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**FAIRFIELD EDITION**

November 29, 2024

## Holiday Spectacular

*The Columbus Symphony Orchestra coming to Lancaster*

Faith Memorial Church in Lancaster, Ohio, invites the public to a night of beautiful Christmas music with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra on Friday, December 13, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

Excitement, family emphasis, and musical excellence are what you can expect to find during this concert, says Mike Kotora, Music and Worship Pastor at Faith Memorial Church. The Columbus

Symphony brings holiday magic along with beautiful decorations, glorious music, heavenly voices and seasonal cheer. This is an excellent opportunity for families to enjoy an evening of Christmas music together, introduce children to orchestral music or support a genre they already love. Kick off your holiday season with a Christmas tradition and create memories to last a lifetime.

*Continues on page 2*



submitted

**Shop & Dine**  
**"Around The Lake"**  
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**GREAT JOBS**  
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**TC Connect Home & Business Services**  
Page 6



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**Faith Memorial Church**  
2610 W. Fair Ave, Lancaster  
740.654.1711 [faithm.ch](http://faithm.ch)  
Jonathan W. Morgan, Pastor

**Special Events**  
December 13 at 7:30 pm  
Columbus Symphony Christmas Concert

December 15 at 10:30 am  
Faith Kids Christmas Program

December 22 at 2 pm  
Lancaster Community Band Christmas Concert

December 24 at 6 pm  
Candlelight Service



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### Upcoming Events

Family Movie Night Dec. 6th @7PM  
Youth Movie Night Dec. 7th @ 7PM  
Christmas Workshop Dec. 14th @ 2PM

**Sunday School**  
9:45 a.m. First Baptist Church of Carroll  
51 Park St  
Carroll, OH 43112

**Morning Worship**  
11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Evening**  
7:00 p.m.

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**Deadline for Dec. 13th issue is Dec. 6th**  
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## Christmas Workshop Dec. 14

The First Baptist Church of Carroll would like to invite children of all ages to attend our Christmas Workshop on December 14th at 2 PM. The purpose of the event is to give children a chance to make gifts for their family members. We will have different stations set up for each age group with age-appropriate crafts. Each child will be given a number of free tickets that they can spend on the kit(s) of their choice. The kits will each have a ticket cost based on the materials included.

If you or your child would like to spread some love, stop by our "Joy to the World" table to make a special creation for a nursing home resident.

There will be a parent/guardian lounge with a coffee and hot cocoa bar to enjoy while you wait for your children to create their masterpieces.

Pre-registration is not necessary but would be helpful so



## Kids Christmas Workshop

December 14th @ 2 PM

First Baptist Church of Carroll  
51 Park St  
Carroll, OH 43112

we know how many kits we will need. Visit our website at [www.fbccarroll.com](http://www.fbccarroll.com). We are located at 51 Park Street Carroll OH 43112. If you would be interested in attending one of our

church services, we would to see you on Sunday at 11:00 AM. Merry Christmas and God Bless!

## North Valley Bank announces merger with Commodore Bank: A milestone for community banking in Ohio



ZANESVILLE, OHIO – North Valley Bank, a leading community-focused financial institution headquartered in Zanesville, Ohio, recently announced its completed merger with Commodore Bank, headquartered in Somerset, Ohio. This strategic partnership will unite two long-standing community banks, enhancing their ability to deliver exceptional financial services across central Ohio.

The combined organization will continue to operate under the North Valley Bank name, with Commodore Bank's branches in Somerset, Millersport, and Hebron becoming part of North Valley's growing branch network. Together, these banks will offer expanded resources and maintain their shared commitment to

strengthening local communities and supporting small businesses.

Jim Nicholson, President and CEO of North Valley Bank, expressed excitement about the merger, stating, "This partnership is a significant milestone in our growth journey. By joining forces, we can enhance our ability to serve individuals and businesses in the Buckeye Lake region and beyond, while staying true to our mission of community-driven banking."

Charles Moore, President and CEO of Commodore Bank, added, "We have always prioritized relationships with our customers and communities. This merger with North Valley Bank allows us to continue that legacy, ensuring stability while bringing additional resources to better serve our customers in today's complex financial landscape."

Both banks have a rich history of supporting local economies in Ohio. North Valley Bank, with \$312 million in assets, operates seven full-service branches, along

with business banking centers in Zanesville and Pataskala. Commodore Bank, with \$89 million in assets, has long served communities in Fairfield, Licking, and Perry counties.

Strengthening Community Banking

This merger signals a strong future for community banking in Ohio, with both institutions emphasizing that the consolidation is driven by a shared vision of delivering enhanced customer services without sacrificing the personal touch and community involvement that have long defined their operations. The leadership of both banks assured customers that the transition will be seamless, with no disruption to services and a continued focus on local support.

For more information, visit the North Valley Bank website at <https://nvboh.bank/welcome-commadore>

## Cover story continued

Founded in 1951, the Columbus Symphony is the longest-running, professional symphony in central Ohio.

Through an array of innovative artistic, educational, and community outreach programming, the Columbus Symphony is reaching an expanding, more diverse audience each year. This season, the Columbus Symphony will share music with more than 175,000 people in central Ohio through concerts, radio broadcasts, and special programming.

In this program, Columbus Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor, Elias Miller will lead the Columbus Symphony Orchestra through a unique and beautiful evening of Christmas classics featuring vocalists Savannah Gonsoulin, Soprano and Arthur Marks, Tenor.

Some selections in the Christmas program are:

Coleridge-Taylor - Christmas Overture - Features: God Rest You Merry Gentlemen and Hark the Herald

Arr. Strommen - There's Christmas in the Air Features: I'll Be Home for Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little

Christmas, Santa Claus is Coming to Town and Frosty the Snowman  
Arr. Daryl McKenzie -The Most Wonderful Time of the Year  
Tchaikovsky - The Nutcracker Suite, Op 71a

Arr. Willcocks - Christmas Carol Singalong - Features: O Come All Ye Faithful, Unto us is Born a Son and The First Nowell  
Anderson - Sleigh Ride  
Handel - Messiah (PROUT): Hallelujah Chorus

Get your tickets now for this special Christmas concert with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra at Faith Memorial Church, 2610 West Fair Avenue, Lancaster, Ohio. Doors open at 6:30 pm and tickets are available on-line, by calling the CBUSArts Ticket Office at 614-469-0939, or Faith Memorial Church at 740-654-1711. Admission is \$30 for adults, \$10 for children, and children under 2 get in free. For more information about this concert visit [www.columbussymphony.com](http://www.columbussymphony.com) or contact the Church office at 740-654-1711 or online at [www.faithm.ch](http://www.faithm.ch).

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## Amanda-Clearcreek FFA advisors receive prestigious Honorary American FFA Degrees



(L-R): Scott Sharp, A-C agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor; Nick Greiner, A-C FFA past member; Jeff Tilley, A-C agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor; and Robert Blosser, A-C FFA past member. submitted

AMANDA, Ohio – The Amanda-Clearcreek Local School District (A-C) is proud to announce both agricultural education teachers and FFA advisors – Scott Sharp and Jeff Tilley – recently received the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degrees at the National FFA Convention.

This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment. The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed upon an individual by the National FFA Organization. It stands in recognition of Sharp and Tilley's contributions to agriculture,

agricultural education and FFA at the national level. Sharp and Tilley both started their teaching careers in agricultural education at A-C; Sharp has taught for 31 years, and Tilley has taught for 32 years.

"I couldn't be more proud of Mr. Sharp and Mr. Tilley for receiving this honor," said Timothy Edwards, Ed.D., superintendent of Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools. "These two educators invest countless hours, passion and dedication to seeing their students excel both inside and outside the classroom."

The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education and these

advisors are the critical piece that ensures confidence in future agricultural leaders, and ultimately, the overall well-being of our food-secure nation.

"I am beyond honored to receive this prestigious award from the National FFA Organization," said Scott Sharp, agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor. "When you have genuinely great kids as students, it makes it easy to want to invest in their futures. I have no doubt our A-C FFA students will make great impacts in the futures of those around them."

"Receiving the esteemed Honorary American FFA Degree is such an honor," said Jeff Tilley, agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor. "We have been so lucky here at A-C to have passionate, hard-working students who want to build strong futures for themselves – both within agriculture and outside of it. The work we do on a daily basis helps students prepare for any future they envision, and that is what makes this job so special."

Sharp and Tilley were honored among A-C FFA Chapter members and chapters from across the nation during the 97th National FFA Convention on Nov. 9.

For more information about Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools, visit [www.amanda.k12.oh.us](http://www.amanda.k12.oh.us).

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This is a fundraising project for the Fairfield County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. We are an all volunteer nonprofit and appreciate your support.

**COOKIES**

## Christmas at Trinity - 2024



By Carolyn Tilley

You are invited to an afternoon of Christmas music on Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. The little white church on the hill is located on 3430 Crumley Road in sight of Becks Knob just west of Lancaster.

This Lutheran congregation was founded 178 years ago by neighbors and friends. They have been presenting a day of music



Enjoy Christmas music at Trinity on Dec. 8 with Paul James Sound submitted

for friends and neighbors for over 40 years.

They are pleased to welcome the Paul James Sound this year. Paul James Sound is a southern/country gospel trio

comprised of Paul James Byer, Diane Byer, and Patty Sleeper from Columbus, Ohio. Forming their group in 2008, they have developed their own unique sound. Paul is a talented song writer resulting in several songs on the Singing News charts. Patty reflects that their greatest rewards are seeing people give their heart to the Lord and helping to encourage the body of Christ. "It is an awesome and humbling feeling when you look in the audience and see someone being touched by the message we are delivering through song."

The little congregation hopes you can join us that day for wonderful music and goodies to take home.

**Fisher Catholic's**  
**Christmas Concert**

Monday, December 16th @ 7:00pm  
 The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

The Fisher Catholic Concert Band & Choir welcome you to delight in the sounds of the season in this free event.

A reception will be held following the concert in the Spirit Center where hot cocoa, tea, and Christmas goodies will be served.

All are welcome!

## Federated Garden Clubs install officers

The Fairfield County Federated Garden Clubs installed new officers Monday, November 17.

Pictured left to right are: Vice President/Secretary, Wendy Stebelton, a member of the Carroll Community Garden Club. Treasurer, Debbie Molisee, a member of the Bremen Garden Club and the Carroll Community Garden Club. Second Vice President, Barbara Mann, a member of the Basil Garden Club. President, Sue Schmitz, a member of the Bremen Garden Club and leader of the Mystical Junior Gardeners-Bremen.

The Federated Garden Clubs are the county garden clubs which



Photo by Susan Lloyd

sponsor and exhibit the flower show in the art hall at the Fairfield County Fair each October.

For information about a Fairfield County garden club in

your area, please contact Ohio Association of Garden Clubs, Fairfield County Contact, Louise Smith, 740-862-6018.

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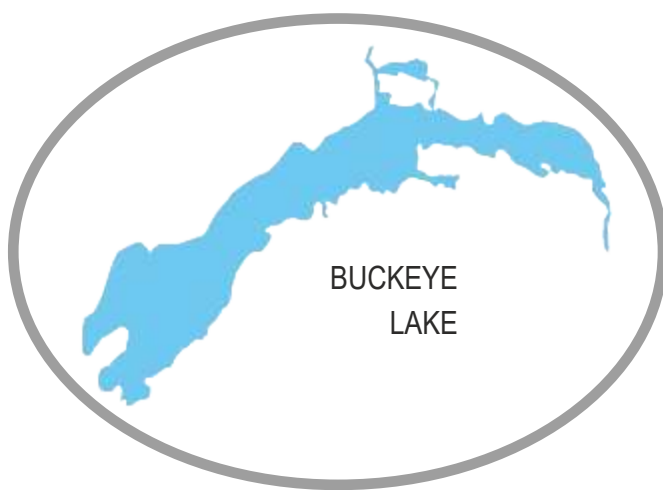
December 22: Open 8am - 6pm  
 December 24: Close at 3pm  
 December 25-26: Closed  
 December 29: 1pm - 6pm  
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# Around



# the Lake

## Buckeye Lake FOE 2801 donates \$5,000 to FMC Care Closet

LANCASTER, OHIO – On Nov. 5, the Buckeye Lake Fraternal Order of Eagles 2801 presented the Fairfield Medical Center Foundation with a check for \$5,000 to benefit the Care Closet. Located on FMC’s Main Campus, the Care Closet contains clothing and other items that are available free of charge for patients and visitors in need of clothing to wear home from the hospital or other care items to make their stay more comfortable. This valuable and much-needed service is supported by the FMC Foundation, FMC volunteers, and generous donations.

John Yorde, a member of the Buckeye Lake Eagles, said he approached the officers about donating money to the Care Closet following his recent hospitalization at Fairfield Medical Center. “I had never realized that there was a need for clothes so you could come home from the hospital until I was the one in need of those clothes,” John said. “When I got home, I realized what had happened to me and the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to do something to give back. The motto of the Buckeye Lake Eagles is “People Helping People.”

When I went to them and asked that a donation be made, they were more than willing to do so.” Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Reed oversees the organization and restocking of the Care Closet and said the donation from the Buckeye Lake Eagles will make a difference for many patients and visitors. So far this year, the Care Closet has provided more than 650 clothing items, such as pants, shirts, socks, underwear and shoes. Included in that number are also care items such as blankets, stuffed animals, playing cards, coloring books and fidgets.



(L-R): John Yorde, FOE member; Marilyn Wright, FOE secretary; Tracy Kelly, FMC Foundation executive director; Scott Cross, FOE President; Heidi Reed, FMC Volunteer Coordinator; Missy Clum, FMC director of People Services; Mike Bradley, FOE Trustee submitted

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## Millersport Council Report

Village Council met on Tuesday November 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building. In attendance were Council Members President Pro Tem Dustin Bidwell, Elizabeth Butler, Nicole Crossan, Stephanie Helle, and Rick Thompson. Also present were Fiscal Officer Susan Ramsey, Zoning Administrator Bill Simpson, Assistant Village Administrator Tim Morris and residents Sherry Pymmer, Misty Hoover Connor, Barb Martin, Frank Martin, Mike Bruckelmeyer, Julie Bruckelmeyer and Village Administrator Vincent B. Popo. Jim McKittrick was absent.

The Village of Millersport had a General Fund renewal levy that passed and the mayor and council thanked the community for their support.

### NEW BUSINESS:

special meeting with County Commissioner Jeff Fix and Rick Ricketts on Monday November 18, 2024 concerning the Community Economic Development Agreement between Walnut Township and Millersport. Also, Ordinance 867, 868 and 869 will have the second readings.

The American Legion building has a new roof and siding. The next phase is to redo the plumbing and upgrade the restroom facilities. Zoning Administrator Bill Simpson will oversee the upgrade and Matt Clark will be doing the plumbing work for the village. Bill received a \$2,600.00 bid for drywall work.

The Village of Millersport will be celebrating its Bicentennial in 2025. Plans are now being set to form committees to plan the

celebration. Residents that are interested in being part of this event should contact Vince Popo (614-562-7320). Plans are for a Bi-centennial Festival Day was set by council on Saturday July 5, 2025 with food trucks, bounce houses, games including a dunk tank. Jim Johnson is to coordinate a car show for the day. Contacts from the Sweet Corn Lions Club include Steve Shover (Vice Chair for Facilities), Diana Keller (President of the Millersport Lions Club), Tamarra Parker-Stephens (Sweet Corn Festival Heritage Chair), Dan Booze (Sweet Corn Festival Assistant Marketing Chair), and Lindsay Drumm (Sweet Corn Festival Major Prize Chair).

Councilor Rick Thompson suggested a July 5th Poker Run as part of the Bi-centennial Celebration. The money could be used for the Fire Truck addition at the American Legion.

Misty Hoover Connor presented council with more information concerning Industrial Solar Power projects leases in Walnut Township. Questions dealing with the effects upon the soil quality, infiltration of potential aquifers and feed for animal and human consumption have not been answered in any detail as well as disposal sites of damaged and obsolete panels. A sample letter was given to all council members, police chief and the mayor. The mayor will have the letter ready for December’s meeting.

Attorney Don Plank presented Mayor Gary Matheny and Village Administrator Vince Popo a letter from Cypress Creek Renewables concerning annexation of property that will house a solar panel field. No property owner or location is listed on the letter. Solar power fields are not addressed in Village of Millersport Zoning.

The Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade will occur on Sunday December 8, 2024 at 6pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make a special appearance. This the 3rd Annual Christmas event.

\*A copy of the recorded Village of Millersport Council Meeting dated Tuesday November 12, 2024 is available upon request.

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# Kiwanis - All You Can Eat Pancake Festival!

Kiwanis of Lancaster invites you to participate in our biggest fundraiser of the year- our all you can eat Pancake Festival. The Pancake Festival will be Saturday, December 7 from 7AM-1PM in the Lancaster High School cafeteria. The cost of this event is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children under 10. Serving "all you can eat pancakes", "all you can drink coffee", plus sausage, juice, and milk! Proceeds from this event go into the Kiwanis

Service Fund which is used to fund our local children and youth programs. In 2023 Kiwanis was blessed to be able to serve 1396 people, and with your help and continued support we hope to easily surpass these numbers. The generosity of our community allows us to continue to serve in a capacity we could not accomplish on our own! We are grateful that Lancaster and the surrounding areas have

continued to support this festival since 1959.

Kiwanis looks to our supporters to help us raise funds to disperse to children's programs throughout our community. Our main fundraisers are Pancake Festival and our Gourmet Nut Sale. The nuts are currently available for \$25 for a 2.5 lb. container. Our members are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and look forward to seeing you at the Pancake Festival!



Key Club members that volunteered at last year's pancake festival. submitted

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Well, why not?



By Rick Schneider

An unusual event occurred in the Pickering House only a few years after it opened. The event was a Thanksgiving story that I don't think will be made into a movie on the Hallmark Channel. It was, however, a nice illustration of how the importance of the Thanksgiving holiday brings out the best in everyone.

When someone staying for a few days in the Pickering House has an unusual request, we will address it. What adds a little color to this particular event is that it occurred in the late afternoon on Thanksgiving Day.

The woman on service, "Kay", was spending a few days at the Pickering House. She was depressed due to being alone on Thanksgiving. Her family was celebrating the holiday as they always did at her sister's house several states away. Being alone in her room Kay just wasn't in the holiday mood.

In the late afternoon of that particular Thanksgiving Day, one of our STNAs walked into her room and almost gleefully asked her if she was ready for a nice plate of turkey, dressing and mashed potatoes. Kay turned and looked out the window at the dark grey sky and said that she wasn't the mood for "that type of food", as she called it. Our kitchen staff had prepared a holiday banquet for all of the staff, visitors and people who were staying at the Pickering House on Thanksgiving.

"Well, what would you like? Our kitchen staff will prepare anything you'd want."

"They can't fix what I want." After a pause and with a sarcastic tone of voice she said, "All I want is a pizza and a beer." After a sympathetic conversation with our STNA, Kay decided upon some vegetable soup.

Leaving Kay's room our STNA got to thinking that maybe this is one of those we'll-see-what-we-can-do situations. She

knew that beer was out of the question because of the medication the woman was taking....but....we can order pizza for her!

"Well, why not?" she thought. The staff also thought it was a great idea and they all pitched in. They ordered several pizzas and a couple of six packs of root beer. When it arrived, the staff brought in extra chairs placing them around the woman's bed. They began the "feast" by bowing their heads and giving thanks for the food they were about to receive.

What a Thanksgiving dinner that turned out to be! One of the staff members who attended said it was probably the most profound, meaningful prayer before a meal she had ever said. One of the nice things about this Thanksgiving dinner was that when done, no one had to do the dishes or clean the kitchen.

FAIRHOPE celebrates life up to the very end and this Thanksgiving "banquet" of pizza and root beer was a good example. In the gathering of our staff around the bed of someone in the last stage of life, there was joy, there was love and there was life. Yes, life with joy and giving thanks for each other's presence in that room.

In the words of Charlie Brown's friend, Marci, "Thanksgiving is more than eating, Chuck. You heard what Linus was saying out there. Those Pilgrims were thankful for what had happened to them, and we should be thankful, too. We

should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown." (- A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, Charles M. Schultz)

Thanksgiving can be the nicest of the three holidays because it

takes the littlest preparation. It can be celebrated extravagantly or it can be celebrated simply. The day's festivities can be loaded with tradition or planned as painlessly as, "Well, why not?"

Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving!

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### Christmas Greetings

Merry Christmas from everyone at the Dr. Door family

This year while you're doing your Christmas shopping, please think about all the children of Fairfield County who need our help.

What they need are hats, jackets, gloves, clothes, pajamas and blankets for infants to high schoolers. Thank you for all your support.

## Music to put you in the holiday spirit

Christmas with Debbie Wright and Friends will put you in the holiday spirit. The evening is filled with some of your favorites as well as new songs. The group includes Debbie, Conda and Jacob Barlow and Rex McMurphy. Join us Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lancaster Campground Activity building, 2151 West Fair Ave. in Lancaster. The concert is free but a love offering will be taken.



Debbie Wright and Friends will put you in the holiday spirit on December 6 at 7:00 pm. submitted photos

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## OSU Extension Update



### Holiday Leftover Safety

All good things must come to an end, including the holidays. But leftovers from your holiday celebrations can help stretch out your holiday cheer.

When the party is over and you're cleaning up, it's important to assess the safety of the foods that are leftover. If perishable foods (meat, poultry, cooked foods, cheese, cut up fruits and vegetables) were out for more than two hours, they should be discarded. If you kept hot foods hot (above 140°F), with chafing dishes, warming trays or slow cookers you will want to refrigerate any leftovers right away. Perishable foods that were not out for more than two hours, or that were kept on ice also can be saved. Prompt storage can prevent pathogenic bacteria that cause foodborne illness from growing in your leftovers. These bacteria have no odor and can't be tasted or seen.

Leftovers should be stored in shallow pans or containers so that they cool down quickly. The quicker your leftovers cool, the less time they spend in the "Danger Zone" (40-140°F). Most leftovers will keep for about four days in your refrigerator.

As you are putting food away, ask yourself if you can finish the leftovers in 4 days. If not, go ahead and package them for the freezer. Most cooked foods will keep their best quality for 2-4 months in the freezer. To protect your foods from the drying effects of the freezer, package them in heavy duty plastic containers, freezer bags, aluminum foil or freezer paper.

If you don't know what to do with your leftovers, visit USDA's What's Cooking? USDA Mixing Bowl. You'll find safe and healthy

recipes to use up leftover meat, poultry and other foods.  
Source: USDA

### End of Season ...CLEANING YOUR GARDENING TOOLS

**Step 1 -** Clean your tools with a stiff bristle brush, wire brush, paint scraper, or blast of water to remove dirt and debris. Use steel wool to remove rust and sap. Or put a few drops of oil on a cotton rag and rub sap from tools and blades. Lightly sand wooden handles with a medium grit sandpaper to eliminate splinters. Wash tools with warm, soapy water and let them air dry. If it's a sunny day, use the sunshine to dry your tools!

**Step 2 -** Disinfect tools with 70% alcohol (best for sharp blades) or a 10% bleach solution. Avoid routinely using bleach wipes because the bleach will corrode metal.

**Step 3 -** Sharpen your tools. You can get them professionally sharpened or do it yourself. For digging tools like spades, shovels, or hoes, use a whetstone and/or a file and follow the angle of the existing edge. Move in ONE direction only. For cutting tools like shears, pruners, or loppers use a whetstone or file/handheld sharpener. Follow the angle or edge of the blade; move in ONE direction across the entire blade. Check the backside of the blade for burrs and remove them using the same procedure.

**Step 4 -** Lightly oil metal surfaces with a lubricant such as WD-40 and protect wooden handles with linseed oil.

**Step 5 -** Store tools indoors and off the ground where they could be exposed to moisture. Disconnect, drain, and store all hoses before a hard freeze.

### 4-H Teen Opportunities, Award Forms, and Recognition

Attention teens! Do you want to be a camp counselor? Junior Fair board member? Junior leader? Outstanding 4-Her? Scholarship or trip award winner? Do you find yourself asking "How do I get to do that?" We suspect that as you

have gotten older you have started to look for new and exciting things where you can be involved. Read on... 4-H has special opportunities for teens only where YOU can play a part!

There are many exciting opportunities that await you as a teenager in the Fairfield County 4-H Program. Soon, 4-H members who will be ages 13-18 as of 1/1/2025 will receive a survey link emailed to them. This survey is an invitation for you to let us know what you are interested in learning more about. Read all about these opportunities, mark which ones you are interested in and we will follow up with making sure you have the correct forms, applications, and information to proceed to the next steps!

The opportunities in awards, trips, scholarships and more available to teens in the 4-H program are incredible. Don't miss out on learning more and getting involved! Most of these opportunities are open to 4-H members ages 14 and up as of January 1st. There are also a few opportunities for youth ages 13 as of January 1st. Some of these activities require completion of special forms while others just involve asking for more information. Regardless of what you are interested in, be sure to give us a call if you need more information or would like some help with the necessary forms.

If members and parents would like a little extra assistance in preparing their records, feel free to call or email Leslie (740-277-4625) at [cooksey.25@osu.edu](mailto:cooksey.25@osu.edu) or Aubry (740-277-4626) at [fowler.443@osu.edu](mailto:fowler.443@osu.edu).

We encourage you all to broaden your 4-H experience and try something new. We think you'll find many new friends and much more fun ahead!

Additionally, we invite youth who will be ages 13-18 as of 1/1/2025 to attend the Achievement Form Workshop on Tuesday, December 3rd from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Extension Office / Ag Center.

## Funding for local cleanup project

COLUMBUS - State Senator Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) announced the Ohio Controlling Board approved \$4.5 million for an environmental remediation project in Pataskala.


"These funds will help continue the work to clean up this site and ensure we protect our community," Schaffer said. "Hopefully these additional dollars will keep this cleanup moving forward and preserve the health of the people of Pataskala."

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is

currently remediating infiltration ponds at the Matlack, Inc. site. The company used the location for tanker washing from 1954 to 1989. These tanker trucks carried liquid chemicals and industrial wastes, and the wastewater from this work was released into the infiltration ponds until 1980.

The EPA is currently cleaning up these ponds. During this process, an additional 4,200 tons of hazardous soil was discovered, necessitating additional funds to properly dispose of and incinerate the hazardous materials.

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## Community invited to celebrate with Messiah Community Sing Along at First Presbyterian Church

Lancaster, Ohio — As a new tradition this holiday season, First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster invites the community to join together in a Messiah Community Sing Along, a joyous celebration of Handel's Messiah with orchestral accompaniment. This community event, open to singers of all experience levels, offers a unique opportunity to experience the magic of Handel's timeless masterpiece in the beautiful, historic sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church.

The Messiah Sing Along will take place on Saturday, December 14, at 6:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, located at 222 North Broad Street in Lancaster. This event is free and open to all, with an open invitation extended to community members and singers from throughout the region. The evening will be led by John M. McClain, Director of Music and

Worship, and accompanied by an orchestra comprised of local professional musicians. Talented soloists including Grace Wipfli, Gretchen R. Weber, Jace Nguyen, Nathan Loudon, and Cabot Rea will join the FPC Omnis Choir in leading beloved solos and choruses like "For Unto Us a Child is Born" and the iconic "Hallelujah" chorus.

"We're excited to invite everyone to join in the music and spirit of the Christmas season," shared John McClain. "Our Messiah Sing Along is a chance for folks of all backgrounds and experiences to come together, lift our voices, and celebrate a story that resonates with us all. It's an invitation to be part of something bigger, and we hope it brings joy and connection to our community."

For those interested, copies of the music will be available, though participants are also



welcome to bring their own score. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to listen, this event promises a memorable experience for all. This is not a ticketed event, but a free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, please contact First Presbyterian Church at (740) 653-1594.

## FFA surfs to States in Aquarium & Animal Management Contestants hope for success in new waters



The Aquarium/Animal Management team at Ohio FFA Center  
Photo courtesy of Brandon Thomas FFA Advisor

By Spencer Swartz,  
FFA Reporter

The Aquarium Management Team competed at the Ohio FFA Center on November 11, 2024. Overall, the Aquarium Management team placed 7th out of 100 in the state for 2024. Since they were in the top 10, they will receive a plaque for the Lancaster FFA chapter. When the preliminary online exam scores came back, the team placed 9th in the state. They moved up two ranking spots to 7th, and Addyson Brown placed 8th in Individuals for the entire state!

After the competition, the state-qualifying Animal Management team for the Lancaster FFA chapter came in 7th in the state. They originally placed 5th when the exam results came out with one of Lancaster's own, Faith Staffey, being in the top 3. This contest is new to the Lancaster FFA Advisor Brandon Thomas, and it was an amazing experience for Lancaster to rank so well.

I first wanted to talk with our highest-placing contestants in each competition. I spoke with Addyson Brown, who placed 8th in the state for Aquarium Management CDE, about how she felt about the study process and competition. "Each of us going to the competition made a slideshow of all of the species we needed to memorize," she said. "I studied by looking at all of those and watching videos for each of the practicums," Brown said.

Faith Staffey who placed 12th in the state for the Animal Management CDE explained what her studying process was like and some things she learned for future reference. "I expected to place low. I felt bad after taking the exam and was shocked when I placed 3rd. When I realized that I

had a chance, I studied as much as I could using all the resources available to me. I also tried to help my team however I could, like taking extra research material for others to study later," she explained. "When I was at the competition I was going through everything I read and researched in my head. That way I was able to answer things fast when I needed to. From there I just tried the best I could." Staffey said.

I reached out to one of our juniors who is a first-year FFA member who competed in Aquarium Management; Hailey Rings. Rings, being a junior, placed 51st in the state competition. When questioned about her first experience with Aquarium Management, she said, "When I was at the competition I was going through everything I read and researched in my head. That way I was able to answer things fast when I needed to. From there I just tried the best I could, the hardest challenge I faced was trying to memorize all the different ID's of fish, equipment, fish food, and plants. It was difficult to try and learn them but I studied very hard and got them down. Another thing that was difficult in the competition was the different practicums because I wasn't sure what to expect when I went behind the curtains so I didn't know exactly what to study for. But I learned a lot of different things like siphoning water out of a tank, how to change a filter, what food to feed fish, and how to test water. So learning all these things helped me better myself in the competition and helped me place well in it!" she said.

Brandon Thomas is the new Lancaster FFA chapter advisor. I contacted him for an interview about his thought process and the materials he prepared his students with. "I used my previous

experience with online tests to determine that students would need to study the different chapters from the book and make study guides for each chapter. My goal always to get students to place as high as possible in the state for tests as that gives you an advantage going into the in-person portion of the contest. Once the test came back and we qualified for the in-person contest, I decided to use the student's background knowledge to advantage and have them create resources for each practicum. I held a meeting with each team to assign individual students to develop the resources." Thomas explained.

This was Thomas's first time competing in Aquarium and Animal Management, so I was wondering what his expectations were for his students competing in this CDE. Thomas continued, "As an advisor, you always have high hopes for your students to do well. The students that I had on the team I knew were going to work hard to do the best they could. These contests were new to me so it was difficult to prepare kids for what I didn't know. Now knowing what these contests are, I will be able to better prepare students in the future years."

After the rankings came back and seeing how Lancaster placed I was curious as to what Thomas was thinking at this time. Also, I wondered how this compared to his experience last year. "No matter what scores come back, I am always happy with the students who go above and beyond a traditional FFA member and compete in a CDE. I was extremely proud of the students getting 7th in the state as it was most of the first contests they ever competed in. I was little disappointed that we were so close to earning a banner for being top 5. Next year, I will start preparing the students earlier and try to keep the same students together so that they can improve their previous year's scores. I will try to bring in experts to help practice the different skills associated with each contest."

Lancaster had a great turnout for these contests for the chapter. They cannot wait to compete again next year.

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**EVENTS**  
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**Open To The Public Turkey Shoots** at Fairfield Fish & Game, 2270 Bickel Church Road NW, Baltimore OH 43105. Shoots start at noon. Tickets go on sale at 11:30. Falter's Hams, Falter's Bacon. Turkeys and money shoots. 12/8 & 12/15.

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Continues on page 11

## THIS 'N' THAT

Local Events, News, Happenings & More!

The deadline for the Dec. 16 Issue is Noon, Dec. 6



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**Fairfield County Early Childhood Association's 30th Annual Gift of Time**  
On Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, we invite families with young children to come to Lancaster High School to celebrate a "Gift of Time". Each child present, between the ages of birth and 8 years old, accompanied by an adult, can visit Santa, get a free book, do a few activities there and collect more crafts to do at home together as a whole family. This "gift of time" is the best gift you can give your child. Our "Gift of Time" event is sponsored by Fairfield County Early Childhood Association (FCECA) with the help of many community partners. For more information, please email us at [fairfieldcountyecca@gmail.com](mailto:fairfieldcountyecca@gmail.com) or call Cathy at 740-215-2667, or Michelle at 740-503-7927, or Laurie at 740-215-9846, or check the FaceBook page: Fairfield County Early Childhood Association.

**The Lancaster Men's Chorus Annual Christmas Concert**  
The Lancaster Men's Chorus presents its annual Christmas Concert at 3:00 PM on December 15 at Fairfield Christian Church, 1965 N Columbus St, Lancaster.

This will be Parry Norris's final performance as accompanist after over 25 years. Tickets are \$12 at the door or cheaper online [lancastermenschorus.org](http://lancastermenschorus.org) or in-person at North End Press. Proceeds support music scholarships for local students.

**Ohio Genealogical Society Christmas Party**  
The Fairfield Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Christmas Party will be at the Overlook Condo Clubhouse, 968 Governors Circle (off Ety Rd) in Lancaster on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share, and an item for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Table service, drinks and meat provided by the Executive Board members. Lineage Society Awards for 2024 will be presented at this time. PLEASE RSVP to 740-653-2573 if you plan to attend. All are welcome.

**Fairfield County Park District Upcoming Events**  
**MAMBOURG PARK**  
Craft: Holiday Ornaments on December 21 at 10am  
Winter Solstice Hike on December 21 at 8pm  
**SMECK PARK**  
Chill Hike on December 7 at 3pm  
**WINTER HIKES**  
7th Smeck Winter Hike at Smeck Park on January 4 from 10am-1pm  
1st Cross Mound Winter Hike at Cross Mound Park on January 11 from 10am-1pm  
2nd Mambourg Winter Hike at Mambourg Park on February 15 from 10am-1pm

Get full details about the events listed above and more at [fairfieldcountyparks.org/events](http://fairfieldcountyparks.org/events)  
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