamom
- ½ nutmeg, grated

CARAMEL
- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 3 tbsp flour
- ¼ cup cider with 2 tbsp cornstarch

CRUMB TOPPING
- 4 tbsp butter
- ⅔ cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup brown sugar
- Sprinkle of cinnamon
- Zest from ½ orange

Directions

Butter crust with zest from ½ orange, 3 tbsp powdered sugar, ½ tsp cinnamon.

Peel and slice apples. Add to a large bowl and mix with other filling ingredients.

For the caramel, melt butter over medium heat. Mix the sugars and flour in the melted butter. Let simmer for a couple minutes before adding cider/cornstarch mixture. Mix gently until it thickens.

For the topping, cut the cold butter into the other topping ingredients until well incorporated.

To the crust, add the filling. Pour caramel over apples. Put crumb topping on. Bake at 350 F for 45 to 60 min.

Pie Contest Winners:

First Place – Evelyn Frandle, Spiced Caramel Apple
Second Place – Jacob Barrick, Apple Pie
Third Place – Ethan McNutt, Pumpkin Pie
Judges' Choice – Elizabeth Clark, Bourbon Pecan Pie

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Application deadline: December 1, 2026
Semifinalist interviews: Early January 2027
Finalist interviews: Late January 2027
Estimated start date: March 1, 2027

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
- High school diploma or equivalent.
- At least 10 years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience in a department comparable in size, service demands, and organizational complexity.
- At least five years of progressively responsible supervision and administrative experience in a command-level position within a comparable department.
- Current certification as an Ohio peace officer through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

SALARY & BENEFITS
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Lula Jiamachello, HR Manager
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IMPORTANT NOTICE *Sylvania Township is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Under Ohio public records laws, applicant identities and application materials cannot be considered confidential.*

All Good Things relocates



The All Good Things team, **Dee Resnick**, Sr. **Brenda Hawley**, Manager **Beth McArthur**, Sisters of St. Francis Congregational Minister Sr. **Sharon Derivan**, and Sr. **Rosemarie Fredericks**, welcome guests to the open-house held on Oct. 27 at the new location, 6832 Convent Blvd.

All Good Things moved recently from its longstanding home in Umbria Square to the Padua House, the new name of the former Lourdes University Welcome Center. The structure was also formerly known as Alumni House, Loretto House, and even earlier, the Hittler Farm House when Mother Mary Adelaide purchased it in August 1917.

Andrew Hittler, a skilled craftsman, originally built the farmhouse using a kit he ordered from the Sears and Roebuck catalogue in 1913, one of the first of its kind. After the sale, Mother Adelaide was among the first to occupy the home, living on the top floor while using the main floor for the convent's offices.

The house's name and purpose have evolved over the years, but the name Padua House is not a new name to this location. The house was once named, and is again named for St. Anthony of Padua, the Franciscan preacher associated with finding lost items and concern for the poor.

The home now serves as a perfect backdrop for the Sister-created artwork, jewelry, Alverno Studio tiles, books, fair trade items, and many gift ideas.

A portion of the house has been converted to accomodate Outreach Ministries, coordinated by Sister Barb Vano. Sister Barb's office will be on the first floor of Padua House, and she will be able to continue her Labre Project ministry using the kitchen, which offers ample space for volunteers to convene and cook the casseroles and make the sandwiches they distribute to those in need every Wednesday.

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YMCA names new Sylvania branch to recognize Mike and Karen Fischer

The YMCA of Greater Toledo has announced that its newest Sylvania location will be named The Fischer Family YMCA, Sylvania, recognizing longtime members and supporters Mike and Karen Fischer for their generous support to the organization. The new 53,000-square-foot facility, located at 2859 N. Holland Sylvania Rd., will transform a former LA Fitness into an expanded hub for wellness, youth development and community connection. The YMCA is targeting an opening in early 2027.

"The YMCA has been an important part of our lives, and we believe in the difference it makes when people have a place to connect, grow and support one another," said the Fischers. "We're honored to support this next chapter for the YMCA of Greater Toledo and help more people feel welcome and connected in Sylvania."

The new branch will feature an indoor swimming pool, walking track, and pickleball court; a food pantry; expanded wellness and fitness space; EGYM equipment; a Kid's Zone; dedicated gymnastics and youth dance spaces as well as areas for members and neighbors to gather.

"This project is about more than a new building. It is about creating more opportunities for people to thrive and ensuring the YMCA can continue to meet the changing needs of our community," said Brad Toft, president of YMCA of Greater Toledo. "Thanks to the Fischers and our many supporters, we can renovate an existing building to open sooner and at a lower cost than our original YMCA/JCC campus expansion plan, allowing us to create spaces and resources that directly support our mission while making better use of an existing community asset."

The expansion will increase childcare capacity at the existing YMCA/JCC Campus, allowing the branch to serve more children and families. The campus will also continue to offer summer day camp, seasonal outdoor pool and pickleball court access, and year-round racquetball.

"Strong communities are built when people of all ages have access to places and programs that help them stay healthy, learn and connect," said Mark Frye, mayor of Sylvania. "The Fischer Family YMCA investment is a welcome addition to the Sylvania area. I look forward to the opportunities this new facility will bring."

The YMCA of Greater Toledo is working to raise an additional $1.5 million to support the project.

Small Business Saturday emphasizes the importance of shopping locally

LINDA BOWYER, PHD.

Prices are going up and everyone is looking for "good deals" at Christmas. Are we sure what we order online will be here by Christmas? Maybe it is time to look at local stores for that perfect present!

Thanksgiving is right around the corner followed by "Black Friday," (the big box stores' sales on the day after Thanksgiving) and "Cyber Monday," (online stores' sales on the Monday after Thanksgiving). This year, local business owners in downtown Sylvania are also promoting Black Friday sales during regular business hours.

And, don't forget, Saturday, Nov. 29, is "Small Business Saturday," a great day to shop locally. American Express has promoted the Saturday after Thanksgiving as a day to encourage shoppers to spend at locally owned, independent, brick-and-mortar stores. Since it started in 2010, consumers have reported spending an estimated $200 billion at small businesses on this day. Historically, reported spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday exceeded $17.9 billion, according to the 2023 Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey, sponsored by American Express.

The Consumer Insights Survey also reported that 59 percent of U.S. consumers aware of Small Business Saturday shopped or ate at a small, independently owned retailer or restaurant on Small Business Saturday in 2023. Among those small business shoppers, the survey highlighted that:

• 61 percent strongly agree that they found a small business or independently owned restaurant on Small Business Saturday where they are likely to return and become a regular customer

• 86 percent shopped in-store, and more consumers (53 percent) reported shopping online at small businesses than online at large retailers (34 percent) and 41 percent shopped with family, friends or neighbors at a small, independently owned business.

"Buy Local" movements have picked up steam throughout the United States but the growth of big box stores and Internet shopping has affected locally owned firms. Despite this, small businesses are still an important part of the economy. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses are creating two out of every three new private sector jobs and our nation's 34 million small businesses now account for an astonishing 44 percent of U.S. economic activity, employing 46.4 percent of private sector employees. In Ohio, small businesses number over 996,000 and employ over 2.2 million workers.

According to the SCORE (the Service Corps of Retired Executives), of every $100 spent at a locally-owned business, $68 stays in the local community with local businesses who also purchase local services, like accounting and marketing, and supplies. According to the SCORE study, 42 percent of Americans shop at local businesses three times a week, citing convenience, desire to support local businesses, and superior customer service as reasons for their loyalty to neighborhood businesses. Based on research by American Express, if every Gen Z and Millennial shopper spent $10 at a small business on Small Business Saturday, it would support $2 billion in local economic activity throughout the US.

Shop locally on Saturday, Nov. 29 to keep our small businesses growing!

Linda Bowyer, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita of Finance and past director of the Small Business Institute, University of Toledo.


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Ribbon cutting ceremony opens Simply Fit Studio



Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce representatives **Marcus Hansen** and **Ken Wines** join Simply Fit Studio owners **Kendra** and **Jason Levine**, instructiors, clients, and friends to cut the ribbon to officially open the new fitness studio at 6725 W. Central Ave.

Kendra and Jason Levine are offering a longtime fitness community something more than a place to exercise. With the opening of Simply Fit Studio at 6725 W. Central Ave., they are creating a place where fitness, friendships and connections can continue to grow.

The couple celebrated their studio's grand opening Oct. 25 with clients and friends joining in a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the beginning of a new chapter for the local fitness community.

The nearly 3,000-square-foot facility was leased with assistance from Stephanie Kuhlman of NAI Harmon Group. Waterford Bank provided financing, and Paul Avery served as general contractor, renovating the space to accommodate more than 40 different fitness classes.

For Kendra Levine, the new studio represents the fulfillment of a dream built on more than 30 years of teaching fitness and the relationships she has developed along the way.

Levine spent the past 17 years teaching at LA Fitness, which recently closed. The news left her, fellow instructors and longtime clients devastated.

"Many of us, and our clients, had worked together for over 15 years. We have been through many seasons together, experiencing weddings, divorces, babies, grandbabies, graduations and losses. We became one large component of a fitness community that loved and supported one another through life," Levine said.

"I realized that what we had built was much more than an instructor and her students. We had built a community. This is why it became a mission to bring everyone back together under one roof."

When longtime clients suddenly found themselves without a familiar place to work out together, Levine began holding classes in her basement. The gatherings quickly gained momentum, prompting her husband to suggest finding a permanent location where she could establish her own fitness center.

That idea became Simply Fit Studio where the goal is to build strong bodies and relationships. The state-of-the-art studio features top-of-the-line equipment and a wide range of classes, including barbell burn, cardio circuit, cardio dance, yoga, Pilates, powerlifting and cycling.

Among the studio's amenities are Keiser Studio am3i bikes, manufactured in the United States. These bikes provide a smooth ride and feature a rider-generated computer screen that requires no batteries.

Twenty instructors, each trained in their specialty areas, lead the classes. Many previously worked alongside Levine at LA Fitness, bringing familiar faces and established relationships to the new studio.

The atmosphere extends beyond the workout itself. Complimentary coffee, tea and water encourage clients to linger, visit and reconnect after class.

Those interested in trying the studio can take two complimentary classes by downloading the MINDBODY app and entering the code SIMPLYFIT at checkout. Monthly memberships are available.

Jason Levine, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine, is another important part of the business. He works with athletes and treats injuries that may require surgical intervention or physical therapy.

"Everything has come together so well. We are thrilled with the studio, the equipment and with the response from our clients and the community," Kendra Levine said.

For the Levines, the opening of Simply Fit Studio is about more than introducing a new fitness facility. It is about bringing people together, preserving friendships and creating new connections through a shared commitment to health and wellness.

As Kendra Levine has discovered, over three decades in the fitness business, the strongest results often come from more than exercise. They come from the encouragement, friendships and sense of belonging that keep people coming back.

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American Legion Post 468 showcases veterans' murals, refreshed look inside and out

The American Legion Joseph Diehn Post 468, 5580 Centennial Rd., is sporting a fresh new look, both inside and out, reflecting its ongoing commitment to honoring veterans and fostering community spirit.

In keeping with its mission to support veterans through service, camaraderie and community involvement, the post recently added veteran-themed murals to its newly repainted exterior facade and along the entrance hallway.



A new mural celebrating the service of veterans welcomes guests to the Legion Post 468.

"We want to make people feel they are in a veterans' facility where veterans are honored," said Post Commander Verna Henderson.

The improvements continue inside, where the large banquet hall, which can accommodate up to 275 guests, underwent a complete renovation last year. New hard-surface flooring provides the perfect setting for dancing, while fresh paint, newly installed wallboard and glass doors opening onto the patio have enhanced the space's overall appeal.Updated restrooms, complete with new fixtures, add to the improvements. The facility also offers guests access to a spacious commercial kitchen equipped with three refrigerators, an oversized gas stove with a griddle, deep fryers and a large food-preparation table.

The banquet hall provides an inviting venue for a variety of events, including community gatherings, weddings, parties, craft shows and other special occasions.

A smaller meeting room has also been refurbished and can accommodate up to 30 guests. Conveniently located near the kitchen and restrooms, the room offers a comfortable setting for smaller gatherings and meetings.

In addition, a back bar is available for rent and can serve guests in either room.

With its refreshed appearance, updated amenities, and continued emphasis on honoring those who served, American Legion Post 468 offers more than a place to gather. It provides a welcoming setting where veterans, families and the community can come together.

Foodie Cards: the perfect gift for food lovers

'Tis the season for thoughtful gift-giving, and FoodieCards makes it easy to support local restaurants while saving big!

Each FoodieCards deck contains 56 playable cards, each offering $10 off your bill at over 56 restaurants across the Toledo metro area — delivering more than $500 in total savings. For over a decade, FoodieCards has helped diners enjoy great meals at independent spots while raising significant funds for schools, sports teams, charities, and community organizations.

"FoodieCards fundraising has become a game-changer for local groups," says co-owner Gary Ross. "Right now, we're proud to partner with Progeria Research, Ronald McDonald House, Northview and Southview high schools. Those are examples of how these decks can give back to our community."

More than just discounts, FoodieCards turn dining out into an adventure. Shuffle the deck, draw a card, and let fate pick your next unforgettable meal. From upscale fine dining and cozy brunch favorites to casual neighborhood gems and the hottest new openings, there's something for every mood and every occasion.

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Hill brothers make their mark on Sylvania Country Club golf course



Graham Hill shoots a hole-in-one on Sylvania Country Club's No. 9.



Cameron Hill qualifies for the national Drive, Chip, Putt competition.

For brothers Cameron and Graham Hill, spending time on the golf course is more than just a pastime. Whether they are playing at Sylvania Country Club or practicing their swings at the club or in their backyard, the two young golfers are dedicated to improving their games. That commitment is already paying off in some memorable ways.

Cameron, 11, has earned a spot in the prestigious Drive, Chip & Putt National Finals in Augusta, Ga, the week before the Masters tournament.

His journey to the national competition included an impressive string of first-place finishes. Cameron won the local qualifier at Belle Isle Golf Course in June, followed by the subregional qualifier at The Orchards Golf Club in Washington, MI, in Aug. He continued his winning streak at the regional qualifier at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind., on Sept. 20, securing his place among the nation's top young golfers.

Meanwhile, his older brother, Graham, 13, recently experienced every golfer's dream by scoring a hole-in-one.

On Oct. 18, Graham used a 7-iron to send his ball 152 yards into the cup on the ninth hole at Sylvania Country Club. It was a remarkable shot creating an unforgettable milestone for him.

According to their mother, Alyssa, golf has been part of the boys' lives since they were old enough to hold a club. "They love to play," she said.

Their father, Chris, shares their enthusiasm for the sport. A players' agent who also has experience coaching NCAA golf, he has helped foster the boys' interest in the game.

Although golf is their primary sport, the Hill brothers also stay active on the ice, playing for Toledo Cherokee hockey teams.

The Hill family has called Sylvania home for the past three years, and the brothers are already making their mark in the local sports community. With Cameron heading to one of golf's most celebrated stages and Graham adding a hole-in-one to his accomplishments, these young athletes are proving that dedication, practice and a love of the game can lead to some extraordinary experiences.

Whiteford Elementary student garden dedicated to Ray Holston

What began as a small gardening club at Whiteford Elementary has blossomed into a thriving outdoor classroom, bringing students, families and staff together through a shared love of gardening. Now, the garden has an even deeper meaning.

In celebration of its first harvest, Whiteford Elementary's student garden club members, parents and staff gathered to dedicate the garden to Ray Holston, Sylvania Schools director of business operations, who passed away last July. Named the "Ray of Light" garden, the project honors a man whose early support helped bring the students' gardening dreams to life.

"Ray was a great help. He looked at our landscape and offered his advice and worked with the school district's grounds crew to get the garden established. He certainly was a great help, and it was only fitting to dedicate the garden to him," said Whiteford Principal Andy Ward.

Ward credits Occupational Therapy Assistant Kira Robertson's passion for gardening with sparking the project. Her enthusiasm led to the formation of a garden club where students could learn firsthand about planting, growing and caring for their own garden.

Both Ward and Robertson were overwhelmed by the support they received from parents and local businesses.

"Thanks to all the donations we received, we were able to build the garden, complete with six raised beds, composting bins and more," Robertson said.

The fledgling club held its first meeting last March with 12 students. That number quickly grew to 35 as the group prepared to move its gardening efforts outdoors.

In those early days, students learned about soil, composting and starting plants from seeds, which they did indoors.

"I was thrilled to see the club numbers grow and the enthusiasm each student had to learn all about successful gardening," Robertson said.

As soon as the weather permitted, the young gardeners transferred their indoor plants to the raised beds. They quickly discovered that gardening involves more than planting and watching things grow. Weeding, watering and protecting their crops from hungry deer and

WHITEFORD GARDEN TO 15

Sylvania School Scene

TIM ZIEROFF

SYLVANIA SCHOOL SCENE



On Nov. 3 our community made an important decision about the future of Sylvania Schools, and I want to begin by simply saying thank you.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to learn about our district's financial situation, ask questions, participate in community conversations, and ultimately make your voice heard. Most importantly, thank you for the confidence you have placed in Sylvania Schools and for helping preserve the opportunities and experiences that our students have come to expect.

The passage of the November 3 operating levy allows us to move forward without the significant reductions that would have been necessary beginning with the 2027-28 school year. It allows us to continue providing the academic programs, student supports, extracurricular opportunities, arts, athletics, career-technical opportunities, and other experiences that are such an important part of a Sylvania education.

This decision does not change our responsibility to be good stewards of public resources. We will continue to be fiscally responsible. We will continue to look for efficiencies, carefully evaluate expenditures, and make thoughtful decisions about how we use the resources entrusted to us by our community. The passage of this levy is not a blank check. It is an investment in our students and our schools, and we have an obligation to honor that investment through responsible financial management.

Over the past several months, I have repeatedly said that our responsibility was to provide our community with accurate and transparent information about our financial situation and the choices before us. I am grateful that so many members of our community engaged in that process.

Most importantly, our work continues. Today, we continue doing what we do every day, educating, empowering, and inspiring our students. We will continue working together to provide Excellence Through Opportunity for every student in Sylvania Schools.

Thank you for believing in our students, supporting our staff, and helping preserve the Sylvania Schools that our community values. There is a lot of work ahead of us, and I am excited about what we can accomplish together.

Whiteford Elementary garden dedicated FROM 14



The Whiteford Elementary School garden, dedicated to Ray Holston, flourishes.

rabbits became part of the weekly routine.

The students also planted a bed of sunflower seeds on the opposite side of the building. They delighted in watching the plants stretch skyward, with some growing nearly as tall as the school.

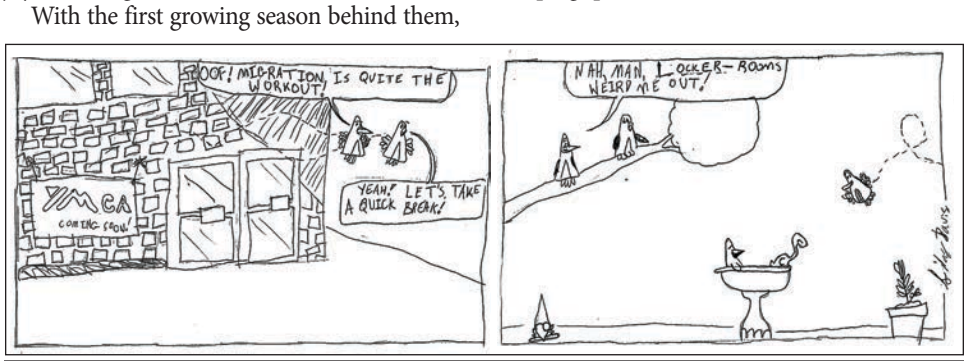
"The sunflowers are in the right place to welcome the bus-riding students as they come to and leave from school each day," Ward noted.

The garden continued to flourish throughout the summer, thanks to families who volunteered to water and weed the beds each week. Their efforts helped produce an assortment of vegetables and herbs, and the participating families also enjoyed sharing in the benefits of the harvest.

With the first growing season behind them, Robertson is already looking ahead. She organized the first garden club meeting of the new school year this fall and plans to reconvene the group early next spring as preparations begin for the 2027 growing season.

The garden may have started with a handful of students and a little enthusiasm, but it has grown into something much larger, a place where children learn patience, responsibility and the rewards of working together as they harvest the fruits of their labor.

And with its new name, the Ray of Light garden will continue to reflect the generosity and helping spirit of the man it honors.



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Halloween Hike fun


Ryan and **Derek Martindale** and daughter **Hannah** are the dragon family at the Oct. 24th Halloween Hike at Olander Park.


Armadillo **Lewis Anderson** receives lots of attention he collects candy along Lake Olander.


Sally aka **Samantha** and Charlie Brown aka **Jake Yoder** keep their daughter Snoopy **Adeline** near the house.


Stella Nowicki enjoys her first Halloween Hike with her dad, **Chris** and grandparents **Sarah** and **Casey Nowicki**.


Adam and **Ali Simpson** and their son **Noah** are in full dress at the annual Halloweeen Hike.


Kyle and **Alana Talkington** and daughters **Eleanor** and **Poppy** have fun at the event.

Paws & Protect with Leo



Thanksgiving is quickly approaching and I just wanted to take a moment to say how thankful I am. I am so thankful to be in such an amazing community filled with great friends! I encourage everyone to take some time this month to think about what each of you are thankful for.

Safety first while traveling: No matter how short the trip is, buckle up every time! Accidents can happen any time, even on short drives, so make sure you always have your seatbelt on, so you can be safe. Make sure you follow the manufacturers guidelines for your car seats or booster seats for my smaller friends to ensure they are the safest as we travel!

Kitchen safety: I know it's so much fun to play with our family, especially if we haven't seen them in a while, but keep the play out of the kitchen. We should all keep a safe distance from hot stoves, ovens, and boiling pots so we don't get burnt. That is why I like to make sure my pot handles are turned inward so no one accidently bumps them. Finally, ask an adult for help if any of my younger friends are going to help move hot dishes or if they are going to handle any sharp knives.

Remember friends, Thanksgiving is all about being thankful, making memories, and spending time with loved ones. We have to keep safety upfront so we can enjoy this day the most. Have a wonderful holiday everyone, stay safe and keep those tails wagging!

Remember everyone, stay safe, the Leo way!

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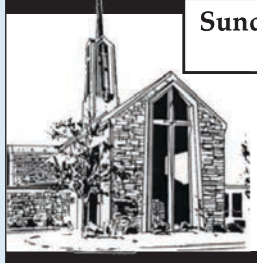
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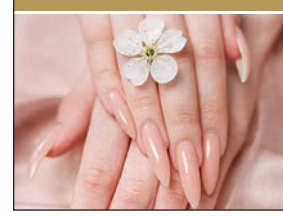

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Vacant Civil Service Commission Seat

The City of Sylvania is announcing a vacancy on its Civil Service Commission beginning January 1, 2027 and is seeking interested and qualified individuals who wish to serve their community in this important capacity.

The Civil Service Commission is responsible for establishing rules and regulations regarding the classification, promotion, and employment standards of city employees (such as police officers, public works personnel, and administrative clerks). The commission oversees competitive examinations and serves as an appellate body for employee personnel actions.

The term of this appointment runs until December 31, 2032.

Any resident qualified and interested in the open seat should forward his or her résumé and letter of interest to: Claudia Witkowski, Clerk of Council, 6730 Monroe St., Suite 203, Sylvania, OH 43560; e-mail: cwitkowski@cityofsylvania.com. All resumes and letters of interest need to be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS-ALTERNATE MEMBER

Looking for an opportunity to serve the Sylvania community? If so, the Sylvania Township Board of Trustees is accepting applications for appointment of an Alternate Member to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The alternate to the BZA serves on the BZA when one of the regular members is unable to attend. It is for a one-year term commencing on January 1, 2027.

To be appointed, applicants must be a Sylvania Township resident and at least 18 years old. For more information on the appointments please contact Oliver Turner, Sylvania Township Administrator at (419) 882-0031.

If you would like to apply, fill out the online application by November 16, 2026, via the following link https://www.sylvaniatownship.com/board.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING

The Sylvania Township Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Meeting on **Monday, December 7, 2026, at 5 pm** at the Township Hall, 4927 Holland-Sylvania Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560 for consideration of the following:

1) Exception for an addition to a legal non-conforming dwelling for the property located at 4907 Homerdale Ave. (Parcel No. 78-55974) STZR – SECTION 1703

2) Variance Request for an addition to a legal non-conforming dwelling for a front setback from 30' required to 26.58' provided for the property located at 4907 Homerdale Ave. (Parcel No. 78-55974) STZR – SECTION 700(A)

Notice: The Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct hearings on all issues published within this agenda. All persons interested in or affected by said request will have the right and opportunity to be heard on the question of granting or denying of said requests. Information concerning said matters is on file in the Sylvania Township Zoning Office and may be seen Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

By Order of BZA Yuri Osterhout, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING/HEARING

The Sylvania Township Zoning Commission will hold a Meeting on **Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Township Hall, 4927 Holland-Sylvania Rd., Sylvania, OH 43560 for consideration of the following:

1. Zone Change Request from C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to R-A (Low Density Residential) for the property located at 7758 W Bancroft St. (Parcel No. 78-55301)

Notice: Upon receiving recommendations from the Lucas County Plan Commission the Zoning Commission will conduct hearings on all zoning issues published for legislative consideration within this agenda. All persons interested in or affected by said requests will have the right and opportunity to be heard on the question of granting or denying of said requests. Information concerning said matters is on file in the Sylvania Township Zoning Office and may be seen Mon., Wed. & Thurs., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After the Zoning Commission takes action on zoning matters before it; said actions will be referred to the Board of Trustees for final determination.

BY ORDER OF ZC Chairman John King

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