



Helping HANDS

JAN / FEB 2024

A Publication of the HANDS Foundation

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

Stuff the Range Rover!

ANNUAL HANDS EVENT TO RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON



For the second year in a row, Western Reserve Masonic Community once again opened its doors for the annual Stuff the Range Rover Christmas event on December 5. Always known as "Stuff the Escalde" this year's event changed to a Range Rover. The free and popular event drew a large crowd of guests celebrating the up-

coming holiday while at the same time supporting the work of the HANDS Foundation.

This very family-oriented occasion offered games and prizes for the children, including a visit from Santa Claus and the Grinch.

Everyone was invited to enjoy the complimentary refreshing beverages, tasty hors d'oeuv-

res, and holiday dessert buffet prepared by the Western Reserve Masonic Community staff.

Guests were treated to a beautiful holiday setting and warm atmosphere for lots of social mingling and were eager to make their bids on the

■ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

Kona says...
"Hope Everyone Had a Great Christmas and New Year!"



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HANDS Across Medina County Foundation
P.O. Box 868 | Brunswick, Ohio | 44212
Visit us on the Web: HANDS-Foundation.org

STUFF THE RANGE ROVER

many displayed baskets and silent auction items and to buy sideboard tickets. Lori Betz, with the assistance of Chrissy Waller, called the lucky numbers when it was time to announce the winners.

The bidding highlight of the evening was focused on the motorized toy Range Rover stuffed to overflowing with gifts, prizes and goodies. People were purchasing long ribbons of tickets in the hope of winning the main prize. The lucky winner was Jennifer Jacobs who took the grand prize. Congrats Jennifer!!

"We worked very hard to collect a variety of items to stuff into the Range Rover for this event," said Chrissy Waller, Plum Creek Executive Director and HANDS Foundation Executive Director. "Items such as lotto tickets, gift cards, family games, movies, money and much more overflowed out of the toy Range Rover. It's always a joy to see the items stuffed into the toy car and seeing a lucky guest win the prize."

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

A huge thank you goes out to **Western Reserve Masonic Community** for hosting the event. Thank you to all of the WRMC staff for the wonderful food items and desserts! A very special thank you goes out to **Carecore at Willowood** for their contribution of the motorized toy Range Rover. Thank you to all attendees for their support of the HANDS Foundation.

Thank you to all of the HANDS Foundation members who helped make this event a success!

All proceeds raised went to support the HANDS Foundation. "Families who attend always have a wonderful time, and it's a beautiful thing to see so many people who have a special place in their heart to help seniors in our community," said Chrissy Waller, Executive Director of the HANDS Foundation. "We hope to see many new faces next year!"

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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- CARECORE AT WILLOWOOD
- PLUM CREEK ASSISTED LIVING
- CARE PATROL
- MCBDD
- RESIDENCE HOME CARE
- DANBURY SENIOR LIVING
- BRUNSWICK POINTE
- DIVINE REHAB AT PEARLVIEW
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- ENHANCED HOMECARE OF MEDINA, INC.



Current and past HANDS Foundation Board members.



HANDS FOUNDATION

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 Office Hours.....Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

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Ad & Article Deadline for MAR/APR Issue: 2/12/24

GET ON OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to get on our mailing list, please contact Liz Murphy at the HANDS Foundation office at: 330-225-4242 or by email at: OfficeHandsFound@aol.com



THE CARE YOU NEED, AT HOME, BY ANGELS



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HANDS HAPPENINGS SAVE THE DATES

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St. Ambrose Hilkert Hall \$25 ticket



For tickets call Lori Betz 216-990-3739

Chance to win \$1500. Basket Raffles

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Foundations Health Solutions

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JEFFERY PROTECTS
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Devon Diello



PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Tying the Community Together to Benefit Seniors



Kimberly Valco

Purses with a Purpose was created to boost financial funding for senior organizations within Medina County in a unique way. The luxury purse auction idea stemmed from Devon and Kimberly's love of fashion, and blossomed into a bustling event sprinkled with pink glitter and excitement for the possibilities it will provide.

Built solely on the generosity of the community through monetary donations, new and gently used purse and accessory donations, and a multitude of various services provided at low or no cost, the annual Purses with a Purpose event is able to maximize the funding given to the selected senior organization of the year.

The goal of Purses with a Purpose is to continue to promote and support the senior community of Medina County and the organizations that serve them for many years to come.

The 2024 Annual Purses with a Purpose Event will benefit The HANDS Foundation



February 6th, 2024 • 4:30-7:30pm

Western Reserve Masonic Community
4931 Nettleton Road, Medina, Ohio

\$25 per ticket • Cash or Check Payable to The HANDS Foundation
No Tickets Sold At The Door • Contact Devon Diello for Ticket Information • 330.635.7117

Presented By




SAVE THE DATE!
SENIOR EXPO
2024

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
BRUNSWICK REC CENTER





SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Center & Café Closed for Holiday 	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Musical Tuesday 11:30 Euchre 1:00 General Caregivers* 12:15 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Blind Truth 1:00 Dominoes/Games 1:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Alzheimers Caregivers* 1:00 Hand and Foot 1:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Bunco 1:00 Movie at Wads. Library 1:00 Medicare 101 Hybrid* 3:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Crafts/Puzzles w/Windfall 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Table Talk with Dr. Patel* 12:00 Euchre 1:00	Summa Health Chat* 10:00 Gentle Exercise 11:00 Chess 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Dominoes/Games 1:00 Trivia w/ Brookdale* 2:00 Storytime w/ Wade (Zoom) 3:30	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Mind Challenge Practice 10:00 Bridge 11:00 Seniors w/ Srs Lunchn 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Soprema Café closed today Martin Luther King Day	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Blood Press. Checks 12:00 Parkinson's Caregivers* 12:15 Euchre 1:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Dominoes/Games 1:00 Healthy Living w/Humana* 1:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Sewing Seniors 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Virtual Bingo (Zoom) 1:00 County Assistance-by appt. 2:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Warm Wishes w/ HANDS Foundation 12:00 WHS Tech Assist 1:45 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Refreshments w/ Sen. Romanchuk 10:00 Tech Café w/ MCBDD 11:30 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Bunco 1:00 Paper Crafting 101 1:00 Monthly B-Day Party 1:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Garden Chat* 11:00 Euchre 1:00 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 WHS Tech Assist 12:15 Dominoes/Games 1:00 Funeral Q & A 2:30	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Poetry Open Mic 12:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Senior Book Chat 1:00 Grief Support 2:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Genealogy 2:00 Travel Preview 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Euchre 1:00	Hearing Scmgs-by appt. 9:00 Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Dominoes/Games 1:00	PLEASE RSVP TO RESERVE A SPOT IN THESE GREAT PROGRAMS *PROGRAMS MARKED WITH AN * ARE IN PERSON AND ZOOM (HYBRID).	See our online Newsletter for more Details: www.WadsworthCity.com/SopremaSeniorCenter

YR

OF EVENTS
CALENDAR
WADSWORTH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
*PROGRAMS MARKED WITH AN * ARE IN PERSON & ZOOM (HYBRID).	PLEASE RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE IN THESE GREAT PROGRAMS!	See our online Newsletter for more Details! www.WadsworthCity.com/SopremaSeniorCenter	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Sewing Seniors 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers* 1:00 Hand and Foot 1:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Class 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Autoharp w/ Dan 1:30	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Blood Press. Checks 12:00 Euchre 1:00 General Caregivers* 12:15 Ask an Attorney - by appt. 1:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Coffee w/ a Cop 11:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Blind Truth* 1:00 Dominoes & Games 1:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Mind Challenge Practice 10:00 Bridge 11:00 Seniors w/ Srs Lunchn 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Wadsworth Library Fun 1:00	Valentine Party 12:30  Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Class 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Bunco 1:00 Movie at Wads. Library 1:00 Medicare 101 Hybrid* 3:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Crafts/Puzzles w/Windfall 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Table Talk w/ Dr. Patel* 12:00 Euchre 1:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Dominoes & Games 1:00 Trivia w/ Brookdale* 2:00 Storytime w/ Wade (Zoom) 3:30	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Sewing Seniors 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Virtual Bingo (Zoom) 1:00 County Assistance-by appt. 2:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 WHS Tech Assist 1:45 Genealogy 2:00
Center & Café Closed for Holiday 	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Blood Press. Checks 12:00 Parkinson's Caregivers* 12:15 Euchre 1:00 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Dominoes & Games 1:00 Healthy Living w/Humana* 1:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Poetry Open Mic 12:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Senior Book Chat 1:00 Grief Support 2:00	Bingo Auction 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Class 10:00 Tech Café w/ MCBDD 11:30 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Bunco 1:00 Paper Crafting 101 1:00 Monthly B-Day Party 1:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Bible Study 9:30 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Garden Chat 11:00 Euchre 1:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00 Zoom Basics Class 12:15 Dominoes & Games 1:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00 Mah Jong 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Dr. Dan Health Chat* 2:00	

FEBRUARY



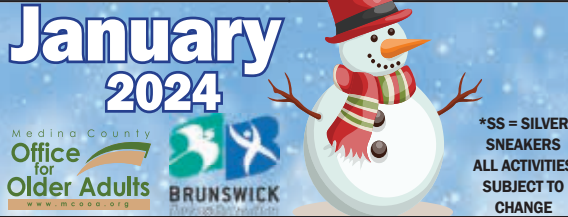
SOPREMA SENIOR CENTER & CAFE WADSWORTH

617 School Drive
 Wadsworth, OH 44281
 330-335-1513



ssc@wadsworthcity.org

All Senior Center events are listed on the calendar day in which they occur. Any questions about specific events or other details can be directed to the Senior Center.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1  MCOOA OFFICE CLOSED	2 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo	3 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 10:00 Activity Council 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 12:30 Knitters	4 8:00 Cards 10:00 SS Classic 11:00 SS Zumba 11:30 Line Dance (Beg) 1:00 Bingo: Altenheim	5 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 OOA Nutrition 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
8 11:00 Munch & Learn FYZICAL 1:15 Line Dance (Inter) 12:15 Mah Jongg 1:00 Culinary Club	9 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo Spry Srs. 2:30 Tech Tuesday	10 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 12:30 Knitters	11 8:00 Cards 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Line Dance (Beg) 12:15 Dominoes	12 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:00 Danbury-Create a Better You! 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
15  MCOOA OFFICE CLOSED	16 8:00 Cards 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo Richison Ins	17 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 12:30 Knitters	18 8:00 Cards 9:30 Line Dance (Beg) 10:00 SS Classic 11:00 SS Zumba 12:00 Ask an Attorney 12:15 Dominoes	19 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 OOA Nutrition 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
22 9:00 SS Classic 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:00 Munch & Learn Rocky River Healthcare 11:15 Line Dance (Inter) 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:15 Mah Jongg	23 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo 2:30 Tech Tuesday	24 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg	25 8:00 Cards 9:30 Line Dance (Beg) 10:00 SS Classic 11:00 SS Zumba 12:15 Dominoes 1:00 Bingo: TBD	26 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:00 Danbury Chair Chi 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
29 9:00 SS Classic 9:15 BP Checks with SWG 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:00 Munch & Learn NOACA-Gohio Line Dance (Inter) 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:15 Mah Jongg	30 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo-Divine Pearlview	31 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 12:30 Knitters	 <p>January 2024</p> <p>Medina County Office for Older Adults BRUNSWICK</p> <p>*SS = SILVER SNEAKERS ALL ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p>	

JANUARY

OF EVENTS

CALENDAR

BRUNSWICK

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p>February 2024</p> <p>*SS = SILVER SNEAKERS • ALL ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE</p> <p>BRUNSWICK Parks & Recreation Medina County Office for Older Adults</p>				
5 9:00 SS Classic 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:00 Munch & Learn Angel's Care 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:15 Line Dance (Inter) 12:15 Mah Jongg 1:00 Culinary Club	6 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo: Spry Seniors	7 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 10:00 Activity Council 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 12:30 Knitters	1 8:00 Cards 10:00 SS Classic 11:00 SS Zumba 11:30 Line Dance (Beg) 12:15 Dominoes 1:00 Bingo: Altenheim	2 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 OOA Nutrition 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
12 9:00 SS Classic 9:30 Art Critique 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:00 Munch & Learn Richison Insurance 11:15 Line Dance (Inter) 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:15 Mah Jongg	13 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo 2:30 Tech Tuesday	14 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 12:30 Knitters	15 8:00 Cards 10:00 SS Classic 11:00 SS Zumba 11:30 Line Dance (Beg) 12:15 Dominoes	16 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 OOA Nutrition 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
19 9:00 SS Classic 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:15 Line Dance (Inter) 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:15 Mah Jongg MCOOA OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY	20 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo	21 9:00 Vintage Artists 10:00 SS Classic 11:30 Cardio Dance 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg 1:00 OOA Benefits 12:30 Knitters	22 8:00 Cards 10:00 SS Classic 11:00 SS Zumba 11:30 Line Dance (Beg) 12:15 Dominoes	23 9:00 SS Cardio 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:30 OOA Nutrition 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:00 Danbury Chair Chi 12:30 Ladies Pinochle
26 9:00 SS Classic 9:15 BP Checks with SWG 10:00 SS Chair Yoga 11:00 Munch & Learn: Senior Care Authority 11:15 Line Dance (Inter) 11:30 Cardio Dance 12:15 Mah Jongg	28 8:00 Cards 9:00 SS Cardio 11:00 Zumba 1:00 Bingo - Divine Pearlview 2:30 Tech Tuesday	28 9:00 Vintage Artists 11:30 OOA Nutrition 12:15 Mah Jongg	29 8:00 Cards 11:30 Line Dance (Beg) 12:15 Dominoes 1:00 Bingo	

FEBRUARY

**OFFICE FOR
OLDER ADULTS**

BRUNSWICK

**BRUNSWICK
REC CENTER**

3637 Center Road
330-416-3680 • 330-273-8000
www.mcooa.org



LAURA TOTH
LToth@medinaco.org

All Brunswick Rec Center activities are listed on the calendar day in which they occur. Any questions about specific events or other details can be directed to the Senior Center.



FROM YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING EVERYONE HAPPINESS, GOOD HEALTH AND PEACE

As we enter 2024, one of the first priorities for the legislature is crafting the State Capital budget. The Capital budget is prepared in even-numbered years in an alternating cycle with the state operating budget. Capital budget projects are intended to spur economic growth through investments for needed state and local infrastructure needs. Since these are one-time investments, no funds for operational or pilot programs are accepted. Typically, appropriations of the Capital budget bill are backed by State issued debt, however, because of the State of Ohio's strong financial position, significant portions will be funded in cash.

In addition, the legislature allocated an additional \$750 million dollars out of operating funds to be allocated in a "One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund." This allocation is intended to make a difference in our local communities.

Grant applications were due into our offices on December 18th in order to evaluate and rank the projects so I can present our district's initiatives and rank them for funding priority. We received many applications ranging from hundreds of thousand of dollars to many millions of dollars. Requests for infrastructure improvements, parks and recreational projects, and school improvements were well represented.

Ranking these projects is a difficult task and one I take very seriously. I will spend

several weeks reviewing the requests and determining their impact on the district. Unfortunately, not all projects will receive funding, but many will. Their impact on the district is always welcomed.

SOME EXAMPLES OF PRIOR CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Medina County Emergency Housing Shelter – this project has received a combination of funding from the State (Federal and Local level) with the first phase of the shelter to open sometime in January, 2025.

Medina Recreation Center Fitness room expansion

Sharon Nature Preserve Trails – Phase one

McDowell-Phillips House Museum/Barn – improvements and parking lot additions

Chippewa Falls rail trail – new parking lot – landscaping

Westfield Center Community Center – ADA improvement project

Wadsworth Safety Town Park Project

Lodi Community Park Bridge & Drainage project

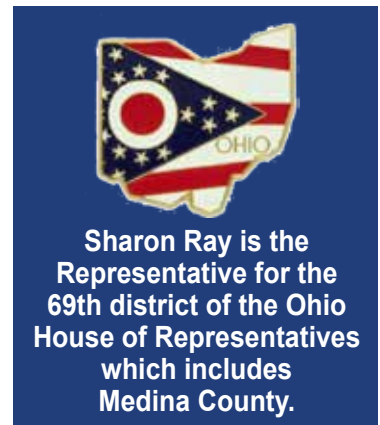
Wadsworth Park projects – Weatherstone – Valleyview – Friedt

Brunswick Recreation Center – ADA & HVAC updates

Cobblestone Park project in Montville Township

All of these projects serve a public good and are an excellent use of Capital budget monies.

I look forward to reviewing this year's submissions to see the wonderful things that will be coming to Medina County in the future as a result of the Capital Budget.



Sharon, pictured with Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, Jason Stephens (L) and Deacon Kipfstuhl.

On a side note, we start every session of the House of Representatives with a prayer. These prayers are led by religious leaders invited by their State Representative to participate. On December 13th – our last session of the year, I invited Medina's own, Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl to administer the opening prayer. Paul is not only a Deacon at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, he also serves as the director of the Catholic Commission of Wayne, Ashland and Medina.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in Columbus. Here are some of the things I have accomplished during my tenure:

- ★ Passed conservative budgets that included tax cuts for families and business – while providing significant investments in Public Schools, voucher programs and High School Career Tech programs.
- ★ Brought back significant tax dollars for Medina County's Emergency Housing Shelter, The Childrens Center of Medina County and multiple local park, civic and community projects.
- ★ Was surprised (and humbled) to be elected to House Leadership in a bi-partisan vote on Jan. 24, 2023.
- ★ Had my Adoption Modernization Act (HB #5) pass the House unanimously on June 27, 2023.



ELECT SHARON RAY STATE REP



JOHN BURKE

FROM YOUR TREASURER

Historical reenactor, John Burke dressed as Jim Smith might have looked during his time with the Delaware and Canasatauga Indians.



Jim Smith The First White Man in Medina County

By: JOHN BURKE, Medina County Treasurer

As winter comes upon us in Medina County, we often deal with shoveling snow and waiting for roads to be plowed so we can get to the grocery store. But what was winter like for the first settlers some 200 years ago?

A young man named Jim Smith was probably the first white man to spend a winter in Medina County back in 1756 as a prisoner of Indians camping in Hinckley area. Here is his story:

Born in 1737 in the backwoods of Pennsylvania, Jim Smith received little “book learning” but was well-versed in hunting, trapping, woodsman-ship, and all the trials of frontier life. These pioneer skills would serve him well when he was captured by the Indians.

Smith, aged 18 in 1755 at the beginning of the French and Indian War, was hired as a timberman to help cut a wagon road for British General Braddock’s Army as it moved through the Pennsylvania

forests to take French Fort Duquesne (where Pittsburgh now stands.)

The General sent Smith with a message for Colonel George Washington, but he was ambushed by Indians, his companion killed and scalped. A group of Delaware and Canasatauga Indians then marched Jim and other prisoners through the Ohio country to Fort Detroit where the prisoners were to be sold back to the British. But during the journey the Indians decided not to sell Jim. Instead, they adopted him, dressed him in deer skins, bore his ears and nose for silver rings, gave him a wampum choker, bobcat pouch, porcupine garters, and named him Sewoia. They allowed Smith to keep the journal in which he wrote his experiences over the 3 years in captivity.

After leaving Fort Detroit, Smith and the Indians stopped at the falls of the Black River, where the city of Elyria now stands, to build birchbark canoes

and where they hunted deer, elk, buffalo, and bear. They next traveled up the eastern tributary of the Rocky River deciding to make their winter camp of 1755 – 1756 at a place called Panther Cave. The rock ledges and caves were excellent hunting grounds for panther, bobcat, and lynx. A century before the Erie Indians hunted these cats and used their skins for clothing earning the moniker of “cat nation.”

Game was plentiful at Panther Cave, known today as Whipp’s Ledges in Hinckley and Jim Smith was probably the first white man to enter what would become Medina County. The Indians built log lodges for the winter and were joined by their wives and children. They trapped beaver, otter, and raccoon. Jim wrote about the raccoon being remarkably fat, large and numerous, noting they could trap a thousand raccoons in one winter. They stuffed and roasted raccoon much like our

turkeys at Thanksgiving, seasoning them with maple sugar and syrup. Deer were hunted at night using torches, shooting the deer with arrows below the reflection of their eyes. Bear skins were used for horse saddles and bear grease for cooking and lubricant for hair and to keep mosquitos away.

Come spring the furs were taken by canoe to the trading post at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. Furs were traded for steel knives, guns, black powder and lead bullets, copper kettles, cloth shirts, blankets, jewelry, and tobacco. Beaver skins brought up to \$4 and were sent East to be made into top hats. Deer doe skins brought 50 cents while a large male deerskin was worth one dollar – that is why one dollar is referred to as a “buck.”

During the next two years, Jim and the Indians hunted buffalo along the upper Sandusky River near Fremont and along

the Scioto River near Columbus. In 1759, Jim traveled with some Seneca Indians up the St. Lawrence River to trade at Montréal. While there he escaped the Indians, making his way to a French ship where he was a prisoner for four months before being exchanged and finally returning to his old home in Pennsylvania.

Smith was later appointed Captain of a company of rangers who dressed and fought like the Indians in defense of the Ohio frontier. In the Revolutionary War he served as a Colonel and was a bodyguard for General Washington. Jim never came back to Panther Cave in Hinckley. But later in life he returned to Ohio in 1802 to live with his son on Turtle Creek near Lebanon.



COMMISSIONERS' CORNER



MCPT to Launch MC Flex in Brunswick on Monday, Jan. 29

Beginning, Monday, Jan. 29, Medina County Public Transit (MCPT) — the County's public transportation provider, will formally launch the MC Flex in Brunswick.

MC Flex is a micro-transit service, a relatively new public transit option that operates similarly to ride hailing applications like Uber and Lyft.

MC Flex is a shared-ride service, meaning as riders are transported to their destination, other passengers may be picked up or dropped off on the way.

Earlier this year, MC Flex began as a pilot program in Wadsworth to test the viability of the service. After that success, it was implemented in the City of Medina which has also been a great success.

MC Flex buses will be available in Brunswick from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday within a designated transit zone and provides rides for all trips that start and end within the zone boundaries.

Rather than waiting for a bus operating on a set loop route, MC Flex allows riders to instead book a trip that will pick them up and drop them off at their preferred destination anywhere within the designated zone.

Riders can book a trip by calling the MCPT office at 330-723-9670 and speaking with a Scheduler.

Bus fares for the MC Flex are as follows: one-way fares, \$1.50; elderly and disabled, \$0.75; and all-day pass, \$4. You may also inquire about

purchasing our Monthly MC Flex Pass.

According to Transit Director Shannon Rine, this new service in Wadsworth and the City of Medina, has proven to improve passengers' transit experience and has reduced travel times to their destinations.

"The MC Flex service has enhanced our ability to provide more efficient service with reductions in fuel and mileage," said Rine.

MC Flex Trips can be booked up to two hours prior, but preferably the day before. If possible, passengers are encouraged to call up to seven days in advance to schedule their trips for the MC Flex service.

Our Transit Customer Service Team is available to help schedule your MC Flex service over the phone at 330-723-9670.

At this time, MCPT's Brunswick Saturday services will remain on a scheduled Loop. The agency is currently monitoring ridership and is evaluating Saturday Transit services with more information to come.

If a passenger wishes to travel outside the MC Flex, they may contact MCPT to schedule county-wide trips up to 14 days in advance at a cost of \$4 per trip.

The goal with MC Flex is to provide a transit service that is easier, quicker, and more comfortable to improve the passenger experience and value.

Please visit our MCPT website at www.medinacountytransit.org or our Facebook page.

Hambley Reappointed to CCAO Board of Directors

Commissioner Steve Hambley has been reappointed to the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Board of Directors.

During the CCAO Annual Business Meeting on December 7, members voted on the recommendations of the CCAO Nomination Committee for positions on the 2024 CCAO Board of Directors.

Hambley was among seven others appointed for two-year terms on the CCAO Board of Directors. He was first appointed to the Board of Directors in 2021.

Additionally, Hambley was honored at the 2023 CCAO Annual Business Meeting for serving Medina County for 21+ years.

The Decades of Dedication: County Governance Award honors county commissioners, county executives,



Commissioner Steve Hambley and CCAO President Glenn Miller.

and county council members at milestone benchmarks of service each decade.

"CCAO launched this recognition program to illuminate remarkable years of service and enduring commitment of these extraordinary individuals who shape the future of our counties," said CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler. "We are grateful for the dedicated work of Commissioner Hambley and his fellow honorees for giving much of

their life, energy and passion to make their county a wonderful place to call home."

During their years of service, Commissioner Hambley and his fellow recipients have led innovative projects and secured vital funding in the realms of economic development, protecting children and supporting families, vital infrastructure including water and sewer services, and more.

Board of Medina County Commissioners



Steve Hambley

Office: **330-722-9214**

Cell: **216-570-6958**

shambley@ohmedinaco.org



Colleen Swedyk

Office: **330-722-9212**

Cell: **216-570-9809**

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Aaron Harrison

Office: **330-722-9211**

Cell: **330-635-3002**

aharrison@ohmedinaco.org

Administration Building • 144 North Broadway Street, Medina

FROM YOUR VETERANS OFFICE



ED ZACKERY

2023 PACT ACT WRAP-UP

I want to take a moment to wish everyone a Happy New Year! 2023 was a busy year for us. With the PACT Act being implemented on January 1st of 2023 our appointments and services increased by record numbers. We filed more than five-hundred new claims for veterans and their family members totaling more than nine-hundred submittals to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We provided immediate financial assistance to more than two-hundred veterans and eligible family members as well. More than two-hundred rides to VA medical centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron as well as another 2,100 trips on the Medina County Public Transit. We worked collaboratively with the

Medina Veterans Treatment Court and the Medina Housing Authority to ensure our justice involved veterans and our veterans at risk of homelessness have a clear path to recovery and a home to come to. We worked with more than one hundred veterans within these two programs. We brought in more than one hundred million dollars paid out by the VA to veterans and their family members for in-direct services within Medina County. Having more than 2,500 appointments for 2023, we paid out more than \$200,000.00 in direct relief allowances and financial assistance for the year. To say we have been a bit busy would be an understatement.

2024 OFFICE EXPANSION

Well, that's where we have been, now where are we going? We are not slowing down any, that is for sure. We will hopefully be breaking ground on our expansion project here at the Medina County Veterans Service Office on Northland Dr. Plans call for almost doubling the size of our existing building by almost 2,800 square feet. We will be adding a community room, a garage for our vehicles, and restructuring the existing building which will accommodate three additional offices and a larger waiting room, so that we can continue to provide first class service to our veterans and their families.

The additional office space will allow us to hire an additional CVSO and administrative person. The expanded waiting room will allow for more comfort and privacy for our clients. We're excited to say the least. There will be some hurdles along the way, and we ask for your patience throughout the project. We are not expecting any long-term closures so service should only be impacted minimally. We are expecting a brief relocation of our office while the construction is underway. Once we know the timeline and location, we will let everyone know.

The community room will allow us to expand programs and bring in mental health and therapy services for veterans weekly and at all hours of the day.



VET'S OFFICE QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about any of your veterans benefits, feel free to contact us at the Medina County Veterans Service Office at (330) 722-9368 or email us at veterans@medinacountyveterans.org or catch us on the web at www.medinacountyveterans.org

SUICIDE PREVENTION HELP

If you are a Veteran having thoughts of suicide—or you are concerned about one—free, confidential support is available 24/7. Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

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

The VA's Nonservice-Connected Pensions with (Aid & Attendance) can help pay for Assisted Living and In Home Health Care. it can provide up to \$2,050 per month to a veteran, \$1,318 per month to a surviving spouse.



The VA's Pensions provide benefits for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing and undressing or taking care of the needs of nature as well as suffering from cognitive issues. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an assisting living facility may also qualify.

We are a free service that you earned, so if you know of a vet that needs help call us, we can help.

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SOPREMA SENIOR CENTER

2023 Was a Record-Breaking Year for the Soprema Senior Center!

News

The Soprema Senior Center ended 2023 celebrating a record year of growth, including increased attendance at all programs and events throughout the year and over 600 seniors that joined as brand new members! One of the last big events of the season was their annual Senior Christmas Party hosted at Wadsworth High School. Professional Friends donated the food and also volunteered alongside WHS students, truly making it a unique and intergenerational event where, combined with 215 senior guests, there were well over 250 in attendance! Center staff (Lori, Tammy & Amy) surprised the crowd with a "snowball fight," and for over 3 minutes, 300 soft and cottony snowballs were flying through the air, making it the biggest "senior" snowball fight ever in Medina County, and quite possibly, the entire state of Ohio!



1,400 tickets at \$10 each. The Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation, a 501(c)3, is the backbone of the Soprema Senior Center, supporting the Center and seniors in the community in significant ways. In 2023, they helped fund major improvements including a new permanent awning over the front entrance that protects seniors from the elements while awaiting transportation and also provides an additional gathering space for seniors to enjoy friends and conversation. They also provided a much needed 2nd check in kiosk in the lobby, donated to the lunch Voucher program, funded programs and events and helped keep membership free for everyone 55+.

Be sure to add visiting the Soprema Senior Center & Café to your 2024 goal list! The Soprema Senior Center is open Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm and offers free membership to anyone 55+. The Soprema Café is open to the public from 7:30am – 2:00pm, Monday – Friday with delicious breakfast & lunches, snacks and beverages. Visit the Center's website at www.wadsworthcity.com/SopremaSeniorCenter and like and follow the Wadsworth Older Adult Foundation's Facebook page for all the latest happenings and information. We can't wait to welcome you!

Another end of the year celebration was the Wadsworth Older Adult Foundation's 12 Day of Christmas fundraiser, which raised a record \$14,000 for the Soprema Senior Center! This also shows the growing support from the community who bought over

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Medina Lions Update



LIONS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Lion, Kent Von Der Vellen with Medina Marine Corp League (from left) Randy Schmidt, Jerry Clapper and Joe Staucher.



Lion, Sandy Sampsel with Lion, Basil Guild.



Bob and Carol Latchney.



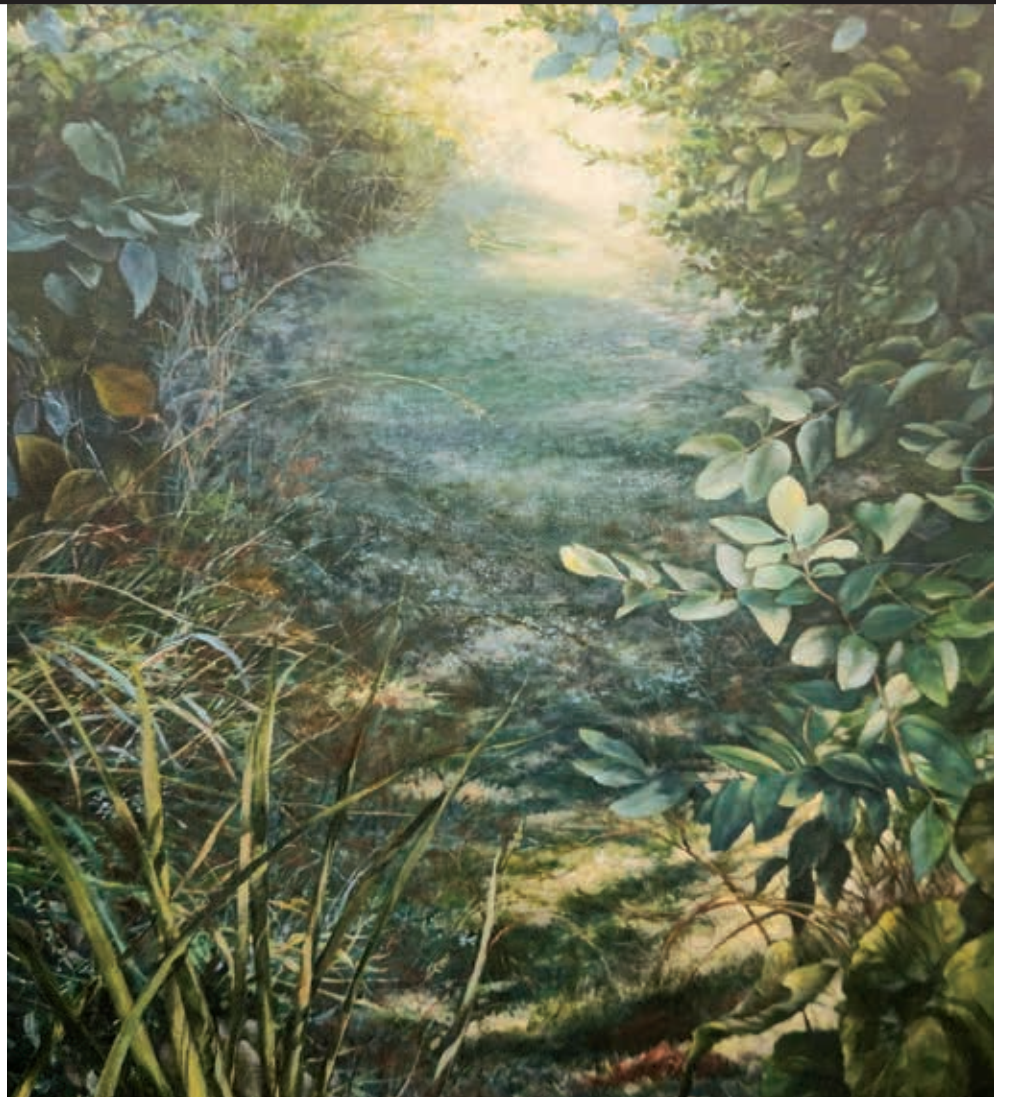
Pat and Pete Danszczak.

The Medina Lions hosted the Medina County Marine Corps at their annual Christmas Party on December 1st at Williams on the Lake. As part of admission each guest brought a toy to be gifted to Medina children through the Toys for Tots program. In addition to the toys a cash donation of over \$300 was made as well. Club members and guests enjoyed a buffet dinner featuring chicken picada and roast beef followed by a birthday cake celebrating 80 years of service to the greater Medina area. Following dinner guests were entertained with Christmas music provided by local musicians Dave Parsons, Steve Rak and Marty Pytel.

Earlier in the day club members gathered at Waite & Sons Funeral Home to remember George Fields with a special Lions Funeral Service. George served forty-one years as the Medina Lion and spent many years as Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief for the City of Medina. George worked for over 40 years at the Medina Supply Co. George was an avid golfer and worked part-time mowing Bunker Hill Golf course. George was also a member of the Medina Moose and Eagles Lodges. George follows his beloved Nora in death and survived by 3 sons, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

SAVE THE DATE: LIONS REVERSE RAFFLE

The Medina Lions are now preparing for their Annual Don Maletz Memorial Reverse Raffle. This year's Reverse Raffle will be Friday, March 1st, 2024, at Guys' Party Center in Akron. For information on the Reverse Raffle, you can contact **Ron Iseli** at ron.iseli@iseli.co or **Kent Von Der Vellen** at vdv@zoominternet.net.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

PAINTING A PICTURE: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Artist, Carol Klingel

CAROL KLINGEL

By: CAOILAINNE CARLSON, BEAT Reporter

Imagine you're in an art gallery. You look at the painting, then walk away, reflecting on what you've seen – or perhaps not thinking about it at all. But, behind every painting is an artist with talent and creativity.

Through thick and thin, artist Carol Klingel has stuck with art her entire life. After graduating from Kent State University with a B.S. in Art Education, she went on to become a teacher for 30 years at various schools and grades. Klingel said she taught at a few different schools before settling on Brunswick for 20 years, and that it was her very best years of teaching.

Klingel said that growing up her mother was a teacher, who also loved art and always had art supplies laying around for her. She shared

She shared that this is part of what inspired her to become a teacher. "We grew up on a farm," she said. "We drew our horses and ponies all the time. I was just really encouraged."

While Klingel knew she wanted to become a teacher, she didn't know she specifically wanted to do art. She was just out of high school and just going into college when she made the decision. "I took an art history overview class, and I was like, "That's it," she shared.

Klingel said her favorite thing about art is the creative aspect, and that it can go in so many directions and be so many different things. "Anybody who doesn't think they have any kind of talent is wrong," said Carol. "If you just do a few things, learn a few

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

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OFFICER BRIAN MUMMERT



By: MARTIN MLYNAR, BEAT Reporter

Have you ever wondered what police officers do? “You are always doing something different and interacting with different people on a variety of calls,” explained Officer Brian Mummert from the Brunswick Division of Police. “Whether it is a medical emergency, a noise complaint, making traffic stops on aggressive drivers, and numerous other instances that a police officer is needed.” One of the reasons he became a police officer is that he gets to do different things every day.

No one in Officer Mummert’s family was a police officer before him. He was a banker, but he thought it was less than an exciting job. Since one of his bank customers was a police officer, he was able to do a ride-along with him where he was able to ride with the officer and experience firsthand what they do. Since then, he has dedicated himself to becoming a police officer.

There are a lot of decisions an officer must make, sometimes in the matter of seconds. For example, say there has been an emergency and a father is trying to rush their injured child to the emergency room and may be driving above the speed limit, and a

police officer pulls the father over, the officer must decide whether to clear the way to the hospital or give them a ticket to slow them down. The hardest decision a police officer can make often involves the use of deadly force, a decision that, at times, must be made in fractions of a second that will have long-lasting effects for everyone involved and may result in the loss of life. It is a decision that cannot be undone.

Alongside the title, police officers have tools as well. From their protective vest to their patrol car, police officers have a taser, handcuffs, a tourniquet, and much more. In their cars there is radar to catch daring speeders and mobile computers to access databases and record witnesses’ statements on the fly.

From cool police gadgets to hard decisions, police officers have a lot of weight to carry especially with their heavy vests and gear. “One thing you can do as a citizen is to notify the police of any suspicious behavior,” said Officer Mummert. “Be someone who stands up for others. A problem will not just go away if you leave it alone.”

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



things and just learn how to look at things in a different way then all of a sudden, “Wow, I didn’t know I could do that!” But, she said the most challenging thing about teaching art is people who don’t want to think outside the box.

Klingel does think that teaching affected her art style. “When you teach somebody something, for every one thing you teach you learn three,” she said. Klingel said her favorite art style to teach was drawing. “Teaching how to look at something and draw it and make it look real.” She says outside of teaching, she likes to paint non-traditional landscapes, as well as cabbage stories. Klingel was trying to paint a more abstract version of a cabbage.

For Carol, it isn’t difficult to come up with ideas on what to paint. As she got older, she started to not care as much about what people think, and as a result the world of ideas is a lot more open. Klingel says that now, there isn’t enough time to make everything she wants to, and that she doesn’t have to make a living doing it. Klingel stated, “It’s just like, what

calls to me, what jumps out at me right now.”

Klingel’s favorite painting is one she made in the early 1990s. She got paid \$1000 for doing this portrait, the most she had ever made on anything. It was bought by a company called Desperate Enterprises in Medina. They had seen the sports portraits she had made, so they asked her to make it. It was a colored pencil picture of James Dean which was put on a nostalgic tin advertisement. It was their best seller in 1999. Klingel said her cousin saw it in Japan, and her sister saw it in Colorado. She said this was the most different and professional work she had ever done.

Klingel said some advice for young students aspiring to be artists is to always be willing to learn from other people and to just not give up. She added that no matter how good you think you are, there is always someone better than you that you can learn from. “It takes a long time to find who you are as an artist,” she stated. “I just want to keep getting better and better.”

Visit
www.carolkingel.com
to view more of
Carol’s work.

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NEVER STOP EARNING

How your retirement savings can continue working for you.

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

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You've spent many years saving in preparation for retirement. You've planned strategically to get here and have secured the resources necessary to ensure lasting comfort for yourself and your family. Now that you've arrived, there are still decisions to be made regarding how to turn your retirement savings into retirement income. Just because you've begun withdrawing does not mean you must stop earning.

Here are some of the ways you can put your retirement savings to work.

INVEST

This one probably seems rather obvious. However, investing in retirement comes with some pitfalls and caveats that are important to consider. Turning savings and fixed income into variable income requires a special balance that is unique to your situation. Talking with your financial advisor can help you choose between options such as retirement income funds, real estate investment trusts, annuities and more.

RESERVE

Sometimes protecting what you have can be as important as earning. Placing resources in a cash reserve can ensure that you have access to easily withdrawable short-term liquidity. These funds can be shielded from the effects of market declines while still gaining interest through low-risk money markets. Safeguarding immediate funds from volatility can allow your larger retirement savings to recover from changes in the market without restricting cash flow.

WORK

Yes, you read that correctly. Retirement doesn't have to mean the absence of work entirely. Rather, it can be an opportunity to maintain an active lifestyle and pursue passions that you were unable to explore throughout your career. By investing your time in something that you love, you can secure supplemental income and experience things that you may have always yearned for, but did not necessarily have time to enjoy.

NEXT STEPS

Your days of earning are far from over. Keep these tips in mind to maximize your retirement income:

- Work closely with your financial advisor to keep your investment strategies aligned with all of the changes in your life, even if everything is going according to plan
- Don't lose sight of what you need now and ensure that no matter what your strategy is for your savings, you always have access to enough funds available for withdrawal
- Keep track of where your assets are and make sure that you strike a balance between long-term gains and short-term liquidity to both prolong the lifespan of your savings and meet your immediate needs
- Remember that you are in good hands and that your advisor is here to make sure you are able to enjoy your retirement without the burden of financial uncertainty

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USING A LIVING REVOCABLE TRUST TO PROTECT A BENEFICIARY'S INHERITANCE



MICHAEL LARIBEE

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

In my last article, I explained how a living revocable trust is established and managed. In simplest terms, it is a legal document that provides for the management of property upon death or disability. The main benefit of a living revocable trust is that it allows the transfer of property without a probate court administration. Not everyone absolutely needs a living revocable trust to avoid probate. However, there are some circumstances when a living revocable trust is an indispensable tool. Upon the death of a grantor, the party who established the trust, a living revocable trust become irrevocable, and its terms can protect a beneficiary's inheritance from many situations.

UNDERAGED BENEFICIARIES

In some cases, intended beneficiaries have not reached 18 years of age, the age of majority in Ohio. It is not advisable for minors to hold title to property and other assets without the oversight of a trusted adult. Indeed, many argue that young adults in their twenties do not have the maturity to manage assets responsibly. A living revocable trust can direct a trustee to hold assets in a separate share trust for a young beneficiary until he/she reaches a desired age. Even before the beneficiary reaches that stated age, the trustee can use

the trust assets for the beneficiary's education, the purchase of a residence, the purchase or management of a business, or for any other extraordinary opportunity deemed by the Trustee to be in the best interests of the beneficiary.

BENEFICIARIES WHO DON'T GET ALONG

It is not unusual for conflict to affect family relationships. Sometimes siblings are unable to work effectively together to sell a decedent's assets. While transfer on death designations are useful to transfer real property to beneficiaries outside of probate, the title to the real property is then held by the beneficiaries together. They must then decide unanimously whether to sell, keep, or divide the real property. If they are unable to come to an agreement, the beneficiaries must resort to court litigation. A revocable living trust, however, vests the power in a trustee to sell, manage, or divide the real property for the benefit of the beneficiaries and pursuant to the exact terms of the trust. This avoids fighting and the cost of litigation.

CREDITOR/DEBT PROBLEMS

When a beneficiary inherits money, real property, or other assets, they are fair game to the beneficiary's creditors

who are eager to attach the inherited assets to satisfy debts and judgments. A living revocable trust can direct a trustee to hold assets for that beneficiary in a separate trust with a spendthrift provision. That way, creditors cannot demand the trustee release the assets to satisfy the beneficiary's debt. However, the trustee can pay for the beneficiary's ongoing bills and expenses directly, in the trustee's sole discretion.

ALCOHOL OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

There may be a risk that a beneficiary may use inherited assets improperly, or even illegally, to fuel an addiction. A living revocable trust can direct a trustee to hold assets for a beneficiary who is struggling with these issues and pay for the beneficiary's legitimate expenses directly.

DOMESTIC TROUBLES

A beneficiary may be the party to a troubled marriage or in the middle of a bad divorce. A living revocable trust can direct a trustee to hold assets for a beneficiary so they do not become marital property or subject to the claims of the beneficiary's estranged spouse.

When establishing a trust, it is important to consult with a trusted attorney to protect a beneficiary's inheritance. Otherwise, trust assets could be lost to disputes, creditors, illegal activities, or costly litigation.



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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.*

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How Anthony and Angela Coleman from CarePatrol Can Help You

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In short, Anthony and Angela Coleman help and assist families find the best independent living, assisted living, memory care, in-home care and nursing home accommodations. Anthony and Angela are able to help find the safest option and offer peace of mind for the entire family.

They understand that not all communities are created equal, some are better equipped to care for your loved ones needs. You can trust Anthony and Angela because care options in their network go through a rigid screening process, which includes evaluating the care and history of each facility.

Anthony and Angela do not simply give random lists of communities to families. Instead, they assist families on the communities they highly recommend based on your loved one's care needs, budget and location preference

in order for your family to make an informed decision.

Anthony and Angela accompany families on tours to help alleviate any stress of not knowing what questions to ask and to ensure families feel comfortable with their decision. After your loved one transitions into their new home, they follow up with the family to confirm everything is going well.

Anthony and Angela can also offer guidance regarding state or federal funding options that can help pay for assisted living and education is offered regarding the Veterans Aid and Attendance program for qualifying veterans. Finding care is the top priority, but Anthony and Angela can also refer families to a variety of senior care professionals including: Elder law attorneys, financial planners, realtors, and moving companies. If we can be of service, please reach out to us at **440-387-5180**.

Medina's Life's Treasures Thrift Shop Helps Lives

By: LUCY SHEETS, BEAT Reporter

Life's Treasures Thrift Shop is a store in Medina Square (317 South Court Street), where all proceeds directly benefit the patients and loved ones of Hospice of Medina County (HMC), an affiliate of Hospice of the Western Reserve. The store has been open for over 15 years and the funds not needed to run the building go to hospice. The store's funds cover multiple expenses such as funding of the pediatric unit, care for cancer patients and pet therapy. Beyond this, their profits go to many other programs to aid in the end-of-life journey.



they only have three paid staff. "We're always looking for people who care about the community to come in and help us out," said Heather Soliz, store manager. The remaining staff there are made up of volunteers.

Life's Treasures accepts donations all throughout the week except for "Thrifty Thursday." This day is the prime day to have a look at what the store is selling because all their merchandise is



half price. Individuals can donate any items from old clothing to antique pieces. After items are donated, the staff sift through the donations and get rid of only what they cannot sell.

"Help other people's lives by getting yourself something new," said Soliz.

Visit <https://hospicewr.org/resale-shop> to learn more about Life's Treasures, or call them at (330) 723-2045.



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FROM WRMC WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY

Volunteering is good for you and good for the community



The Western Reserve Masonic Community Choir.

Older Ohioans give more than 1.5 million hours of their time each year helping people of all ages. Even as the number of volunteers continues to grow, so does the demand for them.

Volunteerism is the act of contributing free labor to conduct community service or support a nonprofit organization. It is the principle of donating time and energy towards a greater cause. Volunteers help change the lives of those in their community as a social responsibility rather than receiving a financial reward.

Since 2024 has just begun and you're vowing to eat less, exercise more, and stay in shape all year long, consider adding another healthy habit to your goals: volunteering.

You'll help others, and data suggests volunteering can positively impact your health as well. When researchers compared the health status of non-volunteers with those of volunteers, they found roughly 80% of volunteers—all ages 55 or older—reported having good, very good, or excellent health versus just 50% among non-volunteers of similar ages and backgrounds. Volunteers also reported fewer mobility problems and higher life satisfaction.

The volunteers also reported enjoying better health than they did before volunteering. Nearly half saw health improvements after just one year of service, and two-thirds reported feeling less isolated. Of the volunteers who started out with five or more symptoms of depression, 70% saw those symptoms subside. Now let's look at reasons to volunteer.

HELPS BRIDGE THE GENERATION GAP

By interacting with younger generations, older adults can share important life lessons.

IT HELPS YOU ENGAGE WITH OLD INTERESTS

Put your interests to good use by finding a volunteer opportunity that includes something that you used to enjoy.

IT HELPS YOU LEARN NEW SKILLS

Many volunteer activities allow you to try things you've never done before and learn new skills. Look at opportunities that are a little outside of your comfort zone. You may develop a passion you never knew you had.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you decide to spend your time volunteering, it's important to look for opportunities that fit into your schedule. Some people can volunteer 20 hours a week and still have plenty of time to partake in other activities. Determine what works best for you.

The key to volunteering is finding meaningful activities you're passionate about. That way, you're more likely to stick with it and find the greatest personal benefits. Organizations with passionate volunteers will be able to pass that passion onto their program recipients and deliver a greater impact.

No matter where you call home, whether it's in your house or in a senior living community, there are opportunities for you. Residents at Western Reserve Masonic Community are involved in volunteerism on their own campus as well as in Medina. The residents will be glad to share their volunteer opportunities with you. Whether you just retired or have been retired for many years, there is an opportunity out there for you. It's never too late to get started.



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DAVE MOON

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Successfully adapting to the difficult or challenging life experience of aging is affected by our manner of living and our thoughts, opinions, and emotional reactions to the aging process. Individuals often react and adjust to the physical and mental changes of aging and gradually alter their understanding to accommodate new experiences brought about by aging. This change in understanding often creates a change in our manner of living and thoughts about our stage in life.

Quality of life (physical well-being, social functioning, and emotional well-being) is improved by maintaining physical and mental health, strengthening social relationships and support, and increasing participation in the community.

This brings us to a person named Dave Moon, a gentleman, farmer, teacher, historian, community activist, landscaper, and a nonagenarian (between the ages of 90-99).

An interesting last name. It has been said, “The moon represents the rhythm of time as it embodies the cycle. The phases of the moon symbolize immortality and eternity, and enlightenment.”

Dave Moon was a colleague of my father’s when he taught at Midview High School in the 1970’s. Mr. Moon was loved by students and teachers alike. Mr. Moon taught history but most of all he taught the individual. He has an enthusiasm for people, history, and life. His enthusiasm is infectious. Fifty-five years later, his past students still talk about the pleasure of having Mr. Moon as a teacher. Mr. Moon is now 92 years old, and those who know him continue to talk about his infectious smile, zest for life, work ethic, and his desire to learn. At 80 yrs. old, Dave applied for a landscaping job at Cedar Point and was hired. He celebrated his 90th birthday as an employee at Cedar Point.

He would get up at 3:45 a.m. to care for the animals on his farm and leave for Cedar Point at 5:30 a.m. After his 10-hour day, he would go home and do more activity, barn chores, cooking and even canning. It appears history is still Dave passion, as he’s a very active charter member of the Berlin Heights Historical Society (www.villageofberlinheights.com). At the age of 92, Dave provided refreshments for a Trivia Night fundraising event through the historical society.

Researchers are still pondering the question, “What contributes to longevity?” Dave

does not have the answer to longevity, but he does have the answer to enjoying the life that you have, “enthusiasm.” Dave believes that sitting is the worst thing you can do. His advice to others is this, “Don’t hesitate to get a job if you think you can do it.” Dave’s objection to sitting comes from his enthusiasm for life experiences, learning, for the satisfaction of a job well-done, and relationships. It is hard to find these things if you don’t get up and seek them.

Dave’s zest for life is fueled by the feedback he receives from his life experiences. He goes out and applies for these life experiences. He applied and wound up an 80-year-old landscaper at Cedar Point. What does he like about the job? Dave said he enjoys meeting foreign students, gaining knowledge about plants, fulfillment of getting work done, and going to bed at night and sleeping all night.

My father remembers Dave standing in the hall of Midview High School, greeting each of his students by saying, “Welcome to my class, you are a lady/gentleman and a scholar!” What he didn’t say is “You are about to experience my enthusiasm for history and my love for you as an individual”.

Even if you find yourself immobile, you can still seek things that generate enthusiasm. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/archangelspecialtyhomecare/) to find more local opportunities to bring more enthusiasm to your life.



Question: DO INSURANCE COMPANIES COVER HEARING AIDS?



BOB HEISER

By: BOB HEISER, Hearing Health Centers

YES, a lot of Medicare Supplement programs do cover the cost of hearing aids. I've personally dispensed over 300 hearing aids to my patients with very little or no money out of pocket. The insurance coverage gives them two good quality hearing aids that would normally cost above \$4,000 a pair.

The insurance covers the hearing exam, hearing aid fitting, the cost of the hearing aids, plus free batteries and follow up appointments.

Some of the insurance companies to check include:

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medical Mutual, Humana, Summa, United Health Care, and through the American Rescue Plan (ARP.)

You need to call your insurance company and ask if you have hearing aid coverage. You must first register with them and it can be done right over the phone. It's a very simple process where they only ask a few questions but we can assist you if needed.

If you have any problems registering or have questions about hearing aid coverage, call our office and we will gladly help you at Hearing Health Centers 330-725-3259.

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As a valued policyholder of The Romig Insurance Agency, we want to announce the exciting merger with The Finnicum Insurance Agency.

We are thrilled about the opportunities this merger brings and the enhanced services it will provide to you. In case you missed our initial announcement, here's a quick recap of what you can expect from this merger:

- **Enhanced Services:** Our commitment to providing you with top-notch service remains unwavering.
- **Expanded Coverage Options:** We will be introducing new insurance options to better meet your needs.
- **Access to Expertise:** Our team of experienced professionals is ready to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

ROMIG INSURANCE AGENCY ANNOUNCES MERGER

Your existing policies and coverage will remain unaffected by this merger. We want to ensure a seamless transition for you and keep you informed about any changes or improvements that may arise.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at:
(740) 922-2421 or
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We greatly appreciate your trust in The Romig Insurance Agency, and we look forward to continuing our journey together with you.



Denny Bauer, CLU ChFC

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

By: MARIE EDMONDS, Counselor at Law



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Our team spends quality time with every client inquiring about family dynamics and listening to client's concerns. We strive to explain difficult concepts in understandable terms and to make ourselves accessible to answer questions. It is our mission to provide premium estate plans that accomplish appropriate personal goals for our clients and their loved ones.



Marie Edmonds



Ashley Sorgen

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Naming the correct beneficiaries on accounts and assets is one of the most important decisions you can make in your estate planning. Typically, you name a beneficiary for life insurance policies and retirement accounts; but you can also name a beneficiary on everything else you own as well – bank accounts, investment accounts, real estate, vehicles. The most important thing to remember in naming beneficiaries is that those persons will indeed receive those assets or accounts upon your death; but if your will or trust have different instructions for the division and disposition of your assets, you may have a problem. A review of what you have in place and how you want assets to be distributed is always a good idea.

First, be careful when designating a beneficiary on any of your assets. Most married couples name their spouse as primary beneficiary. You then should be sure and name a contingent beneficiary, should your spouse predecease you. You can name one or more people as beneficiary, a trust or charities. I often hear that someone wants to name a beneficiary on all of their assets in order to avoid probate court. Although that may be a good idea, be very careful. You may be causing more problems than you anticipate. Since beneficiary designations supersede any instructions you may have left in your will or trust, you should review your entire estate plan before naming beneficiaries. For example, you may want funds to be held in trust for a child or children, for creditor protection reasons, to protect from a divorcing spouse, or for a special needs member of your family who needs to

remain qualified for certain government benefits. Trusts can provide these protections, but then you need to make sure that the funds you want to go to them actually get transferred to their trust, not to them personally.

A transfer on death designation on real estate may sound like a good idea, once again to avoid probate court. However, if your beneficiaries are married, when they inherit the real estate, their spouses will need to sign off for any sale, even though they are not named as beneficiaries. Think about whether that may be a problem for one or more of your beneficiaries.

Make sure you keep designations up to date. Life can change quickly and often we don't think about making sure our estate plan is keeping up. Any time there is an important life event, for you or for any member of your family, you should review your beneficiary designations along with the rest of your estate plan. It may be worth reviewing all of this once a year just to make sure what you want to have happen upon your death is indeed what will occur.

Also keep a copy of your designated beneficiary forms with your other important papers and make sure your estate planning attorney has a copy as well. If you change investment companies, make sure your beneficiary designations remain the same and are not lost in the transfer. Finally, make sure your executor or trustee knows where you keep your important documents, even though they do not need to know the substance of what you've planned.

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SCAM ALERT!

THE GIFT CARD SCAM

Scammers target gift cards from any major brand such as Target, Apple, Microsoft, Walmart, Google, etc. But Amazon's popularity and huge Online catalog make Amazon scams especially appealing to con artists.

HERE'S HOW ONE OF THE MORE COMMON AMAZON GIFT CARD SCAMS WORKS

- First, scammers reach out to you via email, text message, or phone call pretending to be someone you know and trust - such as a close friend, business acquaintance or client.
- Then, they create a sense of urgency (typically in an email message) claiming that a friend of theirs has a birthday or is sick and they want to give them a gift card. The scammer claims that they cannot order the Amazon card because their computer

isn't working or they can't log onto the Amazon website. They'll ask, "can you do this for me?"

■ Sometimes in the same email message they'll have instructions and further information for you to expedite the order. You then fill out the Online Amazon order form for the card with the scammers instructions and click "purchase." That's it! You're screwed! Instead of having the gift card sent to your friend, it goes to the scammer.

■ Finally, they quickly use the funds on the card before you realize what's happened. Once the money on a gift card is spent, it's gone. You just gave the fraudster a \$200 gift card.

This is just one example of a common Amazon gift card scam. Do your research Online about gift card scams and educate yourself on what to look out for. **DON'T FALL FOR IT!**

***** BE AWARE! *****

ALWAYS be aware of who's emailing you. NEVER ASSUME ANYTHING. Always look at the senders email address. Scammers will hack email addresses so the incoming address appears to be legitimate **BUT IT'S NOT.** NEVER respond to email messages that sound urgent or appear that a friend is in distress and needs your immediate attention. IT'S A SCAM!

NEVER RESPOND TO AN EMAIL THAT APPEARS TO BE STRANGE OR WEIRD OR HAS A BIZARRE MESSAGE. A LOT OF SCAM EMAIL MESSAGES TEND TO HAVE ODD LANGUAGE, MISSPELLED WORDS OR CRAZY REQUESTS.

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10 BENEFITS OF PRE-PLANNING A FUNERAL



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There are many benefits to pre-planning your funeral. Following is a list of some of those benefits and why you should consider making your funeral arrangements ahead of time:

- ONE**
You have peace-of-mind now knowing that your wishes will be followed through.
- TWO**
Your costs are locked in. The expenses for your funeral cannot increase.
- THREE**
After your death, no one can make any decisions you wouldn't want.
- FOUR**
Your survivors will never have to worry about doing the wrong thing when finalizing your funeral arrangements.
- FIVE**
During what may be an emotionally difficult time for your family immediately after your death, pre-planning avoids potential misunderstanding or indecision about your funeral arrangements among family members.
- SIX**
No mistakes and no oversights. Everything will be done your way.
- SEVEN**
You can make complex decisions ahead of time when you have the time to think things through.
- EIGHT**
Funeral pre-planning can include pre-payment. The cost can be paid in full upfront, or an affordable payment plan can be created, and in both case locks in today's cost. This will save your family money and avoid any financial burdens.
- NINE**
You are guaranteed to get what you want.
- TEN**
Get it done and then relax.



What should I tell my children about my finances and estate plan

By: ANN SALEK

Every family relationship is unique. Some people are completely open and comfortable telling their family anything about their finances and estate plan; while others are very guarded and are not comfortable divulging any information. Depending on your comfort level, consider at least some level of communication in order to make future situations easier and more streamlined for your loved ones.

If you become sick and unable to manage your finances, you hopefully have documents in place to give someone else the power to access and manage your finances (i.e. power of attorney or appointment of a successor trustee). The more that person knows about your finances, the easier it will be for them to help you. Ideally, you could give the person a copy of your documents and a list of your assets (bank accounts, investment accounts, IRA's, insurance policies, etc.) with account numbers.

Consider contacting any financial institution with whom you have accounts and inform them of who you have appointed as your power of attorney or successor trustee. Consider communicating that information to your financial planner and accountant as well. If you do this while you are healthy, it will ensure that the financial institutions accept your documents and if they have a problem with the documents, you can correct the problem while you are healthy. It is really difficult if the financial institution has a problem with your documents but no one knows that until you need to use the documents (when it can be too late).

Likewise, when you pass, that level of communication will also make your post death administration easier. The person handling the administration will be fully aware of your finances and how to access them. The person should also then be aware of any outstanding debt that may need paid.

While this level of communication may be ideal, not everyone is comfortable divulging this information. Oftentimes, a power of attorney is immediately effective and you may not be comfortable with someone knowing they have that power while you are still competent. In such case, I recommend you at least compile all of your estate planning documents in one place. In addition, make a list of your assets and any outstanding debts. Include any account numbers, names of your financial planner, accountant and attorney.

Keep this information in a safe place, ideally in a fire-proof safe (be careful using a safe deposit box as the people who may need to access the safe deposit box will likely need the documents in the box in order to access the box). Notify your family of where they can find this information in the event you are incapacitated or you are deceased. This way, you may maintain your privacy while still providing the necessary information to your loved ones when it is needed.

Regardless of your level of comfortability in communicating private information about your finances and estate plan, some level of communication is imperative.

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WORDS IMPACT LIVES:

This year, learn how to use words that work



Do the words used to describe you have an impact on your life? You bet! Contrary to the age-old “sticks and stones” lessons we learned as children, words do matter! They can raise or lower expectations; hurt or help; and so much more.

you meet or talk about a person with a developmental difference, you may feel uncomfortable because you do not always know how to identify them or talk about them. Whether you are a business professional, a neighbor, a family member, a friend or a typical community member, using People First Language is the first step in creating a connection and value for any person with a disability.

People First Language is simply putting the person before the disability when talking to or about a person with a disability. For example, don't say “Jenny is autistic” which sounds as though that is the only important thing about her. People with autism have so many abilities and talents

beyond their diagnosis. Instead try saying something like, “Jenny has autism, a condition that causes her to sometimes have a hard time communicating, but she loves to draw and meet new people.” By using positive words, you can open the door for people with all types of disabilities and differences, and it can impact not only your life but those around you.

More importantly using People First Language is a conscience effort to eliminate old, prejudicial, and hurtful descriptions, and move everyone in a new direction. It is not political correctness; instead, it demonstrates good manners, respect, the Golden Rule, and more. It can change the way we see a person, and it can change the way a person sees them self. People First Language represents a more respectful, accurate ways of communicating. People with different abilities are not their diagnoses or disabilities; they are PEOPLE FIRST.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER TIPS WHEN USING PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE.

1. Whenever possible avoid putting a label or condition prior to a person's name or title. For example, “the handicapped boy” or “the disabled woman” or even “that special child” should be replaced with words like, “the boy who uses a wheelchair” or “the woman who recently had a stroke” or “the child who has developmental differences”.
2. Don't refer to someone as though they are a different age by using words such as “children/kids with Down Syndrome” when describing adults who are diagnosed with that condition.
3. Use the words “differences” or “disability” rather than “handicapped” or “disabled” or “special.”
4. Avoid negative or demeaning descriptions of a person's abilities. Terms like crippled, slow learner, emotionally



disturbed, birth defect and more, are hurtful and should never be used.

5. Don't use “normal” to describe people without disabilities; instead say people without disabilities or typical, if comparisons really are necessary.

Did you know that the first way to devalue someone is through language, by using words or labels to identify a person/group as “less-than,” or not like us? Once a person or group has been identified this way, it makes it easier to justify prejudice and discrimination. Our language shapes our attitudes; our attitudes shape our language; they're intertwined. And our attitudes

and language drive our actions. That is why People First Language is so important to making our community a better place for all its citizens.

Have questions or need additional help or resources? The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is the community resource responsible for connecting, coordinating, and funding services for individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental differences. We help with everything from early intervention and education opportunities for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults. Call us 330-725-7751 or visit www.mcbdd.org for more information.

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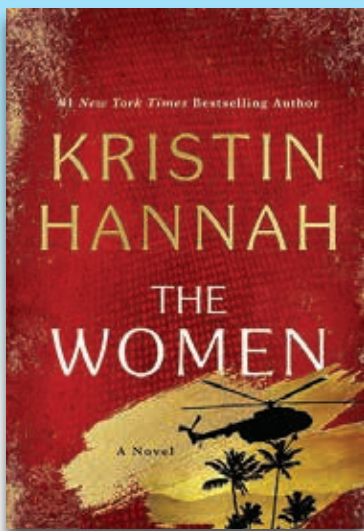
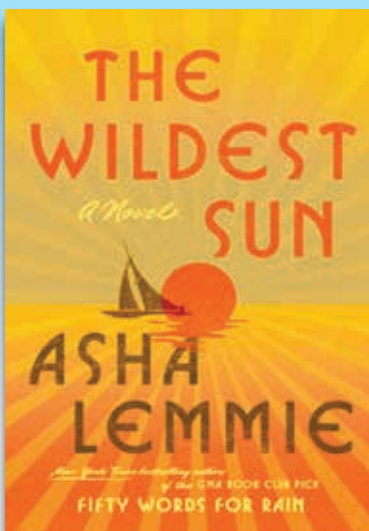
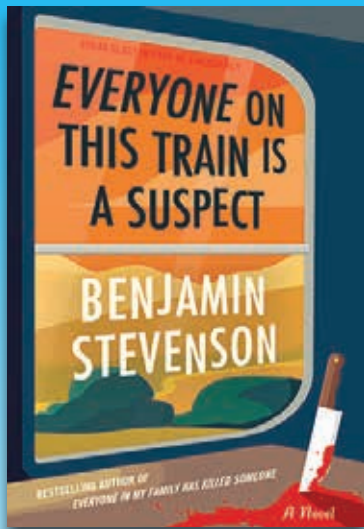
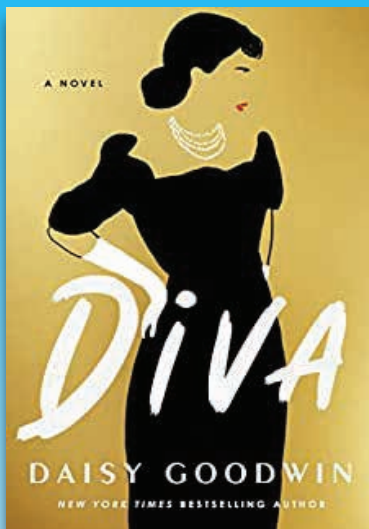


LIBRARY NEWS

Read it and Reap!

WINTER READING Some Titles to Check Out!

From: MARY OLSON, Readers' Advisory Librarian



Passport & Photo Service

Available by appointment at Medina, Brunswick & Lodi Libraries



mcdl.info/Passport



MCDL is in the Hearing Loop!

Medina Library is now equipped with Hearing Loops in meeting rooms and public service points. Hearing Loop technology sends the speaker's voice from the microphone directly to the listener's hearing assistive device, eliminating all ambient noise. For those who do not have a personal hearing device, Loop receivers are available at the Customer Service desk.

Look for the blue Hearing Loop signs in Community Rooms A and B, the Board Room, and at the Customer Service and Reference Desks. For best results position yourself in the center of the room or loop service point. To reserve a meeting room that is hearing loop equipped visit mcdl.info/MeetingRoom.

A Hearing Loop works directly with cochlear implants and hearing aids equipped with a T-coil. About 70 percent of all hearing aids contain

this technology. You may need to access the Loop via the programming button or by the switch on your device. If you have never activated the T-coil in your device it is recommended you consult with your audiologist before using the Loop.

"We first considered a hearing loop when a patron came to us with the idea. They had installed it in their church and felt bringing it to library patrons would be a wonderful asset. When we heard about the Libraries Transforming Communities grant through the American Library Association, we knew this project would be perfect for consideration. We got the grant in June and the Hearing Loop is now up and running," says Sue Schuld, MCDL Technology Manager.

For more information about Hearing Loops visit www.HearingLoop.org.



We'd like to thank the Health Department and Medina resident, Dale Weygant for the idea, and the American Library Association for the grant that paid for it.

Spread the news, as this is one more way the community can gain access in a barrier-free environment, as the Hearing Loop connects automatically with T-coil equipped hearing assistive devices.

330-725-0588
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