



TRIBUNE-COURIER

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04.16.26



Arizona sculptor's Glass In Flight exhibit coming to Kingwood

Kingwood Center Gardens will host Glass In Flight 2, an exhibition of larger-than-life glass and steel sculptures, May 23 through Sept. 7. The exhibit features sculptures celebrating pollinators and the beauty of the natural world. Some are never-before-seen pieces including a new monarch butterfly and bats with six-foot wingspans.

Over 40 sculptures will create arches and groupings or be showcased as individual pieces.

Artist Alex Heveri, a Tucson, Arizona sculptor, has been creating large-scale steel and luminous Dalle de verre glass sculptures for over 30 years. Her stunning and realistic works are all conceived, designed, assembled and welded entirely by her.

Heveri has three traveling exhibits nationwide including Tucson Botanical Garden, Reiman Gardens, Houston Botanic Garden, Atlanta Botanical Garden and the San Antonio Zoo. An exhibit preview reception with the artist will be held on Friday, May 22.

Glass in Flight 2 is included with general garden admission to Kingwood Center Gardens.

Garden admission is \$10 for non-members \$5 for 7-18 years, free for children six and under and free for Kingwood members. Learn more at Kingwoodcenter.org or call 419-522-0211.

ACCA accepting sale donations

The Ashland County Cancer Association is accepting gently used donations for its annual rummage sale. Donations will be accepted at the ACCA office, 1011 E. Main St., Ashland, Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm until May 7; and at the Ashland County Fairgrounds, 2042 Claremont Ave., May 11-22 and May 26-29, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Acceptable donations include clothing and shoes (infant-adult), furniture and home décor, household, kitchen, bed and bath, electronics, appliances, books, games, toys, jewelry, purses, kids and baby items, tools, sports and outdoor, pet, seasonal items and antiques.

The sale is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, from 2-8 pm; Thursday, June 4, from 9 am to 7 pm; and Friday, June 5, from 9 am to 3 pm, at the fairgrounds. The sale is held indoors.

For more information call 419-281-1863 or text 419-606-0549.

Shelby seeks volunteers to support downtown flower program

The Community Improvement Corporation of Shelby (CIC) is inviting community members to lend a hand in keeping downtown Shelby vibrant and welcoming by volunteering to water the city's downtown flowers on weekends and holidays.

The downtown flower program is a key part of Shelby's ongoing placemaking and downtown revitalization efforts, helping create a more attractive, inviting environment for residents, visitors, and local businesses. Each season, the hanging baskets and planters throughout downtown are maintained through the dedication of volunteers who give their time to support the community.

To ensure the flowers continue to thrive throughout the summer, the CIC is currently seeking volunteers to help cover weekend and holiday watering shifts. These time slots are critical to maintaining the health and appearance of the flowers during the hottest and busiest times of the season.

"The downtown flowers have become a point of pride for Shelby," said Cody Albert, president of the Shelby Community Improvement Corporation. "They are only possible because of our partnership with the City of Shelby and the volunteers who care deeply about our community and are willing to step up and help."

Volunteering is simple and flexible, with individuals, families, and organizations encouraged to sign up for available dates. No prior experience is required, and all necessary guidance is provided.

The CIC emphasizes that community involvement is essential to advancing Shelby's future and sustaining projects like the downtown flower program. The organization regularly relies on volunteers to support initiatives that enhance quality of life and strengthen the city's sense of place.

Residents interested in volunteering can learn more and sign up by visiting: www.shelbycic.com/flowers

The Shelby Community Improvement Corporation is a public-private partnership dedicated to advancing economic development, supporting strategic real estate projects and enhancing the quality of life in Shelby, Ohio. Through collaboration with local partners, the CIC works to attract investment, facilitate redevelopment, and implement initiatives that strengthen the community.



Photo By Jeff Hoffer

THE OHIO BIRD SANCTUARY held a Baby Bonanza Bake Sale on Saturday, April 11, with free admission with a gift from the sanctuary's Amazon wish list. At the event were learning stations, games, crafts, baked goods and a special presentation with an ambassador raptor that was once cared for in the nursery. Those attending were able to talk with staff and learn about the care offered to pediatric raptors and songbirds with the goal of release.

More Photos on Page 7

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rural Richland County better off without industrial wind, solar

I support the need for clean energy. There are ways to scale it up that don't come at the cost of ruining the scenic beauty that makes rural Richland County special — a place where people currently love to live, work, play and where tourists come to spend their dollars.

Few areas in Ohio remain offering the beauty and appeal of our county's countryside — it represents one of Ohio's last best places. These scenic qualities are of enormous value and worth protecting. Township trustees and our county commissioners have banned industrial wind and solar projects in our rural landscape. Your "YES" vote on the May 5 referendum keeps this protection in place.

Giving industrial wind and solar access here (with their collateral damage such as new high voltage lines forced across our properties through eminent domain) would prove catastrophic. These out-of-state companies target our farmland as it is easier and more profitable for them to build solar arrays there than on the rooftops, parking lots, abandoned industrial sites and other already-developed areas where they belong.

As property owners, for the most part we enjoy the right to do what we want on our property so long as it does not create a severe detriment to the public good. But consider this — our right to swing our fist ends at the tip of another person's nose - and allowing industrial wind or solar on one's rural property is delivering a haymaker to the face of neighbors, tourists, commuters — all who frequent this shared countryside and benefit deeply from its unspoiled scenic qualities. Once leases have been signed with their restrictive fine print favoring the companies, the jarring damage to the homes and quality of life for these unwilling participants is irreversible. Who wants to buy land looking out over a sea of solar panels or in the shadow of towering wind turbines?

Should a few individuals be allowed to enrich themselves at everyone else's expense? This is one issue where the choice to limit my property rights is an easy decision.

Larry Smith, Mansfield

Representative John applauds funding for Mansfield theatre renovation

State Representative Marilyn John has announced that the Ohio Controlling Board recently approved the release of \$500,000 for the Mansfield Renaissance Theatre "Road to 100" renovation project.

The funding will support the replacement of seating in the historic 1,402-seat theatre, which hosts nearly 40 productions each year, including Broadway-style musicals, concerts, educational programs, and family shows. The "Road to 100" project is a restoration effort as the Renaissance Theatre approaches its 100th anniversary in 2028.

"The Mansfield Renaissance Theatre holds tremendous cultural and educational significance and has made a lasting impact on my life and the people of Richland County over the past 100 years," said John. "I hope that, as a result of this renovation, people can continue enjoying the theater for at least another 100 years."

The board oversees requests for changes to budgetary authority for state agencies.

Earth Day events planned at parks

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is inviting residents and visitors to celebrate Earth Day 2026 with a series of community-focused events designed to promote environmental stewardship and appreciation for the region's natural resources.

"Earth Day is an opportunity for our communities to come together and take simple, meaningful actions that have a lasting impact on our watershed," said Dana Ohman, MWCD chief of conservation. "In addition to our public tree giveaway, we're proud to extend this effort into local schools, distributing more than 3,500 native seedlings to students across Ashland, Belmont, Muskingum, Tuscarawas and Noble counties."

A tree giveaway will be held April 18 from 10 am to noon at Atwood, Charles Mill and Tappan Lake Parks. Visitors to these parks will receive free oak seedlings which are especially valuable, serving as a vital food source for caterpillars and helping intercept and store rainwater.

The Earth Day Clean-up at the Lake will help keep parks pristine by gathering and disposing of trash around the lake. In return, participants will receive a free night of camping. Events occur April 18 at Atwood, Clendenning, Charles Mill and Tappan; and April 25, at Piedmont, Pleasant Hill and Seneca.

Richland County locations open for Prescription Take Back Day

The METRICH Enforcement Unit will be partnering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and local law enforcement to present another Prescription Take Back event for the community on Saturday, April 25.

This event is sponsored by the Mansfield Division of Police, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Shelby Police Department, Lexington Police Department, Plymouth Police Department, Richland County Solid Waste Authority, Richland Public Health, Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY) and the Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board.

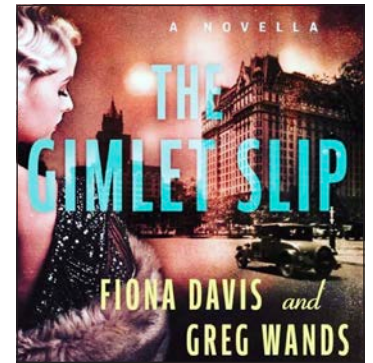
Pills and liquids in sealed containers or bags only, will be accepted (no sharps, batteries, vape pens or inhalers). This is only for household unused or expired medications — no pharmacies, businesses or pharmaceutical sales reps.

Richland County will have five locations open from 10 am to 2 pm. These include the Richland County Solid Waste Authority facility, 1125 National Pkwy., Mansfield; Richland County Sheriff's Office, 597 Park Avenue East, Mansfield; Shelby Police Department, 31 Mack Ave., Shelby; Plymouth Police Department, 48 W. Broadway St., Plymouth; and the Lexington Police Department, 44 W. Main St., Lexington. For more information related to the takeback event call Lt. Steve Blust at 419-755-9677.

LOST IN A BOOK



A Book Review
By Amanda Belczak



Fiona Davis always delivers a historical fiction story with interesting female characters, often less talked about in history. *The Gimlet Slip* novella is about women in the time of prohibition, running the illegal back alley deals.

I enjoyed it but wonder if it is better in print than audiobook.

The story was interesting but the voices and performance of the audiobook were a bit annoying. Overall a short, easy read.

My rating: ★★★★★

Follow my blog at amanda-belczak.com

Vol. 65
No. 27

Tribune-Courier



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News Briefs

The Earth Stewardship Celebration encourages all Richland County residents, organizations, businesses, churches, schools and government organizations to participate in cleaning up litter, a tree planting or beautification project.

To help get started, the Earth Stewardship Steering Committee invites the community to attend the kick-off and clean-up to open the 30th year anniversary of "Planting Pride, Not Litter" on Wednesday, April 22, at 11:30 am at North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), 486 Springmill St., Mansfield. To volunteer for the clean-up, contact Eva Wehry at eva@necic-ohio.org.

The Ontario Lions Pancake Breakfast will be held Saturday, April 18, from 6:30 am to noon at the Ontario High School.

The cost is \$7 with kids six and under eating free. The menu will include all-you-can-eat pancakes with sausage, coffee, milk and juice. Door prizes will be donated by local businesses and winners need not to be present to win.

The National Day of Prayer will be celebrated on May 7 with a parade in Mansfield.

The event, sponsored by Godsfild, will line-up at Penn Avenue beginning at 5 pm. The parade will start at 6 pm.

A service will be held in South Park, 100 Brinkerhoff Ave., at 7 pm. There will be a time of public worship and prayer and ministry. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/100-brinkerhoff-ave-mansfield-oh-44906-3238-united-states/national-day-of-prayer-parade/167706599331490/> for more information on the event or to sign-up for parade participation.

Some churches will be bringing bagged meals and hygiene products to pass out to those at the park.

Ontario UMC, 3540 Park Ave West, Ontario, will host exercise/walking led by an instructor for various age groups every Thursday at 10 am. This is open to the community at no charge. This will include chair yoga, dance exercise, resistance bands and walking.

Mansfield 1st Presbyterian Church, 399 S. Trimble Rd., will host a spring rummage sale Friday, April 17, from 9 am to 4 pm; and Saturday, April 18, from 9 am to noon.

Items will include clothing for children and adults, shoes, books, toys, housewares, furniture and more. Proceeds are used for local missions.

For information call 419-756-7066.

A special meeting of the Ontario Board of Education will be held in the Ontario High School Library, 467 Shelby-Ontario Rd., Ontario, on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting will be to discuss the development of tax policy with Rockmill Financial.

St. John's United Church of Christ will host a program on global warming featur-

ing speakers Gregory Wiles, Ph.D. Professor of Earth Science, College of Wooster; Rev. Dr. Faith Proietti; and Paul Robinson, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor North Central State College. The event will be held Saturday, April 25, from 9:30-11:30 am in the Mansfield/Richland County Library Community Room.

Mechanics Bank will host the OhioHealth mobile mammography unit on Thursday, April 23, from 9 am to 2 pm at its location at 490 N. Trimble Rd., Mansfield.

Those receiving service should bring an insurance card and photo ID. The location should be mentioned when scheduling at 614-566-1111 or 1-877-566-1112. A prescription from a physician is required for mammograms for women under 40. Women 40 and older do not require a doctor's order.

A recycling trailer will be in the parking lot at Ontario United Methodist Church, 3540 Park Avenue West, April 25 and 26. Acceptable items include steel and aluminum cans, crushed milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bottles with number 1 or 2 on the bottom, broken down cardboard, all papers included with the newspaper but no other magazines or paper. Please remove caps from bottles and rinse all containers well.

U.S. 42, between Township Road 543 and SR 89 in Ashland, closed Monday, April 13 for a culvert replacement. The detour route is U.S. 42 north to U.S. 250 east to SR 89 north to U.S. 42 and reverse. Estimated completion is Friday, April 24.

U.S. 42 (E. Main St.) northbound and southbound in the Village of Lexington, from SR 546 (Frederick St.) to Castor Rd., will have daily lane closures for a roadway and intersection improvement project. The

northbound and southbound driving lanes will be closed for sidewalk, signal and roadway work. Traffic will be maintained with 12' lanes in each direction with barrels. Project work includes adding bike lanes, reconfiguring intersection access, and various pedestrian improvements. Estimated completion is May 2026.

The Lexington Area Senior Citizens Inc., invites those 55 and older to attend meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am at Der Dutchman, Rt. 97, Bellville. Cost is \$17 for the meal, with an additional \$2 for pie.

The next meal will be May 20, and will include chicken. This is the LASC's 52nd anniversary. Jane Horton will be the guest.

The group will also meet for lunch on May 6 at 11 am at O'Charley's in Ontario.

For information visit the Facebook page at Lexington Area Senior Citizens (LASC). Dues are \$10 per year.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will host a free Senior Spring Extravaganza on Friday, May 29, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Mid-Ohio Education Center, 890 W. 4th St., Mansfield.

The Mardi Gras-style event will be focused on healthy and positive aging. Guests will enjoy resources and information on aging-related topics, along with a free lunch, BINGO, an on-site classic car show, music by Randy Velez and a variety of community vendors.

Register for the car show by calling 567-247-6458. Registration is not required to attend the event. For more information call 419-524-4144 or follow www.facebook.com/aaa5ohio. Sponsorships are available by visiting www.aaa5ohio.org

SR 302, just east of U.S. 250 (S. Main St., Ashland), will close Monday, April 27 for bridge repairs. The detour route will be SR 302 north to SR 511 south to U.S. 250 west to SR 302 and reverse. Estimated completion is Wednesday, May 20.



Re-Elect
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COMMISSIONER

In the May 5th Republican Primary Election

The conservative candidate endorsed by the
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Experience That Matters. Leadership You Can Trust.

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ODOT announces funding for new EV charging stations

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is announcing 64 future locations selected for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in its latest round of implementation of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program.

ODOT will award \$51 million to the selected developers to install and operate these new stations, which will be located at businesses across the state.

The \$51 million in NEVI funding will be matched with more than

\$26 million from the private developers selected, including Aldi, BP Products North America, Francis Energy Charging, Heartland Charging Service, Love's Travel Stops, Mid Cour EV Charging Solutions, Pilot Travel Centers, Red E Charging, Sheetz, Tesla and United Dairy Farmers. Winning proposals include the addition of chargers at existing travel centers, grocery stores, retail centers, and convenience stores.

(Continued on Page 6)

Church Directory

All Souls Unitarian Universalist

25 Church St., Bellville
419-886-3497 • www.allsoulsuohio.org
10:30 am Service and Sunday School
Adult RE Book Club (quarterly)

First Congregational Church

640 Millsboro Rd., Mansfield
419-756-3046 • www.mansfieldfcc.com
Pastor Brad Bunn
8:30 am Chapel • 10:30 am Sanctuary
10:30 am Sunday School (nursery-high school)
10 am Monday Morning Bible Study

Lexington Church of the Cross

236 Otterbein Dr., Lexington
419-884-2150 • Churchofthecrosslex.com
Pastor-Rev. Dr. Edna Stahl
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Junior Church for 10 and under • Wesley Class 10:45
5th Sunday of the month-Do Something Sunday AA, Girl Scouts,
Yoga, Knotty Ladies and Bible Study.

Ontario United Methodist Church

3540 Park Avenue West., Ontario
419-529-4345 • ontarioumc.com
Rev. J.P. Snyder
9:30 am Grace & Eggs
11 am Sunday Worship and Kingdom Kids

St. John's United Church of Christ

2010 Park Avenue West, Mansfield
(At Hope Lutheran Next to Drug Mart)
419-522-2813 • www.stjohnsmansfield.org
contact@stjohnsmansfield.org
Pastor Faith Proietti • 11 am Sunday Worship
Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm
AA Meetings M & F 10 am & noon;
Wed. noon Brown Bag and Sat. 6 pm

Trinity Grace Fellowship

1592 Grace St., Mansfield
419-589-5890 • trinitygracefellowship.org
Pastor Larry Carnes
9:30 am Sunday Worship • 11 am Sunday School
Bible Study Mondays 2 pm

G & M Body & Paint Shop

1689 West Fourth St., Ontario • 419-529-2747

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Sandra Marie Carney, March 31
Mary A Cantleberry, April 2
Bonnie Jean Joseph, April 2
Mary Ann Robertson, April 4
Keith Allen Fryman, April 6
Luise Olga Holzwarth, April 7
Tillie June Taylor, April 8
Mary Colleen Wolfgang, April 8
Mary Elizabeth McClain, April 11

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•ODOT announces funding for new EV charging stations

(Continued from Page 5)

The next round of sites will include at least four charger ports with 150 kilowatts of power for each port with access to common amenities, such as restrooms and food. Construction is expected to begin early next year with many of the sites anticipated to open by the end of 2027.

Ohio was an early leader in the NEVI program as it was the first state in the nation to announce locations and begin construction on EV fast-charging stations. In late 2023, Ohio cut the ribbon on the

first NEVI station in the country. As of today, 19 NEVI stations are operational in Ohio, with 12 more locations to be constructed this year.

Locally, new stations will be at the I-71/SR 97 Love's Travel Stop, 976 St. Rt. 97, Bellville. NEVI awarded \$806,304 and private funding totaled \$873,496 for a total of \$1,679,801.

In Ashland, a station will be built at the Aldi near I-71 and U.S. 250, at 1033 Commerce Pkwy., Ashland. This will be by Mid Cour EV Charging Solutions with NEVI contributing \$1,049,355 and private funding totaling \$262,339 for a total of \$1,311,694.

ONTARIO LIONS PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 6:30 am to Noon at Ontario High School



Tickets: \$7 • Age 6 & Under Free

Door Prizes donated by local businesses

(Winners need not be present to win)

Proceeds support local and world-wide Lions projects

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goldberryroasting.com

Bloom Nutrition & Drink Bar
126 East Main Street,
W 2nd St Rear, Ashland

4th Street Coffee House
1996 W 4th St, Ontario

Pump and Grind
586 Park Avenue East,
OH-430, Mansfield

How Ya Brewin'?
Mobile Coffee Trailer
Bellville | 419-210-3737

Fresh Grounds Coffee House
1621 W 4th St, Ontario

Brew'd Coffee & Donuts
7 Main St, Hayesville

Bubble Bean And Sweets
44 East Main St., Shelby

The Pickwick Place Cafe and Market
1875 North Sandusky Avenue, Bucyrus

Revive Coffee Bar
1201 Mill Rd, Bellville
revivecoffeebar.com

Marando's Cafe
marandoscafe.com
@marandoscafe
330-347-7058

The Cafe at Arbor Creek
Gardens and Floral
3052 Mabee Rd, Ontario

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Pronto Pizza and Coffee
914 Ashland Rd, Mansfield
(419) 589-7777

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Photos by Jeff Hoffer

IN ADDITION to the Baby Bonanza Bake Sale, the Ohio Bird Sanctuary hosted a Spring Snapshot event for photographers to capture images of the birds in a natural setting.



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MCS crowns Rose Kochheiser and Adam Ebersole as prom royalty

Photos and Article By Traci Little

Mansfield Christian School hosted a memorable prom on April 11, beginning with the traditional Grand March in the school gym.

Students arrived dressed in their finest and lined up ahead of the 5 pm start, as families gathered to watch and celebrate. The Grand March provided a special opportunity for parents and loved ones to share in the excitement, with free admission welcoming the community to be part of the moment.

Following the Grand March, students and families enjoyed time for photos both in the gym and at Kingwood Center Gardens. The beautiful gardens offered a perfect backdrop for capturing memories.

The evening continued with prom dinner at the King Ballroom at 7 pm. Students checked in with their tickets and enjoyed a formal meal together.

Congratulations to the newly crowned Senior Prom King and Queen, Adam Ebersole and Rose Kochheiser. This honor was well deserved and added an extra special highlight to an already unforgettable evening.

The evening was full of joy, laughter and fun — giving students a night to remember as they celebrated this special season of life.



Ohio State Mansfield named “Opportunity College”

The Ohio State University at Mansfield has been named an “Opportunity College” by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, a designation that only 16% of all colleges and universities in the United States achieved.

“This is hard evidence of what the faculty and staff of our campus have known for years: That the Mansfield campus of The Ohio State University enables students to flourish and thrive,” said Jason Opal, the Dean and Director.

To be named an “Opportunity College” by the Carnegie Institution, a college or university needs to have both “high access” and “high earnings” scores, meaning that students from many social and economic backgrounds can access the school, and that those students earn significantly more money in the eight years after they graduate than peer groups from that region.

By way of comparison, highly selective schools, such as Ivy League universities, are “low access” but “high earnings.” They are very difficult and often expensive to enter, but their graduates tend to earn high incomes. On the other hand, many open-access and more affordable schools are “high access,” yet their students do not always much more than their peers, making them “low earnings.”



Only the Opportunity Colleges manage to have it both ways: To enroll all kinds of students, at affordable cost, while delivering a high rate of return on the investment in the form of better salaries and earnings.

“It’s a kind of ‘goldie-locks’ designation,” Opal said.

Specifically, the Mansfield campus of Ohio State follows an open enrollment policy and has a high percentage of Pell-eligible and first-generation students, making it a high access school. And according to the Carnegie study, its graduates earn 1.77 times what their peers do eight years after graduating, making it an exceptionally high earning school.

“I began my career at a selective, expensive college in Maine, and its graduates earn about 1.7 times their peers. The Ohio State University at Mansfield delivers higher returns at a fraction of the cost—not to mention a fraction of the stress of applying,” Opal said.

Indeed, the accessibility of Mansfield and the other regional campuses of The Ohio State University is about to increase even more. This Fall, the new Regional Campus Commitment will enable students from middle- and lower-income families to begin their Ohio State education at these campuses tuition-free. The benefit stays in place as long as students qualify, whether they choose to stay at the regional campus or transition later to the Columbus campus.

“Our goal is to be excellent, not exclusive,” Opal said. “We’re just getting started.”



PIONEER ADULT EDUCATION 2025 Practical Nursing (LPN) class members are front, Shelbie McClellan, Alexis Rine, Jessalyn Bailey, Lexi Bittner, Nancy Malone-Douglas, Angela Weber, Makenzi Cline and Tara Temple; and back, Patrick Burkhart, Tidei Cremeans, Janelle Feagin, Monica Lee, Jeanette Holloway, Marissa Hamilton, Noah Holland, Jeremiah Wylie and Abigail Reed. LPN class pictured is Cynthia Williams.

Pioneer Adult Ed Practical Nursing class achieves 100% NCLEX pass rate

Pioneer Adult Education has announced that 100 percent of the 2025 Practical Nursing (LPN) class successfully passed the NCLEX licensure exam. All 18 students earned their licensure on the first attempt, marking an outstanding achievement for both the students and the program.

“Achieving a 100% first-time passage rate on the NCLEX is an extraordinary accomplishment and a testament to the dedication of our students and the exceptional quality of our instructors,” said Pioneer Superintendent Greg Nickoli. “These graduates have demonstrated the knowledge, skill, and perseverance required to succeed in one of the most demanding and essential professions throughout our region. We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2025 and confident they will make a meaningful and immediate impact in the healthcare community.”

This milestone highlights Pioneer Adult Education’s continued

commitment to preparing highly skilled and confident healthcare professionals. Through a combination of rigorous instruction and hands-on training, students are equipped with the real-world experience necessary to transition directly into the workforce.

Graduates of the 2025 Practical Nursing program now move forward into the field of nursing ready to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community and make an immediate impact.

Pioneer Adult Education congratulates the 2025 LPN class on this remarkable achievement and looks forward to the positive contributions they will make in the healthcare field.

Pioneer Adult Education provides high-quality, career-focused training designed to prepare adult learners for in-demand careers. With hands-on programs and industry-aligned instruction, Pioneer helps students gain the skills needed to enter or advance in today’s workforce. Learn more at www.go2pioneer.com or call 419-347-1100.

Thirty award winners named from over 8,000 entries in first-ever Ohio Juried Exhibition of Student Art

The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) has announced the 30 Streeeter Hadley Matthews Grand Award Winners and 120 Regional Winners of the inaugural 2026 Juried Exhibition of Student Art (JESA).

Thanks to the generosity of the Ohio-based Cynthia P. Matthews Family Foundation, the IVCI expanded the program to Ohio for the first time, building on its program in Indiana which began in 1986. This year's program was opened to students throughout Ohio in grades one through twelve in celebration of the 12th Quadrennial International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, which will take place Sept. 17-Oct. 4, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The purpose of the program is to: affirm the highest standards of visual arts; encourage the pursuit of visual arts as a career; help integrate the disciplines of the performing and the visual arts; increase community support for the arts; and heighten awareness of the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and its cultural importance to the entire country.

For the 2026 JESA Competition, there were over 8,000 students registered to participate in the preliminary rounds from 121 schools in 52 counties across Ohio. A panel of Regional Judges adjudicated the submitted works and determined the top 150 Regional Winners.

Final round judges will determine the 30 Grand Award Winners from the 150 Regional Winners. Among these judges was Mary Haas, president of Ohio Art Education Association and art teacher at Lexington Eastern Elementary School. To ensure fairness, judges did not evaluate submissions from their own region.

The Juried Exhibition of Student Art Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 3 pm at the McCoy Center for the Performing Arts in New Albany, OH, where more than \$18,000 in prizes will be awarded to the winning students and schools. Each student whose artwork was selected by their art teacher to be entered for regional judging will be awarded a Certificate of Recognition, and each of the 120 Regional Winners will be awarded a Certificate of Merit and a \$25 cash prize.

The 30 Streeeter Hadley Matthews Grand Award Winners will be presented with a Certificate of Honor and a \$100 cash prize for students in grades 1-4, \$200 for students in grades 5-8 and \$500 for students in grades 9-12.

Their teachers will receive Certificates of Commendation, and each Grand Award Winner's school will receive a commemorative plaque featuring the student's artwork, along with \$250 for art materials.

The Grand Award Winners' artwork will be exhibited during the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis this fall, and will tour Ohio for the following three years.

Juried Exhibition of Student Art • Regional Winners • Region 1

Exhibition Level II (Grades 3-4)

Esme Bernhard, grade 4, Emmanuel Christian School, Toledo Untitled; pencil; Amanda Kollar, art teacher

Kelly Fry, grade 4, Maplewood Intermediate School, Lima, Title:



Lexington Students

Music; colored pencils/markers; Tami Thomas, art teacher
Brooklyn Gunsalus, grade 4, Eastern Elementary, Lexington, Title: Beauty; oil pastel; Mary Haas, art teacher

Abigail Hepner, grade 4, Emmanuel Christian School, Toledo, Untitled; Pencil, marker and glue; Amanda Kollar, art teacher

Exhibition Level III (Grades 5-6)

Ezri Bernhard, grade 6, Emmanuel Christian School, Toledo, Untitled; Pencil and colored pencil; Amanda Kollar, art teacher

Aubri Delveaux, grade 5, Emmanuel Christian School, Toledo, Untitled; Mixed media; Amanda Kollar, art teacher

Ruby Fakhouri, grade 5, Emmanuel Christian School, Toledo, Untitled; Pencil, crayon and sharpie; Amanda Kollar, art teacher

Charlotte Latore, grade 6, Eastern Elementary, Lexington, Title: Trapped; watercolor; Mary Haas, art teacher

Saige Painley, grade 6, Eastern Elementary, Lexington, Title: Neon Streetlights; oil pastel/tempera; Mary Haas, art teacher

Exhibition Level IV (Grades 7-8)

Sarai Alcantara, grade 8, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Untitled; graphite pencil/collage; Alexis Butler, art teacher

Morgan Mutchler, grade 8, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Untitled; graphite pencil; Alexis Butler, art teacher

Zahra Sheikh, grade 7, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo, Title: Forget-Me-Not; graphite; Susan Stinson, art teacher

Piper Stentz, grade 7, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Untitled; graphite pencil/collage; Alexis Butler, art teacher

Parker Wilson, grade 8, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo, Title: First Date; graphite; Susan Stinson, art teacher

Exhibition Level V (Grades 9-10)

Ava Baltzell, grade 9, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Title: Navigating Music; collage/acrylic paint; Samara Santos, art teacher

Asher Fox, grade 9, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Title: The Standing Music; graphite pencil/collage; Samara Santos, art teacher

Joclyn Lindsey, grade 10, Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, Title: Apollo's Muse; charcoal on gray paper; Katie Gentry, art teacher

Anna Marks, grade 10, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Title: Perception of Symphony; mixed media; Samara Santos, art teacher

Lydia Roggio, Grade 10, Mansfield Christian School, Mansfield, Title: Chorus of Roses; acrylic paint; Samara Santos, art teacher

(Continued on Page 11)



Saige Painley
Lexington Eastern
Title: Neon Streetlights
(oil pastel/tempera)



Brooklyn Gunsalus
Lexington Eastern
Title: Beauty
(oil pastel)



Photo By Mark Shutt

•Thirty award winners named

(Continued from Page 10)

Exhibition Level VI (Grades 11–12)

Mariah Huerte, grade 11, Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, Title: Violin Amidst; charcoal; Katie Gentry, art teacher

Valeria Medina-Guerrero, grade 12, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo, Title: Harmony in Shadow; acrylic paint; Susan Stinson, art teacher

Kally (Max) Moore, grade 12, Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, Title: Beauty of the Stage; graphite; Katie Gentry, art teacher

Geneva Owens, grade 11, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo, Title: A Night of Musical Wonder; primsa color; Susan Stinson, art teacher

Angel Pettis, grade 12, Notre Dame Academy, Toledo, Title: She Plays and the Earth Listens; digital; Susan Stinson, art teacher

To learn more about the IVCI's Juried Exhibition of Student Art, visit www.violin.org/jesa



Charlotte Latore
Lexington Eastern
Title: Trapped (watercolor)

Mansfield Hospital surgeon receives Honorary Professor Distinction

A Mansfield Hospital heart surgeon will be recognized as an honorary professor at the historical university he received his degree. Jose Norberto, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon at OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital, will receive the distinction at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, UASD, next month. The honor recognizes his contributions to cardiothoracic and oncological surgery, as well as his accomplishment of becoming the first Dominican to perform a heart transplant.

An honorary professor title is a huge accomplishment in itself, but this one is extra special for Dr. Norberto. His parents, brother, and uncles graduated from the same university. "For somebody who has such a close tie to the university, this is very special," said Dr. Norberto.

While Dr. Norberto has deep personal ties to UASD, its significance goes further. Both his mother and father grew up extremely poor in the Dominican Republic. He recalled stories of his father heading to school for the day with just one piece of bread and a coffee, knowing that would be his only meal of the day. Against all odds, he found a way to graduate and become a dentist, becoming the first man in his family to earn a university degree. His mother also graduated from the university and later became a history professor at the college.

"I came to this world in a different environment than they grew up," said Dr. Norberto. "I was medium class. They were poor. I felt if they were able to go to college and get a degree, I had no excuse but to achieve that as well. I was very, very moved by what they went through compared to how much easier I had it."

After graduating from UASD magna cum laude, Dr. Norberto came to the United States in 1990 to complete his cardiac surgery training at the Ohio State University. During that time, he became the first Dominican to perform a heart transplant. He then led the open heart surgery program at Fairfield Medical Center for 17 years before joining OhioHealth as a cardiothoracic surgeon.

While Dr. Norberto left the Dominican Republic decades ago, he's found several opportunities to go back. Most notably, to give back to the community that gave him the foundation of his work ethic and knowledge. Dr. Norberto went on several mission trips to Santo Domingo to operate on patients in need of care, free of charge. It was his way of paying forward the good fortune he felt he was given at UASD, especially knowing so many people in his home town were still struggling.

Dr. Norberto will be honored at UASD on May 14. He looks forward to his wife and brothers joining him for the ceremony. And while his parents are now deceased, he knows they'll be watching over him, beaming with pride.

Camp welcoming volunteers

Flying Horse Farms (FHF), Ohio's Medical Specialty Camp that serves kids with serious illnesses and their families at no cost, is seeking volunteers for family weekends and camp sessions.

FHF offers a variety of volunteer roles for all skill levels, including arrival day volunteer, day camp volunteer, family sidekick, activity counselor, kitchen crew, entertainment team, lifeguard, photographer, physicians, registered nurses and psychosocial team.

Sessions in greatest need include The MAGIC Foundation Family Camp, May 1–3; Sibs Camp, June 1–6; and Gastrointestinal & Mental Health Camp, June 17–22.

Family weekends start in April and continue in October and November. Summer sessions are ongoing June–August.

More information and applications are available at <https://flying-horsefarms.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/>

Volunteers receive benefits including verified service hours, free housing and meals during programming and opportunities to fulfill course, clinical or internship requirements.

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Photos By Jeff Hoffer
GORMAN NATURE CENTER held a controlled prairie burn event on April 9.



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THE LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL WINTERLINE OF GOLD performed at the Ohio Indoor Performing Arts State Finals on March 29, earning third place in their category and achieving a new school record score of 83.70/100.

MRCPL joining PCs for People for Earth Day

In recognition of Earth Day, The Mansfield/Richland County Public Library is partnering with PCs for People for an Electronic Recycling Drive on Wednesday, April 22 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Main Library, 43 W. Third St., Mansfield.

The community is invited to drop off used computers, laptops, keyboards, speakers, ink toners, fax machines, mobile phones, tablets, non-tube TVs, and other hardware at the truck parked in the main library's east parking lot.

For a full list of accepted electronics, go to <https://www.pcsforpeople.org/e-waste-pick-up-removal/>. All donated electronics will be securely data-sanitized and either refurbished for families in need or recycled.

Renaissance receives award to present "1776" with symphony

In honor of our nation's 250th birthday, the Renaissance Theatre will present a free concert version of the award-winning musical, 1776, featuring the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, the Renaissance Performing Artists, as well as special guest stars, June 20, at 7 pm.

Renaissance CEO Chelsie Thompson has announced that the concert has been made possible by a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"We've been so fortunate to have received three grants from the NEA in the past five years. It's an incredible honor and a testament to the work that is being performed on our stages," notes Thompson, who wrote the grant.

1776 will be conducted by the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra's musical director, Maestro Octavio Mas-Arocas, with stage direction by Renaissance Artist Director, Michael Thomas, and will feature the musicians of the MSO, as well as a cast composed of local artists, and special guest stars.

Steve Higgins, best known as Jimmy Kimmel's co-host of *The Tonight Show*, will make his Mansfield debut, along with multiple Emmy-winner Jeff Richmond, film and television star Brian Stepanek, Bruce Sabbath, who appeared as Tevye in the 2025 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, actor/writer Peter Fey and Broadway actor Mark Moritz. Other local favorites in the cast include Leah Gesouras, Samantha Woodill, Mike Glavan, Mindy Tishue, Mike Miller, Zakari Ramos, Darius Darmody, Lori Turner, Jacque Workman, Jacob Poiner, Matthew Korver, Caroline Pletcher, Kate Ernsberger, Joe Trolian, Jacob Poiner and Nikki Stitak.

1776 recounts the story of the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence, and features one of the most memorable scores ever written for a Broadway musical. Lin-Manuel Miranda has said that 1776 is what inspired him to write his award-winning musical, Hamilton.

"Collaboration is the name of the game, and we're so pleased to be able to work with these wonderful local organizations. It's a unique opportunity to share what we do with our community, our state, and our country, and it's made even more special because we're partnering with The Brickyard."

Tickets are free, but reservations are required. For more information, go to rentickets.org or call the Renaissance box office at 419-522-2726.

Ontario will host Cabaret event

The Ontario Music Boosters has announced that Rhapsody in Blue and Ontario Jazz Band will be showcasing their talents at the 2026 Cabaret.

This is dinner and a show held in the O'Rena at Ontario High School. The O'Rena will be transformed into an entertainment venue Saturday, April 25, with doors opening at 5:30 pm.

Dinner will begin at 6 pm and the show will start at 6:30 pm.

Although this is a co-curricular event in which students earn academic credit, the Music Boosters will be using any funds raised to help create an atmosphere of encouragement and awareness for Ontario Student Musicians, ensuring a lifelong love of music.

For tickets visit <https://events.hometownticketing.com/box-office/ontarioschools/L2VtYmVkl2V2ZW50Lzc3NC9zZW-F0aW5nP2FjY2Vzc19jb2RlPWWiZTg3YTlhM2M0ZTQ5YmI5N-jQxYzI5ZGE0MmE3YmM4ODVhYjk5Y2I%3D>

News Briefs in Education

Isabel Golias and Mary Golias of Lexington were named to the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester at Grove City College.

Austin Basham earned a degree from Grove City College in December 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Analysis and is from Ontario.

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Lexington BOE busy during organizational meeting

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FORTY STUDENTS from Madison Comprehensive High School's National Honor Society helped get the Madison Community Youth Park ready for the baseball, softball and T-ball season. Students raised the American Flag, worked hard to get the crushed brick spread on all four fields, put up the outfield field signs, placed and repaired the pitchers mounds, cleaned restrooms and press box, spruced up the paint in the batting cages and in front of the concession stand and painted the doors with fresh white paint.

MWCD to celebrate quarry trail opening

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) invites the public to celebrate the grand opening of the new Quarry Trail at Clendenning Lake Dam with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, April 24 at 2 pm. The Clendenning Dam is located at 28700 CR-69 in Tippicanoe, OH.

"The Quarry Trail offers a one-of-a-kind experience where visitors can step into local history while enjoying scenic views of Clendenning Lake, mature forests, and striking rock formations," said Pete Novotny, MWCD chief of recreation. "We're excited to unveil this new trail that features diverse terrain and points of interest, including large trailside boulders, seasonal wildflowers, and elevated views of the lake making it an engaging destination for hikers of varying experience levels."

Following the ceremony, MWCD staff will lead a guided hike of the 1.3 mile intermediate, natural-surface loop trail, highlighting its construction, surrounding landscape, and the historic significance of the former Halderman Stone Quarry.

Originally decommissioned in 1906, the quarry was once a key source of sandstone used for foundation stones, mill stones, and pulp stones distributed throughout Ohio. Today, the site has transformed into a thriving natural area, where a distinctive microclimate supports a wide variety of wildflowers and native vegetation.

Additional information is available at www.mwcd.org.



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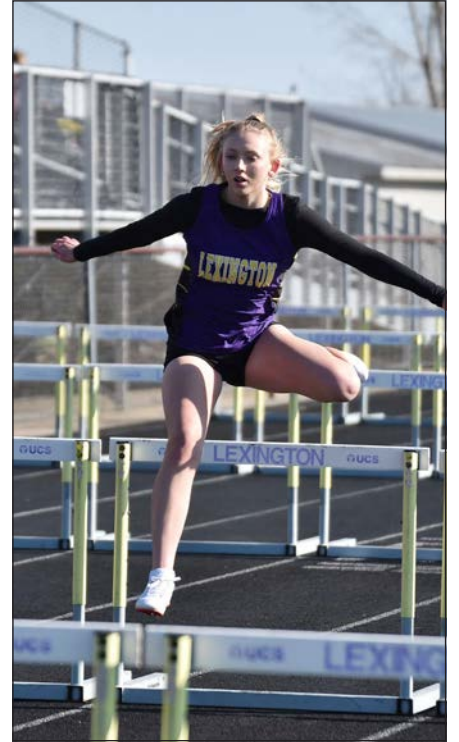
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

LEXINGTON, SHELBY & ASHLAND TRACK TRI-MEET · APRIL 4
PHOTOS BY JEFF HOFFER



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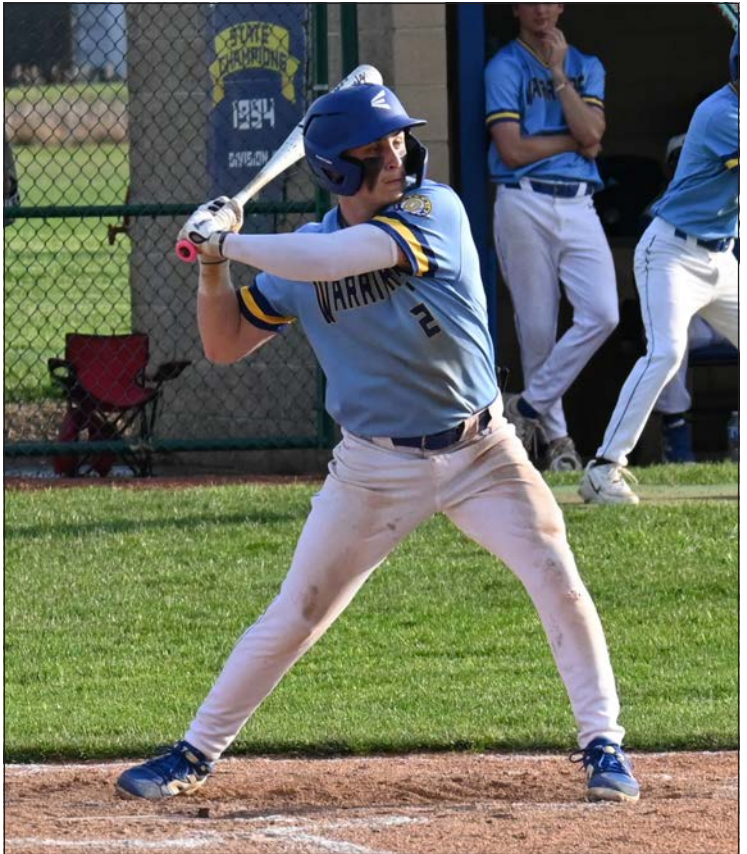
Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS BUCYRUS BOYS TENNIS · APRIL 13 · WARRIORS WIN



Tribune-Courier Sports Highlights

ONTARIO VS BELLEVUE BOYS BASEBALL · APRIL 13 · WARRIORS WIN 3-0



Kindergarten registration underway at Madison

Kindergarten registration for the Madison Local School District will be held April 1-30. Children are eligible to attend kindergarten during the 2026-'27 school year if they are five years of age on or before Madison Local School District's first day of instruction, Aug. 20, 2026. All kindergarten students for the 2026-'27 school year will attend Madison Primary School, located at 700 S. Illinois Ave., formerly Madison South Elementary.

The first step in the registration process is to complete the online registration through FinalForms. The registration link can be found at www.mlzd.net under Madison FinalForms or go to <https://madisonmansfield-oh.finalforms.com>.

Those without internet access or who need help can schedule an appointment to complete the online forms at Madison Primary School by calling 419-522-4319. Select the 2026-'27 school year in FinalForms when registering a child. Registration will open on April 1, to complete FinalForms.

Open enrollment for the 2026-'27 school year will be held from May 1-30. Non-residents of Madison must receive formal approval before proceeding with registration. It is strongly advised that families enroll in their home district as a contingency until open enrollment status is confirmed.

Current Madison South Preschool students moving into kindergarten will need to log into their FinalForms account and complete the 2026-'27 forms. To receive updated documents, contact Sue Ernsberger, Madison Primary School Administrative Assistant, at 419-522-4319 or sernsberger@madisonrams.net.

Once all online forms are completed, drop-off the required documents at Madison Primary School, between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday.

Documents needed for registration are student birth certificate, parent/guardian driver's license, custody papers (if applicable) date stamped and signed by the court, parent/guardian proof of residency (see final forms for approved list) and immunization records.

Required immunizations for school attendance are four doses of DPT (five doses if four were given before fourth birthday), three or more doses of polio with final dose after fourth birthday, three doses of Hepatitis B and two MMR, twoVarivax (chicken pox) or history of having disease.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2026 Resurfacing Program, Village of Lexington, Ohio will be received by the Village of Lexington, Ohio at the office of the Administrative Director at 44 West Main Street, Lexington, Ohio 44904 until 10:00am, local time Friday April 24, 2026, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

Contractors will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. If you would prefer a hard copy be mailed, we will do so upon receipt of payment in the amount of \$50.00 per set, along with your UPS or FedEx account number so that shipping charges can be applied to your account. Checks shall be made payable to K.E. McCartney & Associates and all documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded.

Should you have any questions during the bidding process please contact jburchholder@kemccartney.com.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The Village of Lexington may reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the Village of Lexington.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in the amount of 10% of the bid.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by August 14, 2026.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and Village of Lexington, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

Peter L. Them
Administrative Director
Village of Lexington, OH
(T-C 4-9, 16, 2026) 65L

CITY OF ONTARIO ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the 2026 Resurfacing Program, City of Ontario, Ohio will be received by Michael Morton, Service-Safety Director, at 555 Stumbo Road, Ontario, Ohio 44906 until 10:00am, local time Thursday April 23, 2026, and then, at said office, publicly opened and read aloud.

Contractors will be required to purchase and download an electronic set of plans and bid documents via the KEM Web Site by visiting <https://kemccartney.com/project-bids/>. If you would prefer a hard copy be mailed, we will do so upon receipt of payment in the amount of \$50.00 per set, along with your UPS or FedEx account number so that shipping charges can be applied to your account. Checks shall be made payable to K.E. McCartney & Associates and all documents become the property of the prospective bidder, with no portion of the payment being refunded. Should you have any questions during the bidding process please contact jburchholder@kemccartney.com.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities. Contract will be awarded based on the lowest and best bid. The City of Ontario may reject any or all bids on any basis and without disclosure of reason. The failure to make such disclosure shall not result in accrual of any right, claim or cause of action by any unsuccessful bidder against the City of Ontario.

Each bid must be accompanied by either an Ohio Revised Code Section 153.571 Bid and Performance Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the bid; or, a cashier's check, bid bond, letter of credit to be duly executed by the bidder as principal and having as surety thereon, a surety company approved by the Owner in the amount of 10% of the bid.

Each bid must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. The Owner intends and requires that this project be completed by September 25, 2026.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Richland County and City of Ontario, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Wage and Hour Division, 614-644-2239.

Michael Morton
City of Ontario
Safety-Service Director
(T-C 4-2, 16, 2026) 65L

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