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TODAY'S family

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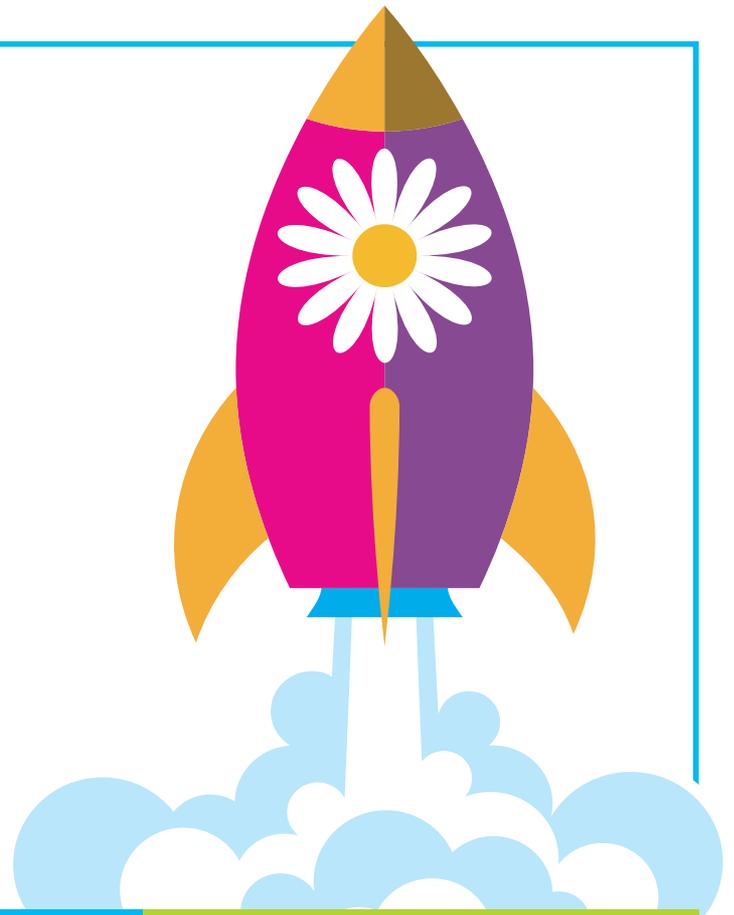
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Geauga Park District

60 years, 27 parks, and unlimited family fun

By Stacy Turner

What began as a donation of land to county commissioners back in 1959, a parcel set aside where “the children can roam,” led to the establishment of the Geauga Park District in 1961. Throughout the 60 years that followed its inception, the Geauga Park District has blossomed, encompassing over 10,500 acres and creating 27 public parks where children and their families have plenty of space to roam and enjoy. With so many parks and activities to choose from, it may be helpful to gather some insight before you head out to explore all that Geauga Parks have to offer.

“To be honest, when people ask me what my favorite GPD park is, I tell them whichever one I am in at the moment!,” explained John Kolar, GPD’s chief naturalist. “Our parks offer a rich diversity of experiences for everyone and also protect unique ecosystems which are home to a large variety of plants and animals,” he added. “That being said,” Kolar continued, “if I had to pick the best parks that offer the greatest variety of experiences for families, I’d suggest Headwaters Park, The West Woods, and Claridon Woodlands as the top three picks.”

Kolar’s first suggestion, Headwaters Park in Huntsburg, offers the most amenities and activities of any of GPD’s parks. With free kayak and canoe rental for county residents and a boat launch for private watercraft on the East Branch Reservoir, Headwaters Park offers an excellent opportunity to experience nature and get a glimpse of wildlife. Whether picnicking, camping at one of the lean-to or tent sites, bird watching, fishing, hiking or the riding trails, this park offers something for everyone. And according to Kolar, the Eagle Trail at Headwaters Park is also one of the best places in the county to see spring wildflowers.

His next suggestion for family fun is the West Woods in Russell. “The West Woods is one of our largest parks and has miles and miles of trails that get people out into the

great outdoors,” Kolar remarked. It also features the West Woods Nature Center that provides a variety of natural history exhibits, children’s discovery room, live animals, a gift shop and seasonal art exhibits. Outside the Nature Center, the 902-acre park offers almost seven miles of trails for strolling, running, dog walking, or horseback riding, as well as access to fishing and primitive camping. And don’t forget to check out the sandstone cliffs along the trail that leads to Ansel’s Cave.

One of the GPD’s newest parks, Claridon Woodlands, also made the list of top parks for families. With three trails that total just over two miles, even the smallest of adventurers can manage the trek around the man-made ponds to enjoy the reward of the nature-based playground. The park also features a mountain bike track and freeform boulder wall for young climbers, as well as a high ropes course for adventurers of all ages. Claridon Woodlands is an excellent place to picnic; the lodge is available to reserve for events as well.

Other parks offer great opportunities for families, as well. Big Creek Park in Chardon includes nine hiking trails, a mountain bike trail, and a campground nestled in this 644-acre park. This park features an amphitheater for outdoor programs, a reservable lodge, as well as a campground with lean-to shelters and a unique “tree house” cabin.

Orchard Hills in Chesterland is a park being reclaimed from its former life as a golf course. Six trails wind through its 237 acres, which is home to an orchard-themed playground.

Swine Creek Reservation in Middlefield features eleven trails as well as a playground, horseshoe pits, and the GPD’s sugar bush where the Park volunteers collect sap and make maple syrup.

Beartown Lakes in Bainbridge is a dog walker’s paradise with nearly three miles of trails wandering through a mature beech-maple forest and near more than 22 acres of open water.

In addition to hiking trails, Observatory Park in Montville features



Free kayak and canoe rentals, and more at Headwaters Park.

Photo credit: Grace Rybak

an indoor planetarium viewing as well as outdoor viewing events and access to the Nassau Astronomical Station and telescope.

Holbrook Hollows in Chagrin Falls features a nature-based playground and nearly three miles of trails through this 131-acre property. It’s also home to a reservable lodge with a back garage door that opens to a unique tiered patio and a fire pit, making it the perfect location

for spring and summer events.

A former Boy Scout camp, Chickagami Park in Parkman provides lean-tos and tent pads for camping, as well as an activity field, horseshoe pits and tetherball, setting the scene for a fun family picnic at one of the park’s scenic shelters.

For more information on the Parks, naturalist-led programs, and events at GPD, call (440) 286-9516 or visit geaugaparkdistrict.org.



The West Woods Nature Center features a discovery room, live animals & more.



Claridon Woodlands features a high ropes course, boulder wall and lots more!



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Time for fun and games at Lost Nation Sports Park

By Deanna Adams

Looking for some fun, as well as many great health benefits? The answer is practically in your own backyard. Lost Nation Sports Park in Willoughby has been offering a round of entertainment and health and fitness opportunities since it opened in 1998. Its combination of ever-expanding state-of-the-art equipment, programs and classes has made this sports arena a “one-stop shopping” place when it comes to sports and recreational activities. In addition, its on-site, full-service restaurant, The Players Club, offers three bars, an outdoor patio, wine, spirits, an Internet jukebox and 13 high-definition TVs. The facility also has a banquet room for special events. Lost Nation Park has been known for years as northeast Ohio’s top sports and recreational facility.

And while things were put on hold for much of the past year, all systems are go at this popular venue. “We have three key things we’re focusing on as we get back into full operation,” says president and CEO, Mike Srsen. “One, of course, is our extra cleaning procedures, according to COVID security measures. Two, temperatures are now taken as players come in. And three, we have everyone sign a release form, which can serve as contact tracing, if needed.”

Srsen adds that as more people begin to venture out and come to the facility, he wants to make sure everyone feels protected and welcomed. “We are doing everything in our power to provide a safe environment,” he says. “We’re already seeing a big increase in numbers of people visiting and participating in the programs. I think people trust us.”

Lost Nation Sports Park has two locations—on the east side in Willoughby, and the west side in Lorain.

Their amenities are as wide and varied as the people who visit, which can range anywhere from 18 months to senior citizens.

Get active at LNSP

For adults, the playing choices include basketball, volleyball, football, hockey, soccer, golf, baseball, and cornhole. There are also golf simulators, outdoor soccer fields, exercise classes, which include yoga and Zumba, and batting cages—a unique feature among sport centers.

“We really do offer everything, every sport,” says Ed Strauss, general manager of league operations. “And our leagues are always well attended. We have a girl’s high school basketball league, several men’s leagues, and are hosts of the Mike Moran Basketball Summer Camp.”

Strauss attended Eastlake North and Lakeland Community College, and has now worked for LNSP for 20 years. He became league director in 2009, and runs adult volleyball, basketball, and football, as well as youth NFL flag football, youth baseball, youth Aviators (basketball) and the batting cages.

He leaves the most popular youth program, Lil’ Kickers, in the hands of Sarah Bals, a 2011 graduate of John Carroll University, who is the facility’s social media manager and director of Lil’ Kickers East, an innovative child soccer development program for youths ranging from age 18 months to 7 years. She also assists in running the Junior Hoopers Academy, held at the facility.

“The great thing about starting children so young in any sports program is watching their growth in so many areas,” says Bals, who played basketball through college. “The class is 12-weeks long and it’s a nice consistent activity for them. Some are shy at first, but having them come regularly each week, they get to know the other kids, make friends, and the



The Lil’ Kickers program is just one of the many offerings at LNSP.

parents feel comfortable, too.”

She adds that at 18 months, toddlers learn to listen, improve their balance, and learn a step away from parents to become more independent.

Lil’ Kickers classes extend to a number of programs. They include the Bunnies/Thumpers, for 18 months to 3 years, Cottontails, Hoppers, and Jackrabbits, for 3- and 4-year-olds, and Big Feet and Micro for ages 5-7. While Bals oversees all the programs, she gives kudos to lead coach, Kylie Lee, for helping the children blossom, both in the sport and social interaction.

“The social aspect is really as important as the sport itself,” Bals says. “It’s really satisfying to us, as well as the parents, to see a timid child grow out of their shell and become more comfortable and begin to interact with others.”

The Players Club

There is no lack of socialization when it comes to The Players Club, located inside the Lost Nation Sports Park, and includes a patio that is now open.

“The Player’s Club is very popular,” Strauss says. “Many people stop there before or after their sessions to get great food and beverages, and have lively conversations. It’s a family-friendly restaurant, too, so you’ll see all ages there. It’s a great place to relax.”

Even those who are not sports enthusiasts often visit The Player’s Club for its good food, drinks, and music, as well as arcade games, shuffleboard game, dartboards, and big-screen TVs.

“Of course, it’s all been challenging during these COVID times,”



Bals says. “But in some ways, it has worked in our favor because now people are more than ready to get out and do something, be active, and be with other people.”

The customers also appreciate the talented staff at Lost Nation Sports Park. Each has the knowledge and requirements to teach students of all ages. Bals is pleased by the growing attendance, as well as the compliments. “People tell me they enjoy the programs because we are organized, and they like the energy, enthusiasm, and skills of the coaches.”

“Things are definitely heating up here and it feels good,” adds Srsen. “We’ve all been pent up this past year and everyone is anxious to get out of the house and get back into shape, and have fun, too.”

For more information, or to enroll in any of the programs, visit their website, www.lnsportspark.com, or call (440) 602-4000.

Lost Nation Sports Park East
38630 Jet Center Place, Willoughby
(440) 602-4000
info@LNsportspark.com

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Lake County single mom works her way through college and goes on to entrepreneurial success

By Deanna Adams

For years now, RestorX MD in Mentor has been known as a disaster recovery company, repairing homes and businesses after fire, water, smoke, and mold damage. The company was even responsible for restoring the historic West Side Market building when it experienced fire and smoke damage in 2013. It's fitting, too, that its parent company, MD Carpet, with its residential and commercial services, including cleaning oriental rugs, brings renewed cleanliness and beauty into homes and businesses alike.

Their success story has much to do with one person. Owner Donna Brewster is a great example of what happens when fortitude and perseverance becomes a driving force. After divorce made her a single mom of two children under the age of 8, she decided to go back to school. She received her associates degree at Lakeland Community College, then went on to Cleveland State University to obtain her accounting degree. This meant attending school at night while working as a server a couple of nights a week and still being there for her children during the day. She passed her CPA exam on the first attempt, which is notable since only 30% pass on their first try. "I was also working



Donna Brewster, owner of MD Carpet and RestorX MD

with someone doing tax returns," she says. "It was a hectic time, crazy even, but you do what you have to do."

By 1996, with those goals under wraps, she and her sister, Jane, started their own retirement services firm, Brewster & Brewster. Soon, she was serving on the board of directors for the ASPPA (American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries), a national organization for career retirement plan professionals. As her children grew,

so did her goals. "In 2007/2008, I purchased the assets of MD Carpet and RestorX MD, and we are now undergoing a rebranding of the businesses."

While both businesses have always focused on restoring and remodeling, it now includes construction needs, headed by her son, Brian Soltis. "My son, now 41, is preparing to take over the construction side of the business," she says. This means that the company is evolving into "living space construction," which will include garages, "she sheds," art studios, and mother-in-law cottages.

This will be in addition to offering inside improvements, such as kitchen, bathrooms, and basement services. Brewster ensures that they use only the most skilled professionals and highest-quality materials. And given her success in life skills, it's a statement that certainly has merit.

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Lake County General Health District

Keeping us safe & healthy since 1919

By Mary Flenner

The Lake County General Health District has been a driving force working to prevent disease, promote health, and protect our community for over a century.

Since the pandemic, the Lake County General Health District has become much more of a household name, but prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, most people just thought of the organization as a provider for flu shots or for their nutrition programs under WIC.

Health Commissioner Ron Graham says, "We offered traditional services such as water, WIC nutrition, clinics, and vaccination programs, but recently we've expanded more into data and operations."

Graham started with the Health District in 2007 as WIC nutrition supervisor. He was promoted to director of health services & emergency planning and then became health commissioner in 2015.

Today, the Lake County General Health District provides a long list of services for individuals, the community and businesses. Some of those services include: air pollution control, beach and air quality, food safety, car seat offerings, Cribs for Kids®, emergency preparedness, mosquito control, bed bug prevention, lead control and volunteer opportunities. Graham also shares that they have expanded their home maintenance department for sewage and doubled their food program in recent years.

The Lake County General Health District was established in 1919 under the Hughes-Griswold Act, a direct response to the 1918 influenza epidemic (pandemic) of 1918-1919. Prior to its adoption, municipalities were responsible for their own health programs, which resulted in over 2,000 separate health departments in Ohio, with many of these departments having little medical training or public health knowledge.

Since the formation of public health agencies, the life expectancy of Americans has increased dramatically through the prevention of diseases through safe food and

water supplies, sanitation, nutrition, vaccines, and antibiotics.

The Lake County General Health District was the 14th health department in Ohio to become accredited, in August 2016, under the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards.

Graham shares that one of their major shifts in focus has been to more data utilization and "bringing partners together to share data."

"We're conducting more community health assessments and doing a lot more community planning. We critiqued the gap between public health and health care, including focusing on more population-based planning and working with partners to look at strategic solutions. We try to bring partnerships together to reduce duplications and to help agencies get their word out with less expense.

"We're working on data collection programs within the school districts, including screening and programs to monitor performance. We coordinated a community tracking program to monitor senior citizens and also started virtual outreach programs with Council on Aging," he shares of their newer digital capabilities.

"We support everyone from business providers to blue collar workers. It's a fun challenge to problem solve. So much of public health is rooted in 1920, so we are trying to set the standard and push to where public health needs to go in the future to be successful," Graham continues.

"We are always looking for new ideas to reach the community because everyone has different needs. The population of Mentor-on-the-Lake has different issues than Painesville. So we work closely with each to come up with their own improvement plan."

The COVID-19 pandemic brought an unexpected focus shift, as they have led the charge in getting Lake County residents vaccinated and are working to manage the outbreak.

LCGHD recently collaborated with the Cleveland Clinic, Lake County Commissioners, Lake County Emergency Management



Vaccinations at Lakeland Community College.

Agency, Lake County Fire Chiefs Association, Lake Health, Lake County mayors/city managers, Laketran, and University Hospitals to hold a COVID-19 megapoint of dispensing (POD) to provide 3,000 COVID-19 vaccinations at Lakeland Community College in April. More vaccinations are being scheduled for May.

"We want to reiterate that the

vaccine is safe. The risk is very, very slight. We really encourage everyone who can to get the vaccine so we can remove mask mandates.

"If anyone has any concerns about health, please call, email, or text us. We're here to help everybody," Graham concludes.

For more information on vaccinations or their offerings, visit www.lcghd.org.

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Older Americans Month

May 2021 theme is “Communities of Strength”

In tough times, communities find strength in people — and people find strength in their communities. In the past year, we’ve seen this time and again in northeast Ohio as friends, neighbors, and businesses have found new ways to support each other.

In our community, older adults are a key source of this strength. Through their experiences, successes, and difficulties, they have built resilience that helps them to face new challenges. When communities tap into this, they become stronger too.

Each May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older Americans Month (OAM). This year’s theme is Communities of Strength, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities.

Strength is built and shown not only by bold acts, but also small ones of day-to-day life — a conversation

shared with a friend, working in the garden, trying a new recipe, or taking time for a cup of tea on a busy day. And when we share these activities with others, even virtually or by telling about the experience later, we help them build resilience too.

This year, the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging will celebrate OAM by encouraging community members to share their experiences. Together, we can find strength and create a stronger future.

Here are some ways to share and connect:

- **Look for joy in the everyday:**

Celebrate small moments and ordinary pleasures by taking time to recognize them. Start a gratitude journal and share it with others via social media, or call a friend or family member to share a happy moment or to say thank you.

- **Reach out to neighbors:** Even if you can’t get together in person right now, you can still connect



with your neighbors. Leave a small gift on their doorstep, offer to help with outdoor chores, or deliver a home-cooked meal.

- **Build new skills:** Learning something new allows us to practice overcoming challenges. Take an art course online or try a socially distanced outdoor movement class to enjoy learning with others in your community. Have a skill to share? Find an opportunity to teach someone, even casually.
- **Share your story:** There’s a reason storytelling is a time-honored activity. Hearing how others ex-

perience the world helps us grow. Interviewing family, friends, and neighbors can open up new conversations and strengthen our connections.

When people of different ages, backgrounds, abilities, and talents share experiences — through action, story, or service — we help build strong communities. And that’s something to celebrate! Please join the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging in strengthening our community.

For more info call (216) 621-0303 or visit www.areaagingsolutions.org.



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The Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse offers a thrilling year-round escape to the fantastic spiny desert of Madagascar and the butterfly-filled rainforest of Costa Rica. The Glasshouse features some of the strangest plants you've ever seen, including "upside down" baobabs, bottle-shaped pachypodiums, a colossal strangler fig and more.

The city seems to slip away and you're surrounded by two other-worldly landscapes featuring 350 species of exotic plants. Fifty different types of butterflies, birds, reptiles and amphibians flutter, climb and crawl through naturalistic habitats. The Glasshouse is unique among conservatories because it shows how plants, animals, geology and climate interact in delicate balance.

In 2017, new lighting was installed in the Glasshouse to replace the original light fixtures, which were put in place when the Glasshouse was constructed 15 years ago. These improvements in lighting technology, including 120 new LED lights, enable the lighting to change color in different preprogrammed themes



to set the mood for various shows, allows a nighttime exterior view of the Glasshouse to evening visitors, and reduces the Botanical Garden's carbon footprint, while also reducing operating costs. A limited number of advanced reservations are available each day. Face masks must be worn in the interior and exterior gardens.

Visit www.cb garden.org for more information.

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Starting Point names new president and CEO

Starting Point, the child care, early education and out-of-school time resource and referral agency for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Ashtabula counties, has appointed Nancy Mendez as the organization's new president and chief executive officer, effective May 3.



Nancy Mendez

Point, Mendez will lead the \$12 million nonprofit organization's nationally-recognized, comprehensive child and youth development programs that have transformed the child care, preschool and out-of-school time landscape here and influenced programs

throughout Ohio.

Starting Point provides northeast Ohio's children and families access to high quality, convenient and affordable child care options; offers early childhood professionals new opportunities for training and education; and has launched numerous innovative programs to address community needs, such as universal prekindergarten, the Boys Project, the Special Needs Project and other initiatives.

For more information, please visit www.starting-point.org.

Mendez has an impressive background as a leader in the human services field and brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She comes to Starting Point from United Way of Greater Cleveland, where she was the vice president of community investment and chief community investment officer.

Mendez will build on the legacy of founding executive director, Billie Osborne-Fears, who had led the agency since its founding 30 years ago.

As the new leader of Starting



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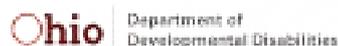


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Learning to do hard things

By Stacy Turner



I was one of those weird kids who hated skipping school, even if I was sick. I always worried about what might be covered while I was out, and how I'd be able to catch up. But according to Mom, we had to take the appointment with the specialist whenever he could see us, which meant I'd be missing some school that day. Worse yet, I'd miss math class, something I didn't particularly enjoy, but didn't want to miss. Not to worry, though, my teacher gave me permission to finish the assignment at home and return it to school the next day.

After dinner, I spread my homework across the kitchen table and pulled out the worksheet. That's when I realized that although the numbers were familiar, the line they huddled beneath mystified me. "Oh, it's long division," my mother explained, sounding deflated. More to herself than me, she added more confidently, "That's okay, we can do this."

After what felt like hours, Mom and I finished the lesson. Mostly Mom did, because she didn't show her work like we were always told to do, and I didn't understand how she got the answers. She assured me that even though it wasn't the "new math" way, the answers were correct. Tired and confused, I packed up my homework and turned it in the next day at school.

When I got it back later, it was covered in red marks. I double-checked to make sure it was my name on the top of the paper, but sadly, it was. (That was the one area free of red ink.) It was the lowest grade I'd ever received. How was that even possible, when my mother had done most of the work? But when I showed her later, she wasn't angry or upset. She just shook her head and apologized that I inherited her math anxiety.

I had to get past the idea that I couldn't do math in order to figure out that with extra time and hard work, I actually could. And I learned that once you figure out that one thing that's hard, you can use that skill to figure out other hard things, too. As a mom, I don't want my kids to have preconceived notions of what they can and can't be good at, like math, science, or art. I want them to try bold things like skiing, whitewater rafting, or rock climbing, before

they decide it isn't for them. Or try weird food before they dismiss it out of hand since they may just find their new favorite. We also make a habit of making them accomplish other things they'd rather not but need to be able to figure out. For my youngest, it means ordering her own meal at a restaurant. For my oldest, it may mean asking or answering questions on her own during a doctor's appointment or any myriad of other things that can seem scary or even impossible until you actually do them once or twice.

But my kids aren't the only ones who've been changed. I've been more compelled to practice what I preached and stretch out of my own comfort zone, too. And I've learned that the best way to find out what you're capable of is to just give it a try. Sometimes we may fail, like the time I ended up in the river during a sketchy stream crossing on a recent hike. But often you'll succeed, and you feel like a super hero. Like the whitewater rafting trip, when I climbed 20 feet up Jump Rock with my knees knocking together, then hurled myself off like a crazy person into the river below even though I didn't want to. That's because I wanted to know that I could do it, even though it scared me. And I wanted my kids to see that, in spite of my fear, I did it anyway — and I've got the video to prove it.

Thankfully, my kids have never heard of math anxiety, and as a result, they work hard and happen to excel at math. (Sometimes we call them mathletes, just to make them cringe, but that's a story for another day.) They do have other hard things they face, and each time they do, it gives them the confidence to try the next hard thing, and then the next. Life can be full of hard things, but the more we try, the more we have the opportunity to overcome them. And the more we conquer, the braver we become. In case you're wondering, although it doesn't come naturally to me, I conquered long division and made it all the way through geometry and algebra with lots of hard work and no help from my mother.



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The Show Goes On

A dance & arts celebration at the Mayfield Road Drive-In Theater on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 8 pm

Fairmount Center for the Arts is excited to announce a unique dance and arts event which will be held at the Mayfield Road Drive-In Theater on Friday, May 21 at 8 pm. "The Show Goes On" includes pop-up dance performances from the Fairmount Dance Company and art activities, a showing of a film created that showcases Fairmount's dance and arts community and a showing of the 2016 animated film "Leap."

"We are thrilled to celebrate and showcase the students at Fairmount Center for the Arts," shared Jeannie Fleming-Gifford, executive director. "Although the last year has had its challenges, we are so proud of the resilience of this community and excited to showcase our dancers and other students on the big screen at the Mayfield Road Drive-In."

Fleming-Gifford also shared grat-

itude for the sponsors of The Show Goes On which include the following: marquee sponsor: Marshall Carpet One; presenting sponsors: Jan Jones, Kinetico Water Systems, Perky Kettle, Wenger Orthodontics; and associate sponsors: Fit Learning Cleveland and the Graves Family.



This event serves as an alternative to Fairmount's traditional dance recital which generally takes place in May. "The opportunity to record and create this unique program also provides us the chance to showcase the entire

Fairmount arts community, not just the dance program," Fleming-Gifford continued.

Tickets for the event are on sale at www.fairmountcenter.org/ performances and all are welcome to be part of this unique arts celebration. The price is \$30 per carload or individuals may purchase a parent patron ticket for \$75 which



Fairmount Dance Company

Evalyn Brosnan, Madelyn Foerster, Mikayla Gainor, Anna Gracon, Morgan Graves, Olivia Hederstrom, Ebi Omojuanfo, Shelby Spence, Abby Steffee, Colleen Weden, Kate Webb, director (not pictured).

includes the opportunity to share one image which will be shown on the screen with a brief message. Concessions and restrooms will be available at the Mayfield Road Drive-In Theater which is located at 12100 State Route 322 in Chardon.

The mission of Fairmount Center for the Arts is to enrich lives through the arts. For nearly 50 years, Fairmount Center for the Arts has provided a space for

individual expression and the opportunity for all to explore the arts through classes, workshops, community performances and cultural programs. For more information or to register for summer camps, classes, music lessons and special events visit www.fairmountcenter.org or call (440) 338-3171.

Fairmount Center for the Arts is located at 8400 Fairmount Road in Novelty in Geauga County.



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Wildlife Rescue: Miracles in Conservation

Exhibit at Museum of Natural History



What is it like to spend a day in the life of a wildlife rescuer? Find out in Wildlife Rescue: Miracles in Conservation, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's eye-opening, inspiring, and wildly interactive experience for all ages running now through October 21, 2021.

Maintaining the health of all habitats and ecosystems on this planet is of vital importance. In fact, our survival depends on it. Visit the exhibit today, and gain a new appreciation for the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

In this traveling exhibition, you'll explore the innovative ways wildlife rescuers capture, raise, and release endangered species back to the wild, and care for animals after natural disasters. You'll even see a diverse living collection of animals that highlight endangered species and harrowing rescue stories.

Get hands-on experience with 15 interactive displays and simulations, including:

- Taking a simulated flight on an ultra-light to guide young whooping cranes along their first

migratory route.

- Learning the methods used to milk lake sturgeon in order to breed and reintroduce the fish into the Great Lakes.
- Journeying to Africa and Indonesia at the Return to the Wild theatre and witnessing the dedicated efforts of caretakers to successfully raise and release young elephants and orangutans to the wild.
- Watching fascinating live presentations at 11 different animal habitats.
- And so much more!

Visitors will receive complimentary stylus tools to press buttons, touch screens, turn cranks, and move objects safely throughout the exhibit.

Everyone has a role to play in the story of wildlife rescue—including you. Step into the shoes of those who dedicate their lives to animal conservation and begin your journey as a wildlife rescuer.

Advance tickets are required to visit the Museum. Entrance to Wildlife Rescue is included with general admission. Visit cmnh.org.



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Thursday, May 13
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Movie: "August Rush"



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Bringing out the best in your girl Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

You want a brighter, happier tomorrow for your girl — and that's exactly what we want, too!

Studies show Girl Scouts improves girls' confidence and makes them better prepared for life's challenges. That's because we are dedicated to helping your girl follow her heart while she discovers new interests, strengths, and abilities. We're here with your family, hand-in-hand, to support: her dreams, her growth, and her success. The best part? It's a journey that you take with your girl and there's a place for the entire family.

Girl Scouting is a way of life that brings out the best in your girl, and helps her bring out the best in everyone around her. While she's learning about STEM, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and important life skills, she's also discovering new ways to make your family and community stronger, kinder, and better for everyone.

At Girl Scouts, groups of girls from the same community, called troops, typically meet weekly or biweekly for an hour or two. Hand in hand with adult volunteers — often parents or caregivers — girls select exciting hands-on activities and projects, try new things, and cheer each other on. Together, they earn badges to reflect their successes and



show the world what they're made of.

Our goal is to make sure girls see and have the opportunity to reach their potential. It isn't just about helping them earn better grades, make better decisions, and have happier lives (although it helps with those things, too!). It's about creating a more fair, equal, and compassionate world where every girl has a seat at the table and can make her dreams come true. Check out our values in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

To learn more about Girl Scouts of North East Ohio visit gsneo.org/join.

Kids Eat Free Day is coming to Moe's Southwest Grill

Sundays are looking even better now that Moe's Southwest Grill is turning Sundays into fun days with Kids Eat Free! For every adult entrée purchase of \$6 or more, one kids meal will be available to children 12 and under. Children can customize their kids meal with a kid-sized burrito, taco or quesadilla. Cookie and drink are included!



"We know, being parents ourselves of young children, that it can become very expensive for families to eat out or takeout these days," states Ryan O'Hare, Moe's owner. "Kids Eat Free on Sundays makes it that much easier to treat the family to a meal and take the deserving break out of the kitchen! Sundays are known to be a day filled with family time and we don't want the time and effort needed to prepare good food to be an obstacle. We have chosen to celebrate family on Sundays with this offer at our Mayfield Heights, South Euclid and two Mentor locations." The free kids meal is available for dine-in or takeout.

To check out the menu items ready to please the entire family, visit www.moes.com for your everyday eating and catering needs. Moe's continues to work hard to serve its valued guests while exceeding all CDC safety guidelines. All of the locally owned and operated O'Hare family locations are open and also offer pick-up and curbside service. Make every day of the week a Moe's day and celebrate Sundays as fun days the Moe's way!

Enjoy "Tunes at the Lagoons" this summer in Mentor

The city of Mentor is expanding their entertainment offerings Saturday nights this summer with the introduction of "Tunes at the Lagoons" at the Mentor Lagoons Marina. The 2021 inaugural season will consist of two performances per month and feature the following popular local bands:

- June 12 | Cheeseburgers in Paradise
- June 26 | Revolution Pie
- July 17 | Redneck Incorporated
- July 31 | The Michael Weber Show
- August 14 | Vinyl Arcade
- August 28 | Boaterhead

Performances will be held from

7–9 pm. Admission and parking are free. Attendees can also enjoy food and refreshments from popular local food trucks weekly, as well as a selection of beers and wines for those 21 and over.

Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available. The Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve & Marina is located at 8365 Harbor Drive in Mentor.

Additional information will be posted as it becomes available at www.cityofmentor.com/calendar and the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina Facebook page.

ICYMI

In Case You Missed It!

Visit www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com to access hundreds of family-related articles and events. Our site is keyword searchable and is mobile-friendly. Whatever local family information you need, you will most likely find it at TodaysFamilyMagazine.com!

summer CAMP guide

Published in our March 2021 issue.

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Brats with Pop

Lake County History Center
Saturday, June 12, 2021
Noon–4 pm

Featuring food from Frank's Bratwurst food truck from the West Side Market

Musical entertainment by Steve Madewell

\$18/member
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(Beer & wine will be sold separately)

Call 440.639.2945 or Eventbrite.com



Sandwich choices:
German bratwurst, Italian sausage, schnitzel, pulled BBQ pork, veggie sausage, jumbo all beef hot dog
Plus:
Fresh cut fries with seasonings & homemade potato salad
Beverages: Soda & water

Spring Tea



Saturday, May 22 • noon
Lake County History Center Barn
\$20/member • \$18/nonmember
\$12.50/child 4–11 • Free/child 3 & under
Call or visit website to register.

Savor tea and nibble scones, finger sandwiches, fresh fruit and cookies while you learn more about quilts throughout history. Monique Noonan, will share stories.



415 Riverside Drive • Painesville Township
www.LakeHistory.org • 440-639-2945

Safe & smart disposal and recycling with 2021 special collections events

As Lake County residents begin thinking about spring cleanup in and around their homes, the Lake County Department of Utilities and the Solid Waste District team are preparing for a full season of special recycling collections.

“This is a special service we provide exclusively to Lake County residents,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “All the collections will be held at the fairgrounds in Painesville Township from 8 am to 2 pm, and are specifically for Lake County residents. Items will not be accepted from commercial, business or industrial customers, nor residents from outside of Lake County.”

“Lake County understands and recognizes the vital importance of protecting and safeguarding the environment for future generations,” said John Hamercheck, Lake County Commissioners board president. “Through a cooperative effort between county government and its residents, these special collections serve as a venue by which hazardous items can be properly and safely disposed of, rather than being buried in our landfills.”

For the time being, and due to an abundance of caution, various COVID-19 safety requirements will remain in effect—including masks being required by residents delivering items, as well as site personnel overseeing the events. All accepted items must be in the trunk area of the vehicle; items located in the front or back seats will not be accepted at the collections. Items on trailers will only be accepted at the tire and hazardous waste collections.

The next **electronics collections** will be held on Saturday, August 14. Prohibited at this collection are any items on a trailer, TVs, monitors, exercise equipment, loose batteries, large appliances, carbon & smoke detectors, any item containing Freon. Residents can be assured all memory components on computer-related devices will be professionally erased or destroyed in a secure facility prior to being recycled. There are no fees associated with this collection.

The **tire collection** will be held on Saturday, May 1. Each resident can bring up to six car or light truck



tires, off rim, at no cost. Additional tires will still be accepted at a charge of \$2 each, and any tire on a rim will cost \$4. Oversized tires will cost \$10 each. Only cash or checks will be accepted, and we ask that all checks be made payable to the Lake County Dept. of Utilities (L.C.D.U.).

The **TV collection** will be held on Saturday, May 8, and will be for TVs and monitors only. Specifically, residents may bring LCD, plasma and flat TV or computer screens of any size, free of charge. Tube televisions and CRT monitors will also be accepted, with a fee of \$5 for tube screens up to 21 inches, and \$10 for tube screens 22 inches and greater. The \$10 fee will also apply to both projections and console televisions of any size. As with the tire collection, only cash and checks will be accepted.

On August 14, a combined **TV & electronics collection** will occur. Aside from the television-related items and fee structure listed above, electronics will also be accepted.

The **hazardous waste collections** will be held on Saturdays, June 5 and September 25. Keeping substances in their original containers or marking them, if possible, is recommended to shorten the processing times. If residents have a gasoline mixture in a container, the gasoline container can be emptied on-site and returned to the resident while in line. All household hazardous waste collected during these events will be recycled or destroyed safely by neutralization or incineration. There are no fees associated with this collection.

For a complete listing of all accepted items, please visit <http://bit.ly/2021SPCollections>, refer to social media by searching @LCDUOhio, or call (440) 350-2645 during standard business hours.



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Take your chance to win the Lake County YMCA Dream Car while supporting your community

The Lake County YMCA is known around northeast Ohio for their annual Dream House fundraiser. Known as a summer “hot list” event, the Lake County Y has invited tens of thousands of visitors to tour the house through the years.

Current circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic have forced the nonprofit to find other ways to raise these funds that support their efforts to build a stronger community.

“The pandemic has changed the way we have done everything. From day-to-day operations to fundraising, we are continuously seeking new ways to engage with our members and community members,” says Kelly Penzenik, director of marketing and communications for the association. “As I said last year, the safety of our staff, volunteers, members and donors come first. Although we would have loved to open a Dream House in 2020 and 2021, it’s in the best interest of all that we work hard to come back from this and offer the Dream House when it’s safe and can be enjoyed by all.”

The Y has dedicated teams working hard to take every precaution during this pandemic. The teams are determined to continue the support of the Lake County community and are extremely grateful for all those who have helped serve this need.

One of those long-standing partners and friends



includes The Chevy Network and Classic Chevrolet in Mentor. The group has again donated a 2021 Chevy Traverse LT AWD to the Lake County YMCA to help raise critical dollars needed to support the community.

The 2021 Chevy Traverse LT AWD is valued at \$43,000. Along with the car, the lucky winner will also receive everything needed for some summer fun. The package includes a weekend trip to The Barn Inn B&B, two mountain bikes with car rack and helmets and \$100 gas card. The overall value of the top prize is \$44,400. The YMCA is hopeful to raise \$300,000 through online ticket sales. All proceeds will go right back into supporting Lake County’s most vulnerable residents.

“The Lake County YMCA is one of the area’s largest nonprofits working to better our community and we value the support of The Chevy Net-

work and Classic Chevrolet during this time of crisis,” said YMCA CEO, Dick Bennett. “These two organizations have supported us for many years and truly understand the impact we make together in the communities we serve.”

All ticket purchases will be made online to encourage social distancing. Tickets for the 2021 Dream Car are on sale through July 4, 2021. You will be able to purchase your tickets and take a virtual tour of the car at lakecountyyymca.org/dreamcar.

Tickets can be purchased by phone starting June 1, 2021 by calling (440) 354-5656 x132 (Mon – Fri: 10am – 3pm). Other ticket packages are available as well.

Important dates:

July 4, 2021 – Last day of ticket sales
 July 7, 2021 – 10 semi-finalist drawing
 July 11, 2021 – Finalist is determined

Ticket packages are as follows:

1 Ticket = \$10 • 3 Tickets = \$25
 7 Tickets = \$50 • 15 Tickets = \$100
 Bonus Buy (*only \$5 each) 40 Tickets = \$200

“The Y is so much more than fitness centers and gyms, pools and locker rooms; we are a cause! Dedicated to strengthening and protecting the spirits, minds, and bodies of our friends and communities,” said Bennett.



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New anti-racism program for kids created by the Children's Museum of Cleveland & CSU

The Children's Museum of Cleveland (CMC) has partnered with The Diversity Institute at Cleveland State University (CSU) to develop a program to engage families in racial equity. This innovative new program titled, "Let's Talk," provides resources to support families with young children in having conversations about race and continuing the learning through play. Registration is now open.

Why

The social justice demonstrations that have taken place across the globe over the past year have raised the general public's awareness of institutional racism in unprecedented ways. "This has encouraged the team at CMC to look inward and find ways to become a greater agent for change in our community," says Maria Campanelli, CMC's executive director. "With our mission in mind and the issues facing our society, we are launching the Let's Talk program in partnership with CSU.

Research has found that children can identify race-based differences as early as infancy and can internalize racial bias as early as 2-4 years old. Furthermore, young children of color and different ethnicities can experience racial biases directed at them in the same environments that teach these biases to young children. When healthy associations are not formed early on, or when existing biases are not interrupted in young children, these negative racial associations and beliefs become more difficult to change over time.

How

One way to create positive change in young minds is for parents to engage in conversations surrounding race and racial bias early and often. Working to address issues of racial bias can help build more just associations and unbiased thinkers. By providing consistent messaging to children, parents and caregivers can support this learning. The CMC understands, however, that talking about race with young children can feel overwhelming. It may be difficult to know where



to start, how to encourage conversation, or how to answer their questions.

The Let's Talk program was designed to support families on this journey. This program has two components. First, a toolkit of information will be provided that parents, caregivers, and educators may use to introduce or discuss the topics of race and racism with their children. The toolkit includes:

- A developmental narrative of each age range, sharing what a child at that age may be curious about.
- Learning objectives.
- A conversation guide with sample questions.
- Age-appropriate activities for children to learn through play.
- Children's literature to support the conversations.

Second, interested parents and caregivers will be invited to join a virtual community with others to share their experiences, discuss the use of these materials and how they might further the goal of racial justice and harmony. Through this community, participants can share and engage each other in discussing this topic. The group will provide a safe and open space for conversation, and will be led by Dr. Heather Hill, research associate of The

Diversity Institute at CSU. "This partnership points to the possibilities of universities, community-based organizations, schools, and families working together to support the development of our children. I'm excited to be a part of this effort," says Dr. Hill.

In addition, CMC and CSU are also partnering with The Lillian and Betty Ratner Montessori School to pilot integrating this curriculum into a classroom setting. "The Let's Talk program is consistent with Ratner Montessori's core value of growing a diverse and equitable community for children and families," says Michael Griffith, head of school. "The foundation of the Montessori philosophy supports equity and inclusion for all, making this program a perfect fit for our school, children and families."

With generous support from The Billie Howland Steffee Fund at The Cleveland Foundation, CMC is offering the toolkits, complete with a children's book and activity materials, free of charge to families in the community while supplies last. All materials as well as read-along videos of all of the children's books referenced in the toolkit are also available at cmccleveland.org/letstalkaboutrace.

About

The **Children's Museum of Cleveland** is a leader in early childhood development, offering families a one-of-a-kind museum experience built on the knowledge that young children learn best through play. Their seven unique exhibits are designed to engage children ages birth-8 in the foundations of education through hands-on play.

The **Diversity Institute at Cleveland State University** is an academic research and action center for confronting the range of topics encompassed under the umbrella of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Diversity Institute promotes systemic, measurable social change that enhances equity for all people.



Mike Moran Basketball Camps

**2021
Boys/Girls Camp
at Lost Nation Sports Park
Willoughby
June 14-18 | June 21-25
June 28-July 2
9:00 am-3:15 pm each session**

- **Eligibility:** Camp is open to boys and girls ages 6-14.
- **Camp Fee:** \$185.00
- **Early registration** discounts and group rates available.
- **Each camper receives** a camp basketball and a camp T-shirt.

Registration
Phone: (440) 338-8092
Online: MoranCamps.com
Mail: Brochures will be mailed out upon request.

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 of John Carroll University.
PAT MORAN: Assistant coach of John Carroll University.
MATT MORAN: Head coach of Lake Catholic.
MARK CHICONE: Former head coach of both Lake Catholic boys team and Mentor High School girls.
TONY REDDING: Head coach of girls at St. Martin de Porres.
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Home refinancing made simple

As home values continue to climb, and interest rates remain at historic lows, home refinancing is becoming a potential source of extra funds for a growing number of homeowners.

Should you refinance this year? Consider the benefits: lower interest rate, reduced loan terms (to pay-off your home faster), consolidating high-interest credit card debt, or using equity to fund your home improvement projects. A refinance could also decrease your monthly payments, save on mortgage interest throughout your remaining term, and eliminate mortgage insurance. We are currently saving a significant amount of money for our members.

Refinancing makes sense when homeowners plan on remaining in the home long enough to recoup closing costs. In many cases, these costs can be rolled into your new loan amount, reducing out-of-pocket costs for the refinance.

In most cases, refinancing still makes sense even with the other costs associated with appraisals, title services, recording fees, taxes, and

other variables. Here at Cardinal, we offer contactless or limited-contact closings, life-time loan servicing, and a simple, streamlined process.

You are more likely to garner a better rate on a mortgage if your credit score is in good shape. Ideally, a score in the mid-700s or above, will serve you well. Keeping existing debt to a minimum will also help you qualify for a great rate, as will a steady source of income.

We are not certain how mortgage rates will trend in 2021. But, with interest rates at historic lows, we know that if you begin your refinance application early this year, you may be able to lock a rate that makes your monthly payments far more affordable. Visit our website at CardinalCU.com to begin the application process, review rates, or set up a FREE consultation.

Cardinal is a member-owned, full service financial institution open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Lake, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Ashtabula, Portage, Summit, Mahoning, Trumbull or Columbiana counties.

**money
matters**

May is National Pet Month!

Treat your furry friends!

The Original Calming Donut Bed + Throw Blanket Bundle

www.bestfriendsbysheri.com

PET BED – Thanks to its round shape, the high-quality Donut Cuddler dog and cat bed is ideal for pets who love to curl up! The raised rim creates a sense of security and provides head and neck support, while the super-soft filling offers joint and muscle pain relief.

Cozy, flexible and finished with vegan shag fur, the self-warming soothing bed is reminiscent of a mother's fur coat! Paired with deep crevices that allow your pet to burrow, animals will have full, restful sleep for improved behavior and better health. Comes in four different sizes!

PET BLANKET – Countless ways to use your new favorite pet accessory. Pair it with the bed, cuddle up on the couch or take it on the go. This versatile blanket will also help protect your furniture, floors, car seats and other surfaces.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We got one for our 12-year-old cat. She now practically lives in the bed and doesn't sleep on every piece of furniture in the house. Less hair everywhere!



Dive in to Summer Fun at Mentor Pools

Get in on the fun at Civic Center Pool, Morton Pool, and Walsh Spray Park this summer as we open up for the 2021 swimming season! Daily capacity limits and COVID protocols will be in place to ensure that everyone has a fun and safe swimming experience.

Season passes will be available to Mentor residents only. Daily Admission will be available to residents and non-residents. Camps and daycares must contact the Recreation Department for specific guidelines and to schedule visits.

Swim classes are back! Modified **Learn to Swim** as well as private lessons will be available this season with some residency requirements. Registration begins May 24th.

Visit cityofmentor.com for details.

Mentor Fine Arts & Wine Festival call for artists

Over the years, the Wildwood Fine Arts & Wine Festival has developed into one of Lake County's most unique outdoor events showcasing the talents of local artists. The festival committee is now accepting reservations for display space at this popular event which will be held Saturday, June 26, 2021 from 11 am to 5:00 pm.

The festival committee is looking for original art and fine crafts of the highest quality. Original art should be the focus of each artist's display, but reproductions may also be offered for sale. Artists are encouraged to demonstrate their skills during the show.

14' x 14' display spaces may be reserved for a fee of \$65.00 (\$75.00 after May 1), plus a \$10.00 jury fee per artist.

To obtain an application, contact Linda Wintersteller by email at wintersteller@cityofmentor.com or by phone at (440) 974-5735.

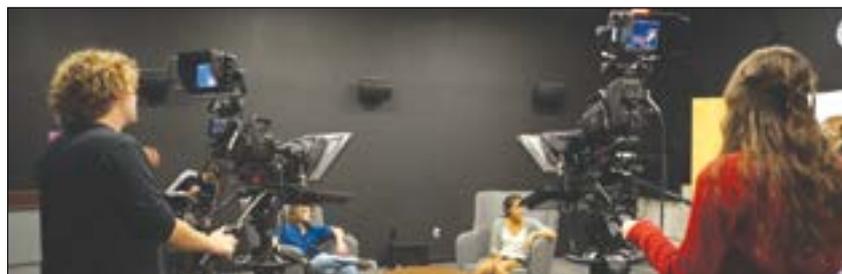
The Wildwood Cultural Center is located at 7645 Little Mountain Road.

Mentor Farmers Market call for vendors

The popular Mentor Farmers Market returns Fridays from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at Eleanor B. Garfield Park from June 18 through September 24, 2021.

The city of Mentor is looking for local growers, bakers, and artisans, who would like to participate. Market vendor categories include; produce, baked goods, pastas, oils, honey, tea/coffee, dairy, candy, jams/jellies, specialty foods, plants/flowers, as well as arts & crafts, and more. For additional information or to obtain a vendor application, visit mentorfarmersmarket.com or call (440) 974-5735.

Eleanor B. Garfield Park is located at 7967 Mentor Avenue, near the Great Lakes Mall.



Filmmaking summer camps at Cleveland State University

The Odyssey Program at Cleveland State University's School of Film & Media Arts offers a variety of immersive summer camps for high school students (aged 13–18) interested in filmmaking.

During the in-person summer camps, students see behind the scenes and learn how the film industry actually works through special guest lectures and site visits to real-world media environments. Outside of class, residential students get a preview of college life by staying in Cleveland State University dorms and experiencing Cleveland's robust cultural offerings through scheduled trips and activities.

With access to the film school's professional soundstages, Mac editing labs, and vast inventory of film production equipment, expert instructors aided by CSU film student camp counselors help students hone their skills while finding their creative community and making friends during these activity-packed experiences.

All meals are provided for residential students and breakfast and lunch is provided for day camp students.

The summer includes an experiential three-week camp from June 14–July 2, followed by three one-week intensive camps that focus on acting and directing (July 12–18), documentary production (July 19–25), and postproduction (Jul. 26–Aug. 1). Day camp and residential options are available.

Learn more at csufilmodyyssey.com
Contact: (216) 687-5087 or email odyyssey@csuohio.edu.

Odyssey Program Experiential
Three-Week Summer Camp
June 14–July 2, 2021
Residential: \$4,500
Day Camp: \$3,600

Live, eat, sleep, dream, and create films with the students and faculty of the School of Film & Media Arts at this immersive summer film camp for students aged 13–18. Through

interactive workshops, lectures, film screenings, and focused activities, students learn storytelling, film literacy, screenwriting, acting for the camera, directing, shot composition, cinematography, lighting, editing and much more as they create their own original films in a fun and collaborative environment.

Odyssey Intensive: Acting and Directing

Residential: \$1,500
July 12–July 18, 2021
Day Camp: \$1,200
July 12–July 16, 2021

Nail your next audition and learn to work with actors as a director! Presented by the Cleveland State University School of Film & Media Arts, this new one-week intensive day and residential summer camp focuses on the crafts of acting and directing for students aged 13–18.

Odyssey Intensive: Documentary Production

Residential: \$1,500
July 19–July 25, 2021
Day Camp: \$1,200
July 19–July 23, 2021

Interested in telling stories about the world around you? Presented by the Cleveland State University School of Film & Media Arts, this new one-week intensive day and residential summer camp teaches the art of documentary production for students aged 13–18.

Odyssey Intensive: Postproduction

Residential: \$1,500
July 26–August 1, 2021
Day Camp: \$1,200
July 26–July 30, 2021

Learn how to mix creativity with technology and fix it in post with this new one-week intensive day and residential summer camp for students aged 13–18, presented by the Cleveland State University School of Film & Media Arts.

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OR

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or contact (440) 719-9711

 @hairbykaylareik



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Downtown Willoughby

Liberty Camp USA

Teaches about the founding of America
in a fun and participative way

Liberty Camp USA is a week-long day camp designed to teach elementary-aged children the history of the founding of America in a fun, memorable, and participative approach. History will come alive as it is reenacted allowing campers to experience life as a colonist in the late 1700s.

Campers become “time travelers” who travel back and experience the struggles and sacrifices of the colonists as they fight to gain liberty from the British. They meet the known and unknown heroes, learn that America is a Republic not a democracy, and that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are critical pillars that must be protected for America to remain free.

The importance of personal virtue including perseverance, courage, honesty and vigilance are learned as they stand with America’s founding citizens. Campers experience the work, play and food of the 18th century – they even learn the manners of the time!

Time travelers are students entering 1st through 7th grade and young patriots are 8th grade through college-age students who contribute as reenactor assistants.

Thanks to generous donors and committed volunteers, the cost of Liberty Camp USA remains at only \$50 for the week. LCUSA is a nonprofit,



Campers reenact the Boston Tea Party

501(c)3 corporation with the goal of reigniting the flame of patriotism in today’s youth by teaching true American history in a fun and memorable way. Liberty Camp USA will take place at:

LAKE COUNTY

Lake Metroparks
Hidden Lake Shelter
7024 Kniffen Road, Leroy Twp.
July 12–16

GEAUGA COUNTY

Chickagami Park
17957 Tavern Road, Rt. 168,
(Six miles south of Burton Square)
July 26–30

Both camps are from 9 am to 1 pm.

Register today at www.LibertyCampUSA.com.



2021 Summer Reading Program Willoughby-Eastlake Library

Readers of all ages will explore the animal kingdom this summer as Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library presents the 2021 Summer Reading Program. This year’s theme is Tails and Tales!

The program runs from June 1–July 24 and will include free events and activities. The library will offer a wide variety of programs, both virtual and in person, including storytimes, magic shows, animal adventures, painting, arts and crafts, author events and much more!

The 2021 Summer Reading Program is open to children, teens and adults. Participants will have the chance to earn rewards and enter to win prizes including gift cards, books and more.

Summer reading programs are designed to encourage children to maintain their reading skills during summer break and prevent the “summer slide.”

Preregister through Beanstack or at any Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library beginning May 24. For more information, visit www.WE247.org.

May Is FOSTER PARENT MONTH

Virtual Training

Contact the hotline
at 440-350-4218
or send an email to
[Eugene.Tetrick@
jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Eugene.Tetrick@jfs.ohio.gov)
to learn more
about becoming
a foster parent!

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- You’ll be fully trained to provide a safe, secure foster home.
- Financial support is provided to foster parents so they can properly care for the child.
- You will be a critical, unforgettable link to your foster child’s future.
- You and your family will be enriched by sharing your love and your home with a child who really needs you.
- Visit www.lakecountyohio.gov/jfs and click on Foster Care and Adoption Services for up-to-date events and information.



Call the Foster Care line:
440-350-4218 (in Lake County)
440-918-4218 (in Cuyahoga County)

Lake County Department of
Job and Family Services
177 Main Street, Painesville



2021 *Virtual*
SUMMER READING PROGRAM

June 1–July 24, 2021

Children, Adults and Teens

Join the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library Summer Reading Program. We will again be using Beanstack which will allow participants to keep track of their reading and enter to win prizes!

Eastlake Library
 36706 Lakeshore Blvd.
 (440) 942-7880

SIGN UP TODAY!

Willowick Library
 263 E. 305 St.
 (440) 943-4151

Willoughby Library
 30 Public Square
 (440) 942-3200



Willoughby Hills Library
 35400 Chardon Rd.
 (440) 942-3362

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Sit, stay... and drink for the homeless animals of Lake County

Do you enjoy great drinks, entertainment, and adoptable dogs? If so, join us for the 4th Annual Pup Crawl: Unleashed! fundraiser for Lake Humane Society on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 1–6 pm in Downtown Willoughby.

The Pup Crawl is a bar crawl with special “pup crawler” guests at each bar, the dogs of Lake Humane Society! The event will include the chance to win great prizes in various raffles, a bake sale, drink and food specials, and much more.

The participating bars in Downtown Willoughby will be announced closer to the event date. In 2019, over a dozen bars participated and over 800 attendees joined LHS for

this great event and helped raise over \$30,000 for the homeless animals in their care.

Admission is \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the event at the door. Your admission includes a T-shirt, drink koozie, face mask, and various featured menus at participating bars. Only 800 tickets available. Must be 21+ to attend. All COVID-19 policies and procedures in place at the time of the event must be followed by all attendees.

Get your tickets today by visiting www.lakehumane.org. All proceeds raised will go directly towards helping to save the lives of the homeless animals who call Lake Humane Society their temporary home.

Library events

Virtual and in person

Virtual After School Adventures Tuesday, May 25

Wickliffe Library
 First through fourth graders join the Wickliffe Library virtually on their YouTube channel “WKPL Programming” to learn about how plants grow!

www.wickliffepl.org
 (440) 944-6010

Tails and Tales 2021 Summer Reading May 28–July 30
 Wickliffe Library

Children birth to fourth grade may register online at <https://app.readerzone.com/signup> or with the ReaderZone app using a program code found on the Wickliffe Library website. When goals are achieved, readers receive incentive badges. Children that complete the program will receive a goody bag. All participants will automatically be entered for basket raffles. www.wickliffepl.org

Take and Make Art Kits for Teens and Tweens
 Willoughby Library

Each month there will be two different activity kits for you to pick up at the Willoughby Library and complete at home. Most of the supplies needed and instructions will be included in the kit. Registration is not required, but

you may want to call first because a limited number of art kits will be available. (440) 942-3200. Pick up at the Willoughby Library teen desk or curbside. Ages 11–18.

Monday, May 10 • 10 am

Friendship Bracelets

Monday, May 24 • 10 am

Modge Podge Candleholders

Mom & T(w)een Cupcake Wars Saturday, May 8 • 2 pm

Mentor-on-the-Lake Library
 Celebrate Mother's Day by decorating cupcakes together! Once families register for the Cupcake Wars, they can pick up cupcake mix and a decorating kit from the library's Mentor-on-the-Lake Branch. Finally, the families can meet up on Zoom for a cupcake-decorating competition with a secret theme. RSVP to get the Zoom link.

Virtual Vittles Monday, May 10 • 4 pm
 Mentor Library

Kids ages 7 to 12 can learn how to make tasty, no-bake treats during the library's Virtual Vittles program. MPL's Chef Kim will show children how to follow a recipe via Zoom. The library will even provide all the ingredients that kids need to participate. Registration is required. Families can sign up online at www.mentorpl.org or by calling the library at (440) 255-8811 ext. 220.

In The News

St. Gabriel School names new assistant principal for 2021-22



St. Gabriel School named Leah Myers as the new assistant principal for the 2021-22 school year.

Ms. Myers is a Bowling Green State University alumna who currently teaches kindergarten. She holds dual licenses in early childhood education and early childhood intervention. A lifelong learner, Ms. Myers also has a 4th and 5th grade teaching endorsement, K-12 reading endorsement, and she will conclude her master's degree in curriculum and teaching this summer.

A graduate of St. Gabriel School, Ms. Myers is a champion of Catholic education and serving others. She is dedicated to helping her students succeed, and she is excited to increase her ability to impact our community as assistant principal. We are very blessed to have Ms. Myers join the administrative team at St. Gabriel School, and she will officially begin her duties starting July 1, 2021.

Artists and crafters wanted

Fairport Harbor Public Library is planning an outdoor Summer Art & Craft Fair for June 12, 2021 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Guests will shop display booths of dozens of local artists and crafters, participate in community art projects, watch demonstrations, and more. The Friends of Fairport Harbor Public Library will be holding a book sale and selling refreshments too!

Any interested artists or crafters that would like to have a booth at the fair can apply at the library or print an application from the library website at fairportlibrary.com/2021/04/19/summer-art-craft-fair/

For your \$25.00 donation to the Friends of Fairport Harbor Public Library you will have a 14'x14' area reserved for you to display your work to sell to guests on the library south lawn.

This is an outdoor event and the display space is a grass surface. The

fair is held rain or shine. There is no rain date.

You will need to provide all display equipment, tables, chairs, weather protection, etc.

You are welcome to demonstrate your craft in your display space.

All work being displayed or sold must be handmade/produced by the vendor. No commercially made products or corporate vendors.

ALL COVID-19 safety guidelines will be strictly adhered to.

Email askus@fairport.lib.oh.us or call (440) 354-8191 for more information. The library is located at 335 Vine Street in Fairport Harbor.

Morley Library to reopen building to public on May 3, 2021

On May 3, 2021, Morley Library's building will reopen to the public with safety guidelines in place including a mask requirement and limited access to certain areas. All programs and events will continue to be virtual until further notice.

The library's hours of operation will continue to be Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9 am-5 pm, Tuesday/Thursday 11 am-7 pm, and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm.

The building was closed to the public in October 2020 due to worsening pandemic conditions but continued to provide services remotely. Borrowing services have remained available via the library's drive-up window and curbside. Staff have been available to assist patrons via phone and email, and virtual programming has continued on the library's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Library Director Aurora Martinez said, "We've missed seeing our patrons and are grateful that the increased availability of COVID-19 vaccines has made conditions safer for both staff and patrons. We look forward to welcoming our patrons back for browsing and engaging with our staff in person."

Morley Library, located at 184 Phelps St. in Painesville, serves the communities of Concord Township, Grand River, Leroy, Painesville City, and Painesville Township. For more information about the library, visit www.morleylibrary.org or call (440) 352-3383.

Model train flea market and garage sale on May 8, 2021

The Painesville Railroad Museum will be hosting a garage sale including a model train sale in 'G' gauge (Garden Railroads) 'O' gauge, 'S' scale, 'HO' scale and 'N' scale, plus many good household items that are not train related.

There will also be an outside flea market for model trains. A 10'x10' booth is only \$10, with vendors supplying their own tents and tables. Dealer set up is at 8 am.

The sale will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Painesville Railroad Museum, 475 Railroad Street in Painesville.

100% of proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Painesville Depot. The Painesville Railroad Museum is a 501c3 non-profit.

Food will be available for a small donation. Social distancing rules apply.

The museum is open Friday evenings, 6 to 9 pm, and the first and third Saturday of the month, May

through October. Call Tom at (216) 470-5780 for more information.

The HUB & Makerspace reopening to the public

The HUB and its state-of-the-art makerspace inside Mentor High School are again open to the public.

Thanks to a partnership between Mentor Public Schools and Mentor Public Library, Mentor High School's renovated school library — known as The HUB — is open to the public from 3 to 8 pm every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The HUB will be available to everyone for study and quiet tutoring. People will also be able to use its makerspace by appointment. The makerspace includes a laser engraver, cricut maker, vinyl cutter, large-format printer, T-shirt press, laminator and more for public use. For additional information on makerspace equipment and pricing or to make an appointment, call The HUB at (440) 205-6011 or visit www.mentorpl.org/makerspace.

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