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## Amanda Clearcreek girls wrestling team finishes strong

(photo, left) Amanda Clearcreek sophomore Zoey Raby is working towards a :33 sec. pin over Olentangy Berlin junior Bella Williams. The wrestlers met up in the 120# class at the Girls Sectional Tournament on Feb. 23rd at Marysville High School. There are 7 girls that wrestled for Aces this season. Unfortunately 3 couldn't make it to the tournament due to illness or injury. This was Raby's first season on the wrestling mats, and racked up 6 wins this year. submitted

by Pat Donahue

The 2025 Girls Sectional Tournament held February 23rd finished the wrestling season for the seven girls on the Amanda Clearcreek Wrestling Team.

In addition to the ladies in the photos, the team also included sophomores, Summer Donahue and London Roberts in their second year and Makenzie Uhl in her first year of wrestling. All seven ladies plan on returning next year. *See more on page 2.*

"Around The Lake"  
See page 4

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**Deadline for Mar. 3rd issue is Feb. 28th**  
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Cover story continued



Olivia Chaffin brought the most experience to the Division 1 Sectional Tournament for the Aces. The 125# sophomore was in her 2nd year on the Amanda High School team as well as a number of years as a youth. Her tournament highlight was Pinning Bexley freshman, Skylah Price in :16 seconds. Chaffin finished her season this year with 16 wins. submitted



Amanda Clearcreek freshman, Kailey Renko is ready to go for her first match of the 2025 Girls Sectional Tournament held Feb 23rd at Marysville High School. It was the season finale for Kailey in her first season in which she was able to claim 5 victories. submitted

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Sophomore Brooke Puttick wrestled in the 110# class for Amanda Clearcreek this season which was her first. She finished the season with 7 wins, and is shown here congratulating Molly Murray of Olentangy Berlin after their match at the Div. I Sectional. submitted



# Unleashing the Bond



Dean Moore and his fur babies submitted

by Amy Carpenter, Ph.D.  
Rustin Moore is the Dean at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center. Growing up Rustin had all kinds of animals, including dogs, cats, ponies, horses, cattle, a pig, rabbits, chickens, ducks, and turkeys. From the age of six, Rustin knew he wanted to be a veterinarian, and his love of animals led him to get into the veterinary field. Dean Moore leads a busy life, and he had never planned to write a book, but after three invitations from a publisher he finally agreed.

The title of Rustin’s upcoming book is called “Unleashing the Bond.” “Unleashing the Bond” traces the historical roots of our relationships with animals, while presenting the latest research that confirms their vital impact on human well-being. According to the Human Animal Bond Research Institute and Zoetis, new research confirms the strong bond between people and pets is a global phenomenon. 95% of people consider their pet a part of their family. 87% of people have experienced mental health and/or physical

health benefits of the human-animal bond. Drawing on his personal experiences over six decades with his own animals, his work as a veterinarian, and over 100 in-depth interviews with scientists, historians, veterinarians, pet owners, and animal advocates, Rustin set out to celebrate the transformative power of the human-animal bond. From these interviews, Moore revealed themes of empathy, resilience, love, and an enduring need for connection, reshaping his understanding of how these bonds influence our behavior, health, and

communities. Rustin’s journey has shown him that the ties we share with animals go far beyond simple companionship. They inspire us to become more compassionate and connected individuals. If you are among the 70% of households with pets, one of the 95% of households who consider their pets family, or if you have ever felt the impact of an animal on your life, this book is for you. To pre-order a copy of Unleashing the Bond, go to [www.rustinmooredvm.com](http://www.rustinmooredvm.com).

## City awarded major federal funding for feasibility study

Lancaster, Ohio – U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has announced \$1.32 billion in the first round of the FY2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 109 projects across the country, part of the department’s larger announcement of nearly \$5 billion in awards to modernize America’s infrastructure. The City of Lancaster will be awarded \$800,000 to be used for a feasibility study for the Eastside Industrial Connector. The Eastside Industrial Connector is a six-mile corridor that requires the upgrade of three miles of existing streets and three miles of proposed streets that connect all five federal and state routes in the city, improving connectivity to the Fairfield Medical Center, the Historic Downtown District, the Eastside Industrial Park and neighborhoods south of SR-22. A recent planning study, completed by American StructurePoint and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Lancaster Port Authority, identified the corridor. Through the feasibility study phase, the project will look at crash data for the identified area. The project also will assess transportation-related noise and air pollution with the goal of reducing pollution by rerouting the truck route in the future and aligning with the U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization. Additionally, to mitigate transportation-related air pollution

and noise pollution in an underserved community, the proposal will investigate clean energy for transportation, transportation-efficient land use and design, drawing on the features of the historic town in the project area. “This is extremely exciting for our community,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. “In total, 195 highly rated projects requested almost \$2.4 billion for the \$1.32 billion available through the first round of FY2025 funding, and we’re only one of two projects in the state to receive this grant funding.” “The proposed Eastside Industrial Connector will enable the Eastside Industrial Park to be fully built out, creating new jobs and attracting and retaining employers,” said Stephanie Bosco, Economic Development Director for the City of Lancaster and Executive Director for the Lancaster Port Authority. “This study is a critical step in the process of improving connectivity to transportation corridors while removing traffic from our downtown district.” By reducing commuter travel, lessening traffic congestion, connecting commuters and residents to the downtown area, and encouraging the use of non-motorized vehicles, this project will provide greater accessibility, encourage a healthier lifestyle, and reduce vehicle dependency. The project will also look at a multi-modal approach that considers active transportation choices, public transit, micromobility, and motorized vehicles to remove obstacles and barriers to improve

system-wide connectivity. The competitive and popular RAISE program supports a broad selection of communities and projects of local and regional significance. Funding is split equally between urban and rural areas, and a large percentage of grants, selected in this first round of FY2025, support urban and rural regions defined as historically disadvantaged or areas of persistent poverty. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors, including state and local governments, transit agencies, and port authorities, to pursue multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to fund through other grant and formula programs. For additional information about the Eastside Industrial Connector, or to view the 2023 study by American StructurePoint, visit <https://www.lancasterportauthority.com/transportation-eastside-industrial-connector>

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## Want to do something fun and exciting once spring arrives?

By Ron Keller

Get in your vehicle and drive around our beautiful county and check out the 15 historic covered bridges on the "Fairfield County Covered Bridge Trail."

Did you know that the Charles Holliday Covered Bridge at Historic Lions Park in Millersport is featured on this tour? Check out this map: June2022CoveredBridgebrochure USE.pdf (visitfairfieldcounty.org)

The bridge is named after Charles Holliday, a farmer that lived in the large yellow house just south of Walnut Creek on Lake Road now occupied by the Mike King Family. The bridge was built in 1879 by J.W. Buchanan who served in the Army Corp of Engineers under General William T. Sherman's famous "March to the Seas" during the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War. After the war, Mr. Buchanan returned to Fairfield County to build bridges and barns.

It is unique for its multiple king post design. The bridge used to span the Walnut Creek on Lake Road between Bickel Church Road and Canal Road. In 1981 an overloaded truck broke the timbers supporting the bridge and the County Engineer wanted to replace it with a new open steel bridge. The Fairfield County Commissioners sold it to the Millersport Lions Club for \$1.00 under the condition that it had to be moved within 90 days during the very frigid winter of 1981-1982. SCF General Chairman Stan Thompson and Treasurer Ron Keller accepted ownership, hired Ray Oldham and his grandsons from Brown Township in Franklin County to move the bridge in one piece. Mr. Oldham had once moved a covered bridge from central Ohio to New Orleans on a barge via the Ohio and Mississippi River.

The Millersport Lions Club held a "mud run" where the Tractor Pull Track is currently to raise the \$15,000 needed for the project. Numerous people donated funds to help cover the cost. The bridge was jacked up on



submitted photos

steel beams with several rows of tandem axles put underneath and it was pulled by three old WWII U.S. Army trucks. The route over snow covered fields (the bridge was too long to turn at intersections) and roads in February 1982 was by way of Lake Road north to Bickel Church going west to Millersport Road going north. To make the turn going east from Millersport Road onto State Route 204, Richard and Grace Keller, owners of Millersport Feed & Grain (old mill on the corner) allowed the bridge to travel through their parking lot while a bunch of area farmers gathered inside watching history being made outside the office's large windows.

During the trip on State Route 204 to Gate #6 entrance to Historic Lions Park, teachers and students from Millersport

Elementary School lined the roadway to cheer on the bridge movers and see a moment in time that will not happen again in their lifetime. Upon arriving at its new home, the bridge movers were blessed with new concrete bridge abutments and sloped terrain made possible by the generosity of Newark Concrete and local farmer and community leader Robert W. Slater and his son Robert W. Slater II. The bridge needed a new roof and the materials were donated by the Millersport Lions Club. The Millersport Lions got busy replacing missing boards and had replacement timbers cut for the bridge to serve a new function in a new location. Over time the bridge has become a popular wedding venue and focal point for the annual Sweet Corn Festival.

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Fairfield DD celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with community events



Fairfield County, OH – March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Fairfield DD) is excited to host a series of events that highlight the talents and contributions of individuals with developmental disabilities while promoting full inclusion in our community.

Throughout the month, Fairfield DD will engage the community in meaningful conversations and activities that foster awareness and celebrate diversity. Together, we can build a more inclusive Fairfield County—one where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, gain independence, and make a meaningful impact.

**Upcoming Events**

**Classroom Book Readings**  
Kicking off the month, Fairfield DD team members will visit over 60 third-grade classrooms across the county, reading an inspiring book that encourages students to see the value in every person.

**Guest Barista Event**  
**March 4, 2025**  
**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
**Art & Clay on Main / Square 7 Coffee House**  
Stop by for a delicious cup of

coffee made by the Fairfield DD leadership team! This is a great opportunity to chat, ask questions, and learn more about our mission—all while enjoying a handcrafted beverage.

**Assistive Technology Resource Fair**  
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**Marci's Keepin' it Cookin'**  
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**Fairfield County Agriculture Center**  
Join us for an empowering self-advocacy event featuring Marci Straughter. Marci will share her journey to independent living, along with her "recipes" for finding the right provider, advocating for herself, and embracing independence.  
Fairfield DD invites everyone to join us in celebrating



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Whether you attend an event, engage in a conversation, or simply take a moment to learn, your support helps build a community where everyone is valued.

For more details and ways to get involved, visit [fairfielddd.com/events](http://fairfielddd.com/events)



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The Fairfield Alcohol, Drug Addition and Mental Health Services Board is accepting nominations for the Friends of ADAMH Awards. Three individuals or organizations will be awarded and recognized the night of the event. Visit the Fairfield County ADAMH website @ [www.fairfieldadamh.org](http://www.fairfieldadamh.org) to submit a nomination by March 10.

**Fairfield County ADAMH**  
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The Fairfield County ADAMH Board provides mental health counseling and substance use treatment through partnerships with 15 local nonprofit agencies in Fairfield County. For more information, visit [fairfieldadamh.org](http://fairfieldadamh.org)

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Lancaster City Schools accepting Hall of Fame Nominations



LANCASTER, Ohio - Lancaster City Schools continues to accept nominations for the next LHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Induction. Forms and distinctions can be accessed via the district website

at: <https://www.lancaster.k12.oh.us/parentsguardians/alumni/lhs-alumni-and-lhs-distinguished-alumni-hall-of-fame-information>

The LHS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, which currently includes 80 inductees, was created in 1992. Among other accolades and professions, the inductees include a variety of occupations, such as three top executives of prominent American or International corporations; 10 outstanding and nationally recognized physicians, surgeons and dentists; 15 exceptional leaders in the field of education; nine athletes recognized for All-American, professional, pro, or Olympic accomplishments, five outstanding attorneys and civic

leaders; three nationally recognized scientists and engineers; a former mayor and congressman; a NASA flight director, the designer of the current American flag and so many more.

It is the purpose of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame to recognize such individuals who have, through their performance, conduct, and achievement, brought credit and honor to themselves and Lancaster High School. Their public example will hopefully inspire future graduates to perform and serve in the same spirit.

If you would like to nominate an LHS graduate, please click on the Hall of Fame Nomination Form on the website for guidelines and requirements.

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Bicentennial lecture scheduled March 16

The Village of Baltimore will host a lecture entitled "From Basel to Basil: Swiss Settlement in Liberty Township" on Sunday, March 16 at 1:00 pm at the Victoria Opera House.

This is the first of three lecture series being provided as part of the Baltimore Ohio Bicentennial. Join Cyrus Moore, Executive Director of the Baltimore Museum, and Julia Miller, a Baltimore native and museum volunteer, for an interesting discussion regarding the Swiss Settlement in Basil prior to Basil becoming part of Baltimore.

Liberty Township owes many of its toponyms to Swiss settlers. The township itself earned its name from the Swiss immigrants who came to the area seeking

freedoms that had been taken from them. Basil derives its name from their home, Basel, Switzerland, and the names of those families remain throughout the community. This presentation will look at the reasons why Swiss immigrants left their homeland starting in the early 1800s. It will look at the individuals and their families who first came to settle the land, before tracing their descendants and the extended family members who followed their relatives seeking new opportunities.

The next lecture in the series will be May 4 at 1:00 pm when renowned educator Jim Reed will share the fascinating history of the Ohio and Erie Canal.

OSU Extension Update



**Wellness Wednesday Webinars Free and Open to All**

We are excited to announce a new opportunity! We are launching Wellness Wednesday Webinars. These statewide wellness webinars will focus on a new topic each March and September. This March we will be teaching about Living Well: The Plate and Beyond each Wednesday from 12:00 – 12:30 pm (EST). The weekly topics will be:

- March 5 – Nourish and Flourish: What You Eat Matters
- March 12 – Culinary Connections: Food, Family and Friends
- March 19 – When in Rome: A Guide to Eating on Vacation
- March 26 – Eating Well at Every Stage of Life

Register for one or more of these FREE webinars at <https://go.osu.edu/hlwwebinars>. Sessions will be recorded, and the recordings will be shared with all registrants, if you are unable to attend live. If you have further questions, contact me at [carter.413@osu.edu](mailto:carter.413@osu.edu).

**Pesticide Testing Opportunity**

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 11:00am

Location: Agriculture Center, 831 College Ave, Lancaster

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be hosting a Pesticide and Fertilizer testing opportunity in the Fairfield County Ag Center Conference Room on March 11, 2025, beginning promptly at 11 a.m.

In order to be tested for any and all categories on that date, you should pre-register by calling the OSU Extension office (740-653-5419) with questions.

**2025 Library Gardening Series Ready, Set...Garden!**

When: March 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Fairfield County District Library, Broad Street Lancaster

Learn from the Fairfield County Master Gardeners Volunteers and OSU Extension's Carrie Brown with these free classes to learn more about gardening and landscaping. Launching the series, join us for Ready, Set...Garden! Kick off the gardening season with insights about spring clean-up, prepping your



beds, selecting gardening tools, and timing your plantings.

Register at: [fdclibrary.libnet.info/events](http://fdclibrary.libnet.info/events)

**2025 Private Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-certification**

Thursday, March 13 - 9:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Agriculture Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130

Fertilizer Re-certification*	Pesticide Re-certification*
(Cost: \$10)	(Cost: \$25)
Thursday, March 13, 2025, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Thursday, March 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

\*Please bring your current card with you to the training.

For more information or to register online go to: <http://go.osu.edu/PestFert>

Please Note: Upon completion of the class, the license fee of \$30 must be sent directly to the Ohio Department of Agriculture with the renewal application.

**Hands-On Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop**

March 15, 9:00am to 12:00pm

Join OSU Extension in Fairfield County for a hands-on Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop with Ralph Hugus at Hugus Fruit Farm on Saturday, March 15th, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. The workshop will involve walking through the orchard and discussing growing and pruning techniques for apple and peach trees. Pruning shears will be provided for demonstration use. Participants will be able to learn pruning techniques and get all of their questions related to fruit tree growing and pruning answered. The majority of the workshop will be held outdoors; please dress for the weather conditions.



# Just a bird feeder

by Rick Schneider

One late afternoon a woman entered the Pickering House carrying two grocery bags filled with a variety of items. She told me she was returning the left over supplies we had given her to care for her mother whom she had been caring for at home. As she walked across the reception area she glanced to her left, looking out the window and stopped without saying a word. She was quiet for a moment, staring out the window at the bird feeder in front of Room 1.

Breaking her stare, she approached me at the reception desk. She told me that before she passed, her mom had stayed at the Pickering House in Room 1 for a short respite stay. She told me how important the bird feeder was to her mom, saying that her mom watched the birds every day from morning until after dinner.

“Then the deer would come over and clean the feeders out.” She added smiling.

Her mom said that watching the birds gave her peace and helped her sleep at night. It became obvious that bird feeder was calming the daughter even now as she watched the birds flutter around the feeder waiting for their turn.

When the Pickering House opened in the spring of 2007 there was one bird feeder in the front yard. That single bird feeder became a focal point almost immediately. Those temporarily being cared for at the Pickering House, as well as the visitors and even our staff enjoyed watching them. And I think that it was more than enjoying it, as there seemed to be a need to watch them. So many commented on the feeders with the overriding theme being that after only a few minutes of gazing their stress seemed to fly way. Sometimes people would sit in the lobby of the Pickering House and just gaze at the birds; deep in thought.



Realizing the obvious importance of the feeder to everyone at the Pickering House, one of our volunteers, Jason, brought up the idea of a bird feeder outside of every room. Soon, they were bought and set up within a few feet of each window in the 12 room facility. Each bird feeder is in easy sight of the person lying in bed and close enough so that chirping can be heard.

It can’t be emphasized enough that the natural conclusion of someone’s life involves peace. It

involves silence. And it involves spirituality. Mother Teresa said, “God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence...”

Who would have thought that, those many years ago, when Jason’s idea of putting a bird feeder in front of each window was accepted that it would have such a positive effect on so many people for such a long time? After all, it’s just a bird feeder.

## The Salvation Army sets precedent for Red Kettle Campaign earnings in Fairfield County



LANCASTER, OH - The Salvation Army, serving Lancaster and Fairfield County, experienced overwhelming community support during their annual Christmas Cheer campaign, raising a staggering \$110,350 from Red Kettles across Fairfield County. This is the highest outcome this corps has witnessed in the county since their inception in the 1900s.

Each year, The Salvation Army provides more than \$1.8 million in service to residents throughout Lancaster and Fairfield County, contributing to ongoing efforts that aid the health and well-being of the county’s most vulnerable groups, including seniors, children, and the homeless. These donations play a critical role in The Salvation Army’s programming and social ministries that serve thousands of individuals and families throughout the year.

“While the record Red Kettle earnings might seem to be the success story, the real success of this campaign is the record impact it will have on those in need right here in our community,” said The Salvation Army-Serving Lancaster and Fairfield County Major Bryan DeMichael.

Through the Christmas Cheer campaign, 13,284 items of clothing and toys were distributed to 868 children and families in

Fairfield County were recipients of the program, and 13,284 items of clothing and toys were distributed to families during the Christmas season. Much of this success was made possible by Angel Tree host sites, comprising of 10 businesses and organizations in Lancaster and Pickerington.

“We are astonished at the support and generosity displayed by our community,” Major DeMichael said. “This campaign is successful because of those who see the value of giving back, whether through volunteering, donating or just praying for those in need. Together, we are furthering the mission of doing the most good for our neighbors and providing hope in every season of their lives.”

To learn more about their services, or to donate, call The Salvation Army office at 740-687-1921, or visit [fcOhio.salvationarmy.org](http://fcOhio.salvationarmy.org).

## Fairhope offers free grief support services to community



LANCASTER, Ohio - FAIRHOPE Hospice & Palliative Care is offering free grief support services to individuals in the community who may need it. These services are available to adults, children and families, regardless of whether their loved one was a FAIRHOPE patient.

FAIRHOPE’s Adult Grief Support Group is a free resource that meets on select Fridays each month from 10-11 a.m., providing a supportive space for participants to understand their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors related to grief.

Individual grief support is also available for adults at no

cost via Facetime, Microsoft Teams, over the phone, or in-person. To view the current support group schedule or to learn more about our offerings, call 740-304-0869 or visit <https://fairhopehospice.org/grief-support/adult-grief/>.

Supplemental material for all ages and grief stages can be accessed on our website at <https://fairhopehospice.org/grief-support/grief-resources/>. These documents are free and downloadable for yourself, or to share with friends and family as they navigate these experiences.

To learn more about FAIRHOPE Hospice & Palliative Care, visit [www.fairhopehospice.org](http://www.fairhopehospice.org), or find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FairhopeHospice](https://www.facebook.com/FairhopeHospice).

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Concert Special Guest:  
Marianne Forman, composer



SUNDAY, MARCH 30 | 7PM

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This concert will weave together timeless hymns, choral masterworks, and a brand new work, *Trinity: Our God of Hope and Help* by Marianne Forman.

Not a ticketed event, but a free will offering will be accepted

Read the Towne Crier online at [www.fairfieldtownecrier.com](http://www.fairfieldtownecrier.com)



# THIS 'N' THAT



Local Events, News, Happenings & More!

The deadline for the March 10 Issue is Noon, March 7

## We Want Your News Items!

Submissions for This 'n' That accepted only by email at [freedomptg@roadrunner.com](mailto:freedomptg@roadrunner.com) in Microsoft Word, .TXT, or RTF (Rich Text Format) only. We can no longer accept "hard-copy" submissions by mail or fax. Please include your name and phone number in case we have questions. Non-profit events only please. We reserve to right to select which items are published. Group flea markets, yard/garage sales and craft bazaars should be submitted as a classified ad at \$10 for 25 words, or a display ad (call toll-free 1-888-354-1352 for pricing).

## Lenten Fish Fry

The Thurston Methodist Church will be having Lenten Fish Fry's on the following Friday's: March 7, 14, 21, 28, and April 4

and 11 from 4:30-7:00 PM. Suggested donation \$13. Fried cod, baked or green beans, Au gratin potatoes or French fries, coleslaw or applesauce, roll, ice cream. Carry out only. Call 740-862-6943 or drive thru to place order.

## The Red Cross Will be Collecting Blood in Rushville on March 18

On March 18th the Red Cross will be collecting blood at the Rushville Lions Club located at 2960 Logan-Thornville Rd. As we start into the spring and summer, the need for blood increases. Be part of this life-giving event and know you have saved someone's life. The Red Cross will be collecting from 12-6 p.m.

## Lancaster Community Band Spring Concert: Showstoppers

The concert, directed By Judy Rehrer, will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 2pm at Faith Memorial Church, 2610 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster, Ohio 43130. Admission is free.

## Ohio Genealogical Society Meeting

The Ohio Genealogical Society, Fairfield Chapter, meeting is Thursday, March 20, at the Genealogical Research Library, 503 Lenwood Drive in Lancaster. Refreshments at 6:30 pm, business meeting at 7 pm, followed by a webinar on Irish ancestry. All are welcome.

## Garret Players presents: Mrs. Packard by Emily Mann

A powerful story of one woman's struggle for sanity and justice in a world that seeks to silence her.

Friday, March 7 at 7 pm, Saturday, March 8 at 7 pm, Sunday, March 9 at 2 pm at the Fairfield County District Library Third Floor Garret, 219 N. Broad St., Lancaster

Mrs. Packard is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC [www.broadwayplaypublishing.com](http://www.broadwayplaypublishing.com)

1. The Library will open 30 minutes before curtain time.

2. First-come-first-served seating will be limited to 100 for each performance.

3. There is no admission charge or tickets.

4. All donations will support the Friends of the Library.

5. Suitable for teenagers and adults.

## Fairfield Growing Supports Local Products

It is easy to get excited about fresh fruits and vegetables when the farmer's markets are in their full glory but do you partake in the diverse range of Fairfield County food products that are available all year long?

Fruits, vegetables, honey, eggs, meats, baked goods, award winning wines, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscriptions that can include all of the above and collaborations between farmers and restaurants are all important to maintain and secure local foods for future generations.

Fairfield Growing's volunteer leaders are dedicated to promoting local agriculture in its many forms to ensure sustainable economic development that will improve the availability of local foods. Its definition of "local" refers primarily to Fairfield County but also includes producers and products from surrounding counties.

To keep up with the local offerings, please like and share Fairfield Growing's Facebook page. If you are a local producer that we are unaware of, please reach out to us so that we can help promote your efforts. You may also find a Local Foods Guide at <https://fairfield.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/local-foods-guide>.

## SWCD Tree Sale Continues

The Fairfield County Soil and Water office is currently taking orders for their annual 2025 tree seedling sale. For details check out the Fairfield SWCD website at <https://fairfieldswcd.org/> or call the office at 740-653-8154.

## SWCD Scholarship Deadline

The Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will offer up to three \$1,000 college scholarships per year.

Applicants must be graduating from high school and be residents of Fairfield County. Home-schooled students are eligible as well. At the time of application, applicants must have achieved at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).

Applicants need to be pursuing a degree in the fields of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation or Environmental Education. Call the SWCD office (740-653-8154) if you have a question about your area of interest.

Eligible post-secondary institutions include technical colleges, two-year associates, or four-year bachelor's degree programs. If you plan to attend something other than the above, please call the SWCD office to check on eligibility.

Scholarship application are due to the Fairfield SWCD office by March 31. Applications can be mailed or emailed to [scholarship@fairfieldswcd.org](mailto:scholarship@fairfieldswcd.org).

## Muscle Quality Performance Contests Open

Entries for the 2025 Fairfield County Jr. Fair Goat, Swine, and

Lamb MQP programs are now being accepted. Again, this year all MQP entries will be accepted on-line and must be submitted by April 15, 2025.

Please note that some of the important MQP details have changed as follows:

Goats for the MQP contest must be owned by May 17, 2025, and will be weighed-in on that date at the fairgrounds. After 99 days on feed the Goat MQP contest will conclude at the fairgrounds on Sunday, August 24, 2025. NEW for this year, female goats may now be entered in MQP, and there is no minimum weight requirement at harvest.

Lambs for the MQP contest must be owned by June 28, 2025, and will be weighed at the fairgrounds on that date. After 65 days on feed the MQP lambs will be brought back to the fairgrounds for the conclusion of the contest on September 1, 2025, which – NEW for this year – is Labor Day Monday.

Barrows or gilts for MQP must be owned by June 28, 2025, and will be weighed this year at the fairgrounds on that date. After 71 days on feed the MQP pigs will return to the fairgrounds for the contest conclusion on September 7, 2025. NEW for this year, only two pigs may be weighed/tagged in for MQP and these pigs may not be used for the "live" show at the fair.

Applications for any of these contests must be received on-line by April 15, 2025. Find more details about MQP here: <https://go.osu.edu/mqp>

## The Wagnalls Memorial Accepting Scholarship Applications

Annually since 1948, The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation has administered and awarded scholarships to area students including scholarships through Walker-Hecox-Hickle American Legion Post 677 in Lithopolis. This year thirteen scholarships are available for \$25,000. For most scholarships, applicants must be from Bloom Township and be graduating high school seniors. The deadline to apply is March 15. For additional details, please visit Wagnalls website at [www.wagnalls.org/page/scholarships](http://www.wagnalls.org/page/scholarships). please email executive director, Deb Silvia, at [dsilvia@wagnalls.org](mailto:dsilvia@wagnalls.org) or call 614-837-4765 x132.

## Ohio Genealogical Society Meeting

The Ohio Genealogical Society, Fairfield Chapter, meeting is Thursday, March 20, at the Genealogical Research Library, 503 Lenwood Drive in Lancaster. Refreshments at 6:30 pm, business meeting at 7 pm, followed by a webinar on Irish ancestry. All are welcome.

## Chess Club Meets Tuesday Nights

The Lancaster Community Chess Club is now meeting at the Lil Stuffins Workshop in the River Valley Mall in Lancaster. The club meets from 6:00pm - 8:00pm Tuesday nights in the party room. All are welcome. Any children must be accompanied by an adult. Sets are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. If you have any questions call Chris Miller at 740-607-3308.

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## NOTICES

**The Basil Joint Fire District's** 2024 Annual Financial Report is complete and available at the office of the Fiscal Officer, 410 Washington St., Baltimore, OH 43105

## EVENTS

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TURKEY SHOOTS** at Fairfield Fish and Game 2270 Bickel Church Rd 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 Feb 9, 23 March 9, 23 April 27

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## CARS, MOTORCYCLES

**1978 Honda GL 1000 Motorcycle**, Vetter Package. \$1,500. 1968 BSA 500 Touring motorcycle. Call 740-862-1232, if no answer, please leave message.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Roland Electric Piano** - Model F-140R with storage bench and learn to play books. Call 740-974-3719

**For Sale Early 1900's Sleigh** \$250. Vintage Coke Cooler \$125. Vintage 1940 Tricycle \$65. Call 740-862-4023

**Buying Collectibles** – Arrowheads, Sports Cards, fishing lures, older toys, Misc Antiques. Call John at 740-814-2771

**Cabbage Roll Maker** - Almost New, Automatic, unbelievable, works great, was \$200 new. Need help taking down Christmas lights? Willing to barter! No morning calls. 440-420-7838

**Is Your Home Getting A Little "Overcrowded"?** Sell some of your stuff! Place a Towne Crier classified ad at [fairfieldtownecrier.com](http://fairfieldtownecrier.com). It's quick, safe and easy.

**Wurlitzer Spinnet Piano** \$250. Joola Ping Pong Table 9' X 5' with wheels \$200. Triumph Lomun Laser Air Hockey, 6' Table \$250. Call 740-243-1684

**For Sale Timber Wolf Puppies** White and chocolate \$395 740-684-1814

**Buying Collections** of Hot Wheels, Old Matchbox, Vintage

diecast, Star Wars, Legos, Transformers, Vintage toys, Model cars, Vinyl rock albums/45s, golf clubs. Contact Larry Smith @ (740) 304-2136 (PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE) I will get back with you. Thanks -

**Living Room Brown Suede Chair.** FREE You must be able to load and transport it. Call 740-654-3602

**For Sale – Barbie Dolls,** Machinist tools & tooling, football cards, crafts. Call 740-503-3230

**For Sale Used Loveseat** \$150 OBO, 3 glass shelf 65" TV Stand \$50 Firm. Call 740-503-6120

**24" Computer Monitor** in very good condition. \$65 or best offer. Contact Ken at (220) 246-3923, call or text.

**Green Pied Parrotlet Bonded Pair.** Comes with cage and feed. Not hand tame. \$175 located in Lancaster call 740-409-3053

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## NOTICE

The 2024 annual financial report for Clearcreek Township is available for review by contacting Carolyn Holbrook, Fiscal Officer 740-474-1733.



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## Real estate tax relief for seniors and 100% disabled veterans available through county auditor

Homeowners aged 65 and older or those who are permanently and totally disabled may qualify for Ohio's Homestead Exemption for property tax relief.

That relief is improved due to legislation passed in 2023. The Homestead income threshold and exemption amounts now adjust with inflation annually.

The new income threshold will adjust to \$40,000 for 2025, up from \$38,600 in 2024.

The exemption amount, which reduces the amount of the value of the property that is taxed, will increase to \$28,000 in 2025, up from \$26,200 in 2024.

Those currently on the

program will automatically see the increased exemption amount.

Disabled veterans with a 100% disability rating and their surviving spouses qualify for an enhanced exemption. This amount also adjusts annually for inflation. The enhanced exemption value will increase from \$52,300 in 2024 to \$56,000 in 2025.

These amounts above apply to tax year 2024 (collected in calendar year 2025) for real property and to tax year 2025 (collected in calendar year 2025) for manufactured or mobile homes.

For more information on the Homestead program, please reach

out to the Fairfield County Auditor's office at (740) 652-7020. Homestead application forms are available at: <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/auditor/Ohio-Homestead-Exemption-Program.html>



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