



Weatherstfield TOWNSHIP

PROUD PAST • PRODUCTIVE PRESENT • PROGRESSIVE FUTURE

WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP

1451 Prospect Street
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

WEATHERSFIELDTWP.ORG

- Paramedics 330.652.0066
- Police & Fire 330.675.2730
- Trustees 330.652.6326
- Zoning 330.652.6326
- Police Business 330.652.6486
- Fire Business 330.652.6326
- Cemetery Sexton 330.652.6326



WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The Weathersfield Township Trustees recognized and thanked the Weathersfield Township Fire Department on their 20th anniversary at the trustees meeting on December 10.

The Township Fire Department was formed in 1999, its service dates back to the 1950's. ■



As we begin the new year, we are pleased to share that the Township's finances are in exceptional shape following a healthy carry-over from 2019!

The township, as you may know, is also experiencing some healthy growth at our Gazebo Park on Main Street, as contractors are laying the foundation for our Multi-Jurisdictional Opioid Education and Workforce Development Training and Meeting Center.

God bless our first responders and keep them safe! ■



Construction is underway for the new Multi-Jurisdictional Opioid Education and Workforce Development Center at Gazebo Park.



Fred R. Bobovnyk
Fiscal Officer, Weathersfield Township



Weathersfield TOWNSHIP

IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING PROPOSED ANNEXATION BY CITY OF NILES:

In November the City of Niles passed an aggressive annexation ordinance. This ordinance was sponsored by the Community Development Neighborhood Stabilization Committee and Utilities Committee and authorized by Council Members Barry Profato and Ryan McNaughton. The ordinance was passed unanimously by the entire administration.

Commissioner Polivka scheduled a meeting to negotiate with the city, Howland Township and Weathersfield Township. That meeting was cancelled by the Mayor.

Please see and read the provided [Ordinance and Sample Development Incentive Agreement](#) adopted by the City of Niles.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

1. Niles is seeking to mandate that **any township resident** that receives **any Niles utility** (water, sewer or electricity) who is **contiguous** to the city (which means the property touches a property within the city limits) will be forced to annex to the City of Niles or have the utility shut off.
2. Niles is seeking to mandate that any township resident that receives any Niles utility (water, sewer or electricity) who is **not** contiguous to (touching) the city will have to agree to a “Development Incentive Agreement,” pay the outside utility rates, a “fee” equal to the amount the city would receive in income tax if the property were within the city limits, and a \$250 annual fee for each “residential unit” on the property.
3. Possibly higher homeowner and automobile insurance premiums.
4. Your right to choose where you live has been taken away.

Signing the “Development Incentive Agreement” proposed by Niles could jeopardize your rights! It is recommended that you not sign such a document without legal advice.

THIS AFFECTS RESIDENTS IN ALL PORTIONS OF WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP:

- McKinley Heights
- Hill Top
- Heaton Chute
- Mineral Ridge
- Oakview/Salt Springs

It has been stated that this isn’t the intent of the ordinance. Why was it passed this way?

Please visit the [Weathersfield Township’s Facebook page](#) and like/share [this post](#) to help start the conversation against annexation. ■

RICHARD HARKINS SWORN IN AS NEW WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE



On Monday, December 20, 2019, Fiscal Officer Fred Bobovnyk swore in new Weathersfield Township Trustee Richard Harkins. We are looking forward to having you on our Board—Congratulations! ■



Weatherstfield TOWNSHIP



Laurie Anderson runs her company, Artistic Designs by Laurie, from her home in Mineral Ridge.

LOCAL ARTIST TURNS MEMORIES INTO ART

For more than 25 years, Laurie Anderson has been creating beautiful, custom artwork from her home in Mineral Ridge. She specializes in portraits of people, pets and even homes but can accommodate just about any request. She is very passionate about her work and puts great detail into each of her pieces.

"I love doing what I do, and I believe that everything I paint is God's creation," she says.

In the last 10 years, Laurie has grown her customer base to 42 states, after starting her online business, Artistic Designs by Laurie. The website allows customers from all over the world to place orders by just submitting a photograph. Easy navigation on the site gives customers the ability to select the size of the desired portrait and choose their preference for watercolor or pencil—although, portraits of people are only done in pencil.

"Pencil portrait sketches of special loved ones can be such a treasured and priceless keepsake. These are detailed original works of art capturing the smiles and expressions you know and love," Laurie notes.

Her customers rely on her to re-create their most memorable moments by turning their photographs into unique artwork to be used as a keepsake or given as a gift. Melissa, a customer from Medina, states, "Laurie captured my pet's personality in her painting even better than a camera would, and it is something that we will always keep and treasure. It's obvious that Laurie puts her heart into her work."

Laurie says that special photos from a vacation, seasonal landscapes, a family boat, a memorable event and more can all be turned into a watercolor or pencil keepsake. The entire process takes her about two weeks to finish. She takes pride in her work and uses only professional-quality materials to protect her art, adding mat backing on each of her orders. To ensure customer satisfaction, an image is sent of the finished piece before shipping out.

"I like living in the Mineral Ridge area because I am close to shopping, the gym and the beautiful Mill Creek MetroParks in Youngstown, which I like to use as inspiration for my work," Laurie explains. ■



To see more of Laurie's work, visit artisticdesignsbylaurie.com, or email her at ljanderson071103@gmail.com with questions.

WEATHERSFIELD HOLDS ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING



Santa came to visit the Weathersfield community, which enjoyed hot chocolate, Christmas carols and a live nativity at our Christmas Tree Lighting event on Nov. 30! We had a wonderful turnout and perfect holiday weather.

The winners of our coloring contest were announced, and six Seaborne Elementary students won toy baskets. Congratulations, Jayden Thacker, Emiliy Wojtowics, Weston Emery, Layla D'Amico, Julia Scales and Landon Black!

We look forward to another successful event next year—Happy Holidays! ■



Weathersfield TOWNSHIP

WEATHERSFIELD MAN SAVES NEIGHBOR FROM BLAZE

*Article originally published Dec. 14, 2019 on tribtoday.com; **REPORTER:** Raymond L. Smith



SOURCE: Raymond L. Smith

Randy Phillips was walking Thursday evening when he saw flames shooting up from the rear of a mobile home where his neighbor lives on Whispering Pines Drive.

WEATHERSFIELD — A 57-year-old man was pulled out of his burning mobile home by a neighbor who happened to be taking a walk Thursday evening.

Danny Murray, 453 Whispering Pines Drive, was pulled out of the trailer after falling backward toward the fire as Randy Phillips attempted to pull him out by the ankles toward

the front door. Moments earlier, Phillips, 33, 445 Whispering Pines Drive, was walking toward his grandmother's trailer, where he lives.

"I saw what looked like a flare shooting up like a Roman candle from the back of the trailer," Phillips said. "I ran to the door, pushed it open and yelled inside to see if he was in there."

Phillips was worried about his friend because he knows Murray periodically has seizures. When he heard Murray yelling back toward the door, Phillips turned around and ran to another neighbor to tell him to call Trumbull County 911.

However, when he returned, Phillips saw his friend was not outside the trailer.

"In that moment, I was scared and thought I should have gotten him out the first time," he said. "I said a prayer."

When Phillips pulled open the screen door, he could see Murray standing and reaching out in front of him, as if he was dazed or confused. The room was filled with black smoke.

"I think an angel was guiding him," Phillips said. "I grabbed his wrists and was pulling him toward me, but his hands and arms were wet with sweat. He fell backward onto the floor, hitting his head on something behind him."

Although Murray is a thin-built man, Phillips was finding it difficult to pull him because of the thick black smoke billowing out of the doorway.

"I had to stop and take a breath a couple times," he said. "If I had to go in to get him, I don't think I would have made it out."

Once outside, Phillips noticed Murray was not breathing, so Phillips began doing chest compressions.

"He started breathing again," Phillips said. "Smoke was coming out of his mouth."

Working with another neighbor, Phillips pulled Murray farther away from the trailer. They put him on his side to keep him from choking.

Weathersfield Fire Chief Thomas Lambert said Murray was taken to Trumbull Regional Medical Center and then taken by helicopter to the burn center of Akron Children's Hospital main campus.

Lambert said the fire department attempted to save the family's cat, but they were unsuccessful.

The fire chief said if Phillips had not been walking by when he did, the outcome could have been tragic for the homeowner.

"He was in the right place at the right time, so he was able to help this gentleman," Lambert said.

Fire investigators are trying to determine what caused the fire.

Murray's wife, Aleatha Murray, is staying with relatives, according to Lambert. ■

WEATHERSFIELD TO SEEK FUNDS FOR NEW CENTER

*Article originally published Nov. 14, 2019 on tribtoday.com

REPORTER: Bob Coupland

WEATHERSFIELD — Township trustees, with the assistance of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber, will be seeking additional state funds for the construction of a multi-purpose community center complex to be built at the township park off State Route 46.

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>> WEATHERSFIELD TO SEEK FUNDS FOR NEW CENTER (cont.)

Steve Gerberry, trustee chairman, said at Tuesday's meeting a request is being made to the state legislature to seek any available funds through the annual appropriations in the state capital budget in 2020.

"We hope to get the funding for the building we are planning at the park. The chamber of commerce will help us with the application, which is exciting news in securing the needed funds," he said.

Gerberry said the township was able to secure \$150,000 in the last round of state money.

Township Administrator David Rouan said there was also \$125,000 to \$200,000 from the township and other funding sources put toward the project. He said the underground utilities and parking lot for the building have been completed.

The estimated \$500,000 complex will be used for training of law enforcement from many police departments, for community events, for use by local 4-H and other groups and possibly for a library branch.

"We want to have the building available for interdepartmental police training with state and local agencies," Gerberry said.

Trustees had approved a contract with Engineering Direct LLC of Columbiana to create architectural and engineering designs for the center at a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

The center will include a meeting room for community events, a library and training classes for police departments. The building would have a main area for classrooms as well as a stage.

In a related matter, Gerberry said representatives of the chamber have come to the township on several occasions to assist with business expansion and retention, and also helping to promote the township to get more businesses in the community. ■

IN OTHER NEWS...



WELCOME BACK, PIZZA JOES!

We would like to welcome Pizza Joe's back to Mineral Ridge! The restaurant recently remodeled and reopened under new management.



CONGRATULATIONS, OFFICER ESTLACK!

On Tuesday, Dec. 10, Weathersfield Trustees passed a motion to promote John Estlack from part-time patrolman to full-time patrolman.

WEATHERSFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRST RESPONDERS NIGHT



Friday, Dec. 6 was Weathersfield Township First Responders Night at the Mineral Ridge boy's basketball game. Thank you to all of our First Responders, for your commitment and sacrifice for our community!

SHOP WITH A COP

It's the most wonderful time of the year for the Weathersfield Township Police Department—Shop With a Cop! Capt. Hodge, Sgt. Lowery and S.R.O. Ronghi had a blast shopping with the kids this year. Merry Christmas! ■





LADY RAMS OFF & RUNNING TO START THE 19-20 SEASON

Coach Matt Cluse has the Lady Rams off to a good start with a 2-2 record on the season. The Lady Rams are 2-1 in Mahoning Valley Conference play. The team has been led by Alexa Harkins, Candace Miller, Morgan Sigley and Danielle Aulet, to name only a few. **The Weatherfield community wishes Coach Cluse the best of luck in the 2019-2020 season!** ■

MRHS LEGEND GARY PUGH COACHES RAMS TO 2-1 START



His name adorns the gym at William Rummell MRHS High School as the number 2 all-time leading scorer (he held the record until last season). He was the legendary scorer from the early 1980's without three point shots, and now, he holds a different part of history as the head coach of the Rams. In his inaugural season as head coach, he has the Rams off to a 2-1 record. The team's only loss on the season was against Sebring.

MRHS welcomes and wishes the best of luck to the Rams this season! ■



MRHS VOLLEYBALL GOES TO DISTRICT SEMI-FINALS

The Lady Rams of Mineral Ridge High School finished one of their most successful seasons in school history by winning the Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference Championship and advancing to the District Semi-Finals in Div. III. It was a great season for the Lady Rams, as they achieved many of their pre-season goals.

Congratulations to Coach Ron Lesko, the Lady Rams volleyball team and the Weatherfield community on a great season! ■



MRHS STARTS CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH TALENT SHOW



The talent of Mineral Ridge High School and the greater Weatherfield community was on display in early December at the first annual Christmas Talent Show. Music filled the halls of MRHS, as did dancing and comedy skits. The crowd was entertained with interactive songs and joy!

Great job by Drama Club Advisor Aubrey Reese and the students at MRHS! ■





2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR OFF TO A GREAT START!

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start! The Roosevelt Elementary STEM Lab is continuing to offer new and exciting opportunities for our K-6 students. This year, Mr. Ronghi has



Roosevelt students film and edit the morning newscast.

created a Multi-Media Club that meets after school each day to develop and record news clips for morning announcements. The announcements are then broadcasted to all of the Roosevelt homerooms each morning and archived on YouTube. All grades are involved in helping create content including the Pledge of Allegiance, Roosevelt Pledge, News & Notes, Sports updates and the Joke of the Day. The

club is organized and operated by the Grade 6 Multi-Media Club students.



Junior students collect money and materials for the elementary school's Backpack Buddies program.

Another new addition to Roosevelt this year is the Backpack Buddies program. This program works hand-in-hand with the Kids Cafe, which provides monthly food bundles and nonperishables to families. The Backpack Buddies program provides students with snacks and meals to eat during the weekends and holiday breaks. This weekly program, headed by Mrs. Pam Baker, has been a great addition and helps address student wellness outside of the classroom.

In the high school, to continue the district's goal of integrating with the community, Miss Rozzo's government classes and student council worked to organize a breakfast for McDonald

Veterans and an assembly for Veterans and students. The celebration of our community Veterans began with the traditional breakfast at gam and continued afterward with a schoolwide assembly that recognized them and reflected on their sacrifice through a variety of mediums including a video, poem and reflection of a fallen comrade by Principal Gary Carkido. **The video**, titled "Celebrating McDonald's Veterans," can be found on The Villager Vlogs's YouTube page.



Community Veterans share stories and enjoy breakfast.

Students have also kept busy helping their community and learning the qualities of strong and effective leaders. Junior Sage Mason was selected for the *Tribune Chronicle's* 20 Under 20 recognition for her community service, academic excellence and leadership. High school juniors also volunteered their time during the football game against Springfield in order to collect material and monetary donations for the elementary school's Backpack Buddies program. In addition, the newest members of the National Honor Society were inducted based on their leadership, service, character and scholarship.

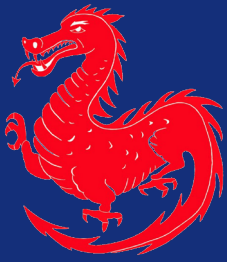
Finally, students continue to receive hands-on experiences both in and out of school. Seniors explored post-graduation options by attending the Eastwood Mall's College Fair and YSU's Penguin Preview Day. Mrs. Evans decorated the former

study hall space as the catacombs of France for a lesson decoding secret messages in French on the tombstones, and Mrs. Sanson's Physiology and Anatomy class worked through a lab involving biomedical engineering for broken bones. ■



External fixation device designed by Grace & Sophie

Students in Mrs. Sanson's Physiology class engineer new medical solutions for patients.



NILES INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL KITCHEN STAFF GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND



Niles Intermediate Kitchen Staff, from left to right: Brenda Bevans, Cristina Gilliam, Jackie Alexander and Holly Hanni.

The kitchen staff at Niles Intermediate School received a surprise honor on Thursday, Dec. 12. The Nutrition Group Senior Leadership team created a recognition program that celebrates and rewards hourly staff for their extra efforts to create meaningful moments with students, teachers, administration and staff. The program is called "Moments Matter."

Niles City Schools Food Service Director Holly Hanni shared how the kitchen staff at Niles Intermediate School goes above and beyond for students, creating a positive atmosphere and helping students feel extra special. Hanni's submission into the Moments Matter Team helped Niles Intermediate School become one of the schools chosen to receive the honor.

Last year, fifteen schools were chosen by random drawing and enjoyed a surprise party including cash prizes for the Food Service Director and kitchen staff. ■

NILES ROTARY PROVIDES DICTIONARIES TO 3RD GRADERS

Each year, Niles Rotary buys dictionaries for every third grade student at Niles Intermediate School, as well as a hardcover dictionary for each third grade teacher to keep in their classrooms! This is the tenth year the Niles Rotary has contributed dictionaries to the school. ■



Representatives from Niles Rotary (back) pose with Niles Intermediate Principal Christopher Staph (back, center) and 3rd graders, from left to right: Nevaeh Newsom, Skylar Lewis, Sierra Knight, Nolan Nicastro, Kadance Volk, Brielle Henry, Iva Brewer and Joseph Toth.



Niles High School Students Anthony Krammer (top), Chris Loychik and Nate Longberry (bottom) practice filling a tooth and taking vital signs.

NILES HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY II CLASS VISITS MERCY HEALTH

Dr. Frank Beck and Mercy Health Youngstown extended the opportunity to Mrs. Abbey Chieffo's Biology II students to come explore careers in oral health at the Joanie Abdu Center in Youngstown on Nov. 22. Students watched a presentation describing the five available career opportunities within the oral health field and were able to ask questions regarding those careers after the presentation. Students then participated in five hands-on sessions in which they learned how to place a filling in and a dental sealant on a tooth, take vital signs on one another, tour a mobile dental facility and visit with a dental lab technician. Students also participated in an "Alcohol and Other Drugs" program to conclude the day. ■



Niles High School students (from left to right, rows 1-3) Miranda Bugos, Emmah Mostoller, Jordan Barrell, Abigail Hillier, Allee Mollica, Dylan McConnell, Alia Kover, Ella Perrone, Douglas Foster, Chase Sudzina, Alleni Fryer and Jevon Tabor helped decorate the tree at their visit to Shepherd of the Valley on Dec. 3! ■