

HELPING TO ASSIST AND INFORM OLDER ADULTS AND SENIORS IN MEDINA COUNTY



Stuff the Jeeps!

Medina Meadows Brings Holiday Cheer with "Stuff the Jeeps" Fundraiser for the HANDS Foundation.



Medina Meadows Skilled Nursing and Rehab, located at 550 Miner Dr. in Medina, Ohio, truly embodied the spirit of the season on December 18th as it graciously hosted Stuff the Jeeps, a festive and heartfelt fundraiser benefiting the HANDS Foundation.

donated by Pride One Construction / BTR Haus. Each Jeep was "stuffed" with an incredible assortment of goodies, including board games, crafts, gift cards, lottery tickets, and even Great Lakes Christmas Ale—something for every age to enjoy.

The event centered around two eye-catching Power Wheels Jeeps—one pink and one blue—both overflowing with surprises for the whole family. The pink Jeep was purchased and generously donated by Medina Meadows, while the blue Jeep was

Guests purchased raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the Jeeps, with 100% of the proceeds going directly toward funding senior wishes in Medina County through the HANDS Foundation. The excitement reached its peak

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Stuff the Jeeps!



when the winners were announced. One especially touching moment came when a sweet young girl was present to win the pink Jeep—making it the perfect and unforgettable kickoff to her Christmas.

Medina Meadows truly pulled out all the stops to make the day magical. Santa himself made an appearance, spreading joy to guests of all ages. A cozy hot chocolate bar—made possible thanks to Sanctuary Wadsworth and Traditions Hospice—kept everyone warm and smiling. Guests also enjoyed an abundance of delicious food, including Chick-fil-A, along with wine and beer, adding to the celebratory atmosphere.

The HANDS Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who donated, attended, or supported the event in any way. Above all, heartfelt thanks go to Medina Meadows—not only for hosting this incredible fundraiser, but for their ongoing and unwavering

support of the HANDS Foundation. Their commitment beautifully showcases their dedication to seniors throughout Medina County.

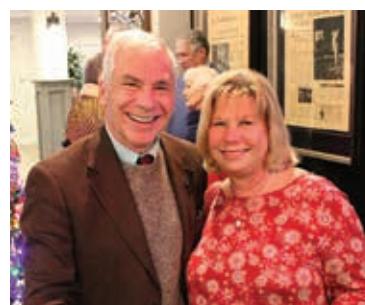
A very special shout-out goes to Devon Diello of Medina Meadows, also a member of the HANDS Board, who coordinated the entire event. Her passion and generosity made this fundraiser possible, and the Foundation is incredibly thankful for her dedication.

Additional thanks go to John Wyslko of Brunswick's Channel 22 The Beat for capturing wonderful photos of the event. John and his family are among the HANDS Foundation's greatest supporters, and their continued involvement helps make events like this a success.

Stuff the Jeeps was more than a fundraiser—it was a celebration of community, generosity, and holiday joy, and Medina Meadows once again proved just how much heart they have for giving back.

Festival of Trees

Medina County Festival of Trees Brings Community Together for Seniors, Children, and Hope.



The Medina County Festival of Trees, presented by The HANDS Foundation, was hosted at Story Pointe Medina (formerly Echelon of Medina) on December 5th and served as a beautiful example of what can happen when community, compassion, and purpose come together.

Last year, The HANDS Foundation met with Brunswick Optimist Club President Dean Holman to discuss reviving the Festival of Trees—an event that has historically raised funds for the Brunswick Optimist Club. The Optimist Club is dedicated to “bringing out the best in kids” by funding youth programs, offering scholarships, recognizing student achievements through essay and oratorical contests, hosting fishing derbies and back-to-school rallies, supporting local families in need, and honoring community

helpers such as first responders.

In reestablishing the event, HANDS also wanted to expand its impact by including a Medina-based nonprofit. Hope Recovery was a natural fit, particularly for its youth-focused programming through **EMERGE**. Working alongside Dean Holman of the Brunswick Optimist Club and Ben Leohr of Hope Recovery, HANDS helped bring this meaningful event back to life—with proceeds benefiting both organizations.

While The HANDS Foundation's mission centers on serving seniors, many of the wishes coming in over recent years have been from grandparents raising grandchildren—often due to parental drug dependency. By supporting nonprofits that focus on children, HANDS continues to fulfill its

mission of helping seniors, recognizing that many seniors today are navigating the immense challenge of caring for the next generation.

This reality became clear years ago during the height of the drug epidemic, when HANDS received one of its most impactful wishes: a senior requesting clothing and shoes for her grandchild. The board was deeply moved. While HANDS does not typically grant wishes for children, this wish was for a senior—a grandmother living on an extremely limited income who had taken emergency custody of her grandchild. When the child arrived, he didn't even have shoes. Board members immediately went shopping, purchasing clothes, shoes, and snacks for the child. The gesture meant the world to the

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Festival of Trees

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grandmother and highlighted the growing challenges seniors face when addiction affects their families.

For many seniors, a loved one's addiction is incredibly difficult to understand and often comes with feelings of embarrassment and isolation. Knowing how to support grandchildren in these situations can feel overwhelming. That is where EMERGE at Hope Recovery plays a critical role—offering youth programming designed to help children navigate these challenges, understand addiction in age-appropriate ways, learn prevention strategies, and feel supported through events, activities, school-based programs, and partnerships with community spaces such as CUPS in Medina and Next Step Up Emergency Housing.

The Festival of Trees featured bidding on beautifully decorated trees, delicious food catered by Medina's own ParTake Kitchen, drinks and cocktails generously provided by Plum Creek Assisted Living, and desserts sponsored by Christina Waller of The HANDS Foundation and Grant Crabbs, LNHA of The HANDS Foundation. The evening was made even more special with photography by John Waylsko of Channel 22 The Beat, who captured countless meaningful moments throughout the event.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who made this event possible—from the tree donors and event sponsors to the dedicated HANDS Board members who went above and beyond. A very special thank you to Kathy Elsesser, owner of Plum Creek Assisted Living, who donated the cutest Disney-themed tree, tended bar all evening with cocktails

and drinks she personally purchased for the event, and became the top buyer of the night. Kathy purchased so many trees to bring joy to her residents that she returned the next day with a moving truck to collect them all.

Medina County truly is a special place, and this event was a powerful reminder why. When neighbors, businesses, and nonprofits come together to support one another, lives are changed—and hope grows.



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Enjoy two hours of bingo and prizes while supporting local Brunswick businesses. We'll be serving Ohio Pie, Donut Land donuts, and Cool Beans hot chocolate for a sweet treat everyone will love. Event is free to attend!

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Festival of Trees

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TREE DONORS

Pride One Construction/ BTR Haus (The Village at Hinckley Oaks/ The Villas at Bakers Ridge/ Hidden Lakes coming SOON to Medina)
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Western Reserve Masonic Community
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 Champion Creek
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 Medina County Healing Hearts Club
 Residence Home Care
 Paul Rose Sr. Council at Large City of Medina

SAVE THE DATE! FESTIVAL OF TREES 2026

We are thrilled to announce that next year's Festival of Trees will take place on Friday, November 20th — the Friday before Thanksgiving!

- Online Bidding Opens: November 1st
- Location: To be determined and announced at a later date

Tree and wreath setup will begin the week of October 25th–31st, so now is the perfect time to start planning your trees, wreaths, and displays.

This year's Festival of Trees is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever, giving us the opportunity to raise the largest amount of money possible for our mission. Mark your calendars, start planning, and get ready — you won't want to miss this!

Grateful Beyond Words!

With the fullest hearts and the deepest gratitude, the HANDS Foundation wants to thank every single person who supported us during the months of November and December. Many of our donors choose to remain anonymous, but please know this: you are seen, you are appreciated, and you changed lives. No amount of words can fully express how thankful we are.

We know that times are hard. Money is tight everywhere, for everyone. Donations are not something we receive in large amounts on a regular basis, and to say we were blessed these past two months is truly an understatement. Time and time again, when we opened our mailbox and found donations inside, the joy, peace, and overwhelming sense of hope we felt cannot be put into words. Those moments reminded us that kindness is still alive and that people truly care.

Every wish that comes to HANDS represents a real person, a real need, and often a story filled with hardship. We carefully prioritize each wish based on urgency and importance, knowing there are always a few waiting to be granted. Many times, our board members personally step in to cover those costs. But because of the incredible outpouring of support during November and December, something remarkable happened: we caught up. Every waiting wish was granted. For the people we serve, that means relief, dignity, comfort, and hope.

The HANDS Foundation operates with very few expenses because we believe your generosity should go where it matters most. Our Executive Director, Treasurer, and Board Members all volunteer their time. Our office space is donated. Our Executive Director gives no less than 40 hours each week, our Treasurer nearly the same, and our Board members give countless hours—all driven by a shared belief in this mission and a deep love for our Medina County seniors.

Every dollar you gave goes right back into our community. Every act of kindness helps make Medina County a better place. Because of you, seniors who once felt forgotten were reminded that they matter. Because of you, wishes became reality.

From the bottom of our hearts—thank you for believing in the HANDS Foundation and for making such a powerful difference.

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 800.626.7277
AreaAgingSolutions.org**

Call our resource center to learn about our programs and services including:



Aging & Disability Resource Center:
 The starting point for information, assistance & counseling.

Family Caregiver Support Program:
 Information, respite, counseling & other services.

Older Americans Act Programs:
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PASSPORT Medicaid Waiver Program:
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A Chapter Closed with Gratitude:

Honoring the Retirement of Mayor Dennis Hanwell



If I am being perfectly honest, I did not want to write this.

For weeks, I have avoided every article, announcement, and headline about the retirement of Medina City Mayor Dennis Hanwell - pretending, perhaps foolishly, that if I didn't read the words, this moment wouldn't arrive. Yet here I am, writing because if nothing else, Mayor Hanwell deserves every word of recognition that can be offered.

While I have no doubt that Jim Shields - Mayor Hanwell's successor - will do an absolutely incredible job leading the City of Medina into its next chapter, the retirement of Mayor Hanwell marks the closing of a deeply meaningful era. For me, and for so many others, this is a tough chapter to close.

Mayor Dennis Hanwell is one of those rare individuals who consistently reminds you that

there are still good people in the world - and that there is still so much hope. His incredible work ethic, steady calmness, and unwavering focus on what truly matters set him apart in a time when leadership often feels loud, divisive, and consumed by politics. Mayor Hanwell governed differently. He did not allow politics to consume him or define his leadership. He was truly for the people and governed by the people.

Trustworthy. Respectful. Kind. Humble. Incredibly intelligent. These are not just words - they are characteristics he lived out daily. His demeanor, his faith, and his ability to lead with grace and clarity made him a leader people trusted and admired, regardless of background or belief.

Beyond his role as Mayor, Dennis Hanwell's impact on the community extends deeply

into the heart of the HANDS Foundation, where he served as a Past President and lifetime Honorary Board Member. He has been a constant and unwavering supporter - alongside his entire family. He is present at nearly every event, often the one offering words of encouragement or leading prayer. He has never failed to answer a call or return an email when guidance or support was needed. And while he has also been a generous financial supporter, his humility would never allow him to seek recognition for it.

Perhaps the greatest comfort I have found in this transition came during a conversation with Mrs. Hanwell at the Festival of Trees. She spoke with genuine excitement about finally having the opportunity to spend more time with her husband after generously sharing him with our city for the past 42 years. In that moment, it became clear: this retirement is not just deserved - it is earned.

Mayor Hanwell's love for his wife, children, and grandchildren

has always been evident, and now he gets to pour into them fully. While Medina will miss his leadership deeply, his family deserves this time with him.

So, with tears in my eyes and immense gratitude in my heart, I say thank you.

Thank you, Mayor Hanwell, for making the world a better place - for our county, our city, and our foundation. Words will never fully capture what an honor it has been to experience your leadership across all channels. You will be so deeply missed.

Your leadership, your faith, and all that you are continue to inspire me and so many others.

Reluctantly, but sincerely - happy retirement. Cheers to your next, well-deserved chapter. God bless you and your beautiful family.

Written by Christina Waller
Executive Director,
HANDS Foundation

*Thank You,
Mayor Hanwell!*



Purses with a Purpose

An event to benefit Feeding Medina County

FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY

FEBRUARY 3, 2026
4:30pm - 6:30pm
WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY CENTER
4931 NETTLETON RD., MEDINA OHIO

\$30 per ticket • Cash, Check or Money Order
No tickets will be sold at the door
Pay by mail or contact Devon Diello 330.635.7117 for more information

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Tying the community together to benefit Seniors

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Purses with a Purpose

An event to benefit Feeding Medina County

FEbruary 3, 2026
4:30pm - 6:30pm
WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY CENTER
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\$30 per ticket • Cash, Check or Money Order
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Ryan Boulton, who has proudly served the senior care community in Medina County for more than 17 years, is thrilled to step into his role as Community Relations Director at Plum Creek Assisted Living.

Ryan's passion for senior care began more than a decade ago (17 years ago to be exact)—right here at Plum Creek—where he launched his career as a dining room server. Through dedication and heart, he worked his way into roles at the front desk and as an activity's assistant, later becoming Activity Director. He then continued to grow professionally at another community, serving as Assistant Executive Director, while also earning his CEAL (Certified Executive for Assisted Living) designation.

Ryan is beyond excited to return to where it all began, and his connection to Plum Creek runs even deeper—his grandmother has proudly called Plum Creek home for the past 10 years.

To say Plum Creek Assisted Living is excited to welcome Ryan back is truly an understatement. His experience, leadership, and genuine passion for seniors make him an incredible addition to the team and community.

"I'm so excited to be in a role where I can work directly with seniors and their families helping them navigate next step decisions while showing them what an incredible place Plum Creek is and how it truly enhances quality of life."

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Ryan Boulton

PLUM CREEK ASSISTED LIVING

A Commitment to Community of Care in Medina County

At Plum Creek Assisted Living, we understand that choosing the right senior living community is about more than comfort and convenience—it's about trust, continuity, and exceptional medical care. Families in Medina County and the Greater Cleveland area consistently choose Plum Creek because we go above and beyond to provide a seamless, coordinated approach to senior healthcare.

It's true that assisted living communities are not required to have a medical director—but at Plum Creek, we do. Our medical director, Dr. S.K. Jain, is widely respected in the community and has deep ties to Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital. Since 2009, Dr. Jain has been providing exemplary care to our residents, supported on-site by his Certified Nurse Practitioner, Andrew Black, CNP, who is available at a minimum of once per week, ensuring consistent, high-quality healthcare that families can rely on.

Dr. Jain's hospital privileges make transitions to and from hospital care seamless, allowing residents to receive treatment without disruption to their ongoing care plan. Beyond assisted living, Dr. Jain serves as the medical director for several skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities throughout Medina County. This unique role enables him to coordinate care across multiple levels—assisted living, hospital stays, and skilled rehab—helping residents return home to Plum Creek quickly and safely.

At Plum Creek, residents benefit from a wide range of medical services not always available in assisted living communities. These include blood draws (ideal for residents who need frequent lab monitoring for conditions like Coumadin therapy or potassium levels while on diuretics), EKGs, urinalysis (to quickly identify UTIs and start treatment promptly), X-rays, ultrasounds, and much more. By offering these services on-site, residents avoid the stress and inconvenience of frequent trips to clinics or hospitals, while families enjoy peace of mind knowing that timely medical care is always available.

For residents with chronic conditions like congestive heart failure (CHF), Plum Creek offers specialized monitoring and support. This includes daily, weekly, or monthly weight checks, timely medications, assistance with bed hose, reminders to elevate legs, no-added-salt diets, and medications kept on hand for as-needed use. These targeted measures help residents manage symptoms, prevent complications, and maintain their quality of life—all under the guidance of Dr. Jain and Andrew Black.

This comprehensive, coordinated approach is a cornerstone of what makes Plum Creek a trusted choice for families seeking long-term senior care. Our residents benefit from a full range of support services, carefully selected teams, and healthcare partners whose only goal is to enhance quality of life. From wellness programs to engaging activities and personalized medical attention, every aspect of our care is designed with the resident's well-being in mind.

At Plum Creek Assisted Living, continuity of care isn't just a promise—it's our standard. Families in Brunswick, Ohio, and the surrounding Medina County community can feel confident that their loved ones are receiving attentive, coordinated, and compassionate care every day.

HEALING MADE EASY

Outpatient Therapy Comes to the Villas at Bakers Ridge

Staying active, independent, and living life to the fullest just got easier for residents and neighbors alike at The Villas at Bakers Ridge. Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting is now bringing top-notch outpatient therapy services right to the community—making high-quality care more convenient, comfortable, and personalized than ever.

Outpatient therapy might sound clinical, but at Bakers Ridge, it's all about supporting real lives, right where they happen. Residents can receive physical, occupational, or speech therapy without leaving campus, whether they're recovering from surgery, working on balance, or maintaining mobility to keep up with favorite hobbies. "We meet people where they are, in a familiar and supportive environment," says Jason Musni of Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting.

The benefits extend beyond convenience. Families no longer need to worry about transportation, traffic, or missed appointments. Instead, residents can focus on what matters most: their health, recovery, and independence. Therapists work one-on-one to create personalized

plans—helping each person reach goals like walking steadier, improving hand strength, or simply feeling more confident around the community.

If you notice your balance is off—or see a loved one struggling with balance—getting physical therapy before a fall happens is crucial. Starting early makes recovery and prevention much easier. Physical therapy is also especially important for anyone

living with Parkinson's or Huntington's disease, and the team at Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting is happy to help individuals with these conditions maintain mobility, strength, and quality of life.

Even better, therapy through Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting is covered by most insurance plans, including Medicare Part B, which means high-quality care often comes with little to no out-of-pocket cost. The team helps verify benefits and explain coverage before therapy begins, offering peace of mind along with exceptional care.

Outpatient therapy isn't just for recovery—it's for maintaining an active lifestyle and preventing

setbacks. Many participants proactively engage in therapy to build strength, stay mobile, and continue enjoying life, whether that's gardening, walking with friends, or keeping up with grandchildren.

And here's the best part: you don't have to be a resident of The Villas at Bakers Ridge to take advantage of these services! The location is ideal for anyone in the community in need of physical therapy, and services are available for anyone age 18 and up.

With Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting now on campus, expert care is more accessible than ever. Residents and community members alike can experience therapy that is convenient, supportive, and empowering. After all, therapy shouldn't feel like a burden—it should be an opportunity to move better, feel stronger, and keep living life to the fullest.

The Villas at Bakers Ridge with Absolute Therapy is located at 21600 Experience Way, Strongsville, OH 44149.



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For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact Jason Musni at Absolute Rehabilitation and Consulting at 330-316-4713 or jdmusni@abstherapy.com.

SENIOR WISHES!

Wishes Granted • November & December 2025
Because dignity, safety, and quality of life matter at every age.

During the final months of 2025, The HANDS Foundation had the honor of granting dozens of deeply meaningful wishes to seniors across Medina County and surrounding communities. These were not extravagant requests—they were needs, comforts, and moments of dignity that too many seniors go without. Each wish below represents a life touched, a burden lifted, and a reminder that no one should feel forgotten.

INDIVIDUAL WISHES GRANTED

■ Lodi | Age 70

Living on a fixed income with little room for enjoyment, this senior wished for modeling supplies to build model cars—a hobby that brings him peace and purpose. We were proud to grant this wish, because quality of life matters at every stage of life. *Wish submitted by Medina County Senior and Adult Services (MCSAS).*

■ Lodi | Age 74

This senior had not had her hair trimmed or styled in over a year. We contacted her longtime stylist and paid in full for her hair appointment, restoring not just her hair—but her confidence. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 82

Living alone on a fixed income and experiencing recent falls, this senior requested a life alert button to feel safe in her own home. We were grateful to provide peace of mind and added security. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Brunswick Hills | Age 71

Following recent medical issues and living on a fixed income, this senior was in need of a life alert button. This simple device now offers daily reassurance and emergency support. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 83

With winter approaching, this senior's snow boots had holes and were no longer safe. We provided new winter snow boots, ensuring warmth and mobility during the cold months. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Wadsworth | Age 72

Living with extremely limited resources, this senior's couch was broken in the middle—leaving her nearly sitting on the floor. We granted her wish for a brand-new couch and paid for delivery and setup, restoring comfort and dignity to her home. *Wish submitted by Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.*

■ Wadsworth | Age 72

After having his mattress and bedding discarded last year, this senior was left with only a bed frame. We delivered a full-size mattress, bedding, mattress protector, and new pillows, giving him a safe and comfortable place to rest. *Wish submitted by Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA).*

■ Wadsworth | Age 65

After a difficult few months and an unexpected move, this senior was without a bed or mattress. We provided a bed frame, mattress, bedding, pillows, and mattress protector, helping her rebuild stability during a challenging time. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

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SENIOR WISHES!

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■ Brunswick | Age 69

Following multiple back surgeries, this senior desperately needed a firmer, supportive mattress. We contacted the vendor directly and paid for the mattress to ensure proper rest and recovery. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Brunswick | Age 76

Snow removal had become difficult and unsafe. We provided a battery-operated snow shovel, which is lighter, easier to maneuver, and far safer for daily use. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Wadsworth | Age 71

Recently discharged from the hospital and rehab, this senior was struggling with weakness. We supplied a shower chair and a toilet seat with safety handles, helping him remain independent at home. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 71

On a fixed income and lacking essential household items, this senior received shoes, clothing, towels, and blankets to meet daily needs. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 92

Living in subsidized housing on an extremely limited income, this senior wished for non-slip tennis shoes and two cardigans. Small items that made a big difference in comfort and safety. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 66

This senior was in need of multiple essentials. We provided a winter coat, sneakers, comforter set, and an air fryer, offering warmth, nourishment, and everyday comfort. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 89

This senior requested two cardigan sweaters, slippers, and a comforter—simple comforts that bring warmth and security. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Wadsworth | Age 66

Reliable transportation was critical for medical appointments. While labor was donated, she could not afford the parts. We paid NAPA directly for the needed car parts, keeping her safely on the road. *Wish submitted by MCSAS.*

■ Medina | Age 90

Living alone and considered a fall risk, this senior received a life alert button, ensuring immediate help if needed. *Wish submitted by Adult Protective Services.*

■ Lodi | Age 71

On an extremely fixed income, this senior needed new clothes that fit properly and wished for a haircut, having gone years without one. We were honored to grant both wishes. *Wish submitted by Adult Protective Services.*

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Ready to see it for yourself? Give us a call today and come take a tour—we'd love to welcome you!

330.632.3223



Discover The Village at Hinckley Oaks, a premier 55+ community offering beautifully designed luxury apartment homes in the heart of Hinckley, Ohio. Created with your lifestyle in mind, our apartment homes deliver comfort, convenience, and a truly maintenance-free way of living!

1456 RIDAN WAY ROAD
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APARTMENT HOME FEATURES



2 & 3 Bedrooms



2 & 2.5 Bathrooms



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1294-1564 Sq. Ft.

Discover the Joys of 55+ Living at The Village at Hinckley Oaks

Nestled in the peaceful surroundings of Hinckley, Ohio, The Village at Hinckley Oaks offers an inviting and vibrant lifestyle designed specifically for adults aged 55 and better. This thoughtfully planned community blends comfort, convenience, and connection—making it an ideal place to enjoy the next chapter of life.

At the center of the community is a welcoming clubhouse, where residents gather for social events, activities, and casual conversation. Inside, amenities are designed to support both wellness and fun. A modern fitness center allows residents to stay active on their own schedule, while the community's golf simulator offers a unique opportunity to practice swings, enjoy friendly competition, or simply have fun year-round—no matter the weather.

Outdoor amenities are equally appealing. Residents can enjoy friendly games on the pickleball courts, take advantage of beautifully maintained walking areas, or spend time outside with neighbors and pets. The Village at Hinckley Oaks is proudly pet friendly, welcoming furry companions as part of the community.

The apartment homes themselves are designed with ease and accessibility in mind. Single-story living eliminates stairs, while attached garages provide added convenience and storage. Everyday living is simplified with curbside trash pickup, in-unit washer and dryer hook-ups, and the flexibility to choose either gas or electric stove options to suit individual preferences.

Beyond the amenities, what truly makes The Village at Hinckley Oaks special is its strong sense of community. Residents enjoy a variety of planned events and activities that encourage socialization, new friendships, and an active lifestyle. From casual gatherings to organized programs, there is always something happening—and always something to look forward to.

Understanding that every lifestyle is different, The Village at Hinckley Oaks offers flexible lease options within the community to fit your needs, allowing residents to choose what works best for them.

**The Village at Hinckley Oaks / 1456 Ridan Way Road
Hinckley, OH 44233 / (330) 632-3223**

To learn more or to schedule a tour, call today and experience 55+ living at its best.



Northern Ohio Health and Wellness

Your future doesn't have to be dictated by your past. The best time to make a positive change is now.

216.440.2936
Contact@NeoHealthandWellness.com

In our comfortable and relaxing office we work with children, adolescents, adults, and families with a variety of presenting concerns.

Our licensed Therapists and Nurse Practitioner work collaboratively to create a supportive environment and provide personalized treatment designed to meet each client's unique needs and to help them achieve their goals.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any further questions regarding how we can help you.

We offer services and support for every stage of life.

We offer counseling services for individual, couples, child, adult, and senior's as well as medication management for various mental health issues.

Our therapists have specialized training to treat clients who struggle with complex and challenging issues such as suicidal thoughts, self-harm and trauma. Northern Ohio Health and Wellness is proud to have therapists with extensive training in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Trauma-Informed Care, Trauma-Focused CBT, Mindfulness for Children, Adolescents and Adults and more.



HOSPICE CARE FOR THE BEST QUALITY LIFE

At Remembrance Hospice, we understand the difficulties of a life-limiting illness. We help make the journey as smooth as possible; lifting weight from your heart and reassuring you that we do everything possible to provide comfort and peace.

Medical Direction, Equipment, and Pharmaceuticals

Skilled Nursing Care

Counseling and Social Work

Personal Care Services



Why Hospice?

- Hospice care focuses on comfort and dignity to promote quality of life when quantity may be limited.
- Hospice care is patient/family-focused.
- Hospice includes a team of dedicated professionals who work together to ensure all physical, emotional, and spiritual needs are met.
- Hospice care is provided wherever the patient calls "home."

MORE ON REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Hospice, founded in 2022, was created to provide compassionate, whole-person care for individuals facing life-limiting illness. We support not only our patients' medical needs, but also their emotional and spiritual well-being, ensuring comfort, dignity, and peace throughout the end-of-life journey. Our dedicated team partners closely with families, offering thoughtful, kind, and supportive care every step of the way. With physician oversight and a deep commitment to our community, Remembrance Hospice delivers exceptional hospice and bereavement services in Medina, Ohio—focused on improving quality of life and honoring every moment that matters.



330-952-1930
www.RemembranceHospice.com
 3725 Medina Rd, Ste 113, Medina, OH 44256

Thank You to the Giving Place!

Thank you to the 125+ incredible volunteers who made everything The Giving Place accomplished in 2025 possible.

Through your dedication, heart, and countless hours of service, The Giving Place was able to donate **nearly half a million dollars in a remarkably short period of time**. This extraordinary impact is only possible because of a generous and supportive community—those who donate, those who believe in the mission, and the customers who choose to shop the store. What you are doing is truly something special, and the difference you are making in our community is **real, meaningful, and lasting**.

The Giving Place continues to be a tremendous supporter of the **HANDS Foundation** and many other nonprofits throughout



Medina County, helping strengthen lives and uplift our neighbors every single day.

A huge and heartfelt shoutout to Angel and Stephanie for their vision, leadership, and unwavering dedication—not only to our foundation, but to so many other nonprofits they serve. Their passion and commitment make an incredible difference, and Medina County is truly **blessed to have them**.

SENIOR WISHES! >> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IMPACT

■ Holiday Meals for Seniors

In partnership with Medina Meadows, we assembled to-go Christmas dinner bags for seniors—complete with full hams and all the fixings—allowing them to prepare and enjoy a holiday meal at home.

■ Christmas Joy for Nursing Home Residents

We partnered with a local nursing home to provide Christmas gifts for residents who otherwise would not have received anything, including lotions, Christmas tumblers, chapstick, tissues, holiday pens, 2-in-1 shampoo and conditioner, notepads, and nail files.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

These wishes are a testament to what is possible when compassion meets community. The HARDS Foundation remains committed to supporting seniors with dignity, respect, and care, one wish at a time.

Senior Wish Grants!

Funds are made available by grant application to seniors and their families for special needs they could not otherwise afford or obtain through any other resource.

Local agencies in Medina that can assist with filling out the grant application include (but are not limited to) The Medina County Senior & Adult Services office, Wadsworth Soprema Center, Job & Family Services, Catholic Charities, Community Action, and The Salvation Army.

Applications must be submitted by a third party such as one of the agencies described above.

Your donation helps make wishes come true to Medina County seniors with limited incomes. Thank you for your support!



Z = ZOOM CLASS • * = FEE • ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE • BILLIARDS DAILY 8:00 - 4:30

5 9:30am BP Screening-ComForCare 9:30am Bridge 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10:15am Card Stamping Class 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm iPhone w/ Joe	6 9am Edwina's Exercise 9:30am Painting w/ Taylor* 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm One-on-One Tech w/ Pieri	7 9:30am Bingo-Z-Life Care 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Dementia Talk w/ Sharon, Heartland 11am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	8 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	9 9:30am Bingo-Z-Broadway Creek 10:30am Program: On-Line Scam Awareness w/ Pieri 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 1pm Grief Support Group 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance
12 9:30am Bridge 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10:30am Balloflex* 10:30am Cooking Demo w/ Amy 11:30am Lunch 12:15pm Movie: Nonnas 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm One-on-One Tech Help w/ Joe	13 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Remembrance Craft 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Android Phone Class "All About Apps"	14 9:30am Bingo-Z-Pearlview 10am Painting 10:30am Feel Good Bingo w/ Cindy McQuown 11:30am Lunch-Avenue@Medina 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa* 1:30pm Legal Aid Appts	15 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am BP Screening-Serenity Hospice 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Katie's Drawing Class 11:30am Lunch 12pm Tai Chi w/ Danny* 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	16 9:30am Bingo-Z-Oasis 10:30am Program: Fraud Bingo 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance
19 MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED MLK JR DAY 	20 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Digital Art Class 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook	21 9:30am Bingo-Z-Willowood 10am Care Core 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Health Talk w/ Linda from CarePatrol 11:30am Lunch-Medina Center 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	22 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	23 9:30am Bingo-Z-Jim Richison 10:30am Program: Civil War Talk by Ron Chojnacki 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong
26 9:30am Bridge 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10:30am Balloflex* 10:30am Cooking Demo w/ Amy 11:30am Lunch 1pm Mahjong	27 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Zentangle Beginner Art Class	28 9:30am Bingo-Care Patrol-Z 10am Painting 11am Program: Senior Trivia w/ Brookdale South 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	2a9 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	30 10:30am Program: Pajama Party w/ Mind Reader, Steven 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 1pm Book Club

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEDINA MEDINA COUNTY SENIOR & ADULT SERVICES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 9:30am BP Screening-ComForCare 9:30am Bridge 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm iPhone Class w/ Joe	3 9am Edwina's Exercise 9:30am Painting w/ Taylor* 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Croissant Class*	4 9:30am Bingo-Z-Life Care 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Scam Awareness by BBB 11:30am Lunch-Life Care 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	5 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Cooking Demo w/ Jenny 12pm Lunch 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	6 9:30am Bingo-Z-Medina Center 10:30am Program: Lost Ohio Treasures-Mark Streker 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day & Mahjong 1pm Grief Support Group 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance
9 9:30am Bridge 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10:30am Balloflex* 10:30am Cooking Demo w/ Amy 11:30am Lunch 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm One-on-One Tech Help w/ Joe	10 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm One-on-one w/ Pieri	11 9:30am Bingo-Z-Pearlview 10am Painting 10:30am What is Reiki? by Maggie Kimble 11:30am Lunch-Avenue at Medina 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa* 1:30pm Legal Aid Appts	12 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Champion Creek Craft 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	13 9:30am Bingo-Z-Broadway Creek 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Program: "Heart Health" by Dr. Rammy Korkor 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong
16 MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY 	17 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Android Class w/ Pieri	18 9:30am Bingo-Z-Willowood 10am Painting 10:30am "The Pioneer Route & Electric Railways of Northeast Ohio by Steve Hambley 11:30am Lunch-Medina Center 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	19 9am & 10 Edwina's Exercise 10am BP Screening-Serenity Hospice 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Katie's Drawing Class 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch 1pm Watercolor Class* 1:30pm Sourdough Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	20 NO BINGO-PARTY DAY Auditor's Table: Home- stead Exemption Info Weights Workout w/ Lisa* Valentine's Party w/ Hayden Grove 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day & Mahjong 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance
23 9:30am Bridge 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10:15am Card Stamping Class 10:30am Balloflex* 10:30am Cooking Demo w/ Amy 11:30am Lunch 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm Zentangle Class*	24 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch 1pm Hook Nook	25 9:30am Bingo-Care Patrol-Z 10am Painting 11am Program: Senior Trivia w/ Brookdale South 11:30am Lunch-Brookdale South 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	26 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	27 9:30am Bingo-Z-Jim Richison 10:30am Program: TBA 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 1pm Book Club



HANDS FOUNDATION

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ABOUT THE HANDS FOUNDATION AND HELPING HANDS NEWSPAPER

The HANDS Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping and improving the lives of senior citizens throughout Medina County. Helping HANDS is a publication of the HANDS Foundation and is a go-to resource for Medina County seniors and their families.

The HANDS Foundation reserves the right to edit information published in Helping HANDS. Articles published in Helping HANDS are from independent article submitters and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or beliefs of the HANDS Foundation.

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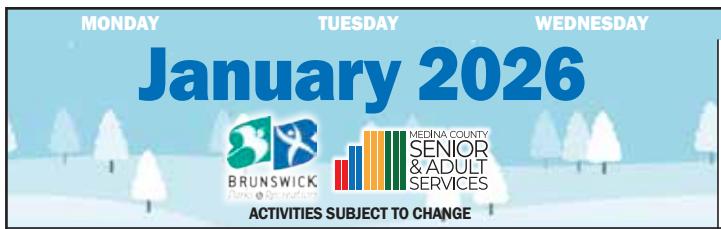
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Ad & Article Deadline for MAR/APR Issue: 2/16/26

GET ON OUR MAILING LIST

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MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
January 2026									
5 11am Munch & Learn Transition Solutions Suzanne Cryst "Caregiver Safety & Five Red Flags of Aging" 12pm Mah Jongg	6 8am Cards 10am Book Club 1pm Bingo/ Life Care 6pm Beginner Line Dance	7 9am Vintage Artists 10am Activities Council 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting 12:30pm Snowflake Bingo w/ Always Best Care	1 MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED Happy New Year	2 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo w/ Altenheim	3 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle	9 11am County Auditor Table Homestead Info 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury "Create a Better You" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle			
12 9:30am Art Critique Group Munch & Learn Heartland Institute for Financial Education Scott Liberty "How Money Works" 12pm Mah Jongg 1pm Culinary Club	13 8am Cards 1pm Bingo/ SPRY 6pm Beginner Line Dance	14 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	15 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo w/ United Church Homes	16 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:15pm "Up, Up and Away!" Joe Erbs, Goodyear Blimp Pilot 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					
19 MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED MLK JR DAY  12pm Mah Jongg	20 8am Cards 1pm Bingo/ Plum Creek 6pm Beginner Line Dance	21 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	22 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 1pm Bingo w/ Medina Meadows	23 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury "Cardio Drumming" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					
26 11am Munch & Learn BrightStar Care Miranda Simon "Theres' No Place Like Home" 12pm Mah Jongg	27 8am Cards 1pm Bingo w/ Divine Pearlview 6pm Beginner Line Dance	28 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	29 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 1pm Outback Ray's Amazing Animal Show 2pm Bingo w/ Medina Meadows	30 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
2 11am Munch & Learn MedMinder Pharmacy Destiny McMurray "Automatic Pharmacy Dispensing" 12pm Mah Jongg	3 8am Cards 10am Book Club 1pm Bingo/ Life Care 6pm Beginner Line Dance	4 9am Vintage Artists 10am Activities Council 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	5 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 1pm Bingo/ Altenheim	6 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					
9 9:30am Art Critique Group Munch & Learn Tri C Encore Learning Program Elizabeth Zeszotek "Encore Senior Adult Programs" 12pm Mah Jongg 1pm Culinary Club	10 8am Cards 1pm Bingo/ SPRY 6pm Beginner Line Dance	11 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:15pm Larry's Animal Safari Program 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	12 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo/ w United Church Homes	13 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm "Bee My Valentine" Program w/ Peggy Barnes 12pm Danbury "Create a Better You" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					
16 MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY  12pm Mah Jongg	17 8am Cards 12:30pm Mardi Gras Bingo! 1pm Bingo/ Plum Creek 6pm Beginner Line Dance	18 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	19 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo/ Carecore Willowood	20 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					
23 11am Munch & Learn CWRU Alzheimer's Research Center Edna Casiano "Alzheimer's Research Taking Place at CWRU" 12pm Mah Jongg	24 8am Cards 1pm Bingo w/ Divine Pearlview 6pm Beginner Line Dance	25 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	26 8am Cards 9:30am AARP Driving Class 11:15am Intermediate/ Improver Line Dance 1pm Bingo/ Medina Meadows	27 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury "Cardio Drumming" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle					



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Serving Medina County



Sharon A. Ray
State Representative
House District 66



614-466-8140
Rep66@OhioHouse.gov
77 South High St., 13th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

SAVE THE DATE!

SENIOR EXPO

2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
BRUNSWICK REC CENTER
9:00 - NOON



SAVE THE DATE!

JANUARY 2026



50th Anniversary
SOPREMA
Senior Center & Cafe

CENTER HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4 pm
CAFE HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 2 pm

MONDAY

Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00

TUESDAY

Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00

WEDNESDAY

Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00

THURSDAY

Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00

FRIDAY

Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00

PLEASE RSVP TO
RESERVE YOUR
SPOT IN THESE
GREAT
PROGRAMS!

Invite a Friend
to enjoy the Cafe!

*PROGRAMS MARKED
WITH AN ASTERISK (*)
ARE OFFERED
IN PERSON AND
VIA ZOOM (HYBRID).

Center & Café
Closed for Holiday

Hello
2026

Pinochle 9:00
Bunco 1:00

Canasta 9:00
Bible Study 9:30
Watercolor 10:00
Coupon Clippers 10:30
Health Checks 12:00
General Caregivers* 12:15
Euchre 1:30
Wits Workout 2:00

Chess 10:00
Gentle Exercise 10:00
Seniors w/Srs Lunchn 11:00
Blind Truth 1:00
Mexican Train Dominoes 1:00

Mah Jong 9:00
Bridge 11:00
Alzheimer's Caregivers 1:00
Hand and Foot 1:00
Wadsworth Library Fun 1:00

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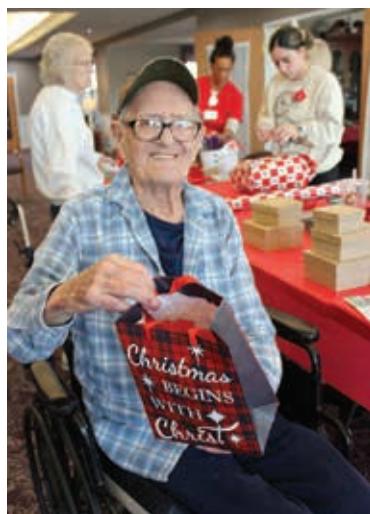
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MORE PLUM CREEK NEWS

Santa Shop!



By: STACIE DAVIS, Plum Creek Activities Coordinator

The Santa Shop at Plum Creek holds a place close to my heart for so many reasons. Four years ago, I had a feeling that something was missing during the holidays. I sat down with the residents here and tried my best to listen to the answers between the lines. They expressed to me that among all the things aging had brought, it took away just as much -- silent joys and privileges that I had come to think of as burdensome and tiring. After our talks were done I had time to think about what each person had said, and every one of them missed being able to bring the magic of giving to their families and friends. The chaotic hustle of a holiday store trip was brought into a new light, and I saw the need for independence beyond new age fixes like Amazon and DoorDash. The empty space I had felt was being felt by each resident I spoke with, and I knew something had to be done.

Every year we have operated, our shop is run 100% on a donation basis! Surrounding agencies, communities, families, and our employees all donate different items, from games and beauty supplies to cozy blankets and knick knacks. Each resident can visit the shop as many times as needed to complete the shopping they'd like to do for their own loved ones, and have each item wrapped and personalized for them. Running the shop has truly brought back not only that childlike wonder of seeing all of the things you might soon own or be able to give to another, but also genuine smiles, tears, and heartfelt expressions of thanks for putting the gift of giving back into their still capable hands.

FROM YOUR VETERANS OFFICE VETERANS AND THEIR BENEFITS

As we enter a new year, it's always good to begin with a fresh and optimistic outlook. We're excited to offer many opportunities to help you do just that. Our holistic programming has helped many veterans and their families find a new way forward in their busy lives.

Our programs give you the chance to slow down and focus a small amount of time on you. Whether it's brushing paint across a canvas to create a masterpiece or learning how to strum a tune from your teenage FM memories, we likely have something that will help you relax and enjoy time with fellow veterans.

These programs offer the chance to learn something new, step out of your comfort zone, and try something different. I can almost guarantee you won't become the next Picasso or Eric Clapton — but I can guarantee time spent talking, sharing, laughing, and enjoying the company of other veterans. And if you do become the next Picasso, that's perfectly fine too.

We've added a few new programs for the new year as well. We now offer an Equine Therapy session at Forever Amber Acres — a mid-day, 2-3-hour experience. We've also added a morning yoga session open to all ages. In addition, we host a monthly Lunch and Learn where you can enjoy a snack while learning about your benefits, asking questions, and getting answers.

As far as federal benefits are concerned, we haven't seen many changes for the new year other than the COLA increase of 2.86% for 2026, which went into effect on December 1, 2025. One change that many expected to see implemented by now may still



take place this year, though nothing is certain. The VA has proposed updates to the rating schedule for Sleep Apnea (respiratory system), Tinnitus and Hearing Loss (auditory system), and Mental Health conditions (PTSD, depression, and anxiety). These recommended changes have not yet been implemented. If the VA decides to move forward this year, it could significantly impact new applicants seeking ratings for these conditions.



ED ZACKERY

Veterans who already have ratings for any of these three conditions will be grandfathered in and should see no change.

If you have any questions about your veterans benefits, feel free to contact us at the Medina County Veterans Service Office at (330) 722-9368, email us at veterans@medinacountyveteransoh.gov, or visit us online at www.medinacountyveteransoh.gov.



210 Northland Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 722-9368
veterans@medinacountyveteransoh.gov

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Your veteran's organizations need you. If you're not a member you should inquire into all they do to assist veterans in your community as well as nation wide. They may have already assisted you without you even knowing it.

If you want more information about membership in any of the veteran's organizations call us at (330) 722-9368.



*"Service for Those That Served and Their Families"
Because - We are Family*

FROM WRMC

Is Retirement in Your Near Future? Let's Set Some Goals



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As we wish our friends, family, and co-workers Happy New Year, some people may already be thinking about retirement. Whether you have decided this is your last year to work before you step away from your career or you still have a few years left, it's never too early to begin planning. Retirement planning is the most important financial steps for your future.

When done wrong, you're facing a future full of stress and worry. Consider how to avoid common retirement planning mistakes:

- Not having a retirement plan-- The mistake that people make is not having a retirement plan. Consider the time you have until retirement, your location, your lifestyle and your health.
- Not saving money-- It's best to designate at least 10 – 15% of your income now into a retirement account. That percentage may need to be adjusted.
- Not investing wisely—Choose a financial advisor to assist.
- Not taking advantage of an employer's 401k-- If you're offered a 401(k) with an employer matching incentive, take it!
- Not planning for tax implications-- Talk with your tax advisor to determine what's best with your finances now and in the future.
- Not letting your retirement savings accumulate-- It's common for employees to cash out of their 401(k) when switching jobs. This is not a good idea.
- Not planning for health issues and long-term care costs--The cost of long-term care adds up quickly. Not considering these costs means you could run out of money within a year of entering a healthcare center.
- Not planning for retirement surprises-- You might retire earlier than you planned. There's potential for loss of your job, resulting in difficulty finding employment.

■ Not being strategic about social security-- You may start collecting retirement benefits from Social Security at age 62, but thanks to delayed retirement credits, the longer you wait the better. Retirees receive an extra 8% for every year you wait to claim benefits, up to the age of 70.

■ Not implementing estate planning-- While estate planning is an ongoing process, there are common documents that are part of it: a Will, Living Trust, Powers of Attorney for your assets, healthcare directives, and tax planning. The goal is to protect your assets and to ensure your wishes are carried out after you die.

What is the #1 regret of most retirees? That regret is not saving enough. A study shows that 78% of retirees wish they had saved more. A common rule of thumb known as the 4% rule, if you spend your retirement savings at a rate of 4% the first year and then adjust your withdrawals for inflation every year, your income will probably last three decades.

Now that you know what not to do, let's look at the tips that will make your retirement successful.

START SAVING, KEEP SAVING, AND STICK TO YOUR GOALS

If you are already saving, keep going! If you're not saving, it's time to get started. Start small if you must and try to increase the amount each month. The sooner you start saving, the more time your money has to grow.

MAKE SAVING FOR RETIREMENT A PRIORITY

Devise a plan, stick to it, and set goals. Remember, it's never too early or too late to start saving.

KNOW YOUR RETIREMENT NEEDS; RETIREMENT IS EXPENSIVE

Experts estimate that you will need 70—90% of your preretirement income to maintain your standard of living when you stop working. The key to a secure retirement is to plan ahead.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR EMPLOYER'S RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

If your employer offers a retirement savings plan, such as a 401(k) plan, sign up and contribute all you can. Your taxes will be lower, your company may kick in more, and automatic deductions make it easy. A 401(k) plan is one of the best ways to save for retirement, and if you can get bonus "match" money from your employer, you can save even more quickly.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYER'S PENSION PLAN

If your employer has a pension plan, understand how it works. Ask for a benefit statement to see what your benefit is worth. If you change jobs, find out what will happen to your pension benefit.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>

WRMC

CONSIDER BASIC INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

How you save can be as important as how much you save. Inflation and the type of investments you make play important roles in how much you'll have saved at retirement. Put your savings in different types of investments. Your investment mix may change over time depending on factors such as your age, goals, and financial circumstances.

DON'T TOUCH YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

If you withdraw your retirement savings early, you'll lose principal and interest, and you may lose tax benefits or have to pay withdrawal penalties. If you change jobs, leave your savings invested in your current retirement plan, or roll them over to an IRA or your new employer's plan.

PUT MONEY INTO AN INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA)

You can put up to \$6,500 a year into an IRA; you can contribute even more if you are 50 or older. IRAs also provide tax advantages. IRAs can provide an easy way to save. You can set it up so that an amount is automatically deducted from your account and deposited in the IRA.

FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Social Security retirement benefits replace 40% of pre-retirement income. To estimate your benefit consider using the retirement estimator on the Social Security Administration's website or call 1-800-772-1213.

ASK QUESTIONS

Talk to your employer, your bank, or a financial adviser. Ask questions and make sure you understand the answers. Retirement will be here before you know it.

If you have retired, what's next? Financial planner share the one mistake that you need to watch out for; adjusting your expenses to meet your budget.

Another consideration older adults need to account for is their living arrangements. If you are looking for an active lifestyle with a community at the heart of it, a senior living community may be the best option for you. If you are considering moving to a senior living community, consider taking a tour of Western Reserve Masonic Community. Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina, Ohio offers premier living options with exceptional experiences so older adults can live their best lives. If you are interested in learning more about Western Reserve Masonic Community, give us a call at 330-642-3841 or visit our website at wrmcoh.org.



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Understanding Your Duties Under a Financial Power of Attorney

By: MARIE EDMONDS,
Counselor at Law

Someone has named you as their agent under the financial power of attorney. You don't think too much about it as you're not needed now. However, the wisest move for you is twofold: (1) understand exactly what your duties and restrictions, if any, are; and (2) understand what the person who has given you this power wants to see done in the future.

In Ohio, an agent under a power of attorney has certain basic fiduciary duties by law. They are:

To act in the best interest of the principal (the person who has given you the power). This means acting loyally for the principal's benefit always and according to their wishes. We'll discuss this expectation a little more later.

To act in good faith and with care. It may seem obvious, but this means acting honestly and within your competence as any other agent in your position would act.

To avoid conflicts of interest. This may be one of the most difficult duties if you are a beneficiary of your principal's estate.

To preserve the principal's estate plan. To the extent possible, make sure your actions do not change the estate plan. Along those lines, Ohio law requires you to be given express authority to take certain actions which could change the principal's estate plan.

As agent under a power of attorney you must be given EXPRESS AUTHORITY to do the following:

- (1) Create a trust;
- (2) Amend, revoke or terminate a trust, even if such authority is granted in the trust itself;
- (3) Make a gift;
- (4) Create or change rights of survivorship;
- (5) Create or change beneficiary designations;
- (6) Delegate authority granted under the power of attorney to another person;
- (7) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivorship annuity, including under a retirement plan;
- (8) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate.

There may be reasons the principal may want to give you some of these powers, but unless specifically delegate to you, you cannot exercise any of these.

So, what are your key responsibilities under a financial power of attorney?

To manage the principal's finances for him or her, which means to pay bills, manage bank accounts and investments, and make sure taxes are filed and paid.

- To keep records of all that you are handling, including receipts, disbursements and transactions.
- To always act within the scope of the authority given to you in the document.
- To cooperate with the principal's health care agent to make sure the principal's wishes are fulfilled.
- To sign your name properly to avoid incurring personal liability. You should sign as "(Principal's name), by (Your name), POA."
- To provide copies to institutions as requested. Do not give them the original document.
- You should be aware that should you violate these duties, you may be personally liable for damages.

Most importantly, if possible, you should discuss with the principal what his or her wishes are and get the location of as much of their financial information as possible ahead of time. You don't need to have it now, but you must know where that information is. Likewise, if the principal does not want to give you the power of attorney document now, you need to know where it is located so you can get it when it becomes necessary.

It is a serious responsibility to take on when you are named as an agent under a power of attorney, but it is also a meaningful message that the principal has a lot of trust in you and your ability to help him or her when the time comes.



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IMPROVE YOUR PASSWORD PROTECTION

Many online retailers, financial companies and service providers offer “dual-factor authentication.” (After you successfully enter your name and password, they send you a unique code via text or email that you have to enter before you can get to your account.) Turn it on as part of your account settings. It takes an extra step, but it’s a veritable fortress of extra security.

PROTECT YOUR MAIL

Informed Delivery is a free service from the U.S. Postal Service in which the agency sends, via email, images of letter-sized mail expected to be delivered to you soon. This is a great way to monitor that nothing is stolen by ID thieves from your mailbox. Visit [InformedDelivery.usps.com](https://www.usps.com) to sign up.

CHECK YOUR CREDIT REPORT

Because of the pandemic, all three major credit reporting agencies — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion — are offering free weekly online reports through April 2021. You will be able to determine if someone is using credit in your name and to fix mistakes. Go to [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com).

FILTER YOUR PHONE CALLS

To help curtail the flood of spam calls, enter all your trusted contacts into your smartphone. This way, when the phone rings, your caller ID will let you know if it's one of them. Do not answer if you don't know the callers; if it's important, they will leave a message. Even better: Research call-blocking apps on your smartphone and talk to your phone company about what it can do for you.



ATTENTION SENIORS: BE AWARE! Take these steps to keep safe from scams in 2026

Often, scammers rush their victims and push lots of emotional hot buttons to get you to stop thinking rationally. Never let strangers force you into fast decisions. Be aware and think clearly and critically. Chances are you'll quickly see the situation for what it really is.

MANAGE YOUR EMAILS

Start marking as spam any suspicious or unwanted emails that show up in your inbox, so similar messages will be automatically routed to the trash. If your inbox continues to fill with unwanted spam, investigate other email providers.

VET UNFAMILIAR E-RETAILERS

Before purchasing something from a retailer you haven't used before, do a web search for the company's name, followed by the words “scam,” “fraud” and “complaints,” in order to get a fast read on its veracity. Then read other user reviews. Also read the About

page on the company's website to find out who owns it and where it's based. It's better to know that the businesses you buy from can help you avoid any fraudulent deals.

OTHER SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF

THE GRANDPARENT SCAM

Scammers will call an older adult pretending to be their grandchild and will ask for money to solve a financial problem (overdue rent, payment for car repairs, etc.), to be paid via a money wiring service, which don't always require identification to collect. **DON'T FALL FOR IT!**

TELEMARKETING / PHONE SCAMS

Perhaps the most common scheme is when scammers use fake telemarketing calls to prey on older adults. With no face-to-face interaction, and no paper trail, these scams are hard to trace. Also, once a successful deal has been made, the buyer's name is shared with similar schemers looking for easy targets.

DON'T FALL FOR IT!

INTERNET / EMAIL FRAUD

Pop-up browser windows simulating virus-scanning software will fool victims into either downloading a fake anti-virus program, or an actual virus will open up the user's information to scammers. Be aware of “phishing” scams in which email messages appear to be from a legitimate company, asking to “update” or “verify” personal information. **ALWAYS**

BE AWARE OF WHERE EMAIL MESSAGES ARE COMING FROM. LOOK AT THE SENDER'S EMAIL ADDRESS FOR LEGITIMACY. DO NOT CLICK ANY LINK WITHIN AN EMAIL FROM SUSPICIOUS SENDERS.

Board of Medina County Commissioners



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FROM PAGE 16

THE GIFT CARD SCAM

Prepaid gift cards have become one of the fastest-growing requested forms of payment from criminals, and they are virtually untraceable. **LOOK OUT** for strange emails that appear to come from a friend or personal acquaintance claiming they want to send a gift card to someone but they are unable to purchase the gift card because their computer isn't working or they can't access the website to place the order.

**IT'S A SCAM!!
DON'T FALL FOR IT!**

PACKAGE DELIVERY SCAMS, OR THE "UNDELIVERED PACKAGE" SCAM

A package delivery scam often begins with a text message or email. The messages often indicate that a package or parcel is either on its way or there is some problem with your delivery, or a package cannot be delivered. These messages will often contain a link to click to an unscrupulous entity or to update your delivery or payment preferences. These messages seem to emulate official correspondence from a legitimate carrier, like UPS, FedEx and the USPS, but the goal is always the same: to steal your money and identity. If you click the link, you might unwittingly download malware onto your device and/or be asked to supply sensitive personal as well as financial information. Don't do it. It's a scam!

Other variations exist, which could include:

- Someone impersonating a legitimate delivery service, asking you to return the call.
- In other instances, criminals might go as far as placing fake missed delivery tags on your door, claiming that they're having trouble delivering your package and requesting that you contact them.

In any of these situations, if you respond you'll be communicating with a scammer who will try to manipulate you into sharing your personal and financial information. Don't do it. If you engage with a scammer, you increase your risk of losing your money or even your identity.

What to look for:

- A sense of urgency. Scammers might try to pressure you to act immediately, to encourage you to act without thinking.
- Requests for your personal information. Package delivery services don't need you to provide your personal or financial information to make a delivery. If they ask, don't respond.
- If you haven't ordered anything, any communication regarding a package is more than likely a scam.
- You receive a message that encourages you to respond to a link with a slightly different business name than a brand you trust (e.g. fedX.com or fed-ex.com.)

How can you protect yourself?

- Don't return phone calls from any unknown entity. Even if you think you know them, don't do it. Only call official numbers, not numbers that you receive over email or text.
- Whichever service you are using, be sure to check their communication policies. UPS and FedEx don't seek payment or information through unsolicited texts or email.
- If a tracking number is provided, visit the official website (e.g. DHL, FedEx, UPS, USPS) and search for it on the company's website to check its legitimacy.
- If you receive a "missed delivery" tag on your door, contact the actual company using their official number. Don't call the number on the door tag.

Words Matter at Every Age



From: The MCBDD

Most of us have lived long enough to know words stick. Many older adults especially understand something deeply personal about the language we use and how quickly words can change the way others see you.

One day you are "experienced." The next, you are "outdated." One day you are "independent." The next, people are "helping" without asking. One day you are speaking for yourself. The next, someone is speaking over you.

Maybe you've noticed it already. Someone talks a little slower. Someone finishes your sentence. Someone makes decisions for you. If that feels familiar, you already understand something personal and important about the power of language. The words we use can support success—or quietly take it away. Whether through aging or disability, many people encounter the same harmful assumptions - others know what's best for you and some lives are less capable, less valuable, less deserving of choice, or less worth listening to. But the impact of these words, assumptions and labels is real all the same. They can quickly erase a lifetime of knowledge, relationships, and contribution.

Think about how quickly a person can be reduced to a single word. Senior. Elderly. Dependent. When you hear certain labels often enough, they start to change how people treat you. People with developmental differences experience this kind of treatment their entire lives. And a lot of it starts with the words other people use. When people with developmental differences are described as "low-functioning," "special needs," or defined entirely by a diagnosis, expectations drop. And when expectations drop, so do opportunities. When disability-related

terms are used as jokes, insults, or shorthand for incompetence, the message is clear: losing ability means losing value. To be certain, using labels such as these is not always done out of cruelty. Often it comes from old habits and patterns. But the message still harms everyone—especially as we all move through the different stages of our lives.

So how does it change? Changing the words we use can be simple and also challenging. Sometimes it looks like speaking up at the dinner table. Or gently correcting a friend. Or listening to how others choose to describe themselves and using those words instead. Or showing younger generations how you show respect through your speech. Or choosing a better word yourself. Most importantly, simply asking yourself "Would I want to be talked about this way?"

And if there's one thing experience teaches all of us, it's this: how we treat others today often becomes how we are treated tomorrow. Because words matter. Change and growth begins when we accept that we can do better each and every day. And when we choose our words with care, we help create a world where not only people with developmental differences, but all ages and stages are not merely included in language—but respected in life.

If you need more information or have questions about people with developmental differences, the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is here to help! We work with the community every day to help support and empower people with developmental differences to find success in their lives. Call us 330-725-7751 or visit www.mcbdd.org for more information.



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MEDINA LIONS UPDATE



The Medina Lions met at Williams on the Lake for their annual Christmas Party on December 5th. Lion Club members continued their relationship with Medina County Marine Corps League and the Toys for Tots program. Admission to the Christmas Party included unwrapped toys donated by each guest. In addition to the toys the Lions Club donated over \$300 to Toys for Tots. Representing the Toys for the Tots and dressed for the occasion were Marines Randy Schmidet, Bob Compondu, Joe Staurch, Henry Huffman and Haywood Riley.

Attendees to the Christmas Party enjoyed a Christmas buffet dinner that included Roast beef, green beans, and Christmas cookies. Entertainment for this year's party was a Christmas Trivia Contest. Guests who demonstrated their knowledge of classic Christmas movies and music were able to win fun Christmas novelty prizes.

The Medina Lions have been aiding those living in the greater Medina community since 1943. Today the club is in dire need of new members. We would hate to see such important part of the fabric of Medina fade into history. If you care about your community and would like to find fun ways to help with like-minded individuals, consider joining the Medina Lions. If you would like additional information, you can visit the Medina Lions on Facebook or send an email to Kent VonDer Vellen at vdv@zoominternet.net.



The Medina Lions had a great time at our Christmas Party on December 5 and were able to donate toys and money to the Marine Corps League Toys for Tots program.

ANNOUNCEMENT

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

As we begin 2026, your Medina Lions Club is in search of new members.

If you believe in supporting your community and want to get involved with an organization that has been part of Medina since 1943 contact **Kent Von Der Vellen** at **330-421-0863** or at vdv@zoominternet.net

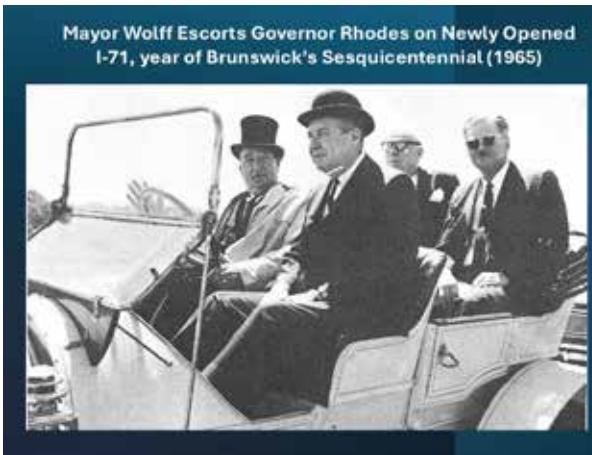
(OR)

Sandy Sampsel at **330-620-5065**
or at sandy@sampselofmedina.com

MEDINA COUNTY:

Echoes of 1965, Voices of America's 250th.

By: SHERRY CASSILY, Archangels Specialty Home Care



SHERRY CASSILY

meet, filling the property now housing the recreation center and library. Hundreds of collectors roared into town to display everything from the earliest vehicles to hotrods, highlighting Mayor Wolff's known passion for antique cars.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PRIDE

Festivals and community events offer significant social benefits. As business consultant Chris Romano states, "The best thing about being involved with festivals and events is the opportunity to help build a community, foster a sense of pride within a community, and engage a community."

Experts agree that fostering hometown pride is crucial for a community's development and improvement. Residents who take pride in their town are more likely to speak positively about it and volunteer for organizations that support the common good.

Will Medina County recapture the unifying spirit and hometown pride of 1965 to celebrate "American Pride" during the U.S. 250th Anniversary in 2026? This is an invaluable opportunity for our community to celebrate and renew the feeling of pride that encourages support for the common good.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION AND FUN

The 1965 sesquicentennial events spanned the entire year, a banner year that also saw the advent of city water and the opening of I-71 to the south. The celebratory atmosphere fostered widespread participation and fun:

- Contests: Residents held a beard-growing contest.
- Permits: "Offenders" needed permits to shave or wear makeup.
- Fundraising: Plates were designed and sold.
- "Kangaroo Court": A mock court patrolled streets on weekends, playfully putting "offenders" in jail.

The excitement was easily felt. As a resident wrote in an August 1965 letter to the editor of the Medina County Gazette, the parade was the "biggest and best" they had ever seen, with streets "jammed," but "certainly worth standing the hour and a half to see."

Another massive event was an antique car show and swap

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GENERATIONS OF CARE

The Story Behind Medina County's Waite Funeral Home.

By: JULIA MOBLEY, BEAT Reporter

waitefuneralhome.com



Two generations of the Waite family; Darryl and Andrew.



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In Loving Memory



James "Jim" Spelic
September 21, 1964 - January 1, 2026

James "Jim" Spelic, 61, of Medina, went to be with Jesus on January 1, 2026, after a battle with COPD.

He was the beloved husband of Linda Spelic for 40 years and a devoted father to Jacob (Kay), Rachael, Mary, and Rebekah Spelic. He is also survived by his father, Charles Spelic, and brothers David (Ming) Spelic and Jason (Heather) Spelic. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Ann Spelic.

A proud member of Local 860, Jim was known for his love of dirt bikes and his favorite Yamaha shirt. He will be remembered for his devotion to family and friends and will be deeply missed.

There are a lot of family businesses in Medina County, but not all of them deal with supporting people during their saddest moments. The Waite family has spent multiple generations working with families in their hardest times when a loved one passes away. Darryl and Andrew Waite own Waite Funeral Home located in Medina and Brunswick, Ohio. Darryl has retired, but his son, Andrew, has followed in his footsteps and is now the funeral director.

The Waite Funeral Home family business opened in Medina in 1902. In order to serve more people in need, they opened their second location in Brunswick, Ohio, in 1994, 92 years later. When asked if there is a particular lesson or value that this business has taught him, Andrew replied, "Being patient is so important because you are dealing with people in an emotional state of mind." He explained that one of their challenges as a business is to find qualified people that have the right background and experiences to help their business grow and be successful, while also remaining patient and compassionate.

The Waite family is well known for giving back to Medina County. Andrew shared that their business is well connected with local churches and their pastors. They also work with members of the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. Andrew shared that because of their positive connections and relationships within the community, he loves Medina County and always sees someone he knows or has worked with in the past. He believes the Medina County area truly has a hometown feeling.

The Waite family has been helping families in their time of need for over 120 years. They have been pillars in the community and find joy in serving others. When people trust in the Waite family business, they can trust that their loved ones will be cared for with respect and compassion.

I Shouldn't Pull Money From my IRA; Or Should I?



Qualified retirement plans such as IRA's, 401k, 403b, SEP, etc are a common part of the average person's "savings." Many people start building their retirement plan accounts while they are working or their employer contributes funds to the plan. The mindset is typically to contribute your pre-tax income to the retirement fund and don't touch it – let it grow and defer taxes. That's a great initial plan. Particularly because most plans penalize an owner for withdrawing funds prior to the age of 59 ½.

However, as you age over 59 ½, you should really consider certain rules surrounding the qualified retirement plan accounts. Let's review some basics. Qualified retirement plan accounts are comprised of funds that have never incurred income tax. The pre-tax funds are invested, grow, and defer taxes until the owner later withdraws the funds. The owner is required to withdraw a minimum amount every year starting at age 73. That minimum amount is calculated based on the owner's life expectancy. However, the owner may withdraw more than that amount.

Any amount withdrawn must be reported on the owner's tax return in the year of withdrawal and the owner must pay taxes on that "income." The amount of taxes to be paid is determined by how much is withdrawn and how much other income the owner has that year. The owner may be retired and at the lowest income earning period of their life. Their tax bracket is likely relatively low and they could withdraw a significant amount of IRA funds without reaching a higher tax bracket.

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www.ccj.com

By: ANN SALEK, Certified Elder Law Attorney

For example, if the owner has \$50,000 of income, the highest tax percentage they will pay is 22%. That owner will not pay a higher income tax percentage until they reach \$103,350 (for single filers in 2025). Therefore, that owner could withdraw \$53,000 from their IRA without hitting the next highest tax bracket.

Let's also review some basics about taxes that must be paid by the beneficiary of an IRA after the owner dies. If the beneficiary is the spouse of the owner, the spouse may "rollover" the IRA and the same ownership rules will likely apply to the spousal beneficiary as to the original owner.

However, if the beneficiary is a child of the owner, that child receives an "inherited IRA" and different withdrawal rules apply. Almost all non-spouse beneficiaries are required to withdraw all of the IRA funds over a 10-year time period and pay income taxes on those withdrawn funds. Oftentimes, an adult child beneficiary is at

the height of their earning capacity and paying taxes at a much higher tax bracket than their retired parents. Therefore, a retired IRA owner who only withdraws the required minimum distribution may just be deferring taxes for a child to pay at a much higher rate than the retired IRA owner.

IRA owners should really talk with their financial planner and accountant about whether or not it makes sense to withdraw more than the required minimum distribution amount. Keep in mind that even if you withdraw funds from your traditional IRA, you can still invest those funds to try to continue to "grow" the value. In addition, you may be able to use the after-tax withdrawal amount to invest in a Roth IRA that will continue to grow tax-free.

This concept is definitely a different way of thinking for most "savers" out there and it may not be the best option for everyone, but definitely something to think about.

Giving in Style

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Socialize, Keep Your Mind Sharp, Have Fun!

Teams will then form and trivia contests will be held at area senior centers. Questions are answered as a team and points are wagered to determine the winner. Modeled after the NCAA's basketball tournament, there are six rounds:

1. Team-Formation Rounds
2. Knockout Round
3. Smart-Sixteen Round
4. Elevated Eight
5. Fact-Finding Four
6. Championship Round

Championship winners will receive bragging rights and cash for their charities/center. No registration or participation fees. All participants receive a t-shirt.

More info: <https://themindchallenge.com/faq>

Join us every Tuesday at Noon for trivia fun starting Jan 13!
Medina Senior Center 246 Northland Drive

Sign up: email jakiousis@medinacounty.gov or call 330-725-9177



FINANCE & RETIREMENT

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS FOR 2026

Start the New Year Right by Reviewing and Revamping Your Financial Plan.

By: CLAUS MEYER, Certified Financial PlannerTM
Retirement Income Certified ProfessionalTM
with Raymond James

Instead of hauling out those familiar New Year's resolutions about keeping a journal or drinking more water, how about focusing on your financial well-being? Here's a set of resolutions that can help ensure your long-term financial confidence.



CLAUS MEYER

UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES

If you don't correctly document your beneficiary designations, who gets what may be determined by federal or state law, or by the default plan document used in your retirement accounts. When did you last update your designations? Have life changes (divorce, remarriage, births, deaths, state of residence) occurred since then?

Update your beneficiary listings on wills, life insurance, annuities, IRAs, 401(k)s, qualified plans and anything else that'd affect your heirs. If you've named a trust, have any relevant tax laws changed? Have you provided for the possibility that your primary beneficiary may die before you? Does your plan address the simultaneous death of you and your spouse? An estate attorney can help walk you through these various scenarios.

CREATE FLEXIBLE LIQUIDITY

Cash has inflation and opportunity tradeoffs, but a lack of access can cause greater problems if you find yourself needing to draw from your investments. Finding a balance in line with your life and goals is important to avoid disrupting your long-term plans.

The right liquidity strategy will be different for every investor and could incorporate cash reserves, cash alternatives, highly

liquid securities, lines of credit, margin loans or even structured lending. Multiple institutions and account owners can be used to hold more than \$250,000 with FDIC guarantees.*

EVALUATE YOUR RETIREMENT PROGRESS

What changes are needed given your current lifestyle and the market environment? Don't fixate solely on your assets' value – instead, drill down into what types of securities you hold, your expected cash flows, your contingency plans, your assumed rate of return, inflation rates and how long you're planning for. Retirement plans have many moving parts that must be monitored on an ongoing basis.

REVIEW YOUR ACCOUNT TITLING

Haphazard account titling can create problems down the line. If one partner dies and an account is titled only in their name, those assets can't be readily accessed by the survivor. The solution may be creating joint accounts, but it's not always that simple. Titling has implications across a range of estate planning issues, as well as other situations such as Medicaid eligibility and borrowing power, too.

DEVELOP A CHARITABLE STRATEGY

Giving comes from the heart, but you can also do well when doing good. For example, consider whether or not it'd make sense

to donate low-basis stocks in lieu of cash, or learn about establishing a donor advised fund to take an upfront deduction for contributions made over the next several years. Give, but do so with an eye toward reducing your tax liability.

SPARK A FAMILY CONVERSATION

Sustaining the benefits of wealth for generations is nearly impossible without a mutual understanding among family members. Consider creating a family mission statement that outlines the shared vision for your wealth and legacy. This should include non-financial topics, too, like your values, expectations and important life lessons.

DIGITIZE YOUR RECORD KEEPING

You likely receive emails, letters, reports and updates from multiple accounts. Consider going paperless and centralizing important files in one place to reduce frustration and ensure easy access when needed. Your advisor may have access to secure storage tools that can help.

INVEST WITH YOUR VALUES

Aligning your wealth and values is a deeply personal journey, and your portfolio can be tailored to reflect your beliefs, preferences and goals. Through a deeper understanding of what matters to you, a trusted advisor can help you identify your priorities.

CHECK IN WITH YOUR ADVISOR

A trusted advisor can offer specialized tools, impartiality and experience earned by dealing with many market cycles and client situations. Communicate openly about what's happening in your life today and what may happen in the future. It's difficult to manage what they aren't aware of, so err on the side of over-communicating and establish a regular check-in schedule for the year ahead.

These suggestions are a helpful starting point, but no two long-term plans are identical – so reach out to your

advisor for more specific guidance about progressing toward your goals in 2026.

*FDIC standard deposit insurance coverage is up to \$250,000 per depositor, per insured bank, for each account ownership category. Please visit FDIC.gov for more information.

Raymond James does not provide tax or legal advice. Please discuss these matters with the appropriate professional.

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SAVE THE DATE
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Investing involves risk, and you may incur a profit or loss regardless of strategy selected. Raymond James financial advisors do not render advice on tax matters. You should discuss any tax matters with the appropriate professional. Every investor's situation is unique, and you should consider your investment goals, risk tolerance and time horizon before making any investment or withdrawal decision. The cost and availability of Long Term Care insurance depend on factors such as age, health, and the type and amount of insurance purchased. Guarantees are based on the claims paying ability of the insurance company.

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Sanctuary Wadsworth, a 5 star CMS nursing facility is proud to announce the opening of our brand new Dialysis Den! We are able to provide dialysis to up to 18 patients per day. Sanctuary is committed to high quality, high acuity care offering short term and long term care, ventilator support & on site dialysis.

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**SOPREMA
Senior Center
& Cafe**

News

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Celebrating 50 Years
of Impact!**

The Soprema Senior Center (SSC) rang in 2026 with more than just a festive New Year's Eve party; they ushered in a monumental milestone: five decades enriching the lives of seniors! From its beginnings as the "Center for Older Adults" in downtown Wadsworth in 1976, to the vibrant senior center they are today, the SSC will be celebrating 50 years of golden memories all year long.

For half a century, the SSC has evolved from a small community gathering spot for older adults into a premier destination for active aging, filled with laughter, growth, and lifelong friendships. Mark your calendars for a grand 50th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, June 12!

The Center's long legacy has been greatly supported by the Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation (WOAF). Their recent "12 Days of Christmas" fundraiser was the most successful in its history, setting an all-time record with 1,780 tickets sold! The WOAF extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and donated this past year.

Success also stems from Professional Friends - businesses and organizations with a passion for supporting seniors (there were 140 in 2025)!



Wadsworth Mayor Robin Laubaugh drew the last five 12 Days of Christmas winners in front of a large crowd of excited seniors!



Soprema Senior Center staff are excited to celebrate the SSC's 50th Anniversary all year long!

For just \$50 a year through the WOAF, organizations can become a vital part of the Soprema Senior Center in many ways. Those that join by March 1 will be included on the Professional Friend banner prominently displayed in the SSC lobby.

Interested in learning more about the Soprema Senior Center and all of their happenings in the new year? Visit their website at www.wadsworthcity.com/SopremaSeniorCenter.

A department of the City of Wadsworth, they are open Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm, with free membership for anyone 55 or better. You can also reach them via email at ssc@wadsworthcity.org. The Soprema Café, operated by MCSAS, is open from 7:30am – 2:00pm. The new year brings an updated menu, and has an updated menu in the new year, with a great selection of breakfasts, lunches, coffees, and more at great prices.

Another way to keep up with our 50th-Anniversary year is on Facebook by liking and following here: Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation as well as MCSAS Soprema Café. Make sure visiting the Soprema Senior Center & Café is on your 2026 bucket list!



Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation Board members had a spectacular 12 Days of Christmas Fundraiser!

LIVING WILLS:

Challenging a Physician's Findings

By: MICHAEL LARIBEE, Esq., Laribee Law, LLP

Living wills allow competent adults to state preferences for life-sustaining treatment (e.g., ventilators, feeding tubes) under specific conditions. In Ohio, a living will becomes operative when two physicians certify that the patient is either terminally ill or permanently unconscious and unable to make informed medical decisions. If, in light of the patient's condition, the attending physician determines that life sustaining treatment should be withheld or withdrawn, they must document this in the patient's medical record and make a good-faith effort to notify those individuals named in the living will as contacts.

But what happens if the patient's family or loved ones disagree with the physicians' medical opinion? Ohio law provides a formal objection process to challenge the physicians' findings. The challenger must notify the attending physician of the objection within 48 hours and file a complaint in probate court within two business days. The complaint must identify the patient, state the relationship, and specify which determination is contested. Typical grounds include:

- Incorrect medical findings (e.g., diagnosis of terminal or permanent unconscious status);
- Wrong assessment of the patient's decision-making capacity;
- Reasonable possibility that patient will regain capacity to make decisions;
- Proposed action not permitted by the living will;
- Living will executed under duress, fraud, or undue influence; or
- Living will does not comply with Ohio statutory requirements.



MICHAEL LARIBEE

The probate court must serve all interested parties with a copy of the complaint within three days after its filing and must conduct a hearing at the earliest possible time, but no later than the third business day after service has been completed. Immediately following the hearing, the court must issue a written order, which may:

- Uphold the living will and physicians' findings;
- Direct reevaluation of the patient's condition or capacity; or,

- Declare the living will invalid and prevent its implementation.

Disputes involving end-of-life care are legally complex and deadlines to challenge doctors' findings under a living will are quite short. If you are presented with such a case, it is wise to consult with a trusted probate attorney to assist you.



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Michael Laribee is a partner in the Medina law firm of Laribee Law, LLP. This article is intended to provide general information about the law. It is not intended to give legal advice. Readers are urged to seek advice from an attorney regarding their specific issues and rights.



LIBRARY NEWS

Winter Reading for Adults Debuts Jan. 5 at MCDL Author Visits Add to the Fun!

Medina County District Library launches the annual Winter Reading for Adults Jan. 5 – March 15 at all MCDL locations. Read any format of books and enter the titles for a chance to win Book Lovers Bundles at each location or a Grand Prize Bundle with a new Kindle Fire, case, page turner and stylus. Along the way take challenges to earn free book coupons for the Friends of the Library book sales and get custom reading inspired stickers just for participating. Play online or at your library. Entry bookmarks are available at all locations. Learn more and play at mcdl.info/ReadingGame. Sponsored by the Friends of MCDL.

While playing the Winter Reading Game enjoy titles by our visiting authors as part of our **Cozy Mystery Series** in February at Medina Library. Gather around for a fireside discussion with award-winning mystery writers.

AMANDA FLOWER

Wed., Feb. 4, 6:30 pm (blizzard date Feb. 11)

Discuss Natural Barn Killer with Amanda Flower. Amanda is a bestselling and Agatha Award-winning author of more than fifty mystery novels. She is a former librarian as well!

ANASTASIA HASTINGS

Wed., Feb. 25, 6:30 pm (blizzard date Mar. 4)

Discuss Of Manners and Murder with Anastasia Hastings (Connie Laux). She is the bestselling author of cozy and historical mysteries under many pseudonyms. She lives nearby in Brecksville, Ohio!

Register at mcdl.info/Readers for both events and to reserve their books. Book Sale and signing will follow the discussion.

Remember – eMedia is available FREE on MCDL's Hoopla, Libby and Kanopy apps 24/7, even during snowstorms! You can also apply for a digital library card for immediate access to online content if you live in Medina County. Out-of-county applicants may also apply but may have a 24 to 48-hour turnaround time. If you have a physical library card you already have access to all the eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies, magazines and more available at mcdl.info/eMedia.

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“

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Starting with Monica, we have had nothing but pleasant experiences from entry to discharge for my wife Renee. In addition to you being so available and accommodating we would also like to single out RN's - Jason, Sylvana and Anjannette. They were courteous, attentive, and focused on their duties. They were very empathetic and went out of their way to comfort my wife and engage her in uplifting conversations. This meant a great deal to me and my emotional wellbeing hearing my wife sing praises knowing she was in good hands being apart from me. She found the private rooms to be sufficiently large, cheerful, and accommodating in comparison to the competition we visited prior to selecting Champion Creek.

~ Robert, husband of a rehab resident

I am happy to be a resident at Champion Creek because staff are always happy and happy to see me! They are very welcoming and always ask how I am doing. The food is like a fancy restauraunt, it is always presented so well, the flavor is amazing and they meet my dietary preferences and remember what I like. It is important to me to be able to go outside and there are so many places to go! The grounds and courtyards make me feel like I am at a park. I like that I can decorate my room how I want it because it is a special space for me. The facility presents very clean and organized - it feels like a large hotel. This place is amazing!

I can tell that at Champion Creek it is all about the heart and they truly care.

~ Ruth, Champion Creek longterm resident

”




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Call today to learn about Champion Creek! Contact Monica Bruggeman, Admissions

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Visit our website at www.Champion-Creek.net

Like us on FB to follow updates re: the center and news

6045 Wooster Pike, Medina