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Monday, July 14, 2025 • Advertising Contacts: David Truax 419-670-3408 • djtruax@ohioprogamsolutions.com • Betti Weimer 419-651-6158 • Vol. 3 No. 10



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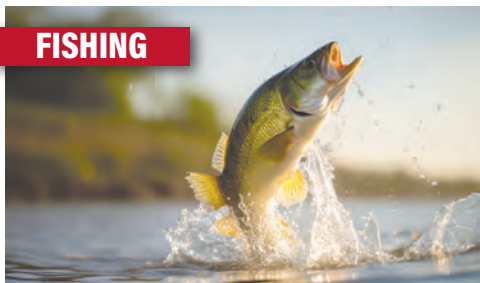


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Obituary

David E. Stake

Loudonville- David E. Stake, 77, of Loudonville, passed away peacefully, Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Ohio's Hospice LifeCare in Wooster.

David was born Nov. 19, 1947, in Ashland, OH to the late Robert L. and Arlene (Mosh-er) Stake. He was a graduate of Loudonville High School, class of 1965. David honorably served his country in the Ohio National Guard from 1966 to 1970.

On Oct. 16, 1983, he married Sandra S. McClure, she survives. They had been married 42 years. David retired from Timken as a senior process analyst in 2007, after 33 years of service. In retirement David and Sandy would winter in Panama City Beach, FL for several years. They enjoyed traveling, especially going on small ship cruises and wind jammers. They loved to travel but Loudonville was always home, he never left. He was known for his meticulous care of his yard and flower beds, always finding something to do. He was also the laundry man, as he was a perfectionist and had a way to fold clothes and iron that wouldn't suit just anyway. David was always upbeat with a little orneriness, making him one of those people most will never forget.

He was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Loudonville and the Loudonville American Legion, Post # 257.

David will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him, including his wife, Sandy; children, Dana Riffel, David (Stephanie) Stake II , Derrick (Rose) Columbo, and Jeanna (Les) Morris all of Loudonville; grandchildren, Colton & Wyatt Stake, Donovan (Kaitlin Strojcin) Switzer III , Mya (Cole Casdorff) Switzer, Cody (Heidi) Morris, Nate Morris, and Luke (Jessie Gruver) Morris; greatgrandchildren, Jackson Gruver, Brooks Morris, and Brantly Morris; 2 brothers, Bill (Diane) Stake of Loudonville, and Steve (Jennifer) Stake of Palmetto, GA; 2 sisters, Linda (Ken) Carey of Loudonville, and Carol (Mike) Snyder of Hayesville; and a sister-in-law, Susie Stake of Loudonville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Dwight Stake; granddaughter, Jessica Nicole Kendall; and a grandson, Corey Taylor.

A graveside service to celebrate the life of David will be held Saturday, July 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Loudonville Cemetery with Steve Hilbrands officiating. Following the service, please join the family in the fellowship hall at the Zion Lutheran Church in Loudonville at noon for a meal, fellowship and reminiscing. In case of rain the cemetery portion of services will be in the fellowship hall instead of at the cemetery.

If you would like to remember David, please consider donating to either The American Heart Assoc., or Ohio's Hospice LifeCare.

Schlabach Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.Schlabachfh.com



Loudonville Council Declines to Pursue Comprehensive Village Plan

By Jim Brewer

A proposed comprehensive village plan, strongly supported by two Loudonville council members, will not be pursued, council members decided Monday, July 7.

"We should drop it," Councilman Bill Huffman, the strongest supporter of the concept, said during discussion on the plan. "It's going to be a 4-2 thing, with me and Tom Young in favor and everyone else against."

Huffman argued that comprehensive plans in nearby communities — including Bellville, Fredericktown and Butler — have helped those villages secure grant funding.

"I can't see us spending \$40,000 on a plan when we know much of what would be included in that plan in-house," said Council President Cathy Lance. "We need, for instance, to look at obtaining grants for sidewalks, and I'd like to see what other grants are out there."

Huffman countered that Engineer Ken McCartney, who authored comprehensive plans for some of the villages, was instrumental in helping those communities secure funding.

Councilman Tom Young added, "The comprehensive plan tells us about our community, and can be used to help us get grants."

Council Member Hollie McCauley said she had read the village's 1993 comprehensive plan earlier that day.

"We have, since 1993, done a lot of the things mentioned in that plan, like getting a full-time administrator on board and putting other full-time people in leadership positions that really help lead our village," she said.

"Younger people are also moving back to town," said Mayor Jason Van Sickle. "Look at our council today, with two of those young people — Brandon Biddinger and Matt Armstrong — both serving us well."

In other business, Huffman revisited a suggestion made at the June meeting to increase penalties for false alarms to the fire department.

Law Director Thom Gilman said his research found the biggest source of false alarms was from an entity outside village limits, which is served through a contract with the township.

"We are in the process of negotiating a new fire contract with the townships, and we will look at increasing the penalties for false alarm abuse," Gilman said.

Gabe Griffith, who will chair the Aug. 30 truck show in Loudonville, requested that the display area for trucks be expanded due to strong early interest. Council President Lance requested a recommendation from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the extent of the proposed expansion.

Griffith said 65 truck owners have committed to the show, and \$3,000 has already been raised for the scholarship fund the event supports.

Resident Linda Ross requested village assistance in addressing two deteriorating properties adjacent to her mother's home on Rose Court. She cited issues related to animal waste and said she had filed a public nuisance complaint with the Ashland County Health Department.

Mayor Van Sickle said the village police department would look into the issue.

Village Administrator Garret DeWitt announced that infrastructure work on Vincent Drive and Pearl Drive will begin next week.

Council approved the final reading of an ordinance establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Young opposed the measure, stating he was not against the concept in general but did not support having the area activated every weekend.

Council also approved the 2026 tax budget and passed an ordinance repealing the village's bicycle registration requirement.

Councilman Armstrong praised the swimming pool's management and staff, noting a significant improvement in the facility's atmosphere.

"As an example of the improvement, membership on our swim team has increased this year from 30 to 80," he said.

Van Sickle also commended the Chamber of Commerce for its leadership in recent community events, including last weekend's car show.

The next council meeting will be held Monday, July 21, at 6 p.m. in council chambers, 156 N. Water St., upstairs. The chambers are handicapped accessible via the rear fire escape entrance.

All council meetings are open to the public.

Loudonville Police Calls

During the week of June 29 to July 6, local police issued 24 warnings following traffic stops and conducted 21 business checks.

June 29, 10:46 a.m. Police cited a 20-year-old Bellville man for driving an emergency vehicle through a stop sign, causing a crash at Campbell and N. Union St.

June 30, 1:16 p.m. Police responded to a private property

accident in the Mohican Adventures parking lot. A winch line broke while towing a vehicle, causing it to roll backward into a concrete culvert. Parties exchanged insurance information.

July 1, 2:04 a.m. Police investigated an alarm going off at a building in the 800 block of S. Market St. The building was secure, with no signs of disturbance.

July 1, 2:29 a.m. Police assisted ODNR officers in investigating a fire alarm set off at the Mohican Young Star Academy.

July 1, 12:20 p.m. Police assisted a motor carrier enforcement officer with an overweight vehicle on E. Main St. at Banks Ave. The driver was also cited for expired plates.

July 1, 3:40 p.m. Police advised a property owner on the process for declaring a person a trespasser.

July 1, 4:35 p.m. Police removed pieces of iron from the roadway in the 600 block of N. Mt. Vernon Ave. The debris had apparently fallen off a truck.

July 1, 7:19 p.m. Police responded to a fight in the 200 block of N. Market St. Two women, a 42-year-old from Mt.

Vernon and a 32-year-old from Galena, were cited for disorderly conduct.

July 1, 9:37 p.m. Police responded to a trespassing complaint in the 300 block of W. Main St. A person reportedly threw objects at business employees, who activated a silent alarm. The person was removed and issued a no-trespassing order.

July 1, 9:54 p.m. Police responded to a fireworks complaint in the 500 block of Vincent Dr. Individuals were advised that fireworks are only permitted the weekend before and after the Fourth of July, in addition to the holiday itself.

July 2, 7:24 a.m. A Burwell Ave. resident reported that someone else's pets were scattering trash on her property.

July 2, 7:33 a.m. Police investigated an alarm going off at a building in the 800 block of S. Market St. The building was checked and secured.

CALLS cont. to Pg.3

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Tessie's tidbits...

Hi everyone! The Fourth of July festivities are now a fond memory but what a great weekend it was for us all!

Rich and I attended the car show, and my cousin Mark and his wife brought a stunning Packard. It brought back so many memories of my dad and Uncle Jim's shared passion for those classic cars.

I came across the following story recently — it brought a few tears to my eyes, and I hope it touches you as well.

The Magic Chair: A Story About Friendship

Martin was a young boy who loved school and proudly told his family that he had more friends than anyone else. He often spoke about how friendly he was with everyone and how much fun he had with his classmates. One evening, while Martin was going on about his friendships, his father interrupted him with a playful challenge.

"I'll make you a bet," his father said with a smile. "If you win, you get that bicycle you've been wanting."

Martin, excited by the prospect, immediately asked what the bet was.

His father leaned in. "I bet you don't have as many true friends as you think. Not everyone you call a friend actually is one. Some are just classmates."

Without hesitation, Martin accepted the challenge. But he paused. "How do I test who my real friends are?" he asked.

His father nodded thoughtfully. "I have something special in my collection. Let me go get it."

Martin watched curiously as his father walked away and returned a few minutes later. Though it looked like he was carrying something heavy, Martin couldn't see anything.

"This," his father explained, "is a magic chair. It's invisible — and very difficult to sit on. Take it to school tomorrow. If you manage to sit on it, the magic will activate, and you'll be able to tell who your real friends are."

The next day at school, Martin brought the invisible chair with him. At lunchtime, he gathered his classmates into a circle and stood in the middle.

"Friends," he announced proudly, "you're about to witness something magical. Watch closely."

He attempted to sit on the chair — only to fall flat on the ground. Laughter erupted from the group. Martin brushed himself off and tried again. Once more, he fell, and once more, the laughter followed.

But Martin didn't give up. He kept trying, determined to see the magic. After several failed attempts, something incredible happened — he didn't fall. He found himself hovering in the air, balanced as if he were sitting on something real.

Glancing around, Martin saw four of his classmates — John, Abram, Juli, and Terry — quietly holding him up, making sure he didn't fall. The rest of the group, those he had considered his friends, had done nothing but laugh at him each time he stumbled.

In that moment, Martin understood. He now knew who his true friends were.

Later that day, he told the four classmates about the bet and how the invisible chair had helped him figure it all out. They were touched by the lesson and grateful to be considered real friends.

When Martin got home, he excitedly told his father the entire story. His father smiled, proud that Martin had discovered the value of genuine friendship. True to his word, the next day, he gave Martin the bicycle.

Moral of the Story:

We will meet many people in our lives and spend time with them, but that doesn't mean they're all real friends. A true friend stands by us — not only in joyful times, but in moments of difficulty. It's not the number of friends that counts, but the quality of the friendship that matters most.

+++

Many cheers to everyone who helped make this year's car show spectacular! The weather was incredibly hot, but the crowds didn't seem to mind one bit.

+++

Just got back from a trip to Amish Country to get some equipment repaired. It's amazing how much the area has grown — thanks to the many tourists who visit each year. When you drive through Berlin, you'd think you were in a big city with all the traffic!

+++

If you have a cute story or a clipping you've saved, something with a bit of joy or laughter, please share it with me so I can pass it along to others! You can email it to tessie1@neo.rr.com.

+++

Finally — "When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand." — *Henri Nouwen*

Tessie

CALLS cont. from Pg.2

July 2, 8:17 a.m. Police responded to a reported breaking and entering in the 200 block of N. Market St. The incident was determined to be a prank among businesses. No charges were filed.

July 2, 12:46 p.m. A driver was stopped in the 500 block of S. Market St. for reckless driving. The driver was not impaired and received a warning for distracted driving.

July 2, 3:06 p.m. Police investigated harassing phone calls to a business in the 200 block of

W. Main St. The business owner requested increased patrols in the area.

July 2, 9:04 p.m. Police responded to a disturbance involving an argument between men and women near N. Market and W. Campbell streets. A female reportedly struck a male but left the scene. The male declined to file charges, and the female was not located.

July 3, time not reported. Police issued a junk ordinance violation to a resident in the 900 block of Pearl Dr.

July 3, 12:29 a.m. Two juveniles were located after curfew near N. Jefferson St. The boys had biked from Lakeville to Loudonville. Their parents were unaware of the trip and picked them up.

July 3, 7:53 a.m. A resident on S. Mt. Vernon Ave. reported a trash bag filled with what appeared to be bloody rags. Police determined no blood was present.

July 3, 9:08 a.m. Police performed a welfare check in the 400 block of N. Wood St. No one answered the door, so officers forced entry and found the resident unharmed upstairs.

July 3, 9:36 a.m. A large rock was removed from the roadway in the 500 block of S. Market St.
July 3, 5:13 p.m. A 911 call was received reporting a fight in the 1000 block of S. Market St.

CALLS cont. to Pg.8



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Directions:

Thread strawberries and blueberries onto skewers. Place on serving plate and serve with yogurt for dipping.

BLT CHICKEN
SALAD

Ingredients:

Dressing:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 3/4 teaspoon lemon juice

Salad:

- 2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves or precooked chicken strips
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- pepper to taste
- 8 cups torn salad greens
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 hard cooked egg, sliced
- 6 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 2 Tablespoons sun-dried tomatoes, finely chopped

Directions:

Combine 1/2 cup mayonnaise, barbecue sauce and lemon juice in a small bowl and refrigerate.

Brush chicken with 1/4 cup mayonnaise; sprinkle with pepper. Grill for 5 to 7 minutes, then flip over using tongs and grill for 5 to 7 minutes longer or until a thermometer reads 165 degrees F. Cool slightly and cut into thin strips. To cut down on cooking time, use precooked chicken strips.

Place salad greens in a large serving bowl. Top with chicken, tomato and egg. Sprinkle bacon and sun-dried tomatoes over the top.

Serve with dressing.

Photo and food styling by Webstop
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Council Discusses Infrastructure Costs, New Business Growth in Perrysville

By Amanda Chambers

The Perrysville Village Council met Monday, July 7, to discuss infrastructure plans, utility rate adjustments, and updates on new business developments.

The meeting opened with a presentation from Dustin McMillan of MCMILLANCO, a company relocating to Perrysville from Logan County. McMillan said the business is nearing completion of its new facility in the Pottery Street Warehouse and may open as early as Monday, July 14.

MCMILLANCO specializes in blending materials for clients across a range of industries. Current contract examples include custom-blended bedding and feed for agricultural companies, as well as electrolyte blends used in the manufacturing of medical equipment. McMillan reported the company has hired three local employees and plans to hire at least one more, with the potential to expand to 15 employees over the next five years. The business currently occupies 20,000 square feet in the Pottery Street Warehouse, with room for growth as operations expand.

“We’re excited to be part of the Perrysville community,” McMillan said. “Finding good employees won’t be a problem. Since we’ve been in the new facility, several people have walked in looking to apply.”

Justin Cates of Engineering Associates presented preliminary cost estimates to help the village begin planning for the eventual replacement of its aging water and sanitary sewer infrastructure.

Cates noted that the village’s existing 4-inch water mains do not meet EPA regulations and must be upgraded to 6 inches, with some larger lines increasing to 8 inches to ensure adequate pressure

for fire protection. He estimated the total cost to replace all water lines at \$6.5 million. Some of the current lines date back to 1902. “It’s not a matter of if they break, but when,” Cates said, urging the council to begin planning now to avoid emergency repairs later.

For the sanitary sewer system, Cates estimated full replacement at \$7.1 million, with an alternative option of relining existing pipes at \$2.2 million if their condition allows. He said the most likely solution would be a hybrid approach: replacing severely deteriorated sections and relining those in better condition. Aging infrastructure has allowed tree roots to infiltrate some lines, causing blockages.

While no specific timeline was provided, Cates said the process of applying for grants should begin soon. Typically, it takes about a year to complete applications and another year to receive responses before scheduling any construction.

In preparation for the infrastructure costs, the council voted to increase the annual water and sewer rate hikes from 3% to 5%. Councilmember David Artrip Jr. explained that the smaller, incremental increase is preferable to a steep hike in the event of a future emergency or loan.

The Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) recommended the 5% increase to align with other Ohio villages and demonstrate to grant agencies that the village is contributing to its infrastructure funding.

For reference, the minimum 2024 water/sewer bill is \$70.17. Under the already-approved 3% annual increase, that amount would rise to \$71.52 in 2025. The proposed adjustment to a 5% increase would instead bring the minimum bill to \$72.43 — a difference of 91 cents.

For customers who use more than the 200 cubic feet (CF) minimum, the cost per 100 CF under the 3% increase would be \$5.26 for sewer and \$4.74 for water. Under the proposed 5% increase, those rates would rise to \$5.37 for sewer and \$4.83 for water.

The council approved the water rate increase last month and finalized the sewer rate increase during Monday’s meeting. Members noted that rates could be reduced in the future if projects are completed and loans repaid.

Mayor Steve Goines presented the renewal proposal for the village’s Ohio Plan insurance policy. The annual premium increased by 3%. The council voted to approve the renewal.

Village Administrator Mike McCaskey provided an update on the Step 2 road replacement project, estimated at \$472,845. JobsOhio is expected to cover half of the cost through a grant, while the Ohio Department of Transportation will reimburse the village for 25% upon project completion, scheduled for May 2027. The remaining 25% will be shared between Step 2 and the village. Perrysville’s share is about \$59,000, with \$50,000 covered by permissive tax funds and the remainder drawn from the road repair fund. After this allocation, approximately \$4,000 will remain for road maintenance for the rest of the year.

Due to budget constraints, the village has reduced its part-time workforce from two employees to one, potentially saving a portion of the \$99,600 previously spent annually, plus workers’ compensation costs.

Mayor Goines also reported discussions with Jeromesville Mayor Randy Spade about cost-sharing for law enforcement services. Sheriff Kurt Schneider had suggested the move as a potential cost-saving measure. A third Ashland County village would be needed to make the proposal viable.

An ordinance was introduced to increase the municipal income tax rate from 1% to 1.25%. Councilmember Christopher Clady recommended tabling the proposal until next year, citing possible school-related tax levies on the November ballot and the potential burden of multiple increases. Perrysville currently has the lowest income tax rate among neighboring municipalities, with Loudonville at 1.75% and Ashland at 2%.

The council accepted a \$15,767 grant from the Hugo Young Foundation to upgrade the community center. Planned improvements include new vinyl flooring, paint, kitchen appliances, LED lighting, sliding storage doors and chair storage.

Council also approved a revised ordinance regulating the temporary residential occupancy of travel trailers and motorhomes on private property within the village limits. The ordinance is intended to prevent long-term habitation of campers at homes, not to restrict use within designated campgrounds. The updated version removes the previous requirement for a \$250 variance reviewed by the planning committee and replaces it with a \$50 variance fee that can be approved by the zoning inspector. The allowable occupancy period was also extended from seven to 14 days.

The next Perrysville Village Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m. in the community building. Meetings are open to the public.

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Loudonville Car Show Draws Thousands Despite Heat

By Jim Brewer

Despite temperatures nearing 90 degrees, Loudonville's 25th annual car show on Saturday drew thousands of visitors and filled the village's downtown streets with classic and custom vehicles.

"We don't have any more space to park these cars," one volunteer said, reflecting the scale of the event. More than 700 vehicles were on display throughout downtown and Central Park.

Dave Wonderly of Helena, Ohio, brought his restored 1957 Chevrolet to the show for the fifth time. The car, which spent 25 years stored in a barn before he restored it eight years ago, reminded car enthusiasts of the Eric Clapton lyric, "I get off on '57 Chevies". Wonderly was awarded Best Original 1950-1959 for the vehicle.

While Wonderly's car was a traditional favorite, the show also featured unconventional entries. Dan Durieux of Wooster displayed a 1954 International Metro — a former delivery truck he described as "completely outside the box." Durieux has spent years building the unique vehicle and earned a first-place award at the Cleveland I-X Center last year. At Saturday's event, he won Best Rat Rod.

Not all the classic cars on display were sporty. Darren Radtke of Massillon exhibited his 1953 Buick Special, a large sedan featuring a distinctive Buick front grille. He has owned the vehicle since 1983 but only began showing it two years ago.

"It took a lot of cleaning and a lot of buffing to make it show-ready," Radtke said. "It's different."

While most vehicles at the show were vintage models, Dale Lepp of Brownwood, Texas, brought a modernized 2012 Fiat 500. Originally from Perrysville, Lepp extensively modified the compact car with a wide body kit, air suspension, roll cage, and motor upgrades. The build has been featured in two automotive magazines. This was his third time displaying it in Loudonville.

Scott Nave of Loudonville showed his 1962 Volkswagen Beetle, a car he has owned for 40 years. Though stock in appearance, the bright yellow Beetle features a drag racing engine. Nave only exhibits the car in Loudonville and Perrysville shows.

Some participants brought multiple vehicles. Sid Danals of rural Perrysville displayed a 1972 C20 pickup, a Sterling VW, and a Dodge Sebring. Dave Christine, also of rural Perrysville, brought three cars: a 1967 Chevy C10 pickup, a 1974 Nova, and an all-black 1977 Corvette.

Numerous awards were presented during the show, recognizing a wide range of vehicles and styles. Among the highlights: Best of Show went to John Host for his 1956 Chevy Nomad; Judges' Choice was awarded to Tom McGinty with a 1937 Chevy 2-door; and Cruisin' Times Magazine's Choice went to Mark Pfeiffer for his 1973 Pontiac Grand Prix.



A view of the nearly 500 cars on display at Saturday's car show, taken from the Main and Market Street intersection looking west.

Photo Jim Brewer



Originally from Perrysville, Dale Lepp of Brownwood, Texas, returned to Loudonville to show his customized 2012 Fiat 500 for the third time.

Photo Jim Brewer

Vehicles lined Main Street from Spring Street east to Union Street and extended a half block north and south on Water Street, Brentwood Drive, Market Street, and Wood Street.

The event was sponsored by the Loudonville Chamber of Commerce with support from the Loudonville Fair Board. Members of the Loudonville Pickleball Organization assisted with parking during the show.

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Obituary
William "Bill" Thomas Vogt, Jr.

William "Bill" Thomas Vogt, Jr., 82, of Wooster, formerly of Loudonville, died on Friday, July 4, 2025 at Ohio's Hospice Life-Care.
He was born August 19, 1942 in Chicago to William T. and Vivian Fortner Vogt. On June 7, 1969, he married Pamela Jean Milburn. She survives.
Bill had been a Design and Manufacturing Engineer with Crown Steel for many years. Upon retirement, he became a driver for H&H Custom Homes & Construction. He loved being on the farm he and Pam owned for 52 years, where he spent time raising registered black angus beef, savoring the beauty of the woods, target shooting, and enjoying campfires with family. His passions shined through his quiet demeanor. He enjoyed trains of all types, including model trains, live steam, and train excursions. He was also a lifelong motorcycle enthusiast and enjoyed live piano music. Although a man of few words, Bill left a lasting impact on those in his life with his sharp wit, thoughtfulness, and penchant for storytelling.
He was a lifelong Catholic and member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where he was active in the TMIY men's faith group.
Along with his wife of 56 years, Bill is survived by his children Christine (Rudy) Poa of Jakarta, Indonesia, Lynnette (Kenneth) Freeman of Ravenna, Luke Vogt of West Milton, John (Jennifer) Vogt of Austin, TX, Mary (Shawn) Reising of Wooster and David (Ilayda) Vogt of Naples, FL; 11 grandchildren; brother Jim (Pamela K.) Vogt of Lunenburg, MA; sisters Kathleen (Rick) Kissel of Lunenburg, MA and Margaret (Tony) Vogt-Pimm of Valley City along with numerous nieces and nephews.
A funeral mass will be held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 527 Beall Ave., Wooster with Father Daniel Reed as celebrant.
Friends will be received on Sunday from 2:00-5:00 PM at McIntire, Bradham & Sleek Funeral Home, 216 E. Larwill St., Wooster and one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.
Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Mary's Catholic Church Angel Fund, P.O. Box 109, Wooster, OH 44691.
Online condolences may be left for the family at www.mcintirebradhamsleek.com

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