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Moving on up

by Amy Carpenter, Ph.D.

There has been a lot of change at the Lancaster Fire Department. On March 4th the Lancaster Fire Department had their Promotion Ceremony at Engine House 1.

Fire Chief Slade Schultz
Fire Chief Slade Schultz is a lifelong resident of the Lancaster area. He brings a deep-rooted dedication and extensive experience to the Lancaster Fire Department. A 1999 graduate of Berne Union High School, he proudly continues a family legacy as a third-generation firefighter.

Chief Schultz began his career with the Lancaster Fire Department on May 13, 2002. He spent his first ten years of service with Crew 1. His commitment to

the department and its members led to six years of service on the IAFF Local 291 Executive Board, when he played a key role in advocating for firefighters' well-being and professional development.

In recognition of his leadership and expertise, Chief Schultz was promoted to Lieutenant on

Continues on page 2



Battalion Chief Harris with wife Annette and sons Mason and Max submitted

Shop & Dine
"Around The Lake"
[See page 4](#)

TC Connect Home & Business Services
Page 9

AUCTION!
Page 11

Retirement Sale

Ava is retiring and the entire store will be on sale until the end of April!

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Sunday, March 23 at 2:00 pm

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Caryl Emra Parkas, CSB
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Deadline for Mar. 31st issue is Mar. 28th

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Cover story continued



Lieutenant Smith and daughter Cali submitted

October 31, 2012. He further expanded his knowledge and skills through instructing EMS and fire courses at Eastland-Career Center, Ohio University Lancaster, and Hocking College, sharing his passion for public safety with future generations of firefighters and paramedics.

A graduate of Ohio Fire Executive Class 13, Chief Schultz is committed to continuous learning and professional growth. His dedication to excellence was recognized in 2019, when he was awarded Fire Officer of the Year by the Ohio Division of Public Safety.

He earned an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science from Eastern Gateway Community College in June 2021, further solidifying his expertise.

Demonstrating his commitment to the highest standards of leadership, Chief

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Chief Schultz, Leah Schultz and Mayor McDaniel submitted



Assistant Chief Moore and Angela Moore submitted

Schultz became a Credentialed Fire Chief by the Ohio Fire Chief’s Association in November 2021.

Chief Schultz currently resides in Lancaster with his family, where he continues to serve and protect the community he calls home.

Assistant Chief Larry Moore brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the Lancaster Fire Department. A 1989 graduate of New Lexington High School, he began his career of service with three years in the U.S. Air Force, specializing in aircraft maintenance.

He joined the Lancaster Fire Department on November 28, 1994, and has since risen through the ranks, demonstrating exceptional leadership and commitment. He was promoted to Lieutenant on March 5, 2007, and then to Battalion Chief on January 27, 2014. His contributions have been recognized with the Knights of Columbus Blue Coat Award in both 2001 and 2012.

Currently serving as Operations Chief, Assistant Chief Moore ensures the smooth and efficient operation of the department, overseeing everything from building maintenance to vehicle readiness. As chair of the new truck committee, he plays a crucial role in the department’s future. More than just a leader, he is a dedicated mentor and embodies the true spirit of servant

leadership, inspiring all those who have the privilege of working alongside of him.

Assistant Chief Moore currently resides in New Lexington with his wife Angela.

Battalion Chief Harris

Battalion Chief Josh Harris has been a dedicated member of the Lancaster Fire Department since September 6th, 2005, initially serving with Crew 3. A 1999 graduate of Millersport High School, Chief Harris has an impressive array of certifications, including Paramedic, Fire Instructor, Live Fire Instructor, Inspector, VFIS Instructor, and Blue Card Incident Command. He is deeply committed to the profession and serves as a vital leader within the department. Chief Harris is married to Annette Harris and they have two sons.

Lieutenant Smith

Lieutenant Taylor Smith is a rising leader within the Lancaster Fire Department. He joined the Lancaster Fire Department on April 14, 2018, and has demonstrated exceptional dedication. Smith holds a comprehensive range of certifications, including Firefighter II, Paramedic, Fire Service Instructor, Instructor, HazMat Technician, Rescue Technician and ISO. Beyond his professional achievements, he resides in Fairfield Beach with his wife Casey, and their children Jaxson and Cali.

Spring in the parks

by Kimber Caito,
Media Coordinator,
Fairfield County Park District

It may still feel like winter some days, but skunk cabbage, winter aconite, snowdrops, bloodroot, and trillium tell us otherwise, proving winter is at its end. Spring in the parks is something not to be missed!

Many do not realize there are different types of parks. In Fairfield County, Ohio, there are county parks (Fairfield County Park District) and city parks (e.g. Lancaster Parks & Recreation, Pickerington Parks & Recreation), plus township, village, and community parks. A few state parks and preserves add great diversity to the mix. To make it even more confusing, Wahkeena Nature Preserve has a state preserve designation, is owned by Ohio History Connection, and is staffed and managed locally by Fairfield County Park District!

Private parks and preserves also exist. One outstanding example is Coyote Run. Its owners are highly focused on conservation and restoration. They often partner with us and other agencies in many ways, promoting nature education.

However they may be organized, the fact remains absolutely awesome parklands are in this area! We hope you will visit as many as you can and enjoy what each has to offer. To help you do just that, we have partnered with a couple of those other entities to provide these programs:

Spring Wildflowers Series

Fairfield County Park District

April 11 at Cross Mound Park, April 19 at Mambourg Park, and April 27 at Smeck Park. Search for blooms of white, pink, purple, and every color of the rainbow!

Spring Wildflower Walks

Wahkeena Nature Preserve

Sundays April 13, 27, May 4, 11, 25. A naturalist will lead you through the woodland landscape of the preserve. Wildflower identification, folklore, and other topics of natural history will be considered along the way. On the final walk, the focus will turn from fading wildflowers to the many species of ferns to be found.

Wise Walkers

Senior Hiking Group

Fairfield County Park District and Lancaster Parks & Recreation

On the second Wednesdays of the month in different locations, meet others who enjoy the outdoors and visit parks you may not have even known existed. A printable 2025 schedule is available on our website.

Coyote Run Nature Series

Fairfield County Park District and Pickerington Parks & Recreation will present two programs in Coyote Run – April 26 Spring Wildflowers and May 3 Spring Migration.



Crocus in Mambourg Park | Fairfield County Park District



Winter Aconite in Mambourg Park | Fairfield County Park District



Snowdrops in Mambourg Park | Fairfield County Park District



Wild Blue Phlox in Smeck Park | Fairfield County Park District

Details about these and many other events are found on our Calendar at fairfieldcountyparks.org/events.

Get Out to Explore & Discover Fairfield County Park District – and others!



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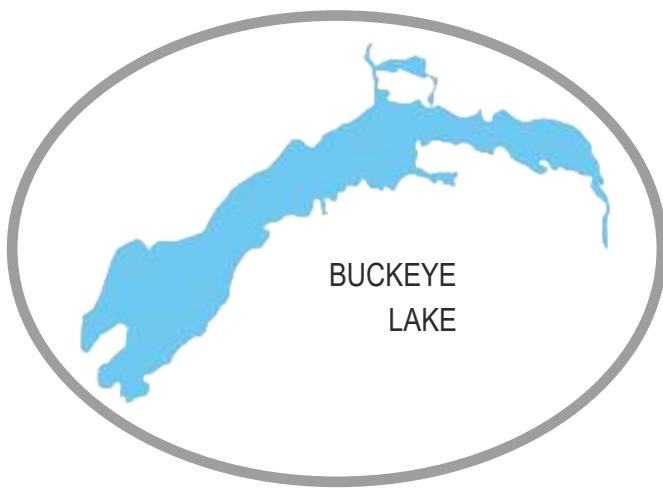
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Solar giant accused of censoring community: EDF Renewables legal loopholes aim to conceal negative impacts on property values in Fairfield County

MILLERSPORT, OHIO – Citizens for Fair Fields condemns EDF Renewables aggressive legal strategy, accusing them of attempting to silence community voices to force through a profit-driven solar project that disregards local concerns. They assert EDF is exploiting legal loopholes to block Walnut Township Trustee testimony, which includes an independent property value review, a maneuver intended to hide the project's harmful effects on existing homes and farming businesses.

"Placing a massive solar utility project so close to a high density of residents, farming businesses, and the Buckeye Lake recreational area is irresponsible and unacceptable," states Melissa Hoover Connor, a representative of Citizens for Fair Fields. "This is a classic David and Goliath battle. Their attempt to suppress the testimony of our trustees is a clear example of how they manipulate the system to 'get it done.' We urge the public to understand the gravity of this situation and demand that this project be withdrawn or denied."

About Citizens for Fair Fields
Citizens for Fair Fields is a grassroots organization of local farmers, friends, family, and neighbors in Fairfield County, Ohio. Their mission is to inform the community about proposed utility-scale solar projects and advocate for the preservation of prime farmland and natural spaces. For more information, contact: Melissa Hoover Connor at (614) 374-1352 or citizensforfairfields@gmail.com



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Millersport Council Report

Village Council met on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building. In attendance were Council Members President Pro Tem Elizabeth Butler, Nicole Crossan, Stephanie Helle, Jodi Naylor, Rick Thompson and Jim McKittrick. Also present were Fiscal Officer Susan Ramsey, Village Administrator Vincent B. Popo, Zoning Administrator Bill Simpson, Water Superintendent John Wood, Assistant Village Administrator Tim Morris, Lt. Justin Wiseman, Dean Severance, Karen Severance, Donna Thogmartin, Julie Whetstone, Misty Hoover Connor, Seth Pymmer, Sherry Pymmer, Barb Martin and Frank Martin.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

Roll call was taken and everyone was present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Police Department: Chief Mark Consolo sent statistics for the month of February. The department issued (5) five traffic warning, (6) six traffic citation, (2) two dispatch run and (1) one mutual aid runs and worked (88.5) Eighty-eight and half hours. Council also received the activity report for Walnut Township.

Fire Department: Chief Robert Price sent the run totals for the month of February. Station 631 made (36) thirty-six runs; Station 632 made (16) sixteen runs; Station 633 made (37) thirty-seven runs; and Walnut Township made (14) fourteen mutual aid runs.

Events for 2025 are 1) Community Bicentennial Dinner Saturday April 12, 2-25; 2) Memorial Day Ceremony Monday May26, 2025; 3) Bicentennial Festival on Saturday July 5, 2025; 4) Monster Mash V on Thursday October 23, 2025 and 5) Christmas parade Sunday December 7, 2025. Music in the Parks and the Time Capsule rededication will be set at a later day.

RESOLUTION 1391 is a resolution approving price increases for cemetery plots and opening and closing costs. A motion to pass Resolution 1391 was made by Councilor Rick Thompson and seconded by Councilor Beth Butler. All voted yes and the motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE 872 is an ordinance establishing right of way fees for 2025. A motion to pass Ordinance 872 was made by Councilor Beth Butler and seconded by Councilor Stephanie Helle. All voted yes and the motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Gary Matheny opened the discussion of the **potential** annexation of 500 acres saying that as of this date the village has nothing in writing concerning the sale of the property, the amount of money for the purchase, no monetary offer to the village and no legal specific requests. There was an hour conversation and speculation concerning the annexation of the property.

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 started doing the plumbing work for the village. The dry wall has been hung and is prepped to be painted. The target date of completion is April 1, 2025.

The Village of Millersport is celebrating its Bicentennial in 2025. The logos are set for ball caps, mugs and T-shirts and we will begin the purchasing process. Two hundreds tickets have been printed for the Saturday April 12, 2025 commemorative dinner at the Lions Club. Social time is 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$30.00 per person and each ticket holder receives a ball cap, t-shirt and mug. The Family Festival is set for Saturday July 5, 2025 and will feature a car show, a Poker Run, 5-K run, three live bands, and a bike rodeo for kids and a Monster Truck. Councilor Thompson created a flyer and photo for shirts. There are five stops and the last stop is at the Lions Club.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Rick Thompson and seconded by Councilor Beth Butler. All voted yes and the motion carried 6-0.

*A copy of the recorded Village of Millersport Council Meeting dated Tuesday March 11, 2025 is available upon request.

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The Friends of
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April 29, 2025
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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 to submit a nomination by March 10.



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

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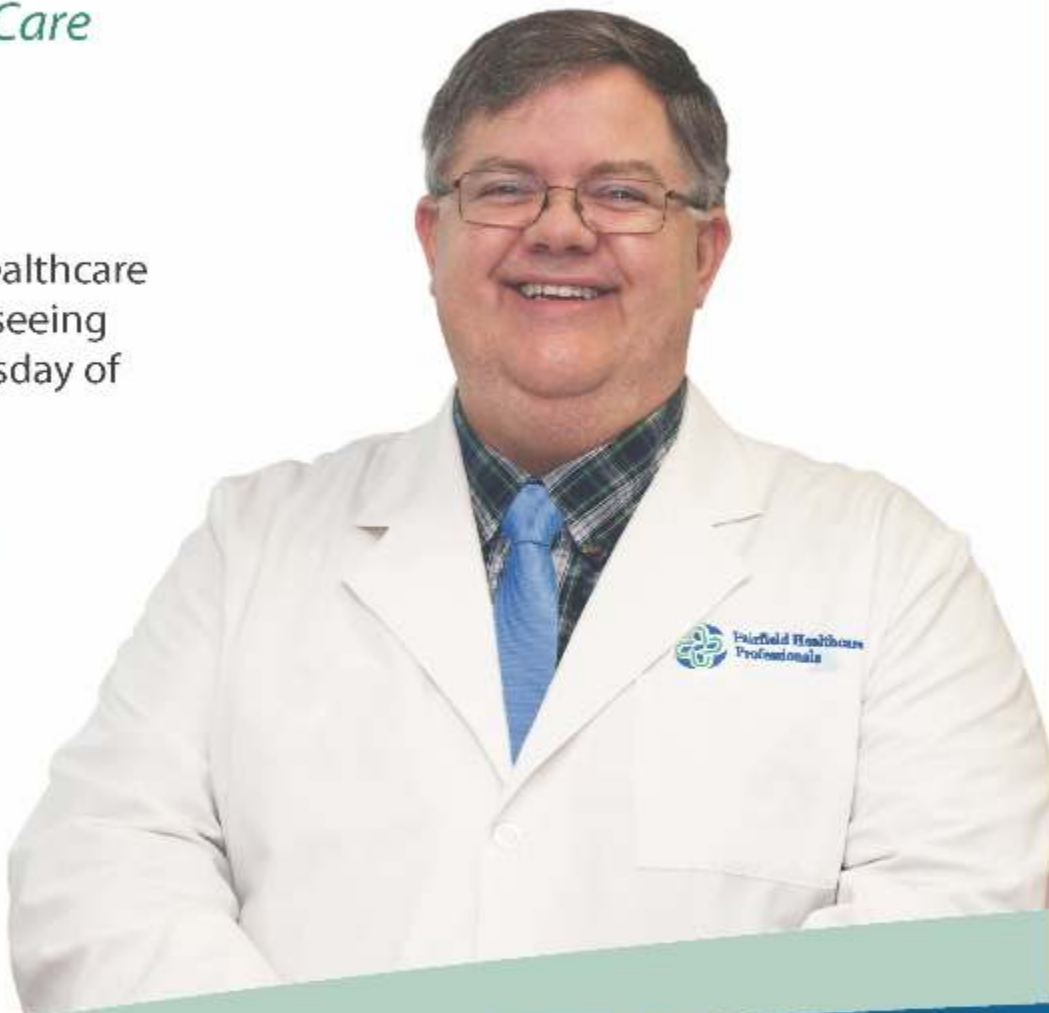
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Have a Little Patience Before Planting Potatoes

Chances are that some dedicated gardeners might have already tilled their gardens and planted their “seed” potatoes, with the goals of planting on or around St. Patrick’s Day. This tradition originated in Ireland. And it started back to the 1800s after the Great Potato Famine ended.

Potatoes are considered to be a cool-season crop and can be planted just as soon as the ground has thawed and dried enough to safely work the soil. But it is critical to allow the soil to dry adequately. If worked while it’s still too wet, soil becomes hard and compacted, leading to long-term frustrations for the eager gardener.

The potato plant can adapt to most types of soil but must have good drainage to prevent the tubers from rotting before they can be harvested. The part of the potato plant that we eat is called a tuber, a technical name that refers to an enlarged modified stem that grows underground. Potato tubers that are used to create a new planting are called seed potatoes. You’ll want to start with the best quality seed potatoes, so look for those that are labeled as “certified disease-free” at garden shops and in mail-order catalogs.

To start a new planting, choose a sunny, well-drained location and work in a moderate amount of organic matter and 2-3 pounds of a balanced, low-analysis fertilizer, such as 12-12-12 per 100 square feet, to promote vigorous plant growth. Potatoes grow best in acidic soil, pH below 5.2 if possible, to prevent infection of potato scab fungus. If possible, plant in a different bed than where potatoes were grown last year.

Cut the seed potato into pieces so each individual piece has at least one healthy-looking bud (often called an “eye”). That bud will become the shoot of the new plant and, as the stem develops, it also will produce new roots. The piece of tuber attached to the bud

provides a source of carbohydrates to sustain the young plant, until those new roots and shoots develop. Plant the pieces 2-3 inches deep, spaced about 12 inches apart within the row and 24-36 inches between rows.

New tubers that will become this year’s harvest generally begin to form sometime in early to mid-summer and continue to grow in size until early fall, as long as adequate moisture, air and nutrients are available.

The tubers can be harvested as “new” potatoes in mid- to late summer, before they reach full size and before the skins start to toughen. If you want bigger yields of full-size tubers, it’s best to leave the plants until they begin to die back on their own, usually by late summer or early fall.

How to Read a Seed Packet

Every company designs its seed packet layout differently. But generally speaking, each packet has a description of the seed, how and when to plant the seed and what to expect from the plant. Each should also have a date stamped showing the date it was created. It may also have a sell by date. This will help you determine the viability of the seed especially if you have saved a packet from last year. The photo or illustration on the cover gives the most idealized version of what the plant should look like at maturity. The common and botanical plant names are also included here which is useful in comparing plants as there are often many cultivars of the same plant and often more than one common name.

On the back of the packet, plants are generally described by color, dimensions, harvests produced and attributes that make them attractive selections. The company that harvested, packed and distributed the product is identified. Knowing how many seeds are in a packet can be critical. You don’t want to over-plant or run out half way down a row.

Type listed will be annual, biannual or perennial. Many packets have a hardiness chart. Know your hardiness area to check for frost free dates.

The amount of daylight required is also important - sun, at least six hours of sun, partial sun or shade. Moisture and soil requirements may also be listed. If

they are not it usually means the plant can thrive on moisture provided naturally in average soil conditions. Days to germination and mature height are estimations that depend on growing conditions. Herbs and edible plants will also include a days to harvest estimate.

Seed packets contain a variety of confusing information, but learning how to read the packets is crucial to giving your plants the best start in life.

Source: Barbara Kochick, Fairfield County Master Gardener Volunteer

Hellebores Can Be Fun to Grow

Hellebores, sometimes commonly called hybrid Lenten roses or hybrid Christmas roses, typically grow to 12-18” tall.

Hellebores are a genus of bushy, clumping, flowering perennials in the Ranunculaceae family native to Europe, Morocco, and temperate Asia. The genus contains 22 species and many hybrids that are commonly grown in gardens for their evergreen foliage and winter or early spring-blooming flowers. They are noted for producing single, cup-shaped flowers (typically 2 to 3 inches in diameter) in a large variety of colors, including various shades and tints of white, pink, red, purple, and yellow. Blossoms usually appear on the tips of the plant’s branched stems in late winter extending into early spring. The leaves are evergreen and dark green, glossy, leathery, deeply-lobed, and often toothed.

Hellebores do well in organically rich, well-drained, alkaline soils in light to moderate shade. The foliage is evergreen, but it may become scorched and tattered in extremely harsh winters. You should site the plant where it is protected from cold winter winds. Cut back flowering stems after bloom to promote new foliage growth. Established plants can become congested, but can be divided in late summer to early fall. Hybrid hellebores are often grown from seed, but plants will take two years to bloom when grown from seed. Deer and rabbits tend to avoid this plant. These plants can be grown in mass plantings in shady locations or where the clumps will slowly spread through self-seeding.

If you have the perfect woodland site, it’s time to plant one in your garden and experience the beauty in your garden.

Source: Carolyn Triest, Fairfield County Master Gardener

Lancaster Community Chorus presents its first concert of 2025



April 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. Lancaster Community Chorus will present “REQUIEM”, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Süssmayr), with guest Orchestra and Soloists at the First United Methodist Church, 163 E. Wheeling St., Lancaster OH 43130. **Please note the change from our usual venue for this concert.**

Mozart’s final composition, largely written while on his death bed, and completed mostly by his student and family friend Süssmayr, is a powerful work, incorporating many traditional elements of a funeral mass. The Requiem is an impactful representation of the experience of mortality and grief, with times of darkness contrasted with representations of hope. The Lacrymosa movement has become famous as a stand-alone piece, know for its beautiful melody and powerful ending. The full work shows Mozart at his mature best, and is an experience not to be missed.

The Lancaster Community Chorus is an auditioned community vocal ensemble of approximately 80 singers. Talented performers that comprise the chorus give generously of their time and energy in preparing each concert. Director: Clarence McCoy, Accompanist: Emily Plassman

Tickets: This concert is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Purchase \$12 tickets in advance via Eventbrite: Scan this QR code or order on our website.



Doors open at 2:30 p.m. For more information, please visit www.lancastercommunitychorus.com, email lancasterchorus@gmail.com, or call 740-653-5207.

What do God and Church mean to you? Feeling pure goodness and love every day!



Caryl Emra Farkas, CSB submitted

what God builds in our lives every moment through us responding to Christ Jesus’ message of God’s all-powerful love.”

Sharing examples of healing from her own life and professional practice of Christian Science, Ms. Farkas will explain why Christian Science is both Christian and scientific, meaning that people can prove its effectiveness for themselves, as fully described in the book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, written by the founder of the Christian Science movement, Mary Baker Eddy.

Ms. Farkas will also touch on the life of Mary Baker Eddy, who came to understand, confirm, and teach what she felt was original Christian healing. Eddy herself said she was especially inspired by Jesus’ demand, “He that believes on me, the works that I do will he do also; and greater works than these will he do, because I go unto my Father” (found in the Gospel of John 14:12 in the Bible).

For over 150 years, people around the world have worked to follow Christ Jesus in this practice of Christianity and continue to do so today, experiencing healings of physical ills and personal difficulties.

Emra Farkas has been a Christian Science practitioner for many years, helping people on a daily basis through this scientific approach to prayer. She travels from her home base in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to speak to audiences as a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

Lancaster: Emra Farkas, practitioner of Christian Science healing and international speaker, will present her talk, “**Finding where God is seen and felt – what’s church got to do with it?**” on Sunday, March 23, at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 201 S. Broad St.

The talk will focus on universal healing precepts found in the Holy Bible, especially in Christ Jesus’ life and teachings, showing how they are available for anyone to understand and experience through the lens of Christian Science. The talk is free, open to the community, and hosted by First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Lancaster.

“A new kind of thinking is needed to recognize that God’s goodness and love are actually here and tangible to all humanity everywhere,” says Ms. Farkas. “The idea of ‘church’ can shift from being a physical building, a set time on a particular day, or an assembly of perfect humans (does that even exist??), to that of being



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In loving memory of Jeremy R. Golden

Jeremy Robert Golden, 45, of Sandy Springs, Georgia, and formerly of Carroll, Ohio, left this world on March 3, 2025, passing in his sleep of natural causes. He was born January 29, 1980, in Columbus, Ohio, and was the beloved son of Tammy (Edward) Drobin of Carroll and close brother to Greg (Holly) Golden of Columbia Station, Ohio.

Above all else, Jeremy was a kind person, always willing to help others or animals in need. He loved his two rescue cats, Arya and Sansa. Jeremy had a wonderful sense of humor, was generous to all; loved movies, The Simpsons, concerts, and music (especially The Doors and Primus); played a mean bass guitar in the day; could draw and write; and was an amazing chef. Many friends and family enjoyed the creations made by Cheffy over the years.

Jeremy was thrilled to meet the

star of his favorite movie since he was 9 years old, Cary Elwes of *The Princess Bride*, two years ago. His mother is grateful to have shared that experience with him.

Many friends and coworkers described him as a “Gentle Giant.” His presence could be intimidating when it needed to be (or if he was joking with someone), but those close to him knew he was a big teddy bear at heart. He touched the lives of many people and his memory will be cherished forever by those who knew and loved him.

Jeremy was preceded in death by his Grams and Gramps, Middy and Don Clum; great-grandparents, Jay and Bessie Benson and Earle and Iva Clum; and best friend, Jason Caudill, all of Carroll.

Memorial donations may be made to local an animal welfare organization of your choice.



Caring cremation was provided by H.M. Patterson and Son Chapel of Sandy Springs, Georgia. Interment will be at Betzer Cemetery, Carroll, at a later date.

Jeremy, you will be in our hearts forever.



Fairfield County Workforce Center to host free Explore Career Camps

(CARROLL, OH) - The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance and the Fairfield County Workforce Center are thrilled for the return of Explore Career Camps this summer, free of charge for Fairfield County students who will be in grades 6, 7, and 8 during the 2025-2026 academic year. These unique camps will introduce youth to one-week sessions designed to build interest in careers in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and construction.

In its fourth year, the Workforce Center Career Camps will be led by instructors from Hocking College, Ohio University-Lancaster, and Lancaster City Schools, with support from Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency and ASCENT. There will be no fee or

cost to the students participating in the camps – all are funded by the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, the Fairfield County Commissioners, and Lancaster City Schools.

“We continue to be amazed at the popularity of these unique camps,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. “Our goal is to introduce and inspire interest in future careers by providing hands-on experiences in engineering, building, and STEM-related fields. But these experiences deliver even more than skills and insight; students are having a blast while engaging, creating, and making friends.”

Camps will run from 9 a.m. to noon each day. The final day will provide an opportunity for family

members to visit the camp to see what their students have learned from their involvement. The Totally Tech Bot Camp will teach robotics and other advanced manufacturing skills to students. The Healthcare Heroes Camp will introduce students to careers in healthcare in a fun setting. The Builders Camp gives students an opportunity for hands-on learning in basic carpentry and other skilled trades. And the All-Girls STEM Camp encourages females to become involved in engineering.

Space for students in all the camps is limited, and registration is required. For additional information, visit www.fairfieldcountyohioworkforcecenter.gov/career-camps.html.

Harcum House nears \$1 million goal in capital campaign – final push underway

LANCASTER, Ohio – Harcum House is on the verge of a historic milestone, with just \$57,000 left to reach its \$1 million capital campaign goal. As the organization makes its final push, community members are encouraged to step up and help close the gap to ensure critical services for children and families continue.

Harcum House, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing essential services to children and families affected by abuse and trauma, launched the capital campaign last fall. The campaign will support the purchase and renovation of the former Hunter Trace Center building to serve as a long-term home in the Fairfield County community where it serves. With overwhelming community support, the organization has made tremendous progress, but it now needs one last surge of donations to cross the finish line.

“We are so close to reaching this incredible goal, and we know that with the generosity of our community, we can get there,” said Cody Tatum, Harcum House Executive Director. “Every dollar donated will create lasting impact in the lives of children who need our support.”

For more information about the campaign and to help Harcum House achieve their goal, visit <https://www.harcumhouse.org/capitalcampaign> and spread the word by encouraging friends and family to give. The capital campaign invites community members, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic organizations to join in supporting the mission of Harcum House.

“This campaign is about more than just a number – it’s about continuing to provide safety, advocacy, and healing for children in crisis at a permanent location right here in Lancaster,” said Kate Smiley, Campaign Chair. “We need the community to come together now more than ever.”

To learn more about Harcum House, please visit <https://www.harcumhouse.org/>.



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Help us celebrate with an Open House on
March 31 from 11am-2pm at the Main Office at
111 East Main Street, Lancaster, OH.



The coffee lady

by Rick Schneider

It was around midnight in early December at the Pickering House. A woman, Nana had been sitting at her sleeping husband’s bedside for quite a while. At this stage of life sleeping most of the time is natural. With the end slowly, relentlessly approaching she didn’t want to leave him alone.

In the stillness of the room Nana had been reminiscing about their life together. How they met, their wedding, the vacations, his good side and some of his quirks she had to adapt to. They had a good life together. Around midnight her eyes were beginning to get heavy. She decided to go to the Pickering House’s family kitchen and lounge area to brew some coffee. It looked like it may be a long night.

Having brewed her coffee and holding her cup with both hands she walked down the silent hall to her husband’s room. Around 5:00 a.m., after a night of short naps, she decided to go back to the kitchen to have a second cup of coffee.

As Nana entered the family kitchen area a man was there whom she had not seen before. She suspected that he was in the same situation as her. As Nana approached the coffee pot he told her that the coffee is old and not good.

“You are right. I made it at midnight.” Nana replied.

She made a fresh pot of coffee and poured him a cup. Being grateful, he said the coffee was perfect; adding, “You must be the ‘Coffee Lady’ “.

With tongue-in-cheek she responded, “Yes, I am.”

He walked to the window and, staring outside, talked about the birds he had been watching at the bird feeder the day before. The two had a nice conversation but never talked about why they were there. Nana told me, “We knew why and just wanted our coffee break.”

After a short while, Nana told him she needed to get back to her husband’s room. He asked if she would be back later to fix more coffee.

“If not, the girls know my recipe.” was her reply.

“But the coffee wouldn’t be the same if it wasn’t brewed by the Coffee Lady.”

Smiling from the remark, Nana took a step to leave then halted. After a few seconds of silence she turned around, and with tears in their eyes, they spontaneously hugged. This was one of those unexpected divine moments in life. A kairos moment that opens up and your heart gets it. Your heart grasps the spirituality of the moment, a moment that never goes away.

Around a year after her



husband transitioned to Heaven, Nana the “Coffee Lady”, fondly remembered her conversation with the man at the Pickering House. She knew that she would not have experienced the almost physical spirituality she felt that night, had her husband had not been under FAIRHOPE’s care.

Adjusting to her life without her husband by her side, Nana felt compelled to say “Thank you” to FAIRHOPE with more than a card. She decided to do so by becoming a hospice volunteer. She now gives to others what she had so freely been given.

Our Coffee Lady does not make coffee at the Pickering House as a volunteer. But now that I think about it, maybe I should ask her to brew a pot. I’ve heard that it is good.

Local DAR Chapter holds annual awards ceremony

by Connie Murphy
Historian/Regent Elect
Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter
Daughters of the American
Revolution

The Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, held its annual Awards ceremony on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Crossroads Event Center in Lancaster.

Those honored were L-R: Alan Gummere – Hannah Arnett SAR Award winner; Sherri Kilbarger – NSDAR Community Service Award winner; Karen Henry – Outstanding Women In American History Award winner; JoAnn Welsh representing Bottoms Up organization – NSDAR Community Service Award winner; Dr. Lori Cronin – NSDAR Distinguished Citizen Award winner; Katherine Andrea Rose Smeltzer, Fairfield Christian Academy – NSDAR Good Citizen Award winner and Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter DAR Good Citizen 1st Place



submitted

winner; Samatha Nicole Bader, Liberty Union H.S. – NSDAR Good Citizen winner; Samantha Elizabeth Whitcraft, Pickerington North H.S. – NSDAR Good Citizen Award winner.

Winners unable to attend were Chase Hamilton – NSDAR Foundation Medal; Avery Nicole Dicken, Logan H.S.; Molly Bloom Herington, Lancaster H.S.; Ellie Mae Moss, Amanda Clearcreek H.S.; and Larry

Gunnet West, Bloom-Carroll H.S. Chapter Regent Jessica Orr presided over the awards ceremony.

The Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter congratulates all our awardees and considers the Lancaster and Fairfield County area to be fortunate to have such a wonderful group of citizens. We consider ourselves honored to have the opportunity to recognize them.

Fairfield County Educational Service Center adopts STEM and manufacturing pilot program

Fairfield County Education Service Center (ESC) is operating a four-year, grant-funded pilot program to expand access to manufacturing, as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) career pathways for underserved students in rural, southeastern Ohio. In collaboration with Belmont County ESC, the Workforce Center, and Ohio University, the Rural Post-Secondary Economic Development (RPED) initiative will transform workplace readiness opportunities for this student population.

RPED addresses key challenges faced by rural students, such as limited resources, geographic barriers, and lack of career guidance in their respective areas. Through integrated career exploration services and the implementation of a full-time STEM/Advanced Manufacturing Career Navigator by the Fairfield County ESC, this program bridges the gap between academic advising and workplace readiness.

With the rise of career-technical education in Ohio, STEM and manufacturing industries are experiencing significant growth, offering students a gateway for future careers in these high-demand jobs. Stemming from a cooperation of educational and technical institutions formally known as the Appalachian Semiconductor Education and Technical (ASCENT) Ecosystem, RPED contributes to the common thread of

maximizing resource accessibility and student support to improve graduation rates and enrollment in post-secondary education.

“This is a critical turning point for students who are actively seeking a change in their trajectory,” said Marie Ward, Ph.D., Superintendent, Fairfield County ESC. “Our vantage point of career-readiness has catered to students immediately within our school districts, but we must consider those not as easily accessed whose futures depend on personalized academic support.”

The pilot program, which commenced in 2024 and will run through the 2027-28 school year, aims to collect necessary data on student growth and outcomes to modify the Career Navigator model, which helps local schools meet the need of every student to ensure they have pathways for success following graduation. For students entering ninth grade in each year of RPED, a STEM interest assessment will be completed to arrange career navigation services for applicable individuals beginning in grade 10, culminating upon graduation.

The Fairfield County Educational Service Center provides student-centered educational leadership and supportive services to meet the individual and collective needs of the staff, students and boards of education of the eight local school districts located in Fairfield County. More information can be found at faircoesc.org

Krile Communications adds Beth Craft to growing team of marketing and public relations professionals



Beth Craft submitted

She is a great fit for our team!” Beth earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Ohio University, where she worked as a radio broadcaster for four years. She has over 15 years of experience in the field, ranging from public relations and communications for American Electric Power in the corporate sector, to donor relations and event planning for community non-profit organizations, including United Way of Fairfield County and the Fairfield Medical Center Foundation.

“Beth brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to Krile Communications, enhancing our ability to provide clients with the tools and strategies needed to achieve their goals,” said Executive Vice President Jill Butterbaugh. “As we continue to grow, her contributions will be key in maintaining the high standards of service and innovation that our clients have come to expect.”

To learn more about Krile Communications, visit www.krilecommunications.com or follow Krile Communications on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Lancaster, OH – Krile Communications is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Lancaster native Beth Craft, who will serve in the role of Client Relations Manager.

“We are excited to welcome Beth to our growing team,” said Angela Krile, president and CEO. “Beth brings unique skills and experience, as well as deep community connections, which will undoubtedly be a major asset for our clients. We look forward to working closely with her and benefiting from her valuable contributions. Beth’s strong attention to detail, collaborative spirit, and client-service mindset are top-notch.



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THIS 'N' THAT

Local Events, News, Happenings & More!

The deadline for the March 31 Issue is Noon, March 28



We Want Your News Items!
Submissions for This 'n' That accepted only by email at 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 the 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 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 Ohio Genealogical Society Meeting
The Ohio Genealogical Society, Fairfield Chapter, meeting is Thursday, April 17, at the Genealogical Research Library, 503 Lenwood Drive in Lancaster. Refreshments at 6:30

pm, business meeting at 7 pm, followed by the program with Dave Benson, former Fairfield County Fair official, on the log cabin at the fairgrounds. All are welcome.

We Want Your Yard Sale Items!
The Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Annual Indoor Yard Sale will be April 4, 5 & 6. We welcome your yard sale donations which will be accepted between now and April 3.
How to donate items: Call Peggy Portier at 614-595-5867 to set a date and time to drop off your items at the Museum's rear door or have her pick them up at your home.
What to donate: Your no-longer-needed household items, décor, tools, sporting goods, toys, games, books, record albums, jewelry, collectibles, and more! Sorry, because of limited space, we cannot accept clothing or large pieces of furniture.

Events at the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society
Indoor Yard Sale - museum lower level: Fri, April 4, 8am-1pm; Sat, April 5, 8am-1pm; and Sun, April 6, 2-4pm (clearance pricing)
Model Trails Galore! - museum upper level: Fri, April 4, 8am-1pm; Fri, April 4, 6-8pm; Sat, April 5, 8am-8pm; and Sun, April 6, 2-4pm (try your hand at Morse code on a telegraph key)
The Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society is located at 15 East Columbus Street, Pickerington.

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.

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-](https://fairfield.osu.edu/program-areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/local-foods-guide)

[areas/agriculture-and-natural-resources/local-foods-guide](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.

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>

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TOWNE CRIER

March 17, 2025

Classifieds

Respondents to classified ads should buy or sell at your own risk.

NOTICES

2025 Annual Board Meeting for The West Rushville Burial Association. This meeting is open to the public will be on March 29, 2025 at 1 pm at 7415 Winegardner Road, Rushville.

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 Falsters Hams, Falsters Bacon, Turkeys and money shoots March 23 & April 27

YARD & MOVING SALES

Moving Sale – March 28th & 29th 9am to 3pm at 1669 Lexington Drive, Lancaster. Furniture, antiques, Longaberger Collection, Christmas Village, Noritake Glassware, new bath vanity (in box) Much More!

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MISCELLANEOUS

Looking For Our Lost Orange Male Cat. Yellow eyes. White

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

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

Wurlitzer Spinet 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

For Sale All Power 6000 Watt Generator, pull start, on wheels \$450. Dog pen 30x30x48 \$80. Four cross flag hubcaps for Corvette \$100. 740-862-4957

1959 Barbie Doll \$150. 1960 Ken Doll \$100 with case and accessories. Early 1900 doll kid body \$75. Antique wood doll bed 27" x 19" \$100. All good condition. Call 740-862-4023.

Obituary

James H McIntire 96 years, passed away February 21, 2025 at his home in Baltimore, Ohio with his wife Donna King McIntire and son James R McIntire present. He was buried in the family plot at Barlow Cemetery near Beverly, Ohio.



Fox Property Maintenance

Interior & Exterior Renovation Specialist

Tyler Fox
740-777-8334

foxisflipping@gmail.com

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES AUCTION! SATURDAY - MARCH 29 @ 10:00 AM 157 E Fair Ave-LANCASTER, OH 43130

FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (AAA Bldg) Beautiful French Louis XV Style Rosewood Marquetry Writing Desk, Early 25-drawer Dental Cabinet w/orig glass trays, Oak Quartersawn Library Table w/Griffin Head Feet, Globe Wernicke 6-Stack Barristers Bookcase, Terrific Child's Ice Cream Table & (2) Chairs, More Furn; Primitives, Lou Rosey-Lancaster Jug, KY Distillery-Sugar Grove Jug, Ohio State Beverage Crate, Old Mr Boston Gilbert Bottle Clock, Clocks, Lalique Nude, Carlson Hanging Heart Vase, Fostoria American, Cut Glass, EAPG, Weller, Roseville, Rookwood Ewer, Hull, McCoy, Quilts, Hudson Bay Blanket & Jacket, Books, Ephemera, Lg Selection of Art, Jewelry (2nd Auction Ring), few Pocket & Wrist Watches, Lg selection of Mini Perfumes (most full), *See dafauction.com or auctionzip.com (ID 5526) for 200+ Pics & Full Flyer!* **TERMS:** Cash or Check (If known to us). Visa/MC w/4% Clerking Fee. Pos Id. Sales Tax, Food. 2-Auction Rings!

DAF AUCTION, INC
AUCTIONEERS: DAVID FLOOD,
DIXIE MOLLENKOPF & ALLIE POSTON
614.783.8339 - dafauction.com

LARGE ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES AUCTION! SATURDAY-MARCH 22 @ 10:00 AM 637 Reese Ave-LANCASTER, OH 43130

On-Site Auction! Located between Tallmadge Ave & Hunter Ave. Street Parking! Large Auction w/3 Auction Rings! Furniture, Antiques, Collectibles, Primitives, Hocking Valley Cider Mill, Anvil w/Hardies, c.i. Farm Bell, c.i. Kettle, Enterprise Lard Press, Vintage Stereo Gear, Glass & Pottery, Household, Frigidaire Upright Freezer, Cookware, Xmas, Shot Glass Collection, Matchbook Collection, Tire Ashtray's 50+ Toy Tractors, Implements, Ertl Die Cast Cars, Banthrico Banks, Modern Boxed Barbies; 20+ Early Beer Lights & Signs (Burger, Budweiser, Carlings, Kessler, Pabst, Strohs, Blatz, Four Roses, 30+ Budweiser Steins, etc), *{20+ Guns & Ammo, 50+ Pocket & Sheath Knives, Coins 2nd Ring-Not On-site until Auction}*, Large selection of Tools (3rd Ring), Craftsman Metal & Wood Bench Lathes, Craftsman Joiner, Radial Arm Saw, 12" Bandsaw, Bolens Lawn Tractor w/38" deck & blade, J-D STX38 Lawn Tractor, J-D 112 Lawn Tractor (needs work), Lincoln 220 Welder, Hydrostar 60' Pwr Feed Drain Cleaner, Stihl Blower & Trimmer, Homemade 4x6.5 Single Axel Trailer, Hardware & More! *See dafauction.com or auctionzip.com (ID 5526) for 200+ Pics & Full Flyer!* **TERMS:** Cash or Check (If known to us). Visa/MC w/4% Clerking Fee. Pos Id. Food. 3-Auction Rings!

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ANNUAL FARM EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

We will be conducting our Annual community consignment Auction of farm equipment, construction equipment & farm chattels. For convenience & ample parking, this Auction will be conducted at the **FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** located at **157 EAST FAIR AVE in LANCASTER, OH.** From Memorial Dr (US 33#) turn east at Fair Ave to Fairgrounds. Signs will be posted sale day!

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025
SALE TIME- 10:00 AM

We are currently accepting consignments of tractors, planting, tillage, baling, excavation & construction equipment along with other farm & livestock related items. **NO SMALL ITEMS** or junk items accepted! Auctioneers reserve the right to reject any item or equipment not meeting our expectations. Check our websites for we will update as consignments as committed.

AUCTIONEERS NOTE- Call today to reserve your spot & receive free advertising. Not responsible for accidents or equipment after sold. Not responsible for consignor's failure to bring advertised item. Announcements made sale day shall take precedence. Come early sale day for there will be NO SMALL ITEMS! Visit AuctionZip.com (ID-1450) & LeithAuctions.com for updated listing.

BUYERS TERMS: Cash or good check with photo ID. Bank letter of credit required for checks over \$1000. Credit cards accepted with 3% convenience fee. All items sold "AS IS" without warranty.



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April 25, 2025 • 6:00 PM

Scan to purchase auction tickets online

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431 S. Columbus Street
Lancaster • Ohio

Tickets • \$10.00
Purchase early online, at the glass museum or at the door on the 25th

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Bidding Begins at 7:15 pm

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