



# Helping HANDS

A Publication of the HANDS Foundation

JAN / FEB 2025

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

## Stuff the Range Rover!

### What a Great Night for the HANDS Foundation!



On December 3rd, Western Reserve Masonic Community once again hosted the annual HANDS Foundation Fund-raiser, Stuff the Range Rover Christmas event to kick off the holiday season. The free and popular event drew supporters from around Medina County and beyond to celebrate the upcoming 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 himself!

Everyone was invited to enjoy the complimentary refreshing beverages, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and holiday desserts

prepared by the wonderful staff at the Echelon of Medina.

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 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

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>

A PUBLICATION OF THE HANDS FOUNDATION  
HANDS Across Medina County Foundation  
P.O. Box 868 | Brunswick, Ohio | 44212  
Visit us on the Web: [HANDS-Foundation.org](http://HANDS-Foundation.org)

NON PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CLEVELAND, OH  
PERMIT #1737



# STUFF THE RANGE ROVER

of winning the main prize. Kim Valco of Western Reserve Masonic Community was the lucky winner of the Range Rover. Congratulations, Kim!!

“We worked very hard to collect a variety of items to stuff into the Range Rover for this event,” said Chrissy Waller, 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.” 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!

- WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY
- CARECORE AT WILLOWOOD
- PLUM CREEK ASSISTED LIVING
- CARE PATROL
- MCBDD
- RESIDENCE HOME CARE
- DANBURY SENIOR LIVING
- BRUNSWICK POINTE
- DIVINE REHAB AT PEARLVIEW
- STANO LAW FIRM
- TRADITIONS HOSPICE
- INCARE OHIO
- INTEGRITY HOME CARE
- GENERATIONS SENIOR LIVING
- REMEMBRANCE HOSPICE
- HABEL MEDIA GROUP
- FRIENDS OF MAYOR DENNIS HANWELL
- BRUNSWICK EAGLES LADIES AUXILIARY
- ENHANCED HOMECARE OF MEDINA, INC.

# THANK YOU TO THE GIVING PLACE!

The HANDS Foundation and The Giving Place have a very special partnership to help seniors in our community.

“I cannot even begin to explain the overwhelming amount of gratitude I am feeling! These three beautiful angels surprised me with the absolute best news for The Hands Across Medina County Foundation for 2025 at the same time as they surprised me with a THIRD contribution to the foundation for 2024. I am in such awe of the work they do for non-profits all over this incredible county. I am so blessed. Thank You to The Giving Place Medina!”

– Christina Waller, Executive Director, HANDS Foundation –



Dear Christina:

It was a pleasure to meet with you last month to discuss the positive impact that the HANDS Foundation has had on our community in 2024, and for your goals and objectives in 2025!

The Giving Foundation is pleased to inform you that we will continue our support of your organization in 2025! We are grateful for your mission, and how your wonderful organization aligns with our goal; *“to make a difference in our community through the donations we sell and the charities we serve.”* As a result we are honored to again be a financial contributor and partner to the HANDS Foundation.

On behalf of The Giving Foundation and its Board of Directors, thank you for making a difference in the lives of our Medina County senior residents. We wish you and yours a safe, pleasant and blessed holiday season, and we look forward to our continued partnership in 2025!

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Furey**  
*Executive Director / Founder*

**Angela Kiefer**  
*Founder*





**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENT!**

Once again, Carecore at Willowood and Western Reserve Masonic Community are tying the community together to benefit seniors at our third annual 2025 Purses with a Purpose event to benefit Friends of Medina County Home on February 4, 2025, at Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina.

Friends of Medina County Home is a 501c3 non-profit organization in Medina whose purpose is to support and provide financial aid to the Home for items not available through the normal operating budget. Funds directly aid the residents of the home.

Purses with a Purpose is Medina County's Must Attend event, kicking off the New Year with a fun evening with your friends, featuring light appetizers and exciting silent auctions of beautiful designer purses and accessories, unique gift items, and raffles.

We hope you will consider sponsoring or donating to Purses with a Purpose. The money raised will help aid the residents of the Home. Birthday gifts, special trips and holiday dinners are just a few examples of how the funds might be spent to brighten the lives of seniors all made possible by your generosity and financial support.

Please see the following pages in this issue of HANDS and consider your level of participation for Purses with a Purpose. Together we can make this the most successful year!

**If you have any questions, please contact Devon Diello at 330-635-7117  
THANK YOU!**

# SAVE THE DATE!



## PURSES WITH A PURPOSE



*An event to benefit Friends of Medina County Home*

**FEBRUARY 4, 2025 • 4:30-7:00PM**

**WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY**

**4931 NETTLETON RD., MEDINA OHIO**

**LIGHT APPETIZERS • WINE**

**\$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*

PRESENTED BY



CARECORE  
AT WILLOWOOD



WESTERN RESERVE  
MASONIC COMMUNITY

*Tying the community together to benefit Seniors*



**PURSES WITH A PURPOSE**

***Yes, I want to support our Senior Community!***

Please make my reservation(s) to Purses with a Purpose

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x\$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

Cash  Check  Money Order  Invoice

Payable to: Friends of Medina County Home or FOMCH

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_





**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITITES**

**\$1,000 – Louis Vuitton Sponsorship Level**

- Featured listing in the event program\*\*
- Mentioned as a sponsor in all press releases and/or promotional materials\*\*
- Sponsorship announcement on the Medina County Senior & Adult Foundation Facebook page
- Introduction/recognition at the event (Small Commercial)
- 2 Complimentary tickets

**\$500 – Burberry Sponsorship Level**

- Sponsorship announcement on Facebook Page
- Introduction/recognition at the event
- Listing in Event Program
- Logo on sponsorship sign

**\$250 – Tori Burch Sponsorship Level**

- Sponsorship announcement on Facebook Page
- Listing in Event Program
- Logo on sponsorship sign

**\$100 – Kate Spade Sponsorship Level**

- Listing in Event Program
- Name on sponsorship sign

**\$50 – Coach Sponsorship Level**

- Listing in Event Program

**SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT**

**\_\_Louis Vuitton \$1,000 \_\_Burberry \$500 \_\_Tori Burch \$250  
\_\_Kate Spade \$100 \_\_Coach \$50**

**Please write your name below as you wish it to appear in event materials:**

Sponsor/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Ext \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please take a picture of this page and email photo to:  
**Devon Duncan at: Dduncan4188@Yahoo.com (Also include any logos)**

**PAYMENT:** Please make checks payable to ***The friends of Medina County Home***  
**MAIL TO:** **HANDS Foundation, PO Box 868, Brunswick, OH 44212**





**IN-KIND GIFTS & AUCTION ITEMS**

Support Purses with a Purpose by contributing a silent auction item to our fundraiser. Your donation will be recognized in the event program and on a placard / auction sheet near your donated item.

**(CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 26)**

**Yes, I/we would like to donate a silent Auction item to the 2025 Purses with a Purpose.**

**Description of item:**

*Theme, list of included items, restrictions such as event dates or deadlines, and any other information that would be of interest to potential bidders.*

---

---

Fair market value: \_\_\_\_\_

**Auction item examples\***

- Designer Purses
- Designer Wallets (Women & Men)
- Jewelry
- Perfume (Women & Men)
- Sunglasses (Women & Men)
- Themed Bags
- Gift Cards

**In-kind gifts\*\* needed could include:**

Printing services      Advertising

**NOTE:** If you have a silent auction item you want to donate but are unsure the item qualifies, please email **Devon Duncan at: Dduncan4188@Yahoo.com**

COMPLETELY ASSEMBLED, AUCTION-READY ITEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 26th.

**DELIVER TO: WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY, 4931 Nettleton Road, Medina, OH 44256**

**Please write your name below as you wish it to appear in event materials:**

Donor/Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Item designer (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill out form, take a picture of this page and email photo to:  
**Devon Duncan at: Dduncan4188@Yahoo.com***

**Or mail this page to:**

*HANDS Foundation, PO Box 868, Brunswick, OH 44212*

*The Friends of the Medina County Home is a 501(c)(3) public charity*





**RECOVERY- ORIENTED PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IMPACTED BY ADDICTION**

Emerge is a non-clinical recovery support program for local youth (ages 5-18) affected by addiction, directly or through family and friends. Led by people in recovery, we provide education, outreach, family support, and pro-social activities, helping youth move from fearing addiction to embracing recovery.



**Youth Peer Support**

An on demand service, where youth can talk to a person in recovery and with lived experience with substance use disorder and mental health disorder.



**CONTACT: HOPE RECOVERY COMMUNITY TO SET APPOINTMENT**

**Teen Tuesdays**

This program aims to educate youth about substance use disorders and recovery, and build relationships in a safe and supportive environment.



**LOCATED AT CUPS CAFE: 129 N. COURT ST. MEDINA, OH TUESDAYS 4PM-6PM. \*AGES 13-18 YEARS OLD\***

**Kids Zone**

Kids programming during adult SUD recovery support meetings.

**LOCATED AT HRC: 200 HIGHLAND DR. MEDINA, OH SATURDAY 7PM-8PM. \*AGES 5-18 YEARS OLD\***

**Prosocial Activities**

Programs that combine social activities with learning opportunities about substance use disorders in a safe and positive environment.

**CONTACT: HOPE RECOVERY COMMUNITY TO GET CONNECTED**

**Contact Us**  
(330) 952-0109

**More Information**  
[www.hoperecoverycommunity.org](http://www.hoperecoverycommunity.org)

**200 HIGHLAND DR. // MEDINA, OH 44256**



**THANK YOU CONTESSA'S**



The HANDS Foundation was so excited that we were able to make a donation to Contessa's towards their free thanksgiving meal which goes out to SO many local seniors!

HANDS was so excited to be out delivering Thanksgiving meals to seniors in our county!





# Festival of Trees and Wreaths at Echelon of Medina

By: SAM BOYER, special to Cleveland.com



It was a beautiful event for a great cause and an estimated 100 guests had a great time at the Festival of Trees hosted by the Echelon of Medina Independent Living on Dec. 12.

The Festival featured about a dozen themed, fully decorated trees and 10 holiday wreaths and the evening included holiday music, food and drinks along with auctioning of the trees and wreaths and a other donated items.

The proceeds of the charitable event were split between Emerge Youth Services of Hope Recovery and the Brunswick Optimist Club. Dean Holman



**PROCEEDS HELPED THE EMERGE YOUTH SERVICES AND BRUNSWICK OPTIMIST CLUB!**

president of the Optimist Club, who reported on the event, said it was a very special evening and the event reached its goal of raising \$8,000.

“Special recognition and thanks go to the HANDS Foundation, The Echelon of Medina and its Executive Director, Chrissy Waller, who organized and coordinated the event,” said Holman.

Those who donated trees, wreaths or were sponsors included Pride One Construction, Friends of Mayor Dennis Hanwell, The HANDS Foundation, Turas Hospice, Synergy, Carecore at Willowood, Remembrance Hospice, Hospice of the Western reserve, Traditions Hospice, the Village at Hinckley Oaks, Brunswick Home Depot, Medina Family Pharmacy, Dennis Powers, Integrity Home Care, Always Best Care Mr. and Mrs. J. Waalart, Sheriff Tony Grice, Brunswick Pointe, Axis Home Healthcare, medina Center for Rehab, Echelon, Brunswick Hills Police Department, Medina Creative Housing, Holy Trinity Church of Brunswick and City of Medina Council-at-large, Paul Rose Sr.

Some themes were pretty astounding – and everyone had a chance to view them, vote for favorites as well as to bid and take one of them home.

The evening was also brightened by decorations throughout Echelon including a huge wall of shelves containing Christmas Village displays.

# PRIDE ONE CONSTRUCTION GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Feeling the love in action! Our team’s commitment to community service never ceases to amaze. Last month, these acts of kindness were on full display as some of our incredible team members prepared 80 lunches for Cups Cafe in Medina, 300 goodie bags for The Society Boo Bash, and over 300 meals for Contessa’s On The Lake’s free monthly Senior meal. It’s inspiring to see how the team embodies our company’s values and makes a positive impact. Bravo!



**THANK YOU PRIDE ONE!**



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>January 2025</b>  Z = ZOOM CLASS • * = FEE ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE • BILLIARDS EVERY DAY 8:00-4:30		<b>1</b>  <b>MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 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*	<b>3</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Medina Center 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 10:30am Senior Karaoke 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 1pm Mahjong 1pm Grief Support Group 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance w/ Jenny & YouTube
<b>6</b> 9:30am BP Screening-ComForCare 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10am Bridge 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch* 1:30pm Tech One-on-One w/ Joe iPad or iPhone	<b>7</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 9:30am Painting w/ Taylor* 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 10:45am OSU Nutrition Class 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Android Part I	<b>8</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-MCSAS 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Big Brother/Big Sisters Vol. Opps 11:30am Lunch-Avenue at Medina 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa* 1:30pm Legal Aid Appts	<b>9</b> 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*	<b>10</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Broadway Creek Program: Gentle Soles Foot Measuring & Foot Care 10:30am Weights Workout w/ Lisa* 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong
<b>13</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10am Bridge 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch* 12:15pm Movie: Twisters	<b>14</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 10:45am OSU Nutrition Class 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook	<b>15</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Devoted 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Retirement Planning-Theresa Wheeler 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	<b>16</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 9am BP Screening Cle Clinic 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Katie's Drawing Class 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	<b>17</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-MCSAS Program: The 1969 Cuyahoga River Fire 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance w/ Jenny & YouTube
<b>20</b>  <b>MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 10:45am OSU Nutrition Class 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Android Part II Class	<b>22</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Traditions 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Putting your House in Order-Carlson's 11:30am Lunch-Carlson's 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	<b>23</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Free Craft Project w/ Sandy from Brunswick Pointe 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	<b>24</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Jim Richison 10:30am LST's Stop the Bleed Program 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong
<b>27</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10am Bridge 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm iPhone/iPad Part 1	<b>28</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 10:45am OSU Nutrition Class 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook	<b>29</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Angel's Care 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Aging in Place by Alert Care Medical 11:30am Lunch-Brookdale South 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	<b>30</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Watercolor Class* 1:30pm Sourdough Demo w/ Alain* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	<b>31</b> PARTY DAY: NO BINGO 10:30am Disco Party w/ entertainment 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 1pm Book Club

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>3</b> 9:30am BP Screening-ComForCare 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10am Bridge 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm iPhone/iPad Part 2	<b>4</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Android Part III Class	<b>5</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Life Care 10am Painting 11:30am Lunch Life Care 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	<b>6</b> 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*	<b>7</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Medina Center 10:30am Bringing Conservation to Your Backyard 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
<b>10</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10am Bridge 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch* 12:15pm Movie: Reagan 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm iPhone/iPad Part 3	<b>11</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook 1:30pm Croissant Demo Class w/ Alain* 1:30pm Android Part IV Class	<b>12</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-MCSAS 10am Painting 10:30am Hospice Myths/Heartland Auction 11:30am Lunch-Avenue at Medina 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa* 1:30pm Legal Aid Appts	<b>13</b> 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*	<b>14</b> PARTY DAY-NO BINGO 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 11am Valentine's Party w/ Hayden Grove 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong
<b>17</b>  <b>MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>18</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook	<b>19</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Devoted 10am Painting 10:30am Program: Amish Culture by La Vone De Bois 11:30am Lunch- Medina Center 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	<b>20</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Edwina's Exercise 10am Hand and Foot Cards 10am Katie's Drawing Class 10am Tai Chi w/ Danny* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Watercolor Class* 2:30pm BalloFlex*	<b>21</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-BroadwayCreek Cleveland Cavs Day 10:30am Cavs Program by Carl 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day & Mahjong 2:30pm Beginner Line Dance w/ Jenny & YouTube
<b>24</b> 9:30am Chair Yoga w/ Jackie 10am Bridge 10:30am Balloflex* 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Mahjong 1:30pm iPhone Part 4	<b>25</b> 9am Edwina's Exercise 10am Card Games 10am Edwina's Exercise 11:30am Lunch* 1pm Hook Nook	<b>26</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Angel's Care 10am Painting 11am Senior Trivia w/Brookdale South 11:30am Lunch-Brookdale South 12pm Pinochle 1pm Chair Yoga w/ Lisa*	<b>27</b> 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*	<b>28</b> 9:30am Bingo-Z-Richison Program: Protecting the Kennedys 10:30am Weights Workout w/Lisa* 11:30am Lunch* 12pm Pinochle 12:30pm Game Day 12:30pm Mahjong 1pm Book Club

**February 2025**

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

MEDINA COUNTY SENIOR & ADULT SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS HANDS FOUNDATION!

# HANDS Foundation Celebrates 30 Years!

**HANDS FOUNDATION**

**Romig Finnicum Insurance**  
Our Policy Is Your Protection

**Denny Bauer, CLU ChFC**

**HOME • AUTO • LIFE • BUSINESS**

CALL FOR A QUOTE! **440-935-6479**  
**Dbauer@RF-ins.com**  
 Serving Medina County

## MEDICARE INSURANCE PLANS THAT SUIT YOUR NEEDS!

Your Medicare Insurance plan should suit you. Medicare Insurance plans, like people, come in all shapes and sizes. We can help find plans that fit your needs, budget and lifestyle!

**CALL OR EMAIL TAMI OR KATHY TODAY!**

**TAMI GLOVER (EX 1)**  
 LICENSED INSURANCE AGENT  
**TAMI@MAOHIO.COM**

**KATHY WARNER (EX 2)**  
 LICENSED INSURANCE AGENT  
**KATHY@MAOHIO.COM**





**THERE IS NEVER A FEE FOR OUR SERVICES AND NO OBLIGATION TO ENROLL**

**Medi Advisors Ohio**

319 South Court / Medina  
 MediAdvisorsOfOhio.com  
**330-247-4111**  
 (TTY: 711)

This is an insurance solicitation **NEXT TO LIFE'S TREASURES THRIFT STORE**



<h1>JANUARY 2025</h1> 				
 <b>CENTER HOURS:</b> Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4 pm <b>CAFÉ HOURS:</b> Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 2 pm				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00	Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00	Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00
PLEASE RSVP TO RESERVE A SPOT IN THESE GREAT PROGRAMS! *PROGRAMS MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) ARE OFFERED IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM (HYBRID).	Visit our Website: WWW.WadsworthCity.com/ SopremaSeniorCenter & On Facebook: Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation	<b>Center &amp; Café Closed for Holiday</b>  <b>2025</b>	Mah Jong 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Alzheimer's Caregivers 1:00 Hand and Foot 1:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Bunco 1:00	Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Health Checks 12:00 General Caregiver* 12:15 Euchre 1:00 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Summa Health Chat* 10:00 Gentle Exercise 11:00 Blind Truth* 1:00 Mexican Train/Games 1:00 Trivia w/ Brookdale 2:00	Mah Jong 9:30 Mind Challenge 10:00 Bridge 11:00 Seniors w/Srs Lunchn 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Wadsworth Library Fun - Snowman Rock Paint'g 1:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Practice 10:00 Bunco 1:00 Movie at Wads. Library 1:00 Medicare 101* 3:00	Line Dancing 9:00 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 Mexican Train/Games 1:00 Healthy Living w/Humana* 1:00	Mah Jong 9:30 Sewing Seniors 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 County Assistance-by appt 2:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 WHS Tech Assist 1:45 Genealogy 2:00
<b>Center &amp; Café Closed for Holiday</b> 	Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Health Checks 12:00 Parkinson's Caregivers* 12:15 Euchre 1:00 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 WHS Tech Assist 12:15 Mexican Train/Games 1:00 Funeral Q&A 2:00	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	<b>Warm Wishes &amp; Musical Concert 12:00</b> Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Practice 10:00 Tech Café w/MCBBDD 11:00 Bunco 1:00 Monthly Bday Party 1:00 Paper Crafting 101 1:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Garden Chat* 11:00 Euchre 1:00 Cooking w/ Bev 2:30	Hearing Screenings - by Appt. 9:00 - 2:00 Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Elder Financial Exploitation 12:00 Mexican Train/Games 1:00	Mah Jong 9:30 CityLink 10:00 Bridge 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Rediscover Wadsworth History 1:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
330-335-1513 · SSC@WadsworthCity.Org · 617 School Drive · Wadsworth, OH 44281				

America's Choice in Homecare.

# Visiting Angels

LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES






**THE CARE YOU NEED, AT HOME, BY ANGELS**



**SELECT YOUR CAREGIVER!**  
America's Choice in Homecare

**Medina 330-723-0300**  
**Strongsville 440-546-0307**  
(Toll Free 877-757-5924)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<h1>WADSWORTH SOPREMA SENIOR CENTER &amp; CAFE</h1>				
<h2>FEBRUARY 2025</h2> 				
 <b>CENTER HOURS:</b> Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 4 pm <b>CAFÉ HOURS:</b> Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 2 pm				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00	Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00	Walking Track 9:00 - 11:00	Walking Track 12:00 - 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Bunco 1:00 Diabetes Support 1:00	Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Health Checks 12:00 General Caregivers* 12:15 Euchre 1:00 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Coffee w/ a Cop 11:00 Blind Truth* 1:00 Mexican Train/Games 1:00	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 Srs Doing Stand Up 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Practice 10:00 Bunco 1:00 Movie at Wads. Library 1:00 Medicare 101* 3:00	Line Dancing 9:00 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 Mexican Train/Games 1:00 Trivia w/ Brookdale* 2:00	Mah Jong 9:30 Mind Challenge 10:00 Bridge 11:00 Seniors w/Srs Lunchn 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Wadsworth Library Fun - Puzzle Piece Wreath Craft 1:00	<b>Valentine Party</b>  w/ Not So Newlywed Game 12:00 Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
<b>Center &amp; Café Closed for Holiday</b> 	Bible Study 9:30 Watercolor 10:00 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Health Checks 12:00 Parkinson's Caregivers* 12:15 Euchre 1:00 Wits Workout 2:00	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 Mexican Train/Games 1:00 Healthy Living w/Humana* 1:00 Autoharp w/ Dan 2:30	Mah Jong 9:30 Sewing Seniors 9:30 Foot Assessments - by Appointment 10:00 Bridge 11:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 County Assistance-by Appt. 2:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Srs Doing Stand Up 12:00 WHS Tech Assist 1:45 Genealogy 2:00
Pinochle 9:00 Ukulele Practice 10:00 Tech Café w/MCBBDD 11:00 Bunco 1:00 Monthly Bday Party 1:00 Paper Crafting 101 1:00	Line Dancing 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 Coupon Clippers 10:30 Garden Chat* 11:00 Euchre 1:00 Cooking w/ Bev 2:30	Chess 10:00 Gentle Exercise 10:00 WHS Tech Assist 12:15 Mexican Train/Games 1:00 Dr. Dan Health Chat* 2:00	Mah Jong 9:30 Bridge 11:00 Poetry Open Mic 12:00 Hand and Foot 1:00 Senior Book Chat 1:00 Grief Support Group 2:00	Bingo 10:00 Claire's Crafty Friends 12:00 Make Me H.H. (Zoom) 12:00 Srs Doing Stand Up 12:00 Genealogy 2:00
PLEASE RSVP TO RESERVE A SPOT IN THESE GREAT PROGRAMS!	*ASTERISK (*) PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM (HYBRID).	 <b>SSC's Spring Fling at Wadsworth High School!</b> Saturday, March 8 2:00 - 4:00 pm RSVP @ Senior Center by Feb. 28th \$5 Cost due at Sign Up.	See our online Newsletter for more Details! www.WadsworthCity.com/ SopremaSeniorCenter	
330-335-1513 · SSC@WadsworthCity.Org · 617 School Drive · Wadsworth, OH 44281				

Whether you're finding it harder to handle certain daily tasks as you get older, or you have a loved one who has recently been diagnosed with dementia, Visiting Angels® Medina-Strongsville offers the quality at home care required for you or your loved one to face these challenges right at home. With our custom home care plans, you have the power to choose a compassionate, skilled caregiver you trust to provide senior care services for your exact needs and situation.

**Providing 4 hours to 24/7 Care**  
Short term respite care also available

**WE ALSO SERVE**  
NORTH ROYALTON / BROADVIEW HTS. / BRECKSVILLE / RICHFIELD

VisitingAngels.com | CALL US 24 HOURS A DAY!

# Exclusive Living

MEDINA'S BEST KEPT SECRET

**A 55 & OLDER COMMUNITY**

**Town Homes**  
Below Market Rent  
Attached Carport

**2 Bedroom Villas**  
All First Floor with Lake Views  
Washer/Dryer Connection

**1 Bedroom**  
All First Floor  
Cable & Internet Included






**FOREST MEADOW VILLAS**  
EXCLUSIVE LIVING A GERSPACHER COMPANY

574 Leisure Lane  
Medina  
330.725.1596  
Managed by GERSPACHER Family

ForestMeadowsVillas.com



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>January 2025</b>  <b>BRUNSWICK</b> <small>Parks &amp; Recreation</small> <b>MEDINA COUNTY SENIOR &amp; ADULT SERVICES</b> <small>ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE</small>		<b>1</b>  <b>HAPPY New Year</b> <b>MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo/Altenheim	<b>3</b> 1:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>6</b> 11am Munch & Learn: "Resolutions to Stay Healthy" Archangels Home Health Mah Jongg 12pm	<b>7</b> 8am Cards 10am Book Club 1pm Bingo 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>8</b> 9am Vintage Artists 10am Activity Council 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>9</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes	<b>10</b> <b>Special Program: The 1969 Cuyahoga River Fire w/Edward Kelly</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury "Create a Better You" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>13</b> 8am BP with Laurie 9:30am Art Critique Group 11am Munch & Learn: "A Time for Balance" M. Zaworski MSN/RN 12pm Mah Jongg 1pm Culinary Club	<b>14</b> 8am Cards 1pm Bingo w/ SPRY 2:30pm Tech Tues w/ Brunswick High Students 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>15</b> 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>16</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes	<b>17</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>20</b>  <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</b> <b>MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>21</b> 8am Cards 1pm Bingo 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>22</b> 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>23</b> 8am Cards 9am <b>AARP Class w/Linda</b> 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes	<b>24</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury Chair Chi 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>27</b> 11am Munch & Learn: "Common Retirement Planning Mistakes" My Medicare Network Mah Jongg 12pm	<b>28</b> 8am Cards 1pm Bingo w/Divine Pearlview 2:30pm Tech Tues w/ Brunswick High Students 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>29</b> 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>30</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo/ Falling Water	<b>31</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle <b>TECH QUESTIONS? GET HELP! TECH TUESDAYS 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday @ 2:30 Sign up with Sue 330-416-3680</b>

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE!**

# SENIOR EXPO 2025

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26  
BRUNSWICK REC CENTER**



**SEE FLYER ON PAGE 19**

# BRUNSWICK BRUNSWICK REC CENTER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>3</b> 11am Munch & Learn: "Palliative Care & Hospice-Do You Know the Difference?" Heartland Hospice Mah Jongg 12pm	<b>4</b> 8am Cards 10am Book Club 1pm Bingo w/Comfort Keepers 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>5</b> 9am Vintage Artists 10am Activities Council 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>6</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo w/ Altenheim	<b>7</b> 10am Special Program: "Bee My Honey" w/ Peggy Garnes 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>10</b> 9:30am Art Critique Group 11am Munch & Learn: "Fun & Games" Joseph Orlando, Elder Law Attorney Mah Jongg Culinary Club 12pm 1pm	<b>11</b> 8am Cards 1pm Bingo w/ SPRY 2:30pm Tech Tues w/ Brunswick High Students 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>12</b> 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>13</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Valentine Bingo	<b>14</b>  <b>Happy Valentine Day!</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury "Create a Better You" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>17</b>  <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b> <b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b> <b>MCSAS OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>18</b> 8am Cards 1pm Bingo 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>19</b> 8am BP Checks w/ Laurie SWG 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>20</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12:15pm Dominoes	<b>21</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle
<b>24</b> 11am Munch & Learn: "Bingo!" Medina Meadows Mah Jongg 12pm	<b>25</b> 8am Cards 1pm Bingo w/ Divine Pearlview 2:30pm Tech Tues w/ Brunswick High Students 6pm Beginner Line Dancing	<b>26</b> 9am Vintage Artists 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Mah Jongg 12:30pm Knitting & Crocheting	<b>27</b> 8am Cards 11:15am Intermediate/Improver Line Dancing 12pm <b>SPECIAL EVENT: TEA PARTY</b> 12:15pm Dominoes 1pm Bingo w/ Falling Water	<b>28</b> 11:30am MCSAS Nutrition 12pm Danbury "Chair Chi" 12:30pm Ladies Pinochle <b>BE A VOLUNTEER! Join the Activities Council, meeting 1st Wed of every month @10am</b>

**February 2025**  
 ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
  
**BRUNSWICK**  
Parks & Recreation  
**MEDINA COUNTY SENIOR & ADULT SERVICES**

## LUXURY SENIOR LIVING AT THE VILLAGE OF HINCKLEY OAKS



1456 RIDEN WAY / HINCKLEY / 330-239-8011





# FROM YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE



# SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK WAS RIGHT

By: State Representative, SHARON RAY

Fifty years ago Schoolhouse Rock debuted a catchy little video called “I’m just a bill”. I am sure you have heard it and chuckled about the bills adventures on his way to becoming a law. How accurate was his journey? As it turns out...pretty accurate.

*“I’m just a bill – yes, I’m only a bill- And I’m sitting here on Capitol Hill”*

On February 16th, 2023 I introduced HB#5 – the Adoption Modernization Act. This bill was the result of over a years’ worth of work by Juvenile/ Probate Judges across the State of Ohio, including Medina County’s very own, Judge Kevin Dunn. After the Judges submitted their proposed language, we sent their information to our Legislative Service Commission folks who compared the proposed language with the current Ohio Revised Code, made sure there were no conflicts with Supreme Court decisions and made sure the language was succinct and concise. After we received the revised bill text, my joint sponsor, State Rep. Rachel Baker and I met with

representatives and interested parties from approximately a dozen different adoption agencies to get their input on the changes and make sure there were no “unintended consequences” in the proposed language. Since there had not been a major review of adoption statutes since the late 1990’s, the bill ended up being 72 pages long.

On June 6th, 2023, the Adoption Modernization Act had its first hearing in front of the Families and Aging Committee. After two more hearings held on June 13th and June 23rd, it was voted unanimously out of committee. Now the bill was headed to the floor for a vote of all 99 members of the House of Representatives. On June 23rd, 2023 – HB#5 – the Adoption Modernization Act passed the house unanimously!

Now, we had to wait to see if the Senate would take up the bill and consider it for passage. The Senate did decide to hear the bill and it was referred to the Senate Judiciary committee. On December 6th, 2023, Representative



Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine and State Representative, Sharon Ray display the signed HB #5 bill. Also pictured are folks who either helped with the creation of the bill or testified at one of the hearings. Also shown is Medina Judge, Kevin Dunn standing far right along with Wadsworth adoption attorney, Julia Cain in the red sweater standing behind Gov. DeWine.

Baker and I presented the bill and gave Sponsor testimony to the committee.

*“I’m just a bill, Yes, I’m only a bill, and I got as far as Capitol Hill. Well, now I’m stuck in committee And I’ll sit here and wait, While a few key Senators discuss and debate whether they should let me be a law. How I hope and pray that they will, But today I am still just a bill.”*

After much discussion, it was decided the bill needed more work. Several points were brought up by the Adoption roundtable – a group of attorneys that practice adoptions around the State of Ohio. With the help of local attorney Julia Cain and several other attorneys with the group, we held multiple meetings via zoom to talk about ways to make the bill better for everyone. Once everyone agreed on language, the bill was re-drafted with the changes and the new language was presented to the Senate Judiciary

committee. After 2 more hearing in front of the Judiciary committee, the committee voted unanimously to send it to the Senate for a vote.

On November 20th, 2024 the Senate voted unanimously to recommend it for passage. But now we had to go back to the house for a concurrence vote on the changes. We were running out of time as anything that was not completed by December 31st, 2024 would die and must start over at the beginning in the next session of the General Assembly.

Luckily, we were scheduled for a concurrence vote of the House on December 4th, 2024, where the bill passed unanimously...again. Now, we need to get the Governor’s signature for HB# 5 – to become law. Governor DeWine indicated he would sign the bill!

*“I’m just a bill, Yes, I’m only a bill, And if they vote for me on Capitol Hill, Well then I’m off to the Statehouse where I will wait in line with a lot of other bills for the Governor to sign, And if he signs me, then I’ll be a law. How I hope and pray that he will, but today I am still just a bill.”*

**On December 19th, 2024, Governor DeWine signed Hb#5 – the Adoption Modernization Act into law. It does not take effect for 90 days, but by March 19th, 2025 the provisions will become law in the State of Ohio.**

**Sharon A. Ray**  
State Representative  
House District 66

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

**Sharon Ray is the Representative for the 66th district of the Ohio House of Representatives which includes Medina County.**





JOHN BURKE

## FROM YOUR TREASURER

# THE GREAT SLEIGH RIDE OF 1856

When I was growing up in Medina in the 1950s, the snow seemed to fall continuously in the winter and stayed on the ground accumulating until it thawed in spring. There was always plenty of snow to build snowmen and snow forts from which to throw snowballs. We used to take our sleds and toboggans to go sledding on the big hill at Bunker Hill golf course north of the city on Route 42.

My mother Ella (Gayer) Burke, used to tell me stories about the long winters when she was a child in the 1920s. Often the roads were impassable because of the heavy snow. Instead of taking the model T Ford the family took their horse and sleigh to go to worship at Zion's Lutheran Church in Valley City. She would bundle up with blankets in the sleigh and a heated flat soapstone to keep her feet warm.

My mother related how her dad would put the brass bells around the horse's neck, and she loved to listen to the jingling as they went to church on Christmas Eve. As the sleigh glided over the Christmas snow and turned the bend along the creek in Abbeyville, they could see Zion's church steeple illuminated by the moon. Sounds like a perfect Christmas postcard.

I still have those sleigh bells and soapstone warmer that my mom used over 100 years ago. It reminds me of another

sleigh ride that took place in the winter of 1856.

The winter had an especially heavy snowfall of 100 continuous days which provided many sleighing days. This never-ending blanket of snow spawned a contest between Medina, Summit, and Cuyahoga counties the likes of which hasn't been seen since.



This rivalry started in February 1856 when citizens of Solon in Cuyahoga County organized a sleigh party of 74 horse teams that invaded Akron. They carried a crude cotton flag with Stars & Stripes in a profile of a young boy thumbing his nose with extended fingers. There were printed words coming out of the boy's mouth that said, "you can't have it," a challenge to the residents of Akron.

And so, the competition was on, and numerous townships in three counties accepted the



challenge. But it wasn't about how fast the sleighs could go but how many sleighs each County could field. The March 15th meeting place for the contest to capture the flag back from Cuyahoga County was in Richfield. Competition grew as every possible owner of a four-horse sleigh team was recruited. Bets were placed in every pool hall and bar, as the local ministers struggled with weekly sermons against such gambling.

Back then sleighs were pulled by teams of four horses which could carry an average of 12 to 14 people. Families bundled up in layers of clothing, pulled warm blankets over their laps, and took heated bricks or soapstone to keep their feet warm. Sleigh bells attached to harnesses made for jingling all the way.

The sleighs gathered in the Richfield schoolyard with bands playing and flags flying. Medina County brought 144 sleigh teams, Cuyahoga had 151 and Summit County 171.

If you do the math that is 466 sleighs drawn by 1,864 horses, carrying 6,524 people. And that would not have included spectators and their horses and sleighs to witness the event.

Summit County was declared the winner, and it was on to Akron where the flag would be presented to the mayor. However, a commotion started with the Medina drivers. There had been foul play in the count and word came back that there would be another contest held in three days on March 18. Summit County would retain the flag until they met again.

On March 18, 1856 they met again in Richfield and took a final count. Medina County had begged and borrowed every horse and sleigh they could muster to rally and win the flag with 182 four-horse teams and one team of four mules. A great victory dance, followed by an oyster supper with all the trimmings, was

held at the Stagecoach Inn (which became the Richfield Tavern - now Olesia's Tavern). Brass bands turned out, bells rang, cannons were fired, and a grand time was had by all. The cotton victory flag was taken by the winners to the County Courthouse on Medina Square to be displayed.

But whatever happened to that 36-inch square flag? Supposedly it mysteriously disappeared. However, recent research revealed that in 1878 Summit County regained the flag, but not in a contest for the most sleighs. Instead, it was given to Summit County for bringing the largest number of people to the Medina County fair that summer. According to a 1964 article in the *Daily Leader Post* the Medina Fair in 1878 had moved to its present location on Lafayette and Smith roads. In an effort to bring the largest crowd to the fair, Medina County offered the flag as the prize. Summit County won, and their Board of Agriculture took it home. As of now, no one has been able to locate that original flag.

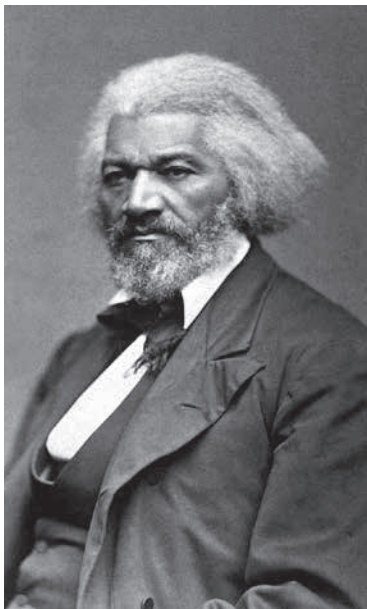




## COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

# Medina Honors Frederick Douglas and William Lloyd Garrison for their visit to the city in 1847

By: Commissioner STEVE HAMBLEY



Medina recently honored Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison with a sign in front of the 1841 Courthouse to commemorate their visit to the city in 1847.

One stop in the long road to freedom, equal rights is what I would characterize as the significance of this historical marker. If it leads to the awareness and understanding of the civil and political unrest that the Medina community was undergoing in the pre-Civil War era, then it will serve its purpose. In August and September of 1847, William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass toured northeast Ohio conducting a number of local anti-slavery conventions, as they were called at the time, to promote their cause: the demise of a pro-slavery union.

In 1845, friends of the former slave, Frederick Douglass published his now famous, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave.

The Narrative is considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature to fuel the abolitionist movement. The preface of the Narrative was written by an uncompromising abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison.

In their writings and speeches, Garrison and Douglass had one unified message that was clear: virulent opposition to any government or any religion that gave countenance to the institution of slavery. Their unanimous and often repeated slogan in these meetings, as well as in their writings was "NO COMPROMISE WITH SLAVERY! NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS!"

The political dispute over the Annexation of Texas, and the War with Mexico added to the angst of the anti-slavery movement in 1847. Many people expressed fears that the expansion in the number of slaveholding states in Congress and other parts of the Federal government would

undermine the peace and safety of states where slavery was prohibited. Time would tell how true those fears would be realized.

At these conventions, resolutions advocating for the elimination of Ohio's Black Laws were also frequently adopted, which contributed to the advancement of the antislavery cause in Ohio. The people of Medina were very familiar with that legislative initiative. In early 1847, Medina's representative to the Ohio House, HG Blake, authored a majority report advocating the unconditional repeal of all such laws.

Any employers who violated an 1804 law were fined \$10 to \$50 for hiring black and mulatto residents without a certificate issued by the County Clerk of Courts attesting that they were free and not slaves. An 1807 law required black

and mulatto residents to post a \$500 bond for good behavior and to prevent them from becoming township charges. Elected township Overseers of the Poor were also required to evict any such residents of color without the required bond.

Additionally, harboring, employing or concealing someone without a bond resulted in a \$100 fine split between the informer and the state. It was also unlawful for a black or mulatto to testify against a white. Ohio blacks could not serve in the state militia, hold office, vote or be part of a jury. Enforcement of Ohio's Black Laws were generally arbitrary and inconsistent across the state. Eventually, the bond requirements were repealed in 1849 in a political deal between Free Soil legislators and Democrats, and other provisions would likewise be in due course nullified.

Politically, even in northeast Ohio, it was generally more acceptable in the 1840's to be anti-slavery than it was to be in favor of equal rights for all men. The struggle for the end of slavery, as well as gaining equal rights for people of all races has had a long journey.

It took a single step at the Medina County Courthouse on August 30th and 31st, 1847 at a convention of local citizens that included two of the most famous abolitionists of their time. More importantly, the meetings advanced the cause of freedom and equal rights in our county among our citizens.

Recognizing that single event as an important part of our history is worthy of a historical marker, but only if we grasp the bigger picture, and the longer story that can't be entirely captured on two pieces of metal attached to a pole in front of a historic courthouse.

### Board of Medina County Commissioners



**Aaron Harrison**  
Board President

Office: **330-722-9211**

Cell: **330-635-3002**

[aharrison@medinacounty.gov](mailto:aharrison@medinacounty.gov)



**Colleen Swedyk**  
Board Vice President

Office: **330-722-9212**

Cell: **216-570-9809**

[cswedyk@medinacounty.gov](mailto:cswedyk@medinacounty.gov)



**Steve Hambley**  
Commissioner

Office: **330-722-9214**

Cell: **216-570-6958**

[shambley@medinacounty.gov](mailto:shambley@medinacounty.gov)

**Administration Building • 144 North Broadway Street, Medina**





ED ZACKERY

## FROM YOUR VETERANS OFFICE

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New things and changes for our veterans



Happy New Year! Typically, with the New Year comes new things or changes for our veterans with the benefits they receive. However, with the changing of the administration in Washington there are very few changes thus far. A 2.5% increase in benefit payments went into effect on December 1, 2024 which those receiving payments from the VA should have seen in the January 1, 2025 deposits. One large piece of legislation that passed in December was the Sen. Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act. The Department of Veterans Affairs is getting an extensive list of changes to how it delivers health care and benefits, now that Congress has passed this bill. This bill will change how the VA delivers healthcare from external sources other than from the VA Medical Centers. It will also address billing payment issues within the VA itself for veterans who receive healthcare from the VA or are outsourced to other VA partners. It will also address issues with the caregiver program as well as the Reserve and National Guard. This legislation is a comprehensive bipartisan package of bills that increases services for veterans, their families and caregivers, as well as their survivors across healthcare, education, benefits, and more. We look forward to the President signing the bill before years end (2024).

Aside from the above-mentioned legislation we don't expect to see many changes for the start of 2025. Whether or not the new administration and congress take on any new and upcoming changes we'll just have to wait and see.

We are excited to be back in our new space, over the past few months we have started planning some programs for our veterans and survivors. We will be posting how to sign up and the times and dates of the programs on our social media and website ([medinacountyveterans.org](http://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](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

### VETERANS BENEFITS HELP

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](mailto:veterans@medinacountyveterans.org) or catch us on the web at [medinacountyveterans.org](http://medinacountyveterans.org)

216.621.0303  
800.626.7277  
[AreaAgingSolutions.org](http://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:**  
Community-based meal sites & home delivered meals.

**PASSPORT Medicaid Waiver Program:**  
Long-term support with in-home services to older adults.

**Western Reserve**  
Area Agency On Aging

--- SERVING ---  
CUYAHOGA, GEAUGA,  
LAKE, LORAIN AND  
MEDINA COUNTIES

Providing choices for people to live independently in the place they want to call home.

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

  
**TUITION ASSISTANCE**  
CHILDREN OF DECEASED, OR SEVERLY DISABLED OHIO VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES DURING A PERIOD OF DECLARED WAR CONFLICT.  
Call Now: (330) 722-9368

The Ohio War Orphan & Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Program awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict.

The application deadline is May 15th of every year. For more information you can call our office or go to: <https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/financial-aid/sgs/wos/wos> For more information, contact Cleone Brandy at (614) 752-9481 or [cbrandy@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:cbrandy@highered.ohio.gov).

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



# PROUD TO SERVE MEDINA

## Business Law

Business Succession Planning  
Business Formation & Dissolution  
Business Transactions

## Corporate Governance

## Family Law

Divorce, Dissolution, Separation  
Custody

## Estate Planning

Asset Protection, Medicaid  
Planning, VA Planning



**Marc  
Hertrick**

**Matthew  
Aberegg**



3991 North Jefferson Street • (330) 461-9540 • [www.dooleygembala.com](http://www.dooleygembala.com)

# MORE ON DOOLEY GEMBALA

The Dooley Gembala McLaughlin Pecora law firm was founded in 1931 in northeast Ohio. Today our Firm serves clients near and far from our three offices: Medina, Sheffield Village, and Vermilion, Ohio.

The Medina office is managed by attorney Marc Hertrick. He has been practicing in the legal field for nearly 20 years since he followed his father, Paul Hertrick's footsteps, a respected longtime attorney serving northeast Ohio.

In spring 2024, associate attorney Matthew Aberegg, previously a Judicial Attorney in the Medina County Domestic Relations Court, joined the Medina office. Together, Marc and Matthew manage mid-market acquisitions and business transactions and provide legal counsel for large corporations, and flourishing startups, high-net-worth individuals, and real estate developers. In addition, they assist with succession planning, estate planning, marriage prenuptial and post-nuptial agreements, mediation and marriage dissolution.

For more information, visit [www.dooleygembala.com](http://www.dooleygembala.com)



24/7 NURSING CARE  
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE  
FULL-SERVICE THERAPISTS  
RESPIRE CARE  
UPSCALE AMENITIES  
ALL PRIVATE ROOMS  
REHABILITATION GYM



# A PLACE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

AVENUE AT MEDINA CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**ACCEPTING  
LONG TERM CARE  
PATIENTS!**

699 EAST SMITH ROAD | MEDINA | 330-721-7001 | [AvenueAtMedina.com](http://AvenueAtMedina.com)



# FROM WRMC

WESTERN RESERVE MASONIC COMMUNITY



## WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR



For those with aging parents, now is the time to look out for signs of neglect and diminished capacity.

Now that the kids have unwrapped all their Christmas presents, and the New Year's Eve celebrations are over everyone is getting back into their routine. With families living across the country, some families may not have seen their family members until these past holidays. This may have been the first visit with some of their family members since summer, or even this time last year.

When you arrived at your family's home you may have been surprised and even troubled at what you found. For those with aging parents, it's especially important to be on the lookout for signs of aging and clues that it may not be safe for your loved ones to be living alone.

If this scenario fit your family dynamics, think back on everything you experienced over the holidays so you can determine appropriate next steps. Begin by looking back at the exterior of the house. How did the yard look. Was it in need of care? Did you notice the contents of the mailbox. Were there multiple days of mail still in the mailbox? What about newspapers?

When you entered the house think back at the surroundings as well as your loved ones. Was the living room piled up? Possibly dirty dishes, clothes, basically, anything that goes against the normal lifestyle of your family members. Did you check the bedroom? Was the bed unmade, when your mother always made her bed as soon as she got up? Think back on the condition of the kitchen. Even more important than the cleanliness is the contents of the refrigerator and the cabinets. Ask yourself if there was sufficient, healthy food in the refrigerator? Was any of the food spoiled? Could you make appropriate meals from what you found? Good nutrition is paramount to staying healthy.

Did you check the medications, both over the counter as well as prescriptions? Checking the bottles is a good way to determine the quantity of medications and the date the prescription was written. Was there too much or too little medication in the bottle? Has the medication expired?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

We understand aging and senior living can be confusing. That's why we've created a series of guides, including **'Your Guide to Senior Living Care Levels,'** to help you navigate the journey for yourself or your loved ones.



WESTERN RESERVE  
MASONIC COMMUNITY

To request a copy of one of our guides, or to schedule a tour, call **(330) 642-3841** or visit **wrmcoh.org/heretohelp**







>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, it might be time to have a conversation with your loved one. Chances are this will be a difficult and emotional conversation. Be sure to talk calmly with your loved one and try to gather as much information as possible from the conversation.

Watch and listen closely to determine if your family member understands what you are saying. Besides comprehension, can they hear you clearly?

If you are not an only child, it's time to update your siblings on what you have learned. Understand, this will be a difficult conversation as well. Some of your brothers and sisters may have varying thoughts and opinions that are not the same as yours. Remember to have patience with your siblings.

Reassure your family members that they will have a support system every step of the way and encourage them to ask questions. It is essential that they feel secure and that you conduct an open dialogue about the next steps. Consider their wishes when you discuss their future. Should they choose to move to a senior living community, it will be important for them to remain in a community with friends and family nearby.

Giving them time to process their thoughts is vital. Moving from their home whether it be to independent living, assisted living or possibly memory care, is a significant lifestyle change. Be patient and include them in the decision-making process if possible.

Having maintenance provided is a tremendous asset for older adults. As we are in the middle of winter in northeastern Ohio, not having to shovel snow, or salt your sidewalks is an advantage. Let's not forget interior maintenance. If your refrigerator stops working, simply calling maintenance will solve the problem. Light bulbs always go out at the most unexpected times. Most people don't want to be climbing a ladder to reach light bulbs, so a call to maintenance will fix that problem too. This is a lifestyle that you will enjoy at Western Reserve Masonic Community.

Moving to a senior living community, such as Western Reserve Masonic Community, provides older adults with services and assistance with activities of daily living, as well as social opportunities. Many senior living communities offer regular activities for residents at all care levels. If your loved one can't or doesn't wish to remain at home, remind them of all the positive aspects of a senior living community.

If you discovered that your loved one's health has changed significantly while visiting this holiday season, it's a possibility they need to move to a senior living community that can provide care and offer assistance with their daily activities as well as housekeeping and maintenance. If you are considering moving your loved one 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 schedule a visit.



Senior Movers With Heart

As a Senior Move Manager with the National Association of Senior Move Managers, we provide you the most professional care and proven excellence in our methods and planning. Your dedicated Smooth Transitions team has the tools to help you and your family decide what to keep, recycle, donate, sell, and move to your new home.

Whether you are downsizing from a 5 bedroom house to a 1 bedroom apartment or simply moving from one community unit to another, we can help.

Work With Smooth Transitions

Our partners and community relationships ensure a smooth transition from your current home to your new home. We oversee every single step, and we are bonded and insured to give you the peace of mind that everything will be taken care of with the utmost care.

Our Services

- Move Planning
- Local Moving
- Professional Packing
- White Glove Unpacking
- Recycling and Disposal Services
- Floor Planning
- Asset Dispersal and Relocation
- Selling of Items/consignment
- Estate Sale Planning
- Item Donation and Charity
- Home Cleaning and Sale Preparation
- Long-distance Moving

QUESTIONS? [paulette@armbrustermoving.com](mailto:paulette@armbrustermoving.com)  
Phone: (216) 381-7418

- (216) 381-7418
- [cleveland.smoothtransitions.com](http://cleveland.smoothtransitions.com)
- Cleveland, OH

MENTION THIS AD TO CLAIM YOUR **FREE 1 HOUR MOVING CONSULTATION!**





# NEWS FROM THE OFFICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

## OFFICE FOR OLDER ADULTS CHANGES THEIR NAME



### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A lot actually! To accommodate our growth and more accurately represent what we do, the Medina County Office for Older Adults will be changing our name to Medina County Senior & Adult Services, effective January 1, 2025. We can serve any adult age 18 and over with a disability in some programs. We also keep seniors safe through the Adult Protective Services Program. New year, new logo, new name – the same programs to serve all.

A note on the design: the upright columns represent the supports the agency offers, arranged into the geographical shape of the county. The colors were chosen to represent the three largest city areas in the county, red for Wadsworth, blue for Brunswick, green and gold representing Medina and the county.

(L-R) County Commissioner's Aaron Harrison, Steve Hambley and Colleen Swedyk with MCSAS Director Laura Toth presenting the new name and logo.

Join us  
at the  
Village

Thrive in a  
Community  
Built on  
Faith &  
Compassion



Discover a place where compassionate care is at the heart of everything we do. The Village of St. Edward offers a supportive, faith-based community where residents receive attentive care tailored to their unique needs. We provide a safe and nurturing environment where families feel peace of mind, and residents feel right at home.



Not for profit.  
Faith based.  
Locally operated.

INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE • NURSING CARE

FAIRLAWN  
3131 Smith Road, Fairlawn,  
330-668-2828

WADSWORTH  
880 Main Street, Wadsworth,  
234-217-8735

GREEN  
3813 Fortuna Drive, Akron,  
234-294-0010

BRIMFIELD  
Coming Soon

[vsecommunities.org](http://vsecommunities.org)



# SOPREMA CENTER NEWS

Good bye to a memorable 2024 and hello to an exciting 2025



The year 2024 will go down in history as a very special year at the Soprema Senior Center! From the once-in-a-lifetime Solar Eclipse Watch Party with over 200 seniors viewing the phenomenon together, to the movie-themed Senior & Caregiver Expo with over 600 seniors attending, everything the SSC did this past year brought record breaking growth and attendance!

The year 2025 is already off to a great start. A highlight for senior members is getting to read the new quarterly January/February/March newsletter that just expanded by four pages and now has a new look with the name "SSC Express". Seniors submitted name ideas and SSC Express was chosen to reflect how the newsletter is not only the best way to "express" all of the amazing opportunities at the SSC, but how it is also growing and moving forward so quickly that it feels like being aboard an "express" train! Would you like to read this exciting new newsletter edition? Simply go to [www.wadsworthcity.com/SopremaSeniorCenter](http://www.wadsworthcity.com/SopremaSeniorCenter) and select 'Current Newsletter' on the left-hand side of the page. Once there, you can even sign up for an email subscription!

The Soprema Senior Center offers free membership to anyone 55+ living in Wadsworth and the surrounding communities. If you have not yet checked out this warm and welcoming place and all that they have to offer, be sure to make a New Year's Resolution to visit the Soprema Senior Center soon in 2025! Our staff team, Lori, Tammy & Amy, along with amazing volunteers, would love to meet you! Located inside the SSC is the full service Soprema Café, operated by the Medina County Senior & Adult Services (formerly MCOOA), that is open to the public, with delicious breakfast & lunch options, baked goods and coffees at great prices.

The Soprema Senior Center is open Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm and the Soprema Café is open Monday – Friday from 7:30am – 2:00pm. You can follow the latest happenings of the Soprema Senior Center on Facebook by liking and following the: Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation. Are you a business that is senior minded and/or serves seniors? Join us as a Professional Friend in 2025! It's only \$50 for the year and a great marketing opportunity that helps support what we do and the seniors we serve. Simply email us at [ssc@wadsworthcity.org](mailto:ssc@wadsworthcity.org) and our staff will get more information out to you. Happy New Year to all!

## "Under the Big Top"

**SENIOR HEALTH & WELLNESS**

# EXPO

## & BAKE OFF

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 26, 2025**  
**9:30AM - 12:30PM**  
**BRUNSWICK REC CENTER**  
**3637 CENTER ROAD**

FEATURING A VARIETY OF LOCAL SENIOR SERVICE PROVIDERS:  
 MEDICAL SERVICES • FITNESS & HEALTH  
 LEGAL • HOUSING • COMMUNITY SERVICES  
 FINANCIAL • AND MORE!

**SAVE THE DATE** (Yellow starburst)

**FREE ADMISSION** (Yellow starburst)

# BAUER

## FUNERAL HOME

2089 Columbia Road | Valley City, OH 44280  
 330-483-3300 | [www.BauerFuneralHome1943.com](http://www.BauerFuneralHome1943.com)

Pre-Planning  
 Traditional Services  
 Cremation  
 Urns & Caskets  
 Military Funeral Honors  
 Grief Support

Mary Ann Bauer / Charles Bauer  
*Funeral Directors*



# Brunswick's Gay Frantz Creates Stories of a Lifetime

By: Caoilainn Carlson,  
BEAT Reporter



Imagine yourself walking through the Brunswick Library and BOOM - a book catches your eye. You pull it off the shelf and examine the delicate artwork, with the title sticking out: Betsy Bee's Adventure. However, what you might not realize is that the book was written and illustrated by Brunswick's very own Gay Frantz, a talented author and artist with a passion for the outdoors.

Frantz' passion for writing began when she was much younger. "I took scuba diving when I was in college because it was the only thing available to me," she explained. Frantz' instructor would go on to tell her incredible

stories that she said you would never see printed. This, she said, has influenced her upcoming book, Suzy Seaweed. Since then, she has written many stories influenced by events from her life.

Frantz' dancing career has also played a big role in her stories. Being a ballerina when she was younger, she would go on to teach about 250 students at her own studio. "In dancing, you have to have groups," Frantz said. "If you have 20 or 30 groups of dancers, you have to have a routine for them. All that planning and rehearsing, at the end of the year, that requires a story."



Frantz admitted that writing a book was not easy. She said that when writing, she wants her stories to be as accurate as possible, and she has spent almost 100 hours doing research to support them.

Frantz stated that she helps keep from writer's block by switching from her illustrations to writing. She doesn't want things to be too difficult for a child to comprehend, mentioning that the age range for Betsy Bee's Adventure is six to seven years old. And, Chipper and the Tall Tree Fair is geared towards eight to ten years old. "It doesn't matter how good, how bad, how misspelled, or how twisted the grammar is," she said. "Get your idea down."

All of Frantz's books have been written since she became a resident of Plum Creek Senior Living in Brunswick (www.plumcreekseiorliving.com). She has had many interesting life experiences that have influenced not only her writing and illustrations, but who she is as a person today. "If I do something, I put it down to try and pique the curiosity of the children," she said.

## Do I Need to Update My Estate Plan Documents?

By: ANN SALEK, Certified Elder Law Attorney  
(CELA) Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston



ANN SALEK

**CRITCHFIELD**  
Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, Ltd.

### Elder Law and Estate Planning

When did you last establish your estate plan? Do you have a "life plan" in place as well? Many people plan for their death but more people need to plan for their life as well. As you age, you may become ill or your capacity may diminish. You need to make sure you have the correct documents in place to accommodate your death as well as your life. Have you had "life changes" since initially implementing a plan? Many people establish a plan and then forget about it assuming they never need to revisit that plan.

I suggest to my clients that they review their plan at least every five years or when they have had a "life change." Many people forget what plan they have in place. Just reviewing that plan and refreshing your memory may be enough to confirm you have the correct plan in place. Similarly, revisiting your plan may confirm you want to make some changes.

Following include some of the "life changes" that may warrant updating your plan:

- Death in the family
- Birth in the family
- Remarriage
- Illness
- Children reaching adulthood
- Receiving an inheritance
- Purchasing a second home
- Starting a new business venture
- Acquiring new assets
- Fulfilling philanthropic intentions
- Diminishing capacity

As you age, you may find yourself contemplating what kind of legacy you will leave behind. The time to plan your legacy is during your lifetime. This is a time to consider philanthropic intentions. What are you passionate about? How can you leave this world in a better position?

Regardless of what your "life changes" may be, just make sure you have properly prepared for your life as well as your death.

**CRITCHFIELD**

Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, Ltd.

### Elder Law and Estate Planning

Asset Protection \* Medicaid Planning \* Veteran Benefits \* Wills & Trusts \* Capacity Assessment  
Conservatorship & Guardianship \* Probate

**Empowering our clients is our primary goal.**



For assistance, contact attorney

**Ann Salek\***

\*Certified Elder Law Attorney  
\*Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law  
salek@ccj.com  
330.723.6404

4996 Foote Road, Medina, Ohio, 44256  
www.ccj.com



# Six Common Misconceptions About Home Care

Home Care can be incredibly beneficial for numerous families. However, misconceptions about it often deter people from considering this option for themselves or their loved ones. Below are some of the most common misconceptions:



SHERRY CASSILY, DIRECTOR OF ARCHANGELS SPECIALTY HOME CARE



## 1 HOME CARE IS ONLY FOR THE ELDERLY

This is far from the truth. Home care is beneficial for people of all ages who may need assistance with daily living activities due to an illness, injury, disability, etc, in addition to the elderly.

## 2 IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE

The cost of home care varies depending on the level of care needed, in addition to the frequency/duration of visits, along with the specific home care provider. Often, the cost of home care is more affordable than a nursing home or assisted living facility. Additionally, it may be covered by insurance or government programs, such as the waiver program or the passport program, depending on the home care provider used. Most importantly, you or your loved one stays at home, so it's essential to do some research!

## 3 THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY WITH HOME CARE

Many home care providers offer flexible scheduling options to accommodate the unique needs of their clients. With a bit of communication, schedules can be easily adjusted, as needed.

## 4 HOME CARE WILL TAKE AWAY MY INDEPENDENCE

The purpose of home care is not to take over someone's life, but to assist them in maintaining their independence & quality of life. Caregivers are there to assist with everyday activities, so the client can continue to stay in their home for as long as possible.

## 5 HOME CARE PROVIDERS ARE NOT QUALIFIED OR RELIABLE

Reputable home care providers ensure their caregivers are highly qualified & dependable. They thoroughly screen, train, & supervise their staff. Caregivers undergo criminal background checks, interviews, & receive training before starting with any clients. Typically, recommendation letters or references are necessary upon hiring, as well. If a caregiver is unable to work a shift, the home care company often has the capability to provide another qualified caregiver to fill in, should the client prefer this option.

## 6 MY LOVED ONE NEEDS MORE HELP THAN HOME CARE CAN OFFER

Are you sure? All home care providers offer a variety of services. In fact, the caregivers can assist with personal care assistance such as bathing, dressing, toileting, grooming, etc & then some may also assist with meal preparation, some transportation services, light house-keeping tasks, medication reminders, shopping, companionship, exercising, etc. Clearly communicating the needs, you or your loved one requires is important when you're looking for the right home care provider.

Thoroughly researching home care companies is essential to identify one that aligns with your specific requirements. By understanding the facts & dispelling any misconceptions, you can make an informed decision regarding the best care option for you or your family.

# HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

## APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2025

The Ohio Department of Development and Medina County Senior & Adult Services (MCSAS) want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. They may also visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

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

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

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2025. For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact MCSAS at 330-723-9514.

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



### Home Care Services by Angels on Earth

We provide personal support care for people who are elderly, ill or need help with daily tasks. Our duty is to make sure our clients are comfortable, safe, and enjoy emotional and physical well-being.

Valley City, OH. 44280  
 Phone: 833.ARHCARE (272-4227)  
[wecare@archangelshomecare.com](mailto:wecare@archangelshomecare.com)  
[Website: archangelshomecare.com](http://www.archangelshomecare.com)



# REVOKING A LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT: Following the Rules

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



MICHAEL LARIBEE

Betty and her niece had a very close relationship. Her niece visited every Saturday at the nursing home. They sat together for hours listening to Betty's extensive collection of big band music. As the music played, Betty would reminisce about family milestones and special events. Betty's record collection included rare performances by Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman. It was valued at approximately \$35,000.00.

Betty met with her attorney to draft her last will and testament. She made a provision in her will to give the record collection to her niece.

Several years passed. Betty's niece stopped visiting. Worse yet, her niece spent some time in the local jail. After much soul-searching, Betty decided that she did not want her niece to receive her record collection. She wrote a letter to the nursing home director stating that she wanted the nursing home to receive the records upon her death. She died shortly thereafter.

Did Betty effectively revoke her will? The answer is no. Despite Betty's intention to change beneficiaries, it is very likely that her niece will still inherit her prized music recordings.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Explore our vibrant senior community and discover the abundance of amenities and the right balance of care and support to suit any lifestyle. Each of our residents receives dignified, compassionate assistance which is meant to not only help quality of life, but to enrich it!

*Plum Creek*  
A Senior Assisted Living Community  
Family Owned & Operated



891 MARKS ROAD | BRUNSWICK | 330.220.4900  
[www.PlumCreekSeniorLiving.com](http://www.PlumCreekSeniorLiving.com)





>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

What does it take to revoke a will in Ohio? The statutory law is very clear. A will may be revoked only in the following ways:

- (1) By the testator (person making the will) physically destroying the will with the intention of revoking it;
- (2) By another person, at the testator's request and in the testator's presence, physically destroying it with the intention of revoking it;
- (3) By another person destroying it pursuant to the testator's express written direction; or
- (4) By executing a new will, codicil (an amendment or addendum to an existing will), or other writing that is properly signed, witnessed and subscribed.

The act of tearing or spoiling a will without demonstrating a clear and unequivocal intent to revoke the entire will is not sufficient. Ohio courts have held that crossing-out language or removing pages are

insufficient to revoke a will. Handwritten changes that are not properly signed and witnessed will not be honored. Also, the testator must be mentally competent to make any changes to an existing will, including revoking it.

Since Betty's letter to the nursing home did not satisfy the formal signing requirements of a will or a codicil, the bequest to her niece, contrary to Betty's wishes, remained in full force and effect. Thankfully, Betty and her niece are merely fictional characters. But lawsuits involving facts like these are filed frequently. Before trying to change your last will and testament, you should consult with an attorney to make sure that your intentions are set forth and executed in the proper form. Failure to follow the statutory requirements could prevent your wishes from being carried out.

**LARIBEE LAW, LLP**

*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.*



**LARIBEE LAW, LLP**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
SERVING MEDINA SINCE 1938

Estate Planning / Probate Administration  
Real Estate / Contracts / Civil Litigation

325 North Broadway | Medina, Ohio 44256  
330.725.0531 | www.LaribeeLaw.com

# 5 Ways to Stay Connected to Those You Love During the Winter

From: The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Winter can be a difficult time for both seniors and people with disabilities. As shorter days and colder weather begin to limit the opportunities for social gatherings and activities, feelings of loneliness or anxiety may start to set in. However, with thoughtful planning and creativity, this season can also provide opportunities to strengthen connections and create lasting memories for those friends and family members who may face mobility obstacles or any other environment related barriers.



## 1. INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Cold weather often keeps people inside, but this can be an opportunity to bond over indoor activities. Simple games, arts and crafts, or baking can be enjoyable and engaging. For individuals with limited motor skills, adaptive tools or shared activities, like decorating cookies or playing memory games, can be made accessible.

## 2. SENSORY ENGAGEMENT

Winter offers unique sensory experiences that can help create connection. Explore the tactile sensations of scarves, mittens, or snow. You can create sensory bins filled with soft textures or use winter-themed music to stimulate hearing. These activities can be soothing and grounding, promoting relaxation and joy.

## 3. FAMILY TRADITIONS

Participating in family traditions, such as game nights, movie nights, and even listening to music together can foster inclusion and a sense of belonging. Modify activities to help your loved one's needs; things like using large, easy-to-handle game pieces or choosing sensory-friendly decorations and activities.

## 4. VIRTUAL CONNECTION

For those who are socially isolated, virtual visits can be a great way to stay connected with distant family members or friends. Regular video calls, virtual games, or virtual storytimes can help maintain social bonds and reduce feelings of loneliness.

## 5. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

The winter months can be emotionally challenging. Spend time offering reassurance through verbal and physical gestures. Simple activities, like holding hands or making eye contact, can provide comfort and help your loved one feel secure and valued.

During the winter months, friends and families can continue to create and maintain meaningful connections and help their loved ones who may not be able to travel or visit, feel more supported and loved. For more information about ways to connect to people with developmental disabilities, visit the Medina County Board of DD website at [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org) or call 330-725-7751.

- helping families succeed -

**Medina County**  
board of developmental disabilities

Helping with everything from early intervention and education opportunities for children to employment and community inclusive living for adults.

330-725-7751 | [www.mcbdd.org](http://www.mcbdd.org)



Loss is difficult enough.  
The service should be easy.

Ask us about pre-planning your final wishes today. Call **(330) 723-3229** or scan the code with your phone to get started.



Medina Chapel  
**(330) 723-3229**  
765 N. Court St.  
Medina, OH 44256

Brunswick Chapel  
**(330) 225-1770**  
3300 Center Road  
Brunswick, OH 44212



## Medina County's Working Women's Connection Inspires, Motivates, Celebrates

By: Raegan Remendowski, BEAT Reporter

All over Northeast Ohio, there are people in need of assistance. Whether it's insurance, mortgages, finding housing, taxes, or more, Working Women's Connection (WWC) has a small business to support you. Lyndsey Rayer, a member of the Medina County WWC group and Brunswick resident, shared her gratitude for being a part of this community. "We are all women in the community who own a small business," affirmed Rayer.

Rayer has been involved in WWC for a year, building new relationships, sharing advice, and connecting with women everywhere. WWC has locations in Avon, Beachwood, Brecksville, Cleveland, Strongsville, and many more cities all around Northeast Ohio. This group isn't just for networking and helping a particular field stay afloat. Every lady builds another up to provide a safe, welcoming environment for each independent member.

"My goal is to help other women grow their businesses and be successful," explained Rayer. "When friends or family or people on social media ask questions about a particular service, we refer to ladies who specialize in that area of expertise." WWC's open-armed community helps everyone feel empowered to confidently grow their line of work.

An introduction starts the meeting, as guests often visit to get a feel if they want to join and help their business flourish too. Everyone then listens to selected members who share presentations that give information about their jobs. This all-inclusive coterie invites women to share, engage, honor, and build upon each other to develop deeper relationships and more powerful careers.

WWC's website shared that their overall goal is to "inspire and motivate one another as well as celebrate our accomplishments." Since joining, Rayer's favorite part about this sisterhood is the relationships that were created between each woman. She encounters endless support from her partners who are involved, sharing acknowledgment, kindness, and camaraderie.

To find more information about the doings of Working Women's Connection, call (440) 447-0706 or visit [workingwomenconnection.com](http://workingwomenconnection.com). Lyndsey Rayer might live in Brunswick, but she stands with women all over Ohio thanks to Working Women's Connection.





## I NEED TO DO MY ESTATE PLANNING: WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST

Putting your estate plan in order may seem like a daunting task, but it is so important to ensure that your assets and loved ones are protected upon your death. Whether you're starting anew or revisiting your existing estate plan, you should know two things: (1) what you have and (2) where you want it to go.

Start with making a list or inventory of what you have. Your assets include your real estate, bank accounts, investment accounts; retirement accounts, stocks, bonds, business interests, life insurance and personal property, like jewelry, cars, collections, etc. You may also think about digital assets such as online accounts, cryptocurrencies and intellectual property. Once you have made this list, identify any debts and liabilities. This gives you a good picture of your estate so you can decide where you like these assets to go.

Now, where do you want your assets to go upon your death? Who will be named beneficiaries on assets or accounts and who will be the beneficiaries under your will or trust? Review what you have set up already. Quite often by naming certain beneficiaries on certain accounts, and other beneficiaries under your will or trust, you are creating a plan that does not really meet your overall goal and wishes. Other than for retirement assets, it may be easier to have a complete plan that meets your wishes by setting up a trust, with named beneficiaries and instructions as to how they will inherit, and have assets owned by your trust or your trust named as beneficiary. Having your assets owned by your trust will allow your assets to go to your beneficiaries without going through probate court (although there are other ways to accomplish this as well.)

When you are revisiting a current plan, always verify with the institutions that hold your accounts whom you have named as beneficiaries.

If you have assets in your individual name upon your death, without beneficiaries named, those assets will pass through probate court and be subject to the provisions in your will. Those are the assets that will also be subject to any creditors' claims. Even with a trust, you may have assets pass through probate court if you have not retitled those assets into your trust name. Your will then, a "pour-over will," will direct those assets to be paid to your trust, so your trust instructions will provide for the distribution according to your wishes.

If a trust makes sense for you, it can also provide instructions concerning your assets should at some point you become mentally unable to handle your financial affairs. This is in addition to specific instructions on whom should receive your assets and how. Should some be held in trust to protect a special needs beneficiary or a spendthrift? Does it make sense to have a subtrust set up for each of your children to protect their inheritance from possible creditors or a divorce? These are the questions to discuss with your estate planning attorney.

No matter if your basic estate plan is will-centered or trust-centered, you should make sure your assets are titled correctly, once again so that your wishes will be carried out as to all of your beneficiaries.

Knowing what you have, where you want it to go, and who should be your trusted "helpers" upon disability and death, is a great place to start to make sure your estate plan will truly reflect your wishes.

# Lions Update

## Lions Christmas Party

The Medina Lions met at Williams on the Lake for their annual Christmas Party on December 6th. 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 \$700 to Toys for Tots. Representing the Toys for the Tots and dressed for the occasion were Marines Randy Schmidet, Bob Compondu, Dave Sterrett, Joe Staurch, Henry Huffman and Haywood Riley.

Attendees to the Christmas Party enjoyed a Christmas buffet dinner which included Roast beef, green beans, and homemade Christmas cupcakes. Entertainment was provided by Hayden Grove singing Christmas Classics and some Frank Sinatra hits. It was a fund evening celebrating the season and club accomplishments for 2024.

The Medina Lions have already started planning for the big fundraiser of the year. The Reverse Raffle will be March 7, 2025, at Guy's Party Center. The Main Board prize is \$2,500 and there are multiple side boards, bingo and 50/50 prizes. Tickets for the raffle are on sale now and you can contact a club member if you would like to attend or donate.

The next Medina Lions Club meeting is Tuesday, January 14, 2025. The Medina Lions Club meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Eagles Club on Lafayette Rd at 6:30 PM. All those who care about the Medina community are welcome to attend. If you would like additional information, you can visit the Medina Lions on Facebook or send an email to [vdv@zoominternet.net](mailto:vdv@zoominternet.net)





**EDMONDS SORGEN**  
COUNSELORS AT LAW

WILLS | TRUSTS | ESTATES | ELDER LAW

**WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!**

Our team spends quality time with every client inquiring about family dynamics and listening to clients' 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

807 EAST WASHINGTON STREET | SUITE 200 | MEDINA  
PH: 330.725.5297 | FAX: 330.722.5932  
[Marie@MarieEdmonds.com](mailto:Marie@MarieEdmonds.com) | [Ashley@MarieEdmonds.com](mailto:Ashley@MarieEdmonds.com)



# ★ HANDS HERO'S ★

## The Heart of the Community: Brunswick VFW Post 9520

By: Vedang Upadnyay, BEAT Reporter

Visit [www.vfw9520.com](http://www.vfw9520.com) to learn more.



Brunswick VFW Post 9520 (1439 South Carpenter Road) stands as a beacon of camaraderie and support for veterans and their families. Established in the mid-1960s, with its building completed in 1965, the post has been a crucial lifeline for those who have served in the armed forces, offering essential resources and a supportive community.

The vibrant atmosphere at the VFW Post is a testament to the sense of belonging it fosters. Members gather to share stories, laughter, and mutual support, creating genuine connections rooted in their shared experiences and sacrifices. As veteran Mel Jackson puts it, “There are lots of friendly people and they will help you if you need help.” This welcoming spirit makes each visit an opportunity to not only reminisce about past experiences but also forge new memories.

Among the dedicated volunteers at the post is Chuck Novak,

a veteran who actively contributes to the community. Beyond attending weekly meetings, Novak has engaged in various initiatives, recently organizing a collection drive for hurricane victims. Alongside fellow volunteer Frank, he helped transport essential supplies, showcasing his commitment to those in need. His positive attitude and willingness to tackle various tasks—from sorting donations to coordinating outreach efforts—have made a meaningful impact on the lives of many.

The diversity of military service experiences among the members adds richness to the community. Novak served during the Cold War from 1975 to 1979, navigating a challenging geopolitical landscape marked by tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. In contrast, Jackson’s service during the Vietnam War era reflects a different, yet equally pivotal, chapter in military history.



Their shared stories not only honor their past but also foster connections with fellow veterans.

Novak’s journey with the VFW began in a moment of personal reflection following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. While working at General Electric and witnessing the impact of those events alongside his family, he sought a deeper connection with others who shared similar experiences. It was

during a fish fry event in 2001—the same event where he’d first raised his hand as a veteran—that he decided to join the VFW, fueled by a desire for camaraderie and support.

Over the years, the VFW has evolved to meet the changing needs of veterans and their families. It serves not only as a support system but also as a platform for advocacy, ensuring that the voices of veterans are heard and honored.

The organization extends its reach by welcoming social members—individuals over the age of 18 or 21 who wish to assist veterans—engaging those from all walks of life in the mission to uplift veterans and their families.

VFW Post 9520 is a heartfelt embodiment of the enduring spirit of service and community. It’s more than just a building; it’s a nurturing space where camaraderie, respect, and hard work flourish. With a rich history and a devoted membership, it serves as a haven for veterans to come together, share their experiences, and uplift one another.

As exemplified by Chuck Novak and Mel Jackson, this post goes beyond merely honoring military service—it’s about creating a compassionate community that thrives on connection, support, and shared values. Here, every veteran can find solace, understanding, and a sense of belonging.



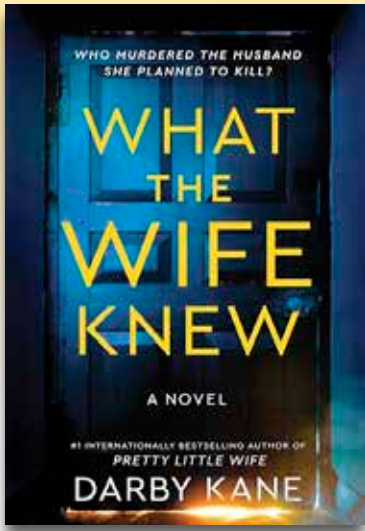
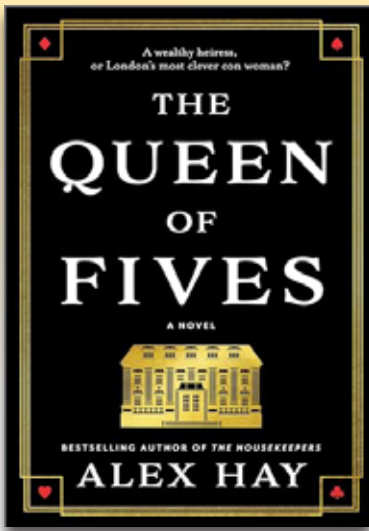
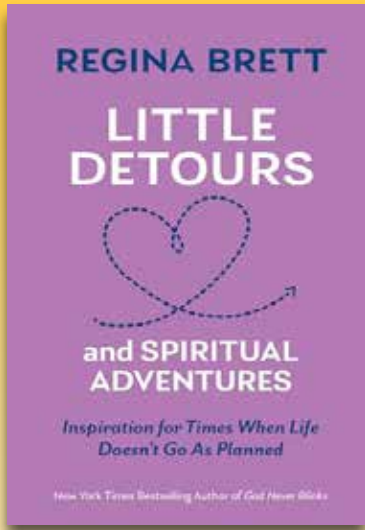
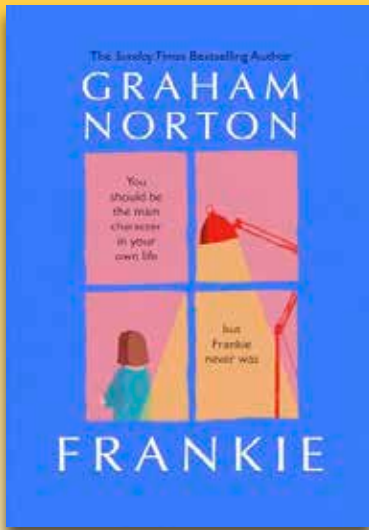


# LIBRARY NEWS

*Read it and Reap!*

## WINTER READING Some Titles to Check Out!

From: MARY OLSON, Readers' Advisory Librarian



## Winter Reading for Adults at MCDL

Medina County District Library launches the annual Winter Reading game for adults Jan. 2 – March 16 at all MCDL locations. Read any format of books and enter the titles for a chance to win Book Lovers prize bundles or a grand prize e-reader bundle with a new Kindle Fire. Along the way take challenges to earn free book coupons for the Friends of the Library book sales and get custom reading 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](http://mcdl.info/ReadingGame). Sponsored by the Friends of MCDL.



## Author Event

While playing the Winter Reading Game enjoy titles by our visiting author. Sharon Short - Tue., Feb. 18, 6:30 pm at Brunswick Library. Sharon Short is the author of sixteen books, including the award-winning Kinship series of historical mysteries (as Jess Montgomery). Her newest title, Trouble Island, is a historical suspense set in the 1930's on a Lake Erie island. Sharon lives in southern Ohio. Book sale and signing will follow the event. Register at [mcdl.info/Readers](http://mcdl.info/Readers)



## Art Exhibition

21st Annual Aquarius Art Exhibition at Medina Library Jan. 27 - Mar. 6 View artwork of the talented members of the Medina County Art League. Choose your favorites for the People's Choice Award.

*Winter Reading for Adults*  
**Jan. 2 - Mar. 16**  
Play online or in your library

[mcdl.info/ReadingGame](http://mcdl.info/ReadingGame)





# Brunswick Pointe

SKILLED NURSING AND LONG-TERM CARE



## VENTILATOR & RESPIRATORY CARE AVAILABLE



*Private Rooms*

- Respiratory Therapist (RT) On-Site 7 Days a Week
- Chest Exams & Treatment Plans
- Full Blood & Lab Work with Adjusted Treatment as Needed
- Pulmonologist & Nurse Practitioner Evaluations
- Nurses Fully Trained in Ventilator Care
- Private Respiratory Care Rooms with Audible Alarms
- BiPap & CPAP Therapy
- Cough Assist with Chest Therapy
- Trilogy Non-Invasive



WE ACCEPT MEDICARE AND MOST MANAGED CARE PLANS



4355 LAUREL ROAD | BRUNSWICK, OHIO 44212 | 330-741-8000 | [WWW.BRUNSWICK-POINTE.NET](http://WWW.BRUNSWICK-POINTE.NET)