

TODAY'S family

June/July 2026 Lake Geauga

Cleveland
Orchestra

2026 Blossom
Summer Music
Festival

See pages 9 & 17

Reserve Care

Walk to Remember

June 14 at Cleveland
Metroparks Zoo

Help Me Grow

Services for families from
pregnancy through the
early childhood years

ADHD

Is this just a phase
or something else?

Fairs,
Festivals
& Events

K9 Heroes 4 Heroes

Local organization
provides service
dogs for veterans
and first responders

Jeff's Candy Shop

Now open in
Willoughby

2026 Lake County Fair to have tons of fun!

The 171st edition of Lake County Fair will run July 28–August 2, 2026 at the county fairgrounds on Mentor Avenue in Painesville Township.

The 2026 fair will be packed with fun for the whole family and will feature all the favorite traditions and more. Two demo derbies will headline the week's entertainment line-up and regular favorites like the monster truck show, a truck and tractor pull, and KOI dirt track drag racing will all return. Great music along with the K-9 Performance Dogs will highlight this year's free on-grounds acts.

The fair starts on Tuesday, July 28. You won't want to miss the opening day parade starting at 6 p.m. followed by a demo derby.



Demo Dog Derby

Wednesday is Family Day. Families of four or more will be admitted for \$10 each including ride privileges.

Thursday is Kids Day with free admission for ages 14 and under when accompanied by an adult.

For a complete schedule of events with times, ticket prices and more information, visit the fair's website at www.lakecountyfair.org.

St. Gabriel Summer Festival returns for 60th year of family fun

As the summer season begins to bloom, so too does one of northeast Ohio's most beloved traditions—the St. Gabriel Summer Festival. Now in its 60th year, the festival returns June 4–7, bringing with it four unforgettable days of fun, food, games, and community spirit.

The festival is a cherished tradition that welcomes families and friends from across the tri-county area. From thrilling rides and live music to homemade delicacies and exciting raffles and games, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Highlights include:

- Midway rides and games
- Live entertainment every evening featuring Northeast Ohio bands
- Casino – try your luck
- A delicious variety of food: homemade pierogies, cabbage rolls, fresh-cut fries, roasted



corn, burgers, gyros, ice cream, and more

- Face painting, kids' games, and all-day ride passes available
- Raffle drawings with a \$20,000 grand prize can be purchased online

Whether you're a longtime attendee or a first-time guest, you'll find a warm welcome and an abundance of summer fun.

For more information, full entertainment schedule, or to purchase raffle tickets online, visit www.st-gabriel.org.

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contents

- 4 HELP ME GROW**
Services for families from pregnancy through the early childhood years
- 7 LIVING WELL**
Today's Family advice column for parents and caregivers
- 8 ADHD**
Is this just a phase?... or something more?
- 11 DAD LIFE: THE FUNNY SIDE**
Lighthearted quips about fatherhood and family
- 13 JEFF'S CANDY SHOP**
Young candy maker transformed a historic Willoughby shop into a handcrafted confectionery destination
- 14 FAIRS, FESTIVALS & EVENTS**
June–August
- 18 PARENT WIN/PARENT FAIL**
New feature where readers share real-life parenting stories
- 21 STARS, STRIPES & STORIES**
10 facts you may not know about the American flag
- 23 FIREWORKS, FATHERS & FOURTH OF JULY**
Humorous and heartfelt memories of fireworks, family, and growing up



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ANSWERING THE CALL AT HOME

How one local man is changing lives—
one service dog at a time

Article by Dan Miller • Photos courtesy of Joe Gionti

For Joe Gionti, a lifelong respect for those who serve—both in uniform and in our communities—was instilled early. Influenced by family, friends, and mentors who dedicated their lives to service, that sense of duty only deepened during his time at the Virginia Military Institute, where he watched classmates take the oath to defend the nation.

Though his own path ultimately led elsewhere, the desire to give back never left him. Years later, that calling took on new meaning in an unexpected way—through the bond with his own dog.

What began as personal training quickly turned into something more. Partnering with a veteran trainer at Ridgeside K9 Ashtabula, Joe immersed himself in canine behavior and service work, discovering not just a passion, but a purpose. That experience became the foundation for K9 Heroes 4 Heroes, a Northeast Ohio-based nonprofit dedicated to providing fully-trained service dogs to veterans and first responders at no cost.

To help bring his mission to life in a tangible way, Joe welcomed Loki, a Czech-line German Shepherd, into his family. More than a companion, Loki serves as both Joe's personal service dog and the organization's ambassador—offering a daily, visible example of the powerful role these dogs can play in restoring independence, confidence, and connection.

Today, K9 Heroes 4 Heroes is rooted deeply in the local community. From breeders in Ohio and nearby states to trainers across Lake, Ashtabula, and Medina counties, nearly every step of the process happens close to home. The dogs are ultimately placed with veterans and first responders throughout Northeast Ohio, creating a program that not only serves heroes—but strengthens the community around them.

Training a service dog is an inten-

sive process that typically takes nine months to a year, beginning when the dogs are still puppies and continuing until they are ready to live full-time with their handlers. It's a significant investment of time, expertise, and resources—one that can cost upwards of \$30,000 per dog. Through ongoing fundraising efforts, K9 Heroes 4 Heroes covers that entire cost, ensuring there is no financial burden on the heroes they serve.

What sets the organization apart is its commitment beyond placement. K9 Heroes 4 Heroes covers the cost of training, veterinary care, food, and equipment, while also providing ongoing support long after a dog is matched with its handler. What begins as an application often grows into something much more personal.

"They're not just participants—they become friends," says Joe's wife, Jody.

The impact of these service dogs is both immediate and far-reaching. For veterans and first responders living with PTSD, anxiety, or depression, the dogs provide constant companionship and emotional support. They can be trained to interrupt nightmares and flashbacks, offer a calming presence in stressful situations, and even alert their handlers to triggers in crowded or unfamiliar environments.

Beyond emotional support, these highly trained dogs assist with everyday tasks—retrieving items, opening doors, and providing physical stability. They also encourage routine, exercise, and social interaction, helping their handlers re-engage with the world around them.

"The veterans and first responders in our program are doing things they never thought they would do again," Joe explains. With their dogs by their side, many are returning to social settings, reconnecting with loved ones, and rediscovering a sense of normalcy.

For many, that transformation



Sarge and his dog Sage

brings something even deeper—a renewed sense of purpose. Families notice the difference too as their loved ones begin to reengage in everyday life and enjoy moments that once felt out of reach.

At the heart of it all is a deeper understanding of what these individuals face. PTSD, Joe explains, isn't something you can see—but it's something they live with every day. A service dog helps ground them, offers reassurance, and brings them back to the present when it matters most.

Balancing this mission with a full-time job isn't easy. Joe's days start early—often before 3 a.m.—and don't slow down after work. Evenings and weekends are filled with training, meetings, outreach, and communication with the organization's board. It's a demanding schedule, but one he never questions.

"Seeing the difference these dogs are making—that's what keeps me going," he says.

In a quiet but powerful way, Joe Gionti has found his own path to service—one that's changing lives across Northeast Ohio, one dog at a time.

Visit k9heroes4heroes.com or email Joe at joe.gionti@k9h4h.org to learn more.



Joe Gionti, K9 Heroes 4 Heroes founder, along with his personal service dog Loki.

How You Can Help

K9 Heroes 4 Heroes is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing fully-trained service dogs to veterans and first responders—at no cost to the recipient.

Each dog represents a significant investment, including:

- Professional training for dog and handler
- Veterinary care and boarding
- Equipment and training gear
- Ongoing support and maintenance training

Total cost per service dog: \$30k. Every dollar raised helps change a life. Donate today and be part of the mission.

Visit k9heroes4heroes.com

Help Me Grow

Supporting Ohio Families From the Very Start

Becoming a parent is exciting, rewarding, and sometimes overwhelming. From pregnancy through the early childhood years, families often have questions about development, parenting, and where to turn for support. That's where Ohio's Help Me Grow program comes in.

Help Me Grow is a statewide system of support overseen by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. The program connects pregnant individuals, caregivers with new babies, and families of young children with developmental delays or disabilities to valuable services and resources designed to help children thrive during their earliest years.

One of the program's most widely used services is Home Visiting. Offered voluntarily at no cost, Home Visiting pairs families with trained professionals who provide guidance, encouragement, and support during pregnancy and throughout a child's

earliest stages of development.

Home visitors can help families navigate everything from healthy pregnancy habits and infant sleep routines to soothing a crying baby and managing the everyday stresses of parenting. They also connect parents with local resources tailored to their specific needs.

Research shows the program can make a significant impact. Pregnant women who participated in Home Visiting experienced 48 percent fewer low birth weight babies, and children involved in the program scored 25 percent higher on first-through third-grade reading and math achievement tests.

For children experiencing developmental concerns, Help Me Grow also offers Early Intervention services. Families concerned about delays in speech, movement, social interaction, or other developmental milestones are encouraged to seek support as early as possible.



Photo credit: Adobe Stock / By sementsova321

Early Intervention services are available statewide to eligible children regardless of family income. Providers work closely with families to determine eligibility and develop personalized plans that support each child's unique needs. Services are often provided in familiar environments like the home or daycare setting, where children naturally learn and grow through everyday routines and experiences.

Research consistently shows that early support gives children the best opportunity for long-term success and can reduce the need for additional services later in life.

Help Me Grow also offers developmental screenings to help families track milestones from birth through age 5. Ohio families can access the free Sparkler: Play for Parenting app, which includes built-in developmental screenings and personalized guidance from specialists. These early screenings can play an important role in identifying concerns and supporting healthy growth.

Another important service is Fam-

ily Connects Ohio, which provides free nurse home visits for families with newborns in participating communities. During these visits, registered nurses answer questions, offer reassurance, assess the baby's well-being, and help connect families to additional community support if needed. Visits may take place in the home or through telehealth.

In addition, Help Me Grow's online Community Resource Directory helps families locate local support services, including childcare resources, baby supplies, job training programs, adoption and foster care information, and much more.

Whether families need guidance during pregnancy, support navigating developmental concerns, or simply reassurance during the early years of parenting, Help Me Grow is designed to ensure Ohio families never have to face those challenges alone.

Visit www.helpmegrow.org, call (800) 755-GROW (4769) or email info@helpmegrow.org to learn more.

Article by Dan Miller

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Mike Moran
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CAMP STAFF

MIKE MORAN: Inducted into Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020; former head coach at John Carroll University w/ 459 career wins; guided JCU to 14 OAC titles, 12 trips to the NCAA Tournament & one Final Four appearance; former VASJ head coach where his teams won two state championships.

PETE MORAN: Head coach at John Carroll University.

PAT MORAN: Assistant coach at John Carroll University.

MATT MORAN: Assistant coach at John Carroll University.

MARK CHICONE: Former head coach of both Lake Catholic boys team and Mentor High School girls.

TONY REDDING: Former head coach of girls at St. Martin de Porres.

RYAN SCHNEIDER: Former head coach of boys at St. Martin de Porres.

JOHN GIBBONS: Legendary coach.

LUKE CHICONE, 1st Team All Ohio from Mentor High School Graduate, All American Collegiate Guard & Player of the Year in the Ohio Athletic Conference.



Department of Children & Youth

Help Me Grow



www.helpmegrow.org
(800) 755-GROW (4769)

Help Me Grow is a statewide system of supports that promotes the healthy growth and development of young children through pregnancy and early childhood programs and services.



Home Visiting

Home visitors provide growing families with **information and resources that support** the health of their baby and entire family.



Early Intervention

Concerned about a child's development? **Act early!** Services are provided where the child lives, plays, and spends their day.



Community Resources

Find local resources with Help Me Grow's interactive **Community Resource Directory** – a catalog of family support services.



Developmental Screenings

Families have access to the **Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screening tool** for FREE through the **Sparkler: Play for Parenting** app.



Newborn Home Visiting

Family Connects Ohio offers FREE, at-home nurse visits to families with newborns in participating communities.

Schedule your visit today!



Families can use their visit to get support with whatever they need, such as health checks; breastfeeding support; help scheduling doctor's appointments; getting access to newborn essentials; and much more.

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ZOO
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Featuring live bands, food and drinks all against the backdrop of the Zoo at night, **Twilight at the Zoo presented by KeyBank** is Cleveland's most anticipated fundraiser. Don't miss this summertime favorite!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

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CLEVELANDZOOSOCIETY.ORG/TWILIGHT



Twilight at the Zoo

Presented by the Cleveland Zoological Society, this late summer event is the organization's largest fundraiser of the year and an annual tradition for many Clevelanders

On Friday, August 7, thousands of Northeast Ohioans will head to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for an evening of live music, food and drink – all in support of the Zoo Society's mission.

In its 32nd year, Twilight at the Zoo presented by KeyBank is a staple of the summertime festival season and a can't-miss tradition for many. More than a dozen local bands play in iconic locations throughout the Zoo, and partygoers can stop by complimentary food and drink stations as they stroll from stage to stage. A VIP ticket option includes

premium cocktails and tasting plates from a lineup of beloved Cleveland chefs and restaurants.

The experience is unique to Twilight, and it is all for a good cause. This event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Zoo Society, helping support the nonprofit philanthropic partner organization of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Tickets start at \$95 and include cover charge, small bites, beer, wine, and soda. All event details, band list, and tickets can be found at www.clevelandzoosociety.org/twilight.



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Family-friendly fun awaits you this summer at Wade Oval in University Circle. Enjoy ten unforgettable Wednesday nights of live music, food, dancing, roaming entertainment and more — all for FREE! Bring a picnic or purchase delicious treats from vendors on-site. Select museums are open late on Wednesdays.

June 17– Councilman Conwell & The Footprints (Jazz)

June 24 – Apostle Jones (Soul/Covers)

July 1 – Carlos Jones (+) (Reggae)

July 8 – 1o1ón (Latin Rap)

July 15 – Old Skool (Covers)

July 22 – Hubb's Groove (Soul Funk R&B)

July 29 – Kor4 feat. K. Shanea (hip hop, soul, DC gogo)

August 5– Son Gitano (Latin Fusion Orchestra)

August 12 – Quenton Rubon Band (Funk/Rock/Blues)

August 19 – Da Land Brass Band (Jazz/Funk/Hip-Hop)



TODAY'S FAMILY ADVICE COLUMN

LIVING WELL

with Rebecca Fellenbaum

Parenting, stress, relationships,
family life—we all have questions.

Ask yours
anonymously or
with your name.
Selected questions
will be featured in an
upcoming issue of
Today's Family.



Summer Pressure Is Real

Dear Rebecca: I feel terrible saying this, but I'm not really looking forward to summer break. I love my kids, but I also like the structure of the school year, and summer feels overwhelming. It seems like other families plan these magical summers, and I already feel behind. How can I get excited about summer?

— Laura, Willoughby Hills

Dear Laura: Let's start with your first three words: I feel terrible. How do you know you feel terrible? Is there a physical sensation, belief, or feeling underneath those words? If you approach feeling terrible with curiosity, what is revealed? I recommend you sit with this and even journal about how terrible you feel.

To move away from that terrible feeling, let's also look at this from a both/and perspective: you love your kids, and you love the structure of the school year. Both can be true.

Next, let's look at your truth: summer feels overwhelming. By stripping away the story and shame around the overwhelm, you can address it head-on. What are some ways you can feel less overwhelmed?

You mentioned that you like structure. I'd encourage you to explore whether there are pieces of the school-year structure you can carry into summer. I print physical calendars for June, July, and August and put them on the fridge for everyone to see. I write in camps, vacations, and activities so we all know what's coming. In doing that, you may find there's more structure already built into your summer than you initially thought.

I also want to gently challenge your feeling of being "behind." Behind whom? You said it seems like other families plan magical summers. Do you really know if that's true?

Here's a radical idea: declare it! You say you want to get excited about summer. Get excited! Start with one thing that excites you. Ask everyone in your family to share a couple of

things they're excited about this summer. While it's not a good idea to bypass your challenges, declaring you're excited for summer goes a long way toward making that your reality.

And that can make for a magical summer break right there!

When Your Child Feels Rejected

Dear Rebecca: My son didn't make the team he really wanted, and I was surprised by how emotional I was about it. Of course, I hurt for him, but I also feel embarrassed, angry, and even compare him to other kids who made it. How do I handle this?

— Ariel, Solon

Dear Ariel: First, I want to acknowledge your honesty. Many of us have this experience, but not everyone admits it. We can learn a lot about ourselves when we allow our emotions instead of pushing them away or judging them.

You mentioned feeling hurt, embarrassed, and pulled into comparison. Let's unpack those.

The hurt makes sense. When our children are disappointed, we feel it too. We love them and want the best for them. It might help to talk to your son about his experience. Ask him, "How do you feel about not making the team?" Listening to him may help both of you process the hurt. You might be surprised by the perspective he already has on this. Our kids can be our greatest teachers.

Next, let's look at your embarrassment. Are you embarrassed for your son, yourself, or both? Have you attached a story to him not making the team? Does a part of you believe this means he's behind, excluded, or not good enough? Does it bring up feelings or memories from your own childhood?

This is where comparison can take over. Comparison is rooted in scarcity. It tells us there is only so much success, belonging, opportunity, or happiness to go around. That's when your mind starts scanning: Who

made it? What does it mean?

Your son not making this team does not define him or you.

I know it can sound simplistic to say "everything happens for a reason," especially in painful moments. But sometimes life redirects us toward something we didn't know would be better. Maybe this opens the door to another interest, another team, new friendships, more family time, or even resilience that you and your son are ready to develop.

When we have big feelings that are hard to process, we need to lean on people. When I face disappointment, I often call a friend and say, "Can you just listen to me talk this through?" Being heard is really helpful. Is there someone you can talk to?

Disappointment is part of life. Your ability to name these feelings

and reach out demonstrates what a thoughtful mom you are, and I know you can not only get through this but also grow through this. I'm cheering you on!

Rebecca Fellenbaum is a certified life coach, writer, and Cleveland area mom who helps parents enjoy this time in their lives. You can find her at rebeccafellenbaum.com.

Have a question on your mind? You're not the only one!

Submit your question anonymously (or include your name) and it may be featured in an upcoming issue of Today's Family. Scan the QR code to ask.

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine



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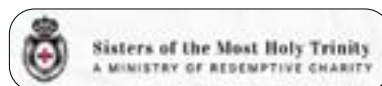
July 11 – Kathryn DeCapite
*Under Mary's Mantle:
A Marian Journey through
Lourdes and Fatima, and
the Heart of a Mother*

September 12 – Barb Ernster
*So That All May Believe –
The Miracles of Lourdes
and Fatima*

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Is this just a phase... or something more?

Understanding ADHD through a parent's eyes

Article by Dan Miller, Today's Family Editor



If you've ever called your child's name three times before they even look up, or watched them bounce from couch to floor to ceiling in the span of five minutes, you're not alone. Many parents and caregivers find themselves wondering: Is this just normal kid energy, or could it be ADHD?

In today's world, ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) is a term we hear often—sometimes too often, sometimes not soon enough. The truth is, every child gets distracted. Every child has bursts of energy. The challenge for parents is figuring out when those behaviors are simply part of growing up, and when they might signal something more persistent that deserves attention.

"That's my child"... or is it?

Picture this: It's homework time. Your child sits down, pencil ready. Within 90 seconds, they're tapping the table, asking about snack time, staring out the window, and suddenly remembering they "absolutely must" tell you about a dream they had three nights ago.

Or maybe it's the grocery store trip where your child can't stay in the cart, grabs items off shelves, talks nonstop, and seems physically unable to slow down—even when you're trying your best to keep things calm and contained.

Then there's the emotional side. Big feelings. Fast reactions. A missing toy or a simple "no" can turn into tears, frustration, or meltdown-level intensity that feels out of proportion to the moment.

For many parents, these moments come with a mix of love, exhaustion, and confusion. And often the question follows: Is this ADHD?

What ADHD can look like (and what it doesn't)

ADHD isn't just about energy or occasional distraction. Most children daydream sometimes, forget chores, or struggle to sit still in boring situations. That alone doesn't point to ADHD.

What professionals look for is a consistent pattern that shows up in more than one setting—home, school, activities—and affects daily life in a meaningful way.

Dr. Shelly Senders, CEO of Senders Pediatrics in South Euclid says, "ADHD isn't just a child being active or spirited. It's when attention and impulse control regularly interfere with learning, relationships, and everyday functioning. And when it is real, it is hardwired with a very distinctive brain biochemical profile. That is why the terms ADD and ADHD have been replaced with ADHD primarily inattentive, ADHD primarily hyperactive and ADHD combined. All three types have the same characteristic brain pattern and differ only in whether it is located in the thinking area of the brain, the movement area of the brain or both areas."

When it might just be... childhood

It's important to say this clearly: many behaviors that worry parents are actually developmentally normal.

A kindergartner who can't sit through a 30-minute dinner? Common.

A third grader who forgets homework occasionally? Very normal.

A child who gets overly excited, talks too much, or struggles to wind down after school? That's childhood.

The difference with ADHD is not occasional struggle—it's consistency, intensity, and impact over time.

When to start asking questions

If you and your child's teacher are noticing patterns like:

- Constant difficulty focusing, even on preferred activities
- Frequent impulsive behavior that leads to problems at home and school
- Ongoing struggles with organization, routines, or completing tasks
- Emotional reactions that feel unusually intense or hard to reset

...it may be worth having a conversation with your child's pediatrician.

Early conversations don't mean labeling a child. They simply open the door to understanding what kind of support might help them thrive.

Getting answers (without jumping to conclusions)

An ADHD evaluation typically involves input from parents, teachers, and healthcare providers. It's less about a single test and more about understanding patterns over time. Sleep, stress learning differences, anxiety, and especially excessive screen time can all influence attention and behavior—so a thoughtful evaluation looks at the whole child.

Dr. Senders says, "MRIs of the brains of patients with ADHD look virtually identical to those of those who are sleep deprived so before moving forward on an evaluation, always make sure that your child is getting an age-appropriate amount of sleep."

And importantly, even if ADHD is part of the picture, it's not a limitation on who a child can become. It simply helps explain how their brain works—and how adults can better support them. Moreover, at least 50% of children and adolescents with ADHD, outgrow the condition over time.

A final word for parents

If you're asking the question, you're already doing something important: paying attention.

Dr. Senders emphasizes the importance of taking a deliberate approach to diagnosis. "There are actually computerized electronic tests that have been developed to aid in diagnosis."

And remember that medication is not always the answer. Dr. Senders concludes, "Making the diagnosis helps the school develop programs such as a 504 plan or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that can help support your child in school without resorting to medication as the solution."

Whether your child is simply growing through a busy, messy, wonderful stage—or whether they need a little extra support—what matters most is that they feel seen, understood, and guided with patience.

Because in the end, every child is trying their best. And every parent is, too.

Senders Pediatrics is located at 2054 South Green Road in South Euclid. For an appointment call 216-291-9210 or visit senderspediatrics.com for more information.

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Caps, Gowns & Changing Times

Reflections on graduation, adulthood, and the challenges every generation must face

In this season of graduations, I've been reflecting on my own graduation and the path that's led me where I am today. Surprisingly, in some ways, I wasn't so different from today's graduates. Years ago, when I wore a cap and gown, I received my diploma in the mail afterward—just like many graduates do today. At my state college, I think it was more of a way to make sure graduates had paid all their fees and behaved themselves during the ceremony, but that's a topic for another day.

When it was my turn to join the workforce, the economic landscape was bleak. Jobs in my chosen field were hard to come by, and like many of today's graduates, I felt the stress of student loan payments that would soon come due. Unlike today's graduates with email, LinkedIn profiles, and video calls, I pounded the pavement looking for work. After mailing countless resumes and interviewing for more than a few less-than-ideal jobs, I eventually lowered my expectations of finding "The Job" and instead found an opportunity to gain valuable experience—and a paycheck.

Building my work life slowly wasn't a choice, but simply step one on my path to adulthood. The economy was in recession, which brought its

own challenges and uncertainties. But in the days before cell phones and social media distractions, it may have been easier to focus more deeply on the people, tasks, and things that mattered most than it is today.

Many of today's graduates also carry the massive weight of college debt as they begin their careers. Experts note that young graduates face one of the toughest job markets in a decade, making good jobs difficult to find. Today's challenges are different from those of the past, as AI reshapes industries in real time, social media competes for attention, and misinformation spreads faster than truth. But when looking ahead, it's important to look back, because history provides valuable lessons.

When we do look back, we see that every generation is handed defining challenges: the Greatest Generation, Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z, and today's Generation Alpha. The future is something each of us helps create, regardless of the era we're born into. When we face uncertainty with faith and determination instead of surrendering to fear, we can navigate difficult times without losing our humanity.

As you embark on this season of graduations,



Adobe Stock / By Beaunita Van Wyk

I hope you see a bit of yourself in today's graduates—in both the challenges they face and the accomplishments they've already achieved. And once you've made it through the long, boring ceremony, that's when the exciting part begins for all of us.

Mommy
CHRONICLES

By Stacy Turner



Adventure Zone Family Fun Center

Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio

The close-to-home family
fun entertainment center.

**The perfect place for birthday parties, day camp
excursions, company picnics & group outings!**

Go online to reserve your date!

- Adventure Golf • Go-Karts • Bumper Boats • Batting Cages
- Rock & Rappelling Walls • Merry Go Round • Adventure Krawl
- Golf Cart Rentals • 100+ Game Arcade • Zip Zone Zip Line
- Snack Bar • Two Escape Rooms • Hammer Slammer

**NEW
for 2026!**

The Lottie Express: A little train for little people.

Bicycle Rentals: Begin Memorial Day Weekend.

The Original Jumping Pillow: A fun experience for all ages.



440-466-3555

www.AdventureZoneFun.com



Lighthearted quips about fatherhood and family

Being a dad means spending 20 minutes lighting the grill only for everyone to decide they want chicken nuggets instead.

Dads don't actually fall asleep on the couch. We're "resting our eyes" while monitoring the movie.

Nothing boosts a father's confidence quite like successfully carrying all the grocery bags in one trip.

A dad can sleep through thunderstorms, barking dogs, and emergency alerts—but will instantly wake up if someone touches the thermostat.

Every dad eventually becomes emotionally invested in lawn stripes.

Having kids means never knowing why the house is sticky... but accepting that it probably always will be.

A father's greatest fear is hearing: "Dad, come look at this," followed by complete silence.

Dads don't need instructions. We just need to assemble it incorrectly once first.

One of the most powerful sounds in nature is a dad yelling: "WE ARE NOT COOLING THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD!"

Every father reaches a point where he has a "good flashlight."

Dad fashion is buying a new shirt and wearing it for the next seven years.

Nothing makes a man feel more accomplished than successfully killing a spider while his family watches like he's defending the village.

Every dad eventually reaches the age where he owns "collectible" LEGO sets and suddenly understands why museums don't let children touch things.

W-E Library Summer Reading

Readers of all ages are invited to join Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge! This year's theme is "Unearth A Story," focusing on archaeology, paleontology, dinosaurs, and discovery.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to children, teens, and adults. Participants will have the chance to win amazing prizes including books, gift cards, and much more!

Program runs June 1–July 25. Pre-register through Beanstack or at any Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library.

Willoughby-Eastlake Library's Summer Reading Challenge is sponsored by the W-E Library Boosters.

For more info, visit we247.org or stop by any of their four convenient locations:

Eastlake Public Library
36706 Lakeshore Blvd. • 440-942-7880

Willoughby Public Library
30 Public Square • 440-942-3200

Willoughby Hills Public Library
35400 Chardon Rd. • 440-942-3362

Willowick Public Library
263 E. 305 St. • 440-943-4151

Immaculate Conception Parish 2026 oktoberfest IN JULY

FRIDAY, JULY 17

5:00 PM - 11:00 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 18

4:00 PM - 11:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 19

12:00 PM - 10:00 PM

37932 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby, OH

- ❖ Oktoberfest Raffle
- ❖ Chinese Auction
- ❖ Entertainment
- ❖ Kids Games
- ❖ Inflatables
- ❖ Monte Carlo on Fri & Sat
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Beer



Parish Office: 440-942-4500 • www.immaculate.net

Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library

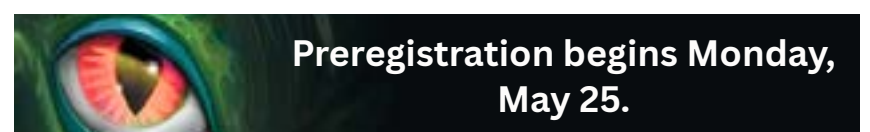


SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2026

Celebrate Summer by joining our Summer Reading Challenge. Children, teens, and adults have a chance to win amazing prizes! Visit we247.org for all the details.

JUNE 1 - JULY 25

Thank you to the W-E Library Boosters for sponsoring the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge!



Walk to Remember celebrates 15 years of healing, hope and remembrance

Reserve Care invites families, friends and supporters to come together for the 15th annual ECHO Health Walk to Remember on Sunday, June 14, 2026, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

For 15 years, Walk to Remember has offered the community a meaningful way to honor the memory of loved ones while supporting compassionate care for people facing serious illness across Northern Ohio.

The event brings together thousands of people for a morning of reflection, remembrance and connection. Participants walk in memory of someone special while helping Reserve Care continue providing comfort, dignity and support to patients and families throughout the region.

“For 15 years, Walk to Remember has created space for families and friends to honor those they carry in their hearts while helping ensure others receive the care and support they need during serious illness,” said Bill Finn, president and CEO of Reserve Care.

Formerly known as Hospice of the Western Reserve, Reserve Care continues the same nearly 50-year nonprofit mission with the same caregivers, same compassion and same commitment to the community.



EVENT DETAILS

- Date: Sunday, June 14, 2026
- Location: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Registration: 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.
- Opening ceremony: 8:45 a.m.
- Walk begins: 9:00 a.m.

Walkers may choose a one-mile route or enjoy the zoo at their own pace. Registration includes all-day zoo admission.

Proceeds from the Walk to Remember help support grief support services, pediatric palliative care, expressive therapies and other unreimbursed programs provided by Reserve Care.

Visit reserve-care.org/WTR to register, sponsor or donate.

FAMILY FUNNIES

quick laughs for busy families

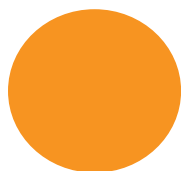


“I still want to be a cowboy.”

Graduation is the magical moment when parents realize they successfully spent 100 thousand dollars so their child could move back into the basement “just for a little while.”

Graduation is the one day teenagers willingly wake up early, dress nicely, and listen to adults talk for three hours. Parents still aren’t sure how it happened.

IT'S TIME TO WALK!



echo
payments simplified

WALK TO
REMEMBER

Reserve
Care

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 • CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO

Together, we honor the people who continue to shape our lives and the memories that bring us comfort and joy.

Whether you walk in memory, in support or simply to be part of something meaningful, **you belong here.**

Register today and celebrate with us!
reserve-care.org/WTR



Reviving Candy-Making's Golden Age

Jeff's Candy Shop opens in Willoughby

In the heart of Willoughby, a quaint historic building has been transformed into a "world of pure imagination" by 26-year-old candy maker Jeff Morsfield, better known as "Cleveland's Willy Wonka."

Morsfield has dedicated his life to creating candy the traditional way, kneading and rolling sugar concoctions by hand. Earlier this year, he packed up his Collinwood storefront and moved into the former Brandt's Candies building, which has housed generations of candy makers since the 1940s. Morsfield hopes to preserve the history of Brandt's Candies while introducing his own new brand.

Through an intensive renovation process filled with sleepless nights and immeasurable family support, Jeff's Candy Shop officially opened its doors on April 25. Hundreds of community members attended the grand opening, each hoping to satisfy their sweet tooth. Many waited for nearly two hours in the rain just to sample Morsfield's famous confections.

Morsfield began his candy business five years ago after deciding, on a creative whim, to recreate his mother's toffee recipe. Once he perfected it, he began selling his sweet creations at local farmers markets. Since then, he has opened a storefront in Collinwood, relocated to a larger building in Willoughby, and amassed more than 100,000 social media followers.

As a retired officer in the Ohio National Guard, Morsfield has served both his community and his country with honor. Building and maintaining a business of this scale has required the same level of discipline reflected in his military service. Often running on only a few hours of sleep, Morsfield has dedicated nearly every waking hour over the past several months to advancing his dream.

Morsfield believes candy should be made using limited, all-natural ingredients and appreciates the craftsmanship involved in hand-crafted confections. Prior to modern factories, candy was created in small batches by local candy makers.

"I think it's an art form," says Morsfield. "Like anything else, it's important to carry those torches."

He plans to preserve these tradi-



Jeff making orange vanilla drop candies

tional methods by offering regular candy-making demonstrations at the Willoughby shop and showcasing the process on his YouTube channel.

"We are trying to make it a very fun and interactive customer experience," explains Morsfield.

Every recipe is made with all-natural ingredients and plant-based coloring.

Morsfield currently employs five people to help create, package, and ship thousands of orders to customers across the United States. He aims to create a fun, friendly atmosphere for visitors and enjoys the freedom that comes with making his own business decisions.

"That's why I wanted to start a business," he says. "When I worked at other places, I hated not having the autonomy to fix a problem when I saw it."

Despite the satisfaction of being his own boss, Morsfield recognizes the pressure that comes with business ownership.

"It all falls on me," explains Morsfield. "It's not just affecting me anymore — it's going to affect five other people now. That can be a little daunting."

Morsfield's agreeable personality, unique creations, and incredible work ethic have earned him fans from around the world.

He concludes, "Our goal is just to make people happy, and we hope to do that here in Willoughby."

Jeff's Candy Shop is located at 1238 Lost Nation Road in Willoughby. Visit jeffscandyshop.com to place an order.

Article and photo by Sophia Filipiak



MUSIC • FOOD • FAMILY FUN

JUN 2 FOREVER SEGER

JUN 9 TENNESSEE WHISKEY & ULTIMATE ERIC CHURCH

JUN 16 FLEETWOOD GOLD

JUN 23 CRAZY TRAIN

JUN 30 PHILLIP PHILLIPS

JUL 4 HOTEL CALIFORNIA

JUL 7 NEW WORLD MEN

JUL 14 NIGHT RANGER

JUL 21 RED NOT CHILI PEPPERS

JUL 28 CREEP & HOLLOW

AUG 4 REO SURVIVOR

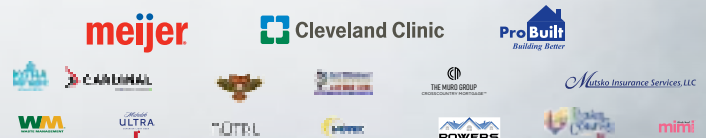
AUG 11 RISING COUNTRY ARTIST

AUG 14 JUST LIKE PINK

AUG 15 7 SUMMERS

AUG 18 ABBA REVISITED

AUG 25 ESCAPE



7 PM SHOWTIME

JUN 2 - AUG 25, 2026

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

MENTOR CIVIC AMPHITHEATER

8600 MUNSON ROAD, MENTOR, OH 44060

MENTORROCKS.INFO





JUNE 2026

Mentor Rocks

Summer Concert Series

Tuesdays, June 2–August 25
7–9 pm

Mentor Civic Amphitheater
8600 Munson Rd, Mentor
www.mentorrocks.info

An all-ages event which promotes a festival-like atmosphere each week. In addition to great music, attendees can enjoy a great selection of food and refreshments from the area's best food trucks. Free admission. See ad on page 13 for full schedule.

St. Gabriel Summer Festival

Thursday, June 4 • 6–10 pm

Friday, June 5 • 6–11 pm

Saturday, June 6 • 1–11 pm

Sunday, June 7 • 1–8 pm

9925 Johnnycake Ridge Road

Concord Township

www.st-gabriel.org/summer-festival.html

Live music, delicious food, \$20,000 raffle, games, rides, balloon artists, face painters, roaming princesses and casino. See ad on page 15 for full schedule.

Concord Summer Concert Series

Thursdays, June 4–July 30
(except July 2)

6:30–8:30 pm

Town Hall Gazebo

7229 Ravenna Road, Concord

www.concordtwp.com

Each week local bands will play different genres of music. Food truck each week. See website for band listings.

Nights Out In The Parks

440-286-9516

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Bring your own blankets, lawn chairs and refreshments and enjoy free outdoor music and movies. No registration needed. Free admission.

Music

All shows 7–8:30 pm

Big Creek Park Amphitheater

Saturday, June 20

Guys Without Ties

Saturday, July 25

Bent String

Saturday, August 8

The Big North Band

Movies

All shows 6–10 pm

Observatory Park

Saturday, June 13

Finding Nemo

Saturday, July 11

Superman

Parade The Circle and Circle Village

Saturday, June 13 • 10 am–4 pm

University Circle, Cleveland

216-791-3900

www.universitycircle.org

The day's festivities begin at 10 a.m. with Circle Village. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in interactive activities offered by esteemed institutions such as The Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Botanical Garden, and The Music Settlement. Attendees can also enjoy culinary delights from local vendors and listen to live music.

The parade, which begins at noon at the north entrance of the Cleveland Museum of Art, fills Wade Oval with colorful costumes, towering puppets, floats, masks, and more created by local individuals and groups. Free admission.

2026 Walk to Remember

Sponsored by Reserve Care

Sunday, June 14 • 8:30 am

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

www.reserve-care.org/WTR

Form a team by inviting your family and friends to walk with you. Registration fee is \$30 and includes all-day Zoo admission + commemorative keepsake.

See page 12 for details.

Painesville Summer Concert Series

Wednesdays, June 17–August 5
6–8 pm

www.painesville.com/concerts

The concert series begins at the gazebo at Veterans Park in downtown Painesville for the first two shows. Then, on July 1, the series moves to it's new home along the river at Painesville City's Grand Amphitheater.

Bring a lawn chair, blanket or your own picnic and enjoy the sounds of summer every Wednesday. Each week features live music from a local band starting at 6 pm. Always free and open to all. Outside food allowed.

Kirtland Strawberry Festival

Thursday, June 18 • 5–10 pm

Friday, June 19 • 3–11 pm

Saturday, June 20 • noon–11 pm

Kirtland Schools

9150 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland

www.kirtlandkiwanis.org

Each day, attendees can enjoy strawberry shortcakes, sundaes, supremes, and chocolate-covered strawberries. There will also be rides, entertainment including a DJ and local bands, lemonade from the Kiwanis, a food court, photo opportunity area, kiddie land entertainment, robotics demonstration, contests, and a crafts and commercial area. Free admission.

Downtown Willoughby Cruise-In

Saturday, June 20 • 4–9 pm

One of Ohio's most popular auto & truck cruise-in returns with incredible vehicles, two band stages, a shady park, great food vendors, restaurants, pubs, wine spots, cafe's, and merchants of all kinds that are open during the event. Traffic is diverted around the downtown area so visitors may walk the streets, view the cars and trucks, and relax enjoying the day. Admission is free.

Fam Jam

Saturday, June 20 • 10 am–2 pm

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Outdoor Stage and Plaza

1100 Rock & Roll Blvd., Cleveland

216-781-ROCK (7625)

rockhall.com/event/fam-jam-2026

Special features include a performance by Mr. Jeff, balloon twisting with Flower Clown, and bubbles with Bubble Wanda. They will also collect instrument donations for the Center for Arts Inspired Learning and Hungry for Music, to support local music education programs. Free with RSVP. Museum admission sold separately.

Wildwood Fine Arts & Wine Festival

Saturday, June 20 • noon–5 pm

Wildwood Cultural Center

7645 Little Mountain Rd., Mentor

440-974-5735

www.cityofmentor.com/calendar

Explore a diverse range of artwork, including watercolor and acrylic paintings, multimedia pieces, jewelry, clayware, woodcraft,

glass art, and much more.

Musical entertainment, food trucks and local wines round out the day's festivities. \$2 admission at the door.

Ohio Viking Festival

Friday, June 26 • 4–9 pm

Saturday, June 27 • 10 am–8 pm

Sunday, June 28 • 10 am–6 pm

Lake County Fairgrounds

Painesville Twp.

www.ohiovikingsfestival.com

Step back in time and experience the sights and sounds of the Viking Age! Explore the Viking Village, a festival filled with hand-crafted artisans, warrior drums, and the stirring call of bagpipes echoing through the fairgrounds. Witness thrilling combat demonstrations, cheer during the lively Kids vs. Vikings Water Balloon Battle, and let the little ones explore the magic of Trollstead Hollow — a world of fun and imagination just for children.

Tickets: \$16.05 for adults 13+; \$8.56 for children 6–12, free for 5 and under. Prices include fees and taxes.

JULY 2026

St. John Vianney Parish Summer Festival

Friday, July 10 • 6–11 pm

Saturday, July 11 • 5–11 pm

Sunday, July 12 • 3–9 pm

7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor

440-255-0600

Food pavilion, kids' games and activities, grand prize raffle, live music, air conditioned Monte Carlo. Free admission and parking.

Farmfest

Saturday, July 11 • 9 am–5 pm

Lake Metroparks Farmpark

8800 Euclid Chardon Rd., Kirtland

440-256-2122

www.lakemetroparks.com

This FREE, family-friendly event will provide a sampling of Farmpark's best programs and demonstrations. Meet the clubs that call Farmpark home, whether it's old engines, spinning and weaving, or beekeeping—all offer opportunities to get involved.

Visitors can enjoy food trucks, cooking demonstrations, a science

Continued on page 15



of bread-making presentation, learn about gardening in a small space, and discover how wool is transformed from the sheep to yarn.

Painesville Party in the Park

Fri., July 17 • noon–midnight
Sat., July 18 • noon–midnight
Sun., July 19 • noon–midnight
Veterans Park, Painesville
PainesvilleImprovement.com
Ohio's largest free music festival with 30 musical acts. Featuring up-and-coming local acts, award-winning Cleveland musicians and national touring acts from all reaches of the U.S., plus entertainment for the kids, good food, and cold beverages.

Immaculate Conception Oktoberfest

Friday, July 17 • 5–11 pm
Saturday, July 18 • 4–11 pm
Sunday, July 19 • noon–10 pm
37932 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby
440-942-4500
www.immaculate.net
Live music, great parish foods, kids games and inflatables, Chinese auction, Monte Carlo raffle, and much more.

35th Annual Willoughby Arts Fest

Saturday, July 18 • 10 am–5 pm
Historic Downtown Willoughby
440-942-1632
www.willoughbyartsfest.com
The streets will be lined with over 160 juried artists. Live music will be provided at the Gazebo in Pointe Park. Specialty food trucks and vendors will be spread out throughout the festival or dine at restaurants located in downtown Willoughby. A children's area gives kids of all ages a chance to have a hands-on experience with art.

Lake County Fair

July 28–August 2
Lake County Fairgrounds
1301 Mentor Avenue, Painesville
www.lakecountyfair.org
General admission is \$12.
Two demo derbies, monster truck show, KOI dirt drag racing, truck and tractor pulls, 4-H livestock auction, K9 performance dogs, live entertainment, & more.

AUGUST 2026

Cleveland Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Festival

August 1–2 • noon–10 pm
Parade: August 3 • 11 am–noon
MetroHealth Main Campus
Medical Center - QUAD PARK
www.puertoricanparade.org
International music artists and groups, local food vendors and artisans, health & wellness screening, more. Free admission.

Chardon Arts Festival

Sunday, August 2 • 10 am–5 pm
Historic Chardon Square
100 Short Ct. St., Chardon
440-285-8686
www.chardonsquareassociation.org/events/arts-festival
Free to attend and will feature over 100 artists providing an opportunity for a day of shopping and dining in a park-like setting. A selection of food vendors will be at the show, along with a few restaurants on the Square for your dining pleasure. While on the Square, enjoy shopping in a variety of shops and boutiques that will also be open. Free admission and parking.

Twilight at the Zoo

Friday, August 7 • 7 pm–midnight
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
www.ClevelandZooSociety.org
Spotlights local bands playing pop, rock, dance, swing, country and blues. Admission for all party-goers includes cover charge, small bites, complimentary beer, wine and soda. 21 & over. Tickets start at \$95.

See page 6 for more info.

Vintage Ohio

August 7–8 • noon–9 pm
Lake Metroparks Farmpark
8800 Euclid Chardon Rd., Kirtland
440-466-4417
www.visitvintageohio.com
Sample Ohio wines, food, cooking school demonstrations, two stages of live music, artisans, shopping, carry-out store, children's entertainment & more. Tickets: \$39 advance, \$45 at gate.



EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 @ 6:00-10:00 PM
DISCO INFERNO (DISCO), 7:00 – 9:45 PM
CASINO, 6:00 - 10:00 PM
\$500 PRIZE DRAWING AT 10:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 @ 6:00-11:00 PM
WAYNE'S WORLD, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
CASINO, 6:00 - 11:00 PM
\$1000 PRIZE DRAWING AT 10:00 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 @ 1:00-11:00 PM
THE CALIBER BAND, 1:00 – 4:30 PM
ROAMING PRINCESS, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
FACE PAINTERS, GLITTER TATTOOS,
BALLOON TWISTER, 3:00 – 6:00 PM
CASINO, 5:00 - 11:00 PM
PIECES OF 8, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
\$2,000 PRIZE DRAWING AT 10:00 PM
MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST. GABRIEL CHURCH, 12:00 AM

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 @ 1:00-8:00 PM
FACE PAINTERS, GLITTER TATTOOS, BALLOON
TWISTER, 3:00 – 6:00 PM
PERFECT CHOICE, 1:00 – 4:00 PM
ROAMING PRINCESS, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
CASINO, 5:00 - 9:00 PM
SOUL SHAKE & THE EAST SIDE HORNS, 5:00 – 8:00 PM
\$20,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING AT 7:30 PM



St. Gabriel Festival

AFFORDABLE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

TO PURCHASE DISCOUNTED
PRESALE TICKETS, VIEW THE
FULL EVENT SCHEDULE AND
ALL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

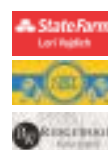
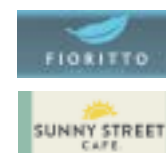
THOSE UNDER 18 MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT
OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (21+).



9925 JOHNNYCAKE RIDGE RD
CONCORD, OH 44077



@STGABRIELCONCORD



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Are You Properly Insured for Summer Fun?

The temperature is rising and the sun is shining. Before you put the boat on the lake or get the ATV's out of storage, check with your insurance agent to make sure they are properly protected. Use these tips to review your coverage to make sure you and your family are insured for the increased risks that come with outdoor activities.

Boats

Small boats may be covered by your homeowner's policy, but coverage for liability risk is limited. Insurers generally provide liability insurance on small sailboats and powerboats with small motors. However, a boat of any significant size will be excluded from your homeowner's policy for both property and liability coverage. If you own a large boat, ask your insurance agent about a separate policy that covers physical damage to the boat and any liability that might result from its use.

Personal watercrafts such as jet skis, will also likely require a separate insurance policy. Again, you might be able to purchase this policy from

your homeowner's insurer or you might wish to use an insurer that specializes in boat insurance. You might also want to consider purchasing an umbrella policy to provide liability coverage above what your boat policy offers. Talk with your insurance agent or company about your options.

Questions to ask your agent before putting your boat or personal watercraft in the water:

- Does my policy have adequate liability limits?
- Are there special discounts for taking safety courses?
- Who does the policy cover to operate the boat or personal watercraft?
- Is the liability of towing skiers or persons on tubes covered by my policy?

ATVs

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are also not covered by standard automobile insurance policies; however, your homeowner's policy might partially cover your liability on an ATV. Ask your insurance agent or

company if this coverage is enough to protect you and your family. You might want to consider a separate ATV policy to make sure you are properly insured.

Questions to ask your insurance agent or company:

- Are there age restrictions on who may operate the ATV?
- Does my policy cover friends or family who are operating the ATV?
- Is there a discount for taking an operator safety course or for riding with a helmet?

Pools and Trampolines

Be sure to ask if your homeowner's policy specifies any safety measures you are required to install, such as a certain height fence or locked gate.

Some companies might not insure your property if you have a trampoline, or they might have policy exclusions for any liability related to trampoline injuries. Be sure to understand exactly what damages and injuries your homeowner's policy covers before you allow anyone on the trampoline.

An insurance company can deny coverage or cancel your policy if you do not follow the policy safety guidelines or do not inform the company when you install a pool or purchase a trampoline. Check with your insurance agent or company for rates and safety guidelines before making your purchase.

You may also want to consider purchasing an umbrella policy to provide liability coverage above what your homeowner's policy offers.

Courtesy of the

Corsaro Insurance Group and Central Insurance Companies.

Matthew Corsaro is the president and owner of the Corsaro Insurance Group in Mentor. His company and staff have been providing insurance solutions to families and business owners for over forty years. Mr. Corsaro has obtained the Accredited Advisor in Insurance and Certified Insurance Counselor designations. Corsaro Insurance Group represents over twenty insurance companies. As well they have expertise in all areas of auto, home and business insurance. They can be reached at 440-946-4950.



**we have life insurance.
so you can enjoy all
of life's moments.**

simple human sense.



8039 Broadmoor Road, Mentor
440.946.4950

CorsaroInsurance.com

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Stan Hywet Hall opens new exhibit

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary and Akron's 201st birthday, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens will present The Families That Built Akron, a special exhibit that opened May 23, 2026.

Located in the dining room of the Manor House and included with regular Manor House admission, the exhibit explores Akron's history through the stories of the families and individuals who helped shape the city over the past two centuries.

Make your visit even more special on Sunday, June 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with the 68th annual Father's Day Car Show. This



year's event promises to be the most exciting yet, featuring a star-studded lineup of iconic Hollywood cars, and a brand-new Touch-A-Truck experience for the youngest guests.

For tickets and additional information, visit stanhywet.org.

Healthy Kids Day at the Outdoor YMCA in Perry

Enjoy a day full of fun, family, and healthy living at Healthy Kids Day. This free event is open to the entire community and will take place June 20, 2026 from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Outdoor YMCA in Perry.

Bring the whole family and enjoy:

- FREE open swim at the pool
- Live music with a DJ
- Games & activities for all ages

- Bounce houses
- Delicious food trucks
- And so much more!

This is the perfect way to kick off a healthy, active summer while connecting with friends, neighbors, and the community.

The Outdoor Y is located at 4540 River Road in Perry. For more info visit www.lakecountnymca.org.

The Cleveland Orchestra to perform with Itzhak Perlman at Blossom Music Center

The Cleveland Orchestra is excited to welcome legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman to Blossom Music Center on Thursday, July 9, as part of the 2026 Blossom Music Festival.

This summer performance marks Perlman's first appearance with The Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom since 1993, bringing a beloved guest back to the festival stage after more than three decades.

Perlman opens the all-Beethoven program by performing and conducting the composer's Romances, two lyrical and expressive works for violin and orchestra. Then, he conducts the dramatic Egmont Overture before leading the Orchestra in Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, a work celebrated for its rhythmic energy and sweeping spirit.

The concert continues The Cleveland Orchestra and Perlman's partnership, which began in 1966 and

spans Blossom Music Center, Severance Music Center, Carnegie Hall, and, most recently, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

of Miami-Dade County earlier this year.

The 2026 Blossom Music Festival opens July 3 with a special program celebrating America's 250th anniversary. The season features a diverse



lineup of concerts including Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets on July 11 and 12, An Evening with Idina Menzel on July 26, Jon Batiste with The Cleveland Orchestra on August 20, and Summer in Vienna with Music Director Franz Welser-Möst on August 29.

Tickets are on sale now through the Severance Music Center Ticket Office by phone at 216-231-1111 or through clevelandorchestra.com. This concert is eligible for Blossom Lawn Ticket Books.

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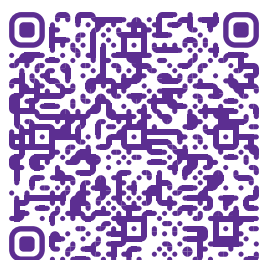
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The Unexpected Parenting Win

Between work, practices, and nonstop schedules, I felt guilty
that I wasn’t giving my son enough attention. One night I apolo-
gized to him, and he looked genuinely confused. He said, “Dad,
I just like hanging out with you in the car.”

— Dad of three, Willoughby

Burnt Chicken, Perfect Night

I burned the chicken, overcooked the pasta, and almost ordered
pizza out of embarrassment. Instead, we laughed about it, made
ice cream sundaes, and ended up talking around the table for
two hours. The kids still bring up our “fancy burnt dinner night.”

— Pam, mom of two, Mayfield Village

Nature Wins Again

I planned a full day of wholesome family fun—zoo, picnic, play-
ground, ice cream. Packed snacks, sunscreen, extra clothes...
everything. By 11:15 a.m., one kid was crying, one was carsick,
and I stepped in goose poop wearing flip-flops. We went home
before lunch.

— Mom, Mentor

The Great Laundry Disaster

I made my daughter start doing her own laundry. Felt like a par-
enting milestone. Two days later, every single one of my white
towels was pink. Apparently, lip balm also survived the wash
and exploded in the dryer.

— Mom of two, Cleveland Heights

The Slime Incident

I said yes to slime. Glitter slime. Scented glitter slime. Three kids
and four hours later, my dining room chair still sparkles when
sunlight hits it just right.

— Mom of one, Concord Township

Caught Him Keeping the Photos

I made my son take a photo with me on the first day of school
even though he rolled his eyes the entire time. Later that night, I
overheard him telling his friend, “My mom does this every year.”
Turns out... he saved every picture.

— Single mom of one, Chardon

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Superman (PG-13) July 11

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Bent String July 25
The Big North Band
August 8

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The Big Bounce America returns with its giant inflatables

The Big Bounce America, home to the world's largest bounce house, is bringing its high-energy experience to Cleveland from July 11–12. Featuring more than 50,000 square feet of inflatable attractions, the event transforms the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds into a fully immersive playground filled with live music, laughter, and unforgettable fun for all.

Designed for all ages, The Big Bounce America features dedicated sessions for younger children, bigger kids, and adults — so everyone can jump in and join the fun.

The event features seven massive inflatable attractions, including The World's Largest Bounce House. Covering over 24,000 square feet and standing 32 feet tall, this record-breaking inflatable is a full-blown party zone. Inside, guests will find giant slides, ball pits, climbing towers, basketball hoops, and colorful interactive elements. A live DJ keeps the energy high with music, games, and competitions tailored to



each age group—turning every session into a dance party in the sky.

Additional on-site attractions include food trucks, shaded rest areas, and family-friendly entertainment. Guests can bring their own food and drinks or purchase from on-site vendors.

All-Access tickets are available now and include a three-hour pass to the event, featuring a timed session in The World's Largest Bounce House plus unlimited access to all other attractions. Advanced purchase is strongly encouraged, as sessions frequently sell out. Tickets start at \$35 and are available at TheBigBounceAmerica.com/Tour-Dates.

Financing Available

Payments as low as \$59 a month! (with proper qualifications)



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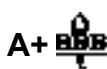
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Stars, Stripes & Stories



Betsy Ross Probably Didn't Design the First Flag

While Betsy Ross is often credited with sewing the first American flag, historians say there is little evidence proving the story. Much of the legend came from her grandson nearly 100 years later. Many historians believe Congressman Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, likely played a major role in designing the original flag.

Why Red, White, and Blue?

The colors were inspired in part by the British flag and other popular flags of the time. However, America later assigned its own symbolism to the colors: red for valor and bravery, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

A Teenager Designed Today's Flag

In 1958, 17-year-old Robert Heft designed a 50-star flag for a high school history project after hearing Alaska and Hawaii were expected to become states. He originally received a B-minus on the assignment, but his teacher later changed it to an A after Congress officially adopted the design in 1960.

One Flag Has Missing a Star

When Oregon became the 33rd state in 1859, a flag maker accidentally produced a version with only 32 stars. A few of those rare "missing star" flags still exist today and are now prized by collectors and museums.

The Flag Once Had 15 Stripes

After Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union, Congress briefly expanded both the stars and stripes to 15. That version inspired Francis Scott Key to write The Star-Spangled Banner during the War of 1812.

There's a Right Way to Fold a Flag

The traditional triangle fold is said to resemble the tricorne hats worn during the Revolutionary War. A properly folded flag displays only the blue field of stars.

Flags Fly 24 Hours a at Certain Locations

The American flag flies continuously at places like the White House, the U.S. Capitol, Fort McHenry, and the Marine Corps War Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Moon Has American Flags on It

Apollo astronauts planted six American flags on the moon between 1969 and 1972. Scientists believe some may still be standing today despite decades of harsh lunar conditions.

The U.S. Flag Code Is Mostly Voluntary

The United States has an official Flag Code that outlines respectful ways to display and handle the flag. However, most parts of the code are considered guidelines and are not legally enforced for private citizens.

The Flag Has Changed 27 Times

Every time a new state joined the Union, stars were added to the flag. The current 50-star design became official in 1960 after Hawaii became a state.



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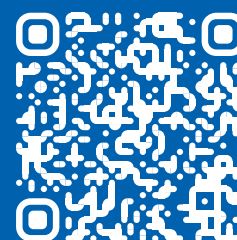
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Plan a family vacation this summer at Lakeside Chautauqua

Lakeside Chautauqua is a hidden gem tucked away on the Marblehead Peninsula just an hour west of Cleveland. It's the perfect family destination for a weeklong vacation, weekend getaway or day trip to Lake Erie.

Within the one-square-mile historic community, you'll find hundreds of unique Victorian cottages, a concert auditorium, an arts center, a historic waterfront hotel, a movie theater and much more.

Recreation & wellness

The perfect setting for recreation and wellness along Lake Erie, Lakeside offers sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, miniature golf, shuffleboard, basketball, sand volleyball, pickleball and tennis. It also features several parks and playgrounds, a pool, splash park and lake swimming.

Accommodations

A variety of unique and charming accommodations complete the experience—from the historic Hotel Lakeside and Fountain Inn to weekly



cottage rentals, a campground and bed & breakfasts. View available accommodations at lakesideohio.com/stay.

Summer entertainment & events

Lakeside hosts an impressive list of family-friendly entertainers, keynote speakers and memorable events. To view the full schedule of events visit lakesideohio.com/calendar.

Admission & parking

Lakeside requires guests and residents to purchase a Chautauqua Pass and Auto Pass to enter the grounds during the summer programming season. Depending on the length of your stay, choose from a variety of Chautauqua Passes.

Visit lakesideohio.com or call (419) 798-4461 for more info.

Celebrate Father's Day with 50% off admission at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Add a splash of wonder to dad's weekend! Greater Cleveland Aquarium is celebrating special caregivers with parenting-themed activities, extended hours and 50% off admission for dads, stepdads, foster dads and grandpas on Father's Day Weekend (Saturday & Sunday, June 20 & 21, 2026, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.).

Whether it is watching a small Eastern spiny softshell turtle dash over for a treat during a habitat feeding, seeing a giant Pacific octopus shift colors or high-fiving a scuba diver as a 10 foot sandtiger shark glides overhead, the Aquarium offers up-close views and simple, memorable experiences families can enjoy side by side.

Father's Day Weekend activities are included with general admission (\$0–\$19.95 per person). Visiting dads receive 50% off their adult admission (available in person at the ticket counter only) with the purchase of another adult or child ticket on June 20 & 21.

Families looking for a gift that



lasts longer than a single day can choose a year of undersea adventures with 10% off any level of Aquarium Annual Pass—available June 13–21 with code DAD26. Annual passholders enjoy unlimited return admission, free parking during visits, exclusive programming, discounted and free events, plus savings in the gift shop and on birthday parties.

Greater Cleveland Aquarium is located at the Nautica Waterfront District, 2000 Sycamore Street in Cleveland.

Visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com or call (216) 862-8803 for more information.



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Fireworks, Fathers & Fourth of July

Humorous and heartfelt memories of fireworks, family, and growing up

Article by Dan Miller, Today's Family Editor

Some of my earliest memories don't feel like they belong to a calendar—they belong to summer itself. Heat hanging in the air, screen doors slamming, and the distant promise of fireworks somewhere after dark.

For me, the Fourth of July has always been stitched together from a handful of vivid moments. One of the first takes place at Fairport Harbor Beach, when I was just a little boy attending fireworks with my family and the infamous tornado struck. I remember the sudden rain, the panic in the crowd, and my father rushing my mother, baby brother, and me into our '69 Pontiac Catalina. Dad told me to crouch on the floor of the spacious backseat while the storm raged outside. Even now, I can still picture the glow of brake lights reflecting off the rain-soaked pavement.

A few years later, when I was around 10 years old, my father somehow came into possession of a trunk full of fireworks. How he acquired them remains one of life's great mysteries.

Back then there were no fences between neighbors, so our backyards blended into one giant summer playground. Word spread quickly, lawn chairs appeared, and suddenly an impromptu Fourth of July party was underway. The dads handled the "serious" fireworks—Roman candles, bottle rockets, and M-80s, which we children believed were basically sticks of dynamite. Our role was far less dangerous but equally important: waving sparklers through the warm night air while trying not to burn holes in our sneakers. It felt magical.

Some years we celebrated at my aunt and uncle's house, where giant Fourth of July cookouts seemed to materialize effortlessly. My older cousins were the coolest people I had ever met. I was especially impressed by the elaborate chains they made from soda and beer can pull tabs that stretched across the basement ceiling like modern art. The next day, inspired beyond reason, I began building my own collection and strongly encouraged my father to increase his beer consumption for the good of the project.

Anyways, back to the celebration. Outside, the men would tie together long strings of firecrackers, attach

them to a telephone pole, and light them as the grand finale. In my childhood memory it lasted nearly an hour, though in reality it was probably closer to 30 seconds.

Then there's a gap in my Fourth of July memories—from my teenage years into adulthood—until I became a father myself.

My eldest was born on June 30, and we brought him home from the hospital on the Fourth of July. It was quite an introduction to the world. Fireworks exploded well into the night while my wife and I tried unsuccessfully to calm a newborn in a house without air conditioning. The windows had to stay open, which meant every boom sounded like it was happening directly in the nursery.

Before long, my wife and I had three children who were old enough to appreciate fireworks. Conveniently, my parents had a perfect view of the Eastlake fireworks from the end of their driveway. Dad grilled hot dogs while Mom prepared snacks, and we enjoyed the show without ever battling traffic. Eventually the fireworks moved locations, and my wife and I found ourselves loading blankets, snacks, and sleepy children into the car to watch from a dew-covered field behind the high school.

The kids eventually became old enough to wander off with friends before returning just in time for the big finale. I still remember the smell of sulfur lingering in the summer air, the thunderous booms rattling your chest, and the collective "ooohs" from the crowd as fireworks above and from neighboring cities sparkled across the horizon.

And of course, every neighborhood has that one guy.

The man who somehow transforms his driveway into a professional-grade fireworks show. Ours lived two streets over. His display featured towering aerial shells, vivid colors, and explosions loud enough to set off car alarms. To this day, I'd love to know what his annual fireworks budget looked like.

In recent years, it's mostly been just my wife and me watching from our backyard. The fireworks are now a couple miles away—still beautiful, though slightly less goosebump-inducing from a distance.



We recently moved to a new house in a new city, and I'm not even sure what our plans are this year. But writing this made me realize something I hadn't fully put into words before.

So many of my Fourth of July memories are really memories of my father.

I miss him.

And maybe that's what the Fourth of July becomes as we get older—not just fireworks and cookouts and neighborhood shows, but a quiet in-

ventory of the people who once stood beside us watching the sky.

Despite how divided things sometimes feel, I still hope that for at least twenty minutes this Independence Day, everyone pauses long enough to look upward together—struck by the same flashes of light, sharing the same brief sense of wonder.

Because for all its imperfections, the first 250 years of this country have still managed to light up a few pretty unforgettable nights.

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Thursday, June 11 • 7 to 8 pm Storytime Puppet Theater "Forest Fables"	Thursday, July 16 • 7 to 8 pm Storytime Puppet Theater "The Bee's Knees"

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PHOTO BY RICK HERSHBERGER

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