



## Ashland's Candy Cane Trail sets world record with largest display of illuminated metal structures

Light displays, drive-through shows and movie-worthy main streets are all featured on TourismOhio's 2024 Ohio Holiday Lights Trail. With 73 stops, this year's trail brings together Ohio's most beloved displays and exciting new additions, inviting Ohioans and visitors to experience brilliance of the holidays.

The Ohio Holiday Lights Trail can be viewed online or downloaded on the Holidays in Ohio featured page on TourismOhio's website at Ohio.org.

Displays along the self-guided trail include seven million lights at Winterfest at Kings Island, Steubenville Nutcracker Village, six botanical gardens, five illuminated zoos and four museums and historical parks.

Included on the trail this year is Ashland's Candy Cane Trail at

Freer Field. On Sunday, Dec. 1, many gathered at the field for a Guinness World Record event for hosting the largest display of illuminated metal structures/sculptures.

To set the world record, a minimum of 400 illuminated structures needed to be in place. They also had to represent or symbolize something specific. In this case, the structures represented Christmas trees. The total number of illuminated trees total 776.

Those attending were treated to hot cocoa, peppermint donuts and a fireworks display.

A partnership between Dick and Ronda Poorbaugh of Grandpa's Cheesebarn, the City of Ashland and the Ashland County Parks District made the event possible. Crews from BCU Electric, McB's Paving and Innovations In Lights helped pull it all together.

The trail is open any time before 9:30 pm each night through Jan. 5. Walking the trail is free and open to the public.

Along with Ashland being new to the trail, new stops also include Lucy Depp Park Light Show in Powell, Everal Barn & Homestead in Westerville, Christmas in the Village in McConnelsville and Hartville Winter Wonderfest in Hartville.

"The magic of the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail lies in the dedication of the communities who help bring these displays to life," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development, which oversees TourismOhio. "Each display reflects the creativity and passion of the many Ohioans who are spreading holiday joy and helping families make memories together."

TourismOhio encourages Ohioans and visitors to download the newly released Ohio Holiday Events Guide. The guide spotlights five events from each of Ohio's 88 counties.

"Ohio's Holiday Lights Trail is a twinkling treasure hunt full of festive surprises that light up the season in unexpected ways," said Sarah Wickham, Ohio state tourism director. "It's the perfect way for Ohioans and visitors to experience our state's holiday spirit and make spirits bright, one sparkling light at a time."

TourismOhio opens the call for applications for the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail annually in late summer. TourismOhio staff review each submission to ensure attractions meet trail criteria and that all regions of the state are well represented.



Photo By Naomi Conger

**CITY OF ASHLAND** Mayor Matt Miller and State Representative Melanie Miller welcome Brittany Dunn, an adjudicator for Guinness World Records. Dunn came to Candy Cane Trail at Freer Field in Ashland as the city celebrated going into the record books as the largest display of illuminated metal structures/sculptures. The 3/4 mile paved trail features 776 illuminated trees.

## City of Ontario tree lighting is Dec. 5

The City of Ontario will host a Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, Dec. 5 at Marshall Park.

The lighting will include the decorations purchased last year from the Beal Rd. Haggerman Family display.

The schedule includes 5:30 pm, hot chocolate and cookies and jazz band performance; 5:45 pm, golf cart parade with Santa and Miss Ontario; 5:50 pm, Rhapsody in Blue performance; 6:15 pm, Golden Girls, flag core and majorettes performance; and 6:30 pm, Ontario Lions Club Coloring Contest.

## Church to host Experience Bethlehem

Clear Fork Alliance Church, 1008 Rt. 97 E., Bellville, will host its 23rd Experience Bethlehem event on Dec. 13, 14 and 15.

Admission is free and tours are held from 6:30-8:30 pm on Friday and Saturday and from 2-4 pm on Sunday.

This indoor event is a walk-through of the nativity story which concludes at a Bethlehem marketplace to spend free coins on games, crafts, food and prizes. Bethlehem will remain open one hour after the last tour.

The church is located across from Clear Fork High School. Visit [www.clearforkalliance.org](http://www.clearforkalliance.org)



Photo By Naomi Conger

**THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** choir sang at the Candy Cane Trail celebration. Pastor Harry Strachan opened the evening with prayer.

# Alzheimer's Association encourages caregivers to make their health and wellbeing an equal priority

The Alzheimer's Association is encouraging dementia caregivers to make their own health an equal priority as they navigate the demands and stresses of caring for someone else.

"As difficult as it may be, caregivers need to make their health and well-being an equal priority," said Pam Myers, senior director, programs for the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio and Central Ohio Chapters. "Maintaining one's health can help caregivers be better. No caregiver should face this disease alone and the Alzheimer's Association is here to help."

Currently, there are more than 414,000 caregivers in Ohio providing care to more than 236,200 individuals living with Alzheimer's.

Caring for those living with Alzheimer's or other dementia poses special challenges for family caregivers. As dementia symptoms worsen, caregivers can experience increased emotional stress, depression, anxiety, and new or worsened health problems. In addition, caregivers often experience depleted finances due to disruptions in employment and paying for health care or other services.

"Caring for a person with Alzheimer's takes longer, lasts longer, and is more personal and extensive than most other diseases. It takes a heavy toll on the health of the caregivers themselves," said Myers. "During the course of the disease, caregiving tasks escalate and become more intensive. As a result, many dementia caregivers neglect their own health needs and that can lead to a crisis."

According to the Alzheimer's Association 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, the impacts on Ohio caregivers include: 63.7% have chronic health conditions, 27.8% have depression and 17.4% are in poor physical health.

To help caregivers balance competing priorities while maintaining their overall health and well-being, the Alzheimer's Association offers these tips:

- Find time for yourself. It's normal to need a break from caregiving duties. No one can do it all by themselves. Consider taking ad-

vantage of respite care or help from family and friends to spend time doing something you enjoy.

- Become an educated caregiver. Understand the disease, its progression and accompanying behavioral and physical changes. Know resources in your community that can help.

- Build a support network. Organize friends and family who want to help provide care and support. Access local caregiver support groups or online communities, such as ALZConnected, to connect with other caregivers. If stress becomes overwhelming, seek professional help.

- Take care of yourself. Try to eat well, exercise and get plenty of rest. Making sure that you are healthy can help you be a better caregiver.

- Avoid caregiver burnout. Sustained caregiver stress can lead to caregiver burnout — a state of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion. The Alzheimer's Association offers Caregiver Stress Check to help caregivers identify and avoid caregiver burnout.

- Accept changes. Eventually your loved one will need more intensive kinds of care. Research care options now so you are ready for the changes as they occur.

- Understand you are doing your best. It's normal to lose patience or feel like your care may fall short sometimes. For support and encouragement, consider joining an online or in-person support group.

"Caregiving is an incredible act of love, but it can also be isolating and exhausting," said Jewel Rollins, Northwest Ohio Chapter volunteer and support group facilitator. "I watched my grandmother's journey after my grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She went from being a wife, mother, and grandmother to a full-time caregiver for her husband, with my father and his siblings stepping into caregiving roles as well."

"Over time, I saw them devote themselves so fully that they began to lose parts of themselves, often putting their own health at risk. I want to be a facilitator to help other caregivers find support and relief in the important, yet often overwhelming, responsibility they've taken on with such grace and resilience."

"Caregivers should not isolate themselves," continued Rollins. "Connecting with other caregivers and the Alzheimer's Association can help you find the information, resources and emotional support you need to stay physically and emotionally strong so you can take care of yourself while you provide care to your loved one. In the end, taking care of yourself so you can be a better caregiver is really a gift to the person you are caring for."

Caregivers can find local dementia caregivers support groups and helpful free resources including care consultations and monthly education programs at [alz.org/nwohio](http://alz.org/nwohio).

To learn more about Alzheimer's or other dementia and to access free local support and resources, visit [alz.org/nwohio](http://alz.org/nwohio) or call the Northwest Ohio Chapter at 419-537-1999 or the 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

## Santa Breakfast planned at RRLC

The Richland Rural Life Center, 969 E. Crall Rd., will host a Santa Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7, in two sessions.

The meal will include all you can eat pancakes with scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, orange juice, milk, water and coffee.

Children are encouraged to write a letter to Santa. Those attending will have a chance to visit and take photos with Santa by a warm wood fireplace.

Following breakfast, visitors will decorate cookies next door in Santa's workshop. All children must be accompanied by an adult, no high chairs are provided.

Cost is \$10.50 for age 12 to adult; \$6 for ages 4-11 and three and under are free.

Reservations are being taken now for 9 am and 10 am seatings. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEA-B22A0F9C61-53329163-breakfast#/>

A limited number of walk-ins will be available (cash only).

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## Tribune-Courier



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# News Briefs

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, Dec. 28 and 29. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

The Reed Road entrance ramp to U.S. 30 westbound is scheduled to close Thursday, Dec. 5 in order for crews to complete bridge repairs on the structure over U.S. 30.

The ramp will be closed for two days. The detour route for the ramp closure will be to continue north on Reed Road to west on Crider Road to south on Laver Road to U.S. 30 west. Estimated ramp reopening is Friday, Dec. 6.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. monthly corporate board meeting will be held on Dec. 11, at 2 pm at 2131 Park Avenue West, Ontario. For additional information contact Susie Danuloff at [sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org](mailto:sdanuloff@aaa5ohio.org) or 567-247-7105.

A free Shelby community meal will be held at Awake Church, 3616 St. Rt. 39, Shelby, on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 6–7 pm. For information visit [www.awakeshelby.com](http://www.awakeshelby.com) or call 419-342-4636.

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 96, Bellville. Meals are \$15. The next meal will be held Dec. 18 and will be the Christmas luncheon. Ontario High School will provide entertainment.

For information visit [www.lexasc.org](http://www.lexasc.org). Dues are \$10 per year.

Richland County adults 60 and older are invited to penny bingo games on Mondays from April to December at the Lincoln Highway Event Center, 1361 Park Avenue East, Mansfield (Madison area). Bingo starts at 11:30 am with doors opening at 10 am.

Fifteen games of penny bingo and full house will be played. Cost is a penny a card for 15 games and a nickel a card for full house. This is a 100% payout. Snacks are provided.

To RSVP, call Kathy Boyle at 419-543-1813. These events are supported and funded by the Richland County Senior Services Levy, administered by the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Christmas Time in the City will be held at Richland Carrousel Park in downtown Mansfield Friday, Dec. 6, from 5:30–8:30 pm. A tree lighting will be held at 6 pm. There will be caroling, photos with Santa and live reindeer.

Main Street in Bellville will host a Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 11 am. After the parade, those attending can visit the township building (old fire station) for hot cocoa, cookies, hot dogs, crafts

for kids, horse and carriage rides and a visit with Santa. All activities and refreshments are free. For parade entry information email [tina-schristmasparade@gmail.com](mailto:tina-schristmasparade@gmail.com).

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 25 Church St., Bellville, will welcome Jacquie Zarley to speak on “Rosa Mystica” at 10:30 am on Sunday, Dec. 8. For information visit [www.allsoulsuohio.org](http://www.allsoulsuohio.org).

Richland Public Health will be closed from 8 am to 4:30 pm on Dec. 9, for a scheduled staff in-service day.

The City of Ashland Christmas Parade “A Vintage Christmas” will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 6 pm.

Spring Village Lane and Victoria Court neighborhood in Ontario will have sewer line replacement and repairs from Dec 2 through March of 2025. Drivers should use caution in these areas.

The Madison Comprehensive High School Jazz Band and Jazz Choir will perform “A Very Jazzy Christmas” Cabaret on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 pm at Madison Middle School, 1419 Grace St. Admission is \$5.

The high school choirs will also perform in the annual holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7, at the middle school.

The choir at Hope Lutheran Church (formerly St. Timothy Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran) will host a Community Christmas Choir.

This year the Christmas Celebration Cantata celebrates 20 years and will include a selection of favorite cantatas from the last two decades. This event will be held at Madison Middle School on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 pm. A freewill offering will be accepted.

The “Giving Ontario” Toy Drive is going on now through Dec. 18. The Springfield Township Fire Department, The Ontario Center and Ontario Community Events will join together to collect toys for local children and teens.

New, unwrapped toys, gift cards and teen gifts can be dropped off at either fire station, 3700 Park Avenue West or 400 S. Lex-Springmill Rd., Ontario.

Richland Academy of the Arts will present its ninth annual production of *The Nutcracker Ballet*, hosted at the Renaissance Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 pm as part of the Spotlight Series. This classic is perfect for all ages

Each year, this production brings together a community of young dancers from across Richland County and beyond, making it a powerful experience for everyone involved.

Eighth-grade Isabelle Ruhl will step into the role of young Clara. This year’s cast features Eva Rietschlin and Sophia Sandwall from Ontario High School; Nora Ball and Kaylie Yetzer from Lexington High School; Olivia Laux from St. Peter’s High School; Jaylee Black from Madison Jr. High School; Ava Irwin from Mansfield Christian School; Piper Hilterman from Classical Conversations Homeschool Program; and guest dancer Matthew Piper as the Nutcracker Prince.

Tickets are available at 419-522-2726 or online at [rentickets.org](http://rentickets.org).

## New look. Same us.

Have you heard—err—seen?! We have a new logo. But don't worry, we're still the same independently owned Mechanics.

**Ahh, That's Better!**





Passo Di Giau Italy • Photo By Mark Shutt

## Governor signs bill increasing access to college and protecting students

Senate Bill 104, joint sponsored by State Senators Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware) and Jerry C. Cirino (R-Kirtland) has been signed into law by Governor DeWine.

This legislation updates Ohio's College Credit Plus Program to increase access and awareness so more students can participate. The bill also requires single-sex bathroom, shower room, and changing room use in Ohio's K-12 schools and public and private higher education institutions.

"I appreciate the governor for signing this important legislation into law," said Brenner. "This commonsense bill was amended to require that biological boys must use boys' bathrooms and biological girls must use girls' bathrooms."

"Senate Bill 104 will give our next generation further opportunities to make college affordable and accessible so they leave prepared for successful careers," Cirino said. "It also protects our students in private spaces in a balanced, common sense way that respects everyone. I commend the Governor for his thoughtfulness and prompt signature so all Ohioans can have bright futures."

Learn more about Senate Bill 104 at <https://legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/sb104>

# Church Directory

### Clay Memorial Lutheran Church

1601 Amoy East Rd., Mansfield  
419-747-6882  
Pastor Carol Kilgore  
Sunday School 9:15 am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am

### Clear Fork Alliance Church

1008 State Route 97, Bellville  
419-886-4333 • [www.clearforkalliance.org](http://www.clearforkalliance.org)  
Rev. Matt Merendino  
Rev. Mike Stine, Associate Pastor  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Sunday Evening 6 pm Home Groups  
Monday Men's Group 7:30 pm  
Wednesday evenings: 6:45 pm Prayer Meeting  
6:30-8 pm TeamKID and Youth Group  
Wednesday Ladies Bible Study 6:30-8 pm

### Community Bible Church

1043 Springmill St., Mansfield  
567-560-8011  
[www.DiscoverCommunity.org](http://www.DiscoverCommunity.org)  
Pastor Sam Belsterling  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Live stream at <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBibleChurchMansfield>

### First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

200 West Third St., Mansfield  
419-524-4813 • [mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com](mailto:mansfield1stcc1833@gmail.com)  
Rev. Gregory Bibler  
Office Hours: Tu., W., Th. 9 am to 1 pm  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
Christian Builders, Sunday, 9:30 am  
[www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com](http://www.FirstChristianChurchMansfield.com)  
FB: FirstChristianChurch,Mansfield,Ohio

### First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-3046 • [www.mansfieldfcc.com](http://www.mansfieldfcc.com)  
Pastor Brad Bunn  
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary  
Sunday School 10:30 am

### First English Lutheran Church

53 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-522-0662 • [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)  
Pastor Jay Jackson  
9 am Sunday School • 10 am Sunday Worship  
Call about Prayer Groups, Small Groups, Bible Studies, Book Clubs, Pub Theology, Community Meals, Free Produce distribution and Senior Boxes.

### Hope Lutheran Church

(Formerly St. Paul & St. Timothy)  
2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield  
419-529-4351 • [www.lutheranhope.org](http://www.lutheranhope.org)  
Pastor Jonathan Stuftt  
9:30 am Sunday Worship  
10 am Thursday Bible Study  
Free Breakfast 2nd Saturdays 9 am  
Free Dinner 4th Sundays 5 pm

### Lexington Presbyterian Church

35 Church St. West, Lexington  
419-884-1330  
Pastor Denny Nezrick  
10:30 am Sunday Worship  
<https://www.facebook.com/Lexington-Presbyterian-Church-117768414915815>

### G & M Body & Paint Shop

1689 West Fourth St., Ontario  
419-529-2747

### Mansfield 1st EPC

399 Trimble Rd., Mansfield  
419-756-7066 • [www.mansfield1st.com](http://www.mansfield1st.com)  
Rev. Joseph Yerger  
9 am Adult & Youth Sunday School  
10 am Sunday Worship  
ADA Accessible Nursery  
and Children's Programming Available

### Mansfield Baptist Temple

752 N. Stewart Rd., Mansfield  
419-589-5413 • [www.mbt.org](http://www.mbt.org)  
Pastor Rob Kurtz  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am & 5:30 pm Sunday Worship  
7 pm Wednesday Service

### Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario  
419-529-4345 • [ontarioumc.com](http://ontarioumc.com)  
Pastor George Lee  
10:15 am Sunday Worship  
10:15 am Kingdom Kids

### St. John's United Church of Christ

68 Park Avenue East, Mansfield  
419-522-2813 • [www.stjohnsmansfield.org](http://www.stjohnsmansfield.org)  
Pastor Faith Proietti  
10 am Sunday Worship  
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm  
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;  
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm  
Clothing Ministry by appt: 419-512-9817

### Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield  
419-589-5890 • [trinitygracefellowship.org](http://trinitygracefellowship.org)  
Pastor Larry Carnes  
9:30 am Sunday Worship  
11 am Sunday School  
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

### Wappner Funeral Home

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# Ohians can get help from Home Energy Assistance Program

The Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging wants to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs.

Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application.

Those in need of assistance may also visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1, 2025. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc at 419-524-4144 and ask for a navigator.

To be connected to a local energy assistance provider, call 800-282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov).

## First Congregational Church invites community to special services

First Congregational Church, 640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield, has announced the holiday schedule for the historic church located across the street from the Mansfield Art Center.

Each Sunday in December, Advent season will be celebrated with communion, special events and fellowship.

On Dec. 8, at 10:30 am, the Chancel Choir will celebrate by sharing a special presentation of "Jesus! The advent of the Messiah." This large-scale production will feature live musicians and a full choir sharing traditional Christmas hymns. Also on Dec. 8, the church will gather for a "Sweet Treat Cookie Walk." Those attending are asked to bring a cake as a fundraiser for the youth mission, where guests can get their fill of holiday sweets.

On Dec. 15, at 10:30 am, the community is invited to attend a children's Christmas program, featuring youth and teenagers sharing the story of Jesus' birth with music, costumes and narration.

On Dec. 24, at 7 pm, a candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held. This special service is designed for all to reflect and remember the reason for the season. Held in the historic sanctuary, the services will be lit by candlelight.

Rev. Brad Bunn, shared, "The First Congregational Church is such a special place in our community, and we invite everyone to come and celebrate this special time of year with us."

Sunday services are held at 8:30 am and 10:30 am and all are welcome. Services are also broadcast via Facebook (follow us there to stay up to date with events and more). Nursery services are available at 10:30 am. Elevators to each floor of the building are also available.

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### Obituary Listings for Wappner Funeral Directors

- Judy Alice Applegate, November 23
- Deborah Hope Armstrong, November 24
- Scott Allen Brown, November 24
- Clara Louise Catron, November 24

**View Full Obituaries at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)**

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[www.wappner.com](http://www.wappner.com)



## ONTARIO COMMUNITY EVENTS *Craft Show*

Saturday, December 7 (8:30 am - 3:00 pm)

Richland County Fairgrounds

Admission is \$2 per person or a new toy (no stuffed animals please)

All proceeds will benefit the Brian Morris Family, The Ontario Lions Club, and Ontario Community Events. Toys will be donated to the Springfield Twp Fire Department and Ontario Police.

# Discovery School now included as a scholarship granting organization

Discovery School is the latest addition to the list of the State of Ohio's Scholarship Granting Organizations. This means that the school can now accept donations to its scholarship fund giving a dollar for dollar credit against their Ohio tax liability when people file their taxes with the state this upcoming tax season.

The State of Ohio introduced the Ohio Scholarship Donation Credit in 2021, and it will be available again in 2025. Each donation reduces taxpayers' Ohio income tax up to \$750 (individual) or \$1,500 (married filing jointly). They can also receive a federal tax deduction for this charitable contribution. For those filing a married joint return, each person needs to make their own \$750 contribution to claim the maximum tax credit of \$1,500.

This credit is limited to the total Ohio State income tax owed for the 2024 tax year, and qualifying contributions are made at no additional cost to the taxpayer. This means that taxpayers can essentially choose an organization - like Discovery School - to donate to and receive tax credit from the state of Ohio, lowering their tax due by the amount donated.

Head of School, Simon Clark is excited that this scholarship opportunity will allow more students in Richland County to be able to receive an International Baccalaureate education. "We are pleased to be able to offer this scholarship opportunity to families who appreciate the joy of learning and want to foster curiosity and creativity in their child's education. We recognize learning as an adventure, and through additional scholarship opportunities, we hope to be able to make Discovery School accessible to any interested family."

Interested donors should contact the school for more information. Business Manager Susanne Carmack is able to offer support on how to go through the donation process.

Clark adds, "We hope that anyone who values education and developing lifelong learners will choose to donate to our SGO and help make a meaningful difference to our students who are looking for hands-on learning."

For more information about the school, visit [www.discovery-school.net](http://www.discovery-school.net) or call 419-756-8880.



Discovery Head of School, Simon Clark

The Ontario Lions Club would like to thank the following donating and supporting businesses who made the fall pancake day a success on Nov. 2:

ABC Warehouse, Alta Florist & Greenhouse, Athens Greek Restaurant, Bob & Bob Door Co., Buffalo Wild Wings, Five Guys, Gates State Farm Insurance, The Cap Place, Goodyear, Graham's Auto Mall, Harbor Freight, Hobby Town, Kathy Williams, Mid-Ohio Mind, Body & Soul, Millie's Music Studio, Oak Tree Golf Club, O'Charley's Restaurant & Bar, Park National Bank, Lion Randy Hanlon, Red Lobster, Reflections Salon & Spa, Rinehart, Walters, Danner, Ins., Sutton Bank, Texas Road House, T.G.I. Fridays, Thrive Nutrition Studio, Tractor Supply Co., Twin Lakes and What Goes Around.

The spring pancake day will be Saturday, April 5, from 6:30 am to noon.

Those interested in becoming a member of the Ontario Lions Club can contact a member for information or mail Ontario Lions Club, 3777 Park Ave. West, Ontario, OH 44903.

President Lion Randy Boyce and The Ontario Lions Club members

# Local, state and national DAR scholarships available

Various local, state and national scholarships are available through the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Each has separate requirements.

The Jared Mansfield Chapter local scholarship is open to all students, both genders, who will be attending OSU-Mansfield, NCSO or the Dwight Schlar College of Nursing, Mansfield and pursuing any field of study.

The local scholarship is also open to high school graduating seniors. This scholarship is renewable, and the student may apply each year. Call Joedy Studer at 419-631-1015 for information.

The completed application must be postmarked by April 15. The Ohio Society Daughters of the American Revolution awards the "Wings of Eagles" scholarship to graduating high school seniors, including those completing a certified home school program, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Awards are based on academic excellence and financial need. All applicants must be citizens of the United States and legal residents of the state of Ohio and must attend an accredited college or university in the United States.

Visit OSDAR at [ohiodar.org](http://ohiodar.org) to obtain a scholarship application. All applicants must be sponsored by the local DAR chapter and applications must be submitted to the local chapter by Jan. 31.

The National DAR also offers scholarships in many different majors. All students will submit their applications using an online process at <http://dar.academicworks.com>. Emailed or mailed applications will no longer be accepted.

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*kimmy's cucina*  
By Kim Sterry

**VEGETABLE SOUP WITH SAUSAGE**

**Ingredients**

- 1 lb loose Italian sausage
- 2 cups green beans - measure after cutting in thirds
- 3 summer squash, chopped
- 3 carrots, washed, peeled and chopped
- 5 stalks of celery, washed and chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 cans diced tomatoes (smaller cans or 1 large)
- 32 ounce box chicken/vegetable broth (Add another box if you would like more broth).
- 1 Tbsp. Italian seasoning salt & pepper olive oil
- Parmesan cheese to grate on top

**Instructions**

In a large stockpot over medium heat, add enough olive oil to cover bottom, garlic, onion and sausage. Saute until sausage is cooked and the mixture begins to get a little browned. Add the vegetables and continue to cook for a few minutes, to infuse all those great flavors. Add the tomatoes and continue to stir. Add stock and cook until vegetables are soft but NOT soggy. (I like a little crunch to my veggies). Please note that for this soup, there really are no rules, if you want more veggies, add them, peppers would be a nice addition as well as corn. Try some different variations. If you are really in a hurry use frozen mixed vegetables. Add more tomatoes if you want. I actually added some of our homemade tomato sauce instead of the diced tomatoes. There are not set rules here for this one. Just some great flavors!

*LIKE Kimmy's Cucina on Facebook & Instagram*



Lifestyle Inspiration



THE HOME OF  
*The Harveys of Shelby*



Photo by Damon Callis

**Day Trippin' With Damon** – Hocking Hills State Park, located in South-eastern Ohio, features towering cliffs, waterfalls and deep, hemlock-shaded gorges. Visitors can enjoy trails from a quarter mile in length to over four miles. (Above Photo) Whispering Cave includes a “swinging” Hemlock Bridge and is a 4.5 mile “difficult” trail. It features the second largest cave in the region with a 105-foot seasonal waterfall.





Photos By Jenna Wolford  
**THE MANSFIELD AND LEXINGTON TURKEY TROT** 5k, 10k, Half Marathon and Kids Run was held on Thanksgiving morning on Thursday, Nov. 28. Proceeds went to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for local seniors in need as a part of Heartland Church. The races were held on the bike trail behind the church. Top finishers of the 5K were first, Ellie Maurer of Mansfield, 19:06; second, Grace Maurer of Mansfield, 19:06; third, Riley Patrick, Mansfield, 19:51; fourth, Lane Wilson, Marietta, 20:33; and fifth, Bryant Ingram, California, MD, 20:43. Top 10K finishers were first, Isaac Boroff of Mansfield, 39:44; second, Destiney Rose of Boerne, TX, 43:10; third, Jake Seymour of Ontario, 46:34; fourth, Elle Shumney, Orrville, 46:35; and fifth, Gene Toy, Crestline, 48:37. Half marathon top finishers were first, Charlie Lorson, Orrville, 1:29:21; second, Caleb Satterfield, Mansfield, 1:29:55; third, Jamie Tate, Galion, 1:31:59; fourth, Barbara Lorson, Orrville, 1:34:59; and fifth, Jonathan Martinez, Galion, 1:35:18.



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Photos By Jenna Wolford  
**ELLIE MAURER AND GRACE MAURER** of Mansfield took first and second place at the Turkey Trot with a time of 19:06.



## Village of Lexington working to fulfill EPA requirement

The Village of Lexington Council met Nov 18, with Mayor Jarvis presiding. Attending were council president Wynn Kearns, Keith Bacin, Michael Benson, Rodney Earick, Kim Little and Jeff O'Brien. Also present were law director John Studenmund, finance director James Banks, administrator Peter Them, assistant finance director Rachel Fagan and Chief Troy Weaver.

Village resident Charles Comstock asked why the letter regarding a lead hazard was sent. The wording was vague. Comstock worries about the elderly as lead is more harmful to seniors than younger adults. Them responded it is an EPA requirement that the village engineer KEM is working to verify. Houses built before 1980 need to send to village offices a picture of the service and main lines to verify if the lines are lead-type. Them advised that if this is confusing a service call can be scheduled.

Keith Bacin advised that a park board meeting was held Nov. 4, regarding capital projects for 2025.

Jim Banks gave the financial report. All ten accounts are balanced. Peter Them gave the administrative director's report.

Light Up Lexington was Dec. 2.

Council is conversing with OneDigital and Sidecar regarding employee health care renewal costs. The report will be ready for the next council meeting.

The remaining portion of Highridge and Cross Bridge Court have been paved

Council is in the process of obtaining a generator with a grant through Ohio EPA. KEM is assisting. This will be used at the tower and pumps located on Route 42 South. Applications are open through Dec. 20. Councilman Bacin asked if the 42 South project will include moving all pipes above ground. Them reported that the project to relocate to above ground for the Routh 42 South pump system has not been engineered and is a significant capital expense.

(Continued on Page 15)

## Richland County Foundation accepting scholarship applications

The Richland County Foundation has opened its college scholarship application earlier this year than in previous years.

The Foundation hopes students will take advantage of the earlier date to complete the application over the holiday break in December.

Richland County Foundation offers scholarships to graduating

high school seniors, current college or career tech students, and non-traditional students.

Past recipients of an RCF scholarship are eligible to receive awards again. No scholarships through the Foundation are automatically renewable so applicants must apply each year.

New applicants, applying for college scholarships, including

high school seniors must have at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA), and returning applicants must have at least a 2.0 GPA, attend an accredited school and be a resident of Richland County, or a graduate of a Richland County high school.

The deadline for college scholarship applications is April 1.

The Foundation Board of

Trustees also awards career technical education (CTE) scholarships to individuals who want to obtain certifications and credentials at accredited technical institutions.

CTE applicants must demonstrate academic readiness for their program through one of three ways: WorkKeys Skills Assessment, WebXam Test Report, or a relevant academic transcript. The applications will be considered as they are received, and the award determinations will be made within eight weeks.

All awarded scholarships will be sent directly to the school.

Scholarships awarded through the foundation are primarily based on the financial need of the applicant. Information used to determine needs includes tuition, books, fees, room and board expenses, as well as any institutional scholarships or grants being awarded to the student.

Also considered is the information provided upon completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students completing the college scholarship application must complete a FAFSA; students applying for CTE scholarships should complete the FAFSA if it is a requirement for their program.

The FAFSA form is an application for federal student aid and can help students pay for college or career school. Upon full completion of the form, a Student Aid Index is generated, which is used to help determine a student's need for financial aid. Students should complete the FAFSA application as soon as it becomes available.

For information visit [richland-countyfoundation.org](http://richland-countyfoundation.org) or contact Bobby Rhea at 419- 525-3020 or [brhea@rcfoundation.org](mailto:brhea@rcfoundation.org).



ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL held its first Career Day Speaker Series on Nov. 20. All juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend five sessions of their choice. Speakers came from local companies and spoke about what requirements and education are needed for each career. Speakers also discussed practical skills for being in the workforce.



# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

MADISON VS MT. VERNON GIRLS VARIETY BASKETBALL · NOV. 26  
MT. VERNON WINS 49-40 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

**MADISON VS MT. VERNON GIRLS JUNIOR VARIETY BASKETBALL · NOV. 26**  
**MT. VERNON WINS 32-25 · PHOTOS BY LILLIANA ALLEN**





# Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON VS CLEAR FORK VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL · NOV. 26  
CLEAR FORK WINS 57-41 · PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER





## Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

# Ontario's Miller named an Ohio "Mr. Football" finalist

By Kris Leiter

Two amazing athletes start with the letters "Bo" — Bo Jackson, professional athlete from the 1990s; and Bodpegn Miller, Ontario's superstar quarterback from right here in Richland County.

Bo Jackson is the only professional athlete in history to be named an All-Star in two major North American sports.

Jackson is a collegiate Heisman Trophy winner, College Football Hall of Fame inductee, NFL and baseball player for numerous teams and professional bowler. He has excelled at numerous professional sports. It would take me another day to list his accolades.

And now for the other "Bo" here in Richland County at Ontario High School. Senior Bodpegn Miller is Ontario's phenom quarterback.

Adopted from Ethiopia as a young child, Miller has opened a lot of eyes in the past four years, including being a commit to Ohio State next fall as a wide receiver.

He ironically has not caught one single pass as a wide receiver for the Warriors in the past four years — the opportunity has been non-existent. However, he has accomplished a few items of interest in terms of school records over those years, and when I say few, it might be closer to dozens, no exaggeration.

I'm sure you have heard the cliché "you have to see to believe it." Unless you have seen Bodpegn in action, it's hard to phathom his skills. When you see this amazing young man, your jaw will drop. Mine did, twice in fact, when he kicked-off during the opening game against Lexington.

He kicked the ball and it went through the uprights from his own 40-yard line. I was blown away, but then he did again! As I turned to the people sitting behind me, I asked them, "Did he really do that AGAIN?" I have never seen anything like that in my lifetime. And there was more to come.

As you watch Miller run, he has a unique style that makes him seem as if he is gliding. As he eludes defensive players, you really never can anticipate his next move.

I have watched dozens of athletes over the years, and some are truly talented, but this young man has something special.

Miller's accolades include just about everything. He can run the ball, pass and kick. He has broken many school records for the Warriors. Ohio State was so impressed with Miller that he will be playing for the Buckeyes next fall as a wide receiver. The scouts at Ohio State obviously see some talent in Miller.

His accolades include, Division IV Northwest District Co-Offensive Player of the Year, First team All-Northwest District, First Team All-Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference and Second Team All-Ohioan 2023.

For the 2024 season, his 14-week stats are 149-for-253 passing, 2,216 yards, 20 TDs passing, 211 carries, 1,988 yards rushing, 21 TDs, 18 punts, 644 yards, 35.8 yards per punt average, 41 tackles, 3 TFL, One Sack, 3 INTs and 17 touchbacks on kickoffs.

In Shelby a few weeks ago, he rushed 24–209 yards and had two touchdowns. He completed 13-of-28 passes for 294 yards and completed three touchdowns.

He holds a school record for a first-ever regional championship game. And his 4-year career consists of 6,398 passing yards, 54 touchdowns, 3,610 rushing yards and 47 touchdowns for 10,008 total yards of offense and 101 touchdowns.

He holds the program records for career passing yards, career passing touchdowns, career rushing yards, single season passing yards (2,328 in 2023), single-season rushing yards (1,988 in 2024) and is No. 2 in career rushing touchdowns, No. 2 and No. 3 in single-season passing touchdowns and No. 2 in single-season rushing touchdowns.

Miller is the only player in Ontario's history to have three 1,000-yard passing seasons and is one of just four to have two 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

Bodpegn also owns four school records in track and is an All-Ohioan in the 200-meter dash and 4x200 meter relay.

In case you didn't know it, Miller is in the running for the prestigious "Mr. Football" of Ohio. I would relate it to the Heisman Trophy.

Ohio's "Mr. Football" started back in 1987 and Miller is 1 of the 7 finalists. One of these seven will take the title "Mr. Football" at an announcement at 4 pm this Thursday. The announcement will take place prior to the commencement of the 2024 State Football Championships.

Other 2024 Ohio Mr. Football Finalists:

Scotty Fox, Mentor, QB, 6-2, 215, sr.

Nolan Good, Avon, QB, 6-2, 200, sr.

Andrew Leonard, Olentangy Liberty, QB, 5-10, 180, sr.

Keller Moten, Walsh Jesuit, QB, 5-11, 185, sr.

Matt Ponatoski, Cincinnati Moeller, QB, 6-1, 195, jr.

Tavien St. Clair, Bellefontaine, QB, 6-4, 228, sr.

Bodpegn Miller's letter of intent signing ceremony was held in The O-Rena on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Ontario High School.

## Journey to Bethlehem tours return December 21 and 22

A journey that began 30 years ago will return Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 21 and 22 after a 15-year hiatus.

"Journey to Bethlehem" is a 75-minute tour that visits 15 characters who experienced the first Christmas — the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Tours begin every 10 minutes from 3–5 pm each day at the ARC Empowerment Center, 378 Park Avenue West, on the east side of Sycamore Street.

"We know the story, we read it in the books of Matthew and Luke, we hear it in the carols, but I wanted people to hear the story from each of the persons who we know were there," said Paul Lintern, the author.

"I kept speculation to a minimum filled in as much genuine conversation with the audience as I could. The result is a tour that adds dimension to anyone's understand of the Christmas story," he said.

With music mixed in, the tour begins with a conversation between Matthew and Luke, and each group is guided by its own shepherd, who leads them to the Angel Gabriel, two prophets, an innkeeper, and people who most don't even identify as part of the Christmas story.

"Even those most are familiar with will share information and stories that will surprise the audience. The Christmas story really affects everyone uniquely," Lintern says.

Lintern wrote the Journey to Bethlehem in 1993 for First English Lutheran Church, about a half mile east of the ARC, where it was performed nine years in a row.

And outdoor version of the Journey was held at Camp Mowana several times about 15 years ago, and "drive-through" versions of the Journey were presented at Southside Christian, in Mansfield, and a hand full of churches throughout the state.

The cast is assembled from a variety of sources, but perhaps the most unique source is Mansfield City Council, where Rev. El Akuchie, Aurelio Diaz and Deborah Mount, of Wards Three, Five and Six, respectively, will portray the magi. Some of the cast members will be reprising their roles from up to 30 years ago.

Project One Director Amanda Nichols is coordinating the event as a second weekend of Christmas at the ARC, following its annual Christmas giveaway Dec. 14, for nearly 600 children.

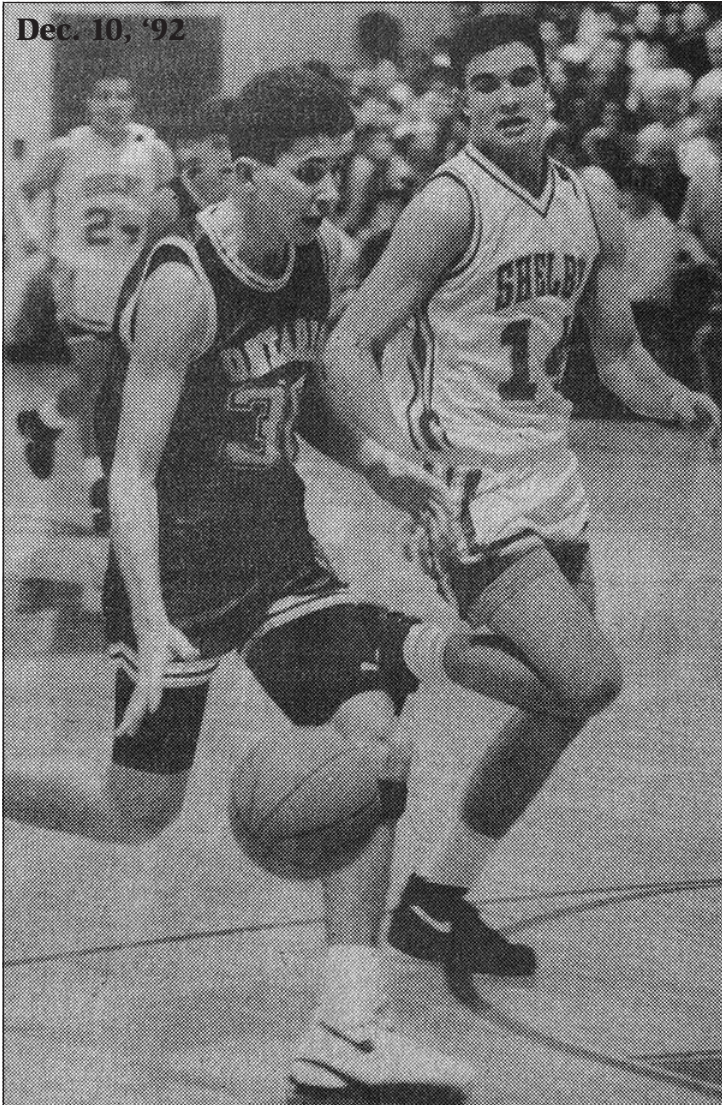
"Families from the first event will have the opportunity to return for this greatest gift of all," Nichols said.

Reservations for the free event can be made by calling the ARC at 567-241-6781 for specific tour times, at 10 minute intervals, with up to 12 in a tour.



LOOKING BACK • THIS WEEK IN TRIBUNE-COURIER HISTORY

Dec. 10, '92



George Billman

SCOTT HELLINGER (30) of Ontario brings the ball down the lane against Scott Miller (14) of Shelby Friday night. Hellinger, with ten points, was one of four Warriors in double figures as Ontario blasted the Whippets 78-60.

Dec. 10, '92



Marc Stumbo

HUMAN CHRISTMAS TREE — These Ontario Stingel Elementary second graders form a human Christmas tree as they sing during the annual Christmas musical staged last Thursday evening at Ontario High School. The entire second grade class participated in "Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight" and following their performance, the fourth grade class performed "Surfin' Santa."



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICE

The following is a succinct summary of the legislation adopted by the Council of the City of Ontario, at their regular meeting held on November 20, 2024.

The complete text of this Ordinance may be viewed and copies obtained at the Office of the Clerk of Council, Ontario Municipal Building, 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio, during regular business hours.

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-18 – AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM INDEFINITELY, ON THE ACCEPTANCE, CONSIDERATION AND/OR GRANTING OF ANY APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL LICENSING APPROVAL, AND/OR ANY ZONING, OCCUPANCY, OR OTHER PERMITS RELATING TO CULTIVATORS, PROCESSORS OR RETAIL DISPENSARIES OF MARIJUANA WITHIN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-22 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 24-06 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2024 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, ENTERPRISE FUND, INTERNAL SERVICE FUND, TRUST AND AGENCY FUND, BOND RETIREMENT FUND AND THE EMPLOYEE DEDUCTIONS FUND.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-14 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS AND SERVICES NEEDED DURING THE YEAR 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Cathy VanAuker  
Clerk of Council  
City of Ontario, OH  
(T-C 11-28, 12-5 '24) (47L)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 1 p.m., and Monday Dec. 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Madison Township, Township Hall, 817 Expressview Drive, Mansfield, OH 44905, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”), on behalf of Madison Township, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail electricity (the “Aggregation Program”), as previously authorized by such members pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4929.26.

The Aggregation Program will apply automatically to all eligible customers of retail electricity within Madison Township, except for those who elect to opt-out. Customers may opt-out without charge during a designated opt-out period prior to initiation of service under the Aggregation Program and not less than every three (3) years thereafter.

NOPEC seeks to provide competitive electricity service for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC.

The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations and funding; (2) consumer participation, including terms of opting out; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council  
Leanna Rhodes  
Fiscal Officer  
Madison Twp., Richland County  
Mansfield, OH  
(T-C 12-5, 12 '24) (47L)

## •Village of Lexington working to fulfill EPA requirement

(Continued from Page 9)

The parks department’s 2008 Ford dump truck transmission has gone bad. Replacement costs are \$5,600 with a three-year warranty. Parks uses this vehicle mainly for salting and plowing the parks. Various options are being considered.

The first payment for the remote read water meter project will be made in December as it is due Jan. 2, 2025. Appropriations will be made in December to accommodate this payment. There will be a split between water and sewer departments.

Councilman Little asked about two water fountains on the square. They reported both fountains are not functioning and too costly to repair. He will review them both in upcoming weeks; but it is not likely these will be going back in service.

Mayor Bob Jarvis reported that village resident Ben Mutti requested a Menorah be on display at Community Park from Dec. 24–Jan. 2. The candelabrum is solar powered. This is not a village endorsement.

A notice came from the Ohio Liquor Control Agency and as of Feb. 2, 2025, all Village of Lexington liquor licenses will expire. Each party will apply separately for renewal of their license. If the village has any objections to the renewal of a license, the village will have to object to each license separately from all the others. No objections to any of the current liquor licenses in Lexington were heard. Therefore, the village will file no objections to any renewal of a liquor license.

Chief Weaver said the eleventh officer has been sworn in. It is anticipated that a twelfth officer will be sworn in mid-December.

They are currently running two-months behind prepping new cruisers. Lexington’s should arrive the first part of January 2025.

Councilman Earick asked about any updates regarding speeding vehicles on Steam Corners Road. Chief Weaver replied he personally sat and ran radar on the road for 45 minutes and nothing came in over 36 miles per hour. Councilman Bacin suggested a cruiser watch for the month of December, since the department will be fully staffed by that date.

An ordinance was made correcting the name of a dedicated roadway from Valley High Drive to Valley Hi Drive.

An ordinance will provide for permanent budget amendments and appropriations for Nov. 18, for the general, police levy, state highway, street levy, water and sewer funds.

New monies were added for unallocated confiscated funds and the fees to the prosecutor’s office; approximately \$1,200. The remainder of appropriations made were a part of the original budget, just reallocated to different line items.

An executive session was held to discuss the purchase or sale of property.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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