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# Ashland School Board Approves Seeking Bids

By Amanda Chambers

The Ashland City Schools Board of Education approved plans Monday, February 9 to seek competitive bids for renovations to the Ashland High School softball field and the playground at Taft Intermediate School.

In addition to facilities improvements, board members received updates on district finances, technology policies and student and staff achievements.

Kyle Klingler, the district's chief financial officer, presented an update on the district's financial forecast, noting the district remains in stable financial condition. Superintendent Steve Paramore added that the district continues to have calamity days available despite recent school closures due to inclement weather.

The board also received a presentation from District Technology Director Philip McNaull regarding updates to the

district's acceptable use policy. District Software Manager Tony Bunt outlined initial steps in developing a district artificial intelligence policy, which remains in the early planning stages.

In other business, the board approved a grievance resolution with Ohio Association of Public School Employees Local 233 regarding employment for a specific support staff position. District officials described the resolution as amicable.

During the superintendent's report, Paramore highlighted several upcoming district events, including the Ashland High School musical "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat," scheduled for February 20-22 at Archer Auditorium.

Paramore also recognized the Ashland High School competition cheerleading team, which placed second at the state meet.

Additional announcements included the Tri-County Educational Service Center Art Showcase, set for February 25 at Archer Auditorium's lobby, and the Ashland Special Needs Ministry's "Night to Shine" event, a prom-style celebration for individuals with special needs, scheduled for February 13.

Kindergarten registration for Ashland City Schools will be held March 2-6 at Reagan Elementary School, with preschool registration scheduled for March 26-27 at the same location.

The board approved the consent agenda without changes.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the administration offices. All meetings are open to the public.

## County Commissioners Open Bids for Admin Building

By Amanda Chambers

Ashland County commissioners on Thursday opened bids for construction of a new county administration building expected to house the treasurer, auditor, recorder and tax department offices.

Brad Adams of USWC Architects said the 13,000-square-foot building will be constructed adjacent to the county courthouse. Construction is expected to begin in March or April, with completion projected for March 2027.

Commissioners opened 12 bids from firms across Ohio, ranging from \$6,532,000 to \$7,871,656. The bids will be reviewed before a contractor is selected.

Commissioners also authorized hiring Cody Rising as an information technology specialist to train as a future replacement

for IT Manager Jim Storch, who plans to retire in several years. Officials said the position requires at least two years of training due to the specialized nature of the work.

In other business, commissioners rescinded a jail operations fund transfer approved February 5 after determining incorrect information had been provided by the sheriff's office.

Commissioners approved transferring \$96,652 from the employee payouts fund to the transfers out fund for anticipated 2026 retirement payouts. A transfer of \$5,251.29 from the auditor fund to the wages fund and a transfer of \$5,251.29 from the commissioners employee payouts fund to the county general fund were also approved for a retiring auditor's office employee.

Commissioners approved travel requests, authorized auction of a 2009 Chevrolet Malibu from the sheriff's office and approved a \$1,430 proposal from Buckeye Horizon to install a hot water coil at the jail.

Bids will be accepted at the March 5 meeting for bridge repair materials, road sealing, pavement marking and asphalt materials for the 2026 highway department season.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, February 19, in the second-floor conference room of the Ashland County Building, 110 Cottage St. Meetings are open to the public and streamed live on the "Ashland, OH County Government" Facebook page.

## CRF Museum Features Women's Rights History Program

By Deb Sutterlin

Attendees at the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum on February 9 learned about the struggles and determination of early women's rights activists during a presentation by University of Dayton professor Susan Trollinger.

Trollinger's program, titled "Rebels in Corsets," explored the women's suffrage movement and the social barriers women faced in their fight for equality.

She began by describing the limited rights women held during the nation's early years. Women were not present at the signing of the Declaration of Independence and could not own property, claim custody of children, or participate in politics. Society placed men in public roles while women were expected to remain in domestic roles and rely on husbands for legal and financial protection.

The program's title reflected those restrictions. Trollinger explained that women's lives were often as confining as corsets, limiting their independence and mobility. Early reformers began pushing against those constraints, including abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison, and women's rights leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony.

By 1840, 14 western states had granted women limited rights, partly to encourage families to settle there, though the Civil War temporarily slowed the movement.

Trollinger highlighted major suffrage demonstrations, including the March 3, 1913, parade in Washington, D.C., held the day before President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Organizer Alice Paul requested police protection for about 5,000 peaceful marchers but was denied. Members of the 15th Cavalry were eventually called in, though many women were injured and 175 ambulance calls were reported.

She also discussed the Silent Sentinels protests of 1917, when women picketed outside the White House for

two months. Many were arrested, sentenced to 90 days in prison or workhouses, and endured harsh treatment, including solitary confinement and force-feeding during hunger strikes.

Susan Trollinger speaks at the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum February 9 during her "Rebels in Corsets" talk, with a photo of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott behind her.

Photo by Deb Sutterlin

The presentation concluded with a timeline of women gaining voting rights in England in 1918, the United States in 1920 with ratification of the 19th Amendment, France in 1944, and Switzerland in 1971. Trollinger encouraged attendees to consider ongoing issues related to women's rights and civic participation.

The next lecture at the Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, titled "Conflict and Memory: Digging into the Copus Massacre," will be presented March 16 by museum curator Kenny Libben.



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# State Funding Changes Could Impact District Finances

By Amanda Chambers

Recent changes in state legislation could leave the Loudonville-Perrysville School District facing millions of dollars in projected budget deficits within five years, district officials said during the February 9 board of education meeting.

The projections raise concerns about the district's long-term financial outlook and the potential effect funding changes could have on staffing, student programming and daily operations.

Treasurer Christine Angerer reviewed the district's five-year financial forecast and said the district appears financially stable for the next three years. However, the forecast projects expenditures exceeding revenue by \$1.7 million in year four and \$7.6 million in year five. Angerer said potential changes in state legislation could negatively affect district funding.

A parent attending the meeting expressed concern about the potential financial losses and encouraged board members to communicate the issue with state lawmakers.

Superintendent Jennifer Allerding reported the district has used seven weather closure days this school year. Any additional closures will need to be made up with in-person instruction before the end of the school year. Allerding said

deciding whether to close school has been difficult because road conditions vary across the district. She added that bus drivers have not reported significant issues with road conditions so far.

Allerding also reported on a sewer backup in the gym building that affected several sporting events and the high school winter formal. The problem was traced to a sewer line that had sunk over time, creating a dip where sewage accumulated. Repairs took about eight hours Saturday and provided a temporary solution. More extensive and costly repairs will be required to permanently correct the issue.

Allerding said she met with irrigation and field installation professionals after drought conditions last season damaged the soccer field. The district sought bids to replace the turf and install irrigation. Officials determined that tapping into an existing water line to the concession stand would cost significantly less than drilling a well, which was estimated at about \$60,000. The district plans to use city water for irrigation.

Allerding also addressed issues with milk supplied for school lunches following Smith Dairy's acquisition by Prairie Farms. The district has received milk that spoiled before

its labeled expiration date. A Prairie Farms representative told the district other schools have reported similar problems and the company is working to determine the cause. The district is now ordering milk twice weekly to improve freshness. Students who receive spoiled milk have been able to obtain replacements.

Four district students participated in the county spelling bee, with 6th grader Carson Donley finishing as runner-up.

Tom Speaks of The Impact Group presented information about developing a district strategic plan.

In other business, the board approved membership in the META Purchasing Cooperative, which allows schools to obtain bulk pricing on items ranging from buses to paper supplies.

The board accepted the retirement of Julie Rieser, a fourth-grade teacher who has worked in the district for 36 years. Members also approved the 2026-27 school calendar, the hiring of a new high school counselor, and donations from the Loudonville-Perrysville Academic Boosters for student activities and \$10,000 from the Loudonville Eagles toward student meal fees.

Students who earned all A grades or honor roll status were recognized during the meeting.

The board entered executive session to discuss personnel matters before adjourning.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 9 in the high school cafeteria. Meetings are open to the public.

## ASHLAND

**Feb. 9, 9:41 a.m.** Police responded to a report of theft at Antiques on Main, 143 W. Main St. A 61-year-old male and a 56-year-old female were arrested for theft.

**Feb. 9, 10:42 a.m.** Police responded to a drug complaint at Ashland High School.

**Feb. 9, 2:52 p.m.** Police responded to a report of threat/domestic violence in the 200 block of Ashland Ave.

**Feb. 9, 3:47 p.m.** Police responded to a report of vandalism at Kash Co. Pourhouse, 155 W. Main St.

**Feb. 9, 6:46 p.m.** Police responded to a drug complaint in the 200 block of W. Fourth St.

**Feb. 9, 8:15 p.m.** Police conducted a traffic stop and arrested an 18-year-old female for underage liquor consumption and an open container of liquor in a motor vehicle. A 19-year-old male was also arrested for possession of drugs.

**Feb. 9, 8:41 p.m.** Police responded to a violation of an order in the 400 block of Sharp St. A 37-year-old male was arrested for violating a protection order or consent agreement.

**Feb. 9, 9:01 p.m.** Police responded to a report of a water line break in the 1500 block of Orange Rd.

**Feb. 10, 12:44 a.m.** Police responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Mathews Ave. A 51-year-old male was arrested for disorderly conduct while intoxicated.

## Police Calls

**Feb. 10, 3:19 a.m.** Police responded to the report of a water line break near Park St. and High St.

**Feb. 10, 9:29 a.m.** Police responded to the report of a water line break near E. Main St. and Ashland Ave.

**Feb. 10, 10:22 a.m.** Police assisted EMS on a call to Take 5 Oil Change, 1950 E. Main St. A 41-year-old male was arrested on charges of persistent disorderly conduct.

**Feb. 10, 10:45 a.m.** Police responded to a report of damage/vandalism at the Ashland County Common Pleas Court at 142 W. 2nd St.

**Feb. 10, 2:38 p.m.** Police responded to a report of a runaway juvenile.

**Feb. 10, 5:06 p.m.** Police conducted a follow-up investigation of child endangerment in the 1000 block of W. Main St.

**Feb. 10, 5:12 p.m.** Police responded to a report of harassment at Hampton Inn, 2055 E Main St.

**Feb. 10, 6:20 p.m.** Police responded to a water line break on Ellis Ave.

**Between Feb. 9-10,** Ashland Police Department conducted 87 other routine calls such as traffic stops, assisting other agencies, and follow-up investigations.

## LOUDONVILLE

**Feb. 1, 2:29 p.m.** Police responded to a low hanging cable across the roadway on N. Spring St. near Baker Ct.

**Feb. 1, 10:43 p.m.** Police responded to a vehicle-deer crash in the 700 block of Wooster Rd.

**Feb. 2, 1:11 p.m.** Police responded to juvenile threats in the 400 block of Campus Ave.

**Feb. 4, 11:58 a.m.**

Police responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of S. Mt. Vernon Ave. A 68-year-old Loudonville man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct while intoxicated.

**Feb. 4, 9:39 p.m.**

Police helped a motorist involved in a crash outside the village, in front of the police department.

**Feb. 5, 7:19 p.m.**

A 22-year-old Howard man was cited for driving without a valid operator's license on S. Market St. near S. Mt. Vernon Ave.

**Feb. 5, 8:31 p.m.**

Police responded to a two-vehicle crash in the 100 block of S. Brentwood Dr. A 32-year-old Lakeville man was arrested for OVI and failure to maintain lanes of travel.

**Feb. 6, 5:42 p.m.**

Police investigated a vehicle reported being operated recklessly on State Route 3; the driver was not impaired.

**Feb. 6, 9:18 p.m.**

A 47-year-old Akron woman was cited for failure to wear

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a seatbelt in the 500 block of S. Market St.

**Feb. 6, 11:01 p.m.** Police responded to a fight in progress in the 100 block of N. Water St. A 36-year-old Loudonville man and a 63-year-old Perrysville man were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct while intoxicated.

**Feb. 7, 2:53 p.m.** A 26-year-old Wooster woman was cited for speed on Wooster Rd. (48/35)

**Between Feb. 1-7,** Loudonville police also conducted 42 other routine calls such as business checks, traffic stops, and investigating reports of disturbances.

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## RECIPES OF THE WEEK

### CHOCOLATE DIPPED ESPRESSO MERINGUES

#### Ingredients:

- 2 large egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- dash of salt
- 1 teaspoon micro-ground coffee
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons shortening

#### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees F.

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, with an electric mixer, beat together the egg whites, cream of tartar, and salt until foamy. Add the micro-ground coffee and 1 tablespoon of the sugar, beating until soft peaks form. Gradually add the remaining sugar and continue to beat until the meringue is stiff and glossy.

Drop meringues by heaping teaspoons onto the prepared pans. Bake the meringues for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, switching the pans (top to bottom, bottom to top) halfway through the bake time.

Turn off the oven, keep the door closed, and leave the meringues inside to cool and dry completely, 1 to 3 hours. Remove from oven; cool completely on baking sheets.

In small microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips and shortening, uncovered, 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until melted; stir until smooth. Dip half of each cooled cookie into melted chocolate. Place on waxed paper until chocolate is set. Remove meringues from paper; store in an airtight container at room temperature.

Photo and food styling by Webstop

Please note that some ingredients and brands may not be available in every store.

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**Feb 21 at 7:00 & 22 at 2:00**

Local Loudonville native, national figure, and world-renowned inventor Charles F. Kettering was born 150 years ago on August 29, 1876.

The Loudonville/Perrysville Alumni, in partnership with the Mohican Area Shopper's Marketplace, will periodically feature highlights of Kettering's life and enduring legacy throughout 2026.

# Loudonville's Kettering Reached the National Stage

Excerpt from "Business: All Change!" TIME, The Weekly Newsmagazine, Volume XXI, Number 2, January 9, 1933, page 55.

The engineers are the Industry's prime-movers; only constant change will appease them. None of the automotive technologists is well known to the public or cares to be. But the one most people know about is one whose whole approach to engineering is based on his credo of "change" supplemented by a belief that nothing can be taken for granted, that "A man must have a certain amount of intelligent ignorance to get anywhere with progressive things." He is a tall lank man who has been found to resemble both Ichabod Crane and Abraham Lincoln. He is Charles Franklin Kettering, vice president of General Motors Corp. He invented the self-starter,\* and Delco ignition and farm-lighting units,† fathered Ethyl gasoline\*\* and Duco.‡ Since he contrived the self-starter, he has far transcended tinkering gadgets. He is GM's visionary magician, perched on a high stool whose legs have grown longer and longer as the business has expanded, gazing into the future with the crystal ball of pure scientific theory. Forgiven and forgotten is his classic blunder of ten years ago, the air-cooled Chevrolet motor which cost GM \$1 cool millions. Nowadays most improvements in cars are originated by independent inventors, developed by parts makers. Mr. Kettering and his research staff have carried GM into rich fields beyond the automobile business. He was largely responsible for GM's frigidaire. If he gets his way the next big GM sideline will be air-conditioning. His fluency of speech and his position as No. 1 engineer of the biggest company have often made him the spokesman for his profession. "Engineering," he says, "is a combination of materials and brains—the more brains the less material."

In Detroit Inventor Kettering's domain is the big research building of General Motors Corp. The staff which calls him "Boss" (but his close friends prefer "Ket") is as large today as it was in 1929. Public appearances, consultations and the business of enjoying the millions of dollars he has earned have demanded more of Mr. Kettering's hours than ever. One of his appearances occurred last week when he spoke to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. As usual he spoke about his all-absorbing credo of change. "We have reason not to be afraid of the machine," he said, "for there is always constructive change, the enemy of machines, making them change to fit new conditions... You have heard of Technocracy. I wish I had those fellows for my competitors. I'd like to take the automobile it is said they predicted could be made now that would last for 50 years. Even if never used, this automobile would be worth nothing except to the junkman in ten years, because of changes in men's ideas and tastes." So much does Mr. Kettering believe in Change's force that he would have all bond issues limited to 20 years.

As soon as Inventor Kettering graduated from Ohio State University in 1904 he threw his diploma away lest it make him think his education finished. He went to Dayton where a job in National Cash Register was awaiting him.



Loudonville native Charles F. Kettering appeared on the cover of TIME, January 9, 1933.

Submitted Photo

He was told to make an electric cash register and did. His manners annoyed the late John Henry Patterson who fired him on sight time & again. The engineering department repeatedly rehired him. For while Inventor Kettering has come by a fortune in his own right he is the antithesis of the successful businessman. He may go to a formal dinner in a sports jacket and not even be aware of it. He has boarded trains without a ticket or a cent.

In a big room across the hall from his linoleum-floored office is an old, flimsy Wright airplane of early vintage. For Inventor Kettering was interested in airplanes as well as motorcars. He learned to fly in 1912. When he gave up in the early 1920's because he had "too much insurance to fly," he had accumulated more flying hours than any other private pilot.

Ever since Mr. Kettering moved into his present home he has delighted in filling it with gadgets to make life easier: buttons to open and close windows, eleven Frigidaires, a cooling system. This became his pet hobby. Had it no Charles Franklin Kettering, GM would probably not be

entering the air conditioning field now. He feels many of the developments in the temperate zone have been due to temperature-control in winter and is excited at the thought of what temperature-control in summer may bring about.

Off-hours, Mr. Kettering leads a private life that remains private. But the same credo of change fills these hours: life, like motorcars, to Mr. Kettering, must be reduced to more efficient terms. He & wife & son have gone touring in the great omnibus he made from an old Yellow Coach, fitted with all the conveniences of home and some not installed in many homes. His yacht, the Olive K., is filled with strange electric contraptions. Inventor Kettering also developed a way of synchronizing its twin screws so that it is vibrationless. Its cruises have taken him and his close friends on exploring parties in Yucatan and the South Seas and in winter the Olive K. is often off Miami where Mr. Kettering is a member of the famed "Committee of 100" for winter residents.

Feeling that nobody can look far ahead, Inventor Kettering maintains that research "is a method of finding out what people will be wanting when they are through wanting what they are wanting now." He feels there is still too much of the horseless carriage about automobiles but would blame it on the public's demands rather than on any engineering deficiency. He visions "a great express highway traversing the continent and carrying an almost fabulous stream of traffic, travelling well over a mile a minute," the cars of that not too distant future looking "no more like our cars of today than our latest models resemble those of 1900."

In this prophecy Mr. Kettering shows where motordom's endless changes are leading, just as all of his inventions point the way towards a life filled with gadgets to reduce all effort. But the first era of his automobile's transition from a buggy with an engine inserted under the driver's seat seems completed, for the Royal Family enters 1933 not with the hope of placing more & more cars on the highways but with the pious ambition of halting the seepage of cars off the highway and into dead storage or junk heaps.

\* Invented in 1910 in the barn of Col. Edward Andrew Deeds, now chairman of National Cash Register Co., and sold to the Lelands who then owned Cadillac. One of their friends had just been killed cranking a car.

† Named after Dayton Engineering Laboratories Co., which was formed by Mr. Kettering and later became part of GM.

\*\* Invented in 1921 after many noxious experiments which filled the laboratories with vile odors.

† Mr. Kettering's part in the invention of Duco may be much overstated. All the transactions are shrouded in corporate history. Once Mr. Kettering was annoyed by the length of time it took to paint and dry a car. "We might be able to do it in 34 days," he was told. "An hour would be more like it," he snapped back.



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Harvey's Market

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Iron Pony Saloon

Post Office Lobby

Round Lake Golf Course

## Loudonville (rural):

Richardson's Greenhouse

Haudenschild Insurance

Ugly Bunny Winery

## Lucas:

Dollar General

Library

Lucas Hair Designs

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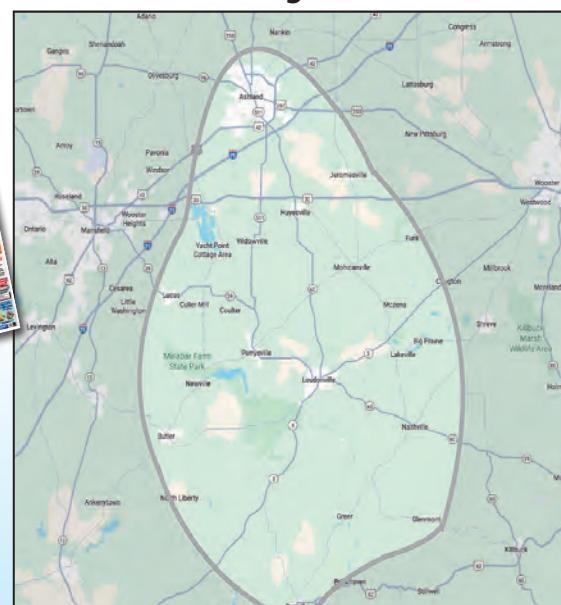
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# Redbirds Girls Wrestle at Nordonia

By Kinah Yoder

The Loudonville High School girls wrestling team competed in a tournament February 8 at Nordonia High School.

Natalya Miller finished with a 2-3 record, Rylee Denny went 1-2, and Maci Eikleberry posted a 1-4 mark.

"We are still showing improvement," head coach David Vaughan said. "But we need to continue to get some things cleaned up as we get closer to the postseason."

The team was scheduled to travel to New Lexington on Friday, February 13, to make up for a previous cancellation. Results were not available at press time.

The Redbirds will compete again at Carrollton on February 21. The team has received its postseason assignment and will begin tournament competition at Canal Fulton Northwest on March 1.



Loudonville's Natalya Miller, right, faces a North High School opponent during a tournament at Nordonia on February 8. Submitted Photo

## BOE Certifies May Primary Ballot

By Amanda Chambers

The Ashland County Board of Elections met February 9 to certify the ballot for the May 5 primary election.

Republican candidates for county commissioner are Denny Bittle, Brandon Carpenter, Jeff Hardman and Burton Williams. Sandy Bally is the sole Democratic candidate in the commissioner race.

Republican Cindy Funk is unopposed for county auditor. Republican Karen DeSanto Kellogg is unopposed for judge of the Ashland County Court of Common Pleas Probate and Juvenile Division.

Voters will decide several renewal levies. The issues include 1.8 mills for five years for current expenses for the Northwest Local School District; 1 mill for five years for ambulance and emergency medical services for the Firelands Ambulance District; 1.5 mills for five years for fire protection and EMS for

the Jeromesville Community Fire District; 1.1 mills for five years for fire protection and EMS for the Polk-Jackson-Perry Joint Fire District; 1 mill for five years for roads and bridges for Clear Creek Township; and 1.7 mills for five years for current operating expenses for the village of Loudonville.

Liquor options also will appear on the ballot. Voters in Ashland City 1-C will consider allowing O'Bryan's Pub to sell beer, wine, mixed beverages and spirituous liquor on Sundays. Voters in Loudonville Village 2 will consider allowing Dawg Pound to sell wine, mixed beverages and spirituous liquor on Sundays.

Ohio primary elections determine each political party's candidates for the general election. Voters may select one party ballot or an issues-only ballot. The candidate receiving the most votes in each party primary advances to the November general election.



Chris Tuttle, right, poses with his wife, Pam, after receiving the 2024 Mohican Community Service Award at the Chamber of Commerce banquet on March 26, 2025. The Loudonville-Mohican Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Community Service Award. Application forms are available at the Chamber office or email [chamber@loudonvillechamber.com](mailto:chamber@loudonvillechamber.com). Photo by Jim Brewer



## ASWCD Program to Cover Soil Health

Submitted

The Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District will host a Conservation Chat on soil health and agronomic practices Wednesday, March 11, at 5 p.m. at the Freer Field Community Room, 1301 Park St., Ashland.

The event will bring together experts and local

resources to discuss soil management and provide updates on available cost-share opportunities.

"This is a great opportunity for farmers to sit down together, share ideas, ask questions, and learn about tools and programs that can

ASWCD cont. to pg. 8



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## Obituary

Charles W. Betit

PERRYSVILLE: Charles W. Betit passed away peacefully on Friday, January 30, 2026, in his home at the age of 94.

He was born on April 28, 1931, in Bennington, Vermont, to parents Wilfred & Cora (Davis) Betit. Charles proudly served his country by joining the US Army and served as a Ranger during the Korean War.

Charles worked as an electrician for F-E Myers until retiring.

He is survived by his children, Mary Rayburn, Chucky Clayborn, Will Betit, Bill Betit, Ron Betit, and Jodi Kline; 18 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, 23 great-great-grandchildren; and his brother, Lewis Betit.

In addition to his parents, Charles was preceded in death by his wife Betty Betit; his brother Ron Betit; daughter Norma Shays; sons-in-law Joe Shays and Jack Rayburn; 2 grandsons; 1 great-grandson, and 2 great-granddaughters.

No public services will be held at this time.

Snyder Funeral Homes is honored to serve Charles' family and encourages you to share a memory or condolence with them at [SnyderFuneralHomes.com](http://SnyderFuneralHomes.com)

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